OAGDU Minutes January 8, 2023

President LuAnn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with five members in attendance. We still, however, had a quorum since the OAGDU Constitution requires three officers to be in attendance to conduct business for a quorum. Members attending were LuAnn, Paula, Debbie, Asia and Diane. The motion to accept the November 13, 2022 minutes was made and seconded by Paula/Asia. The motion passed. Secretary Debbie apologized to Asia for the mis-spelling of her name and Asia offered verbal agreement with Debbie’s offer to correct all minutes with the mis-spelling in the versions that are submitted to Annette Lutz, NFB-O affiliate historian. LuAnn said that since Marianne was unable to be on the call and since she had been out of town for several days that there would be no updated treasurer’s report and current balance. LuAnn does not yet have access to our bank account.

Unfinished Business

Paula/Debbie moved and seconded that the division change our name to be in compliance with all other chapters and divisions in NFB-O, putting National at the beginning of each chapter or division name. The official new name for this division is National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Association of Guide Dog Users. At the division Presidents’ bidding, Debbie edited the name in the first article of our constitution and submitted the corrected constitution to Barbara Pierce who then forwarded the constitution to Nicole who keeps all chapter and division constitutions at National. We tabled the appointments of all committee chairs for Gavel, Legislative, Education and Fund Raising to the February 12th meeting so that more members would be in attendance. We also decided to table discussion of the Model Access Law, proposed by Marion Gwizdala for February or later.

New Business

Diane reported that she had to give up the puppy she had in training to be a service dog for Guiding Eyes. She has been on crutches with a torn tendon in her ankle. She could neither drive to the socialization outings for the dog nor be mobile enough to carry out the rest of the training tasks.

During the course of Diane’s explanation, Debbie asked if any training program still teaches fetch. Diane had been teaching the puppy to fetch. Discussion summary concluded with the practice and overall opinion that the dogs in training should focus primarily on guiding, though if a handler wishes to teach fetch on his/her own, they could do it with guidance from their training programs.

Asia asked for prayers and good thoughts and wishes to be offered for Grayson when he has surgery to remove a tumor in February or March. She has asked for a biopsy and will report next meeting.

LuAnn has spoken with Shane Popplestone to inquire if he would be willing to clean up and manage the new NFB Portal and Management System through National for our division. To date she says that Shane has not committed his help. Whoever does management of the portal for OAGDU will need all the following information from each member:

Member’s first and last name, email, postal address, preferred phone, preferred medium for receipt of pertinent NFB info—Braille, print or audio, method of travel—cane, dog or both, year member first joined OAGDU, year member paid most current division dues, and birthdate if member wishes to include. If Shane consents to coordinate the portal management for OAGDU, he can be reached at spopplestone.nfb@gmail.com. Debbie/Paula moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Our next call via Zoom at 7:00 PM will be on Sunday, February 12.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary