National Federation of the Blind

Potomac Chapter Minutes

April 10, 2024

The meeting was held on Zoom and in person at St. Jeorge’s Church. The meeting kicked off with a presentation by Jodi Nicholson, who works as a TVI at the public schools in Arlington. Jodi briefly discussed her experience as a teacher of tomorrow before describing her job working in Arlington schools. She stated that she treats each student as an individual with unique cultural needs and blindness experiences. Then, Jodi took questions from the chapter and discussed the possibility of bringing blind children together for an activity for the end of the school year. She also encouraged chapter members to come into the schools, read Braille to the children, and work as volunteers.

Everyone attending the meeting introduced themselves. Sandy announced that the minutes had been distributed earlier that day. John also sent out the treasurer’s report. Joe moved, and Nancy seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. The report was approved.

Sandy drew everyone’s attention to the passage of HB516, the prescription labeling bill. Tracy announced that Delegate Hope would be joining the chapter at the next meeting. The chapter discussed ways to increase in-person attendance for the May meeting.

Gary presented the audit committee report. The committee met on Monday, April 1st and went through the audit form. John moved, and someone seconded to approve the audit committee report. The report was approved.

Tracy spoke about the May 11th board meeting. The meeting will be open to everyone and will take place from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the training center in Richmond. Then Tracy described the leadership break-out sessions that chapter members can attend.

The agenda turned to the chapter elections. Pattie delivered the nominating committee report. The slate was as follows: President, Sandy Halverson; first vice president, Julie Orozco; second vice president, Learoy Hansen; Secretary, Bonnie Stole; corresponding secretary, John Halverson; Treasurer, Sean McMahon; board position, Gary Moore; board position, Lizzy Muhammad; and board position; Pattie Droppers.

First, the chapter elected the president. No nominations were given from the floor, and Tracy moved that nominations cease. Sandy was elected by acclamation.

Next, the chapter elected the first vice president. No nominations were given from the floor. John moved that nominations cease, and Julie was elected by acclamation.

The chapter then elected the second vice president. No nominations were given from the floor, and John moved that nominations cease. Learoy was elected by acclamation.

The chapter elected the corresponding secretary. No nominations were given from the floor, and Nancy moved that nominations cease. John was elected by acclamation.

Next, the chapter elected the recording secretary. No other nominations were given from the floor, and John moved that nominations cease. Bonnie was elected by acclamation.

The chapter elected the treasurer. No other nominations were given from the floor, and Gary moved that nominations cease. Sean was elected by acclamation.

The chapter then elected the three board positions. For the first board position, Gary’s name was placed in nomination. No other nominations were given from the floor, and Gary was elected by acclamation. Lizzy’s name was placed in nomination for the second board position. No other nominations were given from the floor, and Lizzy was elected by acclamation. Pattie’s name was placed into nomination for the third board position. No other nominations were given from the floor, and she was elected by acclamation.

Pattie announced that the nominating committee recommended that John Halverson serve as delegate to the board of directors and Julie Orozco serve as alternate delegate. No other nominations were given from the floor, and John was elected as the delegate from the chapter. For alternate delegate, no other nominations were given from the floor, and Julie was elected as the alternate delegate.

Nancy stated that she appreciated serving on the board and that she will enjoy continuing to serve as a member.

John gave a report on the chapter auction scheduled for June 1st. The auction will be held at the Lions Community House. John has a letter about the chapter to distribute to the community, a request for participation in the auction, and request for member participation. He then recommended that chapter members consider asking businesses for donations, baking for the auction, and encouraging our neighbors and friends to join us for the auction.

John then reminded everyone that the chapter has a book club that meets the first week of every months. The book for this month is the Four Winds by Kristen Hannah.

Sandy announced that there will be a community health fare on April 20th. She promised to circulate more information about the event.

Tracy encouraged everyone to attend the national convention. The affiliate has a program that provides funding to first-time attendees, and the deadline is June first. He recommended everyone to check out the program and register for the convention.