National Federation of the Blind

Potomac Chapter Meeting

Thursday August 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and 16 individuals were present. The icebreaker was sharing favorite stories of Brian Miller in celebration of his birthday.

 The minutes from the July meeting were approved with no corrections.

The treasurer’s report was approved. Current balance is $390.00 in the general fund and $2,750 in the youth fund.

Christine gave an update on committees. A program committee has been appointed to identify guest speakers for each chapter meeting. Naim Abu-el Hawa was appointed as chair for this committee. He will recruit others to join.

Nancy Yeager is serving as chair of the membership committee. Sean McMahon was appointed chair of a finance committee.

Kathryn Webster made a motion to send $2,000 of the $2750 designated Youth Fund balance from our chapter to the affiliate to offset costs of Project RISE and BELL. The motion was approved by the membership.

John Halverson is applying to the Kiwanis Club for another $1,000 grant for next year.

John is also hoping to restart the Potomac Chapter book club. He is asking members to find good books that have discussion questions published online. The book club will meet via Zoom until it is safe to meet in person again.

We had a guest presentation from Chief Shawn Stokes of the Dunn Loring Fire and Rescue Department. He discussed emergency preparedness, when to call 911, and strategies for preventing fires. A copy of his presentation slides were distributed to the membership. Following his presentation, several members asked questions about fire safety and received useful information.

If anyone has any follow-up questions for Shawn, they can email Naim and he will pass them along.

Naim led a brief philosophy discussion about how to handle comments from sighted partners such as “Let me clean the kitchen, I can do it better since I can see.”

It was suggested that we discuss accessible voting and fund-raising at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle Silverman, Secretary, Potomac Chapter, National Federation of the Blind