PCNFB Minutes, October 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Sandy Halverson. There were 10 in-person attendees and 2 Zoom attendees.

The chapter meeting minutes of September 11, 2024 was approved as written.

A Ride Share anti-discrimination rally will be held in San Francisco on October 15, which is also White Cane Awareness Day. Three people from Virginia will be attending the rally: Sandy Halverson, Julie Orozco and Lizzy Muhammad-Park. The October Presidential Release Live will broadcast from the headquarters hotel at 8:30 EDT on October 15. AIRA will broadcast the rallies live, Uber in the morning, and Lyft after lunch, with each rally lasting approximately 90 minutes. Some of the dog guide schools will be attending or supporting the rally as well.

State Convention. The affiliate will be using its own new sound system this year. Sign-Up Genius will also be used for such convention activities as Blind Tennis or individual O&M lessons. Convention transportation to Portsmouth will be by Amtrak train or private individual arrangements; transportation back to Northern Virginia will be by a 56-person bus at a cost of $70 per person which can be paid on site, but sign-up must be on the web. Auction items are still needed. Our chapter will contribute $300 in prizes distributed among 4 $25 door prizes plus a $200 prize. A Chapter Connect contest will be conducted during the Convention to encourage community building. It’s similar to the Alexa game of Daily Connect. Julie Orozco will be our Chapter Representative for the contest. Town Hall questions for President Soforenko and Anil Lewis will be accepted through October 15.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as written. Our General Fund had a beginning balance of $7,657.28; total income of $70.00; total disbursements of $100.00; ending balance $7,627.28. Our Youth Fund balance remained unchanged at $1,000.

Blind Equality and Achievement Month activities. There will be two events: An event at Christine Grassman’s complex where we will demonstrate the reading and writing of braille, answer any questions people might have, and pass out literature. The event will be on Monday, October 14, from 1 pm until 3 pm. The second event is a screening of the film Unseen, a documentary about a blind undocumented immigrant who becomes a social worker. That will be held on October 20, at Arlington Central Library from 1 to 3:30 pm.

Presidential Release. This was the first month of the mini presidential release meant to be played at a chapter meeting. We were reminded to take advantage of the many publications that are available, particularly the Braille Monitor, and that leadership should help chapter members who are having difficulties. Suggestions for future release topics should be sent to officeofthepresident@nfb.org. President Riccobono talked about the responsibility of members to be committed to the organization, and that the NFB pledge is the embodiment of that commitment. He suggested that the pledge be said at every chapter meeting. Dr. Jernigan introduced the pledge in 1974. President Riccobono went on to say that we also have a set of belief statements which also could be read at each chapter meeting. Chapters can buy cards with both the pledge and belief statements in braille and print for $20 for 50.

We were reminded to vote, either early, in-person on election day, or mail-in ballot.

Holiday Party. We started discussing ideas for the holiday party but decided that we would finish the discussion next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully,

Patty Droppers