



## **CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER DIGEST**

**APRIL 15, 2021**

*Vol.1, Issue 1*

### **A Message from Our Chapter President**



Welcome to the first issue of the Central Florida Chapter Digest. We hope that this publication will help to keep our Central Florida Chapter members involved and updated on what is happening with our local Chapter, State Affiliate and the National organization. Our chapter's goals are education, leadership, and membership. We hope that these tenets help each member live the life he/she wants.

Special thanks to Ms. Tashara Cooper who is the Chairman of the Newsletter Committee and Ms. Sherri Brun, Editor. We also have article contributions from our Vice President, Tanya Dawson and Board Member, Karolyn Campbell – I thank them for their participation. Please remember that via Zoom, we are holding the Chapter meetings monthly on the third Saturday at noon until 2pm. Please join us! We are beginning to institute some interesting elements to our meetings. Thank you to the members who have sent in their membership dues for 2021. Each member of the Central Florida Chapter must renew their dues each year in order to vote in all Federation activities and programs. Do not miss having your voice heard!

Please see our NFB National Nugget section for details on the national convention. Attendance is free and donations are welcome to assist with programming.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Tamika Butts. We lost Tamika and her father last month. Tamika was President of the Treasure Coast Chapter of our Affiliate. We also lost Mrs. Carol Feazell a beloved member of the Jacksonville Chapter this month due to sudden death.

Please stay well and wear your mask, wash your hands and social distance as much as possible during this National Pandemic. Consider receiving a vaccination, so that you and those you love or care about will be safe. Thank you to the Newsletter Committee and our Chapter Board for their hard work and support.

At your service,  
NFB CFL President Baldwin

### Next Chapter Meeting

Saturday, 17 April 2021  
Noon – 2PM



### Happy Birthday to You!

A birthday tune for all our January, February, March, and April chapter member birthdays. Click link below to listen: <https://youtu.be/06rUt62I-9W>

### Volunteers Needed

Join a committee!  
Your talent is needed



### April Braille Monitor Read

“Getting Into Good Trouble”  
By Deanna O’Brien

<https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm21.bn2104/bm210407.htm>

To learn more about the Braille Monitor, format options and how to subscribe click link below:

<https://nfb.org/resources/publications-and-media/braille-monitor>

## NFB National Nugget

### Anywhere and Everywhere

By Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Tashara Cooper – Chairman of the Newsletter/Finance Committees

Last year was the first time in eighty years that our NFB National Convention did not take place as an in-person event. Although COVID-19 presented many challenges, it also offered new opportunities for greater member attendance – as we were able to meet “anywhere” and “everywhere” via virtual means. Member attendance doubled as a result, so once again our 2021 NFB National Convention is again “anywhere” and “everywhere” from July 6 – July 10.

To register and read the article “The 2021 Convention is at Hand”, go to the following webpage: <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm21/bm2104/bm210401.htm>

## NFBFL State Affiliate Spotlight

### Who wants to be a State Affiliate Treasurer?

By Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Tashara Cooper – Chairman of the Newsletter/Finance Committees

Interested in learning about affiliate level treasury. On 5 May, at 8:00PM, our state affiliate treasurer Merry Schoch will conduct a training for chapter, divisions, and all those interested in becoming a state affiliate treasurer. For more details on the training, I encourage you to contact Ms. Merry Schoch at [merrys@verizon.net](mailto:merrys@verizon.net). Currently, no Zoom information is available at this time.

On another note, did you know that state affiliate board meetings are open meetings? Attendance at these meetings helps to bridge the gap between information shared at the chapter level, and the major happenings at the state affiliate level. Moreover, you obtain a better understanding of the “why” behind certain things at the chapter level. Reach out to our Chapter President for details on upcoming meetings.

## The Legislative Edge

### Important Legislation and Impacts

By Supervisor Carolyn Campbell, Chairman of the Legislative Committee  
[CarolynCampbell20@gmail.com](mailto:CarolynCampbell20@gmail.com)

Your vote action counts! As bills quickly move through committees, before making their way to the Senate and House floors, opposing the following are of top priority.

- ***Election Changes Legislation (HB 7041 / SB 90)***. This legislation would require tighter security and mandatory photo IDs for voters who use drop boxes, and only an immediate family member or someone who can prove residency at the same address could return mail ballots. This bill joins more than 250 restrictive voting legislative bills in 43 states that would make it harder to vote. All 67 Election Supervisors have problems with this bill and predict it will cause confusion and long lines at the polls next year.
- ***Anti-Protest Legislation (HB 1 / SB 484)***, by Governor DeSantis, would politicize the right to protest and disregards the protections provided by the First Amendment. *Gun Safety Legislation, Safety of Religious Institutions (HB 259)*, would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns to churches, synagogues and other religious institutions that share property with schools, which could result in a very high risk of harming innocent bystanders or themselves.
- ***Campaign Financing (SB 1890)*** would have a serious effect on passing or defeating citizen initiatives and other ballot measures.
- ***Natural Resources, Growth Management (HB 59 / SB496)***, would give property owners rights to do seemingly anything they want with their property, irrespective of zoning or other land use decisions in place within the County comprehensive plan.
- ***Education Legislation, Student Financial Aid (SB 86)***, would decrease the amount of funding students could receive from Bright Future scholarships if they choose a degree that would be considered less likely to lead to a good paying job after college.
- ***Reproductive Rights Legislation, Parental Rights (HB 241 / SB 582)***, would prevent young people from receiving the essential services they need, including wellness exams and reproductive health care and would make our young people less healthy and less safe.

What can you do? Take action by calling your representatives and asking them to vote NO!

- ***National Legislative Priorities:*** As of March 31, 2021, under the direction of Russ Davis, Legislative Director, NFB Washington Seminar accomplished a milestone for our Florida Affiliate, as we met with both our Senators and all 27 of our Congressional Representatives. The work is not over. More meetings will take place throughout to gain support for our Legislative initiatives from all of our federally elected officials. Tanya Dawson, Sherri Brun, and Karolyn Campbell spoke with legislators and represented your Central Florida NFB on four (4) National Legislative Priorities. The first is an introduced sponsored bill, while the others are waiting for introduction and sponsorship.
- ***The Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA) of 2021 (H.R.431 / S.212)***, would allow for more widespread access to adapted computers, text-to-speech screen access software and electronic Braille displays used to access computers, tablets, smart phones, as well as digital content. **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD.) and John Boozman (R-AK.)** led with 71 total cosponsors in an effort to create a refundable tax credit to help blind Americans afford access technology.

- **The Americans with Disabilities Voting Rights Act** would ensure that all methods of voting, including registration, in-person, and vote-by-mail must be accessible to blind and low-vision citizens and provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters. It also includes education of state and local election officials and poll workers.
- **The Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act** would end unequal access to home-use digital interface medical devices used by blind Americans. Calls on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to have and enforce nonvisual accessibility standards for home-use medical devices and require manufacturers of these devices to make their products visually accessible for safe independent daily operation for healthcare needs.
- **The Twenty-first Century Mobile Apps and Website Accessibility Act** would end website and mobile application inaccessibility for blind Americans. It would direct the US Access Board to implement accessibility regulations to harmonize with Section 508 standards and empower the Department of Justice to investigate the accessibility of websites and mobile applications.

What can you do? Take action by calling your representatives and ask them to support and sponsor these initiatives.

## Tech Talk

### Technology, Feasibility, and Creativity

By Chapter Vice President, Tanya Dawson – Chairman of the Technology/Social Media Committee

Technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is changing at a rapid pace! An online dictionary defines technology as, “the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes”. Hmmm, PRACTICAL! What does practical *really* mean? Practical is the likelihood of success...feasible. To emphasize, feasible...it means possible to do in an easy and convenient manner. Although accessing certain online platforms, for the blind/visually impaired community is not always easy or convenient, technology advancements can result in the availability of alternative resources (e.g. Aira) or artificial vision (e.g. Orion implant). Technology challenge brings forth opportunity for creativity. For example, using your smartphone Camera App to take a picture, finger pinch, and enlarge the image. As well as, downloading applications such as Be My Eyes allowing a live person to describe environmental surroundings.

**Creative Challenge:** Create a Facebook page that displays your unique personality. To create a Facebook account, follow the below steps:

1. Go to <https://m.facebook.com/r.php?soft=hjk>
2. Enter your first and last name (what you go by in everyday life), Click Next
3. Enter your date of birth, Click Next
4. Enter your mobile phone number. If you want to enter your email instead tap (click) Sign up with email, Click Next
5. Tap (click) Female, Male, or Custom for your gender
6. Choose a password and then tap (click) SIGN UP

You did it! Yay! Are you feeling a bit bold? If yes, move on to following the chapter's public page, which is NFBF of Central Florida.

One more thing...visit the Independence Market for "Products of the Month Sale - April", by calling 410-659-9314 extension 2216 or [independencemarket@nfb.org](mailto:independencemarket@nfb.org).

## Get Involved --- Get Connected

### The Additional Eight

By Chapter President Ms. Marilyn Baldwin/Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Ms. Tashara Cooper – Chairman of the Newsletter/Finance Committees

Besides our monthly chapter meetings, there are eight other ways to get involved through participation in various meetings occurring each month. A great way to get to know members across chapters within the state affiliate. The list of meetings are below.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: Diversity and Inclusion, 8PM
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Seniors, 8PM
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Sunrise & Shine with NFB Newslines, 9AM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: FABS, 6PM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: Communities of Faith, 8PM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: Book Club, 8PM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: Blind Parents, 8:30PM
- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Legislation, 8PM

What a list! We challenge each of our members to join at least one of these groups next month.

## Health and Wellness

### The "Beet" Goes On

By Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Tashara Cooper – Chairman of the Newsletter/Finance Committee

The amazing beet! Yes, I said it, beet. The beet is a nutrient packed vegetable with limited calories. You may not be a lover of beets, had a bad experience in childhood of having to eat beets not poorly cooked, or a person who has never given the beet a chance. Whatever the reason, let me share a few things that make the beet so intriguing. To start, every single part of it is edible (the beet, the stalks, and the leaves). It is an environmentally friendly vegetable. It also possesses some amazing health benefits: keeps blood pressure in check, improves athletic performance, digestive health, brain health, fights inflammation, and so much more! Go, you amazing beet! Find beet cooking tips and recipes at <https://cleananddelicious.com>.

## Employment

### **An Amazon of an Opportunity**

By Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Tashara Cooper – Chairman of the Newsletter/Finance Committee

Very recently, the National Federation of the Blind reached an agreement with Amazon in the offering of greater employment opportunity for members within the blind community. Although, there have been contentions in the past surrounding accessibility of technological creations under Amazon, today is the realization of contention being transformed into cooperation. A real-world example of how “working together” does more for forward movement than “fighting against”. Contact Chris Danielsen for more details at (410) 659-9314 extension 2330, (410) 262-1281 (cell), or by email at [cdanielsen@nfb.org](mailto:cdanielsen@nfb.org).

## Member Honorable Mentions



Within the last six-and-a-half months, several of our members received recognition, won an election, earned a job promotion, and completed a higher education goal.

**Ms. Sherri Brun:** recognized at the October 2020 Blind Americans Equality Day event by our Chapter president. Ms. Brun was the first recipient of the National Federation of the Blind Central Florida Chapter White Cane Leadership Award.

**Ms. Karolyn Campbell:** elected Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor for Orange County Florida. It all began with simply volunteering her time and from that, opportunity arose. This is an illustration of how giving your time can lead to much greater things.

**Ms. Tanya Dawson:** earned a job promotion at her current place of employment. Beginning in the role of office assistant, Ms. Dawson is now the Office Manager. A demonstration of how hard work can lead to advancement.

**Ms. Tashara Cooper:** completed her first Master’s Degree in Instructional Design and Technology. She is co-leading instructional design tasks at her current place of employment. Ms. Cooper is currently pursuing a second Master of Science in Modeling and Simulation.

## Community Events



### Osceola County

<https://www.osceola.org/events/>

#### Ladies Card Club

Bellalago Amenity Center  
Thursday, 15 April @ 1PM  
<https://www.bellalagohoa.com>

#### 7 Chakras!

Painting with a Twist  
Thursday, 15 April @ 7PM  
<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com>

#### Bridge to Paradise (Key West)

Painting with a Twist  
Friday, 16 April @ 7:30PM  
<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com>

### Orange County

<https://www.orangecounty.net>

#### Luncheon at Lake Nona

Thursday, 15 April @ 12PM  
Orlando VA Domiciliary  
<https://www.soldiersangels.org>

#### Volunteer - Feed Orlando Veterans

Friday, 16 April @ 8AM  
Elks Lodge  
<https://www.soldiersangels.org>

#### Bethune-Cookman University Concert Choral

Dr. Phillips Center  
Friday, 16 April @ 7:30PM  
<https://www.drphillipscenter.org>

### Seminole County

#### Kari Jobe

Friday, 23 April @ 6PM  
Cross Life Church in Oviedo  
<https://www.ticketsmarter.com>

#### Lake Mary Car Cruise In

Sunday, 18 April @ 10AM  
Central Park  
<https://fun4seminolekids.com>

#### CFL Social and Entrepreneurship Pitch

Tuesday, 20 April @ 7PM  
Seminole State College Sanford  
<https://www.eventbrite.com>

We did it! Our first Central Florida Chapter Digest made it to completion. I would like to thank all those on the Newsletter Committee and the wonderful message from our Chapter President. Next issue coming 15 June.

Sincerely,  
Newsletter Committee Chairman