**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF FLORIDA**

**MELBOURNE SPACE COAST CHAPTER**

**Chapter Teleconference Minutes—September 11, 2021**

***NOTE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, future chapter meetings will be held via teleconference until further notice.***

**The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM**

**PRESENT**

**Camille Tate President**

**Nancy Hollo Treasurer**

**Julia Savage Secretary**

**Maria Rigogliosi 1st Board Member**

* **Meeting called to order**
  + Roll call of Officers **(CT)**
  + Pledge of Allegiance/NFB Pledge **(NH/CT)**
* **Secretary’s Report (JS):** Accepted as emailed (MR/NH 2nd)
* **Treasurer’s Report (NH): $4,290.23 (as of 8/31)**
* **President’s Report (CT):** NH has received the caps/travel mugs to sell at State Convention and The Joe Show; CT attended leadership conference in Baltimore, toured Ten Broek Library, conference was productive and a wonderful experience.
* **Guest Speakers Miranda Kilby and Paul Martinez (State Affiliate):** Paul will run for President of State Affiliate at State Convention; CT asks MSCC members to support Paul at the election in October; CT wants current President Valkema to remain on the board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Introduction of Guests:** Brenda Williams and Damon Toney want to join MSCC chapter; motion made to induct Brenda as new chapter member **(MR/JT 2nd)**
* **Car Show Committee Report (JS):**
  + Letters sent out to Brevard County officials requesting their presence at show.
  + Purchased box of 50 paper masks from Home Depot.
  + JN/AN/JS/JCarey are attending car club meetups to encourage participation
  + Sponsorship/Donation letter is ready for distribution.
  + MR needs a special sponsorship letter to her manager, noting that some of her coworkers have received assistance from the NFB in various states to prepare them with resources and life skills as a blind individual.
  + Asking chapter members to assist car show committee with:
    - Door prizes
    - Continue to spread the word about the car show
    - Seek sighted volunteers to help out with the car show; please contact JS when you have enlisted committed volunteers.
    - Encourage fellow blind/low vision individuals in Brevard County to attend the event with their white canes to observe White Cane Awareness/Meet the Blind month and support our intersection crossing.
* **State Convention News and Chapter Participation at Convention:**
* **When:  Friday, October 1st - Sunday, October 3rd**
* **Where: Embassy Suites USF; Tel: (813) 977-7066**

**3705 Spectrum Boulevard; Tampa, FL 33612**

* **Convention code:  FBD**
* **Below is a specific reservation link to make reservations online:**

[**https://secure3.hilton.com/en\_US/es/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=TPAFRES&groupCode=CESFBD&arrival=20211001&departure=20211004&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT**](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/es/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=TPAFRES&groupCode=CESFBD&arrival=20211001&departure=20211004&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)

* **Reservation Deadline: September 6, 2021**
* **The room rate is $110/night plus tax. You can cancel a reservation 48 hours prior to arrival with no penalty. Overnight parking is provided at a discounted rate of $5/car/night.  Guest room internet is provided complimentary to all attendees.  Check in is at 4 pm and check out is at 11 am.  Complimentary breakfast is served daily Mon-Fri from 6:30 am-9:30 am and Sat-Sun 7:00 am-10:00 am.  Complimentary evening reception is available to all hotel guests daily.**
* **This year the affiliate has “online” registration using the following link:**

**Website:** [**https://nfbflorida2021.brownpapertickets.com**](https://nfbflorida2021.brownpapertickets.com)

* **Code:  nfbflorida2021**
* **Toll free number:  1-800-838-3006 for registration**
* **You can inquire about additional details on the 2021 Florida State Convention by visiting the updated web page at**[**www.nfbflorida.org/convention**](http://www.nfbflorida.org/convention)
* **2021 Chapter Registration Form:**

**If a chapter is going to register members as a group, there is a form for that! Visit nfbflorida.org/convention and click on 2021 Chapter Registration Form. This option is not available for online registration, so download the form, fill it out and return using the instructions provided.**

* **We will keep you informed of any restrictions and/or requirements for health and safety as we get them.  If you have any questions, please contact President - Denise Valkema at 305-972-8529 or** [**valkemadenise@aol.com**](mailto:valkemadenise@aol.com)**; and 2nd Vice President - Jorge Hernandez at 305-877-2311or** [**jeh6@bellsouth.net**](mailto:jeh6@bellsouth.net)**.**
* **If you require accommodations, please send your request in writing to President Denise Valkema,** [**valkemadenise@aol.com**](mailto:valkemadenise@aol.com)**. The deadline to submit your request is September 6, 2021.**
* **Motion made to cover registration and banquet for MSCC members (NH/JT 2nd)**
* **Early Bird registration deadline by midnight August 15 and second deadline is August 30 if members want to be placed in the door prize drawings; September 6 is final deadline date.**
* **Motion to give chapter members attending State Convention a stipend, along with the registration and banquet fees being paid by the chapter (TABLE DISCUSSION)**
* **MSCC Elections**
  + **Vice President: Joyce Taylor (MW/NH 2nd)**
  + **Treasurer: Nancy Hollo (RB/MW 2nd)**
  + **Board #2: Vacant (JT/RB 2nd)**
  + **Board #3: Vacant**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Car Show Committee Report (JS):**
  + Melbourne Police Department will assist White Cane Awareness Crossing.
  + JCarey placed order for dash plaques and will place trophies order next week.
  + Finalizing details will take place the week before car show.
* **State Convention (CT):** Motion made for $25 fee for chapter table in the Auction Hall to sell MSCC caps/mugs (NH/MR 2nd). Registration deadline closed for State Convention; in-person registration is $30; virtual participant/voter registration has also closed; Norma Crosby will present her national report at State Convention Banquet; Robert Doyle from DBS will be a guest speaker; several congressmen will also speak; not streaming virtual workshops; Veteran Salute will open Saturday morning; PM requests that the Communities of Faith session be recorded for those who could not attend; CT will make executive decision to those needing hardship stipend.
* **Proclamation from BOCC (CT):** October 7 at 5:00 PM at the Viera Government Complex for the Commissioner’s meeting regarding Brevard County Zoning.
* **White Cane Day Event with SCTPO (CT):** MSCC invited to participate in White Cane Awareness Day on Friday, October 15, from 10:00-11:30 AM; location will be close to BAAB; SCTPO wants MSCC to read Commissioner Smith’s Proclamation at the event.
* **Meet the Blind Month rebranded to BEAM (CT):** October Meet the Blind Month will be rebranded as “Blindness Equality Achievement Month” (BEAM).
* **MSCC Program Director (MW):** Wants to volunteer as Program Director for the last hour of monthly chapter meetings; requests current members to solicit new membership; need to provide resources and encourage for the newly blind/visually impaired; will be committee chair/main contact person should this committee be established; MR expounded on MWomble’s proposal; PMartinez: there should be an individual contact phone number of the chapter should be listed on the local 211 outreach registry; NH supports MWomble and MR; MWomble: MSCC needs to be more personal and hands on with recent vision loss individuals. TABLE DISCUSSION.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM** **(MR/JS 2nd)**

**Next Chapter Teleconference is November 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM**

*Please plan to be at the next chapter meeting as we look forward to seeing you and hearing what you have to say. If you have any questions, concerns, or specific interests, please contact* ***Camille Tate at (321)372-4899*** *so these matters can be discussed at the next chapter meeting. Thank you.*