

NFB of SC Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2020 – 8:30 p.m.

(Please Note that these minutes are less detailed than usual. For some reason, Zoom did not record this meeting. Minutes were recreated from notes from the state president.)

****Welcome and Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by President Frank Coppel. The meeting was opened in prayer.

NFB of SC Board members present were Jamie Allison, Ed Bible, Debra Canty, Shannon Cook, Steve Cook, Frank Coppel, Linda Dizzley, Loretta Green, Tiffany Mitchell, Isaiah Nelson, Lenora Robertson, Derique Simon, JW Smith, and Valerie Warrington. Garrett Mosley was absent. Others were present. President Coppel welcomed all the visitors to the meeting.

****Minutes and Treasurer's Report:**

It was moved to dispense with the minutes and Treasurer's Report for this meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by the board.

****Comments from National Representative: Everett Bacon**

****Comments from Immediate Former State President: Parnell Diggs**

****Member At Large Chapter Report: Ed Bible, Chapter President**

Mr. Bible reported that the Member At Large Chapter began meeting in May. They have met monthly since then on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. There has been a favorable response to the new chapter's creation. Federationists have joined from other states such as New York and Kentucky. Having this new chapter has filled a great need in SC for being involved with a chapter, when none is located close to them.

****Reading of Proposed Amendment to Article XII of the State Constitution:**

The proposed change to Article XII was read. The statewide membership will vote on whether to adopt this amendment during the general sessions of the NFB of SC state convention held tomorrow, August 22nd. The article addresses the state board setting a deadline for dues to be paid in order for a member to be eligible to vote in the elections held at the state convention.

****NFB of SC State Convention Voting Platform:**

President Coppel informed the board of the change to the voting platform discussed at the last meeting held on July 25th. He stated that he had contacted John Berggren at

the national office of the NFB in Baltimore to get a contact person for Excite M, the platform that was used for voting during the national convention. Mr. Berggren stated that there was not one specific person that the NFB dealt with. Steve Cook began calling Excite M to get the NFB of SC signed up for the service with an enterprise account that allowed the user to vote by phone, instead of by text and online means. It is not possible to sign up for an enterprise account on the Excite M website; thus, the need for an enterprise account representative. Mr. Cook spoke with a lady named Jessica who directed him to Scott, who was the enterprise point of contact. Steve talked to Scott only once. He was told that there had been three affiliates who had requested Excite M accounts. Consequently, Excite M and the NFB's national office were meeting soon on August 7th to discuss having a group account set up for the NFB. Scott said he would get back in touch with Steve following that meeting, possibly the evening of August 7th. Steve had not heard from Scott by Monday afternoon. He began calling and leaving multiple messages for him to find out what the next steps were. Steve also called Jessica back to ask if there was anyone else that could help him with setting up the account. He stressed that the convention was to begin on August 21, and the NFB of SC did not have much time left to make arrangements. Jessica stated that she would send Scott another message to get things started. Messages were left throughout the week of August 10th. Mr. Coppel even called the national office again and explained the predicament our state was in. On Saturday morning, Mr. Coppel, and members from the CSTD Elections Planning Committee met. They decided to stop pursuing Excite M and set up the elections to be done using Call Em All, a system the NFB of SC had been using for about 9 months already for mass automated announcements. The people who had registered for the convention by July 31st, and who had paid their dues by July 1st were entered into the database for voting at the state convention. Mr. Coppel wanted to clearly explain why there was a deviation from the original platform that the board wanted to use.

****Final Comments from Outgoing State President:**

Mr. Coppel expressed his appreciation for the work of the board during his tenure as state president since 2015. He wanted to ensure that everyone knew he would still be involved, but not in a named office within the organization. He has been a loyal Federationist ever since he began in the NFB and will continue to be. He wants this to be a great convention and wishes the board well in making decisions that will guide the path taken by the affiliate.

****Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is customarily held at the Christmas Board Retreat, held at Rocky Bottom during the first weekend of December. It will be determined later if that will be done this year or held via Zoom due to COVID.

The meeting was adjourned by President Coppel AND CLOSED IN PRAYER.

Submitted by,
Shannon Cook
NFB of SC Secretary