2020 January Chapter meeting

National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10 am. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, NFB pledge and the One Minute message.

Question of the month: What’s your new year’s resolution?

In attendance: 2 guests and 20 members

Total: 22 attendees.

Juanita Herrera Vice-President, Malik – Treasurer, Lindsay Kerr - guest, Sheila Biglang-awa - Secretary, Alyce Garabedian, Keith Caballa, Lynne Nishihara, Jo Anne Seaman, Sharon Watson, Joe Otoole, David and Valerie Delawder, Rochelle Yohai, Sunny Hernandez – guest, Betsy Estrada, Jane Suh, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, John and Nancy Albarran, Joy and Robert Stigile – President.

Announcements:

Jo Anne announced that she will visit Tom Grimsley and will be transferred to a hospice due to pneumonia. So, he can be taken cared better and it will help him to have a better quality of life.

Lynne was about to email everyone that this year the Braille Institute does not have some State funding and it’s on their website. It was asking to have everyone to contact our State senators or representatives to try to reinstate the funding’s. And they are also accepting donations.

Julian announced that the Access app have a major update. It can now make the app usable for blind people. When it detects the voice over is running, it puts the app in the different mode. It gives you things like how many minutes away the vehicle is and also how many miles it i.e. t regularly update you. It’s very handy. Once you’re in the ride and sometimes you wanted to know where you’re at, by opening the Access app and opening the trip that you are on and if you put focus on that section, it will also tell you your nearest intersection. When you’re done with your trip, you can also rate your ride.

Julian added for those who ride the bus, there is an app called Moovit. This app has a special mode where it will announce for example when your bus is arriving as well as when you are a few stops away or 1 stop away. It will announce it to you. It can also do, when you get off the bus and if you’re trying to find the other bus stop or if you are transferring another bus, it will help you navigate through it once you’re focus on its update. Another neat thing about this app is when you’re on the bus, it will give you a list of all the stops that are ahead of you.

Nancy added that for low vision, it will actually show a blue dot that will indicate what stop you are on. Julian continued that the other neat thing about it is that if you create an account on it, you can synch or your favorites from different areas and can use it with different devices.

Robert added that AIRA is partnering with Moovit.

Then he jumped in with a different announcement for people that are travelling with guide dogs or for those people who are travelling with someone that has a guide dog to please go to the NFB website and fill out the form when you have completed a trip with UVer or Lift. Go to nfb.org>/rideshare and you will find the form. Both the Uver and Lift ride-share testing will end in July. What happened is that we filed a lawsuit against Uver and when that lawsuit settled and there was a 5-year testing and this testing will end soon. When this lawsuit ends in July, they’re probably going to be looking at going back to court to do another settlement. They are going to need someone who doesn’t have Uver or Lift. If yu are new and once you’ve signed up before the settlement ends, you can not sue them when you’re denied by a driver. Stay tune for more details.

Next announcement,Robert would like to welcome guide dog users or even if you don’t have a guide dog, to attend the Guide Dog division of California via conference call. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. He can send out the information for those who are interested.

Next item, Robert would like to remind everyone that if you haven’t paid your Chapter dues for this new year yet, please do so after the meeting, because we will have elections for our Chapter’s President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member.

Secretary Report.

Julian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Malik and the motion carries.

Treasury Report.

Beginning balance: $3502.53.

Deposits: $16.50 from 50/50 raffle, $16.50 from Jo Annes’ raffle winnings donated. $275from Bob’s Big Boy. $416.99 from best In Tech raffle.$25 donation from Kim.

Dues paid that were deposited: Julian $10, Jaymee $10, Betsy $10, Terry Almy $10, Grinnell Almy $10, Jane $10, Karen Elo $10, Ron Hilliard $10, Racquel Decipeda $10, Philbert Tjung $10, Robert $10, Joy $10, Malik $10, Juanita $10, Valerie $10, David $10, Joe $10, Sharon $10. Candace Luther and Steve Lee $19.12.

Withdrawal: $217.56 for Adopt a Child dinner. $1886.60 for Subway sandwiches for Best in Tech. Over/Lift gift cards for $100. $1000 for donation for State affiliate. $50 for PAC plan.

Final balance: $6881.77.

Robert thanked Joy for getting a 30% discount from Subway since they messed up with the orders in Best in Tech.

Committee Report.

Fundraising Committee

Joy announced that there’s still Bob’s Big Boy certificates left. For those who would like to purchase, her and Robert can join you guys.

Sheila made 6 month template for fundraising ideas. If the Chapter will be ok, she would go ahead and work on the following: 1. Chipotle for February or March, Candy sale with See’s Candy in spring and Shakely’s night in May or June. For more suggestions and/or ideas, please email her and she will forward it to Robert to approve. Alyse suggested Carl’s Jr. Booklet. David suggested Panda Express. . Joe suggested portable phone battery charger.

Joy will coordinate with Rochelle Houston of Pathfinder for the See’s Candy. So, look out for information in your email.

Sports and Activities Committee.

Juanita invited a guest speaker for March 14th from Vanda Pharmaceuticals. She would like everyone to attend. She added that she has friend that works at the Comedy Store in L.A. for a night to just hang-out. And for anymore suggestions and ideas, please email her.

Holiday Party / Adopt a Child

Joy shared the outcome of our Holiday Party / Adopt a Child program. She has not heard anything yet from the family. But Robert had talked to them and the parents would like to be involve with the Parents Division. She added that everyone had a great time. Valerie expressed that she saw the entire family’s expressions that you can say that they were all delighted. Topic ended with more discussions and details on what to plan for next year’s Holiday party. Robert invited everyone who would like to help out.

Best in Tech

Robert announced that Best in Tech was successful and it reached 500 people. There were 16 vendors. 6 Gold sponsors, 1 Platinum, 5 large booths and 4 small booths. There were major issues with the registration. He was looking where to move Best in Tech in another location this year. He was delighted that we had an Apple representative this year. And he’s hopeful that we will have booth for Google. He’s looking in moving forward this New Year and brought in some nice funds which will allow us to do other things for the Chapter. Julian suggested to the committee since the fact of this event has the longevity that it has, should be recognized in the way that it’s called. He suggested to start referring to call it 12th best in Tech and moving forward for the next coming years. In this way, we would tell people how long has this event been going on just like the CSUN’s conventions. This will give the impact on what it is and how long it’s been.

Julian made a motion to call our next event as the 12th annual Best in Tech. Seconded by Sharon.

Robert played the Presidential Release 490.

Julian made a motion to accept Lindsay as new member, secondedJoe.

50/50 raffle was $56. Robert won $18.

Juanita made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Malik. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818.404.7646

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee