San Fernando Valley Chapter

February 9, 2019

Minutes:

Think about: What your favorite winter drink is.

Nibbyu led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NFB pledge and 1 minute message was led by Juanita.

Someone different needs to learn the one minute message, and lead us in it

Candace Luther will lead in the NFB Pledge and 1 minute message in March.

Ron will lead in April.

Julian put some thought about the pledge. He thought about why he was having trouble remembering the pledge.

1. It does not exactly rule out the tone.

2. He felt that the way it is written, there is no connection as well.

If we are going to do this as a part of the chapter meeting, it should be written slightly different. Robert said that we could give feedback since the pledge was written by the national.

For example, it should be recited as, "The National Federation of the blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines us and our future. Everyday we raise the expectation of blind people, because low expectations create obsticles between us and our dream. We can live the life we want, blindness is not what holds us back."

Attendees:

Steve Lee

Candace Luther

Rochelle Yohai

Julian VARGAS

Keith Kabbala

Ronald Hilliard

Joy Stigile

Grinell Almy

Terry Almy

Betsy Estrada

Joanne Seaman

? (who liked tea)

Juanita Herrera

Nebiyu Dingetu

Robert Stigile

Announcements:

1. Joanne is going to Singapore.

2. Braille Ststitute is celebrating its 100th anniversary

3. Nebiyu:

 a. Beep baseball: are beginning their season and are looking for players.

 Basically a baseball and bases that have sound. Get more information from Nebiyu.

 They practice at the Orange Grove park in Pasedena, on Saturdays from 11 AM to 1:30 PM.

 b. A friend of his is working on a project. He does not have the details yet, but they are looking for someone that has a disability with their arms. If there is someone you know has challenge using an iPad or Tablet,please let NibNebiyu.4. Terry announced that Mitch Pomerantz, of ACB undergone brain surgery.

5. Betsy announced that the Pathfinders Chapter are doing their eight year reception on the 21st of this month. This was held in a different location.

Flyers will be sent out by Rochelle Houston. It will be held from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Lunch for Seniors is $2.00. And for non-seniors is $4.00.

The location of the reception is 429 East 42nd place.

For questions, please contact Michael Richardson.

6. Julian made an announcement about an IOS app called, CLEW. It is a great way to trace your steps back in a restaurant and so forth.

7. Juanita announced that she is working with the Union Station to help make the station more accessible for people who are blind to navigate around the station. An app is being developed with a company called the Wave Finder. The company is from another country. So far, what they thought of doing is installing beacons inside the station. The app they are developing will be on your phone, and when you arrive at a certain point, it will alert you what you are passing by, and how far that beacon is from you, whether it is to your left or to your right.

 If anyone has any feedback or suggestions, please contact Juanita.

8. Robert announced that:

a. Olga contacted Robert, she felt that she is wanting to stay away from the chapter for a while.

b. He is on the committee with Candace, for the students division. The students are having a reception on April 27th, from 12 to 3 PM. It will be held at Shaky's Pizza in Los Angeles. They are looking for a few little door prizes to help CABS out. Robert wondered if the chapter would be willing to give a couple of $10 door prizes to help CABS with their membership prize.

 Julian made a motion that the San Fernando Valley Chapter would spend $30.00 for either two or three giftcards Joy second the motion.

Secretary's Report:

Julian made an addition to the minutes. What should have been reflected in the minutes the discussion that the chapter had regarding the chapter's feeling about the adopt the child moving forward. In addition, there were strong feelings and concerns regarding Best In Tech, at Braille Institute.

The custodial attitude that Braille Institute had toward blind people was unnecessary. And the fact that, blind people are viewed the same way as they do with their regular students as opposed 1 to that our chapter organized the event. It would be appreciated if Braille Institute's venue was made available.

Joy made the motion to approve the minutes with slight corrections.

It was seconded to approve the minutes with the slight corrections.

Treasurer is missing due to the flu. Therefore, Juanita will fill us in.

The beginning balance is $5,273.76.

Deposits:

 $10.00 from Lynn's membership.

 $66.00 for Saulle laptop.

 $70.00 from Joy for laptop.

 $60.00 from Nancy and John for Saul's laptop.

 $35.00 from Juanita for the laptop.

 $35.00 from Molique

 $350.00 from John Wolfe for Best-In-Tech.

 $11.00 for from 50/50 raffle.

Withdrawals:

 $900.00 for the laptop.

 $50.00 for the pack plan.

Ending balance is $4,860.76.

Malik provided a list of individuals who paid for their membership dues during the past between October and January, but there are still a few people that have not paid dues.

Anyone, a spouse, anyone sighted, can be a supporting member. Sighted people are allowed to be a member.

Committee Reports:

- Fundraising committee:

 For the Pampered chef, the chapter made $315.00.

 Upcoming fundraiser event at Chipotle in Granada Hills on February 23rd, from 4 PM to 8 PM.

 We have to make $300.00 in food sales in order to have a fundraiser to be able to get any money back.

- Sports and Activities:

 The discussion during the board meeting was about encouraging people to attend the National Convention. The committee want to have a virtual seminar on facebook through the affiliates Facebook page. They would like to promote this event in advanced so that people would know, "We are going to go live on this day at this time." The chapter could get together at a restaurant and have a few people share their experiences at the national convention. They could share their experience about the convention and what it was like. At the same time, people could ask question, and the speaker could respond to the questions live. Juanita will look into places where we could do the virtual seminar for the month of March.

National Convention:

- The National Convention will be held from July 7th - 12th, at the Mandelay Bay in Las Vegas.

- Mega Bus has roundtrip tickets for $29.00 leaving from the Union Station to Las Vegas.

- In case if anyone is interested, the Mandelay Bay have suites available for $140.00 per night.

- Because it is the very first time in the history of the NFB that the national convention is held in Las Vegas, do not wait on booking a room because they can fill up very quickly.

- President, Mark A. Riccobono, made an announcement at the great gathering in Washington DC, that the registration will cost $25.00, and the banquet will cost $70.00 through the online registration. It will go up $5.00 each on sight. Please register online if possible. It will be open beginning March 1st to May 30th.

- However, if you never attended the national convention, there is a grant called, "Jernigan Grant." It funds about sixty to seventy people per convention. The grant runds between $400.00 and $600.00 a person. You will need to write a letter, stating how you think that attending the convention would benefit you. You will also need to find a mentor, speak with President Robert about it. After the letter, you will need to send it to the state President, Tim Elder. He will write out a letter and send that to the national center. Everything must be at the center by April 15th. You will also need to be a member of the organization in order to apply.

 If anyone has any questions, please contact President Robert Stigile.

- The San Fernando Valley chapter thought about doing grants. The board will need to talk about it to see what they are going to do.

Washington Seminar: (3 issues)

 They had President Mark Riccobono informed the gathering that another item is out there that we need to be aware of. The three issues that was taken to Washington DC do not have bills yet.

However, the first item has a bill. This bill is called, "Transformation For Competative Employment Act." For many years, the NFB worked on the section 14c the Fair Labor Standard Act. They worked on this to remove it so that disabled people are not paid subminumim wage. The bill that is currently being worked on will eliminate Section 14c C Certificate through a six year period.

 In the senate, Senator Casey from Pennsylvania, and Senator Van (?) from Maryland introduced a bill, S260. The house, Chairman of the committee under Bobby Scott of Virginia and Kathy McMoris Rogers of Washington introduced the companion Legislation, which means the brother or sister of the senate bill, HR873.

 What the NFB is asking is for people to call the senators and congressional members. Urge them to cosponsor the bills. If there are enough cosponsors on the bills, then it will go through the house and senate. When this passes, it will no longer be an issue.

The three issues:

- Accessible Technology Affordability Act.

 This issue will allow a person to afford accesible technology such as JAWS, Braille Notetaker and so forth.

- Disabled Employment Act:

 The government entities purchase things through certain companies that are under the Ability One program to hire disabled people to do things like put together pens and pencils, and other things. Then the government purchases through that contractor. The Ability One program does not allow a person with a disability to move up in rank. It also does not allow them to get promoted to a supervisor's position. This bill will take the program and open it up so that people with disabilities will move up in their positions. Five percent will be put aside to train a person with a disability.

- Gain act:

 This act stands for the Greater Access and Independence through Nonvisual Technology Act. Home appliances, home medical devices, and exercise equipment are not accessible to people who are blind. These equipment have flat panels. This bill will have the access board create guidelines, which would be implemented from six months to three years period. The FDA and Trade Commission would ensure that the guidelines are being met. Then the appliances will be made accessible for everyone.

Marrakesh Treaty was ratified and implemented since February 8th.

Theme: "We are the NFB, and we won't be shut down."

The Presidential Release was played.

Juanita made a motion to accept Steve Lee and Grinell Almy as supporting members of the San Fernando Valley chapter.

Julian seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

50/50 raffle Rochelle Yohai won the raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at noon by Julian vargas Seconded by a chapter member