November, 2019 Chapter Meeting

National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. It began with the Pledge of allegiance, NFB pledge and the one minute message.

 Question of the month: what’s your favorite movie?

In attendance: 27 attendees

Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Malik – Treasurer, Portia Mason, Valerie and David Delawder, Mamcy and John Albarran, Jo Anne Seaman, Joy Stigile, Karen Elo, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, Granel and Terry Almy, Sharon Watson , Joe OToole, Philbert Tjong, Rochelle Yohai, Jane Suh, Sheila Biglang-awa – Secretary, Alyse Garabedian, Betsy Estrada, Racquel Decipeda, Julie Skujins, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large, Keith Caballa and Robert Stigile – President.

Announcements:

Jo Anne wen to Canada. It was windy and cold in Montreal.

Racquel gave 2 announcements. First, Hearts for Sight’s having a hike event on November 17th, Sunday at the San Diego mountains. Its a 2 section hike starting with a mile and half and will stop at a picnic table. Then the next hike will continue to a higher altitude. Everybody will meet at the Union Station. Bus will be provided so we can ride together to the mountains with a distance of an hour away. Will leave at 8:30 and will be back at 3:30 pm at the Union Station. Have Access pick up at 4 pm. An RSVP is required for bus accommodations with 30 to 35 capacity. Sighted volunteer will be provided. Racquel will send out information on the list serve. Her other announcement is for those who like a little bit more adventure, skiing season is coming up with the Achievers. Season start in December. This year, many of the weekends that they will go up to the Mammoth mountains will fall on the first weekend of the month. The only time that will fall on the 2nd weekend. will be in December and January. She will send an email with the membership application for you to have your Doctor sign that you are okay to ski. She is also the trip coordinator. Let her know if you wish to stay with them at the Viewpoint condos, fill up a trip form and make the arrangements with her.

Sharon proudly announced her and Joe are going to get married on March 21st. Chapter wishes them both congratulations!

Terry announced that she and her husband Granelle belong with the Angel City Chorale. They will be having their Holiday concerts on the 7th and 8th of December. You can go on-line and purchase tickets. Will send the link to Robert so he can send it to the Chapter.

Joe asked if anyone has downloaded the IPhone application called “Shake Alert”. This app will notify you about earthquakes.

Julian added that there is a new application called “My Shake Alert” that covers the whole State. It will also give you information about earthquakes that happens in other parts of the world. It will notify you when you’re going to feel a shaking extensity of 4.5 and the farther the quake is, the more you will get notifications.

Joe had an opportunity to participate in the union Station for an IPhone application called Navi 1 and clicked Navilens.

Jo Anne announced that her birthday is on November 17.

Secretary Report

The October minutes has not been sent out because the file was too big and was unable to be sent out on the list serve.

Sheila gave an update regarding the Chapter’s roster. Each member will be sent out email to update your information such as email address and phone number if changes has been made and/or your information stays the same. Please email her back once you receive it.

Treasury Report

Malik read the previous report but he has to still do the current one.

Committee Report

Fundraising

Joy announced that there are still Bob’s Big Boy certificates left.

Sheila will plan for fundraising as soon as she gets back. Conference call will be planned.

Sports and Activities

Juanita announced that we are not going to have anything for the rest of the year. But today we are going to have a guest speaker name Mary reus from the Disability Rights of California.

There will be a conference call in January to plan for next year.

 Holiday Party

Meals will be the same menu like last year where we have appetizers, 3 choices of the main dish and soft beverage which are all included in the price. If you want to order cocktails, that will be an extra charge. It will be on December 14, Saturday at 5 pm at Ernie’s Mexican Taco Restaurant. The address is 4410 Lankershim Boulevard, North Hollywood.

Adopt a Child Program

Joy and Malik forgot to make a call. But the selected child is 5 year old girl. More information will be sent out on the list serve.

Joy said that for anyone who are not on the list serve, she would like to have your contact information just in case you would like to participate in buying some items or gifts or the little girl.

Best in Tech

200 had registered. Cut off registration will be on November 13th, 2019. Juanita announced that there are 6 Gold sponsors, 1 Platinum, 5 large groups and 4 small groups.

Workshops are:

8:30 to 9:30 am, there are 3 workshops. 1. Braille Note Touch Plus from Humanware. 2. From HEMS and will talk about the Polarais. And 3. Sweetman System, will talk about JAWS 2020, the Victor Track and the Braille Note Touch.

9:45 am there will be 3 more workshops. 1. Braille Institute will talk about hands free devices such as Google Home and Alexa. 2. Orcam will talk about their products. 3. Iree will talk about braille embossers.

There will be a key note speakers from 11 am to 1 pm. Speakers will present the type of technology that has changed their lives. Someone from Apple named Dean Hudson, a manager of the Accessibility Department. The stipulations that they have asked Robert is that they have requested to not do any recording while he is speaking and that questions will be asked after he speaks.

Robert mentioned that this is our first time having someone from Apple in an event. So, we would like to grant their request so they would come back again.

Juanita also added that we have a confirmation that Google will send a representative from their Accessibility Department for next year and will be a Gold sponsor.

There will be an Echo Show to be raffled for the first prize. 2nd prize will be the Dot. There will be also door prizes. Juanita asked the Chapter if they would like to donate money to purchase 5 Uber or Lift gift cards. Terry made the motion to the chapter of purchasing 3 Uber and 3 Lift gift cards in the amount of $15 each. With the total amount of $90. It was seconded by Joe.

Then the Chapter suggested to purchase $10 Amazon gift card.

So, there will be at total of $100 with a breakdown of 3 Uber gift cards, 3 Lift gift cards and 1 Amazon gift card.

State Convention 2019

Robert asked if anyone had brought items for the State basket. Juanita was doing the Wine basket. He asked who was in charge of the home baked basket. Robert explained to the new members and/or guest about the Sate basket. This year, you can go to our website at: nfbcal.org and under state convention, look for 2019 State convention. Under that you will find the agenda in a Word document. On the Friday of the convention, exhibit will be open from 10 am to 2 pm. General session will be from 2 pm to 5 pm. The exhibit will resume from 5 pm to 6 pm. If anyone has registered for the convention but did not sign up for the bus, you can still do that. $5 for the bus fee.

Robert added that we are giving 6 grants this year to help with the cost of the convention. Those people are Joe & Sharon, Betsy, Juanita, Nebiyu and Ron.

Robert brought up another point that he would like to have some people who are willing to help putting together for Meet the Blind month in October of next year. This is specific to NFB, basically Chapters and affiliates going out in public showing our capabilities which a lot from the public does not realize it.

He added, that the Notebook has a lot of information about State convention, a lot of information about different Chapters and what they’re doing.

National Convention

Original date was June 30th to July 5th. The City of Houston came to the national Federation of the Blind and said that there’s a conflict with the dates and was asking if it can be moved. He added that the convention has never moved ever since it started. Now, it has been move to July 14th to the 19th.

Washington Seminar

This seminar will start on February 10th. For those who are new, this seminar is the kick off of the National Federation of the Blind legislation for the year. What happens is 3 issues are decided upon that we take to Congress each year. Then we will have representatives from every State affiliate at Washington seminar. Each representative go around to their Congressional members and Senators and we are educating Congress on our issues. If you are interested in going, there is an application for you to fill out and submit. Affiliate will be giving out Stipends to assist people in affording the Washington seminar. Link will be up sometime in November.

50/50 raffle $56. Sharon won $28.

Juanita made a motion to vote Philbert back in the Chapter. Seconded by Ron.

Lastly, Juanita introduced Mary Reus from The Disability Rights of California. She’s a multi-cultural fair advocate located in Ontario. The Disability Rights of California is the California’s protection and advocacy program. They advocate for people with disability in the entire State of California. They have offices through out the State. Corporate office is in Sacramento. Her business cards will be given out after the meeting. For more information, please talk to Juanita.

Terry made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Joe. The meeting ended at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee

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