              April Newsletter Of the

National Federation of THE BLIND OF   ARKANSAS

Live the life you want

Written By Tawnya Philpot

      Two weeks ago, we had our Arkansas state convention of The Nation Federation of the Blind. It was virtual again this year because of Covid-19. However, we still had some vendors speak to us and describe tools to help the visually impaired live an easier life. We had quite a few speakers talk to us about their stories and how they have overcome the obstacles in their lives. We had quite a few employees from the Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind. We had a member who works for Disability Rights of Arkansas talk about the different types of assistance that the blind community can get.

We had the owner of Kustom Canes speak about the nonprofit “You Cane Gives “and how we can support this by collecting used canes.

We want to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to talk to us. However, we want to give a big Special Thank You to Ron Brown, the 2nd Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Board of Directors.

 We want to thank Mr. Brown for coming and participating and sharing his story; we hope to have him back to visit in person next year. We also want to give our President Mark Riccobono a big Arkansas Thank You for what he does for all the National Federation of the Blind.

We had our elections this year. We want to thank everyone who participated in the election. And to thank everyone and anyone that has served in the past and present for giving their time and heart to the NFB of Arkansas. Congratulations to President Nena Chadwick,1st Vice President Brent Philpot,2nd Vice President Donavon Cavender, Secretary Shelley Keeland, Treasurer David Henry, 1stBoard Member Molly Hernandez, 2nd Board Member Tanya VanHouten. We want to say thank you to everyone for attending the Arkansas National Federation of the Blind. We want to send a special thank you to all our other State and Chapter Board members.

 We want to thank Cornelius Butler for coming to talk about autonomous vehicles. It would give a tremendous amount of independence to the blind and disabled community when the prices and the technology come together. Example: You could do your errands such as doctor visits, grocery shopping, etc. You do not have to depend on others and their schedules; you could go as you please. It would also open more job opportunities for the blind and disabled.

We want to thank everyone that donated time and items to the Blind Bid Auction on Saturday, April 2, 2022. At last count, we have made $1,035.00. We beat last year’s total!

The Goldmine Trivia Meet and Greet on Friday 1, 2022, April Fool’s Day! It was a great success; thank you to everyone who attended and the winner of the night, Shelley Keeland. The prize was a white watering can with chocolate gold coins that looked like John F Kennedy, Jr dollars. It has a beige bow with a smaller beige bow with little easter bunnies and a light purple and white plaid ribbon wrapped around the bows. A cute leprechaun is holding the pot of gold tied to the handle.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the first edition of the NFB Newsletter. March 2022. Next month, I hope to add birthdays and any other dates you would like to add. If so, please email me at [philpot.tawnya@yahoo.com.](mailto:philpot.tawnya@yahoo.com)

Happy Easter to you all!