December 20th, 2013

Ohio association of blind students

People Present: Kaiti Shelton, Aleeha Dudley, Lillie Pennington, Abby Bolling, Emily Pennington, Ryan Silveira, Patti Chang, chair of the NFB scholarship committee

The meeting was called to order and started off with Patti Chang speaking about the scholarships for 2014.

Information about the scholarship program can be found at

[www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.nfb.org/scholarships)

There are four requirements in order to be eligible for a scholarship:

1. You must be legally blind in both eyes.

You must provide documentation of your blindness; and documentation cannot be a doctors report. From the documentation, anyone should be able to tell if you qualify or you don't.

1. You need to be attending a United States accredited university in the fall semester of the 2014 school year. Online universities and study abroad programs do count as long as they are parts of accredited United States universities. Essentially, you have to have plans to stay

in the United States.

1. You need to attend the intire NFB convention. Anything can be worked around.
2. You need to plan to be studying a postsecondary course of study in the upcoming semester.

Aplication Process:

The application process can be completely done online, and it is preferably done so. You can change or resubmit anything up through March 31st, at midnight EST. That is the deadline for applications.

With the application, you need two recommendation letters. Try to get these from good sources, not vocational rehab counselors, friends or family, unless you had a job with a family member. Don't overdue the letters, two is fine.

You will also submit a 700 word essay with the application. This essay will explain to the committee who you are, and tell them what makes you you. You can use it to explain unusual circumstances.

In the application, you need to show leadership skills, or the potential to be a leader.

You do not have to be a federationist to win a scholarship. Some winners are picked every year who have never even heard of the federation.

You also need an interview from a state affiliate president. This can either be the state you live in or the state you go to school in. These need to be done before or after March 31st. Some presidents wait until after March 31st to do their interviews.

You must submit a full application in order to be eligible to win a scholarship. People who do not enter a full application will most likely be disqualified. You also need to proofread your application and make sure all parts are submitted. It must be visually acceptable, and it is recommended that someone else looks at it.

After the application is submitted, you will receive an acknowledgment page of what was received. Double check attachments. If you cannot open them, the committee cannot. Larger PDF files tend to have issues going through the system, so it may be better to send smaller files.

You can submit anything you wish to submit along with the application. However, the committee is not influenced by performance demos or photos. However, they may glance over newspaper articles or other things that you publish or are published about you. Resumes may be helpful, particularly if you are a graduate student.

Questions about the scholarship can be made to

[Scholarships@nfb.org](mailto:Scholarships@nfb.org)

Or (410) 659-9314, extension 2415

Other OABS business

There is no treasurers report due to dues not being collected. Chase bank has been chosen as the bank for OABS. Checks will be sent once the treasurer finds out her address. Dues will be $5.

The idea of changing the conference line was discussed due to not having access to the call transcripts, although nothing was officially decided.

Committee Rosters:

Social Media: Lillie Pennington, Amber Meloy (chair)

This will be the smallest of the committees.

Membership: Aleeha Dudley (chair), Joy Mistovich, Amber Meloy, Lillie Pennington, Abby Bolling

Everyone should be taking an active role in membership and recommending the devision to fellow students. This is a state wide initiative. A possible recruiting idea for the blind students at Wright State University was discussed.

Fundraising: Emily Pennington (chair), Kyle Conley, Aleeha Dudley, Abby Bolling

We are awaiting confirmation from local Braille publishing before bookmarks are made.

There was discussion on the OABS website. There was some discussion with a blog, but nothing was officially decided. There are also plans to have a resource page for students.

Motion to adjourn, moved by Emily, seconded by Aleeha

Round table discussion

Respectfully Submitted, Lillie Pennington