National Federation of the Blind

Potomac Chapter

June 14, 2023

Minutes

President Sandy Halverson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The meeting kicked off with each chapter member announcing whether they would be attending the national convention virtually or in person.

Then the chapter turned to approving the minutes and the treasurer’s report. John Halverson moved, and Nancy Yeger seconded to approve the minutes. They were approved. John Halverson moved to approve the treasurer’s report, and Christine Grassman seconded. The treasurer’s report was approved.

Tracy gave a report on activities happening at convention including the job seeker seminar and career fair, activities specifically for virtual participants, and the Virginia caucus. He encouraged everyone to sign up for a shift working at the Virginia table in the exhibit hall, the independence market, and working as an embasidor. Tracy also asked for someone to volunteer to lead the banquet exchange for the affiliate. Tracy then described the items the affiliate would be selling this year. The affiliate will be selling the NFB coin holders and canvas bags with zippers.

Tracy continued with a description of the Museum of the Blind People’s Movement. He explained that a museum would provide us with an opportunity to display our history in a larger context. A handful of affiliates are donating to the cause, and Tracy encouraged the members to think about the museum so we can vote on whether or not to donate at the next board meeting.

Sean McMahon provided an update on the technology seminar the chapter plans to hold in the next year. The committee plans to hold short meetings to focus on specific topics such as Excel, Zoom, and screen readers on smart phones. Sandy asked the committee to come back with updates and plans for a date and time for the first seminar at the next meeting.

The presidential release was played.

The chapter voted on whether to have a July chapter meeting. The chapter voted to have the meeting, which will be in person on July 12th.

Sandy asked Leroy if a representative from Arlington County would attend one of our meetings. She explained that we should speak to them in person to show them our numbers and describe our concerns about the lack of accessible pedestrian signals. Leroy agreed that we should attempt to get someone to come to one of our next in-person meetings so that they have to talk to us.

Sandy asked someone to volunteer to call chapter members and alert them about the meetings each month. Nancy, Pattie, Debbie, and Sean volunteered. Nancy also offered to send out the chapter membership list to anyone who needs it.

Christine spoke about her dragon boating team, the Out of Sight Dragons. Her team is made up of both blind and sighted members, and they practice two-three times a week. She and Gary described how the team paddles and what the boat looks like. It is a long boat with benches throughout. Christine promised to send out the link to their team website.

John Halverson asked the chapter for insight about Penny Forward, a nonprofit directed towards assisting blind people in managing their own finances. The chapter discussed the possibility of having the organization speak at a meeting and contributing to their mission. Everyone agreed that more investigation was necessary before getting involved with their efforts.

Tracy made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. McGinnity, Recording Secretary