PCNFB Chapter Minutes for August 10, 2017

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.

The icebreaker was what is your favorite age and why?

We had a moment of silence.

The NFB pledge was led and recited by Sandy Halverson

The minutes of the June 8, 2017 meeting were discussed and accepted without correction.

Treasurer’s report for the period from 5/11/2017 to 8/10/2017

Beginning balance: General Fund: $3679.02

Income:

Auction Proceeds from Square: $2,105.45

Other Auction proceeds, checks and cash $2,814.00

Total Income: $4,919.45

Disbursements:

Party room expenses:$150.00

Catering expenses for Auction $500.00

NFB VPAD for June $75.00

NFB PAC for June $75.00

NFB VPAD for July $75.00

NFB PAC for July $75.00

NFB VPAD for August $75.00

NFB PAC for August $75.00

Convention Assistance $150.00

Convention Assistance $332.00

Total Disbursements: $1,582.00

Ending Balance General Fund: $7016.47

Youth Fund:

Beginning balance: $1,000.00

Income grant from Kiwanis club for youth programming $1,000.00

Disbursements: $0.00

Ending balance: $2,000.00

Programming Committee

Paul Schroeder demoed the Aira glasses which is artificial intelligence technology that uses live trained agents to give you additional helpful information in either travel or if you are in a specific location. It also can tell you what color your clothing is. It is also resourceful when there’s construction outside like scaffolding so you can make a choice about which route to take. It gives you access to assist via virtual blindness with a telephone and camera relay. The Aira program is aggressively priced. Aira will not tell you when it is safe to cross the street, it is up to the blind traveler’s judgement. There are now about 50 trained Aira agents. If you would be interested in obtaining an unlimited minutes package of Aira, it would cost $329. The website is [www.aira.io](http://www.aira.io) if you may have any questions, but Paul Schroeder is your local Aira rep.

State Convention

In preparation of our upcoming state convention taking place on Friday, Nov. 3-5 at The Westin Tysons Corner in Falls Church, Annette Carr, Exhibits Coordinator and Evelyn Valdez, Sponsorships Coordinator informed the membership that exhibitors and sponsors have already registered and that a walk-through of the exhibit space must be done. Jacki Brown, our auctioneer conveyed that she needs to have a separate space for the auction items and so Joe Orozco, Conventions Operations and Logistics must go over this task when visiting the hotel. Registration is now available along with booking your hotel accommodations.

The following items were discussed regarding the volunteers needed for various components of the state convention since the Potomac Chapter is the hosting chapter.

Volunteers for some state convention activities.

Child Care: Niam

Auctioneer: Jacki Brown

Door Prize  Coordinator: Sarah Blumberg and Sarah

Local transportation: Rodney

Friday night Hospitality: John, Nancy, Evelyn, Annette, Wanda Taylor, Debbie Everdale

Marshal Coordinator: Sean

Braille Menus: Nancy and Patty Droppers

Opening Ceremonies: use veterans as a color guard; also Seeton Droppers will check if scouts are available

Use Alexandria Harmonizers to sing on Saturday morning

National Anthem: Alexandria harmonizers

NFB Pledge: Nancy coordinates BELL kids

Member of Congress/Local Politician: either Charlie Brown or Amir

Invocation for Friday and Saturday mornings: either the rector from St. George’s or a Catholic priest, Rabbi Jack from Tracy’s synagogue and Althea Pittman can do it on Sunday morning

Braille Agendas: Billy Ruth & Allen or Patty Droppers

Virginia Fellows Assignments:

Sponsorships Coordinator: Evelyn

Convention Operations and Logistics: Joe Orozco

Audio and Visual/assistive listening devices: Michael Kitchens

Bus Transportation: Earl Everett

Blind Students Activities: Robert Parsons

Fundraising: Domonique Lawless

Information Table: Alex Castillo

Collaboration in the Workplace Technology session: Sean

Announcements

President John Halverson announced that he will be retiring after a total of thirty-nine years of federal service. We wish John well in his retirement and what ever his next steps may be.

The Kiwanis have given us an income grant in the amount of $1000.00 for youth programming.

I hope everyone had a relaxing Labor Day weekend!

Yours in the Federation

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Evelyn Valdez,*

*Recording Secretary*

*Virginia Leadership Fellows, Classof 2016*