The at-large chapter held their most recent monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 11th. Those in attendance included:

Brian Langlois

Christopher Suplice

Cullen Gallagher

Debbie Malone

ElizabethAnn Johnson

Evan Hershowitz

Kahmile Whitby

Kobena Bonney

Liz Lesperance

Mike Karsok

Nina Kagan

Rachel Kobierecki

Sandra Burgess

Shara Winton

Debbie called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

ElizabethAnn recited the NFB pledge.

Liz conducted a roll call.

Brian put forth a motion to adopt and file the March meeting minutes which Cullen seconded. The minutes were approved.

Sandy went over the treasurer's report. The current balance is $1613.63. This includes the $100 deduction for door prizes at the state convention. Cullen moved that the treasurer's report be accepted which Brian seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

Cullen went over highlights from the April presidential report which included:

* the national convention is 3 months away and will include a free virtual experience. Details can be found at:

nfb.org/convention

This is where you can find the link to register.

* last month the NFB sent a letter to both the House and Senate appropriations committee regarding increasing funds for the Independent Living Services for the Blind program (a.k.a. IL-O.I.B.).
* the NFB also sent a letter to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding discriminatory practices of requiring a driver's license on a job application when driving is not a core function of the position.
* in late July Dan O'Rourke, an NHL on-ice official, will participate in a 2,400-mile bike ride for literacy to support the NFB's core value of literacy. The goal of the ride is not only to raise funds for the NFB but also to spread awareness of the capacity of blind people.

We discussed various ways of listening to the presidential release live including via the Amazon Echo as well as YouTube

We then had a discussion over when requesting or requiring a driver's license on an application is appropriate versus discriminatory. It was noted that many organizations use the term "driver's license" when in fact they are only seeking a form of identification. We resolved that requiring a driver's license is reasonable when driving is a core job function; however, blind and visually impaired individuals should not be precluded from jobs where driving is an occasional job requirement as there are ways of fulfilling this task without holding a driver's license.

Debbie reminded us that the national convention is rapidly approaching and to make hotel and travel reservations asap.

Shara reminded us that the Kenneth Jernigan scholarship deadline is Saturday. This scholarship provides financial assistance to individuals attending their first national convention. Please note that you can qualify for this scholarship even if you have only attended the national convention virtually.

The scholarship details and application can be found at the following link:

https://nfb.org/form/kenneth-jernigan-convention-scho

Our chapter is planning to hold another Double Good popcorn fundraiser next month. We agreed to hold the 4-day event from May 3rd through the 6th.

Debbie is reaching out to presidents of other at-large chapters throughout the country to see if they would be interested in speaking with us about their chapter. We are seeking suggestions for other speakers at future meetings. Please email any suggestions to Liz. Her email address is liz.karsok@gmail.com

We held a lively discussion regarding Ever Lee Hairston's book "Blind Ambition" and encourage all members to read this fascinating autobiography.

We discussed moving our meetings to the second Tuesday of the month to increase attendance. Shara put forth the motion which Cullen seconded. The motion was approved.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 9th at 7:00PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.