November 18, 2023

# Introduction

The November 18, 2023 meeting of the Winchester, VA chapter of the National Federation of the Blind opened at approximately 10:05 AM. We welcomed two visitors to our meeting, Lee Butler, who is losing his vision and James Orndorf, Lee’s neighbor. We recited the NFB pledge.

## Icebreaker

Rodney Neely asked everyone to tell the chapter about their favorite food for Thanksgiving.

# Meeting attendance

We had no person who attended our meeting remotely today. The following people attended our meeting in person today: Jacki Brown, Rodney Neely, Lee Butler, Richard Orndorf, Joanne Carver, Lois Everline, Janet Lincoln, Jim Green, Mary Green, Edward Kilday, Chris Walker, Gwinn Moran, Wayne Williams, Jerry O’Malley, and James Shobert.

# Approval of October 2023 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 2023 meeting of the Winchester chapter of the NFBV were approved. But Rodney needs to make sure that Jacki Brown’s name is spelled correctly.

Jacki Brown moved for approval of the October 2023 meeting minutes and Joanne Carver seconded this motion. The motion to approve the October minutes of the Winchester chapter of the NFBV passed unanimously.

# Treasurer’s Report

Jacki Brown summarized our chapter’s treasurer’s report for October 31, 2023.

Jim Green moved that we accept the treasurer’s report and Wayne Williams seconded this motion. The treasurer’s report was unanimously approved.

# The Winchester Chapter’s Non-profit Status

We have to file a form each year with the state of VA to verify that we are still a non-profit organization. I think that the state non-profit form number is 990 and the federal non-profit form number is 22. There is no charge to file the federal form each year. It costs $25 to file the form to maintain our non-profit status with the state of VA each year.

There is a grace period before we would lose our non-profit status.

Jacki Brown and Chris Walker will work together to make sure that the Winchester chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Winchester will maintain our status as a non-profit organization next year.

# Technology Report

Wayne Williams has introduced Jerry O’Malley to both voiceover and the magnification features on his iPhone. Rodney Neely let people know about the new Orcam Read 3 that came out recently. The Orcam 3 is very small. It can read documents out loud. It can also be connected to a monitor to show the printed information on a monitor or a screen.

# CCTV

Carolyn Zdeira’s estate donated a CCTV to our chapter because Carolyn has passed away and can no longer use the CCTV. The chapter decided to loan the CCTV to Jerry O’Malley since he enjoys reading books. Jerry and James will coordinate with one another to make this occur.

# Chapter birthdays

Wayne Williams had a birthday in October. He received a birthday card and some chocolate from the chapter. Chris Walker’s birthday will occur on Sunday, November 26, 2023.

The chapter sang Happy Birthday to Wayne and Chris.

## New Member’s birthdays

Lee Butler’s birthday is on October 25. Edward Kilday’s birthday is on October 12. Jerry O’Malley’s birthday is on August 31. Richard Orndorf’s birthday is in March.

# Lions Club Presentation

Chris Walker gave a speech to the Winchester Host Lions Club on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Chris spoke about the history of the white cane. Chris also spoke about Blind Equality and Achievement month. The presentation was well received by the Winchester Host Lions Club.

Other people from our chapter, who attended this presentation included Jerry O’Malley, Kim, and Wayne Williams.

# YouCane Initiative

Dominique Lawless, the President of the Richmond chapter of the NFBV, organized a donation of used canes to the YouCane Initiative. Dominique Lawless is an orientation and mobility instructor in charge of overseeing mobility instructors, who work in the state of Virginia.

The purpose of the YouCane Initiative is to provide canes to blind people, who live in countries in which canes are not readily available for blind people to use. We collected used canes at our state convention to donate to the YouCane Initiative. Lois Everline donated two canes to the YouCane Initiative.

For more information or to donate some canes, please visit [www.youcane.org](http://www.youcane.org)

# State Convention

Our state convention occurred from Thursday, November 2 through Sunday November 5, 2023 at the DoubleTree by Hylton hotel in Williamsburg, VA.

Some of us told about our most meaningful experiences at the VA state convention this year.

Chris Walker invited Edward Kilday to attend the 2023 state convention. The Williamsburg chapter did a good job of hosting the 2023 state convention. We had over 220 people attend convention in person this year. We also had at least 14 people attend our NFBV state convention remotely via Zoom.

Jerry O’Malley shared that he enjoyed learning about the resources that were available to people with vision loss. Rachel Schrieman provided information about signature guides, check writing guides, and special pens for people with low vision to use. Jerry also talked about the Silver Bells program. Jerry also said that as a person who is losing his vision, you should be patient with yourself. You have so much to learn about living as a person with low vision.

Jacki Brown told us that the NFBV Convention Auction raised $8895 this year. All of the money that the NFBV raised from the auction will be used to fund the Silver Bells program next year. We do receive a grant to enable us to keep sponsoring this program. But the grant does not cover all of the expenses associated with running the Silver Bells program.

Jacki emphasized that the NFBV conventions are our conventions. The NFBV conventions are places where blind and low vision people can feel comfortable because it is our event.

Wayne Williams did not have the opportunity to attend many of the seminars at the 2023 NFBV state convention because he was helping with all of the technical details associated with making sure that the convention ran smoothly. Wayne Williams, Michael Kitchens, and Joe Orozco were the technical team. They made sure that the microphones and the audiovisual worked, the Zoom meetings were connected, and they also assisted with convention logistics.

James Shobert moderated a blind parenting seminar. He also discussed the challenges involved with raising sighted children as a blind parent or as a parent with low vision.

Rodney Neely discussed how much fun it was to socialize with everyone and how important it was for us to share resources with other people who are visually impaired or totally blind.

Jerry O’Malley also discussed how impressed he was with our state treasurer’s report. Mark Roane is our State Treasurer. Jerry was impressed with the returns on the NFBV endowment account to start out with approximately $96,000 and for the value of the account to increase by over 11% from the last state convention.

# Holiday Cookie Exchange

We will meet at Solenberger’s True Value Hardware on Saturday, December 16, 2023. We will meet for our cookie exchange. We will eat cookies and socialize at this meeting.

# New Baby

James and his wife Sarah are expecting a son to be born in February of 2024.

# Assistance with Running the February and March Meetings

Wayne, Joanne, and Jerry volunteered to set up the agenda and to facilitate the February and March meetings with some guidance from Chris Walker.

Chris volunteered to set up some programs at some of our meetings in 2024. We should all send our ideas to Chris. If we have an idea for a program, Chris will ask us to organize the program: Contact the presenter, and confirm their availability to attend our chapter meeting etc.

# January State Board Meeting

We need to find someone from our chapter, who can attend our state board meeting in January of 2024. We will have our state board meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024. We would like to have some participation in the Richmond Seminar on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The state affiliate NFBV will pay for many of the expenses associated with attending the Richmond seminar.

The purpose of the Richmond Seminar is the talk with the legislators about the concerns of blind Virginians. So the NFBV would like to have blind people from many different parts of the state to attend our Richmond seminar.

They would like for us to get our hotel reservations in by December 28, 2023.

# Washington Seminar

The Washington seminar will occur from Monday, January 29 through Thursday, February 2, 2024. The deadline for hotel reservations is Sunday, December 31, 2023. The Washington Seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol, National Mall located at 550 C St. SW Washington, DC 20024.

# Program Idea

Chris Walker had a program idea. We should invite Shannon Ganow to speak to our chapter. Shannon works for the city of Winchester as an EMT trainer. Shannon can share some information about emergency preparedness and first-aid with our chapter. Maybe for one meeting, we could go to the Winchester City Fire Department so that we might be able to have a hands-on demonstration of the equipment.

As some of us know, Christine Grassman and Braden Flax are Emergency Preparedness instructors. They presented a seminar on CPR at our 2023 VA state convention.

# Programs for the Low Vision Seniors Group at West Minster Canterberry

Next Tuesday, November 21, 2023, the low vision group will have a program on Becoming Socially Confident as a Person who is Losing his/her vision.

In December the low vision seniors group will have a program on taking care of your health concerns-like having a will in place etc.

# Two Items to Discuss in January

1. Planning for the year 2024 and

2. Fund-raising ideas

Respectfully submitted

Rodney Neely, Recording Secretary

Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of VA

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