June 21, 2025

# Call to Order

The June 21, 2025 meeting of the Winchester chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia was called to order at 10:01 AM.

# NFB Pledge

Our President, Wayne Williams, led us by reciting the NFB Pledge.

# Meeting Attendance

Chris Walker, Mary Green, Janet Lincoln, Ashley Kesner, Eden Kesner, Amayah Hall, Audrey Underwood, Mary Puttock, Bob Puttock, Kim DeGroot, Rodney Neely, Jacki Brown, Gerry O’Malley, and Wayne Williams attended our June 21, 2025 chapter meeting. Jacki, Rodney, and Gerry all attended the meeting via zoom. Everyone else attended our meeting in person.

# Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s report

Chris moved that we approved our meeting minutes and our treasurer’s report. Kim DeGroot seconded this motion.

The meeting Minutes and treasurer’s report were approved unanimously.

# Presentation by Amaya Hall

Amayah Hall, the applicant for our Shirley Guest scholarship attended our meeting in person. She made a presentation to our chapter about how she planned to use the scholarship. Amayah wants to attend the Space Camp for the Blind in Huntsville, AL this summer. Amayah is very passionate about science. She wants to be able to understand scientific concepts so that she can explain them to other people-especially politicians.

Amayah Hall is a rising junior at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB).

Amayah wants to join our Winchester chapter of the NFB.

Amayah lives in Winchester, VA.

We should send Amayah’s contact information to the leadership team in Project Rise

Amayah’s mother, Audrey Underwood, is very supportive.

# Skin Care Presentation

Ashley Kesner is the owner of a small business, which specializes in making organic skin care products. Her business is located in Winchester. Her business serves clients from many different places, but much of her business comes from the Winchester and West Virginia area.

Ashley visited our chapter because she is very interested in Making her skin care products as usable as possible for blind/visually impaired people.

Ashley uses QR codes that people are starting to use to share information about their products. You have to scan the QR codes. Then you can obtain additional information. NFC tags. If you scan an NFC tag, do you want it to tell you the information about the product?

Mary Green said, “More than what the product is, but not too much information.

Ashley will use Hang tags then people would be able to read the information on the front and back of the hang tag.

The purpose of the NFC tag is to help you get the product out of your cabinet.

NFC is a little sticker. Hang tag is something that she is making so that you can scan the hang tags.

Most phones read the NFC tags automatically.

Jacki wants to know what the product is, what scent the lotion is, and what type of foundation if it is light or dark.

NFC tags only hold a limited amount of information.

Amayah suggested that Ashley include a raised dot or something similar so that a blind/visually impaired person would be able to feel the raised area so that he/she would know where to scan to obtain additional information about the skin care products.

Having a label, which is white against a black background might help someone who has low vision.

Rodney suggested that Ashely contact Britany Savage because Britany sells Mary Kay products. Britany is blind.

Also Chris suggested that Asheley might want to sponsor a booth at state convention.

Some of Ashley’s skin care products include skin care body scrubs, two different types of face masks, two different types of body serum, and healing lip glosses.

All of Ashley’s skin care products are completely organic.

Ashley started her business because no other skin care products met her standards.

# Board Meeting of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia

The Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia met in person on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. Wayne Williams and Fernado Brioso attended the NFBV board meeting to represent the Winchester chapter. All of these policies were approved at our May 17, 2025 NFBV board meeting: Whistle Blower Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Youth Program Protection Policy, and our Records Retention Policy. Tracy Soforenko, the President of the Virginia Affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind suggested that NFBV chapters might want to have a NFB Banquet Watch dinner/party. This event should occur in conjunction with the NFB Convention Banquet on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

## Change in Leadership for Silver Bells

This will be Sandy Halverson’s last year as Silver Bells Program Coordinator. The NFBV is currently looking for someone to serve in this capacity.

## Temporary Assistance with the NFBV Communications Committee

The NFBV is looking for some temporary assistance with the communications committee from July through September 2025.

Chris volunteered to help with this need for a short period of time.

Teisha needs some assistance for a short time.

# Problems with NFBV Email Messages

Jacki mentioned that she has been having some difficulty receiving messages from the state NFBV mailing list. This has been an issue for many NFB email distribution lists. This is a national office issue.

# National Convention

You can still participate in virtual registration for national convention.

The convention is in New Orleans, LA this year. The convention will begin on Tuesday, July 8 and end on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

# State Convention

Our Virginia state NFB convention will be held from Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, November 2, 2025. Hotel rooms are $109 per night. The registration will be available in mid July. The state convention will be held in a hotel in Virginia Beach.

Chris suggested that we need to contact Scott from Five Star Transportation to arrange transportation. Jacki, Wayne, Chris, and Rodney are all interested in attending the NFBV state convention. We can ask other people from our chapter if they would like to attend also.

# Summer Outing

Kim suggested that we have our event in doors for our summer outing. Some restaurants with meeting rooms in Winchester include Café del Sol, Domino’s, and the Village Square.

We will have our summer outing in August.

We can decide where we should have our summer outing at our July meeting.

Sullenberger’s will be doing renovations in July and August so we will meet via zoom in July. Our July meeting will occur on Saturday July 19, 2025. We will be having our summer outing in August.

# Next Year’s Officer’s and Members of the Board of Directors

We need to consider who wants to run for which chapter offices in September.

## Auditing our Books

Jacki needs someone to audit Jacki’s books.

We can do audits every three to five years.

If a new treasurer comes in an audit has to be done.

## Volunteers to Serve as Officers

Chris would be willing to run as President.

Rodney would be willing to run for Recording Secretary.

Wayne will run for the Treasurer position. Jacki will help Wayne with this until he understands what he is supposed to do for this position.

Corresponding Secretary-Kim DeGroot will continue to serve as Corresponding Secretary next year with some assistance from Janet Lincoln.

## Board Members

Jacki Brown, Mary Green, possibly James Shobert and Bill Turkel. We need to ask James and Bill about their willingness to serve as chapter board members.

We have to get out into our community to do speaking engagements.

We have worked with the Chamber of Commerce, NW Works, Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary.

You can welcome people into the chapter.

# Presentation at Orchard Ridge

Wayne Williams will deliver a presentation at the Orchard Ridge retirement community on Tuesday, August 7, 2025. At approximately 1:00 PM. He will teach some of the staff to use the Meta glasses.

# Recruiting More Members

Janet Lincoln suggested that we should consider recruiting sighted people to help us with some of our efforts.

Scott Fink from Five Star Transportation has been a member of the Winchester Chapter of the NFBV for a while.

# Meeting to Discuss Using the iPhone or an Android Phone

Mary Green needs help with simple technology. Her phone is almost impossible to use.

Sometimes people need training on how to use a screen reader.

Maybe we should have a meeting to help people with their phones.

We could have a meeting to help people with their phones.

We can have an extra meeting to help people to learn to use their phones as a blind/visually impaired person.

If we have to have an extra meeting, we might be able to use a room at Sullenberger’s or we might be able to meet at another location.

Rodney also suggested a way to use the iPhone using a device like Hable Easy to make it easier to use an iPhone.

# Awarding the Shirley Guest Scholarship

Chris made the motion to give the Shirley Guest scholarship to Amayah Hall. Wayne seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Congratulations Amayah!

# Tours under Consideration

We are considering making a trip to VSDB to tour the school. We are also thinking about scheduling a tour to the National Center.

# Motion to Adjourn

Chris motioned to adjourn the June meeting of the Winchester chapter of the NFBV. and Wayne seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:230 AM on Saturday, June 21, 2025.

# Banner Membership Results

The following six people joined the Winchester chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia on Saturday, June 21, 2025: Amayah Hall, Audrey Underwood,

Mary Puttock, Bob Puttock, Ashley Kesner, and Eden Kesner.

Respectfully submitted

Rodney, Recording Secretary

Winchester Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia