Volume 5 Issue 9

September/October 2019

**Due to Hurricane Dorian and not having a chapter meeting in October because of the car show, we are combining the September and October issues of The Visionary. We will resume normal publication in November.**

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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, September 14, 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, September 10. Please ensure you have the correct fare to ride the SCAT bus to and from the meeting, which is $1.50 each way. Fare cards may be purchased by contacting SCAT, (321) 635-7815. The cards cost $15; please make sure to ask for a paratransit fare card.

We will welcome Sully from Brevard Association for the Advancement of the Blind (B.A.A.B) as our September guest speaker. The 50/50 raffle will take place as well. Each ticket costs $1, so bring your dollars for multiple chances to win!

**Membership Dues (Camille Tate)**

It is that time of year again! We will begin collecting membership dues for 2020 until January. Dues are $10 and may be paid via cash or check. Make checks payable to MSCC. You may mail your dues to:

Melbourne Space Coast Chapter

P. O. Box 120311

Melbourne, FL 32912

Remember, your dues maintain membership in the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. Additionally, your dues help defray the cost of printing our monthly newsletter, meetings held at The Fountains of Melbourne and other costs associated with running our chapter.

**2019 5th Annual Car and Bike Show (Arlene Naulty)**

**Fifth Annual Car and Bike Show Coming Soon!!!**

Saturday, October 12 is going to be a very big day for the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, NFBF. This year, we are conducting our Fifth Annual Car & Bike Show. The event is scheduled in October which is White Cane Month. Every Chapter member has a responsibility to support all citizens who are blind and those with low vision. The show is a major fund raiser for the MSCC and requires everyone to be involved. The Fountains is our host and Hometown News is a strong sponsor. Both The Fountains and Hometown News have been with the Chapter and this event from the very beginning in 2015.

Funds raised assist with getting Chapter members to important meetings within Brevard County and the State of Florida. Funds also cover printing expenses, meeting registrations, as well as a broad range of activities which support community awareness of blind issues.

Every Chapter member is needed to work with this project. Gift cards and service certificates are needed to support the car owners who display their cars and bikes. Spectators attending the Show will be invited to purchase raffle tickets. Every Chapter member needs to request raffle prizes from businesses and professionals with whom they have a special connection. The cards and certificates will be collected by Joe Naulty. If needed, the prizes can be picked up; otherwise, they will be collected at the August and September Chapter meetings.

Members will be receiving letters of introduction and flyers to present when requesting a door prize or gift card. Because October 12 is just a short time away, it is important to get started now with the important work of securing items needed for the raffle.

We expect to have more than 75 cars and bikes. In order to ensure the success of the event, everyone is needed to be involved. We look forward to working with our members on this project as October 12 draws near. Please call Joe Naulty (321) 768-9500 or Julia Savage (703) 869-7727 with door prize pickup needs or answers to questions. Every member is needed to ensure success.

**2020 State Convention (Camille Tate)**

The 2020 State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida will be held at the Embassy Suites USF in Tampa, Florida. The date will be over Memorial Day weekend, 2020. It will be a big year for us because we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Florida affiliate! This notice is being sent out early because room rates are $104 per night and you are encouraged to start saving to attend. Activities and agendas will be provided as they become available. Registration and banquet fees have not yet been set, but will be published upon availability. Remember, the Embassy Suites rooms can accommodate 3-5 people, depending on how comfortable all parties are with one another. Each suite has a pull-out sofa bed, refridgerator and microwave. Additionally, breakfast and a Manager’s Reception is included in the room rate; the reception is held daily from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. More details will follow as time goes on.

**2020 National Convention (Camille Tate)**

The annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind has been announced! The convention will be at the Hilton Americas in Houston, Texas. Mark your calendars for June 30-July 5. Next year will be the 80th anniversary of the National Federation of the Blind! The room rate will be $104 per night and reservations can be made beginning January 1, 2020. Registration and banquet fees have not yet been set. This is advanced notice for any members who wish to attend the convention. If you have never attended a National Convention, there may bee assistance provided, via application, for first-timers. Standby for further information. All members are encouraged to attend our national conventions. Additional details will be provided upon availability.

**2019 Vision Resources Fair (Camille Tate)**

The Viera Lions Club and Melbourne Space Coast Chapter are hosting the 2019 Vision Resources Fair on Wednesday, September 18, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The fair will be at the Holiday Inn Viera, 8292 N. Wickham Road. We will arrange transportation with SCAT for our members to attend the Fair. We have invited several vendors and have received confirmations from CVI, BAAB and, tentatively, SCAT and DBS. This year, we have also invited all four of the NFB Training Centers and hope to receive a confirmation. We encourage all of our members to come to the event. Please contact Camille Tate for more information.

**Victory Cruise Casino (Maria Rigogliosi/Joyce Taylor)**

Bon Voyage!!!  IT’S TIME TO ROLL!!!

YES, the time is approaching fast!  September 24th will be here before you blink your eyes, so let’s make sure everyone is ready for this exciting Cruise.  The deadline for RSVPs is September 3rd.  This is the last call; we must secure all monies by September 14th and that’s why it is necessary to have a cut-off date of responses.

We currently have 15 eager participants. The cost is approximately $40.00 per person. This fee includes boarding fee, Lunch Buffet, $16.00 in gambling credit and one drink. The other $20.00 covers the bus transportation. We will be the ONLY passengers on the Victory bus. If you’re interested, please HAVE your $40.00 at the meeting. ALL MONIES MUST BE GIVEN TO THE CRUISE LINE BY SEPT, 19th,2019. If you require a Personal Care Assistant (PCA), please make arrangements to have one; assistance will not be provided by the cruise line. Please make financial arrangements with your PCA to ensure their ticket to board has been paid by the deadline; give their name(s) to Maria Rigogliosi by the RSVP deadline of September 3.

The Victory bus will depart from Walmart’s parking lot on Malabar Rd. in Palm Bay at 9:20 am; the same Victory bus will depart from Cinema World in Melbourne at 9:35 am; then it’s off to the Cruise!!!

**Let’s Go to the Movies! (Maria Rigogliosi)**

The next movie at the talking book library will be The Book Club, a comedy. The movie will be on September 10. Please let Maria know if you want to go see this movie!

**Brevard County Commissioners Meeting (Camille Tate)**

We are attending the Brevard County Commissioners budget hearing on September 12, at 5:30 p.m. We are pleased that transportation is receiving funds for two paratransit routes in the budget. MSCC supports SCAT because without them we could become prisoners in our homes, unable to live independently. The hearing is at the Viera Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C. You are encouraged to make your own transportation arrangements to attend.

**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.**