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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1970

843-939-8091 president@nfbofsc.org

Dear Federation Family,

We are celebrating Mother's Day in the United States today and it is fitting to honor our mothers in the Federation and remember those who have gone before us. For those who are faith based, the role of mothers is set forth in the Holy Bible in many passages. Mothers care for the children as no one else can. They nurture them, discipline them, provide for them when they go without themselves to do so and they always seek a better life for their children. Our Federation mothers are no different! Take time today to honor your mother and remember those who have gone before us.

Midlands Gives was a rousing success for the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and for Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind. There were approximately 17 individuals at the Federation Center processing contributions from chapters and individuals on May 7. Additionally, we had approximately 69 unique donations for the Power Hour for RBRCCB. While we did not win with this number, we did win the Nelson Mullins Midday Motivation Award. The final total for the NFB of SC was \$10,355 raised by 41 donors and the final total for RBRCCB was \$2,297 raised by 73 donors. However, the Nelson Mullins Midday Motivation Award will add an additional \$2,000 to this total bringing the final total to \$4,297.00.

I want to thank Valerie Warrington and the team she assembled to work on Midlands Gives this year! It was a well organized group that worked flawlessly together and the results are outstanding. This is a huge boost for the NFB of SC!

Lenora Robertson will once again serve as the Door Prize Chair for the NFB of SC State Convention. Cash and gift cards are always favorite items. You can purchase gift cards from the At Large chapter in the amount of \$25 or greater. Please bring your door prize contributions to the convention or you can mail them to Lenora Robertson, 1258 Roundtree

Circle, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Let's have an abundance of door prizes to share at the state convention.

The National Office Independence Market is looking for volunteers to take shifts at the National Convention to ensure that the Independence Market runs smoothly. It is important that South Carolina be represented well as one of the larger affiliates. Please reach out to me if you are able to take a shift. Also, talking signs and marshals are also needed as well. Consider if you are able to step up to the plate for this one.

From Tracy Spittle

Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind is pleased to announce the annual summer camp for legally blind children. There will be one camp for children ages 6-13. This year's camp will run June 23-29, 2024. There will be no charge to attend and there will be a maximum of 15 campers. Supervised recreational activities may include hiking, arts and crafts, mountain climbing, water slides, games, swimming, cookouts, miniature golf, field trips, computer, braille activities and more, depending on availability. Senior and junior counselors and administrative personnel will be primarily legally blind individuals. This is a unique and important feature of the Rocky Bottom program. Family members are requested to accompany their child to Rocky Bottom on Sunday and also to return to camp on Friday to have lunch with us and watch your child in a camp-wide talent show. After the show, campers are free to leave with parents. Campers will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Limited transportation will be provided for those who cannot provide their own transportation. Designated pickup points will be assigned at a later date. To apply, please complete the application prior to May 20, 2024. Contact Tracy Spittle at (803-447-7609 for additional information.

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

To ensure we have enough food and seating for our Family Fun Day at Weston Lakes on June 1, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., please provide a headcount and names of attendees. If you belong to a chapter, if attending with family please provide all names. Also, consider bringing tailgating chairs to manage overflow seating. Deadline to submit information is Monday, May 20, 2024. Please send your details to fundraising@nfbofsc.org. Let's make sure we're all Prepared for a fun and well-deserved Event!

Registration for the National Convention is now open. The event will take place July 3-8, 2024 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. Please note that some nights in the convention hotel are now full and reservations are being routed to the overflow hotel. The National Office is working on this matter.

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.

The SC Association of Black Leaders is thrilled to announce that we are extending our coffee basket fundraiser to the State Convention in August! The basket includes 1 tin of hot chocolate, three flavors of Starbucks

coffee, two NFB tumblers, and a \$25 gift card. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10, every \$20 spent earns you an entry to win a Keurig! Purchase tickets using the NFB of SC PayPal or by sending a check or money order to the Federation Center at 119 S. Kilbourne Rd., Columbia, SC 29205, noting “coffee basket” in the memo field.

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

- Rocky Bottom Childrens' Camp application due by May 20, 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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