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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1961

843-939-8091 president@nfbofsc.org

Dear Federation Family,

On March 9, 2024, State Board Members Frank Loza and Derique Simon along with Frank Coppel, Ed Bible and David Houck traveled to Laurens, SC for an interest meeting concerning chapter reorganization. The meeting took place at the Bell Center of the Blind and 22 interested individuals were present. The state representatives provided current information about what is happening with the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina. While the chapter did not formally organize at this meeting, a follow-up meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024 at 12:00 PM. We look forward to seeing the Laurens Chapter reorganized and thriving. We thank Frank Loza, Derique Simon, Frank Coppel and Ed Bible for their hard work on this effort.

The Annual Vision Summit titled Orientation and Mobility Throughout the Life Span will take place on Friday, March 22, 2024 at Saluda Shoals Park located at 5609 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29212. Registration cost is \$25 for adults and special rates are available for parents and students. The link to register is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1oFBeorveFX0MMIMdEAh6oQe_0YH_fzdnx671g-F16ubSNQ/viewform?usp=sf_link . For more information, contact Heather Flores at 803-896-9710 or via e-mail at hflores@scsdb.org

The Statewide Leadership Seminar will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the Federation Center of the Blind beginning at 10:00 a.m. and concluding no later than 3:00 p.m. This training is for NFB of SC Board members and chapter officers. Please let David Houck know no later than Monday, March 18, 2024 how many will attend from your chapter or division. You can reach him at 803-254-3777 or via e-mail at nfbsc@sc.rr.com.

Registration for the National Convention is now open. The event will take place July 3-8 in Orlando, Florida. The registration cost is \$25 and banquet tickets are \$75. You can go to <https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention> to locate additional information about the National Convention as it becomes available.

From Lori Anne Coley, President, Sports and Recreation Division

The NFB of SC Sports and Rec Division is Sponsoring a Saint Patrick's Day jackpot, where the winner will have a chance at \$750. This drawing will help to fund a sports camp for the blind of SC and make equitable access to sports a reality. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 each via PayPal: <https://www.paypal.me/sportrecnfbsc> or by sending a check to the Federation Center.

From the SC Association of Blind Black Leaders:

Are you a fan of cozy drinks to keep warm? How about indulging in the rich taste of hot coffee or the comforting sweetness of hot chocolate? The SC Association of Blind Black Leaders Division is offering you a chance to win a basket consisting of Three bags of Starbucks coffee, a container of Starbucks hot chocolate, Two NFB Tumblr mugs and two \$25 gift cards. Purchase 1 ticket for \$5 and three tickets for \$10. The drawing will take place on March 23rd at the NFB Leadership Seminar. How to Purchase a ticket: Send check or money order in to 119 S. Kilbourne Rd. Columbia SC 29205 and be sure to place COFFEE BASKET in memo field or NFB Of SC PayPal with COFFEE BASKET in memo field. You do not have to be present to win. For more information or assistance purchasing tickets please reach out to Andrew Adams at 803-269-3803.

Chapters and Divisions have received their \$5 Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center raffle tickets. It is important that we sell as many of these tickets as possible! The buyer of the winning ticket will receive \$500, the seller will receive \$50 and the chapter or division selling the most tickets will receive \$300 for its treasury. All Federationist are asked to put forth a special effort this year on this fundraiser. The drawing will take place on March 23, 2024 at the Statewide Leadership Seminar. I should note that the Clarendon County chapter came in second last year and we are already working on first place this year!

Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship applications are now available at <https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention/kenneth-jernigan-convention-scholarship>. These applications are for first-time convention attendees. There are specific requirements first-timers are expected to meet. Additionally, you will need a recommendation from your state president. Please reach out to me to schedule a time for a brief interview before I write your letters of recommendation.

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!

NFB of SC Scholarship Announcement 2024

Let's do more in 24! We are springing into the 2024 NFB of SC Scholarship Program season. With the state convention being August 15 - 18, 2024, the deadline for scholarship applications is 11:59 p.m. June 20, 2024. The committee will meet about one month before the state convention to select the top three applicants and winners will be notified following the meeting,. The updated scholarship application is now available at <https://nfbofsc.org/scholarship-program>. Please also remember that the scholarship program operates exclusively on donations. If you, your chapter, your division, your civic organization, church etc., would like to contribute a scholarship or donate to the Metro Fund, please contact me, Shannon Cook at atscholarships@nfbofsc.org or 803-605-4250). Please help us get the word out about the program. If you or someone you know is in post-secondary education full time, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship! Thank you.

Things to Remember

- Annual Vision Summit on March 22, 2024 at Saluda Shoals Park
- Statewide Leadership Seminar for Chapter and Division Presidents and NFB of SC board members on March 23, 2024 in-person only
- Rocky Bottom Fundraiser Raffle drawing on March 23, 2024 – You do not have to be present to win
- National Scholarship Applications due by March 31, 2024
- Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship Applications due by April 15, 2024
- National Convention room reservations due by May 31, 2024
- National Convention dates are July 3-8, 2024 at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida
- NFB of SC Scholarship applications are due by June 20, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

Marty

Marty R. McKenzie, President

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