NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

CLARK COUNTY CHAPTER

MARCH 2025 MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2025 Washington State School for the Blind staff lounge:

Meeting called to order:

Introductions made:

February meeting minutes presented for approval as published on the chapter email list.

Motion to approve made: Seconded and approved.

The treasurers report was read: Motion was made to approve the report with one amendment. The word March was changed to February. The motion was seconded and approved.

A second role was taken as some new persons joined the meeting. 14 persons participated in the meeting.

Community engagement committee reported that they had not formally met as yet, but there were things in the works. Beth was thanked for all her updates on C-Tran changes. The committee is working to get a meeting with representative Perez. Cory encouraged all to watch the email lists for legislative alerts, so we can respond to support the work of the National Federation of the blind on both state and national legislative issues. There may be, some time in the future, a zoom meeting to discuss our issues, so all of us can have a good understanding of the legislative work of the Federation. Cory reported that he did an interview with channel 8 about the new Ira service available through C-Tran in Clark county.

Cory explained, for those who may not have heard about this new partnership, what the service is and how we can use it when using C-Tran. Cory reminded us of our WSSB student event, the May 19th scavenger hunt.

President Higley then conducted a discussion of our state convention looking for what went well and how we might improve our conventions in the future. Bob Sellers stated that he was impressed with the exhibit hall. Kaye said she was happy with the attendance. We had 205 persons registered for the convention this year. Kaye said she was disappointed that most of the people attending her philosophy seminar were experienced long time federationists. Cory added that there were students and the superintendent of the Washington State School for the Blind present who gave very positive feedback on the session. Cory asked that we all complete the survey that was sent out on the listserv. Michell suggested that the registration process might be improved. Beth suggested that the timing of breakout sessions and general session might be thought out so that people don’t take the opportunity to leave before the general session. Li Ling said she appreciated the wealth of tools the blind Sheff shared as a part of her presentation and how these tools are valuable to both blind and sighted cooks. Sioryann suggested that the procedures and customs surrounding the banquet might be discussed before hand so people less familiar with Federation customs and banquets no what to expect and how to behave. Michelle suggested that we might have people encouraging people to join the social gatherings if they were not interested in doing karaoke. Kaye expressed her appreciations for Cory’s cooking demonstrations at the senior seminar. The group enthusiastically applauded Cory’s Philosophy talk on Thursday night. Cory reported that we raised $1200.00 at the auction.

Cory gave a report on national convention this summer. Registration is now open for the convention July 8-13, 2025 in New Orleans Louisiana. The chapter should begin to discuss and plan for convention assistance for members to make the convention available to as many as possible. First time attenders may apply for a Journigan grant to provide support for attending the convention for the first time. Application is available on the national website and applicants need to be interviewed by our state president Marcy Carpenter. Cory explained the procedure for applying for national scholarships from the National organization.

President Higley then discussed two up coming youth programs: the STEM to you program and the Bell Academy program. STEM to you is for elementary students helping students gain skills in science technology engineering and math. The event is on May 3 from 9:00   
AM to 3:00 PM in Seattle at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. Volunteers are needed to assist in the program. There will be training for volunteers on April 26. The Bell program will take place on the Washington State School for the Blind campus June 22 through 28. Again, volunteers are needed to participate in this program. Training for volunteers and workers in the program will take place May 16 through 18 at the Washington State School for the Blind.

Cory recognized the new persons attending the meeting. Special recognition was given to long time member Norm Larken who has been absent from meetings for over 10 years.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned and the March presidential release number 547 was played.