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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1965

843-939-8091 president@nfbofsc.org

Dear Federation Family,

We begin this Positive Note with the sad news of the passing of President Mark Riccobono's father. As an affiliate, we extend our deepest sympathy to President Riccobono and his family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all! Below is the obituary.

Born in Balestrate, Sicily, on November 9, 1950, Sebastian was the oldest child of Antonino and Caterina Riccobono. When Sebastian was five, he and his mother joined Antonino in the United States. He grew up in southern Wisconsin with his four siblings Mary, Nicolo, Anthony, and Felix. Except for his time in the military, he spent his life in Wisconsin.

Sebastian graduated from South Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1969. He entered the United States Navy on January 6, 1970, where he served until December 12, 1973. He served as a firefighter on the USS BORDELON in the Vietnam War. Like many heroes of his generation, he was impacted by the extreme conditions of the war and exposure to Agent Orange which led to health complications later in his life.

On June 12, 1971, he married Karen Lee Meyer and their only child, Mark Anthony Riccobono, was born on July 27, 1976. Sebastian was a proud father and an even prouder grandfather of his three grandchildren Cynthia, Oriana, and Elizabeth (children of Mark and Melissa Riccobono of Baltimore, Maryland).

Sebastian exemplified the ethic of hard-working Wisconsin residents, taking on a number of jobs while giving back to his community and participating actively in local politics. In the early 1990s, he entered real estate and pursued a number of entrepreneurial ventures including establishing Dynamic Real Estate Company. He always found time to contribute to the community through associations like the Wauwatosa Lions Club and various veterans-related causes.

Sebastian joins his parents and his brother Felix among the angels. We will always remember the love he left within us.

Congratulations to Linda Dizzley who has been invited to participate in the 2024 National Federation of the Blind (NFB) IEP Advocacy Academy program! This is a year-long training which will prepare Linda to assist parents of blind children with IEP related matters. There is an in-person component and then virtual follow-up trainings. Linda will also assist parents with IEP related topics while at the National Convention. This is a huge honor and we wish Linda well in this endeavor!

From Steve Cook

If you have any upcoming events, meetings, comments or concerns about our NFB of SC website, please send them to WebMaster@nfbofsc.org .

The Computer Science & Technology Division of the NFB of SC hopes you will join us by purchasing popcorn during our Double Goode popcorn Fundraiser! All of the money raised will go toward a scholarship to be given out at our NFB of SC State Convention in August!

The Double Goode popcorn Fundraiser aims to open doors of opportunity for deserving students by providing financial support for their educational endeavors. Through this fundraiser, we invite individuals, businesses, and organizations to invest in the future of promising students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential, and a commitment to their communities. By purchasing popcorn during our Double Goode pop Corn Fundraiser, donors not only assist in alleviating the financial burden of tuition fees but also play a vital role in shaping the next generation of leaders and innovators. Every purchase, no matter the amount , brings us closer to our goal of empowering students to pursue their dreams and reach their fullest potential. Together, we can make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of aspiring scholars, ensuring that financial constraints never hinder their pursuit of knowledge and achievement. Join us in creating a brighter future, one scholarship at a time.

You can purchase your Double Good Popcorn from our store using the link at the bottom of this message. Find your favorite flavors of popcorn, or choose combo packs. Popcorn makes great gifts for birthdays, welcome baskets, sharing with friends, and many other reasons. You can have this wonderful popcorn shipped to your address or even purchase for another friend or family member and have it shipped to them. If you purchase your favorite flavor, you will save more when you purchase 3 or more bags of one flavor. Your wonderful popcorn will be ship within 1 - 2 weeks from the time you place your order. Our store will be open until 5:00 PM on April 11, 2024.

Again all of the money raised will go toward a scholarship for a deserving student to advance their education! The link is <https://popup.doublegood.com/s/9d0pf65u>.

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. All Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship materials are due by April 15, 2024.

The 10th Annual Advocacy Day for Access and Independence (ADAI) will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on the north steps of the SC State House. This will be a fun time with snacks, free T-Shirts, and a lively program with speakers from the disability community, lawmakers, and advocates. Visit www.unlockingbarriers-sc.org for more information about this event. One of the speakers this year will be our very own Jesus Ramirez from Successful Transitions. Please join us to support the greater disability community of our state as we take collective action to improve the public's awareness of our strengths and barriers to independence. The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is one of over 70 organizations that are a part of this effort making up the SC Access for Independence Network (SCAIN). If you have any questions, you can contact me Shannon Cook as the NFB of SC ADAI Rep at 803-605-4250 or call Able-SC at 803-779-5121.

Midlands Gives will take place on May 7, 2024, and once again the NFB of SC and Rocky Bottom are participating. Rocky Bottom hopes to win the Power Hour from twelve to one PM on that day by achieving the most unique donations. Unique donations are determined by name, email address and credit card number, and a minimum ten dollar donation is required. To donate, visit www.midlandsgives.org/nfbofsc or www.midlandsgives.org/rockybottom. You can also call the Federation Center on May 7, 2024 for assistance giving online. You may also give \$10 through your local chapter and this can be applied to the Power Hour. Please reach out to Valerie Warrington at treasurer@nfbofsc.org or to Marty McKenzie for additional information.

From the Fundraising Committee, Co-chaired by Debra Canty and Andrew Adams

The National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina will host a Family Fun Day on June 1, 2024 at Weston Lakes in Hopkins SC. This is a time for fellowship, food, and fun! In order for this to be a success, we are requesting chapters and divisions to donate \$50 in order to secure the venue as well as members of the state affiliate to collect donations in the form of gift cards from local grocery stores and businesses in their areas. This event is a giveback to the members of the affiliate to show our appreciation for everything you do! Please contact Andrew Adams at adams.andrew@gmail.com or via telephone at 803-269-3803 to obtain a copy of the donation letter.

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.

The Embassy Suites is now accepting reservations for the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina State Convention being held on August 15-18, 2024. Rooms can be booked at \$112 plus tax and any applicable fees for singles, doubles, triples and quads. You may call the Embassy Suites at 803-252-8700. Reference the NFB of SC State Convention to obtain the special rate. Members are not being charged the first night's room; instead, a hold is placed on your card until check-in. The cut-off for room reservations is July 25, 2024.

Registration for the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina State Convention is now live! The cost is \$85 for adults, \$55 for students and \$25 for children under eighteen. These prices all adjust upward after July 25, 2024. Please visit <https://nfbofsc.org/node/178> to register online. If you need assistance to register online, , please contact me and someone will assist you.

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.

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

- Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship Applications due by April 15, 2024
- Midlands Gives on May 7, 2024
- Family Fun Day on June 1, 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.
- NFB of SC State Convention Registration and Room Reservations are due by July 25, 2024.

Marty

Marty R. McKenzie, President

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