**Linn-Benton NFB Minutes –November 26, 2018**

**New Morning Bakery**

**Present at this meeting were;**

**Kristen Jocums, John Gardner, Carolyn Gardner, Arona Rosegold, Lynne Brown, Sally Utt, Andrea , Steve Harter.**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Steve Harter from Dial-A-Bus joined us to discuss issues and policy that relate to the use of comfort animals by some of their drivers.**

**\*\*The policy is; they allow comfort animals as long as they don’t interfere with client comfort in any way.**

**\*The vehicles are cleaned out every evening to get rid of any alergans**

**\*Let Dial-A-Bus know if you have a dog allergy, and they will make sure that you are not picked up using a vehicle that has, or has had a dog riding in it that day.**

**\*They make sure that all comfort animals brought along by drivers are properly vaccinated and in good health**

**\*The only comfort animals allowed at Dial-A-Bus are dogs.**

**Kristen, and others have had the experience of being picked**

**up and asked by the driver to ride in the back seat because their comfort animal was riding up front. Steve’s response upon hearing this was that the client’s comfort comes before the animal’s, and that it is absolutely not okay for the driver to ask the client to sit in the back so that the driver can sit with their animal in the front. This animal should be able to be well behaved sitting in the back.**

**\*Dial-A-Bus’s priority is Client Service. Let Steve know when this sort of negative experience occurs so he can handle it soon after the occurance.**

**NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL RELEASE Info; (Beginning this month, a chapter member will be prepared to give a condensed version of the most recent Release during the chapter meeting.)**

**NOVEMBER Release;**

**\*NFB would like people to fill out their online survey about their voting experience in the recent primary election. The survey can be found at;**

[**www.nfb.org/survey**](http://www.nfb.org/survey)

**\*\*NFB is working with Alamida County, CA, to create a model for accessible voting in time for the 2020 election. This means that blind and visually impaired voters will have more choice in how they cast their votes;**

**a.Large print ballot**

**b.Secure online voting**

**c.Screen readers in voting machines, with trained poling personel available to help at voting venues**

**d.The Voter Info Website will contain a pdf practice ballot for blind voters to work with before they actually need to cast their vote**

**\*\*\*NFB has launched a suit against Walmart for having check-out kiosks in**

**some of their stores that are not fully accessible, and not being willing to work with NFB to remedy this situation.**

**\*\*\*\*The “brailled letters from Santa” program is going on again this year between November 14 and December 12. If you know of a child up to age 10, who would like to receive a letter from Santa,** **you can fill out a form for them on this list at;**

[**www.nfb.org/santa**](http://www.nfb.org/santa)

**\*\*\*\*\*Fundraising through Facebook. It’s fairly easy to set up a fundraising site on Facebook. When fundraising for NFB, make sure to explain clearly how their donation will be used. Help donors understand the significance of their donation to a blind individual. For example, describe how using a white cane can greatly increase the independence of a blind person. Also, it sounds like it’s easier to set up a site like this from a mobil device than a pc.**

**Other State NFB News**

**\*Washington Seminar is coming up the end of January.**

**\*Oregon Legislative Session is coming up March 9 – 11, 2019. Saturday and Sunday will be a member seminar, and on Monday we will go to the Capitol in Salem and speak with members of the legislature about bills that are important to us as blind individuals. This year it will be the Parents Rights Bill.**

**\*BELL Program; This year there will be a 2 week camp program for the younger children, and a teen weekend for the older kids.**

**CHAPTER BUSINESS**

**Minutes; No minutes to report on… not clear what happened to them**

**Treasurer’s Report**

**This year’s Family Friendly Dark Café made $350. There is currently $3200.00 in our Chapter account. There was a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, and the motion was seconded, and the Treasurer’s Report was accepted.**

**DARK CAFÉ**

**Did we accomplish what we set out to do? Would we attempt this again? What could we do differently next time?**

**Perhaps we could meet up with community members in more of a community environment.**

**We began to brainstorm some beginning ideas for a new setting;**

**\*The Farmer’s Market area in downtown Corvallis**

**\*The Living Well Expo in Albany**

**\*The Portland PDX Chapter did a Walk and Visit to a bakery that is owned and run by blind and visually impaired employees.**

**\*The “Spring Roll” is a family friendly bike/walk event in Corvallis where the roads are closed off to traffic, and groups set up along the way to pass along info.**

**NEXT MEETING**

**\*December; We decided to meet at the Spaghetti Factory for dinner on Saturday Dec 15, at 5:30 for dinner.**

**\*January mtg; Monday January 28, New Morning Bakery, at 6pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sally Utt**