PCNFB Minutes for September 11, 2024

Our meeting was called to order at 7 pm. There were eight members present in the room and around six people on Zoom.

Our secretary has to resign, so there will be a chapter election for Secretary at our October meeting.

Treasurer’s Report. Our VPAD and PAC monthly contributions will increase to $50 each starting in October. Our current general account balance as of 9/11 is $7657.28. The Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

State Convention Transportation. It was determined that renting vans or a bus for roundtrip transportation is just too expensive. Anyone interested in attending the convention in person will need to come up with their own individual plan. Amtrak trains run several times a day from Northern Virginia. Of course, personal drivers and RideShares are other options.

Chapter Picnic. There will be a chapter picnic at John and Sandy Halverson’s, 810 22nd St. South on Saturday, September 28, from 3 pm until 7 pm. There will be a $10 charge per person to cover expenses payable at the door.

State Convention Registration. The site is live and works quite well. Early bird registration is $20 a person and closes at midnight on October 7.

Affiliate President Tracy Soforenko is looking for “Brag and Steal” ideas for Convention.

Belind Equality and Achievement Month Activities. Our chapter will participate in two activities. The first one is Monday, October 14, from 1 to 3 pm at The Grassman’s complex, Skyline House, 3711 S. George Mason Drive, Falls Church, VA. There will be story reading time, demonstrations of braille writing, of using a cane and perhaps a guide dog, and other questions that might come up. Interested people should get in touch with Christine Grassman.

The other BEAM activity will take place at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, on Sunday, October 20, from 1 to 3:30 pm. The documentary movie “Unseen”, about a blind undocumented man will be screened with a panel discussion before the presentation.

The chapter had hoped to conduct a Voter Registration Drive this year, but it was found that the training materials were inaccessible.

There will be a seminar about voting over Zoom on September 12 at noon.

Presidential Release Live. Starting in October changes will be coming to how material is presented. There will still be the usual Presidential Release Live as it is now. In addition, there will be an abbreviated version available by the first of the month lasting about 15 minutes which may have different content from the Live Release. This shorter version is specifically meant to be played at chapter meetings.

Our National Office has arranged for a rally at both Lyft and Uber Headquarters in San Francisco on White Cane Awareness Day, October 15, to draw attention to the discrimination faced by dog guide users. Our Virginia affiliate is offering two partial scholarships for this event.

On Sunday, November 10, there will be a national fundraiser, the Bay Bridge Walk, where participants will be able to walk or run across the Bay Bridge over the Chesapeake. Teams are formed, for a registration of $65 per team member, with participants either participating in person or virtually. Each person on the team must raise at least $300.

Jonathan Mosen will join our National Office and will be collaborating on Technology Initiatives.

Our meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully,

Patty Droppers