**MINUTES: Linn-Benton Chapter of the NFB - March 2017\*\*\*\***

**The Beanery 2pm – 4pm**

**Present at the meeting were;**

**Kristen Jocums, Carolyn Gardner, John Gardner, Arona Rosegold, Sally Utt**

**Treasurer’s Report**

**At the time of this meeting our Chapter account balance was $2570.10, with a check for $500 not yet deposited. At present, with the addition of the $500 check, our balance sits at $3070.10.**

**The net revenue from the Dark Café, (money from ticket sales plus sponsorships, minus the caterer’s bill, the table and chair rental, and the pizza for the volunteers), was $2916.10.**

**Dark Café –**

**Video – Kristen will send a final email out to get comments before the video project is finished up and distributed**

**\*General Debriefing**

**Our guests seemed to have a great time!**

**Our volunteers were a vital part of our success with the event**

**Our guests didn’t follow “The Plan” – we’ll need to find a way to clarify our intentions for them the next time we do the Cafe**

**How might we give more focus to the “courtesy rules”**

**Cane travel didn’t need 3 instructors, and we could have used more help in the room with Low Tech and Gadgets – some thoughts on this were;**

**\*have 3 volunteers in that room**

**\*have 1 of the volunteers meet a group as they enter, and present a brief program describing various items that are present, and how they are used. Then they could release their group to try things out.**

**\*Perhaps have each “greeter” be a “tour guide”; Maybe check with Zonta**

**\*Use long rectangular tables… could have more conversation, and save space**

**\*Do we want to do this again? YES!**

**Next Dark Café**

**Possible date; October 21, or 28, 2017**

**Canes; possibly set aside some funds from our DC proceeds to buy a portion of canes to be used for our events; Do we want long straight canes, or folding canes?**

**In the Future; 2 different formats – Adult format, and Family Friendly with a lower price: We agreed that it would be a good idea to have our next event be another adult dinner event. We also think it would be a good idea to have our Family Friendly event in late Spring, so we can be outside and play games.**

**\*We need to think about how to move air throughout the dining room**

**Spending Our Chapter Money**

**\*If someone leaves a bequest of money to a local chapter, then 50% of the amount must go to the State Affiliate**

**\*If money is raised through local fundraising, the local chapter keeps the first $500 raised. After that, 50% of the rest of the funds raised must be passed on to the State Affiliate. So, it’s looking like our chapter account balance will be quite a bit lower once we pass a significant amount of our event proceeds over to the State Affiliate.**

**\*\*\*We would like to help fund our members to attend the State Convention**

**Hotel and Transportation**

**\*\*\*Reinvest in our upcoming Dark Café events**

**Set aside money to pay for canes; John will get an estimate from Chris, and Sally will get an estimate from the Portland Commission for the Blind**

**\*\*\*A new thought; to fund transportation to chapter meetings for members in Albany. How could that work?**

**\*Pay a driver for time and gas to pick up and return people**

**\*Dial A Ride might be an option**

**\*If we recruit members from Albany, maybe someone would be coming over with a driver who would be willing to do the transporting**

**Chapter Meetings - Day, Time, and Place**

**We will be exploring our options for meeting day and time, and place. For now, we will look at continuing at the First Alternative North St meeting room verses meeting at a room at The Natural Grocery Outlet, or the Beanery. Other options can go in the hopper as well.**

**For our next meeting, we will meet on the 4th Saturday of the month, which will be April 22, from 10am to 12:00pm. The place is yet to be decided. \***

**Announcement!**

**We will have our next meeting at Kristen’s new office space, at 993 NW Circle Blvd, Northeast corner.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sally Utt**