November Chapter 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. Recited the 1 minute NFB message.

Question of the month: What’s your favorite Holiday song?

In attendance: 21 members

SheilaBiglang-awa - Secretary, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Racquel Decipeda, Portia Mason, Joy Stigile, Julian Vargas, Jaymee Castillo, Joe Otoole, Jane Suh, Betsy Estrada, John Albarran, Nancy Urquilla, Rochelle Yohai, Candace Luther, Katherine Bliss, Karen Elo, Ronald Hilliard, Nebiyu Dingetu - Member-At-Large, Malik - Treasurer, Robert Stigile - President and Olga Tobias.

Announcements:

Joy mentioned John and Nancy’s wedding. No details yet.

Juanita announced Anthony Melena and Leticia Martinez’s baby was born October 24th. They named her Victoria Michelle.

Olga announced that her eldest daughter gave birth to a baby boy and her first grandson.

Secretary’s Report

Jaymee made a motion to accept the October minutes as sent, seconded by Joy. The motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

Malik read the following for October’s transactions:

Beginning balance: $4,134.47

Deposits:

Dues from the following members: Robert and Joy $20, Terry Almy $10, Candace $10, Kathereine $10, Ronnie and Betsy $20, John and Nancy $20, Malik $10, Julian and Jaymee $20 and Juanita $10.

50/50 $14.50

Withdrawal:

PAC plan $50

$1400 for the State Convention with a breakdown of the following:

7 grants of $150 each = $1050

 6 door prizes of $25 each = $150

And $200 for the Meet and greet.

$1000 for the Affiliate.

Savings Account for Best in Tech

Deposit

$339.55 from Iris Vision

Ending balance for November: $1868.97

Committee Report

Fundraising

Sheila mentioned that she sent an email regarding the final fundraising of the year. Stay tuned for the Chipotle for next year. Need to talk to Juanita to put everything in calendar for the fundraising and for the Sports & Activities.

Introduced Portia for the Holiday package from AMWAY. Any sales that will be accumulated for today, a portion between 10% and 25% will be donated to the Chapter. If you buy a gift for your family, the item will be shipped directly to them. Her website is amway.com/portia mason if your interested to purchase in the future. Orders will be taken after the meeting. So, please approach her.

Robert suggested to have a fundraising conference call before the January meeting. We’ll have the conference call to work on and/or come up with suggestions for the year. He would like to see us do a bunch of fundraisers to support next year’s State and National conventions. He emphasized that he would love to see everyone go to the first National Convention ever in Las Vegas. It will be great if the Chapter could help out in some way for the people who would like to go. If that’s going to happen, we need to do some fundraisers.

Sports and Activities

Juanita and Sheila talked about going shopping for the Holiday. So, if people are interested getting their Holiday shopping done and would like to go as a group, please let her know. It would be fun if we would help out each other especially for those who have AIRA can partner up with a couple of people. We’ll have designated groups who would like to go to certain stores. For now, there are 2 suggested places: the Galleria Mall in Glendale or Northridge Mall. There will be a designated meeting place. We’ll have lunch together at the food court. Targeted date is on December 1st, Saturday. Details such as time will be put out on the list serve. Please RSVP and put the desired stores that you would like to go on the email.

Best in Tech

Racquel started with a list of the vendors. There were additional vendors: Iris Vision and Eye-Tech Low Vision. We have a total of 9 companies. She checked this morning that there were 168 registered people. For those who were at the meeting and have not registered yet, please register because they are trying to get the majority of the registration in by Wednesday which is 2 days before the event. This would help us for the food count. Joy will be reserving the box lunches from Subway sandwiches.

Racquel also added that the Sweetmansystem’s workshop is almost full. It had 80 counts so she has to re-open it and put it a 120 capacity. 2nd to the highest workshop of attendees is the Braille Institute. There’s one vendor that does not have a lot of people registering so she was requesting everyone to help out in promoting this company called Humanware. We want to support the Gold sponsors and Humanware is one of them and has been there since the beginning to support Best in Tech.

For this year, she noticed that we don’t have a lot of door prizes and she’s aware that the AIRSLA is giving some gift cards Racquel asked Robert if our Chapter will be donating some door prizes? So, Robert suggested if we can donate same door prices just like last year’s Ube and Lift gift cards. Joy made a motion that the Chapter donate 4 Uber gift cards and 4 Lift gift cards in the amount of $25 each. Seconded by Jaymee and the motion carries.

Marquez products, Sweetmansystems, IRIE and AT Kratter are donating door prizes as well. The place for the registration will be in between the Main building and the Wynegard. Racquell continued that there are some people expressed interest in volunteering. She will send an email to those who are interested to volunteer.

racquel asked Julian to explain briefly about the requirements on what to do if you are interested to be speakers for the event. The topic for the speakers will be about a device that you would recommend to use.

Racquel gave a breakdown of the schedules. Event starts at 8:30 am. First workshop at 8:30 to 9:30 with Sweetman and Humanware. At 9:45 to 10:45, there will be 3 workshops from Braille Institute, IRIE and AT Kratter. 11 am to 1 pm at the Main Room for the main presenters from the speakers. Then from 1 pm to 3:30 pm open to visit all the vendors and thanking them for continuous support and sponsoring the event.

Subway lunch boxes will be arranged according to color. As you check in upon registering, they will hand you a badge with different colors that will correspond to the food choice that you made. Choices are either turkey, tuna or veggie sandwich.

Last item, Juanita discussed about the tickets for the raffle. Prizes will be iPad 512 GB wife/cellular including 2 year AppleCare and 2nd item is an Apple Air pods worth $160. She would like to encourage everyone to take a portion to sell or at least help support the Chapter by buying tickets. It’s a $5 each or $20 for 5 tickets. If you want to sell tickets, please approach her after the meeting.

Adopt a Student.

In behalf of Lynne Nishihara, Joe shared the info about their committee which consist of Lynne, himself, Sharon, Racquel, Robert and Joy. They put a lot of work in reaching out to different organizations. They ended up having 3 individuals applied. The committee chose Saul Valdez, a freshman at Rancho High school. 14 years old and totally blind. He’s a part of the Academy Music for the Blind. He loves music, singing and dancing. He has an 8 year old brother name Omar. Nancy would like to volunteer translate to the message about the chapter and what we do to the parents so they will understand who we are. the family is invited to our Holiday Party and the Chapter will cover the cost for the dinner. Watch out for the list serve for more information not only for the restaurant’s menu but also for the gift ideas for the kids.

State Convention

Robert opened the discussion first about how he wished that more of the members have been at the convention. Maybe for next year when we have it in Northern California, a bus will be provided so everybody can go. 2 things that he wanted to mention. First is our basket was bided on and sold but didn’t go as how much as he thought that what it could probably had gone for. He wanted to point something out so we can do it better for next year. It’s just a minor thing which is when the person who was reading the list, didn’t read the other side of the list. So, they only said the first page of the items. So, people didn’t know that there were movie tickets and Uber gift card. If there are 2 pages, we need to staple them together. Julian suggested if a representative of our Chapter would read the item list of our basket. Juanita agreed with him and she added that there were a lot of people bided on Karen Steele's basket because she was explaining more on what’s in it and she was the one in-charge of handling all the baskets.

The next item he discussed was about the elections that happened on Sunday. He was re-elected to his position. And just in case anyone didn’t know, Juanita’s name was put in the nominating committee and was elected to our State Board. Michael Richardson was also elected to the Board along with Matthew gibb who’s the President of the Student’s Division and Paul Howard was also elected to the Board. Tim Elders is our new State President. Robert felt that this will be a good Board for the State Committee. With our new State President, he is very open to any ideas. You can email him for your suggestions at president@nrbcal.org.

Washington Seminar

It will be on January 28 to the 31st, 2019.If anyone is interested, you would need to apply. The State Board will make a decision after the deadline which will be on the 10th of January. Go to our website nfb.org and clicked the link for the Washington seminar 2019 to apply. If you need assistance, please see Robert.

50/50 raffle $44. Joe won $22.

Julian made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Juanita. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Marie B.C.

C: 818.404.7646

Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee

NFB of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter