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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1962

843-939-8091 president@nfbofsc.org

Dear Federation Family,

The Statewide Leadership Seminar will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The event will take place 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. At this time, it will be a very small gathering based on those who have notified David Houck. Be aware that all chapters and divisions are responsible for getting the information presented and implementing it. Contact David Houck at (803) 254-3777 or nfbsc.sc.rr.com by close of business on Monday, March 18, 2024 if you plan to attend.

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

Join the SC Association of Blind Black leaders on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation from Pam Allen, Norma Crosby and Shannon Cook on the NFB of SC Zoom platform. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8032543777?pwd=QTVQd2RzN3l6QnNmZ0FmSnp6NG8vQT09>. The meeting ID is 803 254 3777# and the passcode is 124578 if needed.

A good president for the blind demonstrates exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, and the ability to inspire others towards a shared vision. "Serving as first Vice President, Pam leads with passion and vision, championing the rights and equality of blind individuals nationwide. Her tireless advocacy efforts have been instrumental in driving positive change and shaping the future of our organization."

A good treasurer for the blind showcase's financial acumen, transparency, and integrity, ensuring the organization's fiscal health supports its mission. "Beyond her responsibilities as Treasurer, Norma Crosby exemplifies true leadership through her commitment to service and her willingness to go beyond to support our members and advance our cause. Her integrity, professionalism, and passion for our mission inspire confidence and trust among our members."

A good secretary for the blind excels in organization, attention to detail, and facilitating communication, ensuring the community's needs are heard and addressed. "As Secretary Shannon Cook embodies exceptional leadership qualities. With steadfast dedication and a profound commitment to inclusivity, Shannon plays a pivotal role in advancing the organization's mission of equality and empowerment for the blind community. Through her strategic vision and unwavering advocacy, Shannon inspires others to embrace diversity, break barriers, and create a more inclusive society for all."

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

Our Sports And Rec fundraiser is extended to August, coinciding with the state convention. All purchased tickets remain valid. Purchase \$20 tickets for a chance to win big, including a \$750 and a \$250 giveaway. Contributions support our Sports Camp Week for the Blind at Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind in Upstate South Carolina. Led by the NFBSC Sports and Rec Division, our mission is inclusive sports. Purchase tickets via PayPal at <https://www.paypal.me/sportrecnfbsc> or Zelle at srnfbsc21@yahoo.com. Goal: sell 100+ tickets by August 17, 2024, with the drawing at the state convention. Spread the word! For more information, contact Lori Anne Coley at 803-316-9838.

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.

This is the last week of the Rocky Bottom \$5 ticket sales. Be sure that you get yours for an awesome opportunity to cash in. 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.

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 scholarships@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

National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina

119 S. Kilbourne Road

Columbia, SC 29205

Phone: 803-254-3777

Mobile: 843-939-8091

Website: www.nfbofsc.org