November 2022 Chapter meeting

The National Federation of the Blind

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: November 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am. Lindsay Kerr led the Pledge of Allegiance, NFB pledge and the 1 minute message.

Question for the day: With the Thanksgiving this month, tell us one thing that you’re thankful for.

In attendance:

John and Nancy Albarran-Treasurer, Sheila Biglang-awa-Secretary, Keith Caballa,

 Racquel Decidpeda, David and Valerie Delawder, Betsy Estrada, Shelby Felter, Juanita Herrera-Vice President,

Ron Hilliard - Member-AT-Large, Tiffany Johnson, Lindsay Kerr, Candace Luther, Jo Anne Seaman, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile-President, Jane Suh, Lilia Mares-guest, Anita Aracala-guest.

Total: 20.

18 members and 2 guests.

Announcements:

* Lindsay, Vice President of the Student Division announced their Tea Spring fundraiser from Merge. They have T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and stickers. The fundraiser does not have a deadline and can go as long as they choose. The link will be put out in the chat and in the list serve. She also mentioned for those students who would like to be a member, Google forms are available.
* Racquel, co-founder of Hearts for Sight foundation announced the following: hike on November 22nd at Malibu Creek. Interested to join the hike, e-mail her at hearts4sight@gmail.com. On December 3rd surfing camp limited to 20 part5icipants. First time doing this in partnership with McKinnon Surf & Sup. They will teach people go surfing with adaptable surfboard that are designed for people with disability. Lunch will be provided. Then at the end of November, they will have men’s support group limited for 6 participants only. Registration will be coming up soon. For next year, the NFB, Sports & Recreation for the Blind and Hearts for Sight collaborated and partnered together to organize a 3 night cruise to Ensenada on September 22nd 2023. Registration is now open and the information was sent yesterday on the list serve. $25 deposit is required for you to get on the list and a post on the ship. Now if you are really sure that you are going and you want your cabin to be assigned, $100 is required before November 30. If you have some issues meeting that deadline and if you have more issues, you can call them. The post explains a lot about the cruise. July 8 2023 is the deadline for either for your full payment or you can do installment payment towards this date. If for some reason that you can’t make it, you can pull out your deposit on or before July 8, 2023.
* Robert announced the Best In Tech committee will have a meeting on November 19th 2022 Saturday at 3 pm. There will be a plan of having Best In Tech in November 2023, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Still searching for a place. So if you know of a banquet hall that have meeting rooms or if you have any connections at your college, please let the committee know.
* Robert reminded everyone that the $10 membership dues are now payable through Zelle by using the Chapter’s e-mail address which is nfbevents@gmail.com. You can also send your dues through Robert’s PayPal at rstigile@gmail.com. You can also use Venmo and use Robert Stigile’s name. You can also apply pay it and use his number: 818-419-5331. Checks are not preferred but it can still be accepted if checks are the only way that you can pay your dues.
* Robert also announced the Yappy hour at 12 noon for the National Association of Guide Dog Users Zoom social call. Text him if you are interested to join.

Secretary’s Report

Joy made a motion to approve the October minutes as written and sent, seconded by Tiffany and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

Nancy sent out the October treasurer’s Report on November 11th in the list serve.

A $500 contribution to the Affiliate was deposited this morning and it will be reflected in the January report.

Holiday Party

Joy was able to get the cost down to $34.50 per person. It will be a different menu from the previous. Combo meal with Soft beverage is included. Cocktails extra charge. Outdoor patio will be available.

Sheila found from her search this restaurant called Fresh Grill Cuisine, a Mediterranean base with 3locations. Spoke to the manager and was told that they can close the restaurant for us if we book the party at their Panorama City location. It’s an indoor dining with 30 sitting capacity. They are ok with separate checks and tip can also be individualized. Menus and prices were discussed more. Robert asked everyone what they think and had decided to try the new restaurant.

It was suggested to try the Fresh Grill Cuisine. Information will be sent out in the list serve. Juanita suggested to bring a $10 gift or gift card for a white elephant type thing.

Fundraising

A conference call will be scheduled. Joy spoke to Amy Nickel, our Tupperware representative can do another Bingo game during the week in December. 7:30 pm our time and that would be 9:30 pm her time. If not, we could do in Spring.

Presidential Release

The NFB has a Santa Program. If you know of a blind child, you can sign up or have the family sign up to receive a Braille letter from Santa either in Spanish or English.

President Marc Ricco Bono spoke about legislation. We are coming up to the end of this congressional session. So unfortunately any of the bills that we are working on, since they weren’t pass, they will disappear. Basically in the new congressional session, everything will start all over again and so the bills will have new numbers. If you know that your Congressional member is not a co-sponsor of any of these bills, you can call or e-mail them between now till end of December 2022. Encourage them to co-sponsor. The first one that we have is the medical devices Non-visual Access Act. All the devices with visual digital read out will become accessible. Then we have the Access Technology Affordability Act which once pass, will allow to file for tax credit since all technology for blind people are expensive. Next is the Website Software Accessible Act which will allow all websites be accessible. The last one which is the Transformation to Integrated Employment Act which will go through. A lot of States are already passing bills to eliminate subminimum wage.

Next item, the NFB has a White Cane program. You can go to NFB.org and fill out a form for a free non-foldable white cane once a year. You can also fill out a form for a free slate and stylus.

Robert also mentioned about the PAC plan-Pre-authorized Contribution Program. You can sign up and give as little as $5 to the NFB. For more information, you can contact Robert.

State Convention

Robert asked the members who received grants and shared what you’ve learned and liked in attending the convention. Racquel, Jane, Ron, Joy, Betsy, Shelby and Juanita shared their wonderful experience.

Washington Seminar

Great gathering will take place on January 30th Monday. For those who are going will be in Capitol Hills on January 31st, February 1st & 2nd. Forms will be out to apply for funding from the Affiliate and will be giving $1000 grant for those who are attending. Please contact Robert for information.

Racquel made a motion to accept Anita and Lilia as members, seconded by Joy.

Racquel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646

Chapter Secretary.