October 2022 Minutes of the meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: October 8, 2022

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

Question of the day: What’s your plan for Halloween?

In attendance:

John and Nancy Albarran, Sheila Biglang-awa-Secretary, Racquel Decidpeda, David and Valerie Delawder, Shelby Felter, Ron Hilliard - Member-AT-Large, Tiffany Johnson, Lindsay Kerr, Candace Luther, Julie Skujins, Joy Stigile,

Robert Stigile - President, Olga Tobias, Betsy Estrada, Juanita Herrera-Vice President, Anthony Melena, Darren Greshem-guest , Jo Anne Seaman, Karen Elo, Cenorina Covarrubias and Beatriz Varela

Total 23 attendees

22 members and 1 guest.

Announcements:

* Lindsay announced that the Student Division is hosting a streaming of Crip Camp on October 15th. She will send the info on the list serve.
* Anthony is excited in moving back home and will be having a new job in November.
* Juanita announced that we will having Best In Tech next year. We will be having the first planning meeting on October 15, Saturday at 3 pm. Zoom info will be sent out in the list serve.
* Racquel shared the Hearts For Sight announcements: 1. October 15 at Vision Fair at CalStateL.A. There will be a lot of blind organization that will be present. It will be from 9 am to 5 pm. If you know anyone who needs vision screening, the Hearts for Sight will have it in their booth. 2. October 16 hike at Griffith Park. Meeting at 8:30 am at Franklyn Café. 3. October 29 Monster Bash from 5 pm to 10 pm. ticket for adults $30 and $15 for kids which includes a meal, soda and bottled water. Additional of $5 if you pay at the door. They are in need of volunteers for that night to serve food, escort people so please contact5 Racquel. Be prepared with your Halloween costume for the contest. There will be games and dancing. All of the info will be sent out via e-mail. Then in November, there will be a bike ride on 11th which is yet to be confirmed. It will be at the Long Beach Shoreline. Then on November 13 is a new activity called surfing trip or surfing camp. This will be limited to 20 people who really and actually wants to participate in surfing because Hearts For Sight is paying part of it. They also have paid instructor. It will be in Huntington Beach. For those who would actually like to try to surf, the instructor had already worked with people that are disabled. He has a surfboard that has a seat if you don’t want to try to surf. The instructor will be with you while surfing. Lastly, there will be a hike toward Thanksgiving. The info will be sent out later.
* Robert announced that $10 dues are now payable for the Chapter. Send your dues by Pay Pal, Zelle, Venmo, Apple or etc. If you have questions, you can contact Robert.
* The next item, there will be an e-mail about the CAGDU - Guide Dog Division for their fundraiser on October 29th & 30th called “Wagaton”. It’s $10 to join. For those interested, please sign up and help CAGDU raise funds.

Secretary’s Report

Joy made a motion to approve the September minutes, seconded by Racquel and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy sent out the September Treasurer’s Report on October 3rd in the list serve.

State Convention

Registration for in-person is still open. It is $60 for registration and breakfast. A $60 for the banquet. The general session, the board meeting and banquet will all be on Zoom. The Division meetings will also all be on Zoom but each Division will be providing their own Zoom info.

 The virtual registration will be open all the way until Sunday morning with a $25 fee. Registration forms are at our website at nfbcal.org/convention. Forms are available in English and Spanish. Scholarship forms are available too and deadline to submit is October 15. Winners for the scholarship will receive it on Saturday night at Banquet.

The next thing is that the Chapter is providing grants for 8 Chapter members and they are as follows: Ron, Joy, Candace, Jane, Suh Shelby, Juanita, Racquel and Betsy. Robert would like to hear from each of the members who is receiving grant, to give us an idea at our next meeting, on things that you have attended and what you got out of it.

Next item is the Chapter’s auction basket. There are Chapters doing online auction basket or in-person. If we decide to do it in-person, Robert would need somebody who could bring it at the convention. Joy volunteered to bring 2 dozen home baked cookies. If anyone would like to contribute to the basket, please contact. Joy.

Fundraising Committee

Subway fundraiser. Spoke to owner and said that our 25% amounted to $99 from a $400 generated sales.

Tupperware fundraiser. Spoke to Amy Nickel and asked if she is willing to do a virtual fundraiser with us on a Saturday. Waiting for her reply.

Since we are ending the year and in line with the holidays, your suggestions and ideas are welcome. Joy suggested to do a Double Good Popcorn. Robert recommended to have a conference call for fundraising and invited everyone to share ideas. Shelby and Lindsay has an idea for Spring that runs like an online store that you can upload Anything that you could think of, they have it and it doesn’t close.

Holiday Party

Joy contacted Ernie’s Mexican Restaurant to ask if their outdoor patio is still open and if they are available on our targeted party date but have not heard from them yet. We are looking for a restaurant that can sit 20 to 30 people and can have separate checks. If anybody has an idea, we’re open for suggestions. Juanita, Anthony, John and Racquel brought up some thoughts and ideas for discussion.

Robert introduced our guest speaker Darren Greshem, to talk about their Programs. He works at the Dale Macintosh Center, an independent living center located in Anaheim. DMC works with and/or for person with disability in all of Orange County. However, the program that he works with this program called OIB-Older Individuals with Blindness and they cover all of the L.A. County. To qualify with this program, you need to meet 3 requirements: 1. You live in L.A. County, 2. You must be 55 years or older and 3. You have vision loss that is making any aspect of your independent living difficult. They will take your word, you don’t need to have medical documentation for being legally blind or visually impaired. You just have to say that you have vision loss that is making some aspect of your life difficult. Each consumer is quite different, he gave some ideas on what they do. They do anything from teaching folks on how to use their smartphones and working with them on learning to use their CCTV and various assistive technology. They help them on how to apply for Access. Sometimes they can bring a donated CCTV to someone and help them set it up. They teach JAWS and Zoom Tech. They can also help in labelling your microwave, washing machines or stove. And for the ladies, they will teach you on how to apply and put make-up. They provide canes and talking watches. Racquel, Robert, Juanita, Jo Anne, Olga and Beatrice joined in the discussion. To avail of their services, you can call at 714-621-3300 and you can ask for Lizette or ask to speak for someone in OID Program.

Lastly, Robert was unable to play the Presidential Release due to time. But the one important item that he wants to highlight is the legislation for a bill that wasn’t introduce to the House at the time of the Washington seminar. Now it has been introduced and that is the Websites and Software, Applications Accessibility Act. If this gets pass in the House and in the Senate, this will enforce companies to make their websites and applications accessible. The bill is S4998 and HR9021. Robert encourage to contact your Senator/s and let them know that you want the S4998 be pass through the Senate. Contact also your Congressional members and ask them to co-sponsor 9021.

Racquel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Juanita. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646

Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising.

NFB.SFV