National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Saturday, June 7th, 2025

Jacksonville Center for Independent Living

2709 Art Museum Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32207, and on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM.

Welcome and introductions: Russ welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance:

Vice President: Russ Davis

Secretary: Fallon Minichiello

Treasurer: Jason Keve

Board Member: Adriann Keve

Board Member: Sarah Jacobs

Members: Andy Rood, Peggy Fleischer, David Fleischer, Latoya Kendrick, Bob Ivy, Charles McCormick, Patricia Williams, Richard Thompson, John Lennon, Vicky Lennon.

Visitors: Kara Tucker, Nell Anthony, Madeline Almeida, and Vitor Almeida.

NFB Pledge, and 1 minute message; Recited by all:

 Russ led us in the Pledge Of Allegiance. Andy recited the NFB pledge, and Peggy recited the 1 minute message.

Approval of the May Secretary’s report – Fallon: Peggy motioned to accept the minutes as distributed. Sarah seconded. The motion passed. Due to issues with NFB mailing lists, :Patricia has not been added to the chapter email list, so until she can get added, we will send her emails separately.

Approval of the May Treasurer’s report – Jason: Jason has worked with Russ to access the chapter’s online banking. Fallon will email the treasurer’s report to the chapter. Jason read the report out loud as follows: the beginning balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,499.49, and the ending balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,286.02. Restricted Funds = $580.00; $100.00 - Braille and Education related expenditures and $480.00 - Fund raising related expenditures from the Navy Wives. Non-Restricted Funds = $1,706.02. The beginning and ending balance of the chapter’s savings account = $100.00. For PayPal, the beginning and ending balance = $0.00. Fallon motioned to accept the treasurer’s report as read. Adriann seconded. The motion passed.

Presentation by Kara Tucker, Chief of Jacksonville’s Division of disabled Services: Disable Services was started in September 1989. They enforce the ADA, do public outreach, and make sure city Web sites are 508 compliant. They also offer scholarships and also have a Disabled Parking Enforcement program. They also have a directory of services which include education ad housing. They partner with several different organizations that assist with home improvement, recreation, parks, and garbage takeout. They also hold a Disability Symposium toward the end of the year and do employment engagement. They also have tickets for different sporting events such as baseball and football. They also have the Mayor’s Disability Council and meet the first Tuesday of every month from 3:5:00 PM. They work with the MDC regarding adaptive recreation and entrepreneurship. They also provide accommodations for community events which can be done by contacting 904-255-4566or [karat@coj.net](mailto:karat@coj.net) [jaxada.com](http://jaxada.com) [karat@coj.net](mailto:karat@coj.net) More about the entrepreneurship class that is going on right now was discussed, and UZURV, JTaC, and the CIL were also touched on. The CIL will be having their annual Emergency Preparedness Conference on August 8. The city also has a White Cane Walk every October and helps out with a loan closet where you can get medical equipment, walkers, and wheelchairs. Karea described the annual ADA Expo on July 26 from 10-00 AM-3:00 PM at the Prime F. Osborne Convention Center located at 100 Water Street Jacksonville, FL 32204 with registration starting at 9:00 AM. Fallon motioned to participate in the ADA Expo and have a table there. Charles seconded. The motion passed. Fallon will send an email out to the chapter regarding the event. We also discussed who would be available to work the table an have two hour shifts with two or three people on each shift.

Vice-President’s Report – Russ: National Convention is July 8-13 in New Orleans, LA. Registration ended May 31 at lower rates. In-person registration will be available at convention for higher rates. June 15 is the deadline to apply for sponsorships for convention. Please contact Kaye for any questions regarding this since she chairs the Sponsorship Committee. Volunteers are also needed for NFB Newsline and the Independence Market at convention. State Convention is October 3-5 in Altamonte Springs. Peggy described what has been planned for State Convention so far including door prizes, the Sighted Supporters meeting, which Sarah described in more detail for those who did not know, and the dollar auction, which Peggy described for those who did not know. You can now book your hotel room. The registration form will be available soon. More information regarding State Convention can be found at nfbflorida.org. The new NLS book player DA2 was also discussed. You can call your sub regional library to order this and the ZoomMax e-reader. You can call 1-800-226-6075 for more information.

Update on Fundraiser Double Good Popcorn: The Double Good Popcorn Committee will meet by the end of next week to discuss the fundraiser in more detail. They will send out an email for when the fundraiser will take place.

Update on joint project between the NFB Greater Jacksonville Chapter and the Rotary Club to provide funding for Meta Smart Glasses for local residents: At the time of the meeting, the Meta Glasses Committee has not met. Peggy described the Meta glasses for those who did not know. Richard has been appointed to the Meta Glasses Committee. Russ and Richard described the project for those who did not know.

Legislative update - Russ: For several months, we have been trying to attach the ATAA to the new tax bill, but it did not make it to the final bill. Russ described the ATAA for this who did not know. There will be more updates during our monthly legislative zoom calls. Russ also advised that Washington Seminar will begin on January 26, 2026.

NFB Independence Market - Russ: The Independence Market now has an online store. Fallon will forward an email regarding this to the chapter. Peggy described the Independence Market for those who did not know.

New business: Peggy motioned that we can look in to options for us getting new chapter t-shirts. Latoya seconded. The motion passed. Peggy, Kaye, Latoya, and Patricia were appointed to the t-shirt committee with Peggy as the committee chair. Our next events committee meeting will be on June 22 at 4:00 PM. Charles has been appointed to the events committee. If anyone wishes to join the events committee, please let us know. We discussed planning a summer party and getting tickets to future baseball games. Russ briefly discussed his recent experience participating in Leader Dogs for the Blind’s Advanced Mobility Program, (AMP). He will go in to more detail in a future Sunrise and Shine that Leader Dogs will be on. They will also be at state convention. Peggy described Sunrise and Shine for those who did not know. Richard also asked about NFB centers which we discussed.

Our next meeting will be at the clubhouse at Kaye’s apartment complex the Station At San Marco located at 1300 Hendricks Ave Jacksonville, FL 32207 on August 2 at 10:00 AM and on zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM.