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

From: Marty R. McKenzie, President

Positive Note 1971

843-939-8091 president@nfbofsc.org

Dear Federation Family,

We are at the end of the school year for most school districts and there are many activities and celebrations taking place across the state. As we attend baccalaureate services, graduations ceremonies, and graduation parties, let us take time to honor our youth who are dealing with a world that is vastly different from the one that many of us who are middle-aged and older remember. The challenges are great, but the rewards are greater still. "We can live the life we want; blindness is not what holds us back!"

Congratulations to David Houck who had an article titled *Greater Expectations* published in the May edition of *The Braille Monitor*. David directs our attention to valid points that we should consider in our daily Federation work. I encourage you to take time to review this article in its entirety.

Congratulations to six National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina (NFB of SC) Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship winners who will receive funds to assist with first time attendance at the NFB National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The NFB of SC had a total of 11 members who applied for the Kenneth Jernigan scholarships. This year's NFB of SC Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship winners are Dan Bradley, Amber Milligan, Kendrick Raley, Shinqualla "Roxy" Reed, Michelle Scott, and Patricia Smith Jenkins. It is exciting to see so many first-timers attending the National Convention. I am sure there are others as well.

The May edition of the Braille Monitor contains a Convention Bulletin which provides a tremendous amount of information, especially for first-time conventioners. Please take time to read the bulletin as you will find it very helpful in preparing for and attending the National Convention.

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.

Response to the request for NFB of SC members to volunteer at the National Convention is very low at this time. Please reach out to me if you are able to volunteer and need assistance. Also, please let me know via e-mail or text if you have signed up and I am not aware of it.

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

FINAL REMINDER! To ensure we have enough food and seating for our Family Fun Day at Weston Lakes on June 1st, from 10 AM to 6 PM, please provide a headcount and names of attendees. If you belong to a chapter, if attending with family please provide all names. Your name is needed to receive a meal ticket. Also, consider bringing tailgating chairs to manage overflow seating. Deadline to submit information is Monday, May 20th. Please send your details to fundraising@nfbofsc.org.

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 snfbsc21@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

- 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

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