**MINUTES: Linn-Benton Chapter of the NFB March 28, 2015 \*\*\*\***

**MOC 10am to 12pm**

**Present at the meeting were;**

**Kristen Jocums, Sally Utt, Arona Rosegold, Glenn Wilcox, Jazzy, Lori Ritter, Carolyn Gardner, John Gardner, Bill Bradley, Lynne Brown, Alex Brown,**

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

**2. The group did not listen to the NFB Presidential Release of the month, because Robert Jaquiss was not able to make it to the meeting with his copy. He was not there because the bus drove right by him as he waited at the bus stop.**

**3. Old Business**

**\* Minutes**

**We agreed that if there is a need to amend the minutes, those minutes will be amended and then refiled as the minutes for that month. There was a motion, and a second, to accept the Feb. minutes**

**\*Treasurer’s Report**

**Our chapter received another donation in the amount of $25, from Jenny Wold. This brings our balance up to $180. There was a motion, and a second, to accept the treasure’s report.**

**\*BELL Preview Day: At present, it’s scheduled to take place during our next meeting.**

**Where do we want to have it? Market of Choice, a park, somewhere else? We didn’t reach a final decision.**

**What time do we want it to be at? We didn’t reach a final decision about this either.**

**Do we want to extend the time? We agreed to keep the meeting time to 2 hours, which will include about an hour for our presentation**

**How do we envision our presentation? So far, we’d like to include;**

**Some tactile play**

**Read a book in braille**

**Try out some braille technology**

**Show a video of children reading their brailled reports during the State Convention**

**Present an overview of the BELL Camp program**

**Refreshments?**

**4. New Business**

**\*Accessable GPS**

**John Gardner presented some info about a few different types of GPS systems for sightless navigation. First, most reliable, and most expensive would be a stand-alone unit. The second method, and less expensive too, would be a GPS that’s part of a Braille Note system. The third way to utilize a GPS would be through an app on one’s phone. There are a variety of these which can be either purchased outright, or paid for on a monthly basis. One app, by Sendero, can be used for about $9/month, and works well for walking directions. It will let you know what’s around you in the environment as you go along, and will, supposedly, give clear descriptions of upcoming intersections. A second app that John checked out is called Blind Square. It costs $20 to buy, and has good descriptions of the environment. However, it does not describe upcoming intersections. Thank you John for the information. We’ve got our work cut out for us now!**

**\*New IVEO Project**

**John, and Bill who is a consultant on the IVEO project, brought in and demonstrated their latest innovation in braille technology. This involves a combination of audio, tactile, and braille technology in used together to help blind individuals get more information and a clearer understanding of how the information fits together. Two of the examples we worked with during the demo were a map of the United States, and a rocket being launched. You can feel the tactile outlines on the picture, and read the braille titles. For more in depth descriptions, various areas on the picture are “linked”, through touch, to a voice read-out on the computer. At the end of the meeting John asked us to email him with feedback for the project, as the outcome of their grant proposal will be decided on soon.**

**5. For now, our next meeting will be at MOC, on Sat. April 25, from 10am to 12pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sally Utt**