September Chapter Meeting

NFB of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10 am. Started with the Pledge of Allegiance and the NFB pledge.

Trivia question: what quality or personality do you think you have that best suits you?

In attendance: 23 members.

Malik - Treasurer, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Rochelle Yohai, Joy Stigile, Nick Guttinger, Julian Vargas, Jaymee Castillo, Joe Otoole, Sharon Watson, Jane Suh, Nancy Urquilla, John Albarran, Anthony Melena, Leticia Martinez, Ron Hilliard, Lynne Nishihara, Olga Tobias, Candace Luther, Steven Lee, Sheila Biglang-awa - Secretary, Nebiyu Dingetu - Member-At-Large, Robert Stigile - President and Jo Anne Seaman.

Announcements:

Sheila announced the September birthday celebrants and they are: Jane, Leticia and Sharon. Each will get a Bask N Robins gift card.

She went ahead and discussed a joint Fundraising event which was planned by her and Candace of the California Association of Blind Students. It will be at the Chick Filet and it’s called the Spirit Night. Dates and locations will be discussed and info will be sent out later.

She quickly discussed the items for the State Basket. Olga will be in-charge of it. Braille and large print will be available for the items. An updated list will be sent out.

Nancy announced the emergency preparedness event that will take place on Friday, September 21st, 2018 from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at her workplace, the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC.). The address is 12901 Venice Blvd.,

Los Angeles, CA, 90066. Cross Street is Beethoven Street.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact her. A flyer will be sent out on our list serve.

Robert needs everyone’s help and would love to have everyone to be present and to dress formal like business casual on October 12th Friday, at 9:30 am at the Richard H. Chambers US Court of Appeals Court Room 3. This information will be put out on the list serve. Address is 125 South Grand Avenue in Pasadena. This is a court case: Robles verses Domino’s Pizza. The plaintiff’s council will argue for 15 minutes regarding the need for accessibility in the business’s website and mobile app. . . . Everyone’s invited to join in and show your support for full and equal access of the company’s sites. This information will be put out on the list serve.

Secretary Report

Julian made a motion to approve the Secretary report for August minutes. Seconded by malik and the motion carries.

Treasury Report for August.

Sheila made a suggestion if it’s possible that the amount of money and the person who gave the money, to have a description or label on what it is for. Joe and Juanita had a question and would like to understand on what the numbers were about at the bottom of the report. Robert explained that he wanted to separate the money that comes in from Best in Tech, it’s an addition to. It’s the money being deposited from the vendor’s fees.

Robert reminded everyone that starting next month October, is our annual dues of $10. Malik will create a spreadsheet for tracking purposes.

Committee Report.

Fundraising.

Bob’s big boy on September 15, Saturday at 5 pm at 4211 West Riverside Drive in Burbank. Please see Joy after the meeting for certificates.

Sports and Activities.

Juanita would like to appreciate those members who participated and joined the conference call last Wednesday, August 29th. What they would like to do is to pretty much coordinate with the Fundraising committee and not have 2 events one after the other because it would be too much money to spend for us members. They have decided to do 1 sports and/or activity per month. It will be a low cost event or even for free. First event that was planned to have a potluck picnic. They’re looking into different places and if anyone has any idea regarding a place if you can share the info. Next items are the following the: the first one is going to a movie and use the audio description with the use of AIRA. Next item is going to a horse race track with a small fee for the entrance ticket. More ideas were suggested such as going to a comedy club, beer pong and horseback riding. Seminars and/or workshops will be planned and added like the Social Security. Joe suggested to have an earthquake preparedness. So, Juanita would like to ask anyone to share if you have any ideas.

Last month, the California Association of Blind Student received $50 from our Chapter for their reception. Candace shared that it was a whole lot better than they were expected. They had 6 new members. Total attendees were 19. The $50 from the San Fernando Valley Chapter was used to buy a gift card. For next year, they were thinking of having it in Sacramento. Robert suggested to coordinate with the River City Chapter for venue.

Holiday Party

Joy announced that the venue will be at the Ernie’s Mexican Restaurant on December 15, Saturday at 5 pm. Price is approximately $35.50 per meal including tax and tip. Choices of meals will be sent out on the list serve.

Adopt A Student.

Lynne discussed that the first meeting was not open to everybody because it was just basically proofreading and just updating information like change of year and etc. However, the committee needs your help now. They have started by creating a form to be filled out. They split up the list of schools to check from elementary, middle school and high school. Joe and Sharon will handle high school and private school. Lynne has the middle school list. She also asked if anyone knows people or individuals that can help with the assistive technology for K to 12 that you know and that you can reach out to them that will be awesome!

Best in Tech

It will be on November 17, Saturday. Humanware and VFO are vendors. The gold sponsors are: 1. Humanware, 2. Iree, 3. at kratter and will be having an Orcham workshop. 4. Sweetman systems and 5. Braille Institute will be definitely a gold sponsor, too.

Juanita added that the first 300 people to arrive and sign in and as soon as they register they will receive a party bag with little items such as 20/20 pen, signature guide and some brochures from the gold sponsors. The Chapter will provide sandwiches for free for the people who would register but the money is coming out from the funds that we get from all of the vendors. Lastly, Robert squeezed in a confirmation that the person who would do the video coverage is confirmed. And that he will be at the next Chapter meeting to meet and get to familiarize with the faces that he will see at the location. More info will be sent out by me on the list serve.

Jaymee volunteered to create a channel and do an account for the Chapter and upload the video once it’s done. On the other hand, she would like to suggest a Social Media Committee. Robert then, made her the Chair for this new committee. He said that the Chapter has, aside from Facebook, we have a Twitter account. Instagram and Youtube account will be added.

State Convention.

The Chapter is providing grants. The requirement will be is to register for everything and go to everything. The grants will be covering the registration fee. There are 15 or 20 vendors at the moment. What the vendors are concern about is when we have other meetings going on at the same time with the vendors in the exhibit hall, no one comes to the vendors because people are in the meetings. So this year, there’s absolutely no meetings from 9 am to 4 pm on Friday.

The Divisions meetings will be as follows: Friday morning will have 2 breakfast meeting for CAGDU and for the Seniors Division. On Saturday morning, 2 breakfasts for Students Division and the Diabetes Action Network Division which both are sit-down breakfast and meeting.

The Scholarship application for students is available on our website. The deadline to submit is on September 15, Saturday. The scholarship will be given out to qualified students at the Banquet.

There will be a bus that will be coming from the Northern California. The deadline for the hotel is October 4th.Deadline for requesting grants is on September 30. There’s no deadline for the registration. It will keep on going till the convention. All of the officers and 3 board members are up for election. Tim elder, a member of board of directors will be running for President because Ever Lee Hairston is stepping down and will not be running. Your voice, your vote will make that change.

Robert would like to mention the big item of the Presidential release for this month and that is about the ride-share program that the NFB has been engaged with. The NFB sued Uber and from that settlement, the ride-share program that when you’re with someone or you’re traveling with a guide dog, there is a form on the website to fill out for the rides or drivers that will not take you. What they mentioned on the Presidential release that Lift has pretty much been following what they’re suppose to from the settlement. Lift informs the drivers that they need to take people with service animals. They remove drivers when they find out when they deny passengers with service animals. Uber on the other hand, is not following through with what they’re supposed to do. Often times when the NFB attorneys or attorneys that work with the NFB contact them, they get no response in return. So, President Mark **Riccobono stated that the NFB is going back to court with Uber. It would be helpful if you save those cancelled trips because it might be needed if they go back to court. You can get the forms at the NFB.orgforward/rideshre.**

**Joy interjected and had forgotten to mention that on Thursday night of the State convention that there will be a Hospitality Suite and she will be the one overseeing it. She was wondering if the Chapter would donate cash for the food. Joy made a motion for the Chapter to donate $100 for purchasing food for the Hospitality Suite, seconded by Juanita. Juanita suggested to make it $200. So, Joy withdrew her original motion and would like to make a new motion of our Chapter to donate $200 to purchase hors d’oeuvres for the Hospitality Suite. Seconded by malik and the motion carries.**

She mentioned about the collecting tabs from the aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House. She would like everyone to bring at least 10 to 40 pull tabs on the October meeting or at the State convention. We will get a Ronald McDonald certificate. Another thing that she added for those individuals who have broken canes, to bring it at the State Convention. You’ll turn it in and you will get a raffle ticket and win a gift from the cane company.

Lastly, Robert reminded everyone to come early at our Chapter meetings so we can all be done early.

$27 for the 50/50 raffle. Ron won $13 and $14 goes to the Chapter.

Julian made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by ron. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by;

Sheila marie B.C Secretary

And Chair of Fundraising Committee.

C: 818-404-7646.

Theme: creating connections. Building bridges together.”