National Federation of the Blind - Cleveland Chapter

May 21, 2021 Minutes:

The May 2021 Chapter monthly meeting was held through zoom platform on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. The zoom link and passcode were provided to all members, guests, visitors and are given below in these minutes. The reason for having this meeting through zoom platform is to adhere to COVID-19 social distancing adopted by the National Federation of the Blind and the local and state officials.

Welcome:

Wilbert Turner, member, welcomed and thanked all members, attendees from other chapters and Divisions, all guests/visitors.

Roll Call:

Suzanne Turner, President, welcomed everyone again and made sure about the attendance of the chapter’s members, guests and visitors.

The National Federation of the Blind Pledge:

William Turner, First Vice President, helped all attendees to recite the National Federation of the Blind Pledge.

National Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Jefferson, member, help all attendees to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mending and Bereaved Members:

Suzanne Turner, President, informed the Board about some Chapter/Affiliate members and/or their relatives are having some health issues and urged everyone to keep them in his/her thoughts and prayers. Also, she mentioned the names of those members who are feeling better or fully recovered.

Secretary Report:

Ali Benmerzouga, Recording Secretary, with the help of Suzanne Turner’s technology touch, presented the April 2021 minutes. Denise Moss made the motion and Delcenia Brown seconded. The minutes were voted on and carried.

Treasury Report:

Natassha Ricks, Treasurer, presented the financial reports for May and April 2021. The details are given below:

April 2021 Report:

Checking Account:

Balance: $674.81

Balance available to chapter: $494.81

Allocated Balance: $180.00

Beginning Balance: $549.81

Savings Account:

Balance: $1,138.40

Beginning Balance: $1,138.40

Credits/interest: -0-

May 2021 Report:

Checking Account:

Balance: $600.81

Balance available to chapter: $420.81

Allocated Balance: $180.00

Beginning Balance: $674.81

Savings Account:

Balance: $1,138.40

Beginning Balance: $1,138.40

Credits/interest: -0-

She concluded by reminding all members to send their dues by mail as soon as possible. Delcenia Brown made the motion and Linda Bluford seconded it. the treasury report was voted on and carried. The complete April and May 2021 Treasury Report were submitted to the Recording Secretary.

National community service division:

Pat McPherson, member, thanked the Chapter for inviting her. She talked about the Ronald McDonald House Charity Project and informed all members on how to actively participate. She urged all to mail their new blankets (all sizes) before June 4, 2021. She concluded by urging all to send those sweet letters/cards to Jeanetta Price as soon as possible.

OSSB - Model Restoration Project:

Todd Elzey, an alumnus of the OSSB and the treasurer of the Affiliate, thanked the Chapter for inviting him to talk about the OSSB- Model Restoration Project. In what follows the details of his presentation:

OSSB has numerous models of historical buildings and items that are used as part of the school's education programs. These models are very old as they were originally built by artists during the Work Projects Programs of the 1930s and 1940s. These models have served many generations. He mentioned that he attended OSSB during the 70s and early 80s and he certainly benefited from being able to use the models to better understand what the historical buildings and items they represent looked like. He added, unfortunately, time has not been kind to many of the models and they must be restored so that they continue to serve their educational purposes. Restoring these models is not an inexpensive process as they must be restored by hand. OSSB is accepting donations to assist with model restorations and is offering a plaque to be placed on models for every$500 donated. The Board of Directors authorized a program where the NFB of Ohio will match all donations made to the project via the Affiliate by July 1, 2021. He further clarified that the goal is to garner at least $1000 in donations so that we can receive at least two plaques to honor long-time NFB members and OSSB graduates Paul Dressell and Paul Jordan. If we are able to raise additional funds, we will also be able to receive plaques to honor other long-time NFB members/OSSB graduates.

Again, the NFB of Ohio will match all donations received by members, Chapters, and/or Divisions received for the project between Saturday, April 24, 2021, and July 1, 2021. He urged all members, chapters, and divisions to donate to this project and show OSSB that we are committed to assisting in maintaining these important historical learning aids by raising as much money as we can for this project.

Donations to the project can be made through the Affiliate's Pay pal Account or the Affiliate's Zelle Account. The email for both payment venues is [treasurer@nfbohio.org](mailto:treasurer@nfbohio.org). Payments may also be made directly via check to:

NFB of Ohio,

Todd Elzey, Treasurer,

3779 Waterbury Dr.,

Dayton, OH 45439.

Additionally, he urged everyone to make sure that donations should be designated specifically to the "OSSB Model Restoration Project" so that it is properly credited to qualify as part of the NFB of Ohio's matching donation.

He concluded by urging all to get in touch with him in case they have any questions about the project.

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio- The Scholarship Committee:

Jordy D. Stringer, Chairman, Scholarship Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, announced the opening of the 2021 scholarship program intended to benefit blind college students beginning March 2021. He added that in the fall of 2021 NFBO will offer scholarships to outstanding blind students who currently live in, or are attending college in, the state of Ohio during the 2021-2022 academic school year. Additionally, he pointed out that scholarship winners must attend the entire National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (NFBO), aka, 2021 State Convention during the month of November and participate in all activities sponsored by the Ohio Association of Blind Students (OABS). In addition, scholarship winners will be required to meet with the Scholarship Committee during the 2021 state convention, which will be held at The Double Tree Columbus – Worthington, November 5-6-7, 2021. He further clarified that scholarship winners will be notified no later than August 15, 2021. All convention expenses will be provided for each scholarship winner. These expenses include, transportation, hotel accommodations, registration, and banquet fees. For more information on the NFBO state convention, please visit <http://www.nfbohio.org>. He added that applicants do not need to be members of NFBO to apply for these scholarships and it does not matter if the student is pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

For any further questions, please get in touch with:

Jordy D. Stringer, Chairman, Scholarship Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Ohio [jssocil@gmail.com](mailto:jssocil@gmail.com)

(614) 531-3945

He concluded by thanking the Chapter for giving him the opportunity to talk about the NFB Ohio Scholarship.

Overview of COVID-19:

Francis Miles from the Department of Public Health, City of Cleveland thanked the Chapter for inviting her to talk about COVID-19 Pandemic. She clearly stated that it is very important to be fully vaccinated. She added that COVID-19 is still around and gave some statistics such as: 212 clinics are available and giving shots, there is Plentiful of vaccine now, the Demand is low, and CVS, Walgreen, hospitals are all places where you can get your shot. She advised all members to stay away from the crowd and to be prudent. She concluded by mentioning the Ohio governor, Mike DeWayne, that he is going to relax the mask wearing for those fully vaccinated by June 2, 2021. On behalf of all members, Suzanne Turner thanked her for such a great presentation and for being with us.

Code of conduct:

Daffney Mitchel, a Survivor Task Force member, talked about the Code of Conduct and explained it section by section. She added that the current Code of Conduct was approved by the national board on December 2020 and it is revised annually. She reminded everyone to read the Code of Conduct before registering for the 2021 National Convention because you need to confirm that you have read the Code before registering and thanked Suzanne Turner for inviting her to the meeting. For more information about the Code of Conduct, please visit the National Federation of the Blind website.

Meeting adjourned: 7:05 pm.

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Please make a note of the action items below:

Voice Box Number:

(641) 715-3900

Code: 582705

Cleveland Teleconference Number:

(605) 313-4834

Code: 246345

Ohio Conference Line:

Tel: (712) 775-7031

Code: 240281423

Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>

Meeting ID: 408 185 0851

One tap mobile

+16468769923 and ID code: 408-185-0851.

Zoom Telephone number:

(669) 900-6833

Id: 4081850851

Ali Benmerzouga, Recording Secretary

440-590-0315 – cell

Natassha Ricks, Treasurer

(216) 376-9863

Notes!

1. Please take a moment and like, share and promote Cleveland’s Facebook Page

<https://m.facebook.com/NationalFederationOfTheBlindOfOhioClevelandChapter/>

2. Please subscribe to Ohio-Talk to stay informed on the know in the Ohio Affiliate.

Ohio-Talk mailing list

[Ohio-Talk@nfbnet.org](mailto:Ohio-Talk@nfbnet.org)

<http://nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/ohio-talk_nfbnet.org>

3. Please subscribe to Cleveland’s List Serve for all up-to-date information in the Cleveland Chapter.

<http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfboh-cleveland_nfbnet.org>

[nfboh-cleveland-request@nfbnet.org](mailto:nfboh-cleveland-request@nfbnet.org)

4- Please don’t forget to send your dues to our Treasurer, Natassha Ricks as soon as you can.

5-please call a member who you have not seen for a while and talk to him/her about returning to the Cleveland Chapter.

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