National Senior Division Business Meeting July 2020

The 2020 annual business meeting of the Senior Division of the National Federation of the Blind was called to order at 2 p.m. on July 16, 2020.  There were warm welcomes from our Senior Division President, Ruth Sager.  She gave an overview of our agenda.  Ms. Kattie Dugan of Georgia, and Mr. Darryl Rice, of Michigan, gave reports on their perspectives as participants of our Live The Life You Want retreat, held in 2019   at Rocky Bottom  located in South Carolina.

Ms. Deborah Kendrick, an author of many articles and most recently, 2 books, spoke on navigating health care when you have lost both hearing and vision.  She spoke of strategies for alternative techniques combined with common sense ways to advocate for yourself.

Mr. Ben Cooper from Benetech Corporation spoke to us about Book Share.

There was a panel discussion about what is happening in our Senior divisions in other states.  Veronica Smith from SAGE, NM; Stacy Purgahn, a rehabilitation specialist  at the Louisiana Center for the Blind, La. ; Shelley Coppel, secretary to the National Senior Division, and co-director of the Virtual senior camp of South Carolina; and Vanessa Meadows, Ga. Gave their reports about happenings in their states.

Penny Rosenblum from the American Foundation for the Blind gave a report about research being conducted on the behalf of seniors.

Dr. Robin Brewer from the University of Michigan is recruiting  individuals for research on an  application for a phone which would allow the blind and visually impaired  to do many of the same functions that are available on a Smart phone

We voted to postpone officer elections until the convention in 2021

Treasurers report: We have $1968.87 in our treasury

Old Business:

We are accepting applications for our “Live the Life You Want” virtual retreat to be held October 18-24, 2020.

New Business:

We discussed the importance of paying our national dues.  Wayne Marshall will be handling Membership.  We will now be paying our annual dues following the calendar  year rather than paying dues from national convention to national convention.  We agreed to continue our spring conference calls on a zoom platform.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully  submitted

Shelley Coppel, Secretary