

Stafford SEPTA General Membership Meeting and Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act
Workshop
Helping Hands, Inc. 2049 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Stafford, VA 22554
February 8, 2016

President Regina Mike called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. In attendance were:

Officers: Regina Mike, President, Torwon Mitchell, Treasurer, Dali Burgado, VP Fundraising was absent, Molly Ritter, Recording Secretary, Anne Glencer, VP Membership

Current Members Present: ShaRhonda Brown-Simpson, Rebecca Leggitt, Diane Devito, Cordell Givens

New Members Present: No new members joined; however, there is a potential member who will join

Guests: Paul Williamson, Catherine Shelaby, Valerie Suggs, Susan Hope, missy Rowland, Anne Strong

Presenter: Jerry Hulick with The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team discussed the Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. The ABLE Act will allow people with disabilities (with an age of onset up to 26 years old) and their families the opportunity to create a tax-exempt savings account that can be used for maintaining health, independence and quality of life. Examples of use of funds includes: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, funeral and burial expenses, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, expenses for oversight and monitoring, basic living expenses, and any other expenses approved by the Secretary of the Treasury under regulations consistent with the purpose of the program. The ABLE Act amends Section 529 of the IRS Code of 1986 to create tax-free savings documents for individuals with disabilities. It also allows individuals to have an ABLE Act account and Special Needs Trust simultaneously.

Approval of Minutes

January 11th meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report

Torwon reported an end of month balance of \$4,044.11. The report was also electronically submitted to general membership.

Officer Reports

President's Report: Regina Mike

Regina discussed the upcoming Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on February 20th from 8-11 am at Park Ridge Elementary and the Sensory Toolkit Workshop for Teachers on Monday March 14th from 6:30-8:00 pm at Helping Hands, Inc. She also discussed preparing the teacher and paraprofessional appreciation certificates to be handed out in May.

1st Vice President-Membership: Anne Glencer

Anne reminded members in attendance that there are several open board member positions available for next term.

2nd Vice President-Events: Open

Members were invited to the Sensory Toolkit for Teachers Workshop and General Membership Meeting on Monday March 14th from 6:30-8:00 pm at Helping Hands, Inc., 2049 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Stafford, VA.

3rd Vice President-Fundraising: Dali Burgado

Dali was absent from the meeting; however, President Regina Mike provided Pancake Breakfast fundraiser as highlighted above.

Recording Secretary's Report: Molly Ritter

Molly discussed the January 11th meeting minutes and requested general membership approval.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports at this time

Unfinished Business

Voting during March 14th meeting on amended 2015-2016 budget changes

Mini grant distribution during the month of May

Renewal of Bylaws (expires October 2016)

Solicitation of 2016-2017 officers: 1st VP Membership; 2nd VP Programs (Fundraising); 3rd VP Communications (Events)

Preparation for Family Gathering at AMF Bowling in Fredericksburg

Preparation and distribution of teacher and paraprofessional appreciation certificates

Preparation for End of School Year Picnic (volunteers will be solicited to bring items)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. The next meeting will be held at Helping Hands at 6:30 pm on March 14, 2016.

Prepared by Secretary, Molly Ritter