National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Saturday, January 4, 2025 via zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.

Introductions

In attendance:

President: Kaye Baker

Secretary: Fallon Minichiello

Treasurer: Jason Keve

Board Member: Marty Miller

Board Member: Adriann Keve

Board Member: Sarah Fleischer

Members: Peggy Fleischer, David Fleischer, James Jacobs, Andy Rood, Latoya Kendrick, Jose Morales.

Visitors: Jada Christie, Charles, Ross Winetsky, Tanya Thompson, Richard Thompson.

NFB Pledge, and 1 minute message; Recited by all: Andy recited the pledge, and Marty recited the 1 minute message.

Moment of Silence for those lost while we did not meet: We had a moment of silence for Bob Randall who passed away of cancer and for Bob Ivey’s wife Judy who passed away on December 28, 2024.

Approval of the October Secretary’s report – Fallon: Andy motioned to approve the minutes as distributed. Peggy seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of the October, November and December Treasurer’s reports – Jason: The transition from Russ being our treasurer to Jason being our treasurer is now complete. Jason will get with Russ regarding October’s and November’s treasurer’s reports, since they were still transitioning during those months. However, Jason does have December’s treasurer’s report and read it out loud as follows: For December, the beginning balance for the chapter’s checking account = $2,823.73, and the ending balance for the chapter’s checking account = $2,437.91 with restricted funds of $850; $100 previously donated by Fallon and Joe in the name of Emily Pfohl for Braille Literacy and Education and $750 donated by the Navy Wives for fundraisers. The beginning and ending balances in the chapter’s savings account = $100.00. For PayPal, the beginning and ending balances = $0.00. Jose motioned to accept December’s treasurer’s report. Adriann seconded. The motion passed. Jason asked how the report can be distributed to the chapter. Kaye advised of how this can be done since it has already been approved by the chapter. . Jason asked what the funds for the fundraiser could be used for and also asked if taking the cost of the Meta Smart Glasses would be an appropriate use of these funds. On Thanksgiving, Scott Larson of Daytona was drawn as the winner of the raffle and decided they wanted a pair of the Meta Smart Glasses which was $270. It was decided we would apply $270 for the cost of the Meta Smart Glasses. Jason will amend December’s treasurer’s report to reflect the change in restricted funds and send it to the chapter. Kaye advised if anyone has suggestions for fundraisers to let us know.

Affiliate Update: Jada is our new chapter liaison and advised there is not anything going on with the affiliate board at this time. Kaye advised of the new affiliate board that was elected at our state convention. Speaking of which, We also discussed our feedback regarding state convention which was positive despite all the challenges from Hurricane Milton. Kaye also advised of upcoming initiatives for parents of blind children and state leadership training. Fallon has been selected to participate in the state leadership training.

Washington Seminar Update

Washington Seminar will take place Feb 3 to Feb 5, You can still be involved. Kaye and Adriann reviewed our legislative priorities, which are the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act, Medical Device Non Visual Accessibility Act, and the Blind Americans Return to Work Act. Russ, Kaye, and Adriann have been selected to attend from our chapter.

Chapter Policy beginning of year vote – Kaye

Each year we have items that need to be voted upon. We reviewed the document which contained the items that we needed to vote on. Peggy motioned that we continue to contribute $50 per month for the affiliate PAC plan. Andy seconded. The motion passed. It was decided we would not contribute to the National PAC Plan. Peggy asked what the discretionary funds for the President are used for and how much they are. Kaye advised of what they are for those that did not know. Peggy motioned to allocate $150 toward discretionary funds for the President. Adriann seconded. The motion passed.

Community involvement for 2025. Let’s get back out into our community. We discussed several different ways we can get back in to the community which are highlighted in Latoya’s events committee report.

Events Committee Report – Latoya: Latoya discussed different events we could do durning the year. We discussed events we have done in the past, such as doing breakfast for New Year’s, attending Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp baseball games, and doing NFB Days off. We discussed future events, such as going to the Fairgrounds, doing a ball, having guest speakers, and doing different 5Ks, such as one in Saint Augustine hosted by FSDB. It was decided we would meet for brunch on January 9 at 8:00 AM at Jax Beach Brunch House located at 610 3rd St S Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250. Fallon will send an email out to the chapter and have members RSVP by Tuesday night so that we can have a head count and let the restaurant know how many of us are coming.

Suggestions for a new chapter meeting place: It was decided that we would meet at the CIL until we find a new meeting place. Kaye advised if anyone has suggestions for a new meeting place to let us know.

Final thoughts and next meeting date: It was decided that our next meeting would be on February 8 at 10:00 AM at the CIL and on zoom. Jose advised the CIL is doing AI and access trainings every month. Richard advised the Rotary Club, which he is a part of, is looking in to writing a grant to facilitate purchasing the Meta smart glasses and wanted to get our thoughts on the matter. Kaye discussed the benefits of the smart glasses and encouraged this to move forward. Andy reminded everyone that dues are due by March. Andy asked if PayPal is active due to the transition. Kaye advised it is active and that members can pay dues via PayPal at [nfbjax@gmail.com](mailto:nfbjax@gmail.com) using goods and services. . Kaye advised that the affiliate is doing a fundraiser cruise in October 2026 and described the cruise. Kaye will send out information to the affiliate once the link to do so becomes available.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM.