National Federation of the Blind of Virginia

Meeting of the Board of Directors

 Saturday, January 20, 2020

1pm-4pm

Virginia Library & Resource Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired

395 Azalea Avenue

Richmond, VA 23227

The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia’s Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Tracy Soforenko

Roll Call: 69 members were present

The minutes for November 1, 2019 board meeting were read by Evelyn Valdez.

Minutes were approved without correction

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer’s report was read by Mark Roane

Reporting period was September 30, 2019-December 31, 2019

General checking account balance as of December 31 is $59,655.50

Treasurer’s report was accepted without any corrections

**Project RISE**

**Dr. Arielle Silverman deputy coordinator of Project RISE reflected and gave some historical perspective on how a transition-age program to be developed in Virginia was an idea at a Potomac Chapter meeting. Arielle gave a brief update on some figures: 42 students have been served and there are currently 29 active students. An employment-based coordinator position will be advertised to assist in the internship placement and job placement for students.**

**Virginia Association of Blind Students (VABS)**

**Nick Patrillo states that VABS is engaging in collaborative fundraising efforts with Maryland students. Karaoke will be held on Monday night, February 10th at the Holiday Inn Capitol as a NABS event and they will be singing “Let it Go”**

**Andre Hill is collecting testimonials from blind college students for AIM High legislation. VABS is also looking into partnering up with George Mason’s blind students’ group and share some pizza to recruit potential members.**

**Seniors Division**

**Nancy Yeager announced that monthly seniors’ calls are held on the third Wednesday of the month and they will have Ellen Ringwald, who runs operations at the Independence Market at the National Center as their guest on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.**

**Merchants Division**

**No one was present**

**Committee Reports**

**Membership**

**Sandy Halverson stated that there will be a member retention seminar with Anil Lewis to be held on Sunday, February 9th at 12:30pm at the Westin Tysons Corner in Falls church. Sandy is doing the onboarding membership form and says it is quite easy to fill out and she encourages someone representing each chapter to input new member info.**

**Scholarship**

**Jimmie Morris was recently appointed NFBV Jimmy Nelson scholarship chair and will be better prepared at the May meeting!**

**Public Outreach**

**Ureeka Harrison and Corliss Jones are seeking ideas from our membership for activities and if you are interested in serving alongside Ureeka and Corliss, please do not hesitate to reach out to them.**

**Fundraising**

**Earl Everett thanks Chris Walker, Jim Walker and Jacki Brown for helping with fundraising efforts specifically for coin holders.**

**McDonald Fellowship/Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship**

**Mary Durbin stated that first-time conventioneers complete an application for both the National Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship and the Virginia specific McDonald Fellowship. The Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship application is available online. The Virginia specific McDonald Fellowship is submitted via email and we are looking to make the application online in the future. if you are granted either scholarship, you will be assigned mentors each day during the week of national convention.**

**Chapter Leadership Institute**

**Domonique Lawless discussed how CLI participants engaged in various discussion topics specifically conflict management and how it is applicable in many facets of life especially in chapter development.**

**Convention Logistics & Operations**

**Joe Orozco announced that the Delta hotel will remain the same for Richmond Seminar for 2021. There is also some talk of perhaps holding the 2021 state convention in either Winchester or in Charlottesville. Joe Orozco introduced a motion for the Virginia affiliate to subsidize host chapters with up to $2,500 to support Friday night hospitality. The motion passed.**

**Communications**

**Chris Walker gave a brief update on using social media outlets to enhance the work that we in Virginia are doing. Currently, we have 1000 followers on our Facebook page.**

**Legislative**

**Earl Everett introduced and discussed the legislative priorities for Washington Seminar. People who are interested in participating on our teams should inform Earl by the end of January. The legislative priorities are:**

* **the access Technology Affordability Act (HR 2086/SB 815(**
* **Greater Access to Information non-visually (GAIN) HR 3929)**
* **Access to Instructional Materials in Higher education (Aim HE).**

**Richmond Seminar**

**Nijat Worley stated the two priorities to be discussed at Richmond Seminar are a hiring preference for state employment for people with disabilities and increased funding for the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. Fourteen teams would be visiting the Pocahontas building on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.**

**Commissioner Hopkins spoke to us regarding some changes happening on the VRCBVI campus, etc.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Evelyn Valdez**

**Affiliate Recording Secretary**