Meeting summary for NFBDE's Personal Meeting Room (01/27/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting focused on welcoming new members Michael and Wanda, discussing their experiences with sight loss and blindness, and reviewing the chapter's

financial status and membership updates. The team also discussed potential speakers and topics for future meetings, the integration of AI apps with Apple

and Google phones, and the idea of holding the Braille Family Fun Day at the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington, Delaware. Lastly, they discussed potential

fundraisers, the upcoming Washington Seminar, and changes in national funding for travel to events.

Next steps

• Katrina to research and report on alternative popcorn fundraising options at the February meeting.

• Carol and Nakia to investigate holding the May Braille Family Fun Day at the Ronald McDonald House.

• Amanda to tentatively reserve the Williams Gym for the May 10th Braille Family Fun Day.

• Sylvia and Shannon to discuss Shannon's potential role as liaison for the National Association of Guide Dog Users.

• June to send out scholarship flyers to members for distribution once received.

• June and Henry to conduct outreach at Newark Senior Center on February 10th.

• Carol to send out information about the upcoming Presidential Release to members not on the email list.

• Sylvia to organize a meeting with committee chairs to discuss committee initiatives.

• Affiliate Board to draft a letter to Mark Riccobono requesting clarification on National Federation of the Blind's financial situation.

• Wayne to follow up with Michael about accessing Small Business Administration resources.

Summary

New Members Share Sight Loss Experiences

Carol welcomed Michael and Wanda, both new members of the chapter, and encouraged them to share their experiences with sight loss and blindness. Michael shared his journey of losing his sight and memory due to an aneurysm. Michael discussed his experience with his use of a Fire tablet

for audiobooks. Jim suggested Michael consider using the National Library Service (NLS) for audiobooks, which Michael agreed to look into. Carol also

mentioned the possibility of Michael receiving training through Hatley Helps for his iPhone and Fire tablet. The conversation ended with Carol encouraging

Michael and Wanda to share their experiences and learn from others in the group.

Treasurer's Report and Dues Discussion

Carol led the meeting, which included a roll call, a pledge, and a one-minute message. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Nakia presented the treasurer's report, noting that the account balance was $3,963.23, with all funds being dues. She also mentioned that Katrina's payment

was still pending. Carol suggested that she could switch people over to pay their dues online. The conversation ended with Carol mentioning the need for

members to update their information on the NFB membership portal.

Treasurer's Report, Membership Updates, and Events

Carol led the meeting, discussing various topics including the treasurer's report, membership updates, and upcoming events. The treasurer's report revealed

that some members had not paid their dues, prompting Carol to ask for volunteers to check in with these members. The meeting also discussed the need to

vote in new members, including Michael Goodhand, Miracle Hardy, Tricia, and Shannon. Carol also announced that the next book talk would be

held on February 17th, with Verita as the facilitator. The conversation ended with a discussion about the success of the Braille Family Fun Day event,

with Carol thanking Nakeya and her team for their efforts.

Chapter Board Meeting Topics

In the meeting, Carol discussed the chapter board meeting and the need for speakers for the year. She suggested topics such as SSI and SSDI, Hadley's

new setup, NFB centers for the blind, entrepreneurship, and the SBA's SCORE program. The team also discussed the possibility of having someone from VR

(Vocational Rehabilitation) speak. The conversation ended with a list of potential speakers and topics for future meetings.

Government Spending, VR, and Tech Talks

In the meeting, Carol and the team discussed the apprehension of government agencies about spending money due to the current administration. They also

talked about the potential impact on funding for VR and the Department of Education. The team also discussed the integration of AI apps with Apple and

Google phones, and the upcoming tech talks on AI apps and Meta glasses. There was also a discussion about the glasses available at the Apple store

in Newark, which can be expensive but offer a unique virtual reality experience. The team agreed to work on speakers for the second quarter and encouraged

anyone with a philosophy talk idea to share it.

Braille Family Fun Day and Fundraisers

Carol proposed a new idea for the Braille Family Fun Day, suggesting it be held at the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington, Delaware, on May 10th. The

idea was met with enthusiasm, but Carol also mentioned that they would need permission from the Ronald McDonald House. If permission is not granted, they

would consider holding the event at the Williams Gym. The board also discussed increasing expectations for board members, emphasizing the importance of

attendance at meetings and participation in key events such as the Braille Family Fun Day, State Convention, and State advocacy day. Lastly, Carol encouraged

the group to brainstorm ideas for fundraisers for the chapter.

Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser Discussion

Carol proposed the idea of using Double Good Popcorn as a fundraiser, where they would receive 50% of the proceeds from popcorn sales. The team agreed

to consider this option, with June and Nakeya suggesting that they should gather more information before making a decision. They decided to report back

at the February meeting. Additionally, they discussed the possibility of running the fundraiser in May, as it would likely avoid conflicts with other school

fundraisers. The team also discussed the idea of using Chipotle as a fundraiser, but noted that the previous experience was not well organized.

Washington Seminar and National Funding

In the meeting, Carol announced the upcoming Washington Seminar on February 4th, with meetings scheduled with all three offices. She also mentioned the

regular monthly meeting of the Affiliate Board on the third Thursday of February. Sylvia discussed the potential change in national funding for travel

to events, with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) no longer covering expenses for the Presidential Retreat and the National Convention. The board

decided to discuss this further in their next meeting. Shannon shared that the National Association of Guide Dog Users (NAGDU) will be reaching out to

state presidents, including the possibility of establishing an affiliate in Delaware. Carol advised everyone to download their favorite books onto thumb

drives due to potential changes in the Library of Congress National Library Services. The conversation ended with Carol thanking everyone for their participation.