

# **2024 Convention Agenda**

## “Tapping Into the Future”

National Federation of the Blind of Washington

President: Marci Carpenter

Date: February 29- March 3, 2024

Location:

Heathman Lodge

7801 NE Greenwood Drive,

Vancouver, WA 98662

The National Federation of the Blind of Washington 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. Together with love, hope and determination we transform the dreams of blind Washingtonians into reality.

# **Hotel Description**

When you enter the Heathman Lodge, you are standing in the lobby. There is a stairwell directly to your left that goes to the second-floor mezzanine. Fireplace Lounge is to your left past the stairwell, which leads into Hudson’s Restaurant. In front of you is the front desk, elevators and gift shop are located just to the left of the front desk. As you turn left at the front desk, you will pass the elevator and gift shop. If you continue down the hallway, the pool, fitness room, and sauna are located to the right. There is another elevator past the pool and fitness area at the end of the hallway. If you return to the front desk and face it, the Lewis and Clark Ballroom is to your right down a long hallway. Hotel rooms are located down both hallways to the left and right of the front desk, there are four floors in the hotel.

# **National Rep Biography: Shawn Callaway**

Shawn Callaway, originally from Washington, DC and raised in Prince George’s County, Maryland, holds degrees in psychology and social work. He currently works as a program specialist for the United States Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC. Married with a daughter, he joined the National Federation of the Blind in 2009. Since then, he has been actively involved in various leadership roles and community activities, including serving as President of the Washington, DC affiliate and on the NFB Board of Directors. Additionally, he co-chairs the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and serves as President of the National Association of Blind Black Leaders Division. In his leisure time, he co-hosts a community radio program, participates in the DC Blind Bowlers Association, and serves as President of the DC Friends of the Talking Book and Braille Library. Shawn’s dedication to his work and community, along with his involvement with the National Federation of the Blind, have enriched his life and empowered him to advocate for others. He continually demonstrates a lifelong commitment to mentoring, advocating, and building a stronger community for individuals who are blind and their families.

# **Important Information and Announcements:**

* To navigate this agenda in a fully accessible format with a screen reader, please use the following commands: press jaws key+letter Z to turn quick keys on. Once activated, you can navigate through the headings in this agenda by pressing the letter H, or by pressing 1, 2, or 3 to get to your desired heading level.
* Please remember to clean up after your dog guide and use the dog relief areas located outside of the hotel.
* Special thanks to the following companies/individuals who provided in-kind donations: Blind onion Pizza and Pub, C-Tran, and Washington State school for the Blind.
* Thank you to our host chapter, Clark County Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Washington.
* For the safety of those who may experience serious health consequences from exposure to fragrances, we request that attendees not wear scented products, such as perfumes, colognes, or scented lotions.
* To receive a door prize, you must be registered for the convention.
* To vote during elections, you must be a current dues paying member of the NFB of Washington.

# **Convention Sponsors**

## **Platinum Sponsors:**

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## Center for Assistive Technology and Training (CATT) NW

https://www. wssb.wa.gov/services/northwest-center-assistive-technology-training-catt-nw

### **What is the CATT Program?**

The Northwest Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT) Program is a collaboration between the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) and the Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB).

### **CATT's Mission**

To provide assistive technology devices and training to teachers of blind/low vision children, utilizing a "train the trainer" model, while also providing support/training for other professionals working with blind or low vision children as well as parents/caregivers of a child who is blind or has low vision, including those with additional disabilities.

### **Who Provides the Technology and Training?**

Assistive technology is provided through APH, and training is provided through WSSB employed trainers serving a ten-state/territory region: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

## **Gold Sponsors:**



## Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)

(DSB) provides services for people of all ages who are blind or have low vision in the state of Washington. The agency provides services to more than 2,800 Washington State Residents to help them gain or retain employment.

Independence, Inclusion, and Economic Vitality for   
individuals with a visual disability.

**www.dsb.wa.gov ⦁ info@dsb.wa.gov ⦁ 800-552-7103**

## **Silver Sponsors:**

*A blue and black text

Democracy Live logo*

## Democracy Live

In too many states, voters with disabilities don’t have equal access to voting independently and privately from home. Fortunately, there are new accessible at-home voting technologies now available.

The Democracy Live OmniBallot accessible at-home voting system is a fully ADA Section 508, WCAG compliant remote ballot marking solution. The system has been tested to meet the accessibility requirements of over 90 combinations of browsers, operating systems, screen readers and devices. OmniBallot has been deployed as an accessible absentee tool since 2008, in over 5,000 elections, serving more than 2,500 jurisdictions, in 34 states and 96 countries around the world. OmniBallot has been tested and reviewed by members of most every leading disability organization in the nation.

For further information, please contact Democracy Live:

855-655-VOTE (8683) Toll Free

Email: [info@democracylive.com](mailto:info@democracylive.com)

[www.democracylive.com](http://www.democracylive.com)

*Penny Forward logo featuring an arrow pointing forward, symbolizing progress and direction.
*

### Penny Forward

Do you want to become a better manager of money but you’re feeling a little lost?

Our self-paced online courses will provide you with tools and techniques you can use to navigate the complicated landscape of personal finance. In addition, you will also have access to exclusive member-only Zoom chats where you can ask questions and practice your growing money management skills with other members and our instructors. You can also schedule one to one sessions for more personalized help. If that isn’t enough, you’ll also get early access to all Penny Forward podcast episodes, A members only newsletter, and bonus content created exclusively for our members. Visit our web site at [www.pennyforward.com/membership/](http://www.pennyforward.com/membership/) or call us at 1 (888) 332-5558 for more information or to join our growing community today.

*Amerability: The MVP of Disability Logo
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### Amerability LLC

Amerability is a contractor for Department of Services for the Blind in WA State. We offer two consulting programs to Pre-ETS students aged 14-21 across WA State. Program 1 is named “The Most Valuable Plan”. It’s a first step person centric model to help students create short, medium and long term goals with activities to those goals relating to career & study, health & wellbeing, advocacy & accessibility, family-friendships-relationships and interests & community involvement. You can sign up by visiting this link below and the program is free for DSB Clients.

[The MVP Workshops | DSB - Wa Dept of Services for the Blind](https://dsb.wa.gov/mvp-workshops)

Program 2 is named “The Startup Wizard”. This program follows up from “Most Valuable Plan”. This program focuses on resume creation, job searching, job research techniques, mock interviewing and body language through building self confidence.

Amerability also offers a blind low vision tennis program starting April 15th at Vancouver Indoor Tennis Center.

## **Bronze Sponsors:**

### Bricks for the Blind

<https://bricksfortheblind.org/>

### The Lighthouse for the blind INC

<https://lhblind.org/>

### Non-24/Vanda Pharmaceuticals, INC

[www.vandapharma.com](http://www.vandapharma.com)

### Northwest Association of Blind Athletes (NWABA)

<https://nwaba.org>

# **Convention Schedule**

# **Preconvention Session: Monday, February 26th, 2024**

# **7:00pm-8:00pm: Fresh Beginnings: A Novices Journey, via Zoom- Marci Carpenter, President, Facilitator.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82824861044?pwd=bm9vWHp5MUhOdC9BTFlzb1ZLNWRIdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2486 1044

Passcode: 625885

One tap mobile

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Welcome to the Rookie round-up, a virtual welcome to all first-time convention goers. Delve into the essentials of navigation, networking, and future possibilities. Join us as we uncover the keys to a successful convention experience, setting the stage for newfound connections and informative adventures.

# **Thursday, February 29th, 2024:**

## **5:30 pm-6:00pm: Convention registration and meal ticket pickup, located outside Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

Note: All evening sessions are located in Lewis and Clark Ballroom.

## **6:00pm: NFB Board of Directors Meeting.**

## **7:00pm: Resolutions Committee Meeting.**

## **8:00pm: NFB Philosophy Activity- Kaye Kipp Facilitator.**

# **Friday, March 1st, 2024:**

## **8:30 am-11:00am: Convention registration and meal ticket pickup, located outside Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

## **8:30 am-11:00am: Beyond Boundaries Bazaar, Cowlitz Room.**

Step into the vibrant world of our exhibit hall, where a tapestry of venders unfolds, each offering unique insights and solutions aimed to help you live the life you want. Engage deeply in the intersection of innovation and independence tailored for our community. As we pave the way for the future, both through tactile exploration and technological advancements, anticipate a journey filled with discovery and empowerment. Do you need technology advice, visit our technology guru, Mario Eiland, in our exhibit hall until 11:00am (schedule an afternoon appointment with Mario for a one-one 15-minute technology session).

## **8:30am-11:00am: Career Quest: Mastering Tomorrow’s Opportunities- Kris Colcock Facilitator, Chinook Room.**

Explore the pathway to professional excellence at our jobseeker’s seminar. Surround yourself with wisdom shared by dynamic guest speakers, uncover cutting-edge job search strategies and craft a standout resume tailored for tomorrow’s opportunities. Join us on this captivating journey to navigate your future career with confidence and foresight.

## **8:30am-10:00am: Golden Futures: Navigating Independence Ahead- Kaye Kipp and Bennett Prows Facilitators, Chief Comcomly Room.**

Join our Senior Seminar. Embrace independence as we explore future pathways for the golden years. Engage in discussions, gain insights, and chart your course forward, highlighting the journey towards individual empowerment in the years to come.

## **10:00am-11:00am: Navigating Newsline- Chris Higley and Bennett Prows, Chief Comcomly Room.**

Discover the world of accessible information with NFB’s Newsline. We will be exploring how to stay informed by accessing the news around us. Leap into a future where accessibility meets knowledge, opening doors to a more inclusive, informed tomorrow.

## **11:00am-12:30pm: General Session/Boxed Lunch, Chinook/Klickitat Room.**

* Opening Ceremonies.
* Report on our state Activities- **Marci Carpenter, President, NFBW**.

## **12:30 pm-1:30pm: Convention registration and meal ticket pickup, located outside Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

## **12:30 pm-5:00pm: Beyond Boundaries Bazaar, Cowlitz Room.**

Step into the vibrant world of our exhibit hall, where a tapestry of venders unfolds, each offering unique insights and solutions aimed to help you live the life you want. Engage deeply in the intersection of innovation and independence tailored for our community. As we pave the way for the future, both through tactile exploration and technological advancements, anticipate a journey filled with discovery and empowerment. Have a one-on-one 15-minute technology session with Mario Eiland, our technology guru.

## **12:30pm-2:30pm: Literacy Leadership: Training for BELL Program Volunteers- Kris Colcock facilitator, Chinook Room.**

Join us for the BELL program training for volunteers. Delve into the foundations of braille, gain insights to effective support strategies and equip yourself with valuable classroom management skills. This training is key to becoming a guiding force in shaping the future of braille literacy. Explore the essential tools needed to empower students and build a foundation for a brighter tomorrow. Whether you are already signed up to volunteer, or you want to learn more, this session is for you.

## **12:30pm-4:00pm: Accessible Adventures Hub- WTBBL Facilitator, Klickitat Room.**

Dive into the Accessible Game Lab hosted by the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (WTTBL). This interactive space invites you to experience gaming with a future forward twist. Discover the world of accessible games, forge connections with fellow attendees and embark on an exhilarating adventure. Join us for a dynamic exploration of entertainment connections and the limitless possibilities that lie ahead.

## **1:30pm-5:00pm: Notetaker Showdown! Chameleon Vs. Mantis- Hosted by Center for Assistive Technology and Training (CATT) NW, Chief Comcomly Room. Washington State Teacher Clock Hours and ACVREP Hours available.**

APH offers two braille notetakers: the Chameleon and the Mantis. Which notetaker might be right for a student? This 3.5-hour workshop will provide an introduction to both notetakers, including information on how to get started and how to assess what device could be the best fit.

## **2:30pm-4:00pm: Tapping into Your Creativity with Accessible Legos- Natalie Charbonneau, Chinook Room.**

Prepare to engage your imagination. Join us as we jump into the tactile universe of accessible braille Legos. Rediscover the joy of play while crafting something extraordinary. Unlock your creativity and explore endless possibilities that await you, blending nostalgic fun with futuristic innovation.

## **4:00pm-5:00pm: Escape Room- Hosted by WTBBL (preregistration required), Klickitat Room.**

Join us for a specially designed escape room hosted by WTBBL, forge connections with fellow participants and embark on an exhilarating adventure. Do you have the skills to escape and join us for the rest of the convention? We hope so!

## **4:00pm-5:00pm: AI Empowerment: Navigating the Future- Mario Eiland, Chinook Room.**

Discover the transformative power of AI. Learn how AI enhances lives with a focus on real-world applications for the blind and a broader spectrum of innovations. Join us as we unveil the possibilities, tapping into the future where technology enriches and empowers every aspect of our lives.

## **6:00 pm-9:30 pm: Future Goals: A Goal Ball Extravaganza, Washington State School for the Blind.**

Experience the thrill of Goal Ball. This is an exciting event, offering the chance to play or watch this dynamic sport designed for the blind that is enjoyed by all. This event includes optional low-cost transportation and dining options. Amerce in the joy of inclusive recreation, creating unforgettable moments for a vibrant and active future.

# **Saturday, March 2nd, 2024:**

## **7:00 am-8:30am: Buffet Breakfast, Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

## **8:00 am-9:00am: Convention registration and meal ticket pickup, located outside Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

**All morning Sessions are located in Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

## **9:00am: My Journeys Abroad- Amandeep Kaur.**

Learn about the experience through the empowering narrative of a blind student’s independent study abroad. Witness the resilience, adaptability and forward-thinking spirit that propelled them beyond borders, showcasing the endless possibilities when you step into your limitless future.

## **9:15 am: NFB National report- Shawn Callaway.**

## **9:50am: Let’s Ring the BELLS: My Experience at BELL 2023- Kris Colcock Facilitator.**

Students share transformative experiences from last summer’s BELL program. Plunge into a vision of enhanced braille literacy, where each story illuminates the boundless potential of tomorrow’s leaders.

## **10:15am: Members at-large Chapter Report- Nikki Palm, President.**

## **10:20am: Gold Sponsor Spotlight: Department of Services for the Blind.**

## **10:25am: Greater Seattle Chapter Report- TBD.**

## **10:30am: Together We Stand- Nikki Palm Facilitator.**

Join our interactive session, where we forge connections through shared experiences, discovering strength in unity. Together we navigate the future, creating an unbreakable mosaic of solidarity and empowerment.

## **11:05am: Clark County Chapter Report- Corey Grandstaff, President.**

## **11:10am: Why I am a federationist/My First time at National Convention- Colin Wong Facilitator.**

Experience firsthand testimonials from first-time convention attendees as they share compelling stories of why they joined the Federation. Gain insight into their transformative journey and the impactful impressions from their initial convention experience.

## **11:30am: Be My AI- Mario Eiland.**

Learn about Be My AI, the app transforming your world. Snap a photo, get detailed descriptions, and instantly enrich your perspective.

## **11:40am: Platinum Sponsor Spotlight: Center for assistive Technology and Training (CATT) NW.**

## **11:50am: Resolutions.**

## **12:00pm-1:30pm: DSB Youth and Mentors Lunch, facilitated by DSB, Cowlitz Room.**

## **12:00pm-1:30pm: DSB Parent Lunch, facilitated by DSB, Klickitat Room.**

## **12:00pm-1:30pm: Mix and Mingle Boxed Lunch, Chinook room.**

## **1:00 pm-1:45pm: Convention registration and meal ticket pickup, located outside Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

## **1:45pm-3:10pm: Parent Power: Blind Parents and Parents of Blind Children, Klickitat Room.**

Learn about the power of connection between parents and the NFB of Washington. We will discuss navigating the IEP process and learn about the upcoming BELL program.

## **1:45pm-3:10pm: Washington Association of Blind Students Seminar, Cowlitz Room.**

Join the future leaders of tomorrow for their division meeting, elections, and other fun activities.

## **1:45pm-3:10pm: The Philosophers Corner- Colin Wong Facilitator, 2nd floor Mezzanine.**

## **3:10 pm: Break**

## **3:15pm: Partnership panel: Washington Talking Book and Braille Library- Danielle Miller; Department of Services for the Blind- Michael Mackillop; and Washington State School for the Blind- Scott McCallum.**

Gain insights and information with our agency panel, where we will discover their strategic visions, outlining impactful changes for our collective future.

## **3:45pm: National student report NABS- TBD.**

Stay informed about the latest developments in blind student advocacy with our national student report. We will hear from a NABS representative who will give us a comprehensive update, offering valuable information regarding the ongoing efforts of our student community.

## **3:50pm: Break.**

## **4:00 pm-4:50pm: Take a Walk of Independence- Doug Trimble Facilitator, Meet outside Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

Explore the world around you with our independence walk outside of convention. Invigorate your senses through the outdoors and structured discovery.

## **4:00pm-4:50pm: Introducing TADA: a Tangible art and design adventure Map, - Center for assistive Technology and Training (CATT) NW, Chinook Room. Washington State Teacher Clock Hours and ACVREP Hours available.**

TADA! offers 10 free online activities for anyone to use with a student of any age/ability who would like to learn nonvisual drawing skills, spatial concepts related to coding, and how to create computer graphics. Come see what’s included as introductory, intermediate, and advanced “points of interest” on a modern-day adventure map!

## **4:00pm-4:50pm: Blind Bliss: A Yoga Experience- Alice Klein, Chief Comcomly Room.**

Enhance your inner-harmony and mindfulness through this yoga session.

## **4:00pm-4:50pm: Tapping into future benefits- Kris Colcock, Klickitat Room.**

Do you receive Title II benefits such as Social Security Disability Insurance, Childhood Disability Benefits / Disabled Adult Childhood Benefits or Disabled Widow(ers) Benefits? Are you approaching your full retirement age? Do you just wonder what will happen to your Title II benefits in the future? Let’s untangle the misconceptions and clear the clutter around social security benefits as we mature.

## **6:15 pm: Mix and Mingle Appetizer Social- Hosted by Center for Assistive Technology and Training (CATT) NW, Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

Come celebrate the one-year anniversary of CATT NW.

## **7:00 pm: Banquet, Lewis and Clark Ballroom.**

* Master of Ceremonies- Nikki Palm and Corey Grandstaff.
* Music Performance- Jason Consolacion.
* Auction- Bennett Prows.
* Banquet Address- Shawn Callaway.
* Presentation of Scholarships- Nikki Palm and Benett Prows.

## **9:00pm-10:30pm: Karaoke Night- hosted by Kristin Miller-Geary.**

Get ready to unleash your inner rock star at our karaoke night! Belt out your favorite tunes and let the good times roll as we celebrate the joy of music and comradery.

# **Sunday, March 3rd, 2024**

All Morning sessions in Lewis and Clark Ballroom.

## **9:00 am: Announcements.**

## **9:05 am: Washington Association of Blind Students Report- TBD.**

## **9:10 am: Senior Group Report- Kaye Kipp and Bennett Prows.**

## **9:15 am: Elections.**

Engage in the democratic spirit as we journey through this year’s election. Exercise your voice and play a vital role in shaping the future leadership of the National Federation of the Blind of Washington.

## **9:50am: Annual Treasurers Report- Corey Grandstaff, Treasurer.**

## **10:00am: Mock Congress session- Marci Carpenter and Kris Colcock facilitators.**

Step into the heart of legislative advocacy with our mock congress session. Experience the intricate process of shaping legislation that impacts the blind community, gaining a better understanding into the vital role our organization plays in the legislative landscape.

## **10:45 am: Closing Remarks from National Rep- Shawn Callaway.**

## **11:00 am: Adjourn.**