September 2022 Chapter meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: September 10, 2022, Saturday

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am. Candace Luther led us with the Pledge of Allegiance, the NFB pledge and the 1 minute message.

Question of the day: What would you take with you if you are going to the beach?

In attendance:

Julian Vargas, Olga Tobias, Jane Suh, Robert Stigile-President,

Joy Stigile, Candace Luther, Lindsay Kerr, Tiffany Johnson, Ron Hilliard - Member-AT-Large, David and Valerie Delawder, Jaymee Castillo, Keith Caballa, Sheila Biglang-awa-Secretary, John and Nancy Albarran - Treasurer, Racquel Decidpeda, Lynne Nishihara, Robin Smith, Shelby Felter and Julie Skujins.

Total: 21 members

Announcements:

* Racquel’s announcements for Hearts For Sight are as follows: September 25th hike San Gabriel mountains and will be providing 1 bus from Alhambra pick up at 8 am. Next, September 30th fishing trip in Marian Del Rey with a sign up fee of $25 that will hold your spot. Upon showing up on the day of, the fee will be returned to you. The fishing trip is from 8 am to 3 pm. October 2nd bike ride and picnic in Rancho Santa Fe Dam. There will be a new sport group coming up starting on September 19th. All of these information will be sent out in the list serve. For reservation, please call Racquel. In addition, the annual Monster Bash Halloween fundraising / party will be on October 29th at the Gardena Mooose Lounge from 5 pm to 10 pm.
* Robert announced the Pathfinder Chapter is doing play as a fundraiser called Sign Field & Deliver on October 8th from 2 pm to 6 pm with a $30 fee that includes dinner. Since the play will fall on our monthly Chapter meeting, it has been agreed to have the meeting via Zoom to avoid travelling issues with Access Services.

His next announcement starting in October we are going to have our social call back every 1st & 3rd Fridays only at 7 pm. Robert will send out the Zoom info in the list serve.

* Julian’s tech corner announcements are as follows: Apple in Cupertino had an event called Far Out where they announced the new Iphone14, iPhone 14 plus, 14 Pro, 14 Pro Max. They replace the mini and brought back the Plus. They have the new Apple watch, series 8, a new SE and the newest one is the Ultra. This Ultra is meant for rugged, sport enthusiast like mountain climbers, divers and etc. with a bigger watch design. They also announced the new Air pod Pro2nd edition. IOS16 will be coming out this Monday, September 12th. You can go to applevis.com to get more details about it and read about some the discussions as well. They also started a forum to discuss Apple beta releases that you might to look at and get ideas from. This IOS 16 is available to the Iphone8 and later. You can also listen to their Podcast of all their new accessibility enhancements. Julian will have more and detailed discussion on his next Breaking Blindness Barriers meeting on September 24th. His next item are for sports people especially for the NFL fans, all the Westwood One game are now going to be free for the primetime games in TuneIn.

Secretary’s Report

Joy mad a motion to approve the August Minutes as read and sent, seconded by Tiffany and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy sent out the August Treasurer’s Report on September 6th in the list serve.

State Convention 2022.

On our website at nfbcal.org/convention, You will find the following forms: registration form, scholarship form for students which the deadline to submit is on October 15th. All scholarship finalists will be brought to the convention to be awarded the scholarship grant on Saturday night at our banquet.

If you are attending virtually, fee is $25 and that will give the opportunity to attend general session, the board meeting, the banquet and whatever division that will decide their meetings via Zoom For virtual, you will not be able to vote for resolutions and election. Now, if you are attending in person, there are 2 registration fees. The $60 covers the registration with breakfast for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Then an additional $60 if you want to join the banquet. So, a total of $120 for both. For transportation, the Inland Empire has chartered a bus for $45 round trip per person. Let Robert know if you would like to take the bus and send the money to him. Bus will be leaving from Clairmont on Thursday at 1 pm. You need to be there by 12:30 pm. Bus will return in Clairmont on Sunday and will leave the hotel at 1 pm.

The new thing in the convention, the Presidential Release will be played live on Thursday November 3rd at 5 pm.

For in-person attendees you have to have a negative Covid test 24 hours before registration on Thursday or you can do it there before checking in. Show your negative result at the registration table and you will be given a ribbon that says that you’re free to go in. Make sure to book a hotel room and the rates are on our website: nfbcal.org.

Next item on the agenda, Juanita Herrera, our Vice President had sent out an e-mail that the Board had agreed a $200 grant for members who will attend the State convention. To be qualified for this grant, you need to do the following: register for the convention before October 5th and send a copy of the transportation that you can show that you are going along side with a request for the grant that needs to be submitted to Robert. The Chapter Board will make a decision between the 5th and the 7th and will be announced at our Chapter meeting on October 8th. Another thing that the Chapter Board had discussed is giving a contribution to the Affiliate. Each year we give something to the Affiliate to help with expenses and support the things that Affiliate’s programs like for example: supporting blind parents where the Child Protective Services wants to take their baby away, and there’s support for the student programs etc. So, this year our Board decided to give $500 to the Affiliate. We also have decided to give donations of $100 for the door prizes.

Another thing that Robert would like to mentioned that he wasn’t able to discuss it with the Board is about having a hospitality suite where all members can go and talk to others and meet and greet new people and have some smacks and chitchat with everyone. Robert then asked our members if we could give a certain amount to donate for the hospitality suite with a suggestion of either a $50 or $100 can do as a donation. Lynne made a motion to give $100 to the Hospitality suite, seconded by Joy and the motion carries.

Fundraising Committee

Jumping back to our previous fundraiser with Tupperware, there will be gift cards that are going to be mailed to the participants who joined so wait for a phone call to ask your address. But the Our Chapter’s Roster has to be updated first because there are phone numbers that are no longer active or in service. So, Robert suggested if anyone made some changes in their information, to please call Robert so we can update your info in our roster.

Amy Nickel, our Tupperware representative mentioned that there are a few people inquiring about our next fundraiser. She had a conversation with them and was wondering if there will be one soon, it will be a good idea and a perfect time for the upcoming holidays. Amy made a suggestion that we can have it between October 15th and November 15th before the shipping delivery gets crazy due to the holidays. Joy raised a question if Amy is willing and will be open to do it with us on a Saturday. Amy will get back with us for that answer.

Next item is the fundraiser. Our issues and concern was delivered to the Subway owner and he said that he will take care of it and not to worry and he’ll make sure that he stays on top of it. Our meet up last September 3rd was not bad and sales will be shown to us at the end of the fundraiser. It was also discussed if we are willing to extend it till the end of September. Joy opened an invitation to have another meet up / gathering on September 17th. E-mail will be sent out for more details about it.

Robert suggested to have the Subway fundraiser end on the same date September 19th. He put out and say to everyone if anyone is not interested in certain fundraiser ideas like Subway and if you have another idea, he is highly recommending to speak to him and share your ideas with us. We always need new and good ideas. All ideas are good ideas and it will be much better if you bring it up to us! We need to come up with 1 or 2 more fundraiser because the holidays are coming.

Robert requested first, if we can put out the Chapter’s roster in the list serve so members can verify if their info such as phone numbers and e-mail address are current and accurate. Secondly, another e-mail for fundraising asking everyone if they still want to do a Tupperware, Double Good popcorn or even ask everyone to share more and new ideas.

State convention’s auction basket.

Robert needs a person to be a Chair to get the auction basket going. The Chair person would bring the auction items to the convention. Please let him know if you’re willing and interested to do it. For the State convention, there will be an options to either have a virtual auction basket or an in-person auction basket. He will leave it all up to the Chapter to decide what everyone wants.

Holiday Party

Robert also needs someone to start looking into what we want to do for our Holiday Party. Target party date will be on a 2nd Saturday, December 10th, 2022. Robert asked everyone if anyone is interested to volunteer. Joy is interested to handle it and Sheila volunteered to help.

Racquel brought up a discussion about any plans of having and/or bringing back Best In Tech. Robert laid out the main issue that we need to first find a place that we could have it on a Saturday and that place can fit between 500 & 600 people. And the place should also provide different rooms for different programs and/or breakout rooms for vendors. He looked around and spoke to some hotels and found out that we are going to be charged minimum of $4000 $5,000 for the day. We need a place that will not cost us an arm and a leg. And definitely we cannot have any more at the Braille Institute for some reasons. So, if anyone can come up with something, Robert is willing to do it again. He will discussed it more with our Chairperson Juanita our Vice President.

Lastly, robert asked whenever anybody has invited someone to join our Chapter meeting, to please send him the person’s info such as an e-mail address so he can send them the Zoom invitation and/or you can send your invited guest the Zoom info that is being sent out by Robert.

Julian made a motion to have Olga re-join as a member, seconded by Nancy and the motion carries.

Julian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Racquel. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee

Cell#818-404-7646

NFB.SFV