March 2022 Chapter meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: March 12 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, the NFB pledge and the 1 minute message.

Question of the day: What is your favorite food to cook?

In attendance:

Julian Vargas, Jane Suh, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile – President, Jo Anne Seaman, Lynne Nishihara, Portia Mason, Candace Luther, Lindsay Kerr, Tiffany Johnson, Ron Hilliard – Member-At-Large, Juanita Herrera – Vice President, Shelby Felter, David and Valerie Delawder, Cenorina Covarrubias, Jaymee Castillo,, Keith Caballa, Beatrice Varela, Sheila Biglang-awa – Secretary, Nancy Albarran – Treasurer and John Albarran

Stephanie Soto - guest.

Total: 23

 22 Members and 1 guest.

Announcements:

\* Keith got his ADA certification last month.

\* Candace finally graduating from CSUN and her graduation date is on May 23 at 8 am. She needs help in finding a reception after the graduation and she would like to invite everyone.

\* Lindsay shared that the Student division is having a women's history month today at 4 pm. The Zoom link was put out in the list serve.

\* Juanita announced the Spanish at large is planning to have a meeting today at 4pm. She will be sending out the Zoom link to the list serve. Her 2nd announcement that she finally got accepted to take certification which is the top certification for technology for rehabilitation engineering. She's hoping to take the exam next month.

\* John announced that at the DCRC (Disability Community Resource), there is a class forming for Pierce support training class from April to May 19th. It’s a first come first serve. He has 6 people for this class and was hoping to have a large group with 12 or 15 people. Information will be put out in the list serve.

\* Joy, the President of the Diabetes Action Network of California, announced their fundraiser: Double Good Popcorn starting April 2nd. The link info will be sent out a little before April 2nd. She’s hoping that everyone would support by purchasing popcorn or send out the link to your friends and families.

\* Julian's Tech corner:

\* Apple had an event called Peak Performance where they launch the new iPhone SE. The good thing about this iPhone is that it is at a lower price point. Phone got the same processor, 15 bionic processor that are found also in the current iPhone 13. It does also offer some 5G capability. it doesn't have the full 5G capability that’s found in the iPhone 13 and this is more on the low frequency type of 5G. It comes in 3 different storage sizes: 64 gigs, 128 gigs and 256 gigabits. It will be $30 more. Another announcement that they made was the new iPad Air, a new Mac and if you want to know more the details, you can watch the keynote on the Apple site. Go to applebis.com/blog for all of their announcements. IOS 15.4 will be coming out next week. Lastly, Julian will be giving a presentation for Accessible World. They do a meeting on a Podcast. Anybody who wants to be involved in that, you can go to accessibleworld.org and will be put out on podcast on Monday evenings at 5 pm PST.

\* Robert announced that AIRA which is a visual interpreting service is going to provide free service at the CSUN technology conference at the Marriott and Hilton Hotel, which is next week, starting from Monday to Friday. For all AIRA users, you will be able to use free minutes. This will be the 37th CSUN conference that will be held in Anaheim. You can check details online.

His next announcement is that we have a Chapter member named Alyce Garabedian is planning to attend soon. She had just received an award in a plaque for teaching in the same school district, Monrovia School for 40 years.

\* Hearts For Sight has received a grant that will be used for 2 fishing trips which will be on June 4 and September 24.With this grant that the organization has received, Hearts for Sight will be paying for the boat. There will be no out of pocket cost for boarding the boat, no cost for equipment and also no cost for your first food purchase while on the boat. So, you will get a voucher for 1 food item and a drink, then after that there will be a charge. For the fishing license, if you do not get the annual free fishing license before June, you will be responsible to pay $17 fee. Robert has the application for it. You have to fill it out and go to your Doctor and have it signed saying that you are visually impaired. Once done, you can turn it in to Robert with your $5 fee. Now, on the actual fishing trip, if you catch a fish, there’s a $1 fee to have it cleaned. So, if anyone is interested and wants more information, you can contact Robert.

In line with the Hearts for Sight’s announcements, Robert mentioned that next Saturday the 19th, there are still spots available for the hike at the Topanga State Beach. Need to ride a bus for that and the bus pick up is in Van Nuys and in Alhambra. Let Racquel Decipeda know if you’re interested to go and which bus pick up you need. Then the next event is the serie-bike ride on March 27 in Long Beach. In April, there will be a hike in Van Nuys and another bike ride. Racquel will send the details in the Chapter’s list serve. Be sure to sign up for those because they do fill up really quickly. Then they also have a Men’s support group which they only have 2 spots left. It's is a group counselling session and they meet every Wednesday of the week. You can contact Racquel if you are interested. Nancy gave out their e-mail which is hearts4sight@gmail.com.

\*Robert’s next announcement is, if you have ordered your test kits for Covid through the government, the site is very accessible. If you’re interested, you can go to [www.covidtest.gov](http://www.covidtest.gov) and click the link to order for supply of 4. You can also call 800-232-0233 to place an order. Juanita informed everyone to check the expiration date of those kits. Some have 3 months shelf life and others have 6 months. Robert also added that for AIRA users, AIRA provide free minutes to have an agent to read your home test.

Secretary’s Report

Lynne made a motion to accept the February minutes, seconded by Nancy and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy sent out the February Treasurer’s Report on March 6, 2022.

Robert ‘s excited to say that we should be getting Nancy on the Chapter’s Checking account pretty soon.

Presidential Release

Ron played the Presidential Release #514. If you want to get information, please feel free to contact Robert.

He added and mentioned that for California, we are having a virtual Belle Program this year. If anyone interested in being a mentor, you need to contact Debbie Worstman If you need her contact info, you can ask Robert.

Next item is a time sensitive and that is

 For those who are guide dog users. We all know that that they’ve been working on getting Lift and Uver to take you with your guide dog without having any issues with the driver. If you have had any denial between the months of October 1st 2021 and March 31, 2022, after the denial had taken place, you need to record a video of what happened. Send it to the NAGDU Board – National Association of Guide Dogs Users. Create a video recording by saying your name, where you live and mentioned the date and the actual incident. Make sure to emphasize fact that it kept you from getting to your destination and that the denial was taking place.

Fundraising.

We just had our Tupperware virtual party and Bingo game and our Tupperware website is still ongoing until April 30. For those who haven’t purchased and/or check the website, please do so. If you don’t have any plans to purchase, at least we need your cooperation and participation by inviting or forwarding the website to anybody that you know that might be interested. This would help our Chapter. Our Tupperware sales that we gathered according to Amy Nickel was $588. 20% from it will go to our Chapter. And from the Bingo game, we need to have at least 25 cards purchased. We had 29 bingo cards purchased and Amy gathered $174. Half of that fee which amounted to $87 will go to our Chapter as well. So the floor was opened for any input, suggestions or anything that you think that we might add for our Tupperware fundraiser and we will let Amy Nickel know. So a few members shared some feedback. It was discussed and decided when the 2nd Bingo game be. April 2nd at 2 pm was suggested.

We ended by Robert asking if there are any new participant who would like to become a new member.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joy. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee

NFB.SFV