January 20, 2024, NFB of Northern Nevada Minutes – **FINAL** as amended

Mona Coker, President called the meeting to order at 1pm

1. Roll Call
   1. Mona Coker, President.
   2. Mark Tadder, Affiliate President.
   3. Chun Chao (Alan), Vice President.
   4. Jim Milligan, Treasurer.
   5. Clare Steppat, Newly Elected Secretary.
   6. Miles Collins, Board Member.
   7. Eileen Edgecomb, Board Member.
   8. Frida Aizenman, Affiliate Secretary
   9. Mary Robins, Member
   10. Laura Lynn Sluyter, Member
   11. Michael May, Member
   12. Cagri Gokcek (Alican), Member
   13. Randy Barnes, Guest
   14. Rhonda Barnes, Member
   15. Randy Johnston Albert, Guest
   16. Erlinda Johnston Albert, Guest
   17. Ryan McKinney, Member
   18. Don Kennedy, Member
   19. Bonnie Kennedy, Member
   20. Tammie Hefty, Member
2. Secretary Report
   1. Mona presented the Minutes of the September 16, 2023, meeting, in the absence of Jeanine Moors, Secretary.
   2. Motion to accept Minutes as presented: Alan 2nd: Ryan Vote: Accepted unanimously
3. Treasurer’s Report by Jim Milligan
   1. $4,206.82 October balance
   2. $3,941.82 November balance. Including a $10 recurring monthly donation to the National Office PAC fund for items like the free white canes, etc.
   3. $3,404.01 December balance
   4. $3,394.01 current balance 01-20-2024 Currently, the Chapter has 31 dues paying members.
   5. Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report: Ryan 2nd: Alan Vote: Accepted unanimously
4. New Secretary Nominations and vote
   1. Mona opened discussion to elect a new Chapter Secretary. Stating that Jeanine Moors resigned, as she has moved to Michigan. Mona had discussed Eileen Edgecomb becoming Secretary. Eileen respectfully declined the nomination. Clare Steppat, new member, volunteered to become Secretary. Clare stated she has been a secretary before, both in a business and for other clubs. However, being sighted, becoming Secretary to a club she knows little about will be difficult, and asks everyone to help her out while she learns about the Federation, Chapter, and members,
      1. Motion to Accept Clare Steppat as Secretary through September 2024: Ryan McKinney 2nd: Miles Collins Vote: Unanimous
5. White Cane Walk Review
   1. Mona stated that the October 15 White Cane Day walk went well. Members walked in downtown Reno from the 4th Street bus station to the Reno Arch for photos. On to City Hall to hear the White Cane Safety Day Proclamation being read by Jenny Brekkus, Reno City Council Member for Ward 1. Then on to the National Automobile Museum for a 1.5 hour tour led by docents.
6. Bowling Event Review
   1. Mona stated that the November bowling event, about 5 bowlers, was very enjoyable and everyone was a winner, despite the fact that we were not able to get bowling rails from the American Blind Bowling Association. Bowling rails are different than bumpers. Rails stand upright and keep you in line with the lane.
7. Holiday Party/New Member Acceptances
   1. Mona stated that the holiday party and white elephant gift exchange on December 16, 2023 at Casa Grande was well attended and fun.
      1. Several new chapter members were voted into the Chapter including Clare Steppat, Rhonda Barnes, Greg Hill, Kim Hill and Don Kennedy.
8. Holiday Reading Review
   1. Mona, Frida and Mark led discussion and evaluation of the first five books in the Kernel book series, edited by Dr Jernigan, and why you feel they are important to the work of the Federation. Note: The Kernel books are a collection of stories about blind men and women that go beyond sentimentality and misconceptions, right to the kernel of blindness. There are a total of 30 books in the series, but Mona wanted us to just focus on the first few. The books are not that long, they are stories you may well relate to.
   2. [What Color Is the Sun?](https://nfb.org/sites/www.nfb.org/files/images/nfb/publications/books/kernel1/kern01.htm)
   3. [The Freedom Bell](https://nfb.org/sites/www.nfb.org/files/images/nfb/publications/books/kernel1/thefreedombell.html)
   4. [As The Twig Is Bent](https://nfb.org/sites/www.nfb.org/files/images/nfb/publications/books/kernel1/asthetwigisbent.html)
   5. [Making Hay](https://nfb.org/sites/www.nfb.org/files/images/nfb/publications/books/kernel1/makinghay.html)
   6. [The Journey](https://nfb.org/sites/www.nfb.org/files/images/nfb/publications/books/kernel1/kern05tc.htm)
   7. Mark brought up another book he enjoyed, [The Care and Feeding of the White Cane](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/images/nfb/publications/books/cfcane/canetc.htm). Helpful instructions for actually learning how to use a cane, including on public transportation, big busy intersections, obstacles like bushes and trailer hitches, stairs and more.
   8. Discussion of the apps and programs to listen to audio-books or have books read to you. Recommendations made for the Bard app, Talking Books, the National Library Service, NFB Newsline, The Nevada State Library, as well as Washoe County Library has free audio-books, although some may be on a wait list. Mona and Mark both volunteered to help anyone who needs assistance signing up or accessing the materials.
9. Washington Seminar Update <https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar>
   1. Mark Tatter is attending the Washington seminar in Washington DC for 4 days, January 29 through February 1, 2024. Representatives from all 52 NFB State Chapters and affiliates will send representatives to Washington DC, to walk the halls of Congress. They will book appointments with members of the US House of Representatives and State Senators with proposed bills, requesting their support as sponsors or co-sponsors, then vote “For” the bill's passage when they come up for vote.
   2. Every year there is a simple application form, for those that would like to travel to Washington DC for the Washington Seminar.
   3. Nine people are going from Nevada. Mark Tatter, Jim Milligan, Miles Collins, and Tammie and Evie Hefty, from the north state. Along with four from the south; Heather DeStefano, Becky Jayakumar, Mario Castillo, and Mona Lee Merclean.
   4. A Zoom Meeting on January 29th, 2 pm our time is available to listen to the three proposed bills. All are encouraged to attend.

### [Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2024-01/websites_and_software_applications_accessibility_act_final.mp3)

### [Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act](https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar/medical-device-nonvisual-accessibility-act-hr-1328s)

### [Blind Americans Return to Work Act](https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2024-01/blind_americans_return_to_work_act_final.mp3)

1. New Business
   1. New Member Vote: Cagri Gokcek (Alican pronounced Ali John), is a PhD student in Political Science at the University of Nevada, from Istanbul, Turkey. Formerly, he lived with a family in Indiana that were blind, and active in their Chapter. He is interested in the disability movement and is a disability activist. Motion to approve his membership: Vote: Unanimous
   2. Cagri Gokcek (Alican) presented “AAR”, a new programming language prioritized for disabled people. It’s new, coming from Australia. Contact him for more information. He is also interested in giving classes on programming and all areas of technology. Also helping organize online events and local and statewide for the blind.
   3. There is a new restaurant, The Biggest Little Cafe in the City Hall lobby, run by a blind entrepreneur through the BEN program, Blind Enterprise program of Nevada. <https://www.kolotv.com/2024/01/17/biggest-little-cafe-opens-downtown/>
   4. Mark reminded everyone that the Presidential Primary is coming up February 6, 2024. Nevada leads accessible voting in the USA. There are accessible voting machines in every Nevada county, 2 in each precinct. They include headphones and a blank screen, to make them completely accessible and private. No sighted assistance required to cast your vote. It is now Nevada law that poll workers are trained to explain the new accessible voting machines. Mona reminded everyone that you can vote online as well. Exercise your right to vote.
   5. Mike May and Cagri Gokcek (Alican) gave us a synopsis of the WeWalk Smart Cane with Smartphone App. He is also a developer of great maps outdoors and great maps explorer and navigation.
   6. Mark reminded us to add the NV State convention to our calendars, scheduled for May 2-5, 2024 in Sparks Nevada, information to follow.
2. Adjourn 2:37 pm Motion by Ryan, 2nd by Miles, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Unanimous