

New Hampshire Federation of The Blind (NFB)
Lakes Region Chapter Meeting

Secretary's Report

The meeting began on Saturday, Oct 20, 2025, at 10:30 am

Susie read the Pledge of Allegiance

David read the NFB Pledge

Melissa read the NFB Belief Message

Lillian & Lucille offered a prayer

Attendance Report

Those in attendance (20):

Madam President, Deanna O'Brien

Treasurer, Dennis O'Brien

State Treasurer, Fred Fournier

Secretary, Melissa Abbott

Andrew Harmon, Sheryl Dutton, Deb Moore, Carolyn Corrigan, Jackie Gagne, Richard "Ricky" Persons, Lillian Leroux, Lucille Leroux, David Brownell, Jody Ianuzzi, Susie Hoitt, Randi Wilson, Dana Trahan, Michelle G, Christopher Duffley, Joanne Jordon

Treasurer Report

Dennis updated the chapter's funding account for 9/30/25, as follows:

Beginning balance \$3443.96

Deposits \$0.00

Interest \$0.03

Withdrawals \$0.00

Ending Balance \$3443.99

1st motion Melissa, 2nd Sheryl, 3rd-all in favor

Beginning messages from members

Melissa will call Lisa Klaud to follow up on volunteering efforts and call Scott regarding potential Gamefest fundraising.

Jody announced Maggie had fallen downstairs and broken her wrist, elbow, ankle, and collarbone.

President Deanna's Objectives for the meeting

Dana's legislative affairs report

Scholarship program and new requirements for applicants

State convention updates

Melissa's fundraising report and new requirements for sending out secretary notes to members on the list serve

VP, Sheryl Dutton

Good morning, get outside!

Google Maps is on WMUR, which has GPS for the blind & visually impaired.

Secretary, Melissa Abbott

Send contact list out to members, updates needed.

Please send secretary notes in TXT format (universal file type).

An alternative option is to copy & paste notes into email for list serve.

Send Deanna Word doc as usual.

Emailed Dana a new email contact.

As a chapter, we went through the previous attendance meeting for any inconsistencies; those who call in with a number find it hard to know who it is.

Fred suggested that the meeting minutes be published to the group & approval vote on the minutes.

Deb said legally obligated to do so.

Dana asked to publish on the website.

President Deanna said to put on the list serve, not the website.

Fundraising Efforts

Gaming night registration is now complete.

The new mission statement for the application process is completed.

The mission statement is at the end of the meeting notes for everyone.

Hannaford bags application in process; awaiting approval.

Randi wants to chat about a new opportunity. Melissa will call her next week.

Fred inquired about multiple sites in a calendar year. Melissa will double-check.

Deanna wants the status of Hannaford bags. Melissa will call to inquire on application status.

Melissa is to add the mission statement to the October minutes.

Andrew is wondering whether anyone else can join the fundraising efforts.

Legislative alerts next chapter mtg w/Dana Trahan

Dana spoke with Jesse Shira.

Meeting with each state's Legislative director on Monday evening.

The cancellation of Special Ed funding is impacting all areas: mobility training, entrepreneur support, braille instruction in classrooms, and technology.

SBVI will be affected tremendously.

Federal level Department of Education-Randall Shepard

****Very critical /serious problem.**

***Jody announced Medicare cancellation and pull out (Medicare monthly fee increased by \$200)**

NFBNH Event Scholarship Policy

Support members, attend the state convention, scholarships, the national convention, and the Washington seminar.

Awards are based on financial need in written form, on a case-by-case basis. Scholarship policy sent to the list serve for everyone to read.

Travel accommodations for long-distance (airlines, trains, etc.) & local (taxis, Lifts, food & incidentals) transport are the responsibility of the individual.

State & National conventions

Criteria for applying for funding. Dana requested to be read to all.

Dennis read the requirements for funding & scholarships for the chapter members.

The chapter had a good collective discussion regarding questions of the new policy.

Next Important Dates:

1/26/26 WA seminar

5/30/26 State convention

7/3-8/26 National convention in Austin, TX

New proposed mission statement:

The purpose of the National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire is to help the blind achieve self-confidence, self-respect, and self-determination by fostering personal empowerment and coordinating nationwide advocacy to build a greater understanding of blindness. Our ultimate goal is the complete integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality through removing legal, economic, and social barriers, educating the public, and promoting opportunity in employment, schooling, recreation, and healthcare.

Next meeting, 11/15/25

President Deanna O'Brien called the meeting at 12:15.