August, 2018 Chapter Meeting

NFB of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

Trivia question: When you go out independently, what would you put in your tool box or bag to take with you?

Nebiyu Dingetu led the Pledge of Allegiance and Nancy Urquilla led the NFB pledge.

In attendance: 25 members

Nebiyu - Board Member-At-Large, Olga Tobias, Rochelle Yohai, Julian Vargas, jaymee Castillo, Lynne Nishihara, John Albarran, Nancy, betsy Estrada, Matthew and Carrie Schreider, Letty Martinez, Anthony Melena, Portia Mason, Joy Stigile, Malik - Treasurer, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Jo Anne Seaman, Ron Hilliard, Karen Elo, Candace Luther, Sheila Biglang-awa - Secretary, Robert Stigile - President, Racquel Decipeda and Joe Otoole.

Announcements:

Jo Anne will visit Tom Grimsley and he’s doing ok.

Candace announced that the California Association of blind Students Fundraiser is having a reception on September 1st and they’re asking different Chapters to support their reception by donating $50 towards door prizes. Julian made a motion to donate $50 since it’s for a good cause. Seconded by Joy and the motion carries.

Racquel announced that the Hearts for Sight is going to do another bike ride at the Long Beach area. It will be on the 3rd Saturday of September, on the 15th. From 9 am till 12 noon. They can only accommodate between 12 and 15 people. First come first serve. there will be a $10 donation. The information for the restaurant for the lunch after the bike ride will be discussed later and will inform everyone. For those who are interested, please contact her. Details will be sent out on the list serve.

 Sheila announced the 7 birthday celebrants for August: Art Melworm - supporting member, Betsy, Laura Nunez, John, Anthony, Racquel and Nick Guttinger.

 Betsy reminded everyone about the Pathfinder’s annual end-summer barbecue party on august 25th. Donations is $15. They will have a raffle, 1 ticket for $5 and/or 6 tickets for $20. The prize will be a 2 hour ride on a yacht. It can load 6 people. If you win, you coordinate the date or time you’re available to the Captain. There will be other raffles and auction, too. So, you don’t want to miss this! For those interested, please get in touch with Rochelle Houston.

Robert added that Tim Elder will be running for the State President and will be there at the Pathfinder’s barbecue picnic. Tim wants to hear from people what you’d like to see going forward with the Board, with the affiliate in general. Any ideas and/or suggestions that you might have, he wants to hear it from you. So, if you’re planning to go to the picnic, this would be the chance to meet him in person and a chance to talk to him.

Robert announced that he has the following items from CAGDU: Carl’s Jr. Booklet for sale, raffle tickets for sale for 1 for $5 and 5 tickets for $20 with prizes of $100 each gift card for Amazon, Target and Starbucks. It will be drawn at the State convention at the banquet. The winner does not need to be present.

He has also the At-Large Chapter raffle tickets for sale for 1 ticket for $5 and 5 tickets for $20. The winner will receive, either a $50 Uber or Lift gift card. You don’t need to be present. The drawing will be also at the State Convention at the banquet.

To purchase tickets, please see Robert.

Joy mentioned the See’s candy for sale. Price is $2 per bar. Please see her if you would like to buy some.

Secretary Report.

Julian made a motion for the July minutes as submitted. Seconded by Juanita and the motion carries.

Treasury Report.

Malik read the report as follows:

Beginning balance: $3269.46.

Deposits made: $195 from Bob’s Big Boy certificates. And there were some more deposits made amounted to $190 which he has the note for the breakdown but he didn’t have it with him.

Withdrawal of $50 for PAC plan.

Ending balance: $3854.46.

Robert asked about the amount for the first deposit. Malik corrected that it was actually $395 from Bob’s Big Boy certificate and not $195.

Committee Report.

Fundraising.

Sheila announced that we have Candace and Olga that would like to joined the Fundraising committee to help in creating, planning ideas for the Chapter.

 Candace and Sheila would join together to do fundraisers to support and help both Chapters: CABS and the San Fernando Valley.

Joy would like to have another Bob’s big boy fundraising and she was suggesting a date for September 1st which is the Labor Day weekend. She will set some other dates and the info will be put out on the list serve. We can only use the certificates at the Burbank location because the Northridge one was sold to a different owner.

Sports and Activities: no report for this month.

Robert had made a change of chairs and asked Juanita to chair the Sports and Activities committee from now on. Racquel would still help out if Juanita would need anything or have some questions.

The Holiday Party.

Robert had asked Joy to look into some information about a restaurant. What she has on her list is the Ernie’s Mexican restaurant where we had our Holiday Party last year. Since we had an excellent service, good people and with plenty of space, she would like to do it there again. She is also looking into the December calendar and the dates that she would like to suggest are either December 1st or the 15th. Joy suggested for an open discussion about it. Everyone voted and agreed to have it on December 15, 2018.

Adopt A Student.

Robert asked Lynne to be the Chair of this committee. He would also like to remind everyone whether it’s called “Adopt a child” or “Adopt a Student”, to know the main reason. And the very reason why we started is because we which is all of us in the Chapter felt that we had more than enough of things and we want to give back in some way. Instead of bringing and giving each other gifts at the Holiday Party, we’d rather would like to give back and find someone to adopt for the holiday. In this way, we could give them not only presents but also give the knowledge and information of the National Federation of the Blind to the child and the family. This is how the program started and would like everyone to know that that was the purpose and the intent of this program. Racquel was the one who suggested that project. She added that since there are already a lot of scholarship type of opportunities within the NFB or any other organization, so we thought that “Adopt Child” is just giving out to a family. A family who is not as privileged as we all have been and/or as we are. So, we want to share it. Plus, this is a way to let the family know that there is a future and an opportunity for their child. And that is, making them aware of the NFB. So, Racquel highly suggested and made a comment that she would like to change the name and bring it back to the original which is the “Adopt a Child”. This led to an open discussion. Almost everyone had shared their input, opinion and thoughts.

Racquel made a motion that we go back and stick to what we originally started Whatever you may call it, “Adopt a student or a child”, as long as the concept of the project was created for K to 12 will stay the same. Seconded by Rochelle. The motion was carried with majority says yes and 1 oppose. So, Robert asked racquel and Rochelle if they would be opposed in amending the motion to approve of the page 26. Both would stay with their motion. Robert declared therefore that the motion is standing and is not being amended. Since the motion had passed, Lynne will still serve as a Chair.

Best in Tech.

racquel announced the following information: date will be on November 17, 2018. This will be the 10th year. It will be at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles. The time will be from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. there will be break out sessions and workshops in the morning. Presentations will be from 11 am to 1 pm. You can visit the vendors from 1 to 3:30 pm or if you are not attending any of the workshops, you can do it as soon as they are set up. Lunch will be provided to those who will register. It was suggested to register in advance.

She added that they will recruit more volunteers. And for the members who would like to help especially on the day of, to know that there will be an orientation a day or 2 before the event. This orientation will be coordinated with and for both ours and the Braille Institute volunteers. She asked if anyone knows vendors that might have interest to be a sponsor, to let her know. The sponsorship information is as follows: 1. Gold sponsorship is $1000. This will give them a 15 minute talk in the workshop. Have their logo on all of our promotional materials. A 5 minute speaking time at the podium. 2 Large group sponsor is $550. 3. The Small Group sponsor is $350. The person in charge in recruiting and inviting companies or organizations is Malik. Please coordinate with him if you have vendors that would like to join. Registration for vendors is already up on the website.

Robert would like to save a Platinum sponsor slot for the Braille Institute because they are giving us the facility for the day for free.

Since it’s our 10th year, Raquel was thinking and would like to ask everyone if we should do something special? It can be discussed later or contact her for any ideas.

The following members came forth to volunteer: Betsy for the giveaways. Sheila for the video coverage or filming of the event. Joe for seeking sponsorship for donated item for the grand raffle prize.

State convention.

Robert reminded everyone to attend the convention. Date will be from October 25 to 28. It will be at the L.A. Marriott Airport. Hotel room rates are $129 per night plus tax. He would like to emphasize to not call the hotel for reservations. There’s a phone number on the President’s Notebook that Joy put out this month. You need to call that number for your hotel reservations. If you call the hotel directly, you might be charged the regular rate and you will not get the discounted one.

Registration is now open. The fee is $150 for the entire weekend. It includes the following: full breakfast on Friday & Saturday, continental breakfast on Sunday, and the banquet on Saturday night. Plus, Friday night functions which is going to be a North versus South NFB Feud game, Karaoke and dance night. So stay tuned for more details. He emphasized that if you are only going for the banquet that will be a $60 fee. Or if you decide to just come on Friday, there will be another fee for that. The committee is still working on different fees but they prefer that you would come for the whole weekend which will make you save more if you pay the $150.

He added, that if you are a student this year, the scholarship application is up on the website. The affiliate still has items for sale from the National convention which is the luggage wraps and See’s Candies.

Theme will be: “Creating connections. Building bridges together”.

Robert mentioned a couple of things from the Presidential release. First, President Mark Ricobono talked about the ADR conference which was held in Reno, Nevada. The ADR had overseen different entities that are certified to provide services for the blind and visually impaired people which includes services from the Department of Rehab and those O&M training and so forth. A long time ago, we’ve had lots of different protest back in the early 70’s to get ADR to go away and to have no more NAC which is the National Accreditation Council. The protest was to disagree if they’re going to exist, we want them to include blind people in the process from the beginning. But what they have done in the past was that they have said that this is what blind people need and that the sighted people will be making the decisions. Not sure how things are going to end up with that, so stay tuned on what’s going to happen next. Secondly, and it was out on the list serve on the national level. The National Federation of the Blind partnered with Rice Krispies. The parents of blind children can have an audio and braille note. It is a great way as President Ricobono had said, to get the message out to children and other entities in the public sectors. It’s a great way to invite them to be involve with the NFB.

Sheila inserted the information about the basket for the State convention. Olga and her will be coordinating and be in-charge. If you have any items, please give it to them. Olga will be the one crating the basket. The theme is movie night. More information will be sent out in the list serve.

Lastly, Julian made a motion to bring back Portia and Matthew as members. Seconded by Juanita.

Julian amended the motion to revote Matthew and Portia as members and Carrie as a new member.

50/50 raffle $48. Winner is Lynne and got $24.

Julian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron. Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Marie B.C.

C: 818-404-7646

Secretary an

Chair of fundraising committee

NFB.SFV

Theme: Making connections. Building bridges together.