PCNFB Minutes for August 11, 2016

The monthly chapter meeting of the Potomac chapter of the National Federation of the Blind was convened at 7pm by President John Halverson. There were 19 members present and the icebreaker was one’s favorite Olympic sport.

The NFB Pledge.

The minutes of the June 9th 2016 meeting were accepted without just a minor correction that was overlooked by Evelyn where she wrote the incorrect county in the Philosophy section of the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report for the period 6/09/2016 to 08/11/2016

Beginning Balance: $3471.01

Income:

Auction Dues: $240

Auction proceeds: $4605.77

Raffle Proceeds: $735

New Member Dues $5.00

50-50 cash $15.00

Total Income $5600.77

Disbursements:

Phish family donation: $735

Catering Expenses:580.00

Caters Fees: $60.00

Administrative Fees (online donation): $22.05

County Fair Expenses: $425

Board Meeting Transportation Fee: $33.22

NFB VPAD for July $75.00

NFB PAC for July $75.00

NFB PAC for August: $75.00

NFB VPAD for August: $75.00

Total Disbursements: $2155.27

Youth Fund: $1000 (started at 0 and received a Kiwanis grant of $1000)

The Ending Balance as of 08/11/2016: $6916.51

Philosophy Discussion

As previously sent out in an email, President John Halverson would like for volunteers to do the philosophy each month. Unfortunately, there wasn’t anyone who signed up this month to lead the philosophy discussion, but he stepped in this time. There’s an array of topics to discuss amongst our chapter members. He decided to raise a topic for discussion. Is it ok for blind guys to have catering at parties or should we do our own cooking as pertaining to our upcoming organization picnic. Alex Castillo suggested that perhaps we can grill and we can still have the catering. James Baker chimed in saying that he didn’t think there was anything wrong with us having catering at our event especially because sighted people have catering at their events all the time.He doesn’t have any objections of having catering at our event. Charlie Brown stated that at the National Center we do our own grilling and when the masses come in, there is catering. Justin Chan stated that it depends on the hostif the person wants grilling to take place or not. President Halverson said that people might not had the experience of cooking or participating in a potlock. Vice President Tracy Soforenko loves to cook and he would like to have a program that would benefit from learning to grill and/or cook.

 Arlington County Fair

The setup will take place on Wednesday, August 17-18th and the fair will take place on Friday, August 19th-Sunday, August 21st 2016. There will be 2-hour shifts starting on Friday, August 19th and members will be rotating shifts and Nancy still needs more volunteers to work shifts because if she does not get enough volunteers, then members will have to work 3-hour shifts instead. The community organizations and vendors will be inside in the exhibiting area. Our booth is G11. On the midway, is where the rides and food vendors with the funnel cake, ice cream, etc will be located. If anyone wants to sign up or switch out their time, they can see nancy during the break. There will be a display of pictures of blind individuals doing things so people can see blind people being active. A $25 gift certificate will be given out by the chapter during the fair.

Nancy has created cards for Braille games for kids to play like “Secret Word” and be engaged. The cards will have a sticker on it and the word Hello will be brailled on the card.

National convention in Orlando, FL

The 76th annual convention of the NFB took place in July and there were several McDonnell first-timer scholarship recipients that attended. James Baker agreed with President John Halverson that the presidential report was excellent. Sean McMahon and Sarah Blumberg listened to the convention on the live stream since they were unable to attend the convention. Sandy Halverson headed the committee for mentors and mentees of the McDonnell scholarship and Vice President Tracy Soforenko suggested that the McDonnell scholarship recipients share their first-time experiences at the upcoming state convention as an agenda item.

Announcements

Blind Surfing

Evelyn Valdez will be doing surfing at the Asbury Park Beach in Asbury Park, New Jersey on Sunday, August 21st 2016 hosted by the Vision Experience and the Neptune Lyons Club. This is the first time that an event of this nature will be put together. There will be experienced surfers teaching and assisting blind individuals to surf on surf boards.

Evelyn will be more than happy to bring back and share with the chapter all that she has learned. Also, if the event is a success, then perhaps this could be a chapter program in Virginia??? Let’s see, shall we?

Goalball Tournament

Justin Chan is in charge of adaptive sports and is helping run the first-ever goalball tournament to take place in Virginia and it will be held at George Mason University’s gym on Saturday, October 1st and Sunday, October 2nd. This event will be all day and many volunteers will be needed to make this event a big success. Justin explained that goalball is a adaptive sport played by the blind and blindfolded if anyone has any residual vision so that everyone is on the same playing fieldand a basketball-sized ball is used that has bells inside of it so that the blind players can hear the ball as it is moving across the soccer-inspired field with tactual stripping so one can determine their boundaries.

Virginia State Board Meeting

The NFB of Virginia held its board meeting on Saturday, August 6, 2016 in Richmond. Some chapter members took a van down to Richmond and it took a while to get there due to the usual 95South issues.

Vice President Tracy Soforenko reiterated that the state board has decided to have the Virginia Leadership Fellows program again this year. So, another class of rising and talented leaders for this year can be mentored to enhance this organization’s mission.

State convention

The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia State convention will be taking place on November 10-13th at the Wyndham Ocean front Hotel in Virginia Beach. It’s $69 a night plus gratuities.

We are discussing taking a bus to the convention. We will be picking up in Fairfax and in Richmond and we will have to charge the same price as if someone gets picked up in Richmond. We are looking in perhaps taking a 24-passenger bus. The bus will only be departing on Thursday evening in time for the board meeting for Friday morning.

Pre-Employment program

We are trying to do a pilot program for transition-age students of 14-22 years of age. Programming like practicing interviewing, job shadowing, discrimination in the workplace, pairing the students with our members, etc. We want to highlight some guidelines and a working committee must be formed so that a pilot program can be put together.

Picnic

Save the Date!

The Potomac chapter will hold its picnic on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Joh and Sandy Halverson’s house. We will have a catering for this lovely picnic. Bring a friend. There’s space on the deck, front porch, and in the inside.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Valdez

Recording Secretary