2021 February Chapter meeting

National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 am. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, the NFB Pledge and the 1 minute message.

Trivia question: What gift would you like to receive for Valentine’s Day?

In attendance:

Nancy and John Albarran, Anthony Melena, David and Valerie Delawder, Julie Skujins, Jane Suh, Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Jaymee Castillo, Julian Vargas, Joe Otoole, Keith Caballa, Karen Elo, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile – President, Sharon Watson, Terry Almy, Tiffany Johnson, Lindsay Kerr, Lynne Nishihara, Candace Luther, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large and Britney Dates – guest.

TOTAL: 23 attendees

22 members and 1 guest.

Announcements:

\*Joe announced that the City of L.A. is advertising an administrative intern position of the Los Angeles City employees retirement system. Go to the Personnel Department’s website at per.lacity.org.

\*Keith’s announcement is that he’s studying to become an ADA consultant coordinator. When certified he might work with the State or the government.

\*Julian announced that Apple has finally addressed the issue with face ID and masks. Plus, you need to have an Apple watch as well. But currently in IOS14.5 is being tested right now. There is, going to be the ability to have face ID work even when you are wearing a mask provided that you are also wearing the Apple watch. Expect this to come out either at the end of this month or early next month.

He discovered upon applying for the renewal of his Access membership and found out that the Access can send you the renewal form in PDF if you want. Now this PDF form might not be accessible so he suggested to use AIRA. So have an AIRA agent with Team Viewer in your computer and you can have the form filled out in no time. There’s even a place for electronic signature. Just click that button and email the form back to Access. Within a matter of days, his application was processed and got approved. Basically, call Access Customer Service at 1800-827-0829 and press option #3 for applying and renewing. Just tell the Customer Service representative that you want the form to be sent to you via e-mail. His last announcement was about his tech talk group. He decided to do it through via Zoom and was planning to meet quarterly. While it’s going to be mostly tech centered, he was also thinking of opening it up to no-tech ways of tackling life situations that we face as blind people. Low tech and no tech solutions will be put in to the group discussions. He’s thinking to offer it locally and also offer it to the connections that he made in Southwest Florida area. So, now if you were in Julian’s old tech talk list, you are going to be included automatically. If you were not on that list or had changed your e-mail address, please send him an e-mail at help@techjv.com. He’s hoping if all goes well, he’ll kick this off in March.

\*Juanita announced that the AIRA program is now offering 500 minutes from now till August. There are 219 subscriptions still available. So we need to get the word out. She is the lead in this project. She added that Toyota just wants the people to use the service and want the people to remain independent. For any questions, feel free to reach out to her at jherrera@daylemc.org.

\*Nancy announced that on February 16, her and John will be celebrating their 2nd wedding anniversary.

\*Anthony’s announcement’s that he’s taking a course to be a financial coach. If you want to talk about any financial matters such as student loans, investment for retirement and etc., please feel free to reach out to him via e-mail or phone.

\*Robert reminded everyone if you haven’t paid your membership dues yet, you can send it to him through Apple pay, Zelle, Pay pal, Venmo or check. Please let him know so he can assist you.

He also announced that our National convention this year will be virtual. Registration will start on March 1. More information will be coming soon. The host Affiliate will be Maryland. But for the next year’s convention it will in person and will be in New Orleans from July 5th to the 10th.

Secretary Report

Since we had technical difficulty with our Zoom recordings last month, Robert would like to thank those who helped out with the minutes. Julian made a motion to approve the January minutes as submitted, seconded by Lynne and the motion carries.

Treasury Report.

Nancy sent out the January Treasury report last February 8th on our list serve.

Robert announced that him and Nancy will be going to the bank next week so she can start handling the transactions. At the same time, they would like to figure out why we can’t get payments via Zelle directly to the Chapter’s checking account. Robert can Zelle out but the Chapter’s account cannot receive.

Robert played the Presidential Release #502. For this information, you can ask him the details.

He added that there’s some other things that are on the Presidential Release that deal with Washington Seminar, student seminar that took place and so forth. There are still a few appointments that Robert’s team is working on. For instance, he’s working on getting Senator Alex Padilla, who’s new to the Senate, that might be able for them to meet and hoping to create a working relationship. Robert’s team’s consist of himself, David, Lynne and Juanita plus other people from San Diego. So, David and Lynne talked about their experience since it’s their first time joining the Washington Seminar. So now, Robert will be asking everyone to help contact your Congressional member and ask them to support. if you need help to find your Congressional member, let Robert know and he’s glad to help. Again, when the other issues become bills, he’ll make sure to get those information out so we can all start getting co-sponsors.

Further discussion came forth.

On the last note, Joy ask everyone if anyone would like to make any donations and help out the Fundraising committee. Robert added that Fundraiser committee needs to get together and think about what kinds of things that we can do virtually and we have till the end of this year.

Julian made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sharon. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

Respectfully submitted by

Sheila Marie B.C.

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Chapter Secretary

NFB.SFV