Presidential Release #507 August 2021 Summary

First President Mark Ricobono praised the virtual convention (6109 registered attendees) – highlights are online at nfb.org/nfb21 for audio highlights and transcripts and a post-convention survey or by phone at (229) 632-7878; also will be highlighted in the September Braille Monitor

Becca Myers (deaf-blind) withdrew from the Paralympics because she was denied accommodations to participate in swimming – NFB issued a statement of support

October is Meet the Blind Month – wants a new name, rebrand; public awareness, but also celebrating our history in the civil rights movement, celebrating the achievements of blind people – what do we want October to represent, what should the new name be? Send ideas to [communicationsteam@nfb.org](mailto:communicationsteam@nfb.org) by August 16th.

Want to change committee appointments from calendar year to September 1st to August 31, because they traditionally work from convention to convention. Has created a new form at nfb.org/committeeinterest if you are interested in being on a national committee (one form for each committee) can still email him at [officeofthepresident@nfb.org](mailto:officeofthepresident@nfb.org),

American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults are offering a Braille calendar – can get up to 3 for free by going online at actionfund.org or send an email to [actionfund@actionfund.org](mailto:actionfund@actionfund.org) or call 410-659-9315.

Operation Quarter Sprint – effort to get 25% of Congress to support the Access Technology Affordability Act – not quite there (24 co-sponsors in the Senate and 105 co-sponsors in the House (need 109)) – keep the pressure on and keep making those calls

Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act has been introduced – HR4853 introduced by Illinois Congresswoman Jan Shakowski – urge your representative to co-sponsor this bill

HR2373 – Transformation to Competitive and Integrated Employment Act - July 21 – had a hearing with Aneil Lewis’s testimony about the need to eliminate unequal pay for people with disabilities

Also have been working on the resolutions – already had a hearing on July 13th about the resolution to get the USPS to deliver free matter for the blind in a timely manner

Looking for blind people who have been offered jobs at Amazon fulfillment centers, then put on unpaid leave immediately upon showing up for work – reach out to Valerie Yingling 410-659-9314 [VYINGLING@nfb.org](mailto:VYINGLING@nfb.org)

NFB Newsline just added some publications including: Animal Tales and Just 4 Teens, Forbes; let them know if you have new publications you want on Newsline

July 24 – National Board released a communication to the Federation discussing its approach to the Code of Conduct and how it has dealt with issues related to the NFB Constitution – the Board is gathering information about the topic of monitoring the behavior of members and providing sanction and how to evolve the constitution – wants to receive info, thoughts, and opinions by September 1 if possible – [boardofdirectors@nfb.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@nfb.org), can call 410-695-9314 x2263 to leave a message for the Board

Board is extending provision of receiving all code of conduct reports without respect to when it might have happened through December 31, 2021. Will implement new policy as of January 1 based on the new code of conduct policy which will be finalized this fall

Special Committee ask for info by September 1, 2021 to Jean Lewis [JLEWIS@KG-LAW.com](mailto:JLEWIS@KG-LAW.com)

PAC plan – NFB of CA at large chapter, National Org. of Parents of Blind Children, and Ft. Worth TX chapter; PAC-men want to thank everyone for all of our great work during the convention – our donations grew during the pandemic! NFB of Colorado was awarded Ryan the PAC Rat for the most activity, NFB of Vermont won the PAC iderm for increasing their contributions by the largest amount; NFB Senior division won for the most activity among national divisions and get the Pac Mule . New online form at NFB.org/pac or email [pac@nfb.org](mailto:pac@nfb.org) or call 877-NFB-2PAC

Patty Chang – [Pchang@NFB.org](mailto:Pchang@NFB.org) if you want to be part of the dream makers circle

Louisiana’s Nicole (Nicky) Swallow passed away on July 13

Starshima White died in July – was a big personality of the DC affiliate – was only 41 years old

Texas – Daniel David Martinez was born on July 23 at 4.85 pounds, 18.11 inches long, son of Aleyda and Daniel Martinez who helps the NFB with Spanish translations

Georgia- newest federation couple Briggs McMillan and Nishaya Whitehead married on July 17

What did the hurricane say to the Coast? I’ve got my eye on you