

January 1, 2024

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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1951

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Dear Federation Family,

It is New Year's Day and the holiday season concludes today. As we look toward 2024, let us purpose in our hearts to look deep within the heart of the Federation to support those programs that are outstanding and to strengthen programs that need assistance. We must continue the journey that will lead to full acceptance into society as blind persons and this requires us to renew our commitment from time to time. The beginning of the new year is a great time to do this. With love, hope and determination, we can change what it means to be blind and take our rightful place in our world! From my home to yours, Happy New Year!

The Annual Statewide Seminar will take place on January 6, 2024 at the Federation Center of the Blind beginning at 10:00 a.m. and concluding no later than 4:00 p.m. This is our mid-year NFB of SC meeting and we want as many members as possible to join us. Chapter presidents should contact David Houck via e-mail at nfbsc@sc.rr.com or via telephone at 803-254-3777 as soon as possible and let him know how many plan to come from your chapter. This information is needed to plan for lunch on Saturday.

Plans are well underway for the Washington Seminar as several Federationists will depart Columbia on Sunday, January 29, 2024 and return on Thursday, February 2, 2024. You will hear additional information about our state and national legislative agenda at the Statewide Seminar on January 6, 2024.

From Thom Spittle

We will have an auction at the statewide seminar benefitting Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind. The most successful auctions have some of the best homemade cakes made by our own members. So, if you can bake super excellent pound cakes and other baked goods, please help our cause and bring some of your tasty treats with a description.

Also, we only have a limited number of spots to hold these auctions since we have a full agenda. So that we can maximize on our fund raiser, please bring items valued at \$25 or more. I know of some businesses donating things like televisions, so if you know a generous donor, involve them by asking for an auction item. Thanks, and let's have a successful and fun auction!

Applications Are Open

The 2024 online scholarship application is available at <https://nfb.org/scholarships>. All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than March 31, 2024. A list of eligibility requirements, as well as documents containing answers to frequently asked questions, a submissions checklist, and other supporting material can also be found on the scholarship webpage. Throughout the application period, reminders and information about the scholarship program will appear in the Braille Monitor, on our website, and will be shared via social media. Please share!

Things to Remember

- Statewide Seminar on January 6, 2024
- National Scholarship Applications due by March 31, 2024

The Federation Facing Facts are very informative. This part of the Positive Note will return from time to time when a topic warrants it.

Marty

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