May 2021 Minutes of the meeting

National Federation of the Blind

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: May 8, 2021

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

There was a moment of silence offered to our dearest member Rochelle Yohai for her passing.

Trivia: What special gift that you have given your mother on Mother's day?

In attendance:

Nancy and John Albarran, Sheila Biglang-awa – Secretary, Keith Caballa, Jaymee Castillo, David and Valerie Delawder, Karen Elo, Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large, Lindsay Kerr, Candace Luther, Anthony Melena, Lynne Nishihara, Joe Otoole, Jo Anne Seaman, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile – President, Jane Suh, Julian Vargas, Sharon Watson and Racquel Decipeda.

Total attendees: 22 members.

Announcements:

With Julian's tech corner, Apple released a bunch of new updates. IOS 14.5 just came out and just the other day 14.5.1 was released too. Biggest thing with this update and a lot of people have been waiting for, is the ability to unlock your phone if its only using face ID even with a mask on as long as you have an Apple watch running. But some of the things that you really want to do with your phone in public, you cannot do still. For example, if you want to tap to pay with Apple Pay at a point of sale thing, you still have to either type in a code or do a face scan.

Next, if anybody is a user of the Bluetooth model of the Instant Pot, but not the Wi-fi, one that most people have now a days. But There was an earlier version that not only work with Bluetooth and that update for 1.5 will bring this app. This app is no longer being developed and will not work with the 14.5 update. If you have that model and don't want to lose connectivity with Instant Pot for the time being, Julian suggested to not do this update.

So there are a bunch of updates and these updates are kind of important not just for added features but also for security purposes.

Another announcement is called Air Tags. It is a small circular tag with a little speaker in it and has a removable battery. With this you will attach into items that are easily lost. It also has a feature called Percission Finding. This is one most selling point of it. You can use this app, let’s say that your keys were under the couch cushion. The phone will attempt to guide you pointing on the screen or having voice over announce to you. However, it only works with the iPhone 11 and 12. The air tags can still be used through the find my network. The keychain and other accessories are available at a price. They come in a pack of 4 for about $100. If you want to read more about this things in greater details, go to applivis.com. Or look for Tech Talk podcast where he will featured on May 26 on the Accessible World Tech Talk podcast which is available at the accessibleworld.org.

Valerie happily announced that her and David will be proud grandparents for grandbaby #5.

Candace unfortunately has to put her graduation on hold this year because there’s so many things going on like one of her cousin just got Covid which affected her mental health. So she’ll do everything in Fall and will be walking for sure next year.

Keith is working towards his goal to becoming an ADA Coordinator. One of the areas that he would be focusing on is mental health.

Sharon would just like to share that she just received flowers and chocolate covered strawberries delivered for Mother’s Day.

Jo Anne announced that Tom Grimsley’s house is being sold.

Racquel announced Hearts For Sight is having a biking event. It finally opened up. They are having bike ride on Saturday May 15 at Long Beach Shoreline from 9 am to 11:30 am. You have to be there by 8:45 am because they are being strict on time now. Please let her know if you want to be added on their list. Bike rides are first come first serve. There were 17 seats available and as of last night, they only have 7 seats open. Plus, they will have more hikes with at least 1 scheduled hike every month.

Joy gave an update about Rochelle. There will be a service at least a month from now. Her sister would be coming to the United States and would have the chance to meet her if you plan to attend the service. If you desire to attend, this is a way that we could show Rochelle’s sister that Rochelle was loved and appreciated.

Robert’s announcements are as follows:

the CAGDU at 4 pm will have the biweekly social call. Contact him for the Zoom link.

Disaster Preparedness Seminar was sent out via e-mail will take place on Tuesday and will start at 10 am on Zoom. Please register for it. Robert can send you the info.

Next, in the May Braille Monitor, there’s actually an article about a cell phone that is a basic cell phone. It’s not a smart phone and its called the Mini Vision 2. It’s a candy bar style phone. It can do phone call and texting. . It’s $299 and it only works with AT&T and T-Mobile. You can read more about it in the Braille Monitor. The other thing that Robert wanted to mention is, especially after hearing of Rochelle’s passing, he thought that it might be a good idea to contact other people that we haven’t heard from our Chapter meetings or social calls for some time. One of them that he had contacted is  Alyce Garabedian. She’s back in teaching again. She doesn’t do well with Zoom meetings. It’s hard for her to hear things and keep track of what’s being said. Maybe when we get back to being in-person, she will look at in attending. The other person that he contacted is Bill Grosjean. Currently in Guatemala. He’s planning to come back this month. Sad to say while he was there, he lost his Mom due to Covid.

 Secretary’s Report.

Julian made a motion to approve the April minutes as submitted, seconded by Joe and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report.

The April Treasury Report was sent out by Nancy on May 6, 2021. Robert gave an update that Nancy is still not on the checking account. Hopefully after the June meeting, we might get Nancy on the checking account. There was some hold with our State Affiliate. Our 501C3 was on suspension. With our State President, we’ve got on the filing and will be submitting by next week.

The Presidential Release.

Robert pointed out some highlights from the Presidential Release that are important and it’s as follows:

 If you know of a high school student who is preparing for college and is having difficulties with accessibility and materials, encouraging them and make them contact Vallerie Yngling at the National Office. She can be contacted by e-mail at vyingling@nfb.org or call 410-659-9314.

Next, there is going to be a Pilot radio program. It’s an internet base radio program. They are looking for people who have expertise in that area. You can contact the Communications Team at the National Office. You can send an e-mail to communicationsteam@nfb.org or call the same number that was mentioned above.

The Survivor’s Task Force has been busy and it was created because of the sexual misconduct that has taken place in different training centers. They are working on the Code of Conduct and updating it to make it easy for people to file Code of Conduct violations. If you are in need of filing a Code of Conduct violation, you can by sending an e-mail to code@nfb.org. Stay tune for an update at the National Convention from the Task Force as to what has been done to this point and what they plan in doing in the future.

There’s a survey that needs to be completed by May 12th. The subject of this survey says: climate rain survey. It’s about 30 to 45 minute survey about survivors. Robert is encouraging everyone to fill it out.

The National Convention

Robert wanted to remind everyone that the registration’s deadline is on May 31st. You can go to nfb.org/register.

You can also fill out a fundraising program for the organization and will put you in a drawing to win convention for next year. Go to nfb.org and click the donate link and can fill out the form for “give 20”.

There will be a comedy night at the convention. If you want to give your comedy and if you are a great comedian, you can send an e-mail to convention@nfb.md.org. Give them basically give them a little bit of what you want to do in your comedy act. Do that by Monday, the 10th.

Now, with the first timer convention, you can request a mentor to help you go through the agenda and learn more about the NFB. Send an e-mail to rookie@nfb.org.

With the Bell Program is also taking place this year. For the first session, if you are interested to be a mentor, you should sign up which is the deadline was yesterday. There will still be session in July and August. You can go to nfb.org/bell and you will find all the information about signing up to be a mentor.

Fundraising

A couple of fundraisers that are taking place on the Affiliate level. If you are still interested in sending a recipe for the Affiliate cookbook. Deadline is May 31st. Let Robert know if you need the link for the form.

Also in June and July, the NFB of California will be having a fundraiser where we are working with Angela Fowler where she would be selling her awesome jerky. A percentage of the sales that she will receive will go to the NFB of California.

On the Chapter level, we are going to have the Double Good popcorn. The earliest date was end of May. So we have chosen June 2nd Wednesday at 5 pm and it goes to Sunday June 6th at 5 pm. Robert will be sending out the link. You can either use the link that he has or you can create your own pup up store. It you need any help, Robert is willing to assist. Once created, you can send it out to your friends and families. With the purchases, the Chapter will get 50% of the proceeds. Once the fundraiser ends, then they start popping the popcorn.

The Central Valley Chapter will also have the Double Good popcorn fundraiser in July.

Robert also discussed about a highbred Chapter meeting maybe in August or September. For those who want to come and be in person, can do so. To those that are not ready to meet in person, can still have the meeting in Zoom.

State Convention

The Affiliate has decided to do it virtual for one more year.

Best In Tech was brought up and there were further discussions about it. Stay tune for more progress and planning from the Committee. Racquel, Keith, Joy, Karen, Jaymee and Julian shared their thoughts and input to the idea of having a Best In Tech.

Julian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nancy. The meeting was adjourn at 11:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646

 Chapter Secretary

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