July 20, 2024

# Minutes from the July 20, 2024 Meeting of the Winchester Federation of the Blind

## Attendance

The meeting began at 10:10 by our president, James Shobert.

The following people attended the July 20, 2024 meeting of the Winchester Federation of the Blind: Mary Green, Jacki Brown, Janet Lincoln, Jim Green, Gwin Moran, Kim DeGroot, Lois Everline,

Norma Eisner, Harold Loy, Hazel Pearson, Gerry O’Malley, Wayne Williams, and James Shobert. The following people attended the meeting virtually: Chris Walker, Rodney Neely, and Jimmy Smith.

## Approval of the June 2024 Meeting Minutes

Wayne moved that the June 2024 meeting minutes be approved. Mary Green seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## Approval of the Treasurer’s Report for June 1-30, 2024.

Wayne moved that the June 2024 Treasurer’s report be approved with the change of the date that Jacki noticed. Lois Everline seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. The June 2024 Treasurer’s report was unanimously approved.

With the amended revisions to the dates as suggested by Jacki Brown.

## Facilitating Access to our Chapter Checking Account for NFBV

The donation from the bank of Clark County was sent to the NFBV instead of to the Winchester chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of VA. Mark Roane, our state treasurer, is going to facilitate the transfer of the donation from the Bank of Clark to us.

While this was in process, Jacki and Mark also set up a process that will enable us to electronically transfer our VPAT donation to the NFBV.

The NFBV Treasurer, Mark Roane, has access to our checking account. He does not have access to our chapter’s brokerage account.

Additional Donation

We also received a $400 donation from Gary and Alice Barr, who are friends of Rodney Neely.

## Museum of the Shenandoah Presentation

Sam Scout, who works for the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, will be coming to speak to our chapter at our October 2024 meeting to discuss how the museum can make their exhibits more accessible to visually impaired and blind people in Winchester, VA.

She has also invited us to take a tour of the museum so that we can make more informed suggestions about how the museum’s exhibits could be made to be more accessible for people with blindness and visual impairments.

## Chapter Business Cards

Wayne made the business cards more colorful. The QR code is on the back of our business cards. We have 1000 business cards so our chapter members can take them to distribute to people.

We can give out the business cards to people when we sell our raffle tickets.

Wayne, thank you for working with our chapter to create these business cards.

## Slate of Nominees for Officers and Board Positions for 2025.

We have the following positions available:

President, Vice-president, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and four board positions.

We will vote on this slate of officers and board positions in September because next month we will have a picnic at Jim Barnett Park instead of our regular meeting.

We want to make sure that we reach out to our chapter members to let them know that we still have four board positions available for them if they would like to participate in the leadership of the chapter. Please let James know so that he can create our proposed slate of officers and board members.

Jacki is willing to run one more time as treasurer. Jacki is willing to let someone serve as an assistant treasurer so that they can grow into the role. Jacki would like to turn the treasurer position over to a younger person.

Wayne is interested in running for president, Chris will volunteer to serve as our vice-president. Rodney will volunteer to serve as the Recording Secretary, and Jacki Brown will volunteer to serve as the Treasurer. Janet Lincoln will volunteer to serve as the Corresponding Secretary.

Maybe we could share some of the responsibilities for the Corresponding Secretary’s position with the board members.

Janet Lincoln is willing to run for Corresponding Secretary with the board members supporting the position of the Corresponding Secretary.

Jacki likes things to be assigned to board members. James will volunteer to serve in one of the board positions. Gerry also promised to consider volunteering to serve as a board member for next year.

Jim and Mary Green will also volunteer to serve as board members next year.

Janet suggested that we consider using business cards and/or posters to place in public places to increase awareness of the Winchester Federation of the Blind.

We could put some brochures in the Sullenberger Hardware store.

Please spread the word about the Winchester Federation of the Blind.

We can help to provide resources about blindness and visual impairment for people and to their families.

We work together collectively both locally and nationally to provide these resources to enable people with blindness and visual impairments to “Live the Life You Want!”

## Chapter Outing

Our chapter picnic will occur on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the Optimist Pavilion at Jim Barnet Park.

We can bring lawn chairs blankets etc. to sit on. James is bringing the charcoal and the tongs. Kim is going to pick up the water.

We will send out an email reminder about our chapter outing sometime in August of 2024.

## No Meeting at Sullenberger’s in August of 2024

Chris Walker volunteered to let Pattie at Sullenberger’s Hardware know that we will not be using the meeting room on August 17, 2024.

Chris also agreed to make sure that Pattie knows that we will return to Sullenberger’s Hardware for our September 21, 2024 chapter meeting.

## State Convention

The Virginia (VA) state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia will occur from Thursday, October 31, 2024 through Sunday, November 3, 2024 in Portsmouth, VA at the Norfolk-Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel.

The chapter usually pays for transportation to and from the state convention. The chapter will also pay for our registration costs to attend the state convention and our hotel rooms so that we can stay at our state convention.

We have to register for the VA state convention. We also have to reserve the van if we are going to use it to travel to our state convention.

There might be a Loudoun County chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of VA.

## State Board Meeting

There will be a virtual state board meeting held over zoom on Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Chris encourages all of us to call into the virtual board meeting so that we can learn more about what will occur at our state convention and to learn more about the rest of the chapters of the National Federation of the Blind of VA.

## Fund-Raising

Gerry thinks that we will receive a gift certificate from Mary Brady, the owner of the Keltic store and the western store. Mary has been under the weather. So Gerry is waiting to get in touch with Mary Brady until she feels better.

The raffle tickets are being printed.

Jacki will staple ten raffle tickets together. She will give us some tickets. How many tickets do you want. Wayne would like 30 tickets. Jacki has sold approximately 55 tickets so far. Gerry wants 50 tickets. James would like 20 tickets. Kim and Gwin ten for both of them. Chris would like 30 tickets. Rodney will take 20 tickets. Hazel will take ten tickets.

We are selling these raffle tickets for $10 each for our Winchester Federation of the Blind’s Scholarship Fund.

Lois Everline would like to donate some money to the Winchester Federation of the Blind’s scholarship fund. The prizes will be posted on Facebook. Visit our social media to scan our QR code.

Currently our prizes consist of the following items:

$500 cash-$250 donation from our chapter and $250 from the Bank of Clark.

$50 gift card from First Bank, $25 from Wal-Mart, $50 from Claudio’s pizza, One night at the DoubleTree by Hylton, two nights at the Blue Ridge Shadows Resort with breakfast for 2 at Hoolihan’s restaurant and two rounds of golf with cart and balls. The value of these two prizes is approximately $300 each. The Blue Ridge Shadows’ certificates expire on March 18, 2025. One certificate for one night at the Country Inn and Suites by Radison, which is located near the Alamo Draft House Cinema. This also includes a $40 gift card with free popcorn at the Alamo. That certificate is good through June 30, 2025.

This certificate could be used during Apple Blossom Festival week if you have friends who can make their reservations far enough ahead of time to attend the Apple Blossom Festival.

People like to be able to give away hotel stays to their relatives when they visit for the holidays.

We also have a nicely decorated American flag and a patriotic coffee cup from Sullenberger’s Hardware. We also have a gift certificate from the Wayside Inn.

We have requested 200 raffle tickets so far. We need to sell these raffle tickets so that we can raise money for the Winchester Federation of the Blind’s scholarship program.

Jacki’s goal is to sell 100 tickets.

We must return the tickets and the money to Jacki at our October 19, 2024 meeting.

We need to sell some of our tickets at the NFBV state convention.

Jacki will give us some flyers to show people some of the prizes that they can win and this flyer will also have some information on the National Federation of the Blind and how the money raised from selling the raffle tickets will be used. Jacki projects that, if we sell all $500 raffle tickets, then we would raise $5000 minus the cost of $800 that we will need to use to pay for part of the first prize and to print the raffle tickets. This means that this fund raiser could possibly generate $4200.

We would all work as a team to sell the tickets as a group. Steven and his family thought that they could sell raffle tickets.

Jacki will need the stub back that will have their name and phone number.

We are selling the raffle tickets for the Winchester Federation of the Blind. The money that we raise from selling these raffle tickets will be used to provide scholarship s to blind students. We have two scholarships-one for k-12 students, and one for college students or continuing education students.

These scholarships will be awarded to low vision and blind people.

This is the first year that we have tried to sell raffle tickets. This money will put this money into a portion of our account that will be designated as a scholarship fund.

The tickets look cool. They also look very colorful. Jacki will have to use some money from petty cash.

Jacki will bring the check and pick the raffle tickets up.

Could we send an email to the state affiliate to see if we can get something sent out to the rest of the NFBV state chapters.

Can we get an announcement of our September 21, 2024 chapter meeting in the Winchester Starr newspaper.

We might be able to put something in the Winchester Star in the community announcements section of the Winchester Starr.

We will draw the prizes before the banquet on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at our state convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Neely,

Recording Secretary

Winchester Federation of the Blind