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**In This Issue**:

**NFB Pledge**

**Meeting Announcements**

**Membership Dues**

**2019 Car Show**

**2020 State Convention**

**2020 National Convention**

**Chapter Boat Casino Cruise**

**Donation to the Bahamas**

**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, November 9, 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, November 5. 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 have a 50/50 raffle at our meeting. Each ticket costs $1 and the winner will take home half of the money collected during the raffle. We have invited Space Coast Area Transit to speak, but at the time of this writing, have not received confirmation.

**Membership Dues**

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 newsletter, meetings held at The Fountains of Melbourne and other costs associated with running our chapter.

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

We would like to give a heartfelt “Thanks” and “Congratulations” to the members of the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter for a successful car and bike show! Our Car Show Committee, members who brought in door prize donations and those who volunteered their time to greet incoming cars pulled off a fantastic show on Saturday, October 12! As our chapter’s largest fundraising event, we far exceeded expectations and showcased 82 paying cars and motorcycles. In addition, we had such a high volume of vehicles, we ran out of registration packets and accepted a flat donation from a group of motorcycles there at the end.

News from the car show would not be complete without highlighting our Best of Show trophy. The Auto shop program at Eau Gallie High School donated the trophy for the show. It was created as a class project, using car parts. We’ll go out on a limb and say this is the first tactile trophy for any car show. These incredible students designed the top of the trophy using a character from our NFB logo, a person holding a cane, that blind people could touch! The ingenuity was incredible. In tribute to this wonderful gift, a photo, with description, has been forwarded to our National Office in Baltimore, with attribution to the Eau Gallie High School Auto shop. We believe strongly in making art tactile for the blind to be able to “see” through touch.

The day was beautiful, with sun and no rain (always a blessing). The DJ, John Papadimitriou, played great songs and there was delicious smelling food from Southern Smokehouse BBQ, Cool Yeti’s Ice Cream and cupcakes from The Sweet Spot Bakery. Our chapter received a proclamation from Mayor Meehan-Melbourne, to add to the proclamation we received from Commissioner Curt Smith and the Brevard Board of County Commissioners earlier in the week. The Eagles Motorcycle Club made a generous donation and the 50/50 winner gave his winnings to the chapter.

**2020 State Convention**

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, refrigerator and microwave. Additionally, breakfast and a Manager’s Reception are included in the room rate; the reception is held daily from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. More details will follow as they become available.

**2020 National Convention**

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 July 14-19. 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 be 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.

**Victory Cruise Casino**

Bon Voyage!!!  IT’S TIME TO ROLL!!!

Considering events that took place on our last Victory Cruise in September, we have been given a free trip by the cruise line! Yes! A FREE TRIP!!!

Our Holiday Extravaganza will be held on the Victory Cruise Casino boat on Tuesday, December 17. Due to a medical event, not involving any of our members, Victory Cruise is comping a casino boat ride for us. This means the boat trip and the cruise bus service to Port Canaveral will be free of charge. We may bring as many people as we can fit on the cruise bus. FREE! If you feel you need assistance while on the boat, please bring a Personal Care Assistant (PCA), because the staff on the boat will not provide assistance.

The procedure from the last time remains the same. Your name, email address and date of birth, as well as the same for your PCA, will be required. All participants will need to bring their photo identification. If you will need to use SCAT to reach the pick-up points for the cruise bus, please contact Maria Rigogliosi. More information will follow at our next chapter meeting and you can sign up at that time.

**Hurricane Dorian Relief for Bahamas**

Joyce Taylor, our Vice President, has suggested the Melbourne Space Coast Chapter to donate non-perishable items for Bahamian survivors of Hurricane Dorian. We are all aware of the destruction and devastation suffered by those who felt the full impact of Hurricane Dorian in September. Joyce has arranged, through Chief Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, to send a barrel of items to the Bahamas. We are asking our members to please bring non-perishable foods, toiletry items, etc. to our November chapter meeting. You can bring them in a box or bag. Joyce has decided for assistance to bring those items straight from our meeting to the church, where they will be stored in barrels for the next shipment to the Bahamas. Let us all express our sympathy and love of humanity for those struggling through these difficult recovery times.

**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.**