February 17, 2024

## Call to Order

The February meeting of the Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind was called to order at 10:04 on Saturday, February 17, 2024. This meeting was conducted via zoom due to weather concerns. Wayne Williams facilitated this meeting because our president, James Shobert, could not attend this meeting because his wife, Sarah, is expecting their baby to arrive any time now.

## NFB Pledge

The Winchester chapter recited the NFB pledge.

## Ice Breaker

Wayne asked us to all briefly discuss which other country we would like to live in for a year.

## Meeting Attendance

The following people attended the February 17, 2024 meeting of the Winchester Chapter:

Wayne Williams, Chris Walker, Barry Cochran, Gerry O’Malley, Janet Lincoln, Jacki Brown,

Mary Green, Jim Green, Rodney Neely, Greg Hart, Sharon Hart, Daniel Perry, and Jackie Bruce.

## Approval of meeting minutes

Jacki moved that the minutes from the January 2024 meeting be approved. Barry seconded this motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

## Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s report was approved. Chris made the motion to approve the treasurer’s report and Barry seconded the motion.

### Paying Dues to our State PAC Plan

Jacki said that she would meet with Mark Roane to make sure that our PAC plan contributions were up-to-date for the NFBV state affiliate.

### Dues Payment

Please bring our dues to the next meeting. The dues are $5.00 Please give your dues to Jacki Brown at our next meeting.

## Technology Report

Wayne worked with Gerry O’Malley on learning to use some technology.

## Digitization of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s Reports

Wayne has almost finished digitizing all of the old meeting minutes. He should have the digitization of the meeting minutes completed within the next two weeks. Once this project has been completed, Wayne plans to work on digitizing the old treasurer’s reports. This project will take a while to complete.

## Ordering SWAG for our Chapter

Gerry and Barry both agreed that we need to have something to give to people to increase awareness about the local NFB chapter and to promote the national organization.

So far, Wayne has found a keychain that is about two inches by two inches that we could have the NFB logo embroidered on. We could also put the contact information for our chapter on this little key chain. Wayne has also found a little pop socket key chain that we could purchase to increase the public’s awareness of the Winchester Chapter of the NFB. But the pop socket key chain would not have much room on it to put our contact information on the pop socket.

We agreed to keep looking for other types of swag to give the public to increase the awareness of our organization.

We will not have any swag to hand out for the Wellness Fair on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

We should try to find the national trade show web site to see if we can find some good novelty items to use to promote awareness about the National Federation of the Blind and, specifically, to promote the Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of VA.

We might be able to download the list of tradeshow exhibitors and contact them.

## NFBV Membership Committee

Jackie Bruce, the chair person of our NFBV membership committee spoke to our chapter. The membership committee is reaching out to all of the chapters to see what types of things they would like to have more information about or more opportunities to discuss.

Some of the areas of interest include an events/social committee, a committee to discuss braille, and a committee to discuss transportation.

Jackie encourages people to give her some ideas about how to increase membership in the NFBV. She encourages all of us to share our ideas with her and the other committee members.

Chris mentioned that the NFBV also has an Outreach and Public Relations Committee. Chris is a member of the Outreach and Public Relations Committee. He encouraged Jackie Bruce to reach out to the Outreach and Public Relations committee so that the two committees can work together. Jackie has a meeting with Tasha Gillespie, the chair person of the Outreach and Public Relations committee.

The first membership/social event of 2024 will occur at our May 11, 2024 state board meeting. This board meeting will be an in-person meeting, which will be held at DBVI in Richmond, VA.

There will be a board meeting, some social activities, and some learning opportunities at this meeting.

## Wellness Festival

The Valley Health Wellness Festival will occur on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Wayne told us that Gwinn and Kim want to work a shift at the health fair. So we will split up the workers as follows: Gerry, Chris, and Chris’s friend Robert will work from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Gwinn and Kim will work from 12:00 until 2:00 PM; and Rodney and Wayne-and possibly Rodney’s friend-will work from 2:00 until 5:00 PM.

Chris has all of the material that we will need to set up our exhibit. Wayne and Rodney need to remember to bring the exhibit materials back to their homes and store them for the next chapter event.

Silver Bells

Gwinn, Kim, and Gerry will be attending the Silver Bells program in Sterling from March 21 through March 24, 2024. Chris shared the information about the Silver Bells program with NW Works and Access Independence in case these organizations might have some members or some contacts who might be able to benefit from attending the Silver Bells program.

Renee Valdez is the Silver Bells Coordinator.

## Raffle

Gerry and Jackie have been working together on the raffle committee. Gerry has also agreed to reach out to two of the four Wal-Marts in the Winchester area to see if he can get them to donate a gift card for us to use as a prize in the raffle.

Gerry has two applications for our chapter to complete to see if we can obtain some additional financial support from Wal-Mart. I think that we will apply for assistance with our scholarship program when we apply for these grants from Wal-Mart.

Rodney also agreed to help with completing the Wal-Mart grant applications.

Gerry has also contacted the branch manager at First Bank and Trust. They have agreed to give us a gift card to use as a prize in our raffle.

Wayne will contact the Bank of Clarke. Fernando, Wayne’s room mate, works for the Bank of Clarke.

The chapter decided to have the raffle tickets ready for distribution at our August meeting. We will sell raffle tickets in September and October in Winchester. We should turn our money into Jackie in October. We can also sell raffle tickets at our NFBV state convention in Portsmouth, VA.

Chris has already gotten a quote to produce the raffle tickets from Advanced Graphics.

We need to figure out how many tickets we want to sell, how much we want to sell the tickets for, and what our prizes should be. Right now many chapter members think that a cash prize of $500 would be a good idea for this raffle.

We can all solicit our contacts for prizes.

We would like to thank Gerry and Jackie for their work on this committee so far. We are restarting this tradition post-Covid.

## Gift to James and Sarah for their Baby

We should send a gift to James and Sarah to congratulate them on having a baby. Chris moved that the chapter authorize Jackie to spend $250 to send a check to James and Sarah as a baby gift. Chris seconded the motion. And the motion passed with unanimous consent.

## Donations to NFB Organization

We should be prepared to make our donations to the White Cane Fund, the Jernigan Fund, etc. at our May 11, 2024 state board meeting.

## Contacts for Winchester Chapter Scholarships

Gerry has a contact at Laurel Ridge Community College who can distribute the information about the Winchester chapter scholarship for college students. Gerry should give this information to our president, James Shobert.

Mr. Hahn is the point of contact at Laurel Ridge Community College.

## Meeting Adjourned

Gerry moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:24 AM and Chris seconded this motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Neely

Recording Secretary

Winchester Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of VA