**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, 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 his business partner Bill, brought in and demonstrated their latest innovation in tactile technology. This involves a combination of audio, tactile, and braille technology in order to understand a concept. Two of the concepts they brought to show us 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**

**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 10:00 to 12:00, at the MOC**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sally Utt**