

Joint Meeting
NFB of SC & Rocky Bottom
Board Meeting Minutes
JANUARY 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Frank Coppel. NFB of SC Board members present were Jamie Allison, Ed Bible, Debra Canty, Shannon Cook, Steve Cook, Frank Coppel, Loretta Green, Garrett Mosley, Isaiah Nelson, JW Smith, Lenora Robertson, and Valerie Warrington. Linda Dizzley, Tiffiny Mitchell, and Donald Capps were absent. Others present were Jennifer Bazer, Jennifer Duffell-Hoffman, Matthew Duffell-Hoffman, Derique Simon, AJ McFadden, Demetrius Williford, Belinda Banks, and David Houck.

Frank Coppel asked for a motion to dispense with the minutes from December to save time, since this meeting is shorter than usual. Ed Bible made the motion, which was seconded, and approved by the board. The same motion was made and carried out for the financial report.

Garrett Mosley donated \$5 for not wearing his NFB logo.

Being a joint meeting, the roll was also called for the Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind Board. Those present were Jennifer Bazer, Ed Bible, Debra Canty, Shannon Cook, Frank Coppel, David Houck, Lenora Robertson, and Valerie Warrington. Members absent were Thomas Bowen, and Donald Capps.

Chair Coppel called for a motion to dispense with the RBRCCB minutes and financial report until the April meeting. Jennifer Bazer made the motion, which was seconded and passed by the board.

RBRCCB Report: Ed Bible

In December, a storm took down 13 trees, mostly at the chapel and near the dam. The chapel roof and gazebo had damage as a result of the trees falling. Linda Bible has rallied the troops to get the tree off of the chapel. The company she got also identified five more trees that needed to come down before they fell and caused further damage. The Salem Lions Club has come to help with grounds keeping, such as raking leaves and removing limbs. There is a need for people to provide some help with this cleanup effort.

In addition, DHEC is pushing for protocol adherence that has been lacking for approximately 20 years. DHEC began asking for these changes in 1999 and again in 2002. Nothing was done. Board members of the RBRCCB who have been on the board since then had no idea these things were being requested, and subsequently ignored. Now, DHEC states they will be making visits to the camp every 2-3 weeks

between now and June to see that things are improving, or they will shut the camp down completely.

Some of the things being requested are for the water bladders by Oglesby to be painted. The fenced-in area where the bladders are located needs to be cleaned out. Trash, cans, bottles, etc. have been thrown over the fence and not been cleaned up. The security is also lacking. DEHEC wants padlocks to be put on the fence to secure the water system. DHEC will be back on Tuesday, January 8, so this is an urgent need.

The chair reiterated the need for follow-up to put plastic under the buildings to prevent mold from recurring. The camp also needs to have the restrooms in the Conference Center repaired. The septic tanks need to be drained as well. Frank recognized Isaiah Nelson for donating three rolls of commercial plastic to be laid under the buildings. Isaiah's willingness to step up when asked is greatly appreciated. Demetrius Williford said that his chapter had a hot dog sale and raised \$500 for RBRCCB, which was sent to the Federation Center. Mr. Coppel and the board expressed their gratitude for the assistance. All chapters are asked and encouraged to help while the camp is under this strain.

JW Smith suggested that the board take up money to buy the locks needed to secure the areas at RBRCCB. He would be willing to purchase the locks and get them up to camp by Tuesday. A total of \$76 was raised for the locks. Shannon Cook suggested designating a specific day as a service/work day at camp. If members want to stay overnight, they could, but otherwise, it could be a day trip for many. Chair Coppel said he would look at the calendar and decide on a date later.

Jennifer Duffell-Hoffman suggested that Rocky bottom contact Youth Build, a Department of Labor program that gives low-income youth ages 16-24 work opportunities and teaches them skills that can be used in other jobs. Often, they are available as volunteers. She said there is a chapter in Pickens.

NFB of SC Update:

The national headquarters of the NFB will be taking over compiling the financial statements for the NFB of SC. Valerie Warrington reports that the national office will oversee the completion of the 990 forms, compile the annual financial report, and reconcile the bank statements. Ten years ago, the other states transitioned to having the national office do this, but SC was one of three that was exempt. Now, SC is getting on board too. This will be a free service and reduce what the state pays to CC McGregor, the current CPA firm. This change will save the state approximately \$6000 yearly. McGregor will still handle RBRCCB and the Federation Center

Washington Seminar:

The dates are January 27-30, 2019. Plans have been made for the ones going. Frank and Shelley Coppel will not be going; since, their nine-month-old grandson's heart surgery is on January 25th. There is a link on nfb.org to review the three major issues that attendees will be asked to discuss with their respective Congressmen and women.

NFB of SC State Convention:

The state convention will be held the weekend of August 9-11, 2019 at the Columbia Marriott. Rooms will be available on Thursday night, August 8th as well. Rates are \$112/night with 14.95% tax. The block of rooms is not yet ready for reservations to be made. Columbia was chosen due to its central location, higher attendance, and better rates. Frank has increased the block of rooms in anticipation of having 225 people attend. Someone, possibly Belinda Banks, asked why not check Embassy Suites, or a hotel that offers free breakfast. Mr. Coppel explained that he has looked at their rates in prior years. The room rates were higher and the free breakfast is not counted in the amount of food that is expected to be purchased for the weekend, whether it is \$10,000, \$15,000, or some other amount. Embassy Suites wanted \$11 more per room per night and charged \$15,000 for the required food costs, as opposed to the \$109 cost at the Marriott and \$10,000 for the food.

Jennifer Bazer asked Mr. Coppel if he had the sponsorship letter ready yet for soliciting funds for the convention. He does not, but will work on it.

President Coppel stated that he plans to invite the Riccobonos, the Maurers, and Mrs. Jernigan to the convention, since they have played such an integral part in the history of the organization.

Las Vegas Bus Tickets:

At this time, there have been 2494 bus tickets turned in to Lenora Robertson. Some have not been turned in yet for this afternoon's drawing.

Next Meeting:

Lenora Robertson moved for the next meeting to be on April 6, 2019, given that Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter and spring break will cause some to have already made plans. The motion was seconded and passed by the board.

Delegate Designations:

The delegates to the national convention, according to the usual rotation of officers, would be Frank Coppel for delegate and Lenora Robertson for alternate delegate. Debra Canty moved for Frank Coppel to be the delegate. The motion was seconded and passed by the board. Frank did remind the board that the delegate's way is paid for by the national office. The alternate delegate is given money from the NFB of SC. Someone present asked what the delegate does. President Coppel said that the delegate is the representative for if and when the convention calls for a state by state

vote, such as on resolutions or elections. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by the board to have Lenora Robertson represent SC as the alternate delegate to the national convention this year.

Debra Canty reminded the board that the Sweetheart's Dance will be on February 16, 2019. She will hold the first conference call on Monday, January 7 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss plans.

Shannon Cook announced that the Federation Center will have a yard sale on January 19, 2019. Tables are \$12 each. Proceeds go to the center. The yard sale is from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by President Coppel.

Submitted by,
Shannon Cook
NFB of SC/RBRCCB Secretary

2019 Board Meeting Schedule:

April 6, 2019, Federation Center

August 9, 2019, NFB of SC state convention, Columbia Marriott

December 7, 2019, Christmas board retreat, RBRCCB