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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1966

843-939-8091 president@nfbofsc.org

Dear Federation Family,

Sometimes, a busy season causes us as Federationist to become mired in the details, leading to a loss of focus on the important things. For me, the first three and one-half months of 2024 have been some of the busiest in my life, causing me to ponder what I may have missed. In these times of our lives, it is always good to return to the foundation of the National Federation of the Blind and its philosophy. Let's take time to read the publications such as The Braille Monitor or Future Reflections that keep us grounded in Federation philosophy and provide beneficial information. Your hard work as members is greatly appreciated! Remember, "alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!" Helen Keller

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 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](http://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](http://www.midlandsgives.org/nfbofsc) or [www.midlandsgives.org/rockybottom](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

- Midlands Gives on May 7, 2024
- National Convention room reservations due by May 31, 2024
- Family Fun Day on June 1, 2024
- NFB of SC Scholarship applications are due by June 20, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.
- National Convention dates are July 3-8, 2024 at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida
- NFB of SC State Convention Registration and Room Reservations are due by July 25, 2024.

Marty

Marty R. McKenzie, President

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