# NFBV-Fairfax Meeting Summary (9/20/2025)

The meeting began with a verification process for participants, where Jeremy Grandstaff requested attendees to identify themselves and their affiliations with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). Several individuals, including Zoe Parker and Ella Gold, could not provide satisfactory identification and were subsequently removed from the session. The introductions included various members sharing their backgrounds, such as Frank Riley, a customer representative, and Teisha Gillespie, the communications chair for Virginia. Other participants, including Senator Saddam Salim and Chris Christie, also shared their experiences and commitments to the community.

Senator Salim discussed the upcoming 2026 legislative session, expressing optimism about achieving a trifecta with Democratic control and emphasizing the need for funding small projects that enhance accessibility. Jeremy Grandstaff stressed the importance of establishing a two-way dialogue with the senator's office, suggesting a town hall to discuss community issues and priorities. This initiative aims to facilitate early communication of these priorities to garner legislative support.

Teisha Gillespie provided details about the upcoming [NFBV convention](nfbv.org/convention) scheduled for late October in Virginia Beach, highlighting early bird registration discounts and various planned events, including a blind soccer clinic and a talent show dinner. Jeremy Grandstaff also shared updates on national initiatives, including advocacy efforts related to telehealth benefits and the upcoming Blind Equality Achievement Month, encouraging participation in a virtual career fair and a nationwide movement challenge.

The meeting included a discussion on advocacy training, where Jeremy Grandstaff and Chris Christie emphasized the effectiveness of storytelling in engaging legislators. They highlighted the importance of building relationships and addressing broader community issues. Grandstaff provided a structured approach to advocacy meetings and questions, focusing on hooking the listener, clear problems, specific solutions, and closed-ended calls to action. The session concluded with announcements about two events planned for Meet the Blind Month (October 4 and another date to be determined), a drawing for a @25 Amazon gift card (won by Chris Christie), and reminders about the convention, including assistance for those needing help with transportation.