November 2023 minutes of the Chapter meeting

The National Federation of the Blind of California

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Date: November 11, 2023

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

Trivia: Going on a cruise anywhere in the world, where would you go?

In attendance:

John Albarran, Sheila Biglang-awa-Secretary, Keith Cabala, Racquel Decipeda, David and Valerie Delawder,

Karen Elo, Betsy Estrada, Juanita Herrera-Vice President, Ron Hilliard - Member-AT-Large, Tiffany Johnson, Lindsay Kerr, Candace Luther, Lynne Nishihara, Matthew and Carie Schrieber,

Jo Anne Seaman, Joy Stigile, Robert Stigile-, President and Jane Suh.

Total: 20 members

Announcements:

Robert reminded everyone about the membership dues. Please contact him for the payments. He will not accept membership dues in cash at the holiday party.

Next announcement, Juanita had stepped down as Vice President. Nancy Albarran has also stepped down as Treasurer because she works on Saturday until 2:30 pm. Robert now needs a Vice President and a Treasurer. If anyone is interested in those positions, please reach out to him.

The next item, he mentioned to those who uses the Southern region of Access, there is a new program called Flex Uver Access . A pilot program only in Southern region. To sign up, go to accessla.org and look for Flex Uver access. Once you signed up

, you will receive an e-mail informing you that you’ve been signed up and it won’t be complete until you receive another e-mail 24 hours later. At this point, you will go to the Access app an you’ll find “wallet” where you need to add money to it. Once you’ve added the money to the wallet, your registration will be complete. When you make a reservation with the Access Southern region, you will call another number to let them know that you made a reservation with Access. Then they will set you up using the Uver Access. It’s a nice program. If you go with an Access pick up in that region directly, there won’t be any ride shares.

* Betsy announced that the Pathfinder banquet will be on Saturday, December 9 at a steakhouse restaurant from 11 am to 3 pm.

The cost is $50 per person. There will be 3 choices of meals: steak, shrimp and chicken with side orders of salad and vegetables. Choices of drinks are tea, coffee or water. Softdrinks or alcoholic beverages will be extra charges. Pathfinder’s celebrating their 60th anniversary and at the same time they will present their scholarships. She has the tickets on hand if you want to purchase. Then Betsy shared a program that delivers fruits and vegetables directly to your home for free. This program has a long list of chronic diseases that you may be qualified for along with your medical info. You can call 949-673-0783 and they will ask for your name, birthday and medical number.

* Matthew would like to invite everyone on December 2nd, Saturday at 2 pm. It’s a holiday show at One Generation, a senior center on Victory Boulevard. Tickets are $20.
* Tiffany announced, in behalf of Robin Smith, her father passed away a week ago. Please include her and her family in your prayers.
* In behalf of Hearts for Sight, Racquel announced the following: 1. For those who signed up for the hike next week at Malibu Creek, she will send out an e-mail confirmation. She has your RSVP and your place in line noted. She cannot confirm anybody yet because they still do not have enough sighted guides. So, if you know of anyone who would like to volunteer as sighted guide, please let her know. Send also her an e-mail so she would know what your sandwiches preference would be. The choices are turkey, roast beef and veggie. Lunch will be distributed at the beginning of the hike. Make sure to have a backpack or a penny pack or whatever you want to carry your lunch with. Then the last hike for the year will be on December 17 at Deb’s Park in downtown L.A. Next is the Hearts For Sight online store. All the merchandise has the HFS logo on it. A portion of those purchases will go towards their programs. Then on giving Tuesday November 28th, they are seeking your help to raise funds to support all of their events and programs of HFS.

Secretary’s report

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

Treasurer’s Report

Robert sent out the October Treasurer’s report last Thursday November9, 2023.

Fundraising.

Joy announced that the Pampered Chef fundraiser was successful. We had $480 in sales. 20% will go to our Chapter.

The next activity is a three week fundraising event with Popping popcorn. It’s an online fundraiser where they sell different flavored popcorns, sausage & cheese, gift wrappers for everyone to check for your holiday gift shopping list.

It was being suggested if anyone would be interested in taking over the Fundraising Committee and/or bring in set of new ideas for our fundraiser, please let Robert know.

Holiday Party

Back in June, Lynne had suggested a Possible restaurant for our holiday party located in North Hollywood called The Magnolia Grill. The manager was willing to work with us and was even suggesting that they can close the restaurant for our party hours. Their bathrooms are accessible and clean. Parking lot is also available and accessible.

The Magnolia Grill is offering $25 meal per person plus a 20% gratuity for our holiday party. This includes food and drinks. Alcoholic beverages are separate charges. Their Address: 10530 Magnolia Blvd. North Hollywood.

(cross street is Cahuenga Blvd., The party time will be from 5 pm to 8 pm. please make your return trip by 8 pm.

Carie read the menu items and it will be sent out on the list serve.

Joy had also spoke to someone from Ernie’s Mexican restaurant and she’s still waiting for their reply.

The party date will be on December 16, 2023 at 5 pm.

Everyone had suggested to try the Magnolia Grill. Details will be sent out in the list serve.

On the next item on the agenda, Robert mentioned about the mini-virtual convention on the Affiliate level. They got the elections done. Michael Richardson, cheryl Thurston, Karen Steele were elected back to the Board. The new person to the Board is one of our Chapter member Shelby Felter. Congratulations Shelby!

The next item, Robert mentioned that right now is the planning stage for the in-person convention from March 14th to the 17th 2024 at the Rancho Cordova California at the Marriot Hotel. They’re hoping that they’ll get all the information ready to be set up pretty soon.

Then next week, the application for the Washington Seminar will be available. Tiffany Manash is putting the form together. The Affiliates during the Board meeting had suggested to give 15 grants with an amount of $1,000 for each participant who would join the Washington Seminar. The first great gathering will be on January 29, Monday. Then the group will be on the Hill for appointments from January 30th, 31st and February 1st. Zoom will be available for the great gathering on January 29th.

The next National Convention will be on July 3rd through July 8th in Orlando Florida at the Rossin Center. More information on that will be coming out soon.

Lastly, if you are not in Newsline, you need to sign up for it. You can find the application at nfb.org. Robert is the Newsline coordinator for California and you can reach out to him if you need help in signing up.

On his last note, since this month is our last Chapter meeting of the year and with the upcoming new year, Robert wanted to know from everyone for 2024, what do you guys want to see as part of the Chapter and what do you want for our monthly Chapter meetings? Do you want some guest speakers or any information that you want to hear or learn about. He also wants to know and wants to hear from you the kind of things that we can be doing as a Chapter. For example, he would like to have the Best In Tech back again. Him and Juanita were looking for places to hold the event. If anyone else knows of an area or place to house Best In Tech to please let him know. More discussion came forth from Matthew, Candace, Betsy.

The Presidential Release.

Presidential Release 532 was played. If you want to hear more information, please call Robert.

Betsy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Marie B.C.

Cell: 818-404-764

Chapter Secretary

NFB.SFV