January 20, 2024

## Call to Order

The Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of VA opened our meeting

at 10:06 AM on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Due to bad weather, this meeting was held using the Zoom meeting platform. We recited the NFB Pledge.

## Meeting Attendance

The following people attended our meeting: Kim Degroot, Gwinn Moran, Jackie Brown, Mary Green, Jim Green, James Shobert, Chris Walker, Barry Cochran, Wayne Williams, Gerry O’Malley, and Rodney Neely.

## Ice Breaker

Mary Green came up with an ice breaker this morning. She asked us to describe our favorite hot drink that we like to drink to warm up from being outdoors during cold weather.

## Approval of the November 2023 Meeting Minutes

Barry made a motion to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes. Mary seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved. I need to correct the misspelling of WestMinster Kenneberry.

## Summary of the Treasurers Report

Here is a summary of the treasurer’s report from October 31 through December 31, 2023.

Wells Fargo Business Choice Checking Account

Beginning Balance 10/31/2023 $8175.70

Ending Balance 12/31/2023 $5425.26.

Brokerage Account

Beginning Balance 10/31/2023 $32.946.56

Ending Balance 12/31/2023 $35,831.86

Petty Cash

Beginning Balance 07/01/2023 $71.40

Ending Balance 12/31/2023$76.40

Total Assets: $41,333.72

Wayne made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. Gerry seconded the motion. The treasurer’s report was approved.

## Technology Report

In November Wayne worked with Charles Townley to help him with his Android phone and to make some adjustments to his magnifier. In November and December, Wayne worked with Gerry O’Malley to help him to adjust his magnifier and to help him to learn how to use VoiceOver on his iPhone. Wayne also helped Gerry to set up his email.

## Digitizing our Chapter Records

Wayne Williams has begun to digitize our chapter records. This project should be completed sometime in February of 2024. We would like to express our gratitude to Jim and Mary Green for holding on to our chapter records for so long.

## New Arrival

Our President, James Shobert, is expecting the arrival of a child approximately three weeks from tomorrow, February 11, 2024.

## Program Ideas

Gerry and Wayne have two really good program ideas for the next few meetings during James’s absence. Hadley has a presentation that we might want to listen to on helping elderly people to maintain their balance. Another idea that Wayne and Gerry had was to ask Becky Keller and Jimmy Moris to present a program on cane travel. They could discuss the various types of canes people can purchase etc.

Rodney suggested that we might want to ask them for information about who those of us, who live in Winchester, should contact to schedule some mobility training. We are sometimes asked to contact the Fairfax office of DBVI and we are sometimes referred to the Staunton office of DBVI.

## Wellness Report for Chris

Chris is working through things day by day. He appreciates our support. He has a medical appointment coming up soon.

## Winchester Community Wellness Fair

Valley Health is sponsoring the Winchester Community Wellness Fair on Saturday, February 24, 2024. James is going to register us to participate in this event. It will cost the chapter $100 for us to participate in the Valley Health Community Wellness Fair. The Winchester Community Wellness Fair will be held at the Apple Blossom Mall on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 10:00 AM to

5:00 PM.

Tentative volunteer assignments for this event are as follows: Chris and Gerry will work a three hour shift in the morning and Wayne and Rodney will work a three hour shift in the afternoon. Barry might also be available to work in the afternoon. Jackie might be able to provide transportation to the mall in the morning.

Chris has some banners and some brochures, braille alphabet cards, etc. We can set up our table on Friday evening or on Saturday morning.

Wayne offered to try to find an item that we could give out to people at the event so that they will stop by our booth etc.

Whoever works the table during the afternoon shift should remember to bring the banners and the excess supplies back to Chris for safe keeping for our next event.

## Low Vision Seniors’ Group

The WestMinster Canterbury low vision seniors’ group met at the end of November of 2023. The meetings were cancelled in December and January. The seniors’ low vision support group plans to meet in February of 2024. Their guest speaker will be a social worker, who works at WestMinster Canterbury. She will discuss how a social worker might be able to help someone who is losing his/her vision.

Donations from Carolyn

We have some prescription eyeglasses, a hand held magnifier, and a magnifier that people can use to read books. James wants to use the book reading magnifier. James will bring the handheld magnifier to one of our meetings to see if anyone can use it. We will give the glasses to the Lions Club.

## Give Away Table at State Convention

Maybe we could try to organize a table of items to give away at our NFBV state convention. We can make this suggestion to our State President, Tracy Soforenko.

## Fund Raising Ideas

Gerry and Jackie want to organize a raffle to help the Winchester chapter of the NFBV to raise some money. Right now, we are proposing conducting a raffle for $500 since this will be our first

fund-raiser for the past few years.

All of the donations to our fund-raiser will go to our scholarship fund.

We all have to commit to selling ten tickets in order to raise money for the chapter. We can also use one of our regular meetings to solicit donations from some of the merchants in the Winchester area. We can decide where we want to draw the winning ticket later.

Jackie and Gerry will get back to us with further details at our February meeting.

## Other fund-raising ideas

James has found a local company that puts on murder mystery events. This would cost the chapter $795 up front. In order for this to work, we could sell 40 tickets for $25 or 25 tickets for $40 each.

We could also find an item to sell. Chris suggested that we consider selling Virginia peanuts. They made $400 the last time that they sold VA peanuts.

We can also ask Pattie at Solenberger’s to help us with our fund-raising efforts.

Jackie and Gerry will have more details on the raffle at our February meeting.

Chris can contact Chuck Adkins at Advanced Graphics once we want to get the raffle tickets printed.

## Scholarship Program

Rodney volunteered to contact Mausam Mehta, who is one of our past scholarship winners to see what she is doing now. The reason that Rodney wanted to do this was to provide more credibility to our scholarship efforts.

Gerry has been publicizing our scholarship program. He has contacted the head guidance counselor in Frederick County. She has agreed to distribute the Winchester chapter NFBV scholarship flyer for us.

Gerry is going to reach out to the financial aid office at Shenandoah University and at Laurel Ridge Community College.

Rodney agreed to reach out to VSDB to let them know about the Winchester chapter scholarship opportunity.

## Tour of VSDB

Rodney will check to see if some of the faculty from VSDB will give us a tour of the school and the campus. We could organize a trip to Staunton. We could visit VSDB, Woodrow Wilson’s home, and the Shakespeare Theatre.

Respectfully Submitted

Rodney Neely,

Secretary

Winchester Chapter of NFBV

1/20/2024

AppleBlossom Float Publicity

Do we want to have a float in the Apple Blossom parade?

Chapter Membership Dues

We need to pay our dues to maintain our membership in the Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of VA. Dues are $5 per person. Please bring your dues to our next in-person meeting, which will occur on February 17, 2024.

As a point of clarification, we should pay our dues to the chapter in January of each year if possible.