March 10, 2022

National Federation of the Blind Potomac Chapter Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 6 people present in person and 18 were present via Zoom.

The icebreaker question was: What would you like the chapter to do in the next 6 months?

Ideas included having a social fund-raiser with food and a 50/50 raffle, philosophical discussions, information about Able accounts, doing outdoor/community activities, voter registration drive, transportation seminar, inviting delegates to chapter meetings, having NFB member spotlight presentations, a chocolate tasting (already planned for state convention), a game night, focus on involving young people and parents, speakers on parenting and employment, discussion of accessible apps on ios, and a speaker from Kennedy Center or National Gallery of Art.

The minutes from the February 17, 2022 meeting were approved without correction.

The treasurer’s report was approved. Current balances are $1,846.52 in the general fund and $1,750.00 in the youth fund.

John Halverson presented the audit committee report. The audit committee determined that all financial records have been accurately maintained and in excellent order. It was suggested to add two columns to the ledger spreadsheet: date of authorization receipt and source of authorization (chapter or president). The audit committee commended Treasurer Sean McMahon for his excellent work. It was also announced that Sean will not be seeking re-election to the treasurer position.

Members who wish to vote in the upcoming elections must pay their $5 dues by March 31, 2022. The April meeting will be scheduled for Thursday April 7 due to the Passover/Easter holidays on April 14-17.

The museum outing on March 5 was very successful. Sculptures outside the museum have QR codes with descriptions. Christine is interested in planning further museum outings.

We had a discussion regarding whether or not people should describe their visual appearance before giving presentations. Some people expressed that they would prefer to imagine what someone looks like based on their voice. Visual descriptions might also be more valuable to people with low vision than for people who are totally blind.

The membership committee is looking for anyone whose contact information has changed to update it. Email Nancy Yeager by April 10.

Rachel described the upcoming Pampered Chef fund-raiser. It will be held on Sunday April 3 at 7 p.m. 10% of all sales will go to the Potomac chapter for hosting the state convention. This event will be held on Zoom. There will be a virtual bingo game and people can buy items virtually.

Christine shared that on the latest presidential release, President Riccobono announced that there will be strict COVID protocols for the national convention. These will include a testing requirement prior to coming to or at the convention. More specific guidance will be provided closer to the convention start date.

Sandy Halverson presented the nominating committee report. The following individuals are recommended for nomination:

President, Christine Grassman;

First Vice-president, Deepa Goraya;

Second Vice-president, Nancy Yeager;

Recording Secretary, Julie McGinnity;

Corresponding Secretary, john Halverson;

Treasurer, Arielle Silverman;

Board members, Patty Droppers, LeRoy Hansen, and Sean McMahon;

Delegate, Christine Grassman;

Alternate Delegate, John Halverson.

Christine described a rideshare experience in which an Uber driver denied service due to another member’s guide dog. After canceling the ride, the driver had falsely claimed that she was not wearing a mask. The NFB’s rideshare survey was mentioned along with other ideas to escalate our advocacy efforts. Members shared stories involving discrimination or last-minute cancelations, in addition to experiences of being charged wait fees for not being able to locate the driver. Members also shared strategies such as saving screenshots and text conversations with drivers who cancel.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle Silverman, Recording Secretary, NFB Potomac Chapter