**MINUTES: Linn-Benton Chapter of the NFB Feb 28, 2015 \*\*\*\* MOC 1 to 3pm**

**Present at the meeting were;**

**Kristen Jocums, Glenn Wilcox, Arona Rosegold, Sally Utt, Carla McQuillan, Lucas McQuillan, John Gardner, Carolyn Gardner, Robert Jaquiss,**

**1.Check-in around the table**

**2. The group listened to the NFB Presidential Release of the month**

**Among the topics discussed were;**

**NFB celebrates it’s 75th year**

**The Washington Seminar; a number of issues were brought before Congress;**

**\*The Marikesh Treaty – get it passed this year**

**\*Build accessable testing into all school curriculums**

**\*Access to Technology Partnerships - panels including blind participants working together to create technology that works for blind people too; For example, Cardtronics has just created an accessable ATM machine.**

**NFB’s Summer Internship Program – now accepting applications**

**National Convention - preregistration ends on May 31 and the deadline for scholarships is March 7th**

**One of the goals of this 75th year of the NFB is to create a collection of innovations from it’s Local Chapters.**

**3. Old Business**

**\*Where to hold our monthly meetings**

**We are still looking for rooms available in town.**

**\*Funding for Bell**

**We haven’t yet received an application from Zonta. But we can apply for funding from our State Affilliate. \*\*The State Board recently approved applying to State Affilliates for funding of Chapter projects.\*\***

**4. There was a motion, and a second, to approve the January minutes**

**5. The treasurer’s report**

**$40 was paid back to our treasurer**

**$5 in dues was added to our account**

**Our balance is now $155.**

**John wrote the thank you to Ginny Wold.**

**6. New Business**

**\*VISION LOSS: Robert, Kristen and Carla each presented a topic concerned with how one can cope with loss of vision. Robert gave us some history of how braille came into use, and some of the braille technology that is available today. Kristen brought out her “long white cane”, and talked about how she uses it. Carla talked about “overcoming blineness”, and how it takes tenacity and determination to keep pushing forward in our lives. This last talk sparked a discussion of blind vs low vision, and how most of us are not totally without vision, but have progressed through a process of loss to where we are now. We are going about our lives amongst a general public that is not very informed about blindness issues, and it’s up to us to educate them.**

**\*NFBO Announce; is everyone getting announcements from the NFB listserve?**

**\*The National Convention**

**Carla reminded us again that the State Affilliate can help with funding to attend the National Convention in July. Your written request must be received by March 7th.**

**7. \*\*\*Thank you to Carla and Lucas for joining us at our meeting!**

**8. Our next meeting will be on Saturday March 28, from 10-12, at the MOC**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sally Utt**

**The group listened to the NFB Presidential Release of the month**

**Among the topics discussed were;**

**The TIME Act - Transition to Integrative and Meaningful Employment**

**The TEACH Act – Technology Education and Copyright Harmonization Act**

**The K-12 Braille Bill - will strengthen the power of parents**

**The ADA in 50 years - what will it look like?**