



## **PERISCOPE**

**A Quarterly Newsletter sponsored by the  
Mississippi Council of the Blind, Inc.  
Spring, 2018**

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Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:

MS Council of the Blind

P O Box 31112

Jackson, MS 39286

Anyone wishing to remember the MS Council of the Blind in a last will and testament may do so by including a special paragraph for that purpose. If your wishes are complex, please contact MCB for clarification.

Contributions to the James Doyle Case Memorial Scholarship Fund or to the Carter Gable Memorial Technology Assistance Fund should be appropriately marked, and sent to the above address.

Phone MCB at 601-624-4443.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By Eddie Turner**

Hello, MCB Members!

I hope all is well with everyone as we go from a very cold winter into spring. Our annual MCB convention is right around the corner, I hope everyone can attend and soak up some new information, do some networking and, most of all, socialize with old friends. Don't forget, the drawing for our raffle will be Saturday night, April 21<sup>st</sup>, during our banquet. Anyone who wants to buy more tickets, just give me a call.

As we move into a new year, I hope everyone will focus on membership. As most organizations are shrinking, so are we. Please get out there and invite new people to join the Council and help us help other blind and visually impaired Mississippians.

## **MCB STATE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

**Submitted by Kris McNair**

The MCB State Board met on January 13, 2018 via conference call. The roll was called and a quorum established. President Eddie Turner called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM.

The Minutes from the September 23, 2017 meeting and Treasurer's Report were accepted as distributed, then Committee and Chapter reports were given.

Details for this year's State Convention were discussed and confirmed by the Convention Committee and the Board. The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Trustmark in Pearl on April 20, 21, & 22, 2018. Room rates are \$109 and registration will be \$100. Registration information should go out to MCB members in February. Friday and Saturday evening meals will be provided. There will be an auction again this year and two hospitality rooms. The Convention will end with a "Gospel Sing" on Sunday morning.

Recommendations were presented by the Scholarship Committee to make adjustments to the Scholarships that are given out by MCB each year. These recommendations were discussed and approved as follows. A \$500 Scholarship will be awarded to the Valedictorian at the Mississippi School for the Blind each year. A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded each year to a blind student

or to a student whose parent(s) are blind. The recipient of this \$1000 scholarship may receive this amount for up to four years during which she/he must be enrolled in college.

The next State Board meeting was scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2018 at Addie McBryde at 1:00 PM.

Finally, congratulations to Randy Thompson, who won the “early bird” raffle drawing of \$200 which was held at the end of the meeting. Randy may have been the “early bird”, but the “big worm” of a \$1000 prize won’t be caught until the Convention in April, so be sure to get your tickets purchased before then.

## **NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER NEWS**

Greetings from the Northeast MS chapter of MCB to ALL of our fellow Council members and friends.

So far, we recently enjoyed a nice Valentine’s Day/Membership Drive luncheon at Romie’s restaurant. In addition to lunch, we also had a penny roll fundraiser and a drawing for a Valentine’s Day gift. We are now in the process of planning another social for the month of April.

It’s almost that time of year again. And, as always, we look forward to attending this year’s state convention and look forward

to seeing and fellowshiping with our old buddies as well as making new acquaintances.

We certainly hope that everyone enjoys this Spring season, take time out to smell the flowers, and partake in all the activities that go along with this beautiful time of year. See you at the 2018 MCB Convention! Until next time...

Sara M. Rogers  
MCBNM

## **JACKSON CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS**

**By Jane Peets**

A belated Happy New Year to all. I hope we are all off to a good start in 2018.

On December 2, 2017, our chapter held its annual business meeting/Christmas luncheon/bake sale at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, and a good time was had by all. The election results were as follows: President--Jane Peets, Vice President--Ken Maddox, Recording Secretary--Ralph Smitherman, Treasurer--Juanita Bishop, Board Members--Randy Thompson, Wanda Allen, and Janice Gable. To remember those in need, we collected several garbage bags of athletic socks to donate to Gateway Mission.

Our first meeting of 2018 was held at the home of Janice Gable on January 9. A new committee was formed to try to help each

other with technology skills. We will meet at Addie McBryde immediately following the MCB board meeting on March 10 to brainstorm and share information. Anyone is welcome to attend.

We had a social on February 10 at Cantina Loreda. There was good food and fellowship, Braille Valentines, a fun game with candy and stuffed animal prizes.

We are making preparations for the state convention in April and look forward to seeing you all there.

## **HAZLEHURST CHAPTER HAPPENINGS**

**By Alvin Daniels**

Greetings, MCB members and friends!

The Hazlehurst Chapter held our annual meeting on January 13, 2018, at which time our elections took place. The following officers and board members were elected: Ella Reed, President; Robert Thomas, Vice President; Alvin Daniels, Secretary; Annie Mae Brown, Treasurer; Jackie Scott, One-Year Board Member; George Turner, Two-Year Board Member; and Lashaun Drane, Three-Year Board Member.

Special acknowledgement and thanks goes to Mrs. Annie Mae Brown, who has worked tirelessly with the blind and visually impaired in the Hazlehurst area for many years. Thank you, Mrs. Brown, for a job well done!

Our chapter is proud to have as an active member, our newly-elected mayor, Ms. Shirley Sandifer.

We would like to acknowledge Linen for the Blind, a company that delivers comforters and bed linens to the blind in our area. The ladies who make these deliveries are Shirley Jones and Daphine Foster. They work with district supervisor Perry Hood, who orchestrated this program.

We in the Hazlehurst Chapter look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming MCB State Convention in April.

Have a wonderful Spring!

## **PINE BELT CHAPTER NEWS**

**By Phyllis Seyfarth**

Hello from Hattiesburg! It's a special treat to be able to say that since our little group has been struggling to stay afloat (or above the snow! Can you believe it's snowed twice here this winter, and one time it was five inches!). I've lived here 30 years and have never seen such...

But mainly due to our hardworking leaders, and especially the tireless and talented Kris McNair, our secretary for many years, we've decided we can be "the little engine that could." So now that 2018 is upon us, it's time to test our theory (and our hope.).

Kris did come up with a way to deal with one of our biggest problems – getting people to the bi-monthly meetings. We're spread out a bit and finding transportation is often a challenge for some of our members, as it is for many in the vision-impaired community. When will those self-driving cars get here? And make them cheap, by the way, Mr. Tesla, or whoever it is that keeps promising they're right around the corner.

Kris has figured out how we can do “tele-conferences” by providing a number that members can call and not only listen in to the meetings but speak up and become a part of them. This is a great addition to our usual procedure and quite a few of our members have used this service, especially long-serving treasurer Ruthie Skeen, without whom we couldn't function, and also long-time and sorely missed Luther and Betty Dement, who are still active in helping with financial matters.

We had a well-attended membership drive dinner at Chesterfield's in Hattiesburg in early December, and that was encouraging. Our new president Kathy Brewer, vice president Janice Sanders, new secretary (me! Phyllis Seyfarth), and all of our board members (Constance Farmer, John Brewer, and Shirley Meadows) were in attendance, along with John Sanders, Ray and David Seyfarth, the McNairs, Kris, Mitch and Beverly, and it was a treat to see the Hintons back with us – we hope to see more of you this year! You were a vital part of our group – well, everyone is!

Here's hoping that our little engine chugs along through the year, has some productive fundraisers and some FUN along with it. And we hope the other state chapters are doing well and will have a wonderful new year, as well.

### **A NOTE OF SYMPATHY...**

Since the printing of our last issue of the Periscope, we lost two friends of MCB who both served as Superintendent of the Mississippi School for the Blind in years past. Mr. R. C. "Clyde" Benton passed away on December 25, 2017. Then, Dr. Rosie L.T. Pridgen Johnson passed away on January 12, 2018. Both of these fine individuals contributed greatly to the MS School for the Blind and also offered invaluable support to MCB and its mission over the years.

Also, we just learned that Katherine Stroble, a former MCB member and a long-time employee of the Addie McBryde Center, passed away on February 26<sup>th</sup> following a battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Katherine was affectionately known by many of us as "Sarge." A memorial service for Katherine is being planned for some time in April. For more information about the memorial service or to offer condolences, you may contact Jane Miller, Katherine's sister, at 601-483-3346.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Mr. Benton, Dr. Pridgen Johnson, and Ms. Katherine Stroble during this time of great loss. They will be greatly missed!

**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND TO OFFER**

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS**

**By Janet Dickelman, ACB Convention Coordinator**

ACB is proud to announce that the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) has designated the American Council of the Blind as a RPPLE Category 1 provider of continuing education opportunities in the field of blindness and visual impairment.

Beginning with the 2018 ACB Conference and Convention in St. Louis, ACB will offer rehabilitation teachers and counselors, teachers of the visually impaired, low vision therapists, orientation and mobility instructors, and other professionals the opportunity to earn continuing education credits throughout convention week. Credits will be offered for a wide range of specialized programs, workshops, seminars, and other events presented by ACB committees, special-interest affiliates, and representatives of government agencies and private industry. Subjects addressed will include, but are not limited to, transition, vocational goals, technology, health issues, orientation and mobility, self-advocacy, Braille, low vision issues, daily living skills, physical education and social skills.

ACB conference and convention dates are June 29 to July 6, 2018. Programs and events offering CE credits will begin on Saturday, June 30 and continue throughout the week.

To help you with your travel plans, details on individual programs and workshops offering continuing education credits will be posted on [www.acbconvention.org](http://www.acbconvention.org) and on our new continuing education e-mail list as soon as they are confirmed. Join the list by sending a blank e-mail to [continuing-education-subscribe@acblists.org](mailto:continuing-education-subscribe@acblists.org). Pre-registration for the conference and convention opens on May 15, and will include the ability to register for continuing education credits. Detailed instructions on how to pre-register for continuing education credits will be posted on [www.acbconvention.org](http://www.acbconvention.org) as soon as they are available.

Don't miss out on the fun! Make your hotel reservations today!

Room rates at Union Station Hotel are \$89.00; this rate applies for up to 2 people in a king room and up to 4 guests in a room with two queen beds.

Room tax is currently 18.435%. Make telephone reservations by calling (314) 231-1234. Be sure to mention you are with American Council of the Blind to obtain the conference and convention room rate.

Please contact me with any questions either via phone (651) 428-5059 or email [janet.dickelman@gmail.com](mailto:janet.dickelman@gmail.com)

## **MISSISSIPPI INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND TO ATTEND THE 2018 NIB/NAEPB SYMPOSIUM**

**By Herbert Humphrey**

Mississippi Industries for the Blind's Executive Director, Michael Chew along with Technical Manager, David Brister and Advocacy Coordinator, Herbert Humphrey will be participating in National Industries for the Blind's 2018 NIB/NAEPB Symposium (formerly the Public Policy Forum) on April 16-19 in Washington, D.C. Also, for the first time, Mississippi Industries for the Blind's Employee of the Year, Alvin Barber, will be in attendance.

While participating in the symposium, Michael, David and Herbert will have an opportunity to discuss, with Mississippi's legislators, issues relating to Procurement through Commercial E-Commerce and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These issues will have an impact on the operation of Mississippi Industries for the Blind and its employees, and, by participating in this symposium, they hope to effect positive change at the federal government level.

To follow their progress, you can like them on Facebook and follow them on twitter using the following twitter handles: @MSIndBlind, @NatIndBlind and @Herb1970 using the hashtag #NIBAdvocacy.

For more information go to [www.nib.org](http://www.nib.org) or email Herbert at [humphrey@msblind.org](mailto:humphrey@msblind.org).

## **A WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

**By Alison Smitherman**

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who faithfully submit articles to the Periscope. Without your articles, this newsletter would not be possible. I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers of Talking Book Services for their assistance with duplicating and mailing of our newsletter. And, last but not least, thanks to my husband Michael for the fine job he does editing the recorded version of the Periscope. It truly does take ALL of us to get this newsletter done!

If you have ideas or suggestions as to how we might improve the Periscope, please don't hesitate to let me know. My contact information is at the beginning of this newsletter. Your ideas/suggestions are always welcome.

The deadline to submit articles for the Summer issue of the Periscope is **May 21, 2018**.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the State Convention in April.

Have a great spring!

*"We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others." – Helen Keller*