

Florida Deaf Blind Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

November 14, 2015

President Vicky Magliocchino called the Florida Deaf Blind Association meeting to order at 9:37 am on November 14, 2015 at Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind in Tampa, FL.

Roll call:

- Vicky Magliocchino, President – present
- Cheryl Rhodes, Vice President – present
- Roland Stetson, Secretary – absent
- Kathy Zarate, Treasurer – present
- David Roberts, Member-at-Large & Webmaster – present
- Beth Bystrycki – absent
- Alex Cabrera - absent

Deaf-Blind registrants:

1. Theresa Wells
2. Maria Brook
3. Caterina Zorrilla
4. Winnie Tunison
5. Steve Dykman
6. Donya Murray
7. Tiffany Kohnen
8. Richie Morales (hearing blind)
9. Wyatt Clark

SSPs and Guests

1. Barbara Volper
2. Jill Grimshaw
3. Michael Solebbello
4. Nikki Vogel
5. Megan Pernula
6. Caitlyn Dollar
7. Kim Smith
8. Emily Taylor-Snell

9. Marion Roberts
10. Robin Sullivan
11. Maryrose Claussen
12. Roxanne Harvell
13. Martin Zarate
14. Eddie Friedman
15. Barbara Chandler Posner
16. Phyllis Dykman
17. Patrick Murray
18. Cory Parker
19. AJ Sondossi

Interpreters

1. Michelle Pearson
2. Leif Friedman
3. Carol Downing
4. Raquel Resendez
5. Holli Tempe
6. Lani Crosby

Steven Rhodes volunteered to record the meeting minutes in Roland Stetson's place.

Vicky quoted Helen Keller:

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Vicky asked us to remember Harry C. Anderson who was a strong advocate for the Deaf-Blind. He, DB himself, was actively involved with FDBA since its birth in 2004. He also was the former AADB president. A moment of silence for Harry took place.

Thanks went to Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind for allowing FDBA to use the meeting room for our annual meeting.

Thanks went to Michelle Pearson for recruiting interpreters and SSPs. Also thanks to Carol Downing from St. Petersburg College for bringing student

interpreters to the meeting. Cheryl Rhodes and Vicky presented SSP Training Workshop to these students the day before at SPC's Clearwater campus.

Vicky announced that FDBA would provide lunch for the attendees and SSPS/interpreters. DB attendees were to pay 20 dollars each.

Exhibits from FDBA, FSSP, FTRI, FAVI-DBC, HKNC, and FL Reading and Vision Technology were on display.

Vicky introduced Tiffany Kohlen who published a book, "Can You See Me?" to educate the public on how to deal with people with Blindness and Vision Impairments. The book is available on Amazon and Kindle.

Steven Rhodes told a funny story on what Harry Anderson did in an AADB meeting

when interpreters have to switch. Here's the story:

At AADB conference, the SSP coordinator was very strict with switching SSPs/interpreters every 20 minutes, not a minute prior or a minute after, during meetings. Every 20 minutes, the meeting had to be interrupted to switch SSP/interpreters, despite having to hold important discussions. After several SSP/interpreter switches, Harry announced "Time to switch Deaf-Blind" to play a trick on SSP coordinator. Laughter erupted.

Vicky announced that FSSP T-shirts are on sale for \$5.00 each.

First speaker was Cory Parker, coordinator for Deaf-Blind Services with FL Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Currently the program has been active for two years.

Cory introduced the federal law called Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and how it will benefit Deaf-Blind clients. Currently there are 65 Deaf-Blind clients, but only 5 clients have been placed in job environment.

Next speaker was AJ Sondossi, Outreach Manager with FL Telecommunications Relay Inc. She spoke on Telecommunications Access System Act of 1991 that established TRS and telecommunications equipment. She also spoke about the I Can Connect (also known as National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program) under the Communications and Video Access Act.

Vicky called a break from 11:00 to 1:00 to allow attendees and SSPs to visit the exhibits and have lunch. She asked that everybody return at 1:00 sharp.

Vicky called the meeting to resume at 1:08 PM.

Minutes from 2014 meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer's report on FDBA and FSSP were reported and already displayed on Members Listserv.

President gave her report on her activities for the past year.

- Attended Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind (FRCB) meetings as the FDBA/DB Community representative appointed by the Governor.
- Vicky announced that FAD would have its board meeting next Saturday. She was asking if anyone could represent FDBA at the FAD board meeting. (Note: Cheryl Rhodes attended as our FDBA representative.)

- Presented the DB culture at Conklin Center at its staff workshop Feb. 18th.
- Seafood Festival will be held on March 4 – 6, 2016 in St. Augustine. FDBA and FAVI-DBC will have their booth set up.
- Informed that UNF Interpreter program invited Deaf-Blind to work with interpreter trainees for their Game Night and Intensive Deaf-Blind Interpreting weekend. If the Game Night is held on March 4th, Vicky asked that DB go to UNF and then attend Seafood Festival on March 5th and 6th.
- Vicky set up a booth for FDBA/FSSP at the Deaf Spark at UNF in Jacksonville May 16th.
- Vicky thanked Kathy and Martin Zarate for their tremendous help at our HKDBA and FDBA 11th Anniversary Celebration June 27th at Palm County Association of the Deaf clubhouse in Lake Worth.

- Vicky presented several Self-Advocacy workshops in 2015 (Tallahassee at Ability One Center to a group of Deaf adults Jan. 10th and Kissimmee at ASL Services to two Deaf employees Feb. 26th to 27th). She was a guest speaker and self-advocacy workshop presenter at Deaf Blind Youth Transition in Kentucky June 18th to 21st.
- Attended DB Division meeting at NFB conference in Orlando July 7th.
- Attended Deaf-Blind retreats in Georgia and Louisiana. Several asked about FL Deaf-Blind Retreat. Vicky informed that we plan to explore the possibility.

Vice President Cheryl Rhodes reported on:

- Seafood Festival March 2015
- FSSP Workshop Training along with Vicky October 17th at UNF
- TASA

- NDBEDP funding stays the same
- Asked that each DB registers on No DB Floridians Left Behind Registry on our website.
- Asked that we continue with hosting Bowl-A-Thons in different places. Any FDBA member can take up this responsibility in his/her hometown.

Vicky informed that FSSP has trained 23 participants at UNF October 17th. She asked the attendees to attend the Bowl-A-Thon on January 30, 2016 in St. Augustine. Flyer is available at the exhibit booth.

Old Business

Bylaws – No Action was done on bylaws revisions except that one revision is needed for Article 9 Section 2 to change from FOP to FAVI-DBC.

FL DB Retreat – No action

Fundraising – No one has volunteered to do Fundraising.

Vicky called for a short break at 2:00 pm.
Resumed at 2:20 PM.

Theresa Wells asked that when a DB with guide dog walks by, move to left of Deaf Blind to prevent collisions.

David Volper, a VR counselor in Orlando, announced that he is willing to work with any DB living in Orlando regarding the VR services.

New Business

Cheryl Rhodes moved that FDBA discontinue Gary Lieffers' lobbyist services.
Passed (6 – 0).

David Roberts moved that we hold HKDBAC in the summer and Annual State Meeting in the fall at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center for 2016. Passed (6 – 1).

Cheryl Rhodes moved to close new business. Passed (5 – 0).

Election of officers

Cheryl Rhodes and Cory Parker presented the list of candidates.

President – David Roberts

Vice President – Kathy Zarate

Secretary – Steven Rhodes

Treasurer – Theresa Wells

Board Members –

Vicky Magliocchino

Julianne Stetson

Erica Turner

Winnie Tunison moved to remove Erica Turner's name from the list. Passed (5 – 0).

Martin Zarate accepted to run for Member-at-Large position.

Cheryl Rhodes moved to accept the candidates for 2015 – 2019 slate.

President – David Roberts

Vice President – Kathy Zarate

Secretary – Steven Rhodes

Treasurer – Theresa Wells

Board Members –

Vicky Magliocchino

Julianne Stetson

Martin Zarate

Passed (5 – 0).

Announcements

January 30, 2016 – Bowl-a-Thon in St. Augustine.

Vicky asked that we pray for France where they experienced terror attacks on November 13th.

50/50 Raffle drawing – Earned \$74. Winner gets \$37. Incoming President David Roberts had the honor to draw the winner. Stevie Fenton was the lucky winner.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven Rhodes,
Secretary Pro-Tempore