February, 2018 minutes of the NFB .SFV

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and began with the pledge to the American flag and NFB Pledge.

Question for the month: 1 thing that you would tell us about yourself.

In attendance:

Sharon Watson, Joe Otoole, Jane Suh, Nick Guttinger, Betsy estrada, Racquel Decipeda, Lynn Nishihara, Candace Luther, Nebiyu Dingetu, Juanita Herrera, Malik Julian Vargas, Jaymee Castillo, Joy stigile, Jo Ann Seaman, John Albarran, Nancy Urquilla, Anthony Molina, Letty Martinez, Ron Hilliard, Karen Elo, sheila Biglang-awa, Mike Wyszynski and Robert Stigile.

24 members and 3 guests: Ashley & daughter Addison Morgan and Kelly Lovitt. Both Ashley and Kelly are AIRA agents.

Announcement:

Jo Anne announced that Tom Grimsley’s blood pressure was so low and was taken to Sherman Oaks Hospital by the Paramedics. Then was brought to the Tarzana Rehab Center.

Joy added that he's doing much better now and will be released this week.

John made an announcement that he’s engaged to hhis beloved girlfriend Nancy and are getting married.

Racquel announced that Heart for Sight is having another Karaoke event on March 31 2018. It's going to be at the Gardena Mousse from 4:30 to 9 pm. Details will follow.

She and Ron had a good time skiing last week. For those interested in skiing, get your paperwork’s in.

Anthony announced that the Achilles running club will open a chapter in L.A., For those who are interested, please contact him.

Joe announced that the City of Los Angeles from the 20th, 21st to the 22nd, will have a job opening for Customer Service Representative. Starting with $57,000 a year. Go to www .lacity.org or you can go governmentjobs.com. You can also email him and he'll send you the bulletin. Julian suggested to send it in the list serve.

Lynn announced that on February 23rd to 25th is the Job Expo for people with disability at the L.A. Convention Center.

Nancy will be there with the Disability Community Resource Center and will be there on Saturday the 24th from 10 to 2 pm.

Sheila thanked Sharon and Letty for bringing the refreshments.

Robert announced that he has a friend who has 3 Romeo 350 Embossers and 1 Juliet slash Transcend combo. It's a package that has Juliet Embosser and a regular printer that allows you to print both large print and braille on the same page. His friend would like to take the best offer and if someone cannot afford it, they are willing to let that person to have it. Contact Robert if you're interested.

The National Convention is from July 3rd to the 8th of 2018. Make room reservations before it gets filled up at the Rosen Shingle Creek. This would be the last year in Orlando Florida.

The Chapter will have grants available for the Chapter members who will be attending.

If you've have not attended National convention before and it’s your first time doing so, there is a Jernigan Grant. The way you apply for it is you write a letter of your interest in attending and mention what you think you might need as far as cost. Send it to our State President Ever Lee Hairston. She will write a letter and send it to the Jernigan Grant Committee. Deadline is April 15, 2018.

Secretary’s Report.

Joy found a minor error about the spelling of stem cell not stemcil. And the other one is the American Action Fund that provides free Braille books, instead of American Action Find.

Julian made a motion to approve the minutes as read and corrected, seconded by Jaymee, the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report.

The treasury report for February 10, 2018 done by Sharon.

Check #1088 for AIRSLA $150 cleared on February 5th.

Balance in February 9, 2018 $4,963.54.

Deposit made $696.

The deposits consist of the following:

Chapter dues: $20 from goldie Castro & Sheila, $10 from Nebiyu, $10 from Nick, $10 from Bill Grosjean, $20 from Ron & Karen, $10 from Portia Mason, $20 from Joan & Larry Harmell.

Contributions for Ipad: Lynn $20, $40 from Robert & Joy, $25 from Racquel, $15 from Candace, $20 from Joe, $20 from Rochelle Yohai, $20 from Nebiyu, $5 from Olga Tobias, $5 from Sheila, $10 from John, $20 from Nancy, $10 from Jo Anne and $20 from Julian & Jaymee.

Carl’s Jr. Coupons: $25 from Betsy, $50 from Sheila and $30 from Joy.

Battery Chargers: $20 from Robert, $80 from Betsy, $100 from Joy and $20 from Joan. $28 from the 50/50 raffle.

A withdrawal of $400 breakdown of reimbursements for $248 for Racquel for the Constant Contact Subscription for Best in Tech and $152 for Robert and Joy for purchasing pizza at the January meeting.

Ending balance for February 9, 2018 $5,259.54.

Robert had mentioned that he was unable to deposit Juanita’s $10 dues and Nancy transferred $35 for the Bob’s big boy’s certificate. It will be included in the March report.

Committee Report

Fundraising:

Joy mentioned that she has 1 more Carl’s Jr. Booklet left.

Sheila will send out an email regarding a conference call for discussions for any ideas for the Chapter’s fundraising.

Robert would like everyone to join in the conference call. This is all for you and so we could afford things such as grants for conventions, helping people with fishing license and other things to support our Chapter members. We need everyone’s ideas.

He also mentioned that Charlotte Carroll, President of the senior’s Division and a Pathfinder member, wanted to sell the World’s finest chocolate. They are looking for a Chapter to help them purchase 30 cases. Each cases is $60 and the Chapter will be purchasing it at $30. It has 60 candy bars in a box.

Sharon made a motion to purchase 15 boxes of the World’s Finest Chocolates, seconded by Betsy. The motion carries.

Sports and Activities

Racquel asked everyone about their fishing license,if it has been filled out yet. If not, please bring it soon. Filled out forms can be given to Racquel or Robert and they will forward it to the President of the Fishing club. She added that there was a conference meeting 2 weeks ago. Some of the suggestions were horseback riding, beer crawl. For workshops / seminars: Social Security, client’s Assist Program. Joe suggested the Red Cross.

For the Self-defense class, Racquel hoped that people who attended enjoyed it and thanked them for participating.

Washington seminar. Juanita and Robert shared their experience at the seminar. Their team had 11 appointments. One of the best parts was they had Site Access with AIRA through out the week.they were able to use AIRA Services to visit a couple of museums: Weekend Memorial and Reflection Pole.

Juanita will have the opportunity and was requested by her Congressman to have a video of “A Day of My Life”. A video of her riding a train to show people how taxpayer’s money is being used and are being beneficial.

With regards the HR620, both Robert and Juanita suggested to call the Capital Hills switchboard number 202-224-3121 and have you get connected with your Congressional member. And say that you are opposing HR620. This undermines the ADA, title 3 already sets and allows reasonable accommodations and equal access in the buildings.

Robert shared there were 4 more issues that they discussed such as AIM High Bill Accessible Instructional Materials in higher education. And HR1772 and S2138. There was also Accessible Affordable Tax Credits HR1634 and S734. The ratifying of the Mericash Treaty and the modifying of the copyright law were discussed too. Hoping that it will all take place within the next 6 months.

Lastly, AIRA will have Site Access at the CSUN convention at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego.

Robert added that Kelly from AIRA will be coming to discuss more about AIRA. Lunch will be on them at Johnny’s Pizza.

Last item for unfinished business is the California State Convention will be from October 25 to 28, 2018. At the same time, the Vision Walk will fall on Saturday October 27th in Santa Monica while the State convention will be at the Los Angeles Marriot Hotel. Sunday of the convention will have the elections. Robert will be the Chair of the Planning Committee.

Chapter Election.

Sheila nominated Robert for the position of president, seconded by..…..

NOTE: We didn’t hear who seconded the motion.

and the nomination carries.

Sharon nominated Joe for position of vice president, seconded by Jo Anne. Malik nominated Juanita for the position of vice President, seconded by Joy. And the nomination carries.

The winner was Juanita for the position of Vice President.

Sharon nominated Sheila for the position of Secretary seconded by Juanita. Anthony nominated Nancy but she declined and the nomination carries.

For the position of treasurer. Since Olga is not present for the nomination, Joy made a motion to move the election for Treasurer in March, seconded by Lynn. And the nomination carries.

Jaymee nominated Betsy for the position of Treasurer but cannot accept the position because she serves as Member-At-Large in the Pathfinder Chapter. Betsy nominated Racquel for the position of Treasurer. Juanita nominated malik. Sheila nominated Karen but declined due to work schedule.

The winner was Malik for the position of Treasurer.

Ron nominated Nebiyu for the position of board Member-At-Large, seconded by Jane and the nomination carries.

Raffle was $40. Winner Nebiyu won $20.

February birthday celebrant was Julian.

Jaymee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Julian.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Sincerely submitted by:

Sheila Biglang-awa, Secretary.