Mary Willows, President

National Federation of the Blind of California

3934 Kern Court

Pleasanton, CA 94588

925) 895-2778

mwillows@sbcglobal.net

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"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for the holidays to do that?"- Bob Hope

Dear Fellow Federationists,

“The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.”

**2015 Scholarship Program**

Deadline: March 31, 2015

Are you a legally blind college student living in the United States or Puerto Rico? This annual program offers 30 scholarships worth from $3,000 to $12,000 to eligible students, from high school seniors beginning their freshman year in the fall semester of 2015, up through grad students working on their PhD degrees. These merit scholarships are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership. In addition to the money, each winner will receive assistance to attend the July 2015 NFB annual convention in Orlando, Florida, providing an excellent opportunity for high-level networking with active blind persons in many different professions and occupations.  To apply, read the rules and the Submission Checklist, complete the official 2015 Scholarship Application Form (online or in print), supply all required documents, and request and complete one interview by an NFB affiliate president (unless the president requests a later date). Applications are accepted for five months, from November 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015. Go to [www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.nfb.org/scholarships) for complete rules and requirements.

**Dr. Newel Perry is inducted to the Hall of Fame**

On October 17, 2014, the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky held the annual induction ceremony to the Hall of Fame for individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of work with the blind. We are pleased and proud to report that the National Federation of the Blind of California sponsored the plaque to honor Dr. Newel Perry in the “Hall of Fame”.

On December 10, 2014 the California School for the Blind will have a formal dedication of the APH Hall of Fame Award to honor Dr. Perry. President Mary Willows will be present to give remarks about Dr. Newel Perry and how his work and inspirations spawned progressive legislation and opportunities for the blind. To read more about Dr. Perry and the foundations of the National Federation of the Blind, I recommend that you go to the following link. Enjoy: <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm12/bm1210/bm121015.htm>

Enjoy the chapter celebrations over the holidays. Enjoy the season. Stay safe. See you in the New Year!