August 2023 Minutes of the meeting

The National Federation (the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: August 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, the NFB pledge and the 1 minute message.

Question for the day: did you follow the women’s soccer team as they participated in the world cup!

Attendance:

Julian Vargas, Jane Suh, Robert Stigile-, President, Joy Stigile,

Robin Smith, Jo Anne Seaman, Anthony Melena,

Candace Luther,

Lindsay Kerr,

Tiffany Johnson,

Ron Hilliard-Board-Member-AT-Large, David & Valerie Delawder, Racquel Decipeda, Jaymee Castillo, Keith Cabala, Sheila Biglang-awa-Secretary, John and Nancy Albarran-Treasurer, David Lavaggi, Betsy Estrada and Bill Grosjean.

Total members: 22

announcements:

Jo Anne announced that she will be in Minnesota in September for her Ham Radio camp.

Lindsay announced that she graduated in July 28 from Guiding Eye Center for the Blind with her guide dog which is a female black Labrador.

Betsy Announced the Pathfinder Chapter's annual BBQ fundraiser on August 26. You can call her for more info. Robert will send out the flyer on the list serve. Deadline for the BBQ party payments is on August 21st.

Nancy announced that her last day with the Disability Community Resource Center DCRC was on July 14th of this year. She accepted a new job working as a Spanish interpreter.' and will start on August 1st. It’s a remote work with healthcare company, facilitating communication between patients and Doctors.

Anthony mentioned to those who are either recipients or provider or know anyone who's interested in learning to become a better provider. His company offers a remote classes that deals with cases such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease or learn how to do budgeting and food. This is a paid training with 15 hrs. of class and a $500 bonus. You can also get up to $2000 of incentives. Send him an email if anyone is interested.

Robert was reminded by Joy to have an updated Chapter's roster.

Robert announced the National Deaf Blind Division will have a Zoom meeting today at 3 pm.

In behalf of Hearts For Sight, Racquel announced the following: august 28 hike which has already 41 visually impaired people that signed up with 20 volunteers. Then the bike ride for August 26 will be rescheduled probably till October. In Month of September, beach day at the Ocean Park in Sta. Monica on the 9th from 10 am to 4 pm which will overlap with the NFB's Chapter meeting. Then in OCTOBER, there will be a hike in Topanga Canyon where there will be a video coverage by a video company for Hearts For Sight. This will be on the weekend of the 15th. Then on October 21st, a surfing event. Then she added that she might have tickets available for the Dodger game on September 1st. They got a special price of $44 for the ticket compare to the current one which is $300. Next, they will have a white cane camping trip coming up at the end of September where there will be only limited number of people can go. She will send out the info for the interview process for the application of the camping trip. Lastly, she reminded everyone about their physical fitness programs Pilates on Fridays at 10 am, happy hour cardio on Fridays at 1 pm. Yoga on Thursdays at 8:30. Then Racquel inserted an advance announcement but nothing is finalize yet for the Monster Bash. It’s going to be on October 28 and will be an outdoor event.

Robert mentioned since the HFS beach day and the NFB SFV chapter meeting will fall on the same day on September 9th. And if everyone's interested to go to the beach and move our Chapter meeting, Robert entertained a motion to move it. Keith made a motion to move our Chapter meeting to the 16th, seconded by Betsy and the motion carries.

Betsy shared their Panther's baseball and they won the world series in their rank

in Oklahoma. Her team won on her actual birthday. They are in need of players so please let her know if you're interested.

Julian's tech corner are as follows: First is he wants to notify everyone about scam that are injecting fake listings into Google searchers when you're looking for phone numbers. It’s a common thing now so be careful. To avoid being scammed, go to the company's actual webpage. Next, the Access where's my ride app got an update recently. Now everybody is able to find where you're ride is. You can also actually book your ride through the app. The cool thing about this is that you can already book your ride after 10 pm for the next day. Next item is the Be My Eyes App is taking a list of people for a virtual volunteer. This opportunities are about to open up starting on the 14th of this month. Jumping to the next that are related to GPS app, the Microsoft Soundscape was recently discontinued. Microsoft opened source

 source code for it and anybody now can pick up the slack where Microsoft had left off. For example, the Good Map Explorer app implemented it by adding 3D sounds to the way it gives you information on points nearby. Then there's a newer app called Voice Vista for IOS. If you want to learn more about it, you can go to Applevis and listen to the podcast called "exploring the world through sound with Voice Vista." There's also one called Soundscape for IOS. But that 1 is available mostly for test flights. Next, the IOS 17 coming up in a month now. Julian had reported a little bit of some bugs and had been addressed, so he's excited and its going relatively well. The announcement for this will be on September 13, so stay tune for that.

Secretary's Report

Joy made a motion to accept the June 2023 minutes as sent out, seconded by Racquel and the motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy sent out the June & July 2023 Treasurer's Report on August 12, 2023 in the List serve.

Nancy read the following:

 Beginning balance in June was $2158.76. In July, we had the withdrawal of $50 for the PAC plan. In August, a withdrawal of $50 for the PAC plan. So, the ending balance is $2058.76.

Fundraising

Last fundraising conference call, we had Robert, Joy, myself, David and Valerie. David had suggested to do a fundraiser with Panda Express. Requested dates were approved on August 15 this Tuesday and September 18, 2023. It’s a Panda Express Virtual Community Fundraiser. This is nationwide with online orders for pickup and delivery. Panda Express provided the fundraiser flyer with the fundraiser online code. Orders will be accepted through their website and on their App. 28 percent out of the sales that we make no including tax will be given to our Chapter Please share the flyers to all your supporters, friends and families. To make sure the amount that we would make, please send a screenshot of your order summary or send a copy of your transaction to Robert via E-mail. This would be our first time doing it with online Panda Express fundraiser, so let’s try to see how it goes.

The next fundraiser items on our list are Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Chick-Fil-a, Double goods popcorn and Chipotle.

 Presidential Release

Robert would like to mentioned a couple things from the Presidential Release. Many of you might have heard about Route 66. Basically, it’s about Braille Literacy, where in Dan O’Rourke, a National Hockey League official since 1999, had decided to bring awareness to the community because his father is blind. Dan is riding route 666 Santa Monica CA to Chicago Illinois. Robert checked before the Chapter meeting, Dan is somewhere between New Mexico and Texas. Robert added that what they did, they kicked off the event in Santa Monica last July 27th. They took pictures by the Pier with Dan, Robert and Pam Allen-the first Vice President of the NFB. They gathered at the Santa Monica library where Everly talked a little bit with Tim and Dan. To tiffany and Candace talked about why Braille is important to them. Then after, they all witnessed Dan got all his bike equipment’s on and kicked off and headed out! Dan will do a 2700 mile bike ride. If anyone is interested in following Dan, you can go to nfb.org and at the home page you will see Route 66. When you click the link, it will show all the days where Dan has been with the number of miles that he has ridden and the info about where he's currently at.

Next item, Robert mentioned to those who have guide dogs and you know that there's been issues with ride-share services. There was a presentation at the National convention regarding Uber. in the General Session platform. There was a townhall meeting last July 27th and the new one will be August 16 at 5:30 pm. This is for anyone who has a guide dog and have had issues with ride shares, Robert recommended to attend the townhall meeting. He will send out the Zoom info 2 days before the townhall meeting. If you have experienced no shows rides, President Riccobono suggested to start filing reports with the Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice doesn't have any reports filed, then they'll think that there's no issues. So, if you experience a ride-share denial, you can go to civilrights.justice.gov/report. If you have any questions, you can contact Robert.

on the same level, Robert mentioned that the State convention will be no longer in October or November. It will be move in Spring. In order to move the convention to Spring, we’re going to have a little mini / 1 day event in October. It will be a half-day event where we have to amend our Constitution. The venue for the State Convention will be at the Rancho Cordova Marriott in Sacramento. It will be on the weekend of March 14th through the 17th.

Robert announced that earlier this year, he became a member of Board of Hearts For Sight. He believes in what Hearts for Sight is doing and is actively participating in all of their events. So, if you would like to join or know more about HFS, you can either talk to him or Racquel.

We were supposed to have a guest speaker. His name is Shob Matal- CEO of Celeste, a Canadian base company that makes glasses which is similar platform with Orkam. It’s a pair of glasses with an 8 megapixel camera located in the middle or center of the glasses. It can recognize text, facial recognition and etc. You pay a $100 at the beginning and once you receive the glasses, you will pay a $50 per month for service fee. Anytime that there are updates with the glasses or camera, you will get a new system.

 Lastly, Racquel made a motion to re-vote Betsy, Bill and David, seconded by Robin and the motion carries.

Racquel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nancy. The meeting was adjourn at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-7646y

Chapter Secretary

NFB.SFV