

National Federation of the Blind of Michigan  
Minutes Spring Board Meeting, May 8.

The spring board meeting of the NFB of Michigan was called to order at 9:15 with Fred Wurtzel presiding. Melinda Latham was asked to read the agenda. Agenda was read. Motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda, and the agenda was adopted. Fred called the roll of the board members. Board members present: John Scott, Reggie Alvarado, Melinda Latham, Donna Posont, Mike Powell, and Dave Robinson. Introductions of members was then accomplished. Approximately 18 people attended the meeting.

Fred then asked Reggie Alvarado to give the secretary's report. The minutes were read, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The secretary's report was accepted. The treasurer's report was then given by Peter Zaremba, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion passed, and the report was accepted. (The treasurer's report is attached.)

Fred then explained that Larry Ball and his wife had moved to Florida, and he had given his resignation from the Board. A motion was made by Donna Posont and seconded by Reggie Alvarado to leave Larry Ball's Board position open until election of officers at the state convention in November. John Scott asked that the motion be tabled until the constitution could be read to make certain that there was no conflict between the motion and the constitution. After some discussion about the constitution, John offered an amendment to the motion stating that if the motion was passed that it would stand and the position would remain open until November unless there was a conflict. If a conflict arose, the president would have the discretion to appoint someone to the position. The makers of the motion agreed, the question was called, and the motion passed.

Sharon Burton executive director of Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, then spoke about Camp T. Sharon told us that Camp T was going to be extremely busy this summer with many activities including family camp, Braille camp, culinary camp, and camp where blind children will be traveling to other places in Michigan. Everyone was encouraged to attend family camp. Donna Posont will be working as naturalist and crafts director, J. J. Meddaugh will be assistant camp director, Adrian Dempsey as program director, and Matt McCubbin as assistant program director.

Geri Taeckens then talked about the fact that blind children are extremely below grade level reading Braille, and a task force was put together to address all aspects of education of blind children, especially Braille. As a result of the task force, Geri has put together a Braille-a-thon which will be held June 23 on the capitol lawn. There will be a beginner level, intermediate level, and expert level for Braille readers, a slate-a-thon for slate and stylus from beginner to expert, exhibitors with products related to Braille, food, games and fun. Fred asked that the affiliate send a group to pass out literature concerning NFB, Braille, and the Louis Braille coin. Motion was made by Donna Posont to get a table at the Braille-a-thon, and the motion was seconded by Reggie Alvarado. After some discussion, Donna amended the motion to get 2 tables so that some of the chapters could

sell items and Newslines could also be represented. Reggie agreed with the amendment, and the motion carried. Donna Posont then made a motion to give 100 dollars to the Braille-a-thon project. Lively discussion then followed concerning the financial inability of the affiliate to give the money and still have a national convention. Donna called for the question. Voice vote was taken. Fred indicated the ayes had it. At that point a roll call was called for on the question. The roll call was done, and approximately 13 voted aye and 5 voted no.

Discussion was then held concerning National Convention. Elevators were discussed. Braille labels are going to be placed at each elevator for identification where the elevator goes. Fred encouraged people to use the escalators as at lunch there will be a surge of people using the elevators and a long wait to use them.

John Scott was then asked about the convention mug. He indicated there was a design in place. However, John indicated he had not heard from Sheila Latham and the other committee members for a while and could not be certain what had been finally decided as the design. Fred indicated the mug had a design with the Mackinaw Bridge, Braille, and other themes of Michigan.

Mike Powell was then asked about the opening ceremony. Mike indicated that he was working on it with some friends. Mary Wurtzel made a motion that Mike Powell and his friend come in and do the opening for free. The motion was seconded. Discussion was held. It was suggested that Terry Wilcox be asked to sing the National Anthem and that perhaps other talent within the affiliate could be tapped for entertainment. The motion carried.

Marianne Rojak then described the banquet door prize. In honor of Louis Braille and the Braille coin and Braille literacy, the Braille transcribing group at Jackson Prison has agreed to donate 1809 dollars as the door prize.

Dave Robinson then reminded Fred that we needed to get a table in the exhibit hall. Each chapter is required to provide a list of items being sold, the prices of the items, and provide a container for the table so that the money can be kept separate for each chapter's items sold. Volunteers were also requested to work the exhibit hall affiliate table. A question was raised by Sarah Norwood concerning the price of the table. Referral was made to the National Center for verification of the price.

Mary Wurtzel then described 2 meetings to be held. John Scott was meeting with the airlines personnel to educate them on blindness and ways they could help those arriving at the airport. The other meeting was to be with the restaurants and other businesses in the Renaissance Center concerning remaining open through the convention, and how they can help the convention goers. Braille menus also would be discussed.

Donna then spoke about the Tiger's game on July 7 with a picnic on the roof and then the game. The price is 60 dollars.

Marcus Simmons then spoke about the efforts to have Braille menus in the restaurants. Donna Posont then asked that restaurants in the food court do a one-page menu that could be placed at the information table so that people coming to the information table could look at them prior to going to eat. Discussion was then held about putting the restaurant guide on thumb drives for those who do not read Braille or use print. Decision was made that this would be done.

T-shirts and mugs. Design of T-shirts is done. Three hundred will be sold. Dave Robinson indicated that Sheila was handling the T-shirt design and ordering. John Scott indicated that he would be in touch with Sheila to find out the status of this.

Melinda Latham and Sarah Norwood are helping to coordinate volunteers along with the national center. The Lansing School District has volunteered to do any last-minute brailing that might be needed.

Dialysis. Reggie Alvarado indicated this would be handled by the Diabetic division.

Canes at information table. Motion was made by Elizabeth Munke that National Federation of the Blind of Michigan is not in business to have canes at our information table. Motion was seconded by Mary Wurtzel. Very lively discussion followed. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Wheelchairs within the hotel. Reggie will call the hotel to find out the status of wheelchairs and their availability. The information will be placed at the information table.

Mary Wurtzel then gave a report on status of money needs for convention. She asked that people who needed help paying for their room, banquet, food, etc. send an email or call with an exact amount that would be needed so that she could relay the message to Dr. Mauer. Mary indicated that we are not assured of the money but that she would try.

Lunch was at 1:37, and the meeting was reconvened at 2:50. An auction was held at that time.

Brunhilde Merck-Adam then spoke about what the school systems and parents of Blind Children are doing about the lack of Braille being taught in the schools. She spoke about a new curriculum being developed modeled on a California curriculum to increase Braille use and developing it for Michigan's standards.

Donna Posont then spoke concerning door prize letters and door prizes that have already been secured from many of the restaurants in the Renaissance Center. We were encouraged by Donna to procure door prizes.

Fred announced that Tyler Merren was the scholarship winner from Michigan. He is the chair of the Kalamazoo chapter. They are working with the library and have gotten

brailers and a screen reader and KNFB reader for the community. They are also working with people on transportation.

Donna encouraged everyone to sign up to help at the Michigan Suite and the Information Table. Dave also indicated he needed help with the exhibit table.

Fred indicated our Michigan Caucus would be held July 1 at 8:00 p.m. for last minute problems, discussions, and thoughts just before the convention opens.

A motion was then made to adjourn, seconded, and the motion carried.

<b>NFB of Michigan Affiliate Fund Statement of Activity</b>		
<b>For the Period 1/1/09 - 4/30/09</b>		
Fund Beginning Balance on 1/1/09:		\$5,180.54
<b>Revenues</b>		
Board Meeting Auction Income	\$183.00	
Anonymous Donation for Washington Seminar	\$2,500.00	
Fund Raiser Gross Sales Revenue	\$204.00	
Reimbursement for Merchant lunch	\$168.50	
Other Donations	\$30.00	
2008 Imagination funds from NFB National Office	\$2,589.36	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$5,674.86</b>
<b>Expenses &amp; Disbursements</b>		
PAC Plan Contributions, Donation to NOPBC and other donations to National Office:	(\$562.42)	
Affiliate Phone	(\$333.65)	
Washington Seminar Expenses	(\$2,298.96)	
Payments on 2008 State convention	(3,000.00)	
Affiliate Office Equipment Repairs	(199.99)	
Summer 2008 Michigan Focus Printing	(\$492.00)	
Braille Coin & Literacy Launch Event:	(\$260.00)	
Embossing & Printing for 2008 State Convention	(\$187.80)	
February Board Meeting	(\$1,137.25)	
Host Affiliate National Convention Expenses	(\$309.77)	
Purchase Brl Chocolate Coins	(\$382.34)	
Misc Expenses & Fees	(\$540.75)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>(\$9,704.93)</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		<b>\$1,150.47</b>

<b>NFB of Michigan Youth Outreach Fund Statement of Activity</b>		
<b>For the Period 1/1/09 - 4/30/09</b>		
Beginning Balance on 1/1/2009		\$1,600.00
<b>Revenues</b>		
Youth Outreach Grants Received from Jernigan Fund	\$5,000.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$5,000.00
<b>Expenses &amp; Disbursements</b>		
Loan Reimbursement T-shirts	(\$200.00)	
Washington Seminar Transportation	(\$211.25)	
Youth trip to Chicago transportation	(\$720.00)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		(\$1,131.25)
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		<b>\$5,468.75</b>

<b>NFB Newsline of Michigan Statement of Activity</b>		
<b>For the Period 1/1/09 - 4/30/09</b>		
Beginning Balance on 1/1/2009		\$43.58
<b>Revenues</b>		
Funds received from National Office for local promotion and operation of Newsline	\$1,800.87	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$1,800.87
<b>Expenses &amp; Disbursements</b>		
Remaining Helpline Phone Charges from 2008	(\$345.87)	
Mailing Supplies and local operating costs	(\$239.66)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		(\$585.53)
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		<b>\$1,215.34</b>