PCNFB Chapter Minutes for September 8, 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. Seventeen members were present. This month’s icebreaker was what is the state you least want to live in.

The NFB pledge was led by Tracy Soforenko

The minutes of the August 11, 2016 meeting were accepted without correction.

President John Halverson asked ariall Silverman, a new guest, to share a little about herself.

We had a moment of silence for September 11th.

Treasurer’s Report for the period of 08/10/2016 to 9/08/2016

Beginning Balance: $6916.51

Income: 50-50 cash $10.00

New Member Dues: $5

Total Income $15.00

Disbursements:

NFB Pac for September $75.00

NFB VPAD for September $75.00

NFB Camp $100.00

Check to Nancy Yeager: $518.24

Total Disbursements: $659.14

Ending Balance as of 9/08/2016: $6263.37

 Philosophy Discussion

Alex Castillo led the philosophy discussion for this month about first posing two questions to the chapter.

How as a chapter we have responsibilities towards new members and if this new member(s) lack in certain skills, should we bring it to their attention?

Alex bought up a story about Andrew and Sabrina who were members of the NYC chapter and Andrew was new to blindness while Sabrina had been totally blind and she had traveled cross country. Andrew was a bit skeptical about him fitting into the chapter crowd because the chapter members would go out for drinks and food after the meeting and Andrew did not think that the group wanted him to be around. Andrew told Alex that Sabrina kept talking about the San Janero festival, but she wasn’t directly inviting Andrew to go. Alex gave Andrew some advice to see if Sabrina was indeed not wanting to go to the festival without Andrew. So, while everyone was gathered after a chapter meeting, Sabrina mentioned the festival and so Andrew said that he would go and Sabrina interjected stating that she was going to the festival without him. They argued and she told him that she didn’t want to baby-sit him especially because he was a slow walker and he did not use a cane and there were going to be big crowds at the festival.

There was great discussion about the two different questions that Alex posed. What is your reaction to this scenario? Several members stated that Sabrina was harsh and others stated that it was Sabrina’s preference. As a chapter, we should allow new members to feel welcome.

Chapter Picnic

The chapter board is suggesting to bring a blind non-member to the fall picnic taking place on Saturday, September 17th from 3-7pm at President John & Sandy’s home in Crystal City. Bring cash or check to Sarah Blumberg for $20 per person. You must RSVP by Tuesday, September 13th. There will be a caterer so the numbers must be turned in soon.

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 for the day tentatively on Saturday, October 22nd. We are still waiting to hear back from the church to finalize the designated room. Bring in your computer. President John has only one extra computer. Save the date.

Potential Activities Committee

President John Halverson really would like for there to be a committee for activities so that different guests can come to our chapter monthly to speak. Also, the ultimate outcome would be to hold a community seminar such as a Possibilities fair, etc.

Holiday Dinner

The board suggested that having the holiday dinner take place at Bistro 360 would perhaps be a great idea. Justin will check into this to see if it is feesible. The goal is to keep the price at $35 a person. Someone will have to be in charge of collecting the money for the collection for the food pantry. Discussion was done regarding a possibility of holding the holiday dinner at the Bus Boys and Poets in Sherlington. Evelyn suggested if one could dress up and be festive.

Wine Tasting Event

Additionally, the board discussed the wine tasting fundraiser to take place in late January or early February with hopes of holding the event again at Bistro 360 because it was such a great turnout.

Social Events

Sarah Blumberg suggested that since we are in the season for harvest and there are lots of festivals in Northern Virginia that we could do apple and pumpkin picking at a farm or orchards. There was discussion regarding where we could go as a chapter and the logistics of getting there. Further research must be done and carpool was suggested as a form of transportation.

New Business

Charlie Brown announced that effective October 1st that he will be President-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Arlington. A big congratulations to Charlie Brown on his new and prestigious position!

50/50 Raffle

Patty Droppers won the 50/50

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Evelyn Valdez,*

*Recording Secretary*