July, 2018 Minutes

NFB of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Venue: Goldwater Community Center

Address: 21710 vanowen Street, Canoga Park CA.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. It started with introduction of the attendees.

In attendance:

Malik - Treasurer, State President Ever Lee Hairston, Joy Stigile, Nebiyu Dingetu - Board Member-At-Large, Peter Beltran - guest, Betsy Estrada, Ronald Hilliard, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, Nick guttinger, Jane Suh, Jo Anne Seaman, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Robert Stigile - Chapter President, Olga Tobias, **Bill** Grosjean, Candace and Steve Luther.

Total: 18 attendees.

 1 guests and 17 Chapter members.

Joy led the Pledge of Allegiance and NFB pledge.

Malik recited the 1 minute message of the Federation.

Announcements:

Julian requested everyone, since he’s in-charge of the 50/50 raffle, to please bring smaller bills in purchasing the tickets. No big bills, please. It would be easy to split the total amount if the cash on hand is broken down in smaller bills.

Jo Anne announced that Tom Grimsley was sent to the hospital due to pneumonia. Pplease keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Ever Lee invited everyone to a musical night of Ariana Woods, member of the Pathfinder Chapter. She will be performing, playing her harp and singing at the 2nd Baptist Church on July 20th, Friday. Tickets are $20 for the show and dinner. It will start at 7 pm. Just let Ever Lee know and so she can reserve for the group.

Secretary Report

Julian made a motion to approve the June minutes as submitted, seconded by Malik. Motion carries.

Treasury Report

Malik sent the June report to the list serve on July 12, Thursday. He read the following:

Beginning balance $3,125.46

Deposits made: $120 from Joe Otoole and Sharon Watson. $35 from Julian. $19 from the 50/50 raffle. $20 Robert’s donation. With a total of $194.

Withdrawal of $50 for the PAC plan.

Ending balance $3269.46.

Committee Report

Fundraising

Joy announced to have another Bob’s Big boy’s fundraising again on August 18 since there were a few who were coming to dinner that night at the Bob’s big boy in Burbank. But was hoping not to interfere with the Pathfinder’s summer barbecue fundraising. Betsy said that the Pathfinder will have it on the 25th. It was suggested by Robert and Jaymee to have the Bob’s Big boy fundraising in September. Stay tuned.

The 2018 National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Members who went were Robert, Joy, Ron, Joe, Sharon and Ever Lee. Robert informed to all the people who didn’t go that we all have a year to plan for the next National Convention. He excitedly announced that it will be at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, Nevada. From July 7th to the 12th, 2019. Room rates will be $99 per night. This is a prime time to go! So, let’s all plan it!

Him, Joy, Ever Lee and Ron had discussed and shared their great experiences and what brings them back to the convention.

With Ron, it was his 4th year attending. He said there’s so much to learn from the convention. One of his highlights are the all the different seminars and general sessions at the national and affiliate level. Another highlight is the resolutions, things that they are going to work on for the next year. Plus meeting a lot of people from the convention. It is a very entertaining and informative experience.

Robert interjected from a Saturday morning session which where they did the Financial Reports that the National Federation of the Blind took in $2.8M over the year. And what went out was $2.4M. He added that President Mark **Riccobono had made a comment at the end of the financial report and said: “We raise money to spend money”. That’s what we do in the organization as a whole, on the chapter level, the Affiliate level and the National level is to raise money so we can spend it on programs constant litigations and activities for all the members.**

**Joy spoke about the Diabetes Action Network. They had 3 guest speakers at their meeting. She excitedly spoke about the new device called** Dexcom G6 which is a Continuous Glucose Monitor. It will give her blood sugar reading every 5 minutes without ever pricking her fingers.

   **She also shared the fun part about the concert night which they had a singer named Apl. De. AP from the group called Black Eyed Peas. With the question, what keeps Joy going to the convention? She said, it gives her independence going places with the use of her cane.**

**With Ever lee, this is her 32nd year attending the convention. She proudly said that from the very moment that she gets there and to the moment she leaves, she feels like she’s always on fire. It is a reunion. She said that she** has a lot of responsibilities **but the reason why she keeps coming back is the freedom. She also values the importance of providing a service to others because providing service to others is a success!**

**Robert added that that’s what we do in the Federation, we help people who needs help.**

 **He also announced that VFO Freedom Scientific and AIRA are now partners. If you are a Freedom Scientific user of any product, whether it’s JAWS, a screen enlargement or any of their products and if you are an AIRA explorer, you can call an agent to read what’s on your computer screen if the software is acting up. They can read you what’s on your screen through your glasses or phone. Or they can log in to your computer through Team Viewer and they can help you with whatever you’re doing in the computer. If you tell the AIRA agent that you are using JAWS for Windows and you’re having difficulty, those minutes will be credited back to you. So, anytime you have an issue with JAWS or a VFO Freedom Scientific product, you can call an agent and let them know that you have difficulty with the product and needed assistance, those minutes will be credited. That’s the new partnership with AIRA and VFO!**

**AIRA also has an NFB plan that you, as an NFB member can switch plan which is a 140 minutes per month plus an additional of 60 minutes that you can use between your home and work. That’ll give a total of 200 minutes for $99.**

**Lastly, Robert shared his experience at the convention and it’s his 25th year attending. He read Kevin Worley of Colorado, a post on his Facebook that it was his 37 consecutive years. Robert’s experience since he started attending back in the early 90’s that it is empowering, energetic, and uplifting being with 2500 people. And that feeling will make you just find ways of getting back. It is amazing where people helping each other from the Security staff and the UPS volunteers. UPS workers got an award this year for helping out every year.**

**He encouraged everyone to listen to such a dynamic speech of President mark Riccobono that will be released in the Braille Monitor. The text version will be on the NFB website. Robert’s reason for continuously going back each year has empowered him each time. It just re-charges his battery, he added.**

**50/50 raffle $34. Bill** won $17.

 **The meeting ended at 11:00 am**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Sheila Marie B.C**

**Chapter Secretary and**

**Chair of Fundraising**

**C: 818-404-7646**

**NFB.SFV**

**“Creating connections. Building bridges together.”**