April 2021 minutes of the meeting

National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: April 10, 2021 Saturday

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, the NFB Pledge and the 1 minute message.

Trivia: what is your favorite Spring time activity?

In attendance:

Sharon Watson, Julian Vargas, Jane Suh, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile – President, Joe OTOOLE, Lynne Nishihara, Anthony Melena, Lindsay Kerr, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large, Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Karen Elo, David and Valerie Delawder, Jaymee Castillo, Keith Caballa, Sheila Biglang-awa – Secretary, Nancy Albarran – Treasurer, John Albarran, Jo Anne Seaman, Matthew Schrieber, Betsy Estrada, Terry Almy, Candace Luther, Tiffany Johnson.

Total: 25 members.

Announcements:

Julian's tech corner had a few announcements. For Android users, the operating system provided by Google and it's equivalent to Seeing-AI that you see in IOS. Google provides 2 things: 1. that's called Lens which you can actually access from the Google camera or standalone app and 2nd, another app called Look Out. Both kind of do the same thing. But Look Out has little bit more control in functionality to it. Where Lens is more of a spot use type of thing. These apps run primarily on pixel 3 or later. Also in the newest version of talk back on the newer phones, multi-finger gestures are not supported. A lot of progress are being made for example, the finger double tap to start and end phone calls and a 2 finger-single tap to mute your speech. These are all being developed. This might be fun to check out for Android users.

To continue, for the IOS users with IOS 14.5 is now into beta7. It will be on, probably by the middle till the end of this month and will have useful things. One of the biggest thing that it’s going to have is the Face ID and had problems because of the face mask. With the Apple watch, you will be able to unlock the phone without taking off your face mask. As long as you have your Apple watch paired with your phone. Another one that's coming is the Siri voices. We're used to male female voices with names and they’re doing it different now. They have decided to use numbers for the voices. In addition, with the Apple Find My Network, the thing that helps you find your IOS device if it gets lost or stolen, is going to expand now to non-Apple devices/ accessories. It will use other I-phones within 50 feet and it will send the location to that device. Through a network. It’s all anonymize. But if you’re tracking that lost or stolen device, you’re not going to be able to do that within expanded network.

He also announced about Access Services. As we all know it has been operating differently since the shut down of the pandemic. And we all know that all good things must come to an end but sometimes its bitter sweet because it also means that we are getting back to normal life. So, starting Monday, April 12th, there will be fewer of those same day trips now and will be based on driver availability. Since now that things are opening up more, demand for the service noticeably will increase. With the increase of the demands, sad to say, share-a-rides are coming back. The way how it will go is they will pick up 1 more passenger during your trip. So start planning accordingly.

Jo Anne shared that on March 12th she became a great, great aunt and she has a great, great niece in Arizona weighing6 lbs./15 oz.

Joy announced a good news from her heart surgery 2 weeks ago. It went beautifully with no complications. She had a narrowing of one of the arteries in her heart and had it repaired. All she has is a tiny scar on her right wrist which is about a quarter of an inch and that’s where they entered and repaired it. It was an out-patient surgery. Now she’s walking beautifully.

Candace made an announcement that she and her family finally moved to a new apartment at Hancock Park. She will be graduating next month from CSUN with a degree in Bachelors of Liberal Studies emphasize in the natural science.

Robert announced that if you are interested in attending the CAGDU social call, it will be this afternoon at 4 pm, he will send you the link.

The convention registration is on-going and will end on May 31st. Be sure to register and it is free. But if you would like to make a donation, you can also do so. You can go to nfb.org/convention or directly at nfb.org/registration. You can call Robert if you need some assistance in registering on the web page.

John announced that he put up an email about their 2nd class of the year for the Peer Specialist training. For those who are interested, please read the email for the specifications and instructions on how to apply. He is the coordinator and please let anyone know. This training is for you to become a mental health peer trained specialist / become a case manager in terms of working with people with mental health. The class will start on May 3rd.

Secretary Report

Julian made the motion to approve the March minutes, seconded by Joy and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy send out the March Treasurer’s Report last April 9 on the list serve.

Note: Robert mentioned that him and Nancy will have a bank appointment on April 24th. He had given our last month Chapter’s minutes to the bank person that they will be meeting and was impressed by it. The bank personnel will send part of the Treasury Report to their district to approve it. Nancy should be on the bank account by our next meeting.

Presidential Release

Ron played the Presidential Release #504. If you need any information please ask Robert. Nancy commented that if you are subscribed to the NFB channel on YouTube and you can listen to the Presidential Release there especially if you need to listen to the musical segment again.

Legislation

Robert added some comments about the following:

\* HR431 is gaining co-sponsors but not too many in California. So please contact your Congressional member to continue in getting co-sponsors. HR431 is in the House.

\* and S212 is in the Senate. We would like to get the Access Technology Affordability Act pass this Congressional session so, keep at it.

If you any questions, you can call Robert.

\* Integrated Employment Act which is HR2373. Basically what this does is all these entities has to cease providing certificates for sub-minimum wage. Again, we need co-sponsors and ask Congressional members because we need to get the 14C certificates to stop. Once this happens, there will no longer be sub-minimum wage for people with disability and will be able to receive minimum wage just like anybody else.

\* S1, basically one of the issues is the voting rights which hasn’t been introduce in to the House yet. What we’re opposing that they are saying in S1 that people with disability wouldn’t be able to receive ballots. If this passes, there will be no more vote by mail. Senator Feinstein’s contact number is (202)-224-3481 and Senator’s Padilla’s number is (202)-224-3553.

For more information or questions, please contact Robert. Further discussion came forth by Keith, Lynne, David, Joy and Nancy,

Affiliate’s Fundraising

Robert sent out on the list serve about the recipe book. The deadline to submit recipes April 30th. They will go through the entrees and create a recipe book for California that they can sell. If you need the link for the form, ask Robert so he can send it to you. Criteria, qualifications and information were further discussed by Joy, Nancy and Lynne.

Chapter’s Fundraiser

Joy discussed our fundraisers last year and the one that’s most successful was the Double Good Popcorn Sale. It made a little over of $500. This had a 50% return back to the Chapter. It can only run for 4 days to place an order. Cost, dates, shipping info, online orders were further discussed. Juanita made a motion that we do the Double Good Popcorn fundraiser in May, on the weekend of our Chapter’s meeting., seconded by Ron and the motion carries.

Julian made a motion to accept Matthew back as a member, seconded by Joy.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Sheila Marie B.C.

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Chapter Secretary

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