hNovember 16, 2024

# Monthly Chapter Meeting of the Winchester Federation of the Blind

We met at Solenberger’s Hardware store.

## Call to Order

Our President, Wayne Williams, called our meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

### NFB Pledge

Our chapter members recited the NFB Pledge.

### Meeting Attendance

Rodney Neely, Robert Holiday, Bill Turkel, Jacki Brown, Page Baggett, Mary Green, Janet Lincoln, Chris Walker, Wayne Williams, Gerry O’Malley, Shannon Shea, Zack Porter, and Paul Minichino all attended our November 16, 2024 Winchester Federation chapter meeting.

We all talked about our favorite Thanksgiving foods.

## NFB Birthday

Today, November 16, 2024 was the 84th birthday of the National Federation of the Blind. The National Federation of the Blind was founded on November 16, 1940.

Chris Walker offered a dollar to anyone who could tell him what was special about today. Rodney Neely won this contest.

## November birthdays

Wayne Williams’ birthday occurred on November 3, 2024. Chris Walker’s birthday will occur later this month.

We sang happy birthday to Wayne and Chris.

## Approval of the Meeting Minutes and the Treasurer’s Report

Rodney Neely moved that the meeting minutes and the treasurer’s report from our October 2024 meeting be approved. Mary Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Successful Fund Raiser

The Winchester Federation of the Blind raised $3847.47 for our scholarship fund.

## Motion for Scholarship Fund

Jacki Brown moved that we fund each scholarship for an amount of $2000 for each scholarships-our scholarship for the visually impaired or blind elementary and high school student and the scholarship for our blind or visually impaired college student.

Mary Green seconded Jacki’s motion. the motion passed unanimously.

## Discussion about Possible Scholarship Recipients.

Wayne Williams and Rodney Neely went to visit Orchard View Elementary School on October 23, 2024 to a meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Wayne told us that he knew of a little girl, who is visually impaired, who attends Orchard View elementary school.

Also Jacki told us that she would contact Dominique Lawless to see if Dominique might know someone from our area, who might be eligible to apply for one of the scholarships.

## Scholarship Committee

Jacki made a motion that Chris Walker and Wayne Williams be members of the 2025 scholarship committee for the Winchester Federation of the Blind. Shannon Shea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Information on Insurance

Paul Mindichino and Zack Porter from Blue Ridge Agents Insurance came to speak to our chapter. Blue Ridge Agents Insurance can be reached at 540-431-4373. This insurance agency has been in business for fourteen years. This insurance agency partners with social service agencies, such as the Winchester Rescue Mission and the Winchester city Department of Social Services.

## Presentation at West Minster Canterbury

Chris Walker will speak to the low vision group at West Minster Canterbury on November 19, 2024. Chris will tell his story of how he lost his vision to the senior citizens, who live at West Minster Canterbury. Hopefully, Chris’s story about how he lives independently will help some of the members of the low vision group to be able to cope with their vision loss. They might reailize that their lives do not have to stop because they are losing their vision.

## Visitor from DBVI

Jacki Brown is going to talk with Dominique Lawless to see if she might be able to come to Winchester to speak to our chapter about how some of our members might be able to obtain orientation and mobility services. Jacki is also going to ask Dominique to speak to the low vision senior’s group at West Minister Canterbury during her visit to Winchester.

## Optaro Demonstration

Gerry O’Malley attempted to demonstrate an Optaro magnifier from Eichenbach. Gerry saw this device at Dr. David Armstrong’s office. Dr. Armstrong is an ophthalmologist who specializes in working with people with low vision. Dr. Armstrong’s main office is located in Roanoke, VA. He has a small office located in Waynesborough, VA. The Optaro costs $800.

## Motion to Provide Financial Assistance

Rodney Neely moved that the Winchester Federation of the Blind provide $400 to help Gerry O’Malley defray the cost of purchasing the Optaro magnifier.

Wayne? seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Take Aways from State Convention

Bill Turkel attended the NFBV state convention for the first time. He enjoyed looking at the equipment that the vendors provided for people with visual impairment and blindness. He also enjoyed learning more about how to obtain books from the National Library Service.

Bill also enjoyed using a cane for the first time in a public setting at our state convention.

Page Baggett attended her first NFBV convention also. Page made a lot of good connections at convention.

## Braille Writer

Wayne is going to contact Tracy to see if anyone needs a braille writer that Lois Everline donated to our chapter. Lois Everline passed away in October of 2024.

## Richmond Seminar

Page asked about attending the Richmond Seminar. Wayne, Chris and Rodney also expressed interest in attending the Richmond seminar. The Richmond Seminar will occur on January 20-21, 2025.

Jacki explained that it is really important for the legislators to get to know blind people. Historically, the blind have been one of the most effective groups of people with disabilities, who have lobbied for our causes in Virginia.

## December Meeting

We decided that we would meet at the Domino’s Pizza located at 80 Feather Bed Lane in Winchester, VA—right next door to Café del Sol, on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

We decided to have a white elephant gift exchange. The suggested limit on the gifts is $20.

At this meeting, everyone in the chapter should be prepared to purchase his/her own lunch. The chapter decided to meet at Domino’s because the Domino’s Pizza has a separate meeting room available.

## Meeting Room

Chris will coordinate with Pattie from Solenberger’s about the meeting room for December and for next year.

## Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 AM on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted

Rodney Neely, Recording Secretary

Winchester Federation of the Blind