August 2019 Chapter Meeting

National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10 am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance, NFB Pledge and the 1 minute message.

In attendance:

Total 30 attendees.

4 guests and 26 members.

Robert Stigile - President, Joy Stigile, Julian Vargas, Jaymee Castillo, Racquel Decipeda, Ron Hilliard, Karen Elo, Juanita Herrera - Vice President, Malik - Treasurer, Betsy Estrada, Anthony Melena, Leticia Martinez, Joe Otoole, Sharon Watson, Bill Grosjean, David and Valerie Delawder, Keith Caballa, Nebiyu Dingetu - Member-At-Large, Sheila Biglang-awa - Secretary, Jane Suh, Rochelle Yohai, Eddie Salceda, Jennifer - guest, Danielle - guest, Beverly - guest, Jerry Morales - guest, Jo Anne Seaman, Lynne Nishihara and Elyssa Byrne.

Announcements:

Jo Anne announced that she had a fun Radio camping in Minnesota. Everybody passed the ham radio test and she has a license.

Julian announced to those who have Amazon Echo that you can actually change the speed when it talks to you. Than he added for those who are experiencing issues with the IPhone where it is not hearing your dictation well especially in a noisy surrounding. He gave a tip on what to do. Instead of aiming your voice on the microphone, aim your voice where the mute switch button is. This will actually improve your dictation. The reason for that is because Apple has microphone all over the iphone for the purpose of filtering out background noise for voice cancellation.

Racquel announced that the Hearts for Sight Foundation is having another hike on September 8 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the George S. Canyon in Palos Verdes. It’s a Nature Center where we can touch things in there exhibit. It’s nicer coz it’s closer to the ocean. She will send out the information in the email. What she needs from people who are interested to join is to do an early RSVP, so they can make sure that they will provide you a volunteer sighted guide.

Joe announced for those who are taking any medications that there will be an app called Script Talk. It will be using Apple Pay type technology. So, when you scan your prescription, it will be in front of your phone.

Robert announced that he is going to the guide dog school in September. Guide Dogs of America will start the class in September 8th and he will be out of town on the 14th. So if you want to move the Chapter meeting on the 7th, it’s fine. He’ll leave it up to the members.

His 2nd announcement is that he has Carl’s Jr. books that are for sale from the Guide Dog Division.. It’s $5.00 per booklet. It actually has $65 worth of coupons in it. See him after the meeting.

He also brought home from the National Convention several t-shirts from the Deaf/Blind Division. They have the ABC’s in Braille on the back of the shirt. See him after the meeting if you are interested to buy.

In addition, he announced that on August 24th, Saturday,Pathfinders Chapter is having their summer annual picnic. This is a great time for all local Chapters are able to get together at a park. The address is in the August President’s Notebook. It’s from 12 to 4 pm with a $15 donation. Good food will be served along with silent auctions, games and prizes.

Lastly, for those who are new and are interested to sign up to become a new member, to please give your email to Robert and David Andrews will get you signed up so that you will be receiving announcements from our list serve.

Secretary report

Julian made a motion to approve the June minutes. Seconded by Joy and the motion carries.

Treasury Report

Malik sent the July/August report on August 3rd on the list serve.

Committee Report

Robert inserted an announcement before the Committee Report about a fundraiser that we had in June at Shakey’s Pizza. He would like to thank everyone who went. He just gave Malik a Shakey’s check as it goes to our Affiliate and then the Affiliate sends us the check amounted to $180.26. At the same time Shakey’s had sent a coupon for a medium size pizza which Robert handed it to Sheila for an awesome job in putting it and getting it altogether. He also mentioned that Goldie Castro’s bowling buddies, their spouses and families were there to support.

Fundraising

In connection with what Robert had mentioned, Sheila thanked the members who attended and they were the following: Robert & Joy, David, Valerie and their kids, Jo Anne and a friend, Rochelle & company, Julian and Jaymee.

Aside from the Shakey’s check, there were more funds that were donated from her and Her husband Goldie’s friends which amounted to $130. She added it up altogether and we have a total of $310 of funds coming from the Shakey’s Pizza event.

She also mentioned and thanked Robert, Joy and Racquel for attending the fundraising Committee conference call back in June where we have discussed the Shakey’s fundraiser and other unfinished projects.

Joy discussed the Bob’s Big Boy’s fundraiser whether to do it on August 31 Saturday or wait till October. So the Chapter had decided to do it on the first Saturday of October 5, and it will be at the Burbank location. So watch out for the details in the list serve.

Sports & Activities

Juanita mentioned that they were 7 people who attended the Dodger’s game which happened in early part of June. She was planning for the Cowboys game but later found out that the game was going to be in Honolulu, Hawaii. then in regards to seminars, she reached out to Social Security people. Additional information was also shared by Olga Tobias, a supporting member who had a contact with the California Telephone Access Program. they will come to speak to us regarding some of their stuff that they offer. But the person has not gotten back to Juanita and so she’ll do a follow up on it. As well as the Disability Rights of California has also not gotten back with her. So, things ar on hold. Juanita asked the Chapter if they would be interested to have a self-defense course because she has a contact from the L.A. Sheriff Department and might be able to come to provide a self-defense course for us. So, she asked everyone if the 2nd or the 3rd week of October would be possible for everyone. She was thinking to have the venue at the Topanga Mall Community Center. She’ll make the arrangemnts and will inform us as the date comes. In addition, she was planning to have a conference call soon so we can plan more things.

Holiday Party

Joy mentioned that since no one yet has suggested a place, she will book it still at Ernie’s Mexican Restaurant. Unless if hse hears from someone in the next couple of weeks for another place that can serve 50 people to please let her know.

Adopt A Child Program

Malik needs help. Joy knows an organization that might help and so she will get the information. Malik will have a Committee conference call on a Thursday or a Friday. Either the 15th or the 16th of August. People who are in the current committee are Juanita, Betsy and Joy. But it’s still open to everyone who would like to help. Robert suggested if anyone knows a place that you know have blind children it would be helpful like the Music Academy.

Best In Tech

It will be on a Saturday November 16 at the Braille Institute. An all day event that the Chapter started 10 years ago. This year will be the 11th year. It’s an all day of everything technology. 2 vendors had already signed up: IRE AT and Del Macintosh Center. For the 10 years that we had Best In Tech and Racquel was our Chair of the Committee. Robert want to publicly thank her for all her hard work that she did for doing an awesome job. Raquel had step down being the Chair. Juanita has been appointed to be the new Chair. Raquel would like to thank the Chapter for giving her the opportunity to lead some of the committees. She had grown and had learned a lot for the past 10 years. She’ll still be helping out with anything with any committees.

Juanita thanked Robert for giving her this opportunity. She laid out to everyone that she needs everyone’s help and support. She announced that the vendor’s registration form is now out in public. She posted it in her Facebook and the San Fernando Valley Chapter page. She sent out to 50 vendors. If you have any technology vendors in mind to please let her know. Feel free to share to those vendors. Ask to to join or invite them to come. As the days get closer, she would need volunteers and most likely she’ll have Welsfargo to volunteer. She added that if anyone who knows companies who would like to donate door prizes like gift cards and etc. If anybody also know who would like to sponsor the event in any kind of way, to please let her know.

2019 State Convention

Coming up in November 7th to the 10th at the Embassy Suites in Milpitas City in Northern California. The hotel’s phone number to make reservation is 800-362-2779 with the code NFB. You can make reservations arriving on November 6 and leaving on November 11. October 15th will be our cut off date. Pass this date, you might get a higher rate or no rooms at all. Then Robert added that we will be needing to have our November Chapter meeting on the 1st Saturday because the 2nd week will be the State convention and the 3rd Saturday will be our Best In tech.

Juanita added that she’s Chairing the Spanish Committee for the State Convention. She asked if anyone knows anyone who has not been able to join the NFB because everything is English, they are going to have a Spanish translation for this year. Please spread the word to anyone you know in that community so they could attend as well. Another plan is to have a Chapter-At-Large in Spanish.

Robert played the Presidential Release #485. For information please contact him. He mentioned other things that was talked about was the GAIN Act (Greater Access and Independence through non-visual technology) which is one of the priorities in the Washington Seminar. Parts of it will be making it accessible for home appliances, home medical equipments and home exercise equipments. It has now a bill number HR3929. He asked everyone to please contact your Congressional members to let them know that you want to them to co-sponsor this bill. Basically this will go through the Access Board or they’ll create guidelines for companies to make their equipments accessible. For more details, please contact Robert.

2019 National Convention

Robert asked the members especially who were first time attending the convention to share their experiences. It was Danielle’s first convention with her first guide dog and it was fun for her. With Malik it was informative with really good information. With Eddie, AIRA was a great experience for him. Further things were discussed from other members as well.

50/50 raffle $55. Rochell won $27.

At the end, Robert asked if there are anyone who wants either become a new member or who’s been an inactive for a while and wants to become active again. Julian made a motion to bring in Jerry and Keith and re-vote in Sharon to be all members. Seconded by Nebiyu.

Nebiyu made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Malik. the meeting was adjourn at 12:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee

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