March meeting Minutes 3/9/21

* Introductions
* Secretary Report
* Treasurer Report
* Presidential release Recap
* Legislative Announcements
* Member Announcements
* Chapter’s Announcements
* Diversity and Inclusion Discussion
* Discussion
* Bell Ringers
* Closing

Members

* Christina-she/her, Pleasant hill, Blind, black, woman, agnostic
* Amy- she/her, Oakland, first vice president, multiple disabilities, ADHD, Autism, blind, atheist
* Sheri A.-she/her, Alameda, new board member and happy to be here, White, blind, spiritual, not religious, member of LGBTQ community
* Sara-Oakland, treasurer, Oakland, likes to sing
* Taryn-she/her, Millbrae, new secretary, Chinese and White, Blind, female, employed, happy to be here
* Healani- San Francisco, happy to have found our group, and happy to be here
* Bobbi- she/her/they/them, Berkeley, second vice president, black, Blind, member of the LGBTQ community, multiple disabilities, cis gender, female
* Jeff -he/him, Oakland, work at Lighthouse, White, Blind, spiritual, tomorrow will be fully vaccinated
* Lisa-she/her/her’s, Mill Valley, Blind, other disabilities, love to get some advice from someone about a bread machine
* Serena-she/her, San Leandro cis gender, White, female, good without god, food blogger
* LM- Union City, cis gender, woman, Puerto Rican, mom of three kids, her five-year-old said when talking to parents to say kids are amazing, proud Blind woman who is recently diabetic, recently joined the 40’s club, life coach, member of Stevens Johnson syndrome club
* Brian-Berkeley, proud of Steven Johnson club, been 27 years as a Federationalist, will be fully vaccinated on Friday
* Jim- he/him, San Francisco, white, kinky, male, Blind, techy,
* Cindy- she/her, spiritual, white, Jewish, love to have fun, had second vaccine last week
* David Chan- he/him, San Francisco, blind, Asian
* Sherry P.- she/her, Albany, amputee, blind, member of Steven Johnson club, grad student at Cal

Lauren-Daly City, getting her first vaccine this week

Secretary report

* February Meeting Minutes were sent out to the list serve
* Motion was made by Jim and all approved of secretary report

Treasurer Report

* As a total we currently have $1,199.43
* Every month ten dollars goes towards the PAC plan, and recently made a $250 donation to the California state NFB

Motion was made by LM and all approved of Treasurer report

Presidential Release Recap

* As of March 1, 2021, there has been 503 presidential releases
* As of March 1st, the pedestrian safety act is officially in effect, has taken twenty years to go into effect
* Any vehicle made March 1st will be mandated to increase their volume to be heard
* As a quick recap from Washington Seminar, the Affordability Access Tax Act was introduced and gained 36 co-sponsors in the House and Senate
* All members are encouraged to fill out the survey regarding accessibility of Covid vaccines including access to locations and registration
* The Independence market sale item is a US map with tactile markings on sale for $250,
* The BELL literacy program is open for youth, this year will be virtual happening from June to August, registration is open with options in English or Spanish Braille
* National convention will be virtual, registration is open, there is a voting part that you must click, and you must agree to the new code of conduct
* Any members Wanting to take part of code of conduct, to file or seek support you can get more info

At nfb.org/survivors

* There will be a new member call on March 28th and if you want more details reach out to [membership@nfb.org](mailto:membership@nfb.org)
* Legislative Announcements
* through California state board started working on California senate SB 639 bill prohibit employers in California paying disabilities less than minimum wage
* Member Announcements
* Sheri announcing on March 18th 30 percent and growing will take place virtual
* as of today, LM has started bay area blind mom parenting coaching under her blog name bay area blind mom, can also be found on Facebook and clubhouse page, any interest parent or issues feel free to reach out
* Maurice announced that on Saturday there will be a deaf blind meeting and more details to come
* Christina announcing this Sunday at 11:59 PM is the deadline to apply for the home in prize, and if you want more details you can reach out to [homein@lighthouse-sf.org](mailto:homein@lighthouse-sf.org) for blind ambition projects
* Bobbi announcing that there is a Bay Area Blind Community group that has daily calls and other evening entertainment events during the week, you can find the group on Facebook
* If you are a blind person who has been a victim of sexual misconduct there is a blind survivor’s collective group, it can be found on Facebook or you can email [blindssfcollectigve@gmail.com](mailto:blindssfcollectigve@gmail.com)
* Chapter Announcements
* California board members are receiving training from RAIN regarding any form of misconduct
* National convention will be virtual this year from July 6-10, and there will also be a virtual concert
* Registration is now open for national convention and you can register at nfb.org/registration, you can find more details at nfb.com/convention, registration is free this year and voting is combined with convention registration

Starting March 15th vaccine appointments will be open for disabled people, Walgreens has acknowledged their site is not accessible and have agreed to sign up people in person

* Diversity and Inclusion Discussion
* For the first time the NFB had an open forum call with an open discussion
* There Will be a working group presented for people with multiple disabilities with information coming later
* Multiple working groups already exist which were noted in this call
* Some groups that were noted include south east Asian, latin x, black leaders advancement, Middle Eastern and African, and the newest group is the LGBTQ plus

Every Thursday there is a virtual LGBTQ call, currently working on books identifying in accessible formats from audible and Bard

* Carrie wonder is seeking publication stories or articles, requesting voices represented in the braille monitor

Discussion

* There is a ceremony to welcome new members, NFB is looking for mentors to get members acclimated and lead them in the right direction, members are encouraged to step up for leadership if desired
* Washington Seminar was virtual and happened during our last meeting

Christina thought it was cool to be virtual, normally in person, California delegation is 15 people with eleven offices, happy to have a big bay Area super team of fourteen, was hard to get appointments

* Taryn enjoyed as it was her first Washington Seminar, was really neat to be there as a supporting member and witness how my fellow blind members presented to important congress people on very important bills
* LM felt more connected to staffers as she felt a closer connection, hard to get to Washington D.C., it was nice to be virtual, was happy for those who did not sign up in time to still be able to join, was nice to get kids involved

Bell Ringers

* Jaime is happy she lost 36.32 pounds
* Taryn is happy that the Bay Area Blind Community is about to have their one-year anniversary, and her main virtual workout group has had its one-year anniversary and both are still going strong
* Sheri is happy she made her first batch of bone broth

Bobbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Amy seconded, and all approved

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Bobbi seconded, and all approved