PCNFB Board Minutes for March 20, 2016

The board meeting of the Potomac Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind was called to order at 3 p.m. by President John Halverson. Board Members Present: President John Halverson; First Vice President Nancy Yeager; Second Vice President Joe Hobson; Treasurer Sean McMahon; Recording Secretary Patricia Droppers; Board Member Stephanie Deluca. Guest: Sarah Blumberg.

Absent Board Members: Corresponding Secretary Beverly Coney; Board Members Deepa Goraya, and Tracy Soforenko.

Former long-time chapter member PC Woods, the husband of Jeannie Woods, died on March 16. His funeral will be March 30 at 10 a.m. in Burke, with the graveside at 2 p.m.

Auction. We’re hoping to have the auction at Turnbury Towers again this year, and to use the same caterer. President Halverson is still trying to resurrect the flyer on what the chapter does from his old computer desktop. He said he sent out the tax letter. Sean said he would put the flyer in the chapter DropBox when it was recovered.

Apple. President Halverson said he would try to contact The Pentagon City store to see where we were in the process of setting up training sessions for May to early June.

Other activities. The board brainstormed other training or blindness activities we could take on for our chapter members and the public. Facebook and Twitter, along with Windows training. Also, starting a braille class was mentioned; we could contact the EnDependence Center, and the Arlington, Fairfax, and Alexandria libraries to gauge interest and help us spread the word. We would need to charge for the teaching books, if for no other reason, to ensure commitment of the participants. It was noted that the last time the chapter held a braille class was about 24 years ago at Woodson High School in Annandale through Fairfax County, with the course lasting about 8 weeks. We discussed ways that participants could write braille, such as via braille slate and stylus or through Perky Duck which is a free downloadable braille editor from Duxbury Systems. President Halverson said that we would discuss the project at the next chapter meeting and form a committee to work on the details involved in setting up a braille class.

Social Committee. President Halverson asked if there were further details about the accessible National Gallery of Art and the portrait Gallery art museum tours. Sarah said she would contact them. Sarah said she would be holding her first social committee conference call with Deepa Goraya, Evelyn Valdez, and Amir Abdulrahimi on Tuesday, March 22.

Snacks for Chapter Meetings. We will rotate snack responsibilities throughout the chapter, so that one person doesn’t always have to be responsible. People can still get reimbursed from the social appropriation should they desire.

Constitution. Nancy Yeager said that all the signatures were on the chapter constitution, and that she would be sending one copy to State President Michael Kasey and one to National President Mark Riccobono. John said he would draft a letter that will be sent with the copies.

Ways and Means.

Sean reported that there will be a meeting with Harold Wilson to discuss how to use Square as a blind person, so that we will be able to use it in the future for credit card payments.

Membership. Joe Hobson moved that Joanne Wilson be approved as Membership Chair. Nancy Yeager seconded. The motion was passed. Alex Castillo is working with Joanne Wilson on membership activities.

Program ideas for chapter meetings. Some ideas included emergency preparedness, food safety, ways to adapt community classes so that blind people can actively participate, Comcast and Verizon discussing accessibility of their products, the current state of Windows 10 accessibility. It was suggested that either Brad Miles from VDBVI or Jack Woods might be helpful in discussing the current state of Windows 10 accessibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Droppers

Recording Secretary