# NFB Logo

# A Winning Team

# 67th Annual State Convention

National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina

Marty R. McKenzie, President

Embassy Suites by Hilton

200 Stoneridge Drive

Columbia, SC 29210

803-252-8700

Thursday, August 17 – Sunday, August 20, 2023

## CONVENTION NOTES

### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND 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 programs and policies of the Federation and to abide by its constitution.

### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

### ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

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.

### INTEGRITY AND RESPECT

As with all NFB of SC functions, our members are held to the highest standards of decorum outlined in the National Federation of the Blind Code of Conduct. To allow all attendees the chance to benefit from all aspects of the convention, we are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone. We appreciate your assistance in cultivating an atmosphere in which participants from diverse backgrounds may learn, network, and share with each other in an environment of mutual respect. Thank you for doing your part to contribute to our community and the high expectations we strive to maintain.

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Embassy Suites Columbia-Greystone. It is our pleasure to have you here with us for your 2023 convention. We are looking forward to a couple of successful days of learning and camaraderie. We hope you enjoy your time here with us and if there is anything we can do while you’re visiting, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Nicole Blackwell is the Director of Sales and Jordan Francisco is our General Manager. Enjoy!

## DOG RELIEF AREA

For those with dog guides, there are two specific dog relief areas. A trash receptacle has been placed there for convenience and tidiness. The first area is straight out the front door of the hotel across the parking lot. The second area is out a door near the elevators. This area has a set of steps that must be descended. Ask the front desk if more information is needed.

## Contact Us

We have several convenient ways for you to connect with us. They are:

Website: [www.nfbofsc.org](http://www.nfbofsc.org)

Phone: 803-254-3777

Address:

Federation Center of the Blind

119 S. Kilbourne Rd.

Columbia, SC 29205

NFB of SC President:

Marty R. McKenzie

marty2music@outlook.com

843-939-8091

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## **National Representative**

Ron Brown was born in Gary, Indiana, the first of eight children, to Marzette and Myra Brown on May 15, 1956. When he was a senior in high school, he became blind after he was shot on his way home from a basketball game. At the time he knew nothing about blindness and was overwhelmed by the feeling that his entire life had been radically changed in an instant. One of the first painful lessons he learned was that many of his friends could not deal with his blindness and stayed away from him. Luckily, he began to make new friends, members of the National Federation of the Blind. They became inspiring role models for Ron, teaching him that it was respectable to be blind and that he could continue to strive for the goals he had set for himself.

“I have been an advocate for blind people for more than twenty-five years, and with every passing year my commitment to serving the blind of this nation increases. My life indeed changed the night I became blind, but with the perspective I now have, I must say that it was for the better.”

Armed with this newfound freedom, Ron graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor of science degree in health science. He then went to work at Tradewinds Rehabilitation Center in Indiana, where he met his wife Jean, who was on the staff. Eventually he was offered a job in the Business Enterprise Program. He had always wanted to own his own business, and this gave him the opportunity to do so. He has now been in business for himself for twenty years.

Recently Ron returned to school and earned a master's degree in educational psychology with a certification in orientation and mobility from Louisiana Tech University. He now owns a second business, teaching cane travel to blind people in the state of Indiana.

As Ron Brown has developed and matured in his personal life, his commitment to and service in the National Federation of the Blind have deepened as well. In the early years he was a chapter president and was then elected to the NFB of Indiana's board of directors. He was first elected president of the affiliate in 1996 and has been reelected every two years since. In 2001 he was elected to serve on the NFB board of directors.

## SCHEDULE

### Thursday, August 17, 2023

5:30–7:30 PM Embassy Suites Complimentary Evening Reception

7:30–9:30 PM Blind Merchants Pre-Convention Prep Session -- Suite

7:30–8:30 PM Rookie Round-Up -- Salons AB

### Friday, August 18, 2023

10:00–6:00 PM Registration – Terrace Lounge Wall

10:00–6:00 PM Exhibit Hall – Salons AB

10:00–11:50 AM Blind Merchants Pre-Convention Prep Session - Suite

10:00–10:50 AM SC Association of Guide Dog Users – Salon E

11:00–11:50 AM At-Large Chapter – Salon F

1:00–1:50 PM SC Association of Blind Students – Salon E

1:00–1:50 PM Senior Division – Salon F

2:00–3:50 PM SC Parents of Blind Children – Salon E

 Navigating an Individualized Education Program

 Carol Castellano, Dr. Tina Herzberg

and Sonia Timmons

2:00–3:50 PM Back to the Basics:

Beginning O&M Skills Refresher

Ron Brown – Salon F

For anyone who never had formal orientation and mobility training or would like to review basic skills. This will be a hands-on session to practice human guide, trailing, self-protective techniques; locating dropped objects; and basic cane techniques. There will be people available to help participants execute the skills as the presenter explains the techniques. It does not take the place of formal O&M training, but will be a good introduction or review of the basic skills.

3:00–3:50 PM Computer Science and Technology Division–

Salon G

4:00–4:50 PM Blind Merchants Division – Salon E

4:30–5:30 PM Resolutions Committee – Salon F

5:30–6:30 PM NFB of SC State Board Meeting – Greystone Hall

7:00–10:00 PM Reception – Salons CD

### Saturday, August 19, 2023

7:30–8:45 AM Buffet hot breakfast in restaurant – Self-serve – Boy Scouts available to assist

8:00–8:50 AM Registration – Terrace Lounge Wall

8:00–8:50 AM Exhibit Hall – Salons AB

## MORNING GENERAL SESSION – Salons CD

9:00–9:15 AM Welcome Marty R. McKenzie

Invocation Debra Canty

Presentation of Colors Boy scouts

National Anthem Sarah Massengale

Host Chapter Remarks Isaiah Nelson

9:15–9:30 AM NOPBC Representative

Carol Castellano, President

9:30–10:00 AM National Report,

Ron Brown, National Representative

10:00–10:15 AM SC Commission for the Blind,

Darline Graham, Commissioner

10:15–10:30 AM SC School for the Deaf and the Blind,

Scott A. Falcone, Director,

Division of Outreach Services

10:30–10:35 AM Fit Break, Janice Bright, Sports and Rec

10:35–10:50 AM SC Talking Book Services,

Jennifer Falvey, Director

10:50–11:00 AM Palmetto ABLE

 Karen Crider

11:00–11:15 AM Invigorating Our Students

 Lauren Altman, NABS President

11:15–11:30 AM Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

 Derique Simon, Chair

11:30–12:00 PM Presidential Report

 Marty R. McKenzie, President

12:00 PM Adjourn

## LUNCH BREAK

12:00–2:00 PM Box Lunches – Garden Atrium

12:15–1:45 PM Registration – Terrace Lounge Wall

12:15–1:45 PM Exhibit Hall – Salons AB

12:15–1:45 PM SC Association of Black Leaders – Salon G

## AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION Salon CD

2:00–3:00 PM Where the Blind Work: A Panel Discussion

 Sonia Timmons, Moderator

 SCPOBC Leader

3:00–3:15 PM Federation Legislative Update from the

Legislative and Advocacy Committee

 Ed Bible, Chair and Anna Price, Co-chair

3:15–3:20 PM Fit Break, Janice Bright, Sports and Rec

3:20–3:30 PM Celebrating Forty Years in the Movement

 Parnell Diggs, Frank Coppel and Ed Bible

3:30–3:50 PM Breaking Barriers: A Journey to Becoming a Triathlete Amy Hatten, Sports and Rec

3:50—4:05 PM Project Inspire and STEAM Camp

 Dr. Tina S. Herzberg

 Professor, Visual Impairment Program

 University of South Carolina Upstate

 Dr. Mary E. Robbins

 Teacher of the Visually Impaired

 SC School for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach

4:05—4:20 PM NFB-NEWSLINE, Steve Cook, Administrator

4:20–4:40 PM Rocky Bottom Report, Thom Spittle, RBRCCB Chair

4:40–5:00 PM Federation Center Report, David Houck, Executive

Director and Ed Bible, FCB Board Chair

5:00 PM Adjourn

## EVENING BREAK

5:15–6:45 PM Registration – Terrace Lounge Wall

5:15–6:45 PM Exhibit Hall – Salons AB

5:15–5:45 PM Nominating Committee – Parnell Diggs, Esq., Chair – Salon G

## CONVENTION BANQUET

7:00–10:00 PM

Welcome Marty R. McKenzie

Invocation Demetrius Williford

Keynote Address Ron Brown, National Representative

Awarding of Scholarships Shannon Cook, Scholarship Chair

Recognition of Sponsors Marty McKenzie

Midlands Gives Award Valerie Warrington, Treasurer

Educator of the Year Award Tracy Spittle, Chair

Employer of the Year Award David W. Bundy, Chair

Donald C. Capps Award David Houck, chair

Distinguished Service Award Marty R. McKenzie

Presidential Citation Marty R. McKenzie, President

### Banquet Fundraiser

Our annual banquet fundraiser is an opportunity for individuals, chapters, divisions, and business partners to contribute to the NFB of SC to further programs, services, and policies of the affiliate. Donations can be made through PayPal on

[www.nfbofsc.org](http://www.nfbofsc.org), by cash or writing a check made payable to the NFB of SC and mailed to Federation Center of the Blind. See page 3 for the address.

Adjourn

## **Sunday, August 20, 2023**

7:30–8:20 AM Breakfast

8:00–8:25 AM Registration – Terrace Lounge Wall

## MORNING GENERAL SESSION

8:30–9:00 AM Remembering Those Who Went Before Us

A Memorial, Melinda Jones and Doug Hudson

9:00–9:30 AM Rocky Bottom, NFB of SC, and Successful Transitions Treasurers’ Report

Valerie Warrington, Treasurer

9:30–10:00 AM Resolutions, Parnell Diggs, Committee chair,

10:00–10:20 AM Update on SUN, PAC, Dream Maker’s Circle, Frank Coppel, chair, Doing Our Fair Share Committee

10:20–10:25 AM Fit Break, Janice Bright, Sports and Rec

10:30–11:50 AM Elections

11:50–12:00 PM Chapter, Committee, and Division Drawings

12:00 PM Adjourn