PCNFB Minutes for May 12, 2016

The Monthly meeting of the Potomac Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind was convened at 7 p.m. by President John Halverson. Fourteen members were present. The NFB pledge was led by Sean McMahon.

The minutes of the April 2016 meeting were accepted without correction.

Treasurer’s Report for the period of 4/13/2016 to 5/12/2016

Beginning Balance: $5287.01

Income: 50-50 cash $14.00

Total Income $14.00

Disbursements:

NFB Pac for May $75.00

NFB VPAD for May $75.00

Memory Book Michelle Miller $100.00

St. Georges Food Pantry $150.00

Billy Ruth Auction space rental $150.00

White cane fund $600.00

Jernigan Tenbrook Sun funds $600

NFB Camp $100.00

Total Disbursements: $1700.00

Ending Balance as of 5/12/2016: $3601.01

 Discussion about Taxes

Charlie and Jacki Brown led the discussion about taxes and exemptions for individuals who are blind which is $900. The credit is $7800 and we cannot have deductions exceeding the exemption amount. Virginia law is so outdated.

Leadership Development Seminar in Baltimore

Joe Hopson expressed how he was so amazed with the innovation of the National Center’s Jernigan Institute. Dr. Maurer worked with the Fellows on giving a speech on that Thursday night and all the poetic rhythms. In the NFB, we have expectations for you and that’s why people respond so well to that. Tracy asked for suggestions and thanked Evelyn Valdez and Alex Castillo for putting together the door prizes. John Halverson also agreed that the unique door prizes was such a good idea.

National Convention in Orlando, FL

We will have a Virginia table at national convention in Orlando. There will be peanuts, raffle tickets, and kettle popcorn on sale at the table. President Halverson had two books of Jernigan tickets which the lucky winner will have all convention expenses paid for with an additional $1000 to walk around with.

Installation of the new board of the Potomac chapter led by Tracy Soforenko.

Programming for Transition-age students. The Virginia Department of the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) is asking organizations in the community to develop programming for transition-age students for the region. If the Potomac chapter was to be awarded a contract, what program could we develop, who would we payand when will we hold the programming?

There would be some volunteers needed as well as a coordinator. Tracy will organize a team of individuals for the writing of the contract. The NFB would be teaching pre-employment skills such as resume writing and job shadowing.

The conference call will be held on Wednesday, May 18th at 8pm.

Auction

The chapter fundraising auction will be held on Saturday, June 11th at Turnbury Towers. Jacki Brown reminded us to start gathering up items, from our antiques, from merchants, anything that is unique and neat. Some suggestions: Gift baskets, jewelry, time share in las Vegas, restaurant certificates, etc. The setup will be at 1pm; people will show up at 3pm and jacki wants us to bring our smiles and wine for the auction. Bring enough wine and beer to share. We have three confirmations for auction prizes from Massage Envy, gourmet bag from Trader Joe’s, and from Pet Supplies Plus organized by Beverly.

Social Media classes

Danielle Trevino, who works at the National Center has agreed to come to northern Virginia to give classes on social media since she is a social media expert.

Arlington County Fair. The Fair will be the first weekend in August. The Chapter agreed to participate in the fair this year. Nancy needs people to work 2-hour shifts and approximately 2-3 people at a time. Also, individuals are needed to help setup. If you do not sign up to volunteer, she will voluntell you. We are going to need a new display for the new banner that is at Michael Kasey’s house. Nancy Yeager will head up the committee, with Sandy Halverson and Sarah Blumberg assisting.

*Announcements*

*Amir had an announcement about Endependence living Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) and how he is starting a social meet up for blind high school students and young adults from ages 14-26. He wants to hold social events monthly.*

*50-50 Raffle. $15 is what Sandy Halverson won.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Evelyn Valdez,*

*Recording Secretary*