National Federation of the Blind

Potomac Chapter

June 9, 2022

Meeting Minutes

President Christine Grassman called the meeting to order on Zoom at 7:00 PM. After going over the agenda, the meeting minutes and treasurer’s report from May were reviewed. Joe Hobson moved, and Tracy Soforenko seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were adopted. Gary Grassman moved, and Joe Hobson seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. The report was adopted.

President Grassman summarized the responses she had received from the chapter survey by that point. The most popular responses at that time were: meeting at a restaurant, inviting speakers to chapter meetings, and getting involved in social and cultural activities. President Grassman is currently exploring options for meeting at restaurants so that the noise level at the establishment will not affect our ability to discuss chapter business. The members discussed other options for incorporating food in our meetings, such as asking the church if they will allow us to bring meals or snacks in with us.

Lori Pierce from Metro Washington Association of Blind Athletes (MWABA) gave a presentation about the sports and activities her organization offers. The organization’s mission is for blind people to have healthy and active lifestyles. To that end, they offer the following activities: tandem cycling, virtual yoga, goal ball, hiking, beep kickball, and social events throughout the year. In the future, MWABA is hoping to offer: rock climbing, bowling, and poker and trivia nights. Lori also explained that MWABA maintains relationships with fitness trainers and martial arts instructors, so any blind person who is interested in getting involved with a gym or learn martial arts can contact her.

President Grassman read an update on the fair gates in the metro stations, which make no noise when opening and closing. The update she received indicated that a fix would be implemented in the next three weeks or so.

President Grassman announced that the chapter would be holding an ice cream social on August 6th. Several chapter members rose concerns about the date, since an affiliate board meeting is set for August 6th. Christine suggested that we hold the social on the seventh instead, and the chapter agreed. The chapter discussed where to hold the ice cream social, and Christine reminded everyone to bring something to contribute to the ice cream.

President Grassman summarized the important points of the most recent presidential release. There was a discussion of covid protocols at the upcoming national convention. She also explained a new constitutional amendment the members will be voting on at the convention.

The meeting ended with planning for a get-together to listen to the banquet at the national convention. At 8:35 PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. McGinnity, Secretary