May 2019 meeting

National Federation of the Blind, California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Candace Luther led the Pledge of Allegiance, NFB Pledge and the 1 minute message.

Question for the day: What Highschool did you graduate from?

In attendance: 23 total. 21 members and 2 guests.

Candace, Katherine Bliss, Jo Anne Seaman, Terry Almy, Portia Mason, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, John and Nancy Albarran, Betsy Estrada, David and Valerie Delawder - guest, Lynne Nishihara, Ron Hilliard, Rochelle Yohai, Karen Elo, Malik - Treasurer, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Sheila Biglang-awa - Secretary, Joy Stigile, Joe Otoole, Robert Stigile - President and Nebiyu Dingetu - Member-at-Large.

Announcements:

Jo Anne announced that she went to Singapore with 17 hours of long flight.

Julian shared information about Amazon. With Prime Users, you can get Amazon Prime at a discount if you have Medical card. You can apply on their website and you can also do it on your smartphone by sending a copy of your Medical Card. Basically, the company will bill you $5.95 a month instead of paying it a whole year. It will be cheaper paying small amount monthly rather paying a year up front. All benefits will be the same as a Prime user. The only thing that you can not do with this is you can not share the benefit with another household member. Go to amazon.com/qualify.

He also shared about the Freedom Taxi Program from the L.A. County that abruptly got terminated. Fill up the form and you can have the eptions of having a door to door service or a door through door, where the driver can help you by carrying your stuff into your house. The website: newfreedom.lacounty.org.

Nancy announced that her workplace DCRC Dsiability Cummunity Resource Center will have an event on Friday May 17th from 11 am to 3 pm. This is to celebrate mental health awareness month with the theme: "I am more than my disability." Address is 12901 Venice Boulevard, City of MarVista. Flyer will be sent in list serve.

Portia discussed about the LACC which they're having trouble with accessibility. The trial will start on Tuesday at 9 am, located at 350 First Street in downtown L.A. She would love to have all of our support.

Joe announced that you can use AIRA at Los Angeles Airport.

Juanita shared that she went to the VP of the Union Station and told them that their Braille signs are not accurate. Track numbers have missing braille dots. She brought up a suggestion to them work on designing an app. She started the first base of testing it. If people are interested in participating, let her know. The next thing that she shared was her Uber and Lift issues. Just a reminder that the NFB website has a form to report good and bad experiences. She's encouraging everyone to continue filling up those forms because Lift and Uber are saying that they're educating their drivers but most of drivers fail to follow. But lift is taking the stand that they are not a transportation company and that they're a technology company. She complained her Uber denial and surprisingly they got back to her saying that they've concluded their investigation which the driver is no longer able to seek ridesor accept rides or even be a passenger.

Robert adder if you have a service animal or travelling with someone who has a service animal and is involved with the service denial, he encourages everyone to fill up a form at the nfb.orgforward/rideshare. This is an on-going litigation and the testing is a 5 year period. Juanita suggested to take screenshots of your Uber or Lift ride request so you can have a paper trail for your complaints.

Robert invited everyone to come and join the Jazzy Fry-day event on May 17th from 7 pm to 9 pm. Its at a church at 2412 Griffith Avenue, Los Angeles. The cost is $25. They have jazzy music and wonderful food.

Robert's 2nd announcement starting monday May 13th through the end of the month, AIRA will be having different site access locations in Los Angeles area. Some of the places that they are targetting are: Applebees, In and Out Burger, Burger King, Jack in the Box and so forth.

Secretary Report

Terry made a motion to approve the April minutes. Seconded by Malik and the motion carries.

Treasury Report.

Malik sent the April report last April 11th on the list serve.

Committee Report

Fundraising

Sheila thanked everyone who cooperated and supported the Candy drive sale in buying and selling See's Candy. Thank you also to Joy who coordinated and organized the orders.

Sheila gave the information about Shakey's and/or Sizzlers. Shakey's locations in L.a. are open to do fundraisers on Friday nights. The Valley locations don't do it. It was suggested that if we want a weekend fundraiser, Sheila has to request and speak with the higher management. Look out for updated info.

An alternate fundraiser will be the Sizzlers. The restaurant is giving us a whole day event with a 15% proceeds coming from our generated sales will be given to our Chapter. ⠠⠐⠱⠔ Shakeys would donate either 20% or 25%, depending on the location. She'll work it out with Shakey's Burbank.

She discussed the Movie night idea. Options and choices were layed out for the members to choose such as: date and time, concession stand open, locations, number of tickets or the entire theaters and etc. Further info will be discussed in details later. Bowling details will soon to follow next.

Sports and Activities

Juanita had a conference call last April 17th. Robert, Joy, and Malik called in. On May 26th at Zeal Beach. The People Campers will be playing against Las Vegas. The Dodgers game will be in June. Chicago Cubs will be playing on June 14th, Friday. Colorado team will be playing on the 21st with fireworks display. On the 22nd, Colorado again will be playing and will be giving out Jerseys. A $40 or $50 all-you-can-eat at the Coca-cola Pavillions. Regular ticket price is $60 and Juanita can get a discount for the group. Please let her know if you're interested. Information will be sent out on the list serve. Malik is helping her on getting someone from the Social Security Office for a seminar in July. Juanita also spoke with Sheila getting in contact with a law enforcer regarding self-defense. The last thing that they talked about is the RAM vs Cowboys game on August 17th. More information will be sent out in the email.

Robert played the Presidential Release 483 podcast from our National President Mark Riccobono. For inquiries, please ask Robert.

He wants to make sure that everyone knows about the PAC plan ′Pre-Authorize Contribution Plan′ is a way of giving and to help the National Office so they can do things that they need to do such as the remodelling of the building and all the programs that they do as well. You can give as low as $5 a month if you wish to.

The next item he mentioned that a week ago or so, him, Joy Julian and Robert met and went to check a place for a new meeting location. Its at the church of Scientology in North Hollywood. Its a pretty distance between the Cafe area for the refreshments down to the actual meeting room. Further discussion was brought up such as the indoor lay-out and the outside surrounding neighborhood. Now if its going to be for the 2 months that the Stigile's residence will be unavailable due to a construction, Robert can look into reserving the big room at the Community Center at the Topanga Mall.

50/50 rafle is $37. Robert won $19.

Julian made a motion to welcome David and Valerie as new members and was seconded by Nebiyu.

Juanita made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nebiyu. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila B.C

Cell: 818-404-7646

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee