NFBA PHOENIX CHAPTER Business Meeting

Date: Sat., Oct. 05/2019

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Coco’s Bakery Restaurant

2026 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006

602.258.3821

Meeting Minutes

9:30 a.m.: Call to Order, by First Vice President, Jordan Moon.

Note: Brad announced that the Second Vice President will be conducting the December 07/2019 meeting.

Roll Call: 25 people were present, including three members via conference call line (Angie Jones, Teresa Mullin, and Steve Cessna)

Pledges:

Tom Johnson Led the Pledge to the American Flag, as well as the NFB Pledge.

Prayer:

The traditional Corporate Prayer was suspended. Instead, each request and concern was acknowledged, as it was shared.

Secretary’s Report, Teresa Mullin

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to table the Saturday, September 07/19 NFBA Phoenix Chapter Business Meeting Minutes.

Treasure’s report, Donna Silba

As of Saturday, October 05/2019,

New Balance: $814.07

Restricted: $237.69

Unrestricted: $576.38

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

NFB Presidential Release, Mark Riccabono

President Riccobono discussed the ultimate goal of and philosophy behind Meet the Blind Month. He also discussed White Cane Awareness Day, NFB's Meet the Blind Month Twitter chats, and our partnership with Mattel featuring the recent launch of UNO Braille. The President also provided updates from our Dream Makers Circle.

Old Business

Meet the Blind Month Events

2019 Sing-a-Thon Fund-Raiser

Date: Sunday, October 13/2019

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Location: AiNT Nick’s Tavern, 6840 N. 27th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85017; 602.242.2345

Brad is working closely with the owner to work out all details, including offering a meal for $7.50, beginning at 7:00 p.m., until the food runs out. The profits over food cost will be donated to the Phoenix Chapter.

The East Valley Chapter, West Valley Chapter, and SAAVI are invited to join the fun. The pledges raised by these Chapters will be split fifty fifty, with the Phoenix Chapter.

Raffle Tickets: Single raffle tickets are to be sold for $5.00 each. For each set of five raffle tickets sold, $20.00 is to be collected. The winner of the fifty fifty raffle does not have to be present, at the time of the drawing.

Additional Pledge Sheet donations and the sale of the fifty fifty raffle tickets will be collected at the venue, during the fund-raising event. Please turn in all Pledge Sheet donations and all fifty fifty raffle tickets and donations to Brad or Donna, by Sunday, October 13th. While the fifty fifty raffle ticket winner does not have to be present, door prize winners must be present to claim their prize.

After some discussion, regarding setting up a Square account, a motion was made, seconded, and approved for Brad to purchase the advanced chip reader, and be reimbursed from Chapter funds. Having this portable, electronic service will increase our organization’s ability to receive donations, during future fund-raising events. It should be noted that Brad and Donna are the only Phoenix Chapter officers that are authorized to manage the organization’s bank account.

Phoenix V.A. Informational Event

Date: Thursday, October 17/2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Note: The march begins at 8:00 a.m. The staging location information is not known, at this time.

Location: V.A. Hospital, 650 E. Indian School Rd., Basement, Phoenix, AZ 85012; 602.222.6550

Brad has reserved a table, and has invited the East Valley Chapter and the West Valley Chapter to participate, in this free informational event. By distributing NFB literature and answering questions, participating Chapter members have the opportunity to dispel the misconceptions about blindness. Joy, Monica, Marion, Michelle, and Cindy volunteered to join Brad. Names and contact information of those interested in receiving additional material about the NFB Veterans Division can be gathered, utilizing the assistive technology or other technique employed by competent blind people. After the event, we can initiate contact with Roy Stenson, President of the local Veterans Association. Meanwhile, Vicki offered to research contact information for the current president of the NFB National Association of Blind Veterans.

Community Outreach, Michelle Herrera

Date: Sunday, October 27/2019

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: AZ Nail Salon, 1964 N. Alma School, Suite 9, Chandler, AZ 85224; 480.842.2897

Michelle and Cindy have arranged to distribute NFB literature, educating the public about the organization, and give free Sugar Scrubs. The shop owner has agreed to donate a portion of sales to the Phoenix Chapter, generated between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Interested members should contact Michelle, at 623.213.0767, or at 05seikcim@gmail.com.

Tucson 5K and Half Marathon Event

Date: Sunday, October 27/2019

Time: 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Phoenix Chapter, East Valley Chapter, and West Valley Chapter members are encouraged to join the Tucson Chapter members to staff a table, stationed along the race route, to hand out water bottles and cheer for the event participants. Jordan will arrange transportation, to and from this public relations outreach event in Tucson, for local members interested in going. The plan is to meet at a central location in Phoenix, such as SAAVI, 4222 E. Thomas Rd., leaving no later than 4:00 a.m., and returning around 12:00 p.m. Joy, Monica, Anthony, Sheryl, Sherry, and Brad are to contact Jordan, to confirm transportation details. Sheryl asked if any NFB members were running, but that information was not available, at this time. We may want to discuss such involvement in future events.

Social Committee, Monica Nunez

2019 Phoenix Chapter Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, December 14/2019

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Garcia's Las Avenidas (Mexican Restaurant), 2212 N. 35th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85009; 602.272.5584

Guests will have six meal selections from which to choose and place their order, all for $14.99. A flat ticket total of $22.00 will include tax and tip. Committee members are discussing other activities to enhance the Celebration festivities. Stay tuned!

A brief discussion, confirmed that $52.00 was spent on gifts for last year’s Christmas party, that were never given out. A decision as to what to do with these items was postponed. Brad asked if the Chapter members wanted to sponsor a family, during the holiday season, and that topic was tabled, as well. There is currently, $158.00 in the Christmas Fund, to which members are welcome to contribute throughout the year.

Sheryl stated that the Estrella Mountain Community College Helping Hands project is inviting staff, faculty, and the community to donate funds or $20.00 gift cards, to help the families of students, during the upcoming holiday season. The deadline for making contributions to this project is Friday, November 15th. Other holiday events are being planned to help families in need. Rather than the Chapter making a donation, it was decided that interested individuals could give their contribution to Sheryl, who would, then, see that funds were given to the Helping Hands project designee.

New Business

2020 Phoenix Chapter Picnic, Brad Kuhn

Brad asked members to research city parks, as potential sites for the 2020 Phoenix Chapter Annual Norma Roberts Picnic. To avoid Easter weekend, Saturday, April 04/2020 is the date set for this social event. After some discussion of the pros and cons of the past two picnic park locations, Brad asked Rodney to research Sahuaro Ranch Park in Glendale, and he asked Tom to research Chaparral Park in Scottsdale, including the reservation details and cost. The picnic park location needs to be decided, in November, so the facility can be reserved with a deposit. It was agreed that family-friendly activities should be included, in the picnic plans, such as an Easter Egg Hunt. Joy, Jordan, Brad, Colin, Monica, and Teresa expressed interest in serving on the Picnic Planning Committee.

Community Outreach, Michelle Herrera

Sock Social

Date: Tuesday, November 19/2019

Time: To Be Announced

Location: To Be Announced

Michelle stated that a jumping balloon for children will be set up in a local park, and attendees are asked to bring a toy and a new pair of socks. Michelle will provide more event details, at the November 02/2019 meeting.

2019-2020 Braille Readers are Leaders (BRAL) Contest, Colin Wong, Chair/NFB of AZ Education Committee

The American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults is preparing to administer the NFB 2019-2020 Braille Readers are Leaders (BRAL) Contest. Affiliates will not be charged a registration fee, this year. Children’s categories are: Kindergarten and First Grade; Second Grade and Third Grade; Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade; Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade; and Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade. Adults are invited to register as participants, in this year’s BRAL Contest. Colin will provide Contest details, as they are available. The goals of the Education Committee are to increase the AZ student registration enrollment, to encourage adults to register and participate, and to promote the importance of braille literacy, while having fun competing for state and national recognition, for reading the most braille pages than others competing in the same category.

Announcements

SAAVI Youth Group, Jordan Moon

Date: Saturday, October 26/2019

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: SAAVI, 4222 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85018; 602.795.0195

Jordan announced that the SAAVI Youth Group Haunted House is opened to the public.

NFB of AZ Affiliate Board Meeting, Jordan Moon

Date: Saturday, November 09/2019

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: To Be Announced

Jordan will have more details, regarding the quarterly, NFB of AZ affiliate Board Meeting, at the November Phoenix Chapter Business meeting. Traditionally, those who want to join the meeting, but cannot attend in person, can call the Affiliate conference call line: 605.475.6777; Access Code: 06322Pound.

2019 Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology (VRATE) Expo, Jordan Moon

Dates: Friday, November 15/2019 & Saturday, November 16/2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glendale Dr., Glendale, AZ 85301; 623.930.4300

www.vrateaz.com

"The Southwest’s Largest & Longest Running Vision Loss/Blindness Resource Event!

Presentations and Exhibitions Focused on: Life-changing Assistive Technology; Resources combined vision and hearing loss; and Government and Community Services

The NFB of AZ has paid the registration fee of $500, to staff a table at VRATE, for Friday, November 15th and Saturday, November 16th. Contact Jordan to learn if there are openings to staff the Affiliate table. Admission to VRATE is free, and opportunities abound to enter drawings for a variety of door prizes. Organizations, agencies, service providers, and companies specializing in Assistive Technology are represented, at tables throughout the venue. Guest speakers address a variety of issues impacting children and adults who are blind and deaf-blind. To register for the Expo, and to learn about the schedule of speakers and topics, go to the website, at www.vrateaz.com.

Special Elections

Special Elections Nominating Committee, Vicki Hodges, Chair

Committee Members: Carrie Taylor, Donna Silba, and Tom Johnson

After confirming who was eligible to vote, Vicki conducted the elections, for Second Vice President and one Board Member position. Brad Kuhn, Jordan Moon, and Tom Johnson were appointed as ballot counters. Nominating Committee members and candidates were thanked, for diligently fulfilling meeting schedules, contributing to the efficiency of the process. The NFB of AZ and its local chapters and divisions have historically conducted casting votes for elections, by secret ballot, in contests considering more than the candidate recommended by the Nominating Committee. Secret Ballot votes are cast, by tearing off the number of corners of a 3 by 5 index card, associated with the order in which their candidate is placed in nomination. One corner is torn off the index card, if the Nominating Committee’s recommended candidate is the voter’s choice. Two corners are torn off the index card if the first person nominated from the floor is the voter’s choice, and so on. The most recent Phoenix Chapter Constitution approved by the Affiliate Board, allows for members joining the Business meeting via conference call, to cast a voice ballot. Angie Jones, Steve Cessna, and Teresa Mullin cast their vote via voice ballot.

To save time, Jordan distributed two index cards to each eligible voter, in case both contests had more than one candidate’s name placed for nomination. We reviewed the Nominating Committee selection process, as well as the process by which candidates may be nominated from the floor. Voters were to cast their secret ballot vote, using only one of the index cards, in a contest for which more than one name was placed in nomination.

To further safeguard the integrity of the Special Election, a standard, plastic Comment Card box was provided to ensure hands-free ballot collection, should a contest be decided by conducting a secret ballot. The voted ballot will be folded in half by the voter, and directly deposited into the ballot box. If a secret ballot is required, all paper ballots ar to be collected, before the conference call voters state their voice ballot. Once the voice ballots are tallied, the paper ballots are to be counted, and added to the voice ballot votes. After all votes are tallied, a winner of the contest will be announced.

Vicki reported the candidates selected for consideration by the Nominating Committee as:

Second Vice President: Colin Wong

Board Member: Monica Nunez

The election for Second Vice President began, and Michelle Herrera was nominated from the floor. After the third call for “other nominations” for Second Vice President, a motion was made, seconded, and approved that nominations cease. Each candidate was given one minute to speak on their own behalf. Michelle spoke, first. Then, Colin was given the opportunity to speak.

Brad and Jordan collected all paper ballots, before Angie, Steve, and Teresa voiced their vote--all voted for Michelle. Two voting members deposited their ballot into the ballot box, held by Brad, before leaving with their Dial-a-Ride driver. Consequently, this incident reduced the number of eligible voters for the next contest, by two votes. While Jordan, Tom, and Brad stepped out of the room to count the paper ballots, we sang, “Happy Birthday,” to our members born in October. Due to some misunderstanding and miscommunication, Vicki conducted the election for the Board Member position, which had to be conducted, again. Brad revealed the Chapter’s newly elected Second Vice President, by stating, “Congratulations, Colin,” who made a few remarks of acceptance.

The election for Board Member position began, with a reminder that Monica Nunez had been selected by the Nominating Committee, for this position. Three calls for “other nominations from the floor,” ended with a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote to close nominations and to elect Monica for the Board Member position by acclamation. Monica expressed her thanks and appreciation.

Adjournment: Upon the approval of a motion, First Vice President Jordan Moon adjourned the October 05, 2019 NFBA Phoenix Chapter Business Meeting, at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Hodges, Board Member/NFBA Phoenix Chapter

* [Presidential Release #488, November 2019 (English Audio)](https://nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/podcast/presidential-releases-en/2019_11_english.mp3)