May 13, 2021

NFB Potomac Chapter Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. and 17 people were present.

Deepa Goraya led the meeting in Christine’s absence.

The icebreaker question was, What is your favorite summer activity?

The minutes from the April 8 meeting were approved without correction.

The treasurer’s report was approved. The current balances are $2,312.67 in the general fund and $1,750.00 in the youth fund.

Sean McMahon and Sarah Blumberg moderated a panel discussion about guide dog usage in the community. Kathryn Webster and Jeremy Grandstaff shared their experiences dealing with the public, such as negotiating with rideshare drivers and business owners, coping with discrimination, interactions between a guide dog and other service animals or emotional support animals who may not be properly trained, and strategies for keeping the dog active during the pandemic. They also discussed the balance between advocating for oneself and politely educating members of the public about blindness.

John Halverson offered assistance to anyone who needs help obtaining and filling out the accessible mail-in ballot before the June primary.

Deepa provided information about the Lyft promotion for NFB members to use to get to a vaccination appointment. Members who want the Lyft code should contact Jacki Bruce.

We discussed locations for a chapter picnic/outdoor social activity. The Halversons offered to host an outdoor event in their yard. Deepa also offered her rooftop.

The NFB/RAINN climate survey is still open. It will assist with assessing perceptions of the culture and incidents of sexual misconduct. The survey can be completed online or over the phone anonymously. Responses will be aggregated by RAINN and individual responses will not be shared with NFB leadership. To locate the survey link and telephone number, go to www.nfb.org/survivors

Chapter members engaged in a discussion on how people from different generations might react to the code of conduct process. Older members affirmed that they appreciated the process and the attention to these important issues. They did not feel excluded from the process. They felt it was important for them to know how to support younger people.

The member contact list is completed and was posted to the NFBV-potomac-announce list.

The fund-raising committee will pursue an in-person fund-raising opportunity.

Chapter members joined in reciting the NFB pledge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle Silverman, Secretary, NFB Potomac Chapter