March 2018 NFB.SFV Chapter Minutes

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

Robert called everyone's attention to start learning the 1 minute message. It will be sent out on the list serve along with the pledges. The 1 minute message goes like this:

“The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want. Blindness is not what hold you back.”

In attendance: 26 members.

Sheila Biglang-awa, Nebiyu Dingetu, Racquel Decipeda, Jo Anne Seaman, Lynn Nishihara, Olga Tobias, Rochelle Yohai,, John Albarran, Nancy urquilla, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, Nick Guttinger, Joy Stigile, Betsy Estrada, Letty Martinez, Anthony Melina, Jane Suh, Mike Wyszynski, Karen Elo, Ron Hilliard, Malik M., Juanita Herrera, Robert Stigile, Candace with husband Steve Luther and Nicole Matheny.

Announcements:

Racquel wanted to invite everyone to the Karaoke Fundraising event for the Haarts for Sight on March 31 2018 at the Gardena Mousse. Address: 15509 South Vermont Avenue from 4 pm to 9 pm. There will be a $25 donation which includes food and soft beverage. If you are interested in joining the singing contest, there will be a pledge of $10 per song. You'll be judge base on 3 songs. Then on April 6 the HFS will have a biking event located in Long beach at the Pier that has 4, 6 or

8 seater bikes. There will be Captains that will lead the bike but you can still pedal. After that, they will proceed to the Yard house. Racquel will send flyer for the info.

Jo Anne will visit Tom Grimsley at his house.

 Jane announced that the Student Division is having the first Southern California Recruitment luncheon on April 28 Saturday from 12 pm to 4 pm.

\*Note: Jane mentioned that the event ends at 4 pm. But on the flyer, it ends at 3 pm.

 It’s open to all blind students and friends. No cost and its Hosted by the California Association of Blind STUDENTS. Shakey’s address is 935 West Arbor Vitae Street, Inglewood, CA 90301.

Nancy announced for those who are interested in learning on how to use Bookshare, the Braille Institute is going to have a Webinar. It’s a tutorial on how to use Book share. It will be on Wednesday March 14, 2018 at 2 pm and go to the Connection Point. More info will be sent out in the List serve.

Sheila thanked Jane for bringing the refreshment. Birthday announcement, we have 4 celebrants. They are Rouen Sison, Lisa Byrne, Portia Mason and Olga.

Robert inserted that pizza and cake will be served outside.

Betsy announced that the Pathfinder Chapter will have a casino trip on April 21, 2018 Saturday at the The Pauma Casino. There will be a $21 fee. Meet up point at the Pickup location is the Metro Green line station. She has the paper flyers for those who are interested.

Lynn announced that next Saturday the 24th is earth hour. Earth hour is something that celebrates the entire focus of the planet. It’s a way of saying that we're cautious that energy and its resources are limited. And that we have to take responsible of it. What we do is, for 1 hour between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm or any time at night, turn off all the lights. Not the entire electricity but just the no use of power within the hour. The main thing is to show that we do care about the planet. The Eiffel Tower has done it and even San Francisco turn off the lights to the Golden Gate Bridge. The main attractions has gotten into it in conserving energy and saving the planet.

Then she added that next month, April 14th will be the March for Science. She was thinking that maybe next year, we could have a booth at the March. They have booths for informational things especially with the NFB. NFB is supporting stem programs. That's the way how we let people know especially out in public that we might not have vision but we can be scientist and that we exist.

Joy announced an NFB event: Jazzy Fryday on March 16. Cost is $20 and you'll get dinner. Place is at the 2nd Baptist Church. Skits will be presented to show the proper way to address a blind person. Robert, Joy and Ever Lee Hairston will be one of the skit participants. Music will be played by a blind artist and a blind jazzy singer. Time 7 to 9 pm. Have Access arrive by 6:30 pm and pick up by 9:15 to 9:30 pm.

Secretary's report

Nancy corrected Anthony's last name is Melina and not Molina.

Sheila would like to add Rouen in the attendance for last month's meeting. He came in without any of us noticing it.

Robert added that Rouen had moved to Corona and has no way of getting from his place all the way to the meeting on a Saturday morning. Robert was able to hook him up with the Riverside San Bernardino Chapter.

Racquel made a motion to approve the minutes as read and corrected, seconded by Joy. The motion carries.

Treasury Report by Malik.

Beginning balance $5259.24

Deposit made $35 from Nancy for Bob's Big Boy's certificate.

$10 from Juanita for dues.

$10 from Mike for his dues.

$20 from the 50/50raffle.

Withdrawal of $50 for PAC plan.

Ending balance $5284.54

Committee Report.

Portia had mentioned in the fundraising conference call that she would like to propose her Amway promo deal for the Chapter but she's not present at the meeting.

World's Finest chocolates sale has started.

Nicole still has some Carl's Jr. Booklet and a luggage Locator for sale.

Olga had a suggestion to have a booth or a table in school events or church festivals and sell items especially the items that the Chapter has. She'll search around and asked for more information about dates and fees.

Sports and Activities.

Racquel mentioned that they're trying to decide for the financial planning and Social Security seminar whether it will be combined or if it will be scheduled 1 after the other. Our target for that is in May.

For activities, Racquel wants to do a horseback riding.

Joy added the Bob's Big Boy fundraising dinner. Will look into it for the month of May.

Racquel already found some local beer brewery. Ron was the one who gave her the info. He found 1 location in Marina Del Rey and found 3 more. Both he and Racquel will get more details for the beer crawl.

For the fishing trip, Racquel will schedule a date and for those who has their license can go and for those who doesn't have it yet won’t be able to join.

Best in Tech targeted date is November 17, 2018, and secondary date November 10. Robert is hoping to get a fixed date so he can inform vendors at the CSUN convention.

National Convention is July 3rd through the 8th at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Florida. The banquet will be on the 8th Sunday till almost midnight. He suggested to fly back home on Monday the 9th.

Airfares are between $325 and $385 round trip.

The Chapter board has met and wanted to see how many people are going and how many people are interested in receiving a grant.

For those who would like to receive grants, typically we require that you work a shift at the exhibit hall table for California. And that you attend the resolutions meeting and all of the general sessions and the banquet.

Robert would like to throw in a requirement that if we decided to give grants that at least for those who are receiving grants attend at least 1 division committee of their choice. What he would like to see for those who are receiving grants when we come back home is to send the board a write up of what meetings they have attended and what they have learned from it.

He also would like to suggest for those who are considering a grant that to go ahead and book your hotel reservations. Send him a copy of the reservation and he would give it to the board so they can see your seriousness of attending the convention. The board can meet between now and April to finalize grants. Deadline to submit on April 2, 2018.

Registration is $25 and the banquet is $60. Convention registration opened on March 1. Pre-registration is available until May 31. After May 31, those who are unable to pre-register have to do it in person and should pay cash. No card payments will be accepted at the registration table, cash or check only.

So, please send Robert your hotel reservations with your grant request. This would be the last year in Florida and next year's convention will be in West coast.

 He added that Jernigan raffle tickets will be out shortly. It will be sold $10 apiece and winner will get a paid trip to next year's convention. With an airline tickets for 2 and a $1000 cash. The next convention’s venue will be printed on the ticket.

Another Jernigan raffle ticket is $5 a piece. Winner receives $2500. Winner has to be present for that. The other $2500 that they get from that raffle goes to the Jernigan fund and it is use for people applying for grants that have never been in a convention before.

State Convention is from October 25 to 28, 2018 at LAX Marriot Hotel. The theme is: "Creating connections. Building bridges together."

There will be a Family Feud night again. For the Thursday evening, still trying to find something for people to do. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let Robert know. He was appointed to be the Chair of the Committee.

Lastly, he played the Presidential release.

Raffle $46. Winner is Lynn for $23.

Malik made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nebiyu.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila b.c.

Chapter Secretary

NFB.SFV

"Creating connections. Building bridges together."