**MINUTES: Linn-Benton Chapter of the NFB January 23, 2016 \*\*\*\***

**First Alternative Meeting Room 10am to 12pm**

**Present at the meeting were;**

**Carolyn Gardner, John Gardner, Robert Jaquiss (present on the phone), Kristen Jocums, Sally Utt, Arona Rosegold**

**1.Introductions around the table**

**2.Old business**

**\* Minutes**

**There was a motion, and a second, to accept the November minutes**

**\*Treasurer’s Report**

**There is currently a balance of $150.12 in our chapter account.**

**There was a motion, and a second, to accept the treasurer’s report.**

**3. New Business**

**\* Washington Seminar**

**The Washington Seminar is coming up, beginning on Monday. There is a lot of snow and inclement weather in the Washington DC area right now, and travel is slow and limited. How will this affect the seminar? Will the various offices even be open to the public? No one from our chapter is planning to attend this time.**

**\*\* H&R Block fundraiser**

**Are we going to participate in a fundraising endeavor to raise funds for the State Affiliate? This would entail passing out flyers for tax filing assistance from H&R Block. Each return completed from a flyer that we passed out would net the NFB State Affiliate a certain percentage of the filing price. If we decide to do this we would need access to our Affiliate’s non profit number, whinch is hard to come by. Also, if we are going to take this on we need to “get on it” right away, as tax time is already upon us.**

**\*\*\* Dark Café**

**The Dark Café is scheduled to take place on Sunday, January 24, at View Plus. It will run from 3pm to 5pm. It is a fundraiser for Zonta, which is a club that Kristen and Carolyn are involved with, which is primarily about raising funding to promote the education of women. This event was concocted as a part of “meet the blind week”, and even though it will not be raising funds for NFB, will help those involved to better understand some of the issues of daily living that the blind community face.**

**There will be 3 main parts to the experience;**

**\*first – guests will enter the building and be shown some of the very innovative accessable equipment that View Plus is working on. There will also be a game room nearby with various braille adapted games.**

**\*second – next there will be cane travel, with participants wearing sleep shades, down to the “café”.**

**\*finally – in the café, still in the dark, guests will find seats at a table where they will be given a brailled menu to order their snack from.**

**Also in this dark space, there will be a setup for pouring water, with the help of a ‘liquid level indicator’.**

**4. Chapter Elections for the year 2016**

**President; Kristen Jocums was nominated for this position again. There was a motion to accept this nomination. There was a motion, and it was seconded, and Kristen was elected chapter president for the year.**

**Vice President; Robert Jaquiss was nominated for this position. There was a motion to accept this nomination. There was a motion, and it was seconded, and Robert was elected chapter vice president.**

**Secretary; Sally Utt was nominated for this position. There was a motion to accept this nomination. There was a motion, and it was seconded, and Sally was elected chapter secretary.**

**` Treasurer; John Gardner was nominated for this position. There was a motion to a ccept this nomination. There was a motion, and it was seconded, and John was elected chapter treasurer.**

**\*Yearly chapter dues of $5 were collected by the treasurer from those present.**

**5.Future Activities; Some ideas**

**Another dark café….**

**Social activities like field trips, audio described movies or plays….**

**\*Perhaps we need to send out a survey to our members to find out their preferences…..**

**6. Our next meeting will be on Saturday February 27, from 10:00 to 12:00, in our new space at the First Alternative.**

**\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\*\* \*\***

**\*\* NO CHAPTER IN FEBRUARY – Next meeting will take place on Saturday March 26, from 10:00 – 11:30, at the First Alternative Meeting Room.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sally Utt**

**Looking ahead, in January**

**we will have our business meeting and conduct elections for our board.**

**\*\* New venue for our monthly meetings**

**We can no longer use the MOC for our meetings. However, we can use a meeting room at the First Alternative North Store, located on the Northeast corner of Grant St. and 29th St. For free!**

**Our January meeting will take place from 10:00 to 12:00 on Saturday January 23 at the First Alternative.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sally Utt**