# Cambridge Chapter Minutes, February 12, 2024

The February 12, 2024 meeting of the Cambridge Chapter was held as a hybrid meeting at Citywide Senior Center and Zoom. It was called to order at 6:02 PM.

## In Attendance:

Cullen Gallagher

Tracy Carvalho

Shirley Dorris

Tammy Febbi

Isabel Rosario

Nick Bergen

Stephanie Valdes

Sage Collier

Rashad Saadieh

Mika Pyyhkala

Shara Winton

Laurie Mattioli

Allen Larkin

Al Sten-Clanton

Ellen Bartelt

Kobena Bonney

David Ticchi

Hai Nguyen Ly

Kristina Constant

ElizabethAnn Johnson

Sengil Inkiala

Justin Heard

Olufunke Osho

Masha Sten-Clanton

Jen Bose

## Pledge

Shirley led the NFB Pledge.

## Approval of Minutes

Inky moved that we accept the January minutes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## Treasurer’s Report

Mika presented the Treasurers’ Report. We got an updated report from Scott Hurley from Cambridge Savings Bank on our walk. We have received $7,568 in donations. Dues have been coming in via PayPal and Zelle. Mika sent a message after the last meeting with instructions for paying dues. He will send the information out again following this meeting.

Our checking account balance is $576.13.

Al moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## Gift for Scott Hurley

We typically give Scott Hurley a gift for all his help with our walk. Al moved that we give a $100 gift for Scott Hurley; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## State Convention Door Prize

We traditionally provide some cash door prizes for the state convention. The last few years, we have done 5 $25 prizes, totaling $125. Cullen moved that we donate 5 $25 door prizes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## Presidential Release

Justin presented highlights from the [February Presidential Release.](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2024-02/presidential_release%20_february_2024_final.mp3)

## Legislative Updates

Shara shared some updates on legislation. Most of our representatives and our two senators are sponsoring the Websites and Software Accessibility Act. we do have a sponsor from Texas for the Blind Americans return to work act. We need to urge our representatives to support it and the Medical Devices Non Visual Accessibility Act. please reach out to your legislators. You can call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

## State Convention Update

Our rooms are sold out at the Salem Waterfront. Our overflow is the Hampton Inn, which is an approximately seven minute walk from the Waterfront Hotel. The rate is $165 per night, and rooms will be available through February 28.

Registration is open now, and there are several options. [Register on our Website.](https://nfbma.org/civicrm/event/register?id=5&reset=1)

We are still looking for auction items. If you have something to donate, reach out to Liz or Shirley.

If you have a door prize, contact Carol Maurice.

Shara discussed the tours and other fun events. There will be a trolly tour around Salem on Sunday afternoon. The trolly is completely sold out. However, we can get another one if there is interest. If you did not sign up but would like to, let Shara know. We would need approximately 30 people to get a second trolley.

On Friday afternoon, there will be a tour of the House of the Seven Gables. Please sign up, as Shara has to give them a final number of attendees on March 1.

[Register For The House of the Seven Gables Tour.](https://nfbma.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=7)

Friday night includes a fun interactive game and some comedians to make us laugh. Two of them are blind.

If you have not signed up for one of the lunch groups on Saturday and would like to, look back at the previous emails or contact Shara.

The banquet will be Saturday night, and the food will be better this year. Sunday morning highlights include a philosophical debate and a drawing for a big door prize.

We will have our in-person auction, but new this year is an online auction. This will hopefully allow us to make money outside of the people who normally participate at the convention. Along with the online auction, Shara announced that she will be arrested on March 3. If we want her out by the 15th to run the convention, we need to raise $1012. This will be Shara's bond. Inky will be the bondsman for this fundraiser. You will be able to donate on the auction site or via PayPal and Zelle. In the notes, write “free Shara” with your payment.

Please bring cash to the convention, there will be a 50-50 raffle and some gift baskets.

## April Elections

Our chapter elections will be held at the April meeting on April 8. Voting will be in-person only, as we do not have a way to do remote voting. We will do things the same way we did them last year, with the voting box and items to indicate your choice. The positions will be two-year terms, and include president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

## Washington Seminar

We had a great turnout from Massachusetts for Washington Seminar. We were able to meet with the offices of all of our representatives except for one.

## New Members

Isabel Rosario, Nick Bergen, Sage Collier and Olufunke Osho introduced themselves. Following their introductions, Inky moved that we approve all four as members” the motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Welcome to you all!

## Next Meeting

Next month, we will have a brief informational meeting with updates on the state convention. This will be held via Zoom on March 11. Should be no more than 30 minutes.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.