#  Winchester Federation of the Blind Meeting Minutes 9-21-2024

## Call to Order

The September 21, 2024, meeting of the Winchester Federation of the Blind was called to order by our President, Wayne Williams, at 10:02 AM.

## Moment of Silence Honoring Jim Green

The Winchester Federation of the Blind observed a moment of silence to honor Jim Green’s numerous contributions to our chapter. Jim passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Jim was a very active member of our chapter. Jim served as our Recording Secretary for more than twenty-five years.

The chapter also sent a fruit basket. The chapter would like to plant a small bush in Mary’s yard in memory of Jim. We will work with Mary to find an appropriate land scaping company to plant the bush.

Meeting Attendance

The following people attended our September 21, 2024, Winchester chapter meeting: Wayne Wiliams, Chris Walker, Cynthia Schneider-from the Chamber of Commerce, Page Baggett, Mary Green, Janet Lincoln, Jacki Brown, Bill Turkell, Gwin Moran, Kim DeGrut, Gerry O’Malley, Rodney Neely, Shannon, and Hazel Pearson. Lois Everline and Charles Townley participated in the meeting via zoom.

##  Treasurer’s Report

We are getting closer to being signed up for the VPAD program. The VPAD program is a program in which our chapter makes a monthly contribution to the state organization of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia (NFBV). The Winchester Federation of the Blind makes a $50 monthly contribution to the state organization. We have recently begun the process of enabling our State Treasurer, Mark Roane, to have direct access to our checking account. Mark cannot write checks to himself without receiving the approval of our President and possibly of our treasurer.

Giving our State Treasurer direct access to our checking account should facilitate making our monthly contribution to NFBV’s VPAD program.

Lois Everline sent a $25 contribution to the chapter to support our NFBV Winchester scholarship program.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s reports

Gerry O’Malley moved that both the July 2024 meeting minutes and the Treasurer’s report be approved. Jacki Brown seconded Gerry’s motion and both the meeting minutes and the Treasurer’s report were approved by unanimous consent.

## Chapter Elections

Rodney Neely moved and Gerry O’Malley seconded the motion to elect the following people to their respective offices as our leaders for the Winchester Federation of the Blind for October 2024 through September of 2025.

The following people were voted into office at our September 21, 2024, chapter meeting:

Wayne Williams-President, Chris Walker-Vice-president, Rodney Neely-Recording Secretary,

Jacki Brown-Treasurer, Kim DeGrut and Janet Lincoln-Co Corresponding Secretaries, and our chapter board members will be James Shobert, Mary Green, and Gerry O’Malley.

## Presentation from the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce

Cynthia Schneider from the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce spoke to our chapter. At our September 21, 2024, meeting. The Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce is composed of businesses and non-profit organizations located in Winchester, VA; Clark County, VA; and Frederick County, VA. There are over 100 non-profit organizations, who are members of the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The mission of the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce is to connect business and community resources to foster regional prosperity.

There are numerous opportunities for our chapter to get to know other members of the chamber of commerce. The next big event will occur on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Our chapter can have up to five guests at each event. There are some tool kits available to teach people how to conduct grassroots advocacy. There are also tool kits available to help businesses and non-profit organizations to meet with legislators. There will be an event that focuses on economics in our region. The Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce does networking events every month. There is a calendar on the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce’s web site [www.regionalchamber.biz](http://www.regionalchamber.biz)

There will be a Community Connect and Serve event next Thursday, September 26, 2024. Gerry and Wayne attended this event to represent the Winchester Federation of the Blind.

The Top of Virginia Regional chamber of commerce has a program called the ABCs of Leadership, which focuses on juniors and seniors in high school. This program gives these young people an opportunity to meet and interact with mid-level managers from local organizations.

The Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce also has a 28 year old leadership program in which participants in the program are introduced to different industries that are located in the Winchester, Frederick County, and Clark County area of Virginia.

The Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce does have some good relationships with local elementary and high schools. The Winchester Federation of the Blind might have some opportunities to participate in our local community.

Gerry O’Malley should be commended for his participation with the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce.

## State Convention

The 2024 State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind will occur on

Thursday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3, 2024, at the Renaissance hotel located in Portsmouth, VA.

Early registration for the state convention ends on October 7, 2024. The chapter will pay for some of our meals. The chapter will pay for all of our registration cost for the state convention. The chapter will also pay for our banquet tickets and for our hotel room. The chapter will also pay for our transportation to and from the state convention. Please keep your receipts and request approval from our president before our treasurer pays the cost associated with attending our state convention.

### Transportation to and from our State Convention

We have already reserved a 14-passenger van and a driver for members of our chapter to use to travel to and from our 2024 state convention.

We need to leave Winchester on Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 10:00 AM. We will meet at Sullenberger’s Hardware at 832 Berryville Avenue in Winchester, VA.

We will stop for lunch on the way down to Portsmouth, VA.

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, we will plan to meet the van at 12:30 PM at the Renaissance Hotel to return to Winchester, VA. We will probably stop for lunch on our trip back to Winchester.

Please ask people to contact Rodney Neely if they need a ride to Sullenberger’s from their home or if they need a ride traveling from Sullenberger’s back to their home on the return trip.

### Approval of Expenses for Attending State Convention

Chris made the motion to approve that the chapter pay for some of the expenses associated with attending state convention.

### Door Prizes

The NFBV is requesting door prizes. Our chapter usually gives NFBV four $25 door prizes. Jacki moved that we authorize the chapter to donate $100 to pay for four $25 door prizes for our 2024 NFBV state convention. Page seconded Jacki’s motion. The motion passed.

## Fund Raising

 We collected some money from some of our members who sold raffle tickets to fund our chapter’s scholarship program. So far, we have collected $1395 and our expenses have added up to $653. If you are a nerd like me, you might wonder why we have collected $1395 when we are selling raffle tickets for $10 each. Lois Everline gave us a $25 donation to the scholarship fund.

So far, we have a profit of approximately $773 for this fund raising event.

For people who are selling raffle tickets, please bring your money to our October meeting and give it to Jacki.

We will have a drawing for 13 prizes. We need to draw the winners on Saturday afternoon during our state convention. We can sell tickets during hospitality on Friday evening. We should all try to meet on Saturday at convention for lunch.

## Richmond Seminar

Another event that the NFBV organizes each year is the Richmond Seminar. This usually occurs during Martin Luther King weekend. Members of the NFBV from across the state travel to Richmond to meet with our legislators. Last year we passed a bill that made medical labels more accessible.

The NFB National Office also organizes the Washington Seminar, which usually occurs in February. Presidential Release

President Riccobono wants us to listen to the Presidential Release during our meetings. He promised that these releases would not last more than fifteen minutes.

##  Social Outings

Chris Walker suggested that some people from the chapter might want to get together for some social events outside of our chapter meetings. This sounds like a good idea.

## White Cane Safety Day and Publicity

Chris Walker is speaking to the Winchester Host Lions Club on October 15, 2024. Chris will give a brief history of White Cane Safety Day, which occurs on October 15, 2024. After the Lions meeting, some of the chapter members and some of the lions will come downtown to have an information table about blindness. This event was cancelled due to the cold weather.

## Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Sam Scout from the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley will be our featured speaker at our October 19, 2024, meeting of the Winchester Federation of the Blind.

## Expression of Appreciation

Lois Everline expressed appreciation to the chapter for our outreach to her during her illness.

## Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Neely

Recording Secretary

Winchester Federation of the Blind