April 20, 2024

# Winchester Chapter Meeting Minutes

## Call to Order

The April 20, 2024 Winchester chapter meeting of the National Federation of the Blind of VA was called to order by our president James Shobert at 10:05 AM.

### Expression of Gratitude

James Shobert would like to thank everyone who led meetings during his absence-Gerry O’Malley, Wayne Williams, and Chris Walker.

We are all important. Everyone is part of the chapter. Thank you everyone.

## Reciting the NFB Pledge During Meetings

James suggested that we might recite the NFB Pledge less frequently to save some time during our meetings. The chapter decided to recite the NFB Pledge once each quarter.

## Meeting Attendance

Chris Walker, Mary Green, Jim Green, Kim DeGroot, Janet Lincoln, Lois Everhart, Gwinn,

Gerry O’Malley, Wayne Williams, and James Shobert.

### Organizing Trips for the Winchester Chapter

Chapter members can organize trips as long as someone is willing to take the lead on organizing the trip.

## Approval of Treasurer’s Report

Chris Walker received the most recent check from the Shingleton Trust. The amount of this check was for $1800 and some change. This check has not bee deposited into our checking account yet. Chris will deposit the check soon. Chris also received some paper work from Wells Fargo regarding the history of the Shingleton Trust.

Wayne digitized all of the Winchester chapter’s treasurer’s reports.

Mary Green made the motion to approve the March 2024 Treasurer’s Report and Wayne Williams seconded the motion. The March 2024 Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

## Donations to the NFB National Office

Our VA State President, Tracy Soforenko, asked to have our donations to the national office finalized before our May 111, 2024 VA Board of Directors meeting. Vice President Chris Walker has graciously agreed to attend this meeting to represent the Winchester chapter.

There are four funds that we can donate to:

The White Cane Fund-the general fund;

The Tembrook Fund-which is the building fund;

The Kenneth Jernigan Fund-the first time convention scholarship fund;

And the Shares Unlimited Fund-which is the rainy day fund.

James proposes that we donate a total of $500 to all four of the national funds described above-$200 to the White Cane Fund, and $100 to each of the other national funds.

Lois made the motion to approve the donations to the national office described above and Jim ?Green seconded the motion. The motion to donate $500 to the national office passed with unanimous consent.

### Losing a Chapter Member

Joanne Carver is moving to Florida to be hear her children.

We will miss Joanne. This will be a big loss to our chapter.

## Technology Report

Wayne has been helping members of our chapter learn to use assistive technology. Wayne has been helping Gerry to learn to use assistive technology.

Wayne has also completed the digitization of the records of the Winchester chapter from 1999 through 2024.

James Shobert-President, Chris Walker-Vice-president, Rodney Neely—Recording Secretary, Jackie Brown-Treasurer, and Wayne Williams-Technology Guru have access to edit the entire google folder. Other chapter members have access to view the documentation.

Wayne will upload documents to the Google folder for us. Eventually, he will send instructions to all of the officers to upload documents to the Google folder.

## WinReady Transportation

WinReady Transportation began operations on March 25, 2024. There is a WinReady app available that we can use to schedule rides. You can also call to schedule rides 540-667-2230 option 2.

Kenneth Johnson, who is the Director of Winchester City’s Public Works Transportation Service, will be our featured speaker at our May 18, 2024 chapter meeting.

Rodney, Lois, and Gerry attended a WinReady chapter meeting in March, just before the WinReady transportation system became operational.

Gerry O’Malley has actually used the WinReady Transportation service. Users of the WinReady service are expected to be able to walk to a stop that might be a few blocks from their destination. The WinReady users might also be picked up in a different place from where they were dropped off. This depends on where the dirvers have to go to pick up other passengers.

There are some issues that pertain to the outsourcing of the WinREady scheduling/dispatching services. The customer service representatives that take the calls are not native English speakers. They are also not familiar with the Winchester area. WinReady is also trying to hire some dispatchers that are based in Winchester, who are familiar with the Winchester area.

The Winchester city paratransit service is a bit better. The Winchester city paratransit service requires medical documentation before a user can be approved to use the paratransit service.

If anyone has a regular schedule, both WinReady and the paratransit service will book regular trips to and from work for people. These services will book these trips as recurring trips. WinReady and the Winchester city paratransit services are not good at booking trips to visit multiple locations during the same day-chaining trips. Going to Martins, then to a reastaurant at Creekside, and then back home. WinReady wants you to call at each intervening destination. Then they will give you a twenty minute to an hour window in which they will pick you up and take you from point a to point b. This part of the service needs a bit of improvement. But for a free service, the drivers are very nice. The point to point paratransit service is really quite good.

Lois said that when she was working, the paratransit service was very good. The last few times that Lois has tried to use the Winchester paratransit service to go to our chapter meetings, the paratransit service could not accommodate Lois’s trips.

## Our Fund-Raiser Raffle

Rodney was able to get a gift card from Claudio’s. Fernando was able t put Wayne in contact with Marianne from the Bank of Clark.

We need people to reach out to local businesses in the area-lawyers, realtors, dentists, etc. We have applications to four Wal-Marts that are in our local area. All four of these stores might be willing to give us a gift card.

Jacki also has some applications for funding from Wal-Mart that we might be able to use to fund our scholarships.

What are our goals for the raffle? How much money do we want to raise? What is our grand prize? Our grand prize is $500. We are not sure how many tickets we want to sell. The tickets would be $5 each. We would sell tickets from August through the end of October and at our state convention.

## Donation to Winchester Host Lions Club

We might want to partner with some local non-profits-the Winchester Host Lions Club.

We might want to decide what we want to raise money for. We had discussed using the money for our scholarship program.

Greg and Sharon Hart might be good people for us to talk to about receiving a donation from the Winchester Host Lions Club.

Gerry moved that we make a donation to the Lions Club Golf Tournament, which is scheduled to occur on May 12, 2024. Wayne seconded the motion. The donation should not exceed $500. We would like to donate enough money so that we could get one of our flags displayed in the Winchester Host Lions golf tournament. The motion passed unanimously.

Gerry will check with the Winchester Host Lions to determine the appropriate donation amount.

## Chapter Swag Items

We need to decide what we want to put on the swag. James suggested that we consider putting our logo, a qr code, and the chapter email address. James suggested distributing magnetic chip clips. We can go to the dollar store if we have an activity for children and just put a label on the items that contains a qr code and our chapter email address.

We might also consider ordering some chapter business cards with both print and braille on them.

## Summer Outing

The last few years we have gone to Glory Days. We could have a picnic-everyone bring something. We can assess the grill situation. James will be happy to grill if the grill is accessible. The chapter could cover hamburgers and hot-dogs and then we could all bring side dishes.

We could also have the meat catered if the grill is not accessible.

Let’s try to have the picnic on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Discussion about Reciting the NFB Pl

Respectfully Submitted

Rodney Neely

Recording Secretary

Winchester Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of VA