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**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts 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 Saturday, July 13, from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We meet at The Fountains of Melbourne, 4451 Stack Blvd., Melbourne, FL, 32901.

Anyone needing transportation, please contact Maria Rigogliosi, (321) 795-7376, no later than Tuesday, July 9. This is to ensure you are placed on the list for transportation.

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. Fare cards cost $15.00 and provide 10 one-way trips.

We will have a 50/50 raffle at our next meeting. Tickets cost $1 each. The prize is half of the money collected. At our July meeting, Vice President Joyce Taylor and Board Member Maria Rigogliosi will have an agenda regarding hurricane preparedness.

**A Note About Grants and Fundraising**

We have stressed the need to fundraise. It takes money to conduct some of the activities we undertake and to send members to conventions. At our last meeting, the subject of fundraising with various businesses around the area came up. It is important to note that if a business directs fundraising requests to go through their corporate website, please speak with Camille Tate. Donation requests of that nature require the organization to hold a 501(c)(3) certification in order to qualify for donations. The IRS Non-Profit Corporation designation is held by our affiliate and therefore our chapter tax identification number will not meet eligibility requirements.

**2019 5th Annual Car and Bike Show**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter is hosting its Fifth Annual Car and Bike Show on October 12, 2019. This is our biggest fundraiser and chance to educate the public about blindness. Each year, we hold a show to celebrate White Cane Day, which is observed on October 15. In 1964, Congress passed the White Cane Awareness Day Act. The white cane is our most ubiquitous symbol of freedom and independence. We expect our members to attend with their white canes and be visible to our sighted peers in the community.

White Inspector gloves will be given out so we can “see” the vehicles through touch. Vehicle owners will be on hand to describe their cars or motorcycles.

MSCC needs each member to assist with door prizes for our car and bike show. Door prizes create interest and fun. Over the past few years, door prizes have gained in importance. We would like each member to bring to us one item to be used as a door prize. For example, a gift card, bottle of wine or sparkling juice. We encourage you to contact professionals, businesses, grocery stores, auto shops, etc. Each year we place raffle tickets in the envelope given to each vehicle that registers and call the numbers off throughout the show. Anyone wishing to help plan our fundraiser, please contact Joe Naulty, (321) 768-9500.

**Upcoming Chapter Elections**

The Melbourne Space Coast Chapter will hold elections at our August 10 chapter meeting. The positions up for election this year are Vice President, Treasurer, Board Member 2 and Board Member 3. As a chapter, we will not have a nominating committee; we are too small to warrant one and our chapter constitution does not require it. We will take nominations from the floor. Each candidate will be given two minutes to speak on why they would be a good fit for our chapter’s board. You must be a currently paid member of the chapter to run for a position or to vote.

Please keep in mind there is a commitment you make when you are elected to a board position. As a member of the board, you are expected to attend monthly board meetings (notice is sent out several days prior via email) and chapter meetings. There may be times a special board meeting is called (either by the President or 3 board members); you will be expected to attend. It is also expected that you will participate in planning chapter events and taking on projects involving the chapter.

**Budget Hearings with County Commissioners**

The budget for Brevard County’s next fiscal year is approaching. Once again, we will ask our members to come to the Viera Government Center with their white canes to support transportation funding. Transportation touches the lives of all disabled persons who wish to work, go to school or even perform daily tasks. These meetings will be held in September and stay tuned for the exact dates. Once the county budget is reviewed, there may be items to discuss with our County Commissioners. It is through collective action that we accomplish our goals.

**Legislative Alert**

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida has set its legislative priorities for our 2020 Legislative Session. The next legislative session begins on January 14, 2020.

Our two items currently (one more may be added at a later date) are, protecting the rights of blind parents and ending sub-minimum wages in Florida. We have discussed these topics briefly at previous chapter meetings. Please see Camille Tate at meetings for additional information, including how to obtain packets you can use while visiting our State Representative or Senator.

Nationally, we are still working on the Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA), Greater Accessibility and Independence Through Non-Visual Access Technology Act (GAIN) and Disabled Employment Act (DEA) All of these and more are important initiatives we in the National Federation of the Blind believe in strongly.

Please see Camille Tate for more information on any of the above legislative actions.

**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.**