National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

New Jersey Association of Blind Studdnts

NJABS Minutes June 2, 2020

Roll Call

Amy Albin, Secretary/Treasurer

Jonathon Zobek, President

Henry Young, Vice President

Vee Gaspa, Member

Marissa, State Scholarship Winner

Linda Melendez, First Vice President of New Jersey Affilliate

Sebastian Bustomonte, Member

Natasha Ishaq, Board Member

(Claress Knight, Board Member, arrived later at the meeting but was not present for most of the substantive content).

Henry Young led the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Linda Melendez led the recitation of the NFB Pledge.

Linda gave a message on behalf of Joe Ruffalo saying hello.

He stressed the importance of registering for free for the national convention, deadline is June 15.

Linda also announced a Membership call on June 10 for prospective members and She thanked NJABS for the Students Supporting Seniors program

Treasurer’s Report: NJABS has $1,315.84, as reported by Amy Albin.

Amy Albin gave legislative report about the ATAA national initiative. This is still an ongoing issue as NABS would like the ATAA to be included in the next Covid-19 relief bill.

Marissa introduced herself and said, she’s interested in college and law school,planning on finishing high school and going on to study at Georgetown University. Activities she does include does mock trial and Deca business competition. Lives in South Jersey

Vee gave state updates. About President Riccobono’s live presidential release

Thursday June 4 at 8 PM Eastern.

Our in-person events are still on hold.

State convention in November is still planned in person November 5 through November 8.

Vee asked the members to please book our rooms and if we need to cancel call Joe Ruffalo instead of the hotel. No charge until you enter the hotel.

There are chat calls going on in various chapters and divisions such as Southeastern and senior division.

Jonathan addressed Students Supporting Seniors.

From Jane Degenshein , President of New Jersey Senior Division, Jonathan has heard that seniors enjoy it.

Next, there was a Summer plans discussion

Jonathan then discussed an e-mail about free software from Freedom Scientific. He said he would send it out to the members (and did).

Sebastian wanted to expand Students Supporting Seniors to other divisions. For example, Students Supporting Technology Division or Sports and Rec Division, so students can get involved in calling people because everyone is dealing with isolation. Could be especially useful to Marissa who specifically asked if she could get involved.

Meeting was Adjourned by Henry Young at 6:47 P.M.