

October 9, 2023

Memo To: Executive Officers, Board Members, Chapter & Division Presidents & Others

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1939

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Dear Federation Family,

The Presidential Release was broadcast from Louisville, Kentucky on October 3, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. where President Riccobono attended the American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting. He delivered a keynote address during this meeting which may be a first in the history of the two organizations. This is a meeting that I typically attend as the Ex Officio Trustee for the SC Department of Education and the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. While I was unable to attend this year, the partnership among the National Federation of the Blind, the American Printing House for the Blind and Humanware is strong and will lead us to the release of the Monarch dynamic tactile braille and graphics display in 2024. Congratulations to President Riccobono on achieving the success of this partnership!

After some challenges, the SC Association of Blind Students (SCABS) held elections on Thursday, October 5, 2023. Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected to the SCABS board.

President – Derique Simon

Vice President – Jacob Cooper

Secretary – Jesus Ramirez

Treasurer – Riley Crawford

Board Member: Victoria Farr

SCABS has an excellent board and we look forward to a strong year of events and team-building among these fine young Federationist! If you have students in your chapter who are not a member of SCABS, please encourage them to join our organization for students.

The Rocky Bottom Board Retreat will take place the weekend of November 17-19, 2023. Please contact Thom spittle at 803-331-3344 or via e-mail at nfb.sc.lab.4@gmail.com to make your reservations. This event is open to board members at this time. If we determine that we can expand it, we will share that information.

Things to Remember

- We Care Birthday Fundraiser
- BEAM Events
- State Dues
- Rocky Bottom Board Retreat – November 17-19, 2023

Here is David Houck's Federation Facing Fact.

The Blind Who Lead the Blind will provide background information on each board member over the next fifteen Positive Notes. We continue with Michelle Scott, District 1 Board Member of the NFB of SC this week.

Michelle R. Scott joined the Charleston Chapter of the NFB of SC in 2020 and became a member of the At Large Chapter in 2022. On June 10, 2023, she was elected president of the Charleston chapter. She was elected to the NFB of SC Board of Directors at the 2023 state convention as the representative for district one. Michelle currently serves on the City of Charleston Commission on Disability Issues and the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Charleston Parks and Recreation Commission.

Michelle holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Limestone University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina. She is certified and rostered in both Parent Child Interactive Therapy and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. She has specialized training working with children that display Sexualized Behavior Problems and has received training from the National Child Advocacy Center in conducting Forensic Interviews with victims of all types of abuse and neglect.

Michelle worked at Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health (DMH) Center for 13 years. While under the DMH umbrella, she worked as a school-based therapist in middle and high schools, as a Forensic Interviewer at the Dee Norton Low-Country Children Center

as well as a clinic-based therapist. In 2012, Michelle had the honor of being Employee of the Year. Michelle retired from DMH in 2020. Earlier in her career Michelle worked at the Department of Social Services for 14 years as a Human Services Case Manager in the Emergency Protective Custody Unit, removing children from abusive and neglectful homes.

For enjoyment, Michelle loves to spend time with her God-Daughter Zaya, bowling, crochet, watching Investigation Discovery TV and growing beautiful flowers in her garden.

Marty

Marty R. McKenzie, President

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