March 16, 2024

# Winchester Chapter Meeting Minutes for our March 2024 Meeting

## Call to Order

Wayne Williams called our meeting to order at 10:04 AM on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

## NFB Pledge

Wayne led us in reciting the NFB pledge.

## Meeting Attendance

The following people attended our March 2024 Winchester chapter meeting: Gerry O’Malley, Rodney Neely, Chris Boxwell, Amy Capitano, Lois Everhart, and Wayne Williams attended our meeting in person. Chris Walker, Jacki Brown, Jim Green, and Mary Green attended our meeting remotely. Also, our guest speakers Becky Keller and Jimmy Moris attended our entire meeting via zoom from Richmond, VA.

## Our President’s New Baby

Sarah and James Shobert welcomed their son Max Shobert into the world on February 19, 2024. Both Max and Sarah are doing well.

## February Meeting Minutes Accepted

Gerry moved that the minutes from our February 2024 chapter meeting be accepted. Lois seconded Gerry’s motion. The February meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

## Approval of the February Treasurer’s Report

Lois moved and Gerry seconded the motion to approve our February 2024 treasurer’s report. The February 2024 treasurer’s report was unanimously approved.

## Technology Report

Wayne Williams has been helping Gerry to learn to use NVDA. NVDA is a free screen reader that can help people, who cannot see, to hear the information that is being displayed on their computer screens.

## Digitizing our Meeting Minutes

Wayne has completed digitizing all of the Winchester chapter meeting minutes.

## Digitizing our Chapter’s Treasurer’s Reports

Wayne has begun the process of digitizing the treasurer’s reports for the Winchester chapter. This process will take a while to complete.

## Winchester Chapter Promotional Items

Wayne is still waiting for some vendors to send some sample promotional items to show the chapter. We want to have some promotional items available to hand out to people to increase the awareness of our chapter in the Winchester Frederick County metropolitan area.

We all would like to express our appreciation to Wayne Williams for all that he is doing to help the members of our chapter.

## Annual Shingleton Trust Donation Received

Chris Walker received a check from the Shingleton Trust for $1800. This is less than we have received in previous years. Chris will make sure that Jacki receives this donation to add to our treasury.

## Guest Speakers

Becky Keller and Jimmy Moris spoke to us about the different types of canes that are available. Both Becky and Jimmy work as Orientation and Mobility (cane travel) instructors at the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The NFB has a free cane program, which will give a person a new long white cane every six months. This program will also give people a slate and stylus if you need one. A slate and stylus is a method that people can use to write braille.

Learning to use a cane can provide three important benefits: helping people to realize that a cane user has a visual impairment, protection for a person who is using the cane, and providing information to a person about his/her surroundings.

There are a lot of different types of canes including long straight canes, folding canes, telescopic canes, and D-canes. Some of these canes are available from the NFB Independence Market. [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) or 410-659-9314. Other canes are available from

Maxi Aids [www.maxiaids.com](http://www.maxiaids.com) 800-522-6294,

Independent Living Aids [www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com) 877-612-1063,

and LS and S Products [www.lssproducts.com](http://www.lssproducts.com) 800-468-4789..

Virginia also has a cane bank. Please contact Sandy Halverson for further information about the Virginia cane bank.

You can order D Canes from [www.dcanes.com](http://www.dcanes.com)

If you attend Silver Bells, you will learn some basic cane mobility techniques.

## Community Wellness Fair

The volunteers who participated in the Community Wellness Fair, which was held on February 24, 2024 included Chris, Gerry, Gwinn, Kim, Wayne, and Rodney.

During their shift at the health fair, Gwinn and Kim spoke to someone whose children had had some eye problems. They also spoke to a gentleman whose brother has lost his sight due to diabetes. The gentleman was a little worried about his own eye sight because he also has diabetes.

It would be nice to have a brochure about our chapter and some promotional items to give out at our next publicity event.

## Access Independence

Chris is speaking to the Board of Directors at Access Independence in April of 2024. Chris wants to see if we can find some areas in which we can work together to promote independence for all people with disabilities.

## Museum of the Shenandoah

Chris Walker also spoke to someone at the Museum of the Shenandoah recently. The museum is interested in making some of its exhibits as accessible as possible. Chris told the museum representatives about the work that we had done on the Sensory Trail, with the trail at Sky Meadow State Park, and the work that we did with the Winchester Host Lions Club. All of these efforts made some trails more accessible.

## Discussion of our 2024 Raffle

Gerry has spoken with Kris Landes from West Oaks Farmer’s Market. They are interested in giving us a donation. Gerry and Jacki asked us all to try to get some prizes for the raffle.

Wayne is waiting to hear from one of Fernando’s boss’s at the Bank of Clarke regarding a prize donation.

Gerry is still working on getting some donations from Walmart.

We plan to hold the drawing for the raffle at our NFB VA state convention in November of 2024.

We plan to sell the raffle tickets for $5 each. We also plan to give out a grand prize of $500.

The prizes that we are looking for are portable. We would like prizes that could be used by people, who live in different areas of the state. Gift cards and cash are good prizes. But if someone wants to donate a fruit basket etc., we can also accept this type of prize. We want the prizes that we sell to be attractive to ticket buyers.

Other than the first prize of $500 cash, our chapter has flexibility about who should receive which prize, depending on factors such as where they live, how easy a particular prize is to transport, etc.

We need to create flyers to use to help us to sell raffle tickets.

Remember to ask the person to fill out his/her name and phone number when we are selling tickets.

Gerry and Jacki will meet and come up with a deadline for ticket printing, brochure development, etc.

## West Minster Canterbury Vision Program for April of 2024

Someone is going to discuss social services that are available for older people, who live in Winchester.

## NFB National Convention

The NFB National Convention will be held in Orlando Florida from July 3 through July 8, 2024. The NFB National Convention is a good opportunity to meet blind people from across the United States. It is also a good place to learn that blindness does not have to hold you back. “You can live the life you want.”

## Winready Transportation

The Winready microtransportation system is supposed to begin operation in Winchester, Va on March 25, 2024.

<https://www.winchesterva.gov/winready>

## Dues Collected

Jacki asked Rodney to collect dues from our chapter members who attended the meeting in person. The people who have paid chapter dues to Rodney are Wayne Williams and Fernando, Lois Everhart, and Gerry O’Malley. Rodney and Helen Neely also plan to pay dues to Jacki.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted

Rodney Neely

Recording Secretary

Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia