

NFB of Michigan  
Summer Board meeting, Grand Rapids  
Saturday August 8th, 2009

Meeting was brought to order at roughly 9:15 a.m. with Fred Wurtzel, president, presiding. The agenda was read, and it was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as read. As the secretary was having hardware problems, the secretary's report was dispensed with at this time. Peter Zaremba gave the treasurer's report. The affiliate had a positive balance, and Larry Posont had money for coffee to add to the treasury. Peter Zaremba and Fred discussed the Imagination Fund and our affiliate share, and Fred indicated that no amount had been given on how much our affiliate would receive ultimately. It was moved, seconded and the Board accepted the treasurer's report. (See attached treasurers report for more details.) Reggie Alvarado, Secretary, then read the minutes. It was moved and seconded and the minutes were accepted by the Board.

Commission policy on appointing commissioners, concerns about how the appointments were done, what our role and response should be in regard to the appointment process and the role of the other parties to the appointment process and how the affiliate views them were then discussed.

Mike Powell then talked about state convention. Paulette will be handling early registration, pay pal will be added to our website to help with early registration, and Reggie Alvarado and Kim Mohnke will be producing, printing, and distributing the State convention flyer announcing where the convention will be, how much the registration and banquet will be, when early registration will be finished, and how much more late registration and banquet tickets will be. Motion was made that banquet tickets be available until 1 week before the convention and that the number of meals be given as that number. If someone wanted a meal on the date of the banquet, 10 dollars would be tacked onto the pre-registration price, and though the hotel is usually about 5% over on the number of meals, we could not guarantee a meal. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Then a motion was made that early registration should be 15 dollars, 20 dollars at convention, with banquet tickets 35 dollars early registration, (could be less but it would be what Mary had to work with), 45 dollars at the convention. Motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion followed concerning the John Mullen award, what it is, how someone is chosen to receive it, and potential members who would be nominated. Motion was made that the affiliate nominate ----- to receive the John Mullen award. The motion was seconded and approved.

Fred Wurtzel then talked about the theme of the convention, Friday night of convention, what areas speakers will be speaking about, and the thought that money management could be the theme for the convention. More discussion was going to take place on the theme possibilities, and Fred welcomed input from all affiliate members about what the theme should be to reflect education, technology, and the braille coin.

The meeting resumed at 1:00 with Fred Wurtzel presiding. Divisions and chapter reports were given. Melinda gave report on the youth group and their activities since the previous Board meeting and future plans. The youth will be attending the Labor Day bridge walk, and Melinda enthusiastically spoke about preparations for that activity and thanked Larry Posont profusely for all of his help with transportation, food, housing for the weekend and other logistics.

John Scott then gave report on the activities of the Detroit Chapter. The chapter is going to meet with the police concerning sensitivity dealing with blindness. The chapter will also be gearing up for a large fund raiser in October during Meet the Blind month.

Larry then described the Western Wayne County Chapter's September CampT meeting. Cost was 65 dollars for transportation, food Saturday and morning Sunday, and transportation home. Participants would be responsible for their food the first night (probably pizza) and food on the way home. There would be activities being set up by Donna that participants could participate in, but it was to be a fun and relaxing time to get to know each other better.

Dave Robinson gave the chapter report for the Lansing Chapter. They had a large presence at the Braille-A-Thon in June, and it was a great success. There will be a breakfast at Appleby's during Meet the Blind month. There is also negotiation with another group on a theater activity that would be a fund raiser. The chapter also has gotten the money from their Parade of Homes for another year. The chapter is also carrying on discussion with rehabilitation offices in the colleges in the area and how they can improve their assistance of students.

Dave Robinson also asked as many as can to meet with their representatives in Congress over the recess in August.

A number of radio spots are also being run concerning the Louis Braille coin. The Lansing chapter is also working to have a promotion done at the Michigan State football games as time to sell the coin is drawing quickly to a close and we need to sell them.

Mary Ann Rojak then discussed sales of the Louis Braille coin. Groups members were talking to about blindness could also be told about the Louis Braille coin and how to purchase it. Any materials needed to help with sales could be had at the National Center. Maryann Rojak also indicated she had materials for use in this endeavor also.

Dave then talked about the Merchants' division. Many states have gone to an oasis concept instead of the highway program. Potentially this could impact Michigan causing many jobs to be lost. The merchant's Division is working on ways to deal with this and other changes that are impacting the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

Donna Posont then gave the students division report. They are working on reinstating the state student scholarship program.

Mary Wurtzel then talked about Nature's Finest Bounty (NFB). Mary's hope is that it will be a web-based marketing site where blind people who make things can sell mail order. We are hoping it will be a good fundraiser for the affiliate and chapters. A meeting was asked for with the committee to begin the process of setting the site up.

Fred Wurtzel gave a report on the Kalamazoo chapter. They have gotten the KNFB Reader, Window Eyes software, and other equipment placed in their library so the blind patrons have access to technology at their library. They also worked diligently on the public millage for transportation.

Sharon then spoke about the Dr. Jacob Bolotin award that this year was given to Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind for Camp-T. The award is given to an individual or group that has an innovative and creative program. It has enabled the camp to be run with many activities, and the award was made at the National Convention.

Larry Posont was tasked to explore with the Texas affiliate a joint national mug that could be sold by both affiliates at the next 2 conventions. It was suggested that a border-to-border mug be made with profits split between the affiliates.

Dave Robinson and Maryann Rojak were given the job of coordinating a chapter coin sale. The chapter selling the most coins would receive recognition in some form.

Peter Zaremba then described Druple which is a free program that can be uploaded and will make our website accessible to anyone who does email. Peter asked for volunteers to help him with content, writing and uploading news of interest to the affiliate. A meeting is to be held to begin the process of changing our website to Druple which will make it a much more usable and accessible site.

Fred Wurtzel then spoke about the Michigan Library for the Blind being placed under the Commission for the Blind. It is not known at this time if the Library will remain in its current location or if current employees will be moved with it in part or with all its employees.

After Larry asked for people to please buy coffee so he did not have to bring it back home, the meeting was adjourned.

<b>NFB of Michigan Affiliate Account Statement of Activity</b>		
<b>For the Period 5/1/09 - 8/7/09</b>		
Fund Beginning Balance on 5/1/09:		\$6,619.22
<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Donations</b>	\$8,875.59	
Fund Raiser Sales Revenue	\$5,177.00	
Adjustments & Credits	\$510.40	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$14,562.99
<b>Expenses &amp; Disbursements</b>		
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	(\$2,583.72)	
Host Affiliate Convention Expenses	(\$4,413.47)	
Convention Door Prize & Entertainment	(\$5,109.00)	
Misc Expenses	(\$610.09)	
Youth Outreach Expenses	(\$2,630.41)	
Payments on 2008 State convention	(\$1,839.10)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		(\$17,185.79)
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		<b>\$3,996.42</b>
Less Portion of Funds held for Youth Outreach	(\$2,838.34)	
Funds available for General Useage:		\$1,158.08

<b>NFB Newsline of Michigan Statement of Activity</b>		
<b>For the Period 5/1/09 - 8/7/09</b>		
Beginning Balance on 5/1/2009		\$1,258.92
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$0.00
<b>Expenses &amp; Disbursements</b>		
Mailing Supplies and local operating costs	(\$112.09)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		(\$112.09)
<b>Fund Balance:</b>		<b>\$1,146.83</b>