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Dear Federation Family,

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 launched the Blind Equality Achievement Month (BEAM) celebrations across the United States! A huge “thank you” to those who have submitted their BEAM events for publication in the weekly Positive Note. If you have events planned but have not shared them with me, please do so quickly so that they can be published in the Positive Note and online.

The devastation from Hurricane Helene was even worse than was originally expected and some Federationist are still without power. District representatives, I ask that you touch base with your presidents and members to ensure that our Federation family is well. It will take years to recover from this natural disaster. Let’s support each other during this difficult time.

Please note that the Presidential Release will take place on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 8:30 p.m. This is a change in both the date and time of this monthly event. The Meeting ID is 947 5821 8808.

Thom Spittle, Chair of Membership and Mentoring, has completed entry of everyone with a unique e-mail address who is a member into the national membership portal. If you do not have a unique e-mail address, we are not able to enter you at this time. He will provide chapter presidents with a spreadsheet containing their members and the information we have at the state level. It is October and you are encouraged to begin collecting state dues so that all dues are in by December 31, 2024. Your assistance with this very important requirement is greatly appreciated.

Chapters should also begin holding elections during meetings in October and November. According to chapter constitutions, any newly elected chapter board members take office at the close of the business meeting in which they were elected. Please forward chapter board information to David Houck at nfbosc@sc.rr.com, Thom Spittle at membership@nfbofsc.org, Steve Cook at stevecookwebmaster@nfbofsc.org and to me at president@nfbofsc.org. If you have any questions about dues or chapter elections, please reach out to me.

Get Out and Vote!

The National Federation of the Blind advocates for Blind Americans' right to vote privately and independently. In anticipation of Election Day, review our voting resources and publications to learn how to exercise your right to vote.

Voting Resources

You can find the following voting resources at www.nfb.org/vote.

- Ballot Marking Device Demonstrations
- Election Information on NFB-NEWSLINE®

Resources by State

From Michelle Scott, President of the Charleston Chapter

The Charleston Chapter presents An Inspiring Talent Showcase, highlighting exceptional performances by Blind & Low Vision Individuals. This event will take place on October 5, 2024 from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church located at 1400 Manor Boulevard, Charleston, SC 29407. Admission cost is \$15 or 2/\$25. Kids cost is \$10. Food is heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert and drinks.

Charleston Chapter presents a White Cane Awareness Day Walk on October 12, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Marion Square at 329 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403.

From Thom Spittle

Win a beautiful handmade 60 by 66 inch blanket featuring the words Rocky Bottom and a picture of mountains and trees. Funds raised will benefit Children's camp.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Call Thom Spittle at 803-331-3344 to find out how to purchase your tickets. The drawing will be held at the Rocky Bottom Board Retreat.

From Marty R. McKenzie, President of the Clarendon County Chapter

The Clarendon County Chapter is raffling off a beautiful multi-colored Christmas afghan made and donated by Glenda Culick. Tickets are \$2 each or three tickets for \$5. You can mail a check to Marty McKenzie, 1516 Lucky Road, Lake City, SC 29560 to purchase your tickets. Checks should be made payable to Clarendon County Chapter NFB of SC. The lucky winner will be drawn at the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina Board Retreat which is scheduled for November 22-24, 2024 at the Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind.

From the Senior Division

The Senior Division of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina is selling coffee and hot chocolate in whatever form you like (Ground, whole bean or K-Cups). The name of the

company is “White Cane Coffee”, founded by a blind woman. All the boxes are brailled, as are the individual K-cups. There are numerous flavored coffees to choose from, and the hot chocolate comes in either plain or a mint flavor. All coffee comes in regular or decaf and a variety of roasts are available. Please visit our website at <https://whitecanecoffee.com/ref/NFBSC-Seniors/>

Or call 814-218-2837 to order your coffee or hot chocolate today! When calling, be sure to inform them this is for the NFB of SC Senior Division in order for them to get credit for the sale!!!

Things to remember

- Charleston Chapter BEAM events on October 5 and 12, 2024
- Presidential Release on October 15, 2024
- Chapter elections during October and November meetings
- Clarendon County Chapter fundraiser drawing on November 23, 2024
- Senior Division Coffee Sale
- Rocky Bottom blanket drawing at the Board Retreat
- State dues submitted by December 31, 2024

Marty

Marty R. McKenzie, President

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