# Cambridge Chapter Minutes, March 10, 2025

The March 10, 2025 meeting of the Cambridge Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Massachusetts was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM

## In attendance:

Shirley Dorris, President

Sengil Inkiala, Vice President

Cullen Gallagher, Secretary

Jen Bose: Board Member

Shara Winton, Affiliate President

Adam Roberge

Ellen Bartelt

David Ticchi

Helen Kobek

Masha Sten-Clanton

Al Sten-Clanton

Stephen Yerardi

Kristina Constant

Greg Bedard

Marc Kelley

Sage Collier

Kyra Sweeney

Juan Camelo

Wesley Taylor

Kobena Bonney

ElizabethAnn Johnson

Olufunke Osho

## NFB Pledge

Stephen led the NFB Pledge.

## Approval of Minutes

A few corrections were made to the February minutes. These included:
- Adding Shara’s name to the attendee list.
- Adding that the Presidential Release was not played due to time constraints following the guest speaker presentation.

Stephen moved acceptance of the February minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## Treasurer’s Report

Mika was unavailable to present the Treasurer’s Report; it was tabled to the April meeting.

## Presidential Release

The March Presidential Release was played.

## National Convention

Shirley encouraged everyone to attend the National Convention in New Orleans. The Jernigan Scholarship was available for members who had not yet attended a national convention. Shirley had received this scholarship in 2022.

[Convention Scholarship Information and Application](https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention/kenneth-jernigan-convention-scholarship)

## State Convention

Shirley gave an update on the chapter’s auction donation. She had received a one-night stay at the Salem Waterfront Hotel, a $52 gift card to Seasons 52, a $25 gift card to Turner Seafood, and was awaiting a gift card to the Capital Grille (amount to be determined).

Shara announced a new fundraiser that would take place at the state convention. Similar to the national convention, individuals could donate $20 for a chance to win either the 2026 State Convention for free or $400 in cash. A hotel room and registration would be included with the convention option.

Each $20 donation would go toward providing assistance for members to attend the national convention. Shara emphasized that everyone working to get donations and raise funds would make a difference. For the fundraiser, 20 tickets needed to be sold for the drawing to take place.

All of the General Sessions on Saturday and Sunday, as well as the Saturday Evening Banquet, would be streamed via Zoom for those who could not attend in person.

Anyone wishing to attend the Basketball Hall of Fame tour or sign up for a blind cricket demonstration should contact Shara.

The students were in charge of Friday evening’s activities. They planned a murder mystery dinner followed by karaoke. The Mayor of Springfield was scheduled to speak on Friday afternoon in the Worthy Room.

Debbie Malone had arranged a bus to bring members from the Senior Center in Cambridge to Springfield. The bus would depart at 9:00 AM for Springfield and return to Cambridge on Sunday at 4:00 PM. The hotel would do its best to have rooms ready for those arriving Friday morning. The hotel would typically automatically charge for parking; members were reminded to let the hotel know they would not be parking to avoid charges.

On Sunday morning, members were advised to pack and leave their rooms before general sessions and bring their bags to the Mahogany Ballroom. This room would be locked while members went on the Basketball Hall of Fame tour.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 14. This would mark Shirley's first year as president, and in celebration and appreciation, Shirley would order pizza for the meeting. Those planning to attend in person should text or email Shirley so she could plan accordingly.

## New Member

Marc Kelley introduced himself. Following his introduction, Stephen moved that the chapter welcome Marc as a member; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Welcome, Marc!

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.