National Federation of the Blind Assistive Technology Trainers Division

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2020

President Chancey Fleet called the meeting to order at 3 PM Eastern Daylight Time. She introduced the meeting stating that this has been a year of pivoting, many questions, diversities, intersectionalities, and learning. The board also introduced themselves.

The meeting was comprised of discussions and breakout sessions. These included:

* Aaron Preece from American Foundation for the Blind AccessWorld discussed the AccessWorld magazine and how the articles it produces can assist consumers in making informed choices about technology products and services. Aaron serves as the magazine’s acting editor.
* Anita Mortaloni, Accessibility specialist for Office 365 at Microsoft, provided an in-depth overview of the Microsoft Teams user interface and accessibility.
* A twenty-minute networking session.
* A Remote Learning panel moderated by Treasurer Erin Lauridsen and comprised of President Chancey Fleet, Board Member Amy Mason, Board Member Jim Portillo, and Trainer Angela Fowler.
* An overview of resources for trainers, including Google Classroom, at Google, presented by Roger Benz.

Following the panel discussion, attention next turned to the business meeting. To begin this portion of the meeting, President Fleet outlined the guidelines by which elections could be held this year considering the pandemic and virtual convention. She stated that a motion could be made to suspend the elections until the next in-person meeting at Convention and then a voice vote could be undertaken to pass the motion. There was no way to remotely take membership dues this year. If a board member wanted to resign, the board could appoint a stand-in member. President Fleet invites anyone who is interested in board membership or leadership to reach out to us. Additionally, anyone interested could observe our board meetings to see where they might fit. A list of board members will be sent in an email on the Trainer Talk listserv. President Fleet reminded the attendees that September 25 and 26, the trainers Division would be collaborating with the National Office on a two-day virtual conference on Structured Discovery in Technology Instruction. A motion was made by Vice President Coffman to keep the board slate as is for the coming year and to work hard to recruit others. Member Jan Brandt seconded the motion and it passed. The minutes for the 2019 meeting had previously been sent to the Trainer Talk list and so will not be read. Members in good standing voted to approve the minutes as sent.

Treasurer Erin Lauridsen provided her report. As of the meeting date, the organization’s treasury stands at $235.00. The previous balance was $435, but $200 was donated to each of the four funds, Jernigan, Sun, ten Broek, and White Cane. Board member Amy Mason moved to approve the treasurer’s Report and board member Chip Johnson seconded; the motion carried.

At its peak, there were 200 members in attendance and the average attendance for this Zoom meeting was around 139. President Fleet began a section of the meeting for Open Forum. Possible topics for the future included:

* WCAG training.
* A means for members to share resources with other members. Members discussed whether this could be sent over the Trainer Talk list serve or through virtual meetups from time to time. A resource list or web site were also possible ideas. The board will investigate a platform for sharing resources through the coming year and we will start with a list of resources for now.
* Devise a remote learning kit and include ways of supporting students with multiple disabilities.
* A discussion of the Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist process.
* Outlining how worksite evaluators perform their assessment and what is included.
* A further exploration of Narrator and how it can be used.

With all the ideas that have been provided, President Fleet asked attendees to prioritize what they would like the division to work on for the next year. Ideas include:

* Remote Learning for Students.
* Worksite discussions.\
* Privacy Tools workshop.
* Panelist’s discussion of being an AT trainer.

After gauging interest, it appeared that Security and Privacy was a more useful topic than the “So you want to be a Trainer” panel.

President Fleet provided some closing remarks. She thanked the board members, and especially Treasurer Lauridsen for nominating the breakout. She thanked the new folks who attended the meeting and reminded attendees that conversations can continue the Trainer Talk listserv. She hopes that everyone enjoyed the breakout rooms.

A motion was made to adjourn and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wes Majerus, Division Secretary