January 2014

Ohio Association of Blind students

Present: Kaiti Shelton, Lillie Pennington, Emily Pennington, Joy Mistovich, Amber Meloy, Aleeha Dudley, Abby Bolling, Ryan Silvera, Darian Smith, Karen Anderson, Elif Amere, Eric Duffey, Deborah Kendrick

A panel of federationists, including Karen Anderson, Darian Smith, Deborah Kendrick, and Eric Duffey spoke on why it was important to be part of the student devision.

It is worth noting that Karen Anderson, our NABS state rep, said We have more people now than we did this time last year.

 It is important for people to get involved in the NFB for a source of mentors. People can network and get encouragement, as well as learning about new things blind people do. It is also good to be in the NFB to learn what is going on in the world and learn and fight for a students rights, as well as general rights concerning blind people. For example, it is important to reach out to senators and explain how these pieces of legislation effect a student personally has a lot of power. For example, advocating for the teach act, even if its not effecting you, just hearing from students and blind people in general is good. if you are unable to go to every meeting, you are still important to the devision. You can get involved in nabs by joining a committee or on the national listserve. The committees are student slate (nabs publication), membership, communications, and fundraising. People may join more than one committee. Students can also get involved the nabs history project. This is to get interviews from people involved in nabs through the ages and getting a sampling of what was going on.

It is also good getting involved in the NFB to meet other blind people. Its also about getting connected, as well as bringing people together. Members can network and share experiences, mistakes, and learn from experienced federationists

Another good way to get involved in the NFB is by reading publications like the braille monitor.

It is not just about being a member of the student devision, but Members are encouraged to get involved in their local chapters, members of OABS are members of the federation and on the same team as everyone else, not just one part. The federation is a family and working towards the same goal. A large amount of OABS members are involved in their local chapters.

It is also important to understand that everyone comes from different backgrounds. One mention of the federation could put the spark in peoples heads to get involved or at least start thinking at a later date.

 Eric spoke and said that OABS was the future of the aphiliet and the future leaders. He wants the students to be at board meetings and be elected and have more sway in the aphiliet. Whether it being involved in the listserve, doing a publication, or volunteering in state programs such as the bell program.

Everyone has the potential to be a leader at any level of the organization. Members are encouraged to be involved at any level.

NFB changes people for the better.

Recording the calls for publication on the website was also discussed.

Minutes are tabled until next meeting due to secretary not having them

Motion for reading minutes next month.

Motion from aleeha, second by Emily

Officer updates

Aleeha: See membership update, also assisted in getting speakers for this months meeting.

Recording Secretary: Drop box or other retrieval system for print minutes will be up soon. Minutes from this month were also tabled.

Corresponding Secretary: No accounts have been set up due to personal obligations. However, she has been looking at state devision websites to see what they have to get an idea of things. She is proficient on website content. Wordpress is the tentative website hosting. Once the link is created, it can be shared anywhere.

Treasurer: nothing to report, possibly getting a new bank because of the treasurer not being in near living distance of the bank, PNC may be an option, as well as a credit union due to their locations across the state. For due sending purposes, dues should be sent to the treasurer, who will then depositte them in the bank. Her address will be emailed personally.

A notice will be posted on the public listserve as well. Checks will need to be written out to the Ohio association of blind students. Cash is highly discouraged.

Membership: met last Friday, writing brochure, making some appearances, contacting people, contest

Fundraising: meeting next Friday at 8, awaiting a price estimation and have some other backup plans

Social media: nothing to report, hopefully more pages will be active. Possible question of the week getting on the listserve to inspire conversation.

Editor: Looked over bios and as soon as website is established those will be posted as well as articles that are posted.

It was suggested to change the conference code to student so we can have access to the transcripts and set that up by the next meeting. Changes will be published at a later date.

Motion to appoint amber to create another account on a free line by aleeha, seconded by Emily

Motion to adjourn by aleeha, second by Emily