

Date: 15 November 2023

Location: [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848943667?pwd=a0hCYmZSTkNGWG40UGp4YjlKeEdYdz09)

Present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Board Members | Cody Bair, PresidentAndrea Fowler, Vice-PresidentShane Clark, TreasurerGary Van Dorn, SecretaryNate Hecker, Board MemberIleen Gallegos, Board Member |
| Members | Dishon SpearsZack ParksDelfina RodriguezAudrey MarquezLisa Bonderson |
| Guests | David Abraham |

1. Call to Order
	1. President Cody Bair called the 15 November 2023 meeting of the Mile High Chapter of the National Federation of the Bind of Colorado (NFBCO) to order at 18:03 MT.
2. Introductions
	1. President Cody asked the Board to introduce themselves. He also asked others to introduce themselves.
	2. Cody said Board Member Susie D’Mello is unable to attend this evening’s Chapter Meeting; her absence is excused.
3. Minutes from 18 October 2023 meeting of the Mile High Chapter NFBCO, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
	1. President Cody Bair sent the minutes of 18 October 2023 kind of late through Colorado Talk. Gary asked if the Chapter is comfortable approving the minutes or if they wish to table them. There are no comments from the Chapter. Gary asked for any corrections and there are none.
		1. **Motion**: Board Member Ileen Gallegos moved to approve the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO meeting minutes from 18 October 2023. Treasurer Shane Clark seconded the motion. The minutes for 18 October 2023 are approved.
	2. Gary reached out to Lisa Bonderson and received the web address for the NFB Membership Portal. Lisa sent the link to Gary on 8 November 2023. Gary needs to enter the portal to input peoples’ information.
	3. Gary said dues were not received from Kevan Worley or Jessica Diaz. Cody asked if anyone has Jessica’s contact information. Ileen said she may have Jessica’s contact info; she will research her contact information. Lisa will also look.
		1. **Note**: Lisa sent Jessica’s contact information to Gary after the Chapter meeting.
4. Treasurers Report, Treasurer Shane Clark
	1. Shane gave the Treasurer’s report for 15 November 2023.
	2. The bank balance as of 18 October 2023 was $1,640.25.
		1. Revenue:
			1. Dues were received from Monique Melton. Eliza Portugal and David Dunphy paid cash dues at the NFBCO State convention; Shane will retain the $10.00 in cash reserves.
		2. Expenses:
			1. $159.98 to Vice-President Andrea Fowler for Fogo de Chão.
			2. $100.00 to President Cody Bair for Progressive Auction.
			3. $300.00 to the NFBCO as our Annual Pledge to the NFBCO.
		3. Shane reports there is a bank balance of $1,085.27 and $85.00 cash. $1,170.27 total assets.
			1. **Motion**: Secretary Gary Van Dorn moves to accept the Treasurer’s report for 15 November 2023. Board Member Ileen Gallegos seconded the motion. The Chapter approved the Treasurer’s report for 15 November 2023.
5. Fund Raising, Board Member Nate Hecker
	1. Nate says there is no update. He says most details are squared away for the upcoming Mile High Chili Cook Off. The date is picked and he double checked with the venue. Nate said the plan is have the Chili Cook Off from 17:00 to 20:00 MT based upon feedback received from the very successful 2023 Chili Cook Off. Nate would like volunteers for a subcommittee to plan with Vice-President Andrea Fowler and himself. The following individuals expressed interest to assist during the meeting:
		1. Board Member Ileen Gallegos
		2. President Cody Bair
	2. Secretary Gary Van Dorn asked for the date. Nate said we did it around 25 February 2023; Nate states he placed the 2024 event on the calendar during our previous event. It could be around 25 February 2024.
	3. Nate said they are working on whether another auction will occur.
	4. Reach out to Nate or Cody if you are interested in volunteering. Cody would like the Chili Cook Off Committee to meet before Christmas and work hard after the New Year.
6. Membership, Vice-President Andrea Fowler and Board Member Ileen Gallegos
	1. Ileen said she did not get together with Andrea yet concerning membership. Word of mouth is working. A few people signed up at convention Andrea says.
	2. Andrea asked if there is a list of previous members. There is a list of old members. Gary said he thought this list was sent to her. Andrea will check to see if she has the list. President Cody Bair asked how far back the list goes. Gary says three or four years. He will check after the meeting.
		1. Gary checked the membership list he has on Excel. The list goes back five years.
	3. Ileen said she reached Vaughn Beck and he has been really busy.
7. White Cane and Slate and Stylus List Phone Calls
	1. Board Member Ileen Gallegos says Audrey Marquez is working on the new White Cane List. Ileen will work on the previous list. President Cody Bair believes he has a newer list and will forward that to those working them.
		1. **Take-Away**: Cody will send any new White Cane and Slate and Stylus Lists to the Membership Committee.
	2. Audrey says she is willing to call people the lists since she works from home.
8. Potential Coffee Tasting Event
	1. President Cody Bair said we discussed having a coffee tasting. No planning occurred on this event. It may be possible to move forward on a possible coffee tasting after the Holidays. Ileen feels we should consider planning for the coffee tasting after the Chili Cook Off. The Chapter agrees with waiting until after the Chili Cook Off.
9. Holiday Party
	1. President Cody Bair discussed the possibility of having a Holiday Party in lieu of a Chapter meeting. We did a potluck style event at Broadway Shot Spot last year.
	2. Secretary Gary Van Dorn said we did Sam’s Number 3 in the past. This idea may be difficult to undertake due to the ongoing construction on the Sixteenth Street Mall.
	3. Vice-President Audrea Fowler suggested catering the event. Gary is not comfortable catering our event since our Treasury becoming low on funds.
	4. Board Member Ileen Gallegos said she is comfortable with potluck and she is willing to cook. Shane feels the potluck went well last year. Treasurer Shane Clark suggests 9 December 2023 for the Holiday Party. The Denver Chapter is having their Holiday Party on 9 December 2023; Cody asked if having 9 December 2023 would interfere with people attending our Holiday Party. Times were discussed during the meeting; for example, Ileen suggests having ours at 18:00 MT so as not to conflict with the Denver Chapter event. Cody asked when we want to do it. Dishon Speers said Denver ended their event around 15:00 MT last year.
	5. Board Member Nate Hecker suggests we do our Holiday Party like the Blind Merchants conducted theirs. Nate said the Blind Merchants reserved a room at a hotel. There were separate tables around the room with a cash bar. There was a buffet in the back of the room. Everyone paid $50.00 that covered food and the room. This idea may not be feasible since it could be too late. The hotel was in downtown Denver. Lisa Bonderson says the Merchants had a private room at the Cheesecake Factory and an Italian place. You paid your own bill. Gary said the Mile High Chapter had one of our past Holiday Parties at the Cheesecake factory too.
	6. Cody asked if anyone has a preference. Nate suggests going to downtown Denver. Nate suggests the Italian Place (Maggiano's Little Italy). Lisa suggests having the Holiday Party during a weeknight sometime in the evening.
	7. Nate suggests forming a subcommittee to pull this off within the next week and a half. Lisa says we will have to make calls this week. Ileen said she will contact Maggiano’s tomorrow. There should be at least 25 individuals.
		1. **Take Away**: Ileen will contact Maggiano's Little Italy tomorrow to make a reservation for 25 individuals. She will advise them we will order off the menu. Cody will also make a couple calls in case Ileen is unable to make reservations due to the timeframe. Ileen asked what date is best; the Chapter responded saying whatever date will work. She will attempt to make the reservation from 1 to 20 December 2023.
	8. The Mile High Chapter’s next meeting would be 20 December 2023. It is traditional not to have a Chapter meeting in December 2023. A suggestion was made to have Ileen to make the reservation on 20 December 2023. We can return to the Broadway Shot Spot for a potluck if Ileen is unable to secure a reservation. Gary is in favor of any day in December in lieu of 20 December 2023 allowing Ileen flexibility with the reservation for what is available. Ileen will check on Maggiano's Little Italy first before other plans are made.
10. State Convention Recap
	1. President Cody Bair wished to spend time to recap our recent NFBCO State Convention. Cody feels the convention went very well. He was unable to attend the entire state convention. Mile High’s auction items sold and received a good price. Cody asked the Chapter on their thoughts of the NFBCO State Convention.
	2. Zack Parks said the time he spent Thursday went very well. He is happy that the Treasure Chest he donated as an auction item sold well. Board Member Ileen Gallegos thanked Zack for making the Treasurer Chest again this year.
		1. **Note**: Although not mentioned in the meeting, Zack makes a Treasure Chest that is sold as an auction item. The Treasurer chests are unique and fetch a high sum at auction. Zack’s Treasure Chest sold for $600.00 at the NFBCO State Convention.
	3. Delfina Rodriguez says Thursday was great!!! The person who did the essential oils was fantastic. She enjoyed the Sports and Rec event. Thursday was fun and active.
	4. Ileen said she enjoyed convention herself. The information and resources were awesome. Ileen commented she did not have a good time with the meals.
	5. Cody mentioned the Mile High NFBCO Chapter’s proposal won!! We discussed working with our Veterans. This is something the Chapter will need to focus upon in 2024 to take the concept into action. Delfina volunteered to be on any committee. Secretary Gary Van Dorn mentioned that a subcommittee was formed. Research of the minutes from 18 October 2023 shows some individuals volunteered for the committee (see Item 9, section d, subsection xiv on page 8). Gary read the names of the committee during the meeting. The members of the committee are, with the addition of Delfina:
		1. Monique Melton
		2. Board Member Ileen Gallegos
		3. Kevan Worley
		4. Board Member Susie D’Mello
		5. Delfina Rodriguez
	6. Gary is glad the convention is over. Cody congratulated Gary for his election as Secretary of the NFBCO.
11. State Report
	1. President Cody Bair asked Lisa Bonderson if there were items she would like to report on. Lisa said the next upcoming event is Washington Seminar. They are working on a contract with the same hotel for 2024. The Washington Seminar is 29 January through 1 February 2024 at the Holiday Inn Capitol in Washington, DC. Cody encouraged anyone who has interest in working with Congress to pass the NFB’s levitative agenda to attend Washington Seminar. You will need to get your reservation in by the end of the month since it should fill by then.
	2. Delfina Rodriguez asked about the NFBCO Day at the Capitol. Cody said there is no established date.
	3. Stay tuned!!! The NFBCO is doing a raffle fundraiser. The NFBCO has our Raffle License. The state affiliate is working with the Colorado Secretary of State to finalize details. Cody hopes the drawing will by the New Year. The NFBCO is raffling a Colorado Springs Vacation package. The package includes three nights in Colorado Springs and $500.00 for airfare to Colorado Springs. The airfare should allow those from outside Colorado to easily travel to enjoy their vacation should they win. Those within Colorado still receive the $500.00 to spend as they wish. There are various dining opportunities at nice restaurants in Colorado Springs, a reception at the home of NFBCO President Jessica Beecham or Kevan Worley, a Pike’s Peak package (the cog railroad), a tour of the Olympic and Paralympic museum, a walking tour of downtown Colorado Springs and other items. This is a $3,200.00 value and the tickets will be sold for $50.00 per ticket. The Affiliate is selling 300 tickets. Cody said the Chapter will receive information once the raffle goes live. The NFBCO hopes to hit the goal so we can raise $15,000.00.
	4. The funds from the raffle will go towards our scholarships. The NFBCO rebranded the Scholarship Program during the 2023 NFBCO State Convention as the Scott C. LaBarre Scholarship Program. The NFBCO is expanding the Scott C. LaBarre Scholarship Program to include residents of Colorado and Wyoming. Wyoming has not had a strong affiliate in years. The NFBCO hopes to identify young people in Wyoming to be strong leaders to form an affiliate there. Secretary Gary Van Dorn mentions that Wyoming appreciates the help from the Greenies; residents of Wyoming call Coloradians Greenies due to the green color of our license plates.
12. CCB Report
	1. Delfina Rodriguez is working diligently in the kitchen since October to plan and cook a large meal for Thanksgiving.
	2. Stephanie Paris moved over to the Seniors Program on 14 November 2023. Dishon Spears says the seniors are having their Thanksgiving celebration on 15 November 2023. The seniors will bake cookies on 12 December 2023 since many of them do not believe they can bake anymore due to their blindness.
	3. Tiffany [no sir name mentioned] was recently hired. She is a professional chef. She began work this week.
	4. Delphia and Stephanie are working on the rehabilitation certifications.
	5. Skiing will resume in January 2024.
	6. Several students are graduating over the next couple months.
	7. A tactile art show is open to the public Arapahoe Community College. The exhibit closes 5 or 7 December 2023 and is open until 15:00 MT. The seniors went on Tuesday and are amazed at the fantastic art. A former CCB student has an exhibit called “Blind and Still Alive”. His piece is an interpretation of crashed vehicles and a helicopter with first responders who aided him after the accident. The artist is still living his life. The exhibit is in its second or third year and was organized by Dan Lavinka. Dan instructs art at CCB every Friday. Dan completed a piece with a student. Each group had a separate color and the students brought in various objects. The piece is visually stunning. Dan covered the piece with a black garbage bag allowing the stunned sighted participants to feel the piece and experience in the manner we do. Delfina said there are other pieces to experience.
	8. Board Member Ileen Gallegos said the students are enjoying ice hockey. Cody goes to ice hockey. The next event is 10 December 2023. You may contact Cody if you are interested in attending.
	9. Cody asked if there is any information on the Friendsgiving event being held by the CCB Alumni Association. The event begins at 9 this Saturday. There is a potluck Thanksgiving dinner. It may not be too late to RSVP. They are going to the Old Town Tavern in downtown Littleton afterwards for drinks and socializing. Dishon is making a sweet potato cobbler.
13. Transportation Report, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
	1. Gary says RTD should be announcing the proposed service changes for January 2024. Please visit the RTD website to determine if your route(s) are affected.
	2. RTD is also dropping fairs and eliminating all zones except for Airport on 1 January 2024. Gary plans on sending any changes he sees on the RTD website to Colorado Talk. He does not comment on changes to specific routes since the system is complex and he has no idea how the change may affect individuals or groups. Times on routes may change.
	3. Many routes are being canceled due to operator availability. Gary advised RTD that NFBCO considers the lack of operators is a service reduction negatively impacting blind people.
	4. Gary said RTD is enforcing the three fourths of a mile rule for Access-A-Ride. RTD will grandfather in people whose route may change and schedule change or route reduction causes a change in distance. However, that person will lose the grandfather if they move away and move back. This can affect the seniors negatively.
	5. Gary heard a rumor, but has no confirmation, that Bustang will begin a couple additional runs lost to Fort Collins due to operator shortage.
14. Other Business
	1. No other business.
15. Presidential Release
	1. The Presidential Release was not played during the meeting.
16. New Members to the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO
	1. President Cody Bair said David Abraham paid dues and he is interested in becoming a member. Cody asked if anyone else is interested in being a member of the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO. David said he did not pay dues and is interested in being a member.
		1. **Note**: David Dunphy paid the dues as noted above and this was missed during the meeting.
		2. **Motion**: Secretary Gary Van Dorn moves that we accept the membership request of David Abraham upon the payment of five dollars in dues. Board Member Ileen Gallegos seconded the motion. The Chapter accepted the membership of David Abraham.
	2. Gary asked for David’s contact information. Ileen said she would send it to Gary.
		1. **Take-Away**: Ileen Gallegos will send Gary David Abraham’s contact information. Ileen provided David’s contact information after the chapter meeting.
17. Adjourn
	1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn reminded everyone that our next meeting was 20 December 2023. The Chapter decided earlier this evening to have a Holiday Party in lieu of a chapter meeting. Our next meeting is 17 January 2024 via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848943667?pwd=a0hCYmZSTkNGWG40UGp4YjlKeEdYdz09).
	2. Gary moves we adjourn. Treasurer Shane Clark seconded the motion. The chapter voted and the meeting adjourned at 19:01 MT.