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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 is on Saturday, September 9, from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. We meet at The Fountains of Melbourne, 4451 Stack Blvd.

Anyone needing transportation, please call Maria, (321) 795-7376, no later than Tuesday, September 5. This is to ensure you will be placed on the list for transportation. After this date, transit to the meeting is not guaranteed.

As a reminder, SCAT, who provides transportation, 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, (321) 635-7815, option 403 or 604. Fare cards are $15.00 and provide 10 trips.

At our September meeting, we will have a brief discussion, with a question and answer period to follow, about transportation. ADA applications will be on hand for those who need one. We will also have an open discussion with all chapter members who have questions, comments or concerns regarding our chapter. Please come and learn about some of the changes upcoming with the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter.

**2017 Chapter Election** **Results**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter held it’s elections at the August chapter meeting. Please congratulate and welcome your new board members:

President: Camille Tate

Vice President: Peter Poliey

Secretary: Julia Savage

Treasurer: Joseph Naulty

Board 1: Maria Rigogliosi

Board 2: Alan Kessler

Board 3: Andy Miles

**Message from Your Chapter President**

Greetings to the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter. For those who were unable to attend our elections, I am Camille Tate, your new President. Thank you to all who have placed your confidence in me to represent our chapter.

Here is a little background about me. I have been in the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter and the National Federation of the Blind for two years. I am a charter member of our chapter and served on the Board of Directors for these last two years. I was also elected to the State Affiliate in May 2017, so I can be your voice to our state leaders.

As a board member, I was, and still am, the editor of our chapter newsletter, The Visionary. I also am and will remain, the Chair of our Public Relations Committee. I have represented our chapter with the Brevard County Commissioners and on the Non-profit Council at the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce.

In my new capacity as chapter President, I will continue to move MSCC forward in a positive direction. I have many ideas on how to grow our chapter within Brevard and to continue the work we have already started. I am always available to all chapter members. My direct contact information will be at the end of this article.

Some of the plans I intend to work on with our board include continuing to keep transportation for all of us alive and in the forefront in Brevard County. Transportation is and will always be, an ongoing endeavor that can never be forgotten. I would also like to add more social activities so our members can mix and mingle with each other, sharing hopes, dreams and ideas with one another. I would like to expand our membership so we can find out the needs of all the blind and low vision citizens in our community. Our mission, after all, is to advocate, educate and integrate the blind into our community.

I may be reached via phone, (321) 372-4899, or email, [Yankiecat1999@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Yankiecat1999@cfl.rr.com). If I am unable to answer, please leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible. All members are free to contact me and I will always be open to everyone.

**Your Chapter Meetings**

As the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter enters its 3rd year of existence, we would like to remind all members of what your chapter can do for you. Each month we have meetings to inform the membership about the projects and other business conducted by your board. We advise you of how your Treasury is spent, so you can have the confidence in the decisions made on your behalf. What we are also looking for is your input into how you want your chapter meetings to be conducted.

While the business of the chapter must continue, it doesn’t have to be the complete end all in our meetings. The board has worked hard to make the chapter meetings enjoyable for all. We have asked in the past about what you want at your meetings and have tried to implement as many as possible. We need your valuable input.

Now that we have begun a new phase with our chapter, we are seeking guidance from you, the members. We would like to incorporate some new ideas to make our meetings more fun. Some of these ideas include having a social event at the meetings or planning outside social activities for the members to get to know one another. We want increased member participation in our meetings. We have been asked to have more meetings that show our members tricks or tips on how to live day-to-day with blindness or low vision. We need your help. The best way to involve all members in meetings is for more members to step up and get involved. We would like one member to take 10 or 15 minutes at each meeting to stand up and talk to everyone about something they have done or a product they have used that has helped them. We have, in the past, conducted a workshop showcasing products; we’ve had a workshop on the Talking Books Library; we have demonstrated JAWS and NVDA. We can have more meetings like this, if the members let us know. We are asking that this kind of project not be placed solely on the shoulders of one member…after all, our chapter is made up of more than one person.

Please see Maria at our meetings, if you have ideas or are interested in participating.

**Membership Dues**

Membership dues are up for renewal. To remain in the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, the National Federation of the Blind, FL and the National Federation of the Blind, please remit your annual dues of $10 by December 31, 2017.

Your dues allow MSCC to continue to hold meetings at The Fountains of Melbourne, keep our chapter in good standing with our State Affiliate and National Office, as well as offset the costs incurred to maintain our chapter. It covers the cost of printing our monthly newsletter, paying for registrations to attend State and National Conventions, maintaining our mailbox and printing our media to get the word out about MSCC.

As a member of the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, a currently paid member has the right to vote in chapter elections, as well as elections at our State and National Conventions. It entitles all to the benefits of membership in the National Federation of the Blind. Please pay your dues by December 31. You may bring your dues to chapter meetings, either cash or check, or mail them to:

Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, NFB

P. O. Box 120311

Melbourne, FL 32912

Please make checks payable to MSCC. If you have any questions, please see Joe Naulty, our Treasurer, at any chapter meetings, or call (321) 768-9500. You may also speak to any board member.

**Holiday Calendar Raffle**

The National Federation of the Blind, FL is holding a Holiday Calendar Raffle. Our chapter will be handing out raffle tickets for members to sell. Each raffle ticket costs $5 each. All tickets and stubs must be returned by the October 14 chapter meeting, which is the day of our car and bike show.

Here is how the raffle works: Each ticket sold must have the buyer’s name and phone number printed on the ticket stub. Each day in November, one raffle ticket will be drawn to find that day’s winner. The raffle runs from November 1 through November 30. Each week, the breakdown of the cash prize is as follows: Monday-Friday, the winner receives $25; Saturday and Sunday, the winner receives $75; and on Thanksgiving Day, the winner will receive $100. There will be a drawing each day in November. It is important that you return your tickets, stubs and money collected by our October meeting, so they can be returned to Paul Martinez, Fundraising Chair, in time to be eligible for the drawing.

Actively participating in Affiliate fundraisers are an important part of being in the National Federation of the Blind, FL. It is our efforts in raising money for our Affiliate that provides us with benefits that include holding our State Convention and doing the business of the NFBF. Without our Affiliate, there is no Melbourne Space Coast Chapter.

If you are unable to make it to the October meeting, please contact Camille Tate, (321) 372-4899, so arrangements can be made to collect the ticket stubs and monies.

**2017 Vision Fair**

Our Vision Fair is fast approaching. The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter is co-sponsoring a Vision Fair with The Fountains of Melbourne on Thursday, September 14, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This event is being held at 4451 Stack Blvd., the same place we have our chapter meetings.

There will be 22 vendors with tables to speak with you about agencies and resources available to the blind or low vision, as well as several companies that sell assistive products to the blind and low vision. Come and join us to meet Division of Blind Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, SCAT, VFO, Independent Living Aids, the Veterans Administration, CVI, BAAB and many others that can help you find what you need to live the life you want. All of our members are strongly encouraged to attend. If you know someone who is experiencing vision loss or have questions, please tell them to come. This event is open to the public and admission is free.

All members were given, or had mailed to them, an envelope with a fundraising letter and copies of the flyers for our Vision Fair and Car/Bike Show. We asked all of you to take this letter to the businesses you regularly visit to obtain gift cards, gift certificates or products to give away as door prizes. Please return with those items to our September 9 chapter meeting, which is 5 days before the Vision Fair. If you are unable to come to the September meeting, please contact Joe Naulty, (321) 768-9500, or Camille Tate, (321) 372-4899, so arrangements can be made to pick them up.

**3rd Annual Car and Bike Show**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter is hosting its 3rd Annual Car/Bike Show on October 14, at The Fountains of Melbourne. Each year, we bring out cars of all types and ages. Past attendees include the Mopars, Classic Reflections and other, single antique car owners. Last year we were excited to have Mustangs and more Corvettes than the previous year.

MSCC is holding this event to celebrate White Cane Day, which is traditionally honored on October 15 every year, by an Act of Congress. The car and bike show is our chapter’s largest fundraiser and is a fun event at the same time. All blind attendees will be given white inspector gloves so they can “see” the cars and bikes through touch.

The show is for the benefit of the chapter and to bring awareness of the blind community in Brevard. All members are strongly encouraged to attend and support their chapter.