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**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

**Meeting Announcements**

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 8, 2017. We meet at The Fountains, 4451 Stack Blvd,, Melbourne, FL, 32901. The meeting is from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Anyone needing transportation, please call Joe Naulty, (321) 768-9500, by Tuesday, April 4. As a reminder, SCAT charges a fare of $1.50 each way, for a total of $3.00. Drivers are unable to make change. Fare cards may be purchased by contacting SCAT at (321) 635-7815, option 403 or 604. Fare cards are $15.00, which provides for 10 trips.

After speaking with members, we have decided to make April a meeting free of guest speakers. We will discuss what your Board and chapter have been working on and what we will do in upcoming months. The remainder of the meeting will be open for questions and socializing amongst the membership. There will also be a 50/50 raffle; each ticket is $1. The raffle winner will share the pot of ticket sales with the chapter. Please come and find out what your chapter has been doing for you.

**Thank You, Lenny and Jean!**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter warmly thanks Lenny and Jean Donofrio. These lifetime members of the chapter have graciously donated $1,000 to us! This is their second donation and we are grateful to them for contributing to the success of our chapter. Please thank them when they are at one of our meetings. Again, Thank You!

**The Blind Are Not Helpless**

The below article is an interesting story that shows a blind person may not always be an “easy target”. Please enjoy this tidbit. Our May meeting will include a guest speaker, Peter Poliey, who joined our chapter in March. Peter is a martial arts expert who is blind and uses a guide dog, named. J. J. Here is the article…

Reprinted from: http://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/the-wrong-victim-mugger-targets-blind-judo-champion-a-504854.html

The Wrong Victim

Mugger Targets Blind Judo Champion

September 10, 2007 04:21 PM

A brutal mugger who punched a blind man in the face to steal his carton of cigarettes got a nasty shock when he found he was dealing with a former world champion in judo for the visually impaired.

"The blind Judoka used some expert moves to wrestle the robber to the ground and pinned him down while he shouted for help," police in the city of Marburg said in a statement. A passerby called the police, who then arrested the 17-year-old mugger.

The teenager had threatened the 33-year-old blind man near the train station in Marburg. The champion had to be treated for a bloody nose following the incident.

**Vision Fair**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, in conjunction with The Fountains, is planning a Vision Fair to be held on Thursday, September 14, 2017. This event, which is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., will be at The Fountains, 4451 Stack Blvd., Melbourne, FL, 32901. Additional details will follow when available. Any member who wishes to participate in the planning is welcome. Please contact Vice President Alan Kessler or Board Member Camille Tate.

**Fundraising Dinner**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter is planning a holiday fundraising dinner to be held at The Fountains. The date and other details will be released as our plans come together. Any members who wish to participate in the planning of this dinner, please contact President Joe Naulty or Board Member Camille Tate.

**3rd Annual Car Show and White Cane Day Celebration**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter is planning its annual event in celebration of White Cane Day. This important day in the lives of our nation’s blind is October 15. Our car show will be on Saturday, October 14. We have secured our date, musical entertainment and hot dog vendor. We are also hoping to have an ice cream truck this year. As we expand our biggest fundraiser, we ask that all of our members attend our car show in October. It is important for the public to see that blind people have fun at the same activities as those who are not blind. There will be white inspector gloves so that each blind person may “see” the cars through touch.

Last year, our car show greatly exceeded the prior year’s attendance. We had 50 cars and raised over $1,000!

**State Convention**

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida is holding its Annual Convention over Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29, 2017. The convention is at the Doubletree, 60 S. Ivanhoe Blvd., Orlando, FL, 32807. Registration is $20 and the banquet is $40; fees increase by $5 each, if you register after May 5, 2017. The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter will pay for your $20 registration to attend the convention, if you pre-register before May 5, 2017. After this date, registration must be at the Convention itself. Please see Joe Naulty for further details.

If you want to meet other blind and low vision people in the State of Florida, find out about new products available for the blind and low vision or want to learn how your State Affiliate works and works for you, you should attend State Convention. It is at State Convention that you, the members, elect your State leaders and help determine the direction the Affiliate will take our branch of the Federation.

**National Convention**

The National Federation of the Blind will hold its 2017 Annual Convention July 10-15, this week-long convention is at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL, 32819. If you are going to the National Convention, you are strongly encouraged to reserve your room at the resort. Reservations may be limited.

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter will pay for your registration for the National Convention. Banquet tickets are extra and may be purchased while at the Convention. Further information will be forthcoming when available. If you wish to attend, please contact Joe Naulty.

**Meetings With Three Brevard County Commissioners**

Your Board of Directors is pleased to report to chapter membership our work continues to create awareness of the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, Florida.

In the past six weeks, members of the board have been able to arrange appointments with three of the five Brevard County Commissioners. It is important to note the Board of Commissioners control much of the Brevard Budget. Each member of the MSCC should know the designated Commissioner covering the County District in which they live. Members who are unsure of their specific Commissioner, can contact Joe Naulty, (321) 768-9500, to research that information.

The three Commissioners contacted were John Tobia, District 3;

Curt Smith, District 4 and Kristine Isnardi, District 5. In each office,

Joe Naulty and Camille Tate were able to personally meet and have

a conversation to ensure the Board of Commissioners knows of the

MSCC presence in the County. We met each Commissioner with an agenda covering ADA transportation needs and a discussion of companies/agencies still paying sub-minimum wages in the County and Florida. There was a general discussion to express our goals to change what it means to be blind and enable our members to live the life they want to live.

In each office, we were warmly greeted and given time to cover the

subjects affecting every blind/low vision citizen of Brevard County. We strongly encourage each member to know their commissioner and make occasional polite contacts to remind them of our Chapter and our presence in the community. We must ensure Commissioners remember transportation is a huge issue. The improvements we have made are fragile. Funding is always a challenge. We need each member to thank the Commissioners and Space Coast Area Transit for the improvements made to date.

In the next few weeks, we will be meeting with Commissioners

Rita Pritchett, District 1 and Jim Barfield, District 2. A report will

follow in the May Visionary newsletter. Please do contact your board members with any suggestions you may have with regard to these meetings and the discussions taking place.

**A Call to Action**

The National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Florida are requesting members contact their representatives in Congress. Representative Poe (R-Texas) and several other co-sponsors have introduced a bill, H. R. 620, ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017, which seeks to make certain changes to the ADA. In essence, this bill covers points that may affect your right to bring suit against violators of ADA.

There are three areas the National Federation of the Blind is interested in. In the first, the new reform aims to insert a notice and cure period into any complaint filed against an alleged violation of ADA. The change is designed to allow “covered entities” additional time (3 or 4 months) to remedy any accessibility or accommodation requests. The NFB firmly believes that as the ADA has been in effect since 1990, there has been sufficient time for property owners to become familiar with the regulations and to have already made corrections to become accessible.

The second part of the reform will make changes to the financial “undue burden” to those entities that must comply with ADA. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 already has a provision in place to cover those property owners who, under ADA, must make their facilities accessible.

Third, Title 3, which covers public accommodations, already governs the rewarding of monetary damages for non-compliance. Under these rules, there are no monetary damages awarded for non-compliance.

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida is asking that our members contact their Congressmen and Congresswomen in opposition to this bill. The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter is in the 8th Congressional District. Our representative is Congressman William Posey. We encourage you all to contact his office in Washington D. C. by calling the Capitol switchboard, (202) 224-3121. We also ask that you contact the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, where the bill was introduced. You may call (202) 225-5431 and ask for Chairman Robert Goodlatt.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is the law that stands between many disabled and their livelihoods and education. It is our greatest defense against discrimination in housing, education and employment.

**10 Things You Didn’t Know About Lions Club International**

1. The organization was founded by Melvin Jones in 1917.

2. As of April 2015, it had over 46,000 local clubs and more than 1.4 million members, in over 200 countries around the world.

3. It is headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, United States.

4. Melvin Jones’ personal code was “You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else".

5. The Lions motto is "We Serve".

6. The organization became international on 12 March 1920, when the first club in Canada was established in Windsor, Ontario.

7. Membership in the Lions Club is by "invitation only", as mandated by its constitution and by-laws.

8. Lions Club International Foundation provides funding in the form of grants to financially assist Lions districts with large-scale humanitarian projects that are too expansive and costly for Lions to finance on their own.

9. The Lions Club International endorsed the biggest ever collaborative disease eradication programme, called the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases, launched on 30 January 2012, in London. The organization has implemented a SightFirst program which aims to eradicate blindness due to trachoma, one of the neglected tropical diseases.

10. Our local Lions Club, in Satellite Beach, has chosen to assist our National Federation of the Blind, Melbourne Space Coast Chapter.

Joe Naulty, our Chapter President, is a member of the Palm Bay Happy Lions—a very small club—who are very supportive of blind and low vision projects. One of our members, Pat Laveist, is also a member of the Palm Bay Happy Lions.

Technology Tidbits

Reprinted from http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/arunachal-boy-develops-goggles-for-blind-using-parking-sensor-technology/story-79mSB7lxMUuYfSM9NwswxJ.html

Arunachal Boy Develops Goggles for Blind, Using Parking Sensor Technology

By Utpal Parashar

Moving around for the visually impaired could become a lot easier if an innovative technology developed by Anang Tadar, a class 11 student from Arunchal Pradesh, is mass produced.

The technology, which is based on echo location—similar to what bats use for navigation—was adjudged the most innovative at the regional level science festival, which concluded in Guwahati recently.

Named Goggle for Blind (G4B), the pair of glasses can be worn by the visually impaired, and using technology similar to parking sensors in cars, they can be alerted about nearby objects, without using a stick.

“These days there are so many obstructions both inside the house and outside. The G4B will help blind people move around a lot easier.”, Tadar told journalists in Itanagar.

The student, who loves making robots and gadgets, told Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday that he was motivated to develop the product after he saw a blind girl a few years ago.

According to a release by the Arunachal Pardesh government, impressed with the innovation, UNICEF has asked Tadar to develop a few more prototypes. The initial product is a bit bulky, so the aim is to make it lighter.

Tadar had participated in the national level science exhibition earlier this month at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi organized by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF).

The Arunachal Pradesh government has assured all financial support to Tadar so that he can fine tune his innovation to make it easier to handle and is able to produce it on a large scale.

**Open Board Meeting**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter will hold an open board meeting on Monday, May 8, at 8 p.m. While our meetings are normally closed, we are giving our members an opportunity to observe their board at work. The meeting is for observation only. However, we will have a time following adjournment of the meeting to allow for member participation. The call-in number is (712) 432-0460. The access code is 548225#.