

Disabilities Awareness Committee
Minutes
2-13-20

Present were: Gail Critchloe, Tamara Hardesty, Judy Kapelsohn, Ben Warrell, Michelle Clouse, Charlie Hardesty, Lisa Prendergast, and Richard Murphy.

The Meeting Opened with prayer.

The minutes for the meeting of 12-19-19 were approved as corrected.

Old Business

1. Joy Camp Planning: Richard shared the marketing flyer developed with the help of the Diocesan Office of Communication. The Committee accepted it and it was agreed that it be sent to the various Parishes in the Diocese. Whatever opportunities exist can be used to share the info. The best method is for all the Committee to share about the Camp to all those they know. The deadline will be 4-11-20 to register. Volunteers are useful for this event and need to have Safe Environment certification.
2. Sr. Audrey Gold Award: Dusti Benson and Julie Onan were selected to receive the award. Richard agreed to get the awards and then see that they are delivered to Fr. Larry McBride to present to the recipients.
3. Planning for Future Mass of Inclusion: This matter was tabled until Fr. Jaime could join us.
4. Efforts to Assist Persons with Disabilities with Receiving the Sacraments-One Page Sign Off. The wording was approved. The Committee wondered if it could be introduced using the "Around the Diocese" format. There was some discussion about those that can't receive communion under the species of bread, yet need the species of wine thickened. This question would be forwarded to Lauren Johnson. There were questions about special needs seating that remained, and it was hoped that Parishes could use practical solutions to make this happen.

New Business:

1. Issues Committee Members May Wish to Raise:
 - a. The Wesleyan Christian Center has a special needs ministry and a committee member has been interactive with them to collaborate about what the Catholic community does.
 - b. Lisa shared about the ARC of Owensboro. Lisa is the Board Chair and Sally Phillips is the Executive Director. Lisa explained this ministry to the Committee. They are currently working with 30 people with disabilities.
 - c. It was noted that there is a special needs Expo planned for August 8, 2020 from 10-2PM on the Wendell Foster Center's Campus.

- d. The Committee hoped to invite Gates Settles to join the Committee for discussion in the future about access to the Catholic Schools.
 - e. Charlie discussed the Office of Youth Ministry's interest in working with the Committee, including the 18-21 year old age group.
2. Resource Sharing: Richard discussed his retirement with the Committee beginning in July 2020. It is hoped that the Diocese will be able to hire a replacement early enough to keep the continuity of the Committee's efforts moving forward.

The Meeting closed with prayer.

The next scheduled meeting is set for 4-30-20 at 5:15 PM. It will be an all phone conference for everyone.

To take part by phone using AT Conference, participants dial:

Toll-free: 866-906-7277

When prompted, participants dial the access code followed by the # sign.

Participant: 5196192#