2023 January minutes of the Chapter meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: January 14, 2023

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

Question of the day: Tell us one thing that you would like to improve this year or do something that you haven’t done.

IN attendance:

Jane Suh, Robert Stigile-President, Joy Stigile, Lilia Mares, Candace Luther,

Lindsay Kerr, Tiffany Johnson, Ron Hilliard - Member-AT-Large, Juanita Herrera-Vice President, Shelby Felter, Betsy Estrada, David and Valerie Delawder, Racquel Decidpeda, Keith Caballa, Sheila Biglang-awa-Secretary, John Albarran, Julian Vargas, Julie Skujuns, Lynne Nishihara, Jaymee Castillo, Karen Elo, David Lavaggi-guest, Cenorina Covarrubias, Beatrice Varela and Robin Smith.

Total: 26 members

Announcements:

• Keith announced the San Bernardino Lighthouse for the Blind is inviting everyone to a 3 day / 2 night casino trip to Laughlin, Nevada on March 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2023. Cost is $175 which covers transportation and hotel room. You will be staying at the Riverside Hotel & Casino Resort. If you want a single room, it will cost more. Deadline to register for this casino trip is on February 9th. For more information, you can call the Lighthouse at 909-884-3121 and ask for Sandy Wood

• Robert reminded everyone for those who have not paid their dues yet, dues can be paid directly to the Chapter’s account through Zelle by using this e-mail: nfbevents@gmail.com. . You can also pay through PayPal and use Robert’s e-mail which is rstigile@gmail.com. You can also write out a check and Robert can deposit it via mobile. You can pay cash if you are attending the meeting in-person today.

• \* Racquel announced the following Hearts For sight’s announcements: First, Next Sunday, Hike at Griffith Park from 8:30 am to 2 pm and that includes lunch. Info will be sent out in the list serve. Then a Bike ride on January 28th at Long Beach Shoreline. The next one, they are putting together a fitness training via Zoom and the first one will be Yoga classes with Yoga Gently every Thursday at 8:30 am. They will also start Pilates classes at 7 pm Wednesdays and/or 10 am Fridays. There will be also a Beginners Cardio Fitness training where group 1 will meet every Wednesday at 11 am. Then eventually they will be opening the advance cardio fitness training every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. They also have Happy Hour Cardio, led by someone from Florida and this will be every Friday from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. With this happy hour class, you can choose any cardio machines such as your treadmill, your bike or even just running in place. Then next, they have their mental health services and they will have an upcoming general support group starting in February. Individual counselling therapy is still on for registration.

• \* Announcements from Julian’s tech corner. AIRA has a major revamp to their plans. The Legacy plan will go away very soon. The community plan such as the NFB plan and etc. are good till the end of this year. To learn more about it, the AIRA podcast updated some things. If you have plan and you’re not sure how your plan is affected and you want to know what’s the deal, call the customer service. Then the next item, there is a book share app. Called the book share reader. It’s available both on IOS and Android. Next announcement is the CSUN conference from March 13th through the 18th and the registration is now open. Exhibit hall is from the 16th to the 18th. It will be at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim. You can take Access Services to go there. Next, on the subject of online security, for those who use the Password Manager, unfortunately they have some security problems. Julian was recommending not to be using it. The one that he recommends is the Beat Morgan and it is totally free and accessible with IOS, Android and Windows. It is an open source type safe. They offer a $10 premier premium plan if you want some additional factor authentication capabilities. It passes charges that can hold multiple devices. Lastly, the Breaking Blindness Barriers group that Julian’s hosting will have a winter meeting on January 28th from 2 to 4 pm. The topic is online safety and learn overall strategies that we can use to try to keep our information safe as we can today. If anybody is interested in participating in this group, it is free to be part of it. Julian welcomes ideas and suggestions and to please contact him. If you are not in his list yet, send an e-mail to help@techjv.com. If you are requesting to join, just put your e-mail address on the body of the e-mail. . For those who would miss it, you can listen to the Breaking Blindness Barriers podcast.

* Robert quickly added that if you are not in the NFB plan with AIRA and if you want to be, call customer service for the intro plan. The NFB plan has 30 mins. For $20 and $140 for 99 mins. Since all of you are a member of this Chapter, you are eligible for this plan. His next item, if you already registered for this CSUN conference and you receive your confirmation e-mail and open and read it, it may say that you’ve registered for the 2022 exhibit hall, this is a technical issue. CSUN people are aware and they are fixing it.

Secretary’s Report

Lynne made a motion to approve the November minutes with the corrections, seconded by Juanita and the motion carries.

Treasurer’s Report

In behalf of Nancy Albarran, Robert sent the Treasurer’s Report in this list serve on January 9th and the 2nd e-mail with the corrections on January 13th.

Best in Tech

 Juanita gave an update for the Best in Tech that there were 2 meetings and discussed in trying to find a place to hold the Best In Tech. She wanted to ask if anyone has suggestion on finding places to please let her know. They are looking for a place that could hold 500 to 600 people and that has break-out rooms and a large room and small rooms. So, let her know.

Robert on his next item on his agenda, he would like to see the Chapter do this year is to plan the Holiday Party 2 months prior to our party date. We need to find a place that is larger and has the same price range as Ernie’s. So, if someone is interested in doing it, please contact him later.

And the 2nd one that he would like to bring back is the Adopt a child program. This is also needed to start ahead of time. For those who may not know, the Adopt a child program, we were finding a family with a blind child and adopting them for the Holiday. The Chapter would get presents/gifts for the child and also for the parents or for the siblings. So, if there are people interested in handling it, please let him know later. Then the other thing that Robert would like to see us do which we haven’t done it for a long time is the “meet the blind” month. Now it has a new name called “Blind equality achievement” month. If anyone would like to be involved in that, please let him know. Another thing that Robert would like to do is to have someone to reach out when we have new members to welcome them, not necessarily at the Chapter meeting but after or before the meeting. If this someone can make phone call and reach out to the new people and ask to make sure that they’re getting what they need. Joy volunteered to do it.

Lynne added that she is the new webmaster of AIRSLa and she mentioned that our Chapter has an entry on their events page where we can post any events of our Chapter. She will give the site coordinator’s info to Robert. Lastly, Robert needs someone to be assigned to get the Presidential Release each month and listen to it and summarize it. There are months that we would play it and other times we need it to summarized. If you’re interested that would be great, so please let him know.

Presidential Release

Tiffany played the Presidential Release#523. For any questions, please contact Robert.

There will not be a Presidential Release live next month. The gathering in Washington Seminar is going to be streamed in Zoom and that will be in place of the live Presidential Release.

Washington Seminar

Lindsay and Tiffany’s first time joining and will be receiving a grant for attending the Washington Seminar.

Fundraising Committee

Joy had an idea of having an in-person Pampered Chef for fundraising. Details will be discussed later.

Social Call

Juanita asked which Friday do we have our social call? Robert gave the schedule of our social call which will fall on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Except for the first Friday in February, there will be no social call because he will be back from the Washington Seminar trip the night before. He will send the changes in the list serve.

Keith made a motion to approve in having David as a new member, seconded by Joy.

Juanita made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646

 Chapter Secretary and

Chair of Fundraising Committee

NFB.SFV