**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF FLORIDA**

**MELBOURNE SPACE COAST CHAPTER**

**Chapter Teleconference Minutes—November 13, 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 10:06 AM**

**PRESENT**

**Camille Tate President**

**Nancy Hollo Treasurer**

**Julia Savage Secretary**

**Maria Rigogliosi 1st Board Member**

**Gerilynn Higgins Liaison**

* **Meeting called to order**
  + Roll call of Officers **(CT)**
  + Invocation (NH)
  + Pledge of Allegiance/NFB Pledge **(MR/CT)**
* **Secretary’s Report (JS):** Table Discussion to 1/08/22; CT: JS needs to email approved minutes to Gerilynn at minutes@nfbflorida.org
* **Treasurer’s Report (NH): $4,403.04 (as of 10/31);** put $2,500 in Savings account.
* **President’s Report (CT):** CT participated in the White Cane Walk on October 15 with TPO of Brevard County; JT suffered a mild stroke last Wednesday, will be transferred to Sea Pines Rehabilitation Center.
* **New Liaison for MSCC Meetings:** Gerilynn Higgins, Secretary of State Affiliate; lives in Cape Coral, Florida; works as a rehabilitation teacher; a member of the NFB since 1988.

**OLD 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Financial Items (CT/NH):** Membership dues are due by January 31; if you paid in August, you are covered until January 31 of the following year ($10/year). MSCC has an email listserv for members to use to share information and maintain communication. Board has approved $149.90 annual fee to renew chapter’s Zoom account; Board motioned to donate $130 to Love, Inc. for holiday and $120 to Satellite Beach Lions for baskets.
* **Christmas Lunch (MR): L**uncheon at Hemingway’s at 12 Oaks Plaza in West Melbourne on Saturday, 12/11 in lieu of December chapter meeting; MR needs to notify SCAT no later than 11/30.
* **State Convention Wrap-Up (All on call):** MR: convention was invigorating, enjoyed meeting in person again; need to fight restrictive voting bill. NH: first time at state convention, found it inspiring and was impressed with the professionalism of attendees and hotel staff. CT: Chaired state convention this year; elected 2nd VP of State Affiliate; Chairs Resolutions Committee; believes in the NFB movement.
* **SCAT Complaints (CT):** An individual has brought to CT’s attention that board members have threatened four unnamed chapter members if they make complaints about SCAT.
* **2022 Ideas (CT):** Members need to propose new ideas and social activities; the chapter will set aside time at the conclusion of chapter business to discuss resources for assistive technology, organizations and government agencies to contact, as well as inform members of the NFB philosophy.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM** **(MR/NH 2nd)**

**Next Chapter Teleconference is January 8, 2022 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.*