October Meeting 2018

NFB of California, San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am. Started with the Pledge of Allegiance and the NFB pledge.

In attendance: 23 in total.

3 guests and 20 members.

Malik - Treasurer, Ronnie Rios - guest, Betsy Estrada, Lynne Nishihara, Nancy Urquilla, John Albarran, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, Rochelle Yohai, Matthew and Carie Schrieber, Katherine Bliss - guest, Candace Luther, Ronald Hilliard, Portia Mason, Joy Stigile, Manjot Singh - guest, Racquel Decipeda, Olga Tobias, Sheila biglang-awa - Secretary, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Robert Stigile - President and Nebiyu Dingetu - board Member At Large.

Announcements:

Lynn discussed the court case about robles versus dominos Pizza that was held at the Richard H. Chambers US Court of Appeals in Pasadena last October 12th. It was a case against the company’s website and mobile apps. She would like to suggest if anyone can visit the website and if you encounter a problem, to write a review or post a comment on its social media. This would possibly make a way in rolling up a problem that could be used as an argument in favor of the Robles case. This led to an open discussion with other members.

Jaymee thanked the people who attended Leticia Martinez’s baby shower.

Malik reminded everyone about the membership dues.

Betsy announced the Pathfinder’s raffle for the boat cruise. She has the tickets if anyone would like to purchase. Its 1 ticket for $5 and 5 tickets for $20. It’s a 2 hour boat ride in Long Beach and can fit 6 people. Drawing will be at the State convention. She also added that the Pathfinder has 2 more raffle drawings for an Alexa and a $50. Ticket prices are the same. See her after the meeting. So they’re doing 3 raffles for their Chapter.

Betsy announced that she and Ronnie are engaged.

Sheila found out that Malik is the October birthday celebrant.

Robert announced that he is going deep-sea fishing at 4 am on November 10th. So he asked everyone if we would like to move the date for our Chapter meeting. Joy made a motion to move the meeting on November 3rd, Saturday. Seconded by Rochelle and the motion carries.

Secretary Report

Julian made a motion to approve the September minutes as sent, seconded by jaymee. The motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

The report was sent in the list serve on October 11, Thursday. Malik read the September Treasury report.

For the beginning balance $3,834.47.

Deposits made in the amount of $390 from Bob’s Big Boy fundraising. $14 from the 50/50 raffle.

Withdrawal for PAC plan of $50.

Ending balance for the Checking account is $4,134.47.

Savings Account (Best in Tech) with the following amount:

$970.70 from Sweetmansystems

$970.70 from AT Kratter and Orcam

$970.70 from Humanware.

$533.72 from VFO

A total of $2,912.10

Committee Report

Fundraising.

Sheila opened a discussion for any suggestion whether or not we’re going to have a fundraising event since we only have 2 months left for the year. And November and December are a busy months for everyone due to the holidays. There’s one item on the list for a fundraising with Chipotle in Northridge and/or Granada Hills. Juanita made a motion that we plan the next fundraising event for the same day as our Chapter meeting on November 3rd, if it’s possible from 1 to 5 pm. Seconded by Jaymee and the motion carries.

Robert gave an information that the Fire House Subs does a lot of fundraising located either in Sherman Oaks or Studio City. We’ll have added on the list for next year.

Juanita suggested to have a raffle at the State convention as a fundraiser for our Chapter. She’ll look into getting a gift card to be drawn at the convention.

Sports and Activities

Juanita had talked about having a picnic for this month but the weather had changed. The only weekend that might be open is next Saturday, October 20. She asked if anyone is interested in doing that. All parks that she had inquired that if we have a large group of people and in need of tables, a requirement of a minimum of $100 is needed for deposit.

She was also thinking of doing a resource fair. There has been a lot of technology conventions and conferences but there has never been any fairs where in people can get information about services available to the blind. She would like to ask if anyone would like to help to put up a resource fair that could be also be one of our seminar / workshops event. Nancy volunteered to help. Juanita was planning to have it next year in April or May.

Nancy also added that an NFB table can be presented at one of the DCRC events next year. Normally, it will be a $20 per booth for donation.

Holiday Party

It’s still set for December 15, Saturday from 5 to 9 pm. Menu is the same as last year but Joy will send the detailed meals through email in the list serve. For the cost, you will receive appetizers, a main dish and a soft beverage. If you want to order cocktails, that would be an extra pay. The approximate cost for the dinner will be $33.50. Kid’s meal is $6.95 plus tax and tip.

Adopt A Child / Student.

Lynne already got an application and will be expecting more next week. At least they have 1 guaranteed, a 14 year old boy.

Best in Tech

Raquel announced that we have 5 workshops: humanware, Sweetmansystems, Orcam with AT Kratter, Braille Institute and IRIE-AT. She would like to have 1 more workshop to make it even. We need more vendors as well. Additional vendors are the Marquez products and Vispero former VFO. Then she added, for those who would like to volunteer for that day to please contact her. They will have an orientation day and they need to have it coordinated with the Braille Institute. Volunteers are needed for the registration table, escorting people from 1 workshop to the other, passing out lunch boxes and etc. Please contact her directly so she can figure out where to assign you. Lunch will be provided from Subway.

Robert received an anonymous company donor that would like to donate 2 items to be raffled for Best in Tech. First item is an ipad 512 gb wifi/cellular including 2 year AppleCare and 2nd item is an Apple Airpods worth $160. That would be for 1st place and 2nd place winners.

Racquel added that she has 2 confirmed speakers Julian and Keith Christian. Joy volunteered to speak about her continuous glucose monitor. She has the sensor attached to her abdomen and an app on her iphone that tells her blood sugar. It’s only for type 1 diabetic people. It cost $983 every 3 months.

Robert and Juanita are thinking of participating to be as speakers as well.

State convention

October 25 to 28 at the LAX Marriot Hotel. Pre-registration is still on. There are 2 packages. One is for $150 for everything including breakfasts, all the activities and banquet. The 2nd package is a $105 all included except for the breakfasts. There will be other options available at the door if you wish to come at a certain day. There are 7 people that we are giving grants to and they are Joe Otoole and Sharon Watson, Malik, Juanita, Ron, Betsy and Candace.

We have door prizes at the convention and Robert is wondering if our Chapter could give money towards it. Joy made a motion for the Chapter to give a donation for the State convention’s door prizes for the amount of $150, seconded by Malik and the motion carries.

Robert also added about the contribution for the State Office. He would like everyone to know that the State Affiliate has provided the insurance for us to have the Best in Tech. We have to do this for this event at braille Institute because they are requiring us to have an insurance policy. It is a million dollar coverage. It cost the affiliate to pay $200 but we are not required to pay for it. This is beneficial for the membership to know that the affiliate is paying for the coverage and support programs that the Chapters do. With that, Robert would like to consider giving money to the affiliates. Joy made a motion to have a check in hand for $1,000 to donate for the State Affiliate. Seconded by Malik and the motion carries.

Lastly, Olga gave an update for our Movie Night basket. She read the updated list that was sent out last October 5th on the list serve. Ron donated 1 liter bottle of Coke.

Robert announced the Presidential release. One topic was when President mark Riccobono last month forgot to mentioned the San Fernando Valley Chapter for the California list of contributors of the PAC plan. So, this month, we were mentioned in the Presidential release for being one of the contributors of the PAC plan. As he calls it the West Los Angeles Chapter which was called back in the 70’s. Now, it’s called the Pathfinder Chapter. But for this month, we were mentioned as a San Fernando Valley Chapter. The second item on the Presidential release is about the Mericash Treaty. It’s a books across borders. Meaning, if it’s pass, we can share audio books from NLS or braille books from one country to another. This is important especially for students. So the Senate back in September ratified the Treaty. And that meant that a bill which is the S2559 had to go back to the Congress to be updated because as its current form, the copyright law didn’t allow the Mericash Treaty. As 2559, this would change all the copyright laws so it wouldn’t cause issues with the Mericash Treaty. This was approved by the Congress. Then the Mericash Treaty was sent to the President to sign just the other day. As of yesterday, President Donald Trump has signed and it is now in effect.

The Washington Seminar

This is a program of the National Federation of the Blind which takes place on the last week of January. It’s kick of f every year of our legislation, and sometimes they take 3 or 4 bills that are issues to Congress to work onto get pass during the year.

In California, there is a system where in you can fill up an application and apply to be selected to represent California in Washington DC. That form is up on the website: nfbcal.org. If you’re interested in going, you would need to fill up an application.

If you’re interested in seeing how things work in a Congressional side, Robert expressed that it is really rewarding that’s why he loved to go each time. For more information, please contact him.

Julian made a motion to accept Katherine and Ronnie as new members, seconded by Racquel and the motion carries.

50/50 raffle for $29. Rochelle won $14.50.

Racquel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Juanita. The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

C: 818.404.7646

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising committee