National Federation of the Blind of Washington

Telephone board Meeting

September 13, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Bennett Prows, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by First vice President Colcock at 7:04 PM. President Carpenter was not attending due to allergy concerns. Board members Present were: Kris Colcock, Doug Trimble, Bennett Prows, Corey Grandstaff, Buna Dahal, Mike Forzano and Jim Portillo. Other participants were Vincent and Sunni Ricks, Maria Bradford and Jacob Struiksma later in the meeting.

The minutes of the August meeting had been distributed before the meeting, and a motion to approve was seconded and passed unanimously with a promise to correct the spelling of Sunni ricks name in the final version of the minutes.

Corey Grandstaff had distributed the treasurer’s report prior to the meeting. The treasurer’s report was approved unanimously. Corey explained that he was currently blocked from the Baird Investment account, but would get that issue resolved on Monday and could then provide the balance from that account.

Kris asked Corey and Doug to report on the state Rehabilitation council meeting. Corey reported that the meeting mostly had routine updates, and they still have positions open on the State Rehabilitation council for business and labor representatives, and community rehabilitation providers, ETC. Michael and others updated the council about their activities at the DSB, including how things are going during the COVID Pandemic, and an update on the budget. Doug said that the agency may be hit with a 15 percent cut as all other state agencies might in the coming year. He also said they are beginning in-person orientation and mobility instruction, but the rest of the programs are working remotely with the individuals involved.

Kris then asked for chapter reports. Corey reported for the Clark county chapter that they have been meeting by Zoom since about march. Many activities have been curtailed, but they are holding a holiday get-together by Zoom this year. They are considering resuming fundraising activities which may be limited this year. They have had a “cash back” fundraiser with a local restaurant and are checking that possibility. They also have spent some time talking about voting this year at their meetings as well.

Mike forzano reported for the Seattle chapter, that they are doing similar activities, holding Zoom meeting since march. They have shorted their meetings to about an hour, because zoom meetings don’t need to be as long, the chapter is not fundraising this year, and the brewery event was cancelled for 2020.

Since David Fair, Spokane chapter President was not on the call, Kris reported that the Spokane chapter is on a sort of hiatus now. She then reported that the Members At Large Chapter is growing, and continues to meet by phone and Zoom. There were about 12 folks on the call for September. The chapter is starting to bring people in to discuss the various divisions of the Federation and what they are doing. Denise Mackenstadt talked about the Teachers of blind Children Division this month. Fundraising for the chapter is usually done at the state convention, so the issue is being discussed before deciding how we will proceed to fund raise in the At large Chapter.

She reported that the Sequim chapter is also not meeting at the moment. The chapters are getting higher numbers of individuals attending the Zoom meetings. Seattle reported that it got about 22 participants at one meeting, and about 15 to 20 on average.

Next Kris brought up the NFB’s emphasis on voter registration and actual voting by members. Several ways of checking with the county for verification of an individual’s status as a registered voter were mentioned, and all were urged to make sure to vote when they received ballots.

Corey reported on the state convention planning committee. The planning committee would be meeting again on Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. Registration will be $10 this year. There are expenses still involved in the convention, so registration is important as well. The registration is almost completed and will be out soon. The agenda will be planned soon and the committee is moving forward. Jim Gashel is the national representative to our state convention this year.

Then Kris said that Marci wanted us to remember to connect with our state and Federal legislators on the various NFB initiatives and our legislative agenda. The representatives and senators often have Zoom meetings, and/or appointments can be made for phone or Zoom conference calls. We should not let up on getting their attention.

Then Corey raised the issue of how chapters are going to be required to handle receiving dues and other donations from Federation members, ETC, particularly now in the time of the COVID pandemic. It was decided that we need some more conversation with Marci, and possibly getting guidance from the national office about how chapters should deal with receiving money and the use of Pay Pal, Zell and

other payment programs, as well as the nonprofit status of chapters.

Finally, people were urged to register for the state convention, as the announcement would be out soon. The likely date for final opportunity to register will be October 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:44 PM.

The next board meeting will be held Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM. (pacific.),