The NFB of MA At-Large Chapter held its November monthly meeting on Sunday, Nov. 13th. Those in attendance included:

Allen Larkin

Amalia Alexandre

Brian Langlois

Cullen Gallagher

Debbie Malone

Liz Lesperance

Mike Karsok

Sandra Burgess

Shara Winton

Debbie called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Amalia recited the pledge of allegiance.

Cullen recited the NFB pledge. Please note – to assist us all in learning the pledge I have pasted it at the bottom of these minutes. I have also saved the pledge in a word document which is attached to this email.

We conducted a roll call.

Debbie put forth a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as they stand. The motion was seconded by Liz. The minutes were approved.

Amalia was voted in as our official newest member.

2023 dues should be paid by January of 2023 as long as Sandy can get clarity on our treasury account. We will confirm next month when dues should be paid. The dues will be paid to the Massachusetts state affiliate account via PayPal under the donation section. Be sure to put in the notes that the payment is for annual dues. Dues are $10. The affiliate will soon be able to accept payment via Zelle as well, but this process is not in place yet. Again, be sure to specify what the payment is for. Unfortunately, other apps such as Apple Pay and Cash App are not accepted. We will confirm the process for paying 2023 dues at next months’ chapter meeting.

Sandra will contact previous chapter treasurer Kyra to have the funds transferred from the previous at-large PayPal account to the state affiliate account.

For anyone who voted this past Tuesday, please complete the NFB national office’s 2022 Blind and Low-Vision Voter Experience Survey which can be found at <https://nfb.org/resources/voting-resources>

Cullen went over highlights of the presidential report. The highlights are as follows:

* Vispero is matching up to $50k in charitable donations to the NFB
* Nov. 16th is the NFB's 82nd birthday. Shara encouraged everyone to read Floyd Matson’s book *Walking Alone, Marching Together.* This book details the profound history of the organized blind movement in the U.S.
* Uber has been working with the NFB to enhance driver training regarding service animals. If someone reports a denial the driver will be suspended. If the case is found to be true, the driver will be terminated. There is a survey to complete on the NFB site regarding Uber and Lyft denials.

We then held a lively discussion regarding Uber and Lyft denials faced by all members of the blindness community and strongly encouraged all members to report any denials to the ridesharing vendor and the NFB.

The “Braille Readers are Leaders” contest is starting Dec. 5th ending January 23rd. There are contests at all reading levels as well as K-12.

Letters from Santa as well as winter letters are starting to be distributed in English and Spanish

Please continue contacting your MA U.S. representatives to support the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act (HR 9021). Our two state senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey along with Rep. Lori Trahan have already agreed to cosponsor this legislation.

Washington Seminar begins Jan. 30th.

We discussed our individual and group efforts during October's Blind Equality Achievement Month.

The greatly anticipated popcorn fundraiser will be held Dec. 2nd through Dec. 5th. Each participant will have their own store and there will be a monetary prize for the person who sells the most in their store. Debbie encouraged all MA affiliate members to participate in the fundraiser. Debbie emphasized the importance of contacting individuals outside of the NFB. This will also help spread awareness and emphasize our cause.

An email will be going out to chapter members very soon regarding next month’s chapter meeting which will include a Secret Santa exchange. Details to follow.

We would like to meet as a chapter during the state convention

Youme Nguyen Ly will be presenting this Thursday night during the Thursday night hangout.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 6:30PM via zoom. Please note, this is 30 minutes earlier than usual.

NFB Pledge:

I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.