National Federation of the Blind of Virginia NFBV

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, January 21, 2019

1pm-4pm

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired

Library and Resource Center

395 Azalia Avenue

Richmond, VA 23227

The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia’s Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Vice President Sandy Halverson

Invocation Led By: Uricka Harrison

Roll Call of Members: 45 members were present including delegates and alternate delegates

The minutes of the November 9, 2018 Board of Directors meeting were not available but all can recall the various committee reports.

Treasurer’s Report

Mark Roane provided information on our VPAD, professional fundraiser, endowment, and general checking accounts from October 31, 2018-December 31, 2018

Our general checking account closing Balance as of 12/31/2018: $34,179.75

The Treasurer’s Report was approved without corrections.

Since the Virginia Association to Promote the Use of Braille was dissolved at our 2018 state convention and the division funds added to our general treasury, the NFBV will continue to support programs like Braille Readers are Leaders and the BELL program.

BELL

Nancy Yeager, chair of our Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning program, has proposed that we have a week-long residential BELL program for students between the ages 4-14. Nancy will contact chapter presidents for volunteers and financial support for this program.

VABS Student Division

Gerald Meredith, president of our Virginia Association of Blind Students, introduced the recently elected student division officers and board members. Gerald requested that any students either graduating from a training program or potential college students in the room contact him to become active members in our division.

There were no reports from our guide dog users, parents of blind children, or dual sensory impairments divisions.

Seniors Division

Nancy talked about volunteering after retirement which is the topic four our seniors call on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

Membership Committee

Sandy Halverson is chairing our membership committee. She asked chapter presidents to ensure their membership lists are updated with correct addresses and phone numbers. In addition to providing this information to our national office for our NFB Connections membership database, our treasurer uses this information to determine the affiliate dues to be paid by each chapter. After we have submitted this data to our national office, member challenge coins will be sent to President Soforenko to be presented to each member in recognition of their participation in our movement. Charlie Brown, one of our members who has received his coin, passed it around so we could see what it looks like.

Fundraising

Earl Everett gave us an update on what a huge turnout he had at the Virginia table at our last national convention and thanked all who volunteered. Earl will be seeking volunteers for our 2019 convention in Las Vegas to continue our fundraising efforts.

McDonald Fellowship and Jernigan Fund financial assistance:

Mary Durbin gave an update on the application process for our affiliate McDonald fellowship program so the committee can give subsidies and mentoring to first-time conventioneers from the commonwealth; we also encourage individuals to apply to the Kenneth Jernigan Fund for similar financial assistance.

There’s time to apply for both programs and the deadline is April 15th.

Local Legislation

John Halverson co-chairs with Derek Manners on the local legislative level and he discussed the importance of visiting delegates, an overview of our issues, and Tracy reviewed team assignments.

Washington Seminar

Deepa will be leading efforts for Washington Seminar and she is securing appointments with congressmen and senators; Please let her know when you will be available for participation on specific days. The legislative bills that will be addressed on the hill will be Access to Affordability Tech; making an access standard for home appliances/medical devices and fitness equipment; and the disability employment act focusing on rethinking the Ability one program.

Chapter Leadership Institute (CLI)

Joe Orozco gave us a quick update on how the CLI members took a tour of the accessible installation at the Richmond Fine Arts Museum featuring an interactive multi-sensory exhibit piece designed by John Olsen from 3D Works. John Olsen shared with us the 10-year relationship that he has with the NFB and so far, there are 12 museums throughout the US with accessible exhibits and two more coming in May.

Joe Orozco discussed how CLI has had programming on Sunday evening (1/20) and Monday (1/21).

2019 National Convention

Come join us July 7-12th at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

Communications

Sarah gave us an update on how she would like to have 1000 individuals liking our Facebook page. Please send updated chapter president contact info to Sarah for the website.

Request of chapter presidents:

Chapters must have pledges to the following funds: White Cane, Jacobus tenBroek, SUN, Jernigan, and NFB Camp by our next board meeting on May 18th.

Project RISE

Kathryn Webster gave an update on how our RISE students will be participating at a student seminar at the end of January with students from Mississippi and Maryland for a weekend of programming conducted by Project RISE staff, National Center staff, and leaders from within the National Association of Blind Students.

The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia NFBV will reconvene on Saturday, May 18, 2019 for the Board of Directors Meeting. See you then!

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Valdez

Affiliate Recording Secretary