August 2021Minutes of the Meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: August 14 2021, Saturday

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

Trivia question: What's your favorite family night game?

In attendance:

Sharon Watson, Jane Suh, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile – President, Jo Anne Seaman, Lynne Nishihara, Anthony Melena, Candace Luther, Jose Lomeli, Lindsay Kerr, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large, Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Karen Elo, David and Valerie Delawder,

Racquel Decipeda, Keith Caballa, Sheila Biglang-awa – Secretary, Catherine Bliss, Terry Almy, Matthew Schrieber, Guillermo Robles - guest,

Total attendees: 22

21 members and 1 guest.

Announcements:

Juanita wanted to let everyone know for those who subscribed the AIRA program through the Del Mcintosh Center, that this would be the last month that you would be receiving it for free. AIRA is actually collecting short video or short write-ups to compile and to put together for Toyota. This is to see if we can get more fundings. In your short video or write-up, you should write about how it has changed your life or how having it for free has helped you with your financial situation. If anyone would like to submit, please send it to Juanita via e-mail.

Her next announcement, AIRA donated 100 J8 Android phones to a start a program where they will be giving it out for free to blind and visually impaired individuals who doesn't have a smart phone. If you’re interested, feel free to reach out to her. Next announcement is their Chromebook program, which is only applicable to Orange County. This program is for somebody who doesn't have access to on-line services and would like to learn basic use like checking e-mails, you would get a free Chromebook. Juanita will send her work e-mail along with the 1-minute message and the pledge.

Jo Anne announced that the Olympics was audio description.

Racquel's announcement for Hearts for Sight, Their mission is to empower blind and visually impaired people in pursuing their physical, mental and emotional well-being. Majority of their programs: help bring down barriers that restrict us in pursuing physical, mental and emotional health. Core programs are hiking, biking, yoga, individual counselling and sports services. In line with this, they have their first fundraising for the year at the Diablo Tacos Cantina and Restaurant. Venue: 3129 West Sunset Blvd. 15 percent of the proceeds will go to Hearts For Sight to help fund other programs. Next, they have hike and beach day at Bolsa Chica State Beach – ecological reserve and State beach will be next week. In September, they have the fishing trip in collaboration with NFB.SFV. They will be chartering a boat on the 10th and will be leaving out of Marina Del Rey at 8 am. It’s an all-day trip and payment is needed ahead of time amounting to $50. You have to have a fishing license for the day. You can have 2 choices, either you can apply for your free lifetime license if you think you would be fishing more than once. All you have to do is to have your eye doctor sign paper works and send it to the California Wild Life and Fishing Department. Renew it annually for $5 or $6. But if you just wanted to try fishing one time, there is fishing license for the day. They can get it when you get on board on the boat for about $18 or $20. On the actual fishing there will be other fees if you catch one and if you want the fish to be clean, cost is $1. Food available on the boat with extra charge. Info will be sent out. They need to have 40 people on the boat. Another activity that Racquel announced is the hike on September 26 at Dep’s Park in downtown L.A. Info will be sent out. Another collaboration with the NFB.SFV is the Dodgers game with a ticket of $44. They need your commitment for that and the last day will be on September 2. Then on October 16 will be another 4-seater series bike ride in El Dorado. It’s limited and it’s first come first serve. Another hiking day is on October 23 which details will be sent out.

Robert added that the Hearts For Sight’s email has been approved for the Chapter’s list.

Robert’s following announcements:

Rochelle Yohai’s sister is having a memorial luncheon at Lulu’s restaurant at 2 pm at 16900 Roscoe Blvd. Pls. let Robert know for the head count.

The Pathfinder’s barbecue picnic on August 28, Saturday from noon to 4 pm. Flyers will be sent out via e-mail.

Deaf Blind Group in California meeting will on Saturday August 21 at 4 pm. Let Robert know if anyone who’s interested so he can send you the Zoom info.

The National Association of Guide Dogs Users NAGDU has a meeting called Guide Dog matters on August 15, Sunday at12 noon. Topic will be legal matters regarding guide dogs.

Parents Division in California – Parents of Blind children is having a fundraiser on August 27 at 7 pm. A comedy night with a fee of $25 per house or you can get a $40 VIP ticket which will give you the opportunity to the comedians afterwards in a private screening.

If you need information in any of the items mentioned above, please feel free to contact Robert.

Secretary Report.

Juanita made a motion to approve the June minutes, seconded by Terry and the motion carries.

 Treasurer’s Report.

Nancy sent out the July Treasurer’s Report on August 5th.

Ron played the Presidential Release #507.

There are some legislative things that we need to continue working on. The first one is the Hr431 which is the Access Technology Affordability Act. There are 109 co-sponsors in the House. There 24 co-sponsors in the Senate.

Robert also added about the non-visual medical devices - non-what is your medical devices app,

has a bill number now which is HR5486. We need co-sponsor for this bill to pass.

In our Affiliate, we have committee that would put together and trying to figure out how we can get more people involve in legislation and working to get bills pass that we need. We are looking for someone from each Chapter. We need someone who is good with e-mail communication and able to make phone calls and write and be able to bring the issues that are discussed and trying to get pass, and bring it back to the Chapter. This legislative person will report to the Chapter to let us know what items are important at that time and would be working with the Affiliate legislative committee. If you’re interested, please contact Robert.

He is also encouraging everyone to sign up for the Braille Monitor. The National Convention events or information such as the Presidential Report, the banquet speech during convention will be on the next Braille Monitor issue in September.

He is also recommending to be a member of Newsline.

2021 State Convention

Date October 21 to 24 via Zoom. A possibility for next year will be an in-person highbred for those who can’t attend. This year we will be having door prizes. Our Chapter will need to come up with an auction basket. Details were discussed about the auction basket. Robert needs people to sign up to be a committee. Contact him if you’re interested to do it.

Convention registration in English form is available. Still working on the Spanish form. It can be available on the website: nfbcal.org. You can register using the English version of the form. Spanish version works if you only submit the form. But if you want to make a donation, you can not use the Spanish version. It will give you an error. Free registration is until October 14 and after that registration will be $25 per person.

The July 2021 National Convention

Robert opened the floor from those who attended the convention to share experiences. Guillermo Keith, Robert and Candace shared their virtual experiences.

Robert invited the new attendees who would like to become a member. Sharon made a motion to accept Guillermo as new member, seconded by Terry and the motion carries.

Catherine just needs to submit her dues and we can reinstate her membership.

Terry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Juanita. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

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 Chapter Secretary

NFB.SFV