National federation of the Blind of California

Path Finder chapter meeting minutes for January 2025

Meeting start time: 9:10A.M. Meeting date: January 16th 2025 Meeting location: WLCAC Senior center 10957 S. Central Ave.

The meeting was opened with a welcome and introduction of guests by the president Arietta woods. A Prayer was given by our chaplain Jeffrey Sims followed by the pledge of allegiance and federation pledge by all.

The following members were in attendance: Arietta woods, Rochelle Houston, Ruthie Houston, Nelly Cardenas, Vernell Lowery, Jeffrey Sims, Betsy Estrada, Treva Sif, Ever Hairston, Alexis Harris, Michael Richardson, Janette Stewart, Sandy Balani, Jackie Stewart, Jo Swain and Jeffery Sims brother.

The Theme for January is Press for your goals. You can live the life you want. Blindness is not what holds you back.

The minutes for November 2024 were not available but will be emailed with the January 16th 2025 minutes.

Our treasurer, Sandy Balani, was attending virtually. Due to technical issues with zoom, the treasurer’s reports were postponed until the February meeting.

The following announcements were made by the president.

Membership dues: Membership dues are du no later than January 31. They are $25 a year. For Members wanting to send their dues via Zelle, use the email [arietta.woods@att.net](mailto:arietta.woods@att.net). Our chapter name, NFBC Pathfinder Chapter of LA’s name will appear.

It is important that you pay your dues in order to keep your NFB membership current on the national membership portal as well as our chapter roster.

The following new members were voted in to our chapter: Triva Sif, Tina Thomas, and joe Swain.

. It was moved by Rochelle and second by Vernell that the 3 members previously mentioned be accepted as official members of NFB Path finder chapter of Los Angeles.

Committee reports:

Fund raiser: The Viejas casino trip is scheduled for Saturday June 7th 2025. The cost is $26 round trip. Announcements regarding this fund raiser will be forthcoming.

It was mentioned by our president again that our new event coordinator for Fund raising is Betsy Estrada. She will be getting back with us with fund raising events.

Membership and chapter development: Michael Richardson, committee chair explained that it is mandatory for all chapter members to update both their contact and emergency contact information. Michael can be reached via phone or text at 323-898-3223. When sending a text message! Please include the following! Your first and last name, Mailing address, email address, contact phone number, reading preference, digital, large print, or braille. Also include your birthday except the year. Please also provide the name and phone of a trusted person to serve as an emergency contact.

Treasurer report: The treasurer’s report for November and December will be read at the February meeting. Because the zoom connection wasn’t good.

Scholarship report: The scholarship committee will not host a scholarship celebration for 2025. We won’t know until later if there will be a scholarship celebration for 2026. Donations are welcome for the scholarship fund.

Membership engagement led by the president, Arietta Woods;– Let’s talk: The question for the day

is What are your goals for this year? Each member was asked to participate.

Rochelle Houston shared important information/updates:

As of May 7th, Everyone that expects to travel out of state via airlines will be required to have their real Id. The real id has a logo of a bear as well as a picture of the person that obtains one. The DMV website has a list of required documents that have to be presented when applying for a real Id.

Other announcements were given by the president:

Washington seminar were the NFB goes on Capitol Hill to present our concerns to our congressional representatives: The Washington Seminar for 2025 will be held from February 3rd to February the 6th.

The State convention will be held from March 14 through March the 16. And will be held at the Double Tree hotel in Anaheim California. When making a hotel reservation for the convention! A down payment for at least one day is required. Room rates are $159 each night. February 21st is the last day to take advantage of the discounted room rates as well as the registration and banquet ticket prices. After this date these charges will increase. Go to NFBCAL.org for more information.

California state convention more information: The Path finder chapter along with the Ingle Wood and Inland empire chapters will be hosting the hospitality suite at the state convention. Each chapter is asked to support this effort. Our chapter will be coming forth with an amount.

The Path finder chapter is in the process of putting together an auction basket for the state convention. The theme of the basket is lavender spa explosion. Michael Richardson and Sandy Balani will provide us with more details.

NFB annual convention: The national convention will be held from July 8 to the 13 2025 in New Orleans Louisiana. Go to NFB.org for more information.

In closing the president acknowledged our guests and thanked all for attending the meeting in-person and virtually. She also mentioned those members who are ill and those with birthdays in January.

Our next chapter Meeting will be held on Thursday February 20th from 9:00AM to 11:00 A.M.

It was moved by Michael and Second by all that the meeting adjourn at 10:25 a.m.