President Rose’s Q3 Report

Dear FDBA Members,

Wow, Summer flew by way too fast and now it’s Fall already! After a big change FDBA went through back in Spring, I finally had a nice summertime break.

Happy Fall everyone! I am sending out our Happy Autumn wishes which bring you a sense of renewal and appreciation for the beauty of nature’s transition. I love the feel of cool weather this time of the year.

I am very much looking forward to having a new makeover for the garden in my backyard. I plan to sow the Flower Power bulbs I purchased through Flower Power to support FDBA. What is Flower Power? We are selling a variety of flower bulbs and sprout seeds to earn 50% of the sales to support FDBA.

Your contribution to Florida DeafBlind Association helps support Florida CoNavigators, on-going projects, training workshops, special needs equipment, and operational expenses. Since FDBA is a non-profit organization, we rely on donations to benefit the DeafBlind community. We greatly appreciate and thank you for your generosity and support for the Florida DeafBlind Association. So far, FDBA raised $178.00 and our goal is to reach $500.00. Please help us and share the link with your friends and family. <http://fdba.fpfundraising.com/>. The deadline to purchase is by Sunday, October 15th. Thank you for your support.

Iris Cruz-Whidden shared with me that FDBA inspired her this year and she wanted to join FDBA Board as Member-at-Large. She has her vision and goals to support the DB community and wanted to be part of DeafBlind family.

The Board and I approved and welcomed her to the FDBA Board. She will be officially sworn in as MAL at DeafBlind Picnic Day on Saturday, October 14th. Let’s support her while you are there! Congratulations, Ms. Iris! Thank you for your utmost support and love for the FDBA and DeafBlind community.

PT Rocks at Starbucks in Jacksonville moved to a new location at Shoppes at Bartram Park, 13776 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258. It was a huge success in a new location of a brand-new Starbucks and everyone seems to enjoy it very much because it's a big building with lots of space and easy parking access. Thank you, Winfield Sainpreux, for all your amazing teamwork working with me. We will not host PT Rocks at Starbucks this October due to a camping event, DeafBlind Access of the South (DBAS) in Georgia which will be held next week.

I am looking for new FDBA representatives to set up DeafBlind Social events in each major city such as Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Orlando, Pensacola, Tallahassee, Tampa, and etc. If you are interested, please contact the FDBA President.

I am very excited to share with you all my experience with our first Florida CoNavigators (FCN) Hands-on Training which began last Saturday, September 16th. My CN and I worked together by navigating around Cobblestone Villages Publix, had lunch at Panera Bread, navigated on St. George Street in the historic district of St Augustine, and concluded with dinner at Columbia Restaurant.

Iris Cruz-Whidden and Hannah Rutherford, Winfield Sainpreux and Jordan Pinello, Maria Marquez and Holly Varthavaki, Rose Wall and Sydney Kobrich, and Caterina Zorrilla and Alyssa Gidus participated the first FCN’s Hands-on Training with FCN Coordinator, Victoria Magliocchino and her two CoNavigators (CNs), David Ennis and Jesse Wall.

We had a wonderful time learning many new things such as how to navigate together in ProTactile (PT) and how DeafBlind can enjoy touch independently with the help of their CNs such as sizes, shapes, colors, environment, maps, and etc. It was such a pleasure watching everyone laugh and smile all day long. Thank you Victoria Magliocchino for arranging this amazing training adventure. I would encourage CoNavigators (CNs) to join FCN’s Hands-on Training in the near future. It’s really worth it if you want to learn.

The Tactile Art Show at the St. Augustine Art Association (STAAA) will be displayed October 6 through 27, 2023 at 22 Marine Street, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. October is National Sensory Processing Awareness Month and the STAAA is once again hosting the Tactile Art Show. Unlike most art exhibits, viewers—blind, visually impaired, or sighted—are invited to touch the artwork! Braille signage for each piece is provided by students from the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

DeafBlind Artists David Ennis, Lara ‘Rose’ Wall, Winfield Sainpreux, and Tracie Inman are participating in the Tactile Art Show this year. Let’s get together on Friday, October 13th at 1-4 PM at 22 Marine Street in St. Augustine to support our DeafBlind Artists. Looking forward to see/touch you there. Come on over and support the DeafBlind Artists!

FDBA is hosting a fun-filled outdoor event at Anastasia State Park in St. Augustine, Florida for the DeafBlind Picnic Day on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10 AM to 5 PM. There will be a total of 50+ registered guests who will attend DeafBlind Picnic Day to support FDBA.

Anna Slye, Treasurer, and I have been working so hard on our fundraising effort to raise money for the past four months. We are super stoked to make it happen for our special day to get together and have good time. Please don’t forget to bring extra cash for the games, 50/50 Raffle tickets, T-Shirts sales, and etc. Thank you Winfield Sainpreux, for being there to help Anna and me to post announcements and encourage everyone who are interested in attending the picnic day. I am very excited and loved Anna’s idea of having a DB Picnic Day! Looking forward to seeing/touching you all there. Stomp-Stomp-Stomp!

Would you like to make a donation or sponsor this much-needed outdoor event, future events, and special projects? If so, please click this link below.

 <https://fldeafblind.org/donate.html> Thank you for your contribution and your support means the world to the DeafBlind community.

FDBA State Meeting, FDBA’s 20th Anniversary, and Field Trip will be discussed with planning starting the day after DB Picnic Day. Please be sure to save the date and spread the word to all DeafBlind and CoNavigators you know to please join. Let’s have a blast in Fort Myers, Florida Thursday, May 16th to Sunday, May 19th, 2024. All of the former Presidents, Nellie Pohlmeyer, Victoria Magliocchino, David Roberts, and I will be there to help celebrate our FDBA’s 20th Anniversary.

I am so excited to announce that Maria Marquez is willing to contribute her time by making a tactile art of FDBA’s logo for DeafBlind to touch FDBA’s logo. It will be displayed at the State Meeting. Stomp! Stomp! I am super stoked! Thank you, Maria Marquez, for all your time and love for the DB community.

More to come! Stay tuned! <https://fldeafblind.org/events.html>

I would like to add our FDBA Treasurer, Anna Slye to my report:

Anna and I have been very active on a daily basis raising money to support FDBA. We raised $2,301.04 in six months! The donation came from my birthday fundraising, Flower Power sales, membership dues, Picnic Day sales, Rose’s Scentsy fundraising, and etc. Our goal is to reach $25,000.00 before May 1, 2024 in time for the State Meeting, 20th Anniversary celebration, and Field Trip. So far, FDBA has $18,249.33 in the bank account. Way to go, Anna!

I am so inspired, grateful, and proud of her for her hard work and she’s an amazing worker. I really enjoy working with Anna as an amazing teammate. I couldn't have done it without Anna. Thank you, Anna, for all you do.

I do hope FDBA members and sponsors come and help us as volunteers for any fundraising programs to raise money and support FDBA. Please email Anna or me if you have any new ideas to raise money. It would be greatly appreciated!

Kathryn Zarate, Vice President, is going to take over my place effective Saturday, September 30th until October 9th because three Board members and I will be at the DeafBlind Access of the South (DBAS) for DeafBlind camp in Rutledge, Georgia next week. Please contact Kathryn if you need anything and I will follow up with her when I return.

Have a wonderful Autumn season.

Warm Regards,

Lara “Rose” Wall, President