2022 January minutes of the meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: January 8, 2022 Saturday

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

Tiffany Johnson led us with the Pledge of Allegiance, the NFB pledge and the 1 minute message.

Question of the day: Do you read Braille? If so, is it for work or pleasure? If you don't read Braille, are you planning to learn it?

In Attendance:

Sharon Watson, Julian Vargas, Jane Suh, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile – President, Julie Skujins, Jo Anne Seaman, Guillermo Robles, Lynne Nishihara, Jerry Morales, Portia Mason, Candace Luther, Lindsay Kerr, Tiffany Johnson, Jose Lomeli, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large, Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Betsy Estrada, David and Valerie Delawder, Jaymee Castillo, Sheila Biglang-awa – Secretary, Nancy Albarran – Treasurer, John Albarran and Amy Nickel – guest.

Total: 25 attendees.

24 members and 1 guest.

Announcements:

Julian's Tech corner:

1. update IOS version 15.2. Apple fixed such as: now you can play around with the Voice mail that was taken out for a while,.

2. Facebook to avoid hackers sending your friends a request, you have the option to hide your friends list from everybody by going to the Facebook's settings and scroll to your privacy. Set it to hide it.

3. Portable battery — selling a 20 amp that gives you vibrations and sounds for $99.

and lastly, for his Breaking Blindness Barriers will have a group discussion on the last Saturday of the month January 29th. Pls. join and they will discuss if you got some new gadgets from Christmas that you might need help with and see what they as a group can collectively do to help you. Julian will also discuss the Voice-over pronunciation dictionary. He would also get ideas and/or suggestions that the group might like as topics or any invited guest speakers to join for this new year. For those who still wants to join, simply send him an e-mail at help@jvtech.com.

In behalf of John, Nancy announced that the next class for the Peer support Training will be on April 4th to May 19th. It’s an 8 week long with 3 days a week from 9 am to 3 pm. These trainings are to help and train people to become peer advocates and case managers in the disability field especially with mental health. If you're interested, please E-mail John at john@dcrcddco.

And lastly, DCRC is having a Covid19 vaccine clinic every Saturday from 2 pm to 6 pm. Open for walk-ins or by appointments. Flyers will be sent out on the list serve.

Jo Anne went on a trip to Arizona in Christmas and got a chance to be with her great grand niece and nephew.

Lynne shared an article that she read about affordable N95 and KN95 masks on Amazon. You can get 50 pcs for $43. 10 pcs. N95 respiratory mask for $21 and 20 pcs for $29.

Robert's announcements:

1. for those who has a guide dog or anyone who's interested, there is a Yuppy hour today at noon.

2. CAGDU will be on Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Call him after the meeting if you're interested to join.

Robert announced the January birthday celebrants: Sheila, Goldie Castro, Karen Elo, Jaymee and Joy. And his Guide dog Winnie is today. Next will be Julian on the 1st of February.

Juanita sent out an E-mail yesterday with the information about the Spanish-at-large chapter that is forming. The meeting will be today at 4 pm to 5:30 pm. It just started so they are still trying to decide who the Chair President would be. Pls. feel free to join.

Secretary's report

Julian made a motion to approve the November minutes, seconded by Juanita and the motion carries.

Treasurer's report

Nancy sent the November Treasurer’s report in December 2nd on the list serve.

Presidential Release

Some highlights:

The National Board made some changes to the scholarship program. The changes would be that all 30 scholarship finalists will receive $8000. All finalists will get same amount, unlike before, each amount was broken down differently. The other changes was you need to be 18 years of age to apply. Scholarships are now open to apply and deadline is on March 31st. Start applying as early as now because there's a lot to do on the application and a lot to submit.

Washington seminar.

It is taking place in-person and Zoom. We have 8 people who are going to Washington DC. There's a lot of changes in Capitol Hills. You have to have a scheduled appointment. When you get to the building, you will be escorted to the actual office that you're going to. Once you're done, you will be escorted back to the door and must leave the building right away. We have 8 attending in-person and about 16-17 people attending virtually. The issues for the Washington seminar are: the Access Affordability Technology Act HR431, the medical devices / non-visual accessibility act : 4853 HR. and the web access and apps act. Another issue is the transformation to competitive employment : HR 2373 and S3238, which subminimum wages will be abolished.

National Convention.

This year it will be on July 5 to the 10th in New Orleans and will be in-person. The Marriott hotel will be the headquarters hotel and is now taking reservations. For more information, you can go to nfb.org under National Convention. The overflow hotel is the Sheraton which is just directly across the street of Marriot!. The Sheraton is going to be holding the exhibit hall.

There will be also an on-line convention. The board meeting, resolutions, general sessions and banquet are all streamed. There will be strict guidelines as far as covid situation is concern even though the hotels or the City of New Orleans does not require it, the NFB is going to require mask for wearing in all meetings. This is for everyone's safety. The City of New Orleans is requiring proof of vaccination in all places.

Hotel rates $109 per night for singles and doubles. $119 a night for triple and quads. Tax is 16.2 percent and $3 a night City occupancy fee. To make reservation, you can find it on-line at nfb.org/convention.

Fundraising

Robert discussed about a fundraiser that Joe Otoole had brought up. Still not sure how it works. In the realm that Robert understands it. This is a Superbowl fundraiser. Someone would need to make a grid with numbers. Normally it has 100 numbers. You can sell the squares at any amount for example from $5, $10, $20 or whatever you want to sell it for. The Chapter will get the half of each square. We would come up with numbers for the end of the first quarter, pass time and the ending score. For example we set the ending score for 56-53. The winner should have a number close to that number or have that number at the end of the game. Winner will get the half and the other half will go to the Chapter. If the Chapter is interested to get it done, so Robert open it for questions. Joy, Lynne and Julian and Jerry shared their input.

Holiday Party

Feedbacks were shared from the members who attended.

Tupperware Fundraising.

We had a guest representative named Amy Nickel and gave an introduction about what she does with and for Tupperware fundraising parties. She discussed details about the following:

\* as for Tupperware party, as a non-profit organization would get 20% from what we would make from the sales. This would be done virtually via Zoom. We would schedule a date and time. The actual party would take a couple of hours or less. She would explain the products in great detail. She will send out the website with the link. Site is pretty friendly but if you find some issues, you can contact her. People who can’t go to the party can go to the website. The link will be open for about a month or 2 so everybody can have time to order. Shipping delivery will be between $6 & $8.

\* Bingo game which is also done via Zoom and is another fun way to raise funds. You have the options to pick 5 numbers from 1 to 75. You have to keep these chosen numbers either in Braille or put in your computer. Your set of number should be sent to Amy so she can have a copy. We would schedule a date and time. She will draw the numbers and explain the product corresponding to it. There will be 4 to 5 bigger items as prizes which would worth around $30 and up. She will also provide giveaways / door prizes for those who are joining. There will be a $6 fee per bingo card. $3 will go to the organization and the other $3 will go to her expenses.

Amy also mentioned and added that the free items or giveaways that you will get from just joining in, you will not pay for the shipping. She will cover it. But if you are a winner from the Bingo game, you have to pay the shipping for your major prize which will estimate amount to $6 or less.

Website, e-mail, party link and brochures will all be provided for us to use for our Tupperware fundraiser.

Before we adjourned, Robert asked Jerry if he’s interested in re-activating his membership. Julian made a motion to vote him in, seconded by Juanita and the motion carries.

Juanita made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Chapter Secretary

NFB.SFV