**National Federation of the Blind**

**of Massachusetts, Inc.**

**SIXTY-SECOND**

**ANNUAL**

**STATE CONVENTION**

**February 27-March 1, 2015**

**Embassy Suites Hotel**

**207 Porter St.**

**Boston, MA 02128**

**Telephone: 617-567-5000**

**Reservation Deadline January 28th, 2015.**

**Student Reservations will be handled by Amy Ruell.**

[**http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/B/BOSAPES-NFB-20150220/index.jhtml**](http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/B/BOSAPES-NFB-20150220/index.jhtml)

**National Federation of the Blind of Massachusetts, Inc.**

**Email:** **aruell@nfbma.org**

**Twitter: @NFBMA**

**Telephone: 617-752-1116**

**National Federation of the Blind**

**200 East Wells Street**

**Baltimore, MD 21230**

[**http://nfb.org**](http://nfb.org)

**Telephone: 410-659-9314**

**Twitter: @NFB\_Voice**

**NFB of Massachusetts Constitutional Officers**

**President: Amy Ruell, Hingham, MA**

**Vice President: James Daley, Brockton, MA**

**Secretary: Mika Pyyhkala, Boston, MA**

**Treasurer: John Smith, Quincy, MA**

**At Large Board Members**

**William Cuttle, Swampscott, MA**

**Jeanette Kutash, Quincy, MA**

**Basil Maurice, Springfield, MA**

**Precious Perez, Chelsea, MA**

**David Ticchi, Cambridge, MA**

**Lindsay Yazzolino, Cambridge, MA**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Second Annual Auction:**

**Auction to benefit scholarship fund. Numerous items including electronics, gift certificates, travel packages. Will be held Saturday, February 28 during the banquet.**

**Updates During Convention:**

**We will update** [**http://twitter.com/nfbma**](http://twitter.com/nfbma) **throughout the weekend with announcements and logistical details. Please follow @NFBMA to receive the most current information before, during, and after convention! Twitter is your most immediate source for updates.**

**Registration:**

**All registration will be held near the conference rooms. The convention registration package, including lunch and banquet tickets is $70.00. Register by February 7th to take advantage of the Early-bird package for $60.00. Registration with lunch is $35.00. Registration for a day pass on Saturday is $20.00.**

**To register online, go to** [**http://nfbma2015.eventbrite.com**](http://nfbma2015.eventbrite.com)

**Registration will be open Friday from 3:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. On Saturday registration will be open from 8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Please ask for an NFB of Massachusetts representative if you arrive after these posted times. Everyone must register in order to be eligible for our convention room rates, to ensure proper enrollment for your membership benefits (newsletters, etc.) and to take part in voting for affiliate elections. Also, registration will ensure that your name will be in the running for our door prizes awarded at the convention. You must be IN THE ROOM when your name is called to be eligible for door prizes.**

**Convention Sessions:**

**The Friday night exhibit hall will be held in the Day Square room. Community Service Project will be held in Maverick Square room. Student meet and greet will be held in the Mystic B room. Most of the Saturday convention program sessions and the banquet will be held in the Mystic B room.**

**Guide Dog Users:**

**Please inquire at the registration table for information on the location of outdoor parking areas.**

**TRE Legal, Timothy Elder, Consultations:**

**Timothy Elder from TRE Legal will be available to consult with convention attendees on any disability, civil rights or accessibility issue you would like to discuss. The room to meet with Mr. Elder will be announced in general session and sent out on the @NFBMA twitter feed. You can reach TRE Legal by email following convention at** **telder@trelegal.com**

**Embassy Suites Hotel Information:**

**The Embassy Suites Logan Airport consists of 10 floors. The first floor contains the front desk, Jetliner Bar and Grill, gift shop, meeting rooms, and an accessible ATM. Sleeping rooms are located on floors 2 through 10.**

**When entering the hotel the front desk, gift shop, and ATM are to your right. The elevators are to your left. A large part of the first level contains the Jetliner Bar and Grill which serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late night bar service.**

**Mystic Ballrooms are located on this level, as is a smaller hallway leading to the Central Square, Day Square, and Maverick Square meeting rooms.**

**Restrooms are located adjacent to the meeting room hallway.**

**Two elevators on one single side of a hallway serve sleeping room floors 2 through 10. When exiting on these floors, turn left to access sleeping rooms. Rooms 00-18 are to your right and rooms above 18 are to your left. Each side of the hallway has even and odd numbered rooms respectively.**

**When exiting the elevator on the first level, turn left to access the pool and fitness area and turn right to go to the front desk, restaurant, and meeting rooms.**

**Each room is a suite. The thermostat is located in the bedroom. It has 3 buttons from left to right which are power, fan, and display. There are also 3 arrow keys. From bottom to top, they are lower temperature, a small button that toggles the display between Fahrenheit and Celsius, and raise temperature.**

**Coffeemakers in the rooms have 3 buttons, brew1, stop, and brew2. Each brew button has an adjacent light. Regular coffee will generally be at the top highest position in a nearby box containing coffee and tea.**

**The Embassy Suites provides shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. Bottles will generally be in this order from left to right in each bathroom.**

**A telephone on the desk in the living room has 2 rows of 5 buttons each which connect guests to various hotel departments and services. Details on phone operation will be posted in the electronic agenda and via @NFBMA twitter feed. The telephone in the bedroom has fewer options and controls.**

**Each bedroom also contains a radio and MP3 player. Buttons in a circle running from left to right access different genres of radio stations, while the far right button accesses an input which can be connected to an iPhone or other media device for playback of content through the device speaker.**

**Ground Transportation:**

**The Embassy Suites offers complimentary shuttle service to and from Logan Airport, the Logan Express bus, and the Airport MBTA station.**

**Hotel Restaurant Schedule:**

**Complimentary Breakfast: 6:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**

**Lunch: 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**Dinner: 5:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.**

**ATM:**

**There is an accessible ATM across from the hotel front desk.**

**Gift Shop:**

**There is a gift shop operated by the hotel which is open 24 hours a day.**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, February 27, 2015**

**3:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. – Convention Registration**

**5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. – Exhibit Hall, Day Square Room. Exhibitors include ABISEE Inc., Baum USA, the Carroll Center, Freedom Scientific, Humanware, Mass. Match, National Braille Press, NFB Training Center, Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library, Perkins Products, and You Can Do Astronomy, LLC.**

**5:45 P.M. – Community Service Project First Session Fill bags of toiletries for homeless families to benefit Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore,**

**Maverick Square Room, limited to 12 participants.**

**If interested, indicate on registration or send an email to aruell@nfbma.org.**

**6:00 P.M. – Accessible Reading and Writing Apps:**

**Winston Chen, Developer of the Voice Dream Reader App, which just won the award for the best iOS app for 2014 from** [**www.applevis.com**](http://www.applevis.com) **will discuss this powerful reading app as well as his new current project, the recently released accessible text editor called Writer.**

**Central Square Room**

**7:00 P.M. – Community Service Project Second Session, Fill bags of toiletries for homeless families to benefit Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore**

**Maverick Square Room, limited to 12 participants.**

**If interested, indicate on registration or send an email to aruell@nfbma.org.**

**7:45 P.M. – Nominating Committee Meeting:**

**Dr. David Ticchi, Chairperson. Only appointed delegates should attend.**

**7:45 P.M. – Student Meet and Greet:**

**Mystic B Room.**

**8:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. – Talent Show:**

**Mystic B Room**

**SATURDAY, February 28, 2015**

**Talking Information Center TIC will be broadcasting the convention via the Massachusetts Radio Reading Service. The stream may also be accessed at** [**http://ticnetwork.com**](http://ticnetwork.com)

**We thank TIC for their ongoing work and innovation in this area!**

**SATURDAY MORNING SESSION:**

**7:30 A.M. – Scholarship Candidate and Committee Breakfast (by invitation only)**

**8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. – Registration.**

**9:00 A.M. – Opening Ceremonies:**

**Invocation: Dr. David Ticchi**

**9:05 A.M. – Announcements.**

**9:10 A.M. – Remarks from Talking Information Center:**

**Katie Crocker, Production Assistant, Talking Information Center.**

**9:25 A.M. – National Report:**

**Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind**

**9:55 A.M. – Nominating Committee Report:**

**Dr. David Ticchi.**

**10:05 A.M. – Perkins Library Update:**

**Kim Charlson, Director, Perkins Library**

**10:25 A.M. – Introducing David Power, CEO, Perkins School for the Blind**

**10:40 A.M. – Leadership Roundtable: Serving The Blind in The 21st Century**

**Paul Saner, Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind,**

**Barbara Salisbury, President, MAB Community Services, Brian Mac Donald, President, National Braille Press,**

**David Power, President, Perkins School,**

**Joe Abely, President, Carroll Center,**

**11:50 A.M. – Announcements**

**12:00 P.M. – Adjournment for lunch.**

**12:00 P.M. – Student Lunch and Business Meeting:**

**Mystic B Room**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

**1:30 P.M. – Announcements**

**1:35 P.M. – Public Right of Way Issues: APS, DW, ADA, MUTCD, PROWAG, Oh My!:**

**Meg Robertson, Director of Orientation and Mobility, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Commission for the Blind**

**2:15 P.M. – NFB Training Center**

**2:30 P.M. – Presidential Report:**

**Amy Ruell, President, National Federation of the Blind of Massachusetts.**

**3:00 P.M. – Afternoon Break**

**3:15 P.M. – Timothy Elder, TRE Legal Consultations**

**3:35 P.M. – Legislative Update**

**3:45 P.M. – Auction Preview**

**3:50 P.M. – Have the Relationships You Want! Connection, Communication, and Independence: How to develop and maintain positive relationships with others while maintaining your independence and keeping your cool!**

**Michelle Mitchell and Amy Ruell**

**Bibliography by Jeanette Kutash.**

**Wonder about dating, relationships with family, how to advocate for yourself without alienating others? We will give you some tips and tricks but want this to be an interactive discussion. Have questions but are afraid to ask them in public? Send questions to** **aruell@nfbma.org** **and we will address them anonymously.**

**4:35 P.M. – Breakout sessions:**

**Meet with Timothy Elder, TRE Legal consultations**

**Maverick Square Room**

**NFB Training Center**

**Mystic B Room**

**5:15 P.M. – Scholarship Committee Meeting:**

**Location to be announced.**

**SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET**

**5:30 P.M. – Reception, Free Hors D’oeuvres and Cash Bar.**

**7:00 P.M. – Sixty-Second Annual Banquet of the NFB of Massachusetts.**

**Mystic B Room.**

**Invocation: Kobena Bonney.**

**Master of Ceremonies: Amy Ruell, President, NFBMA.**

**7:05 P.M. - Special Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation**

**Banquet Address: Mark Riccobono, President, NFB**

**Scholarship Presentations: Scholarship Committee**

**Second Annual NFBMA Auction:**

**James Daly, NFBMA Vice-President**

**SUNDAY, March 1, 2015**

**Please check with Hotel Front Desk for local religious services.**

**SUNDAY MORNING SESSION**

**9:30 A.M. – Student Meeting:**

**Transition Planning from High School to College, College to Grad School and Graduation to the Workplace,**

**Mystic B Room.**

**10:00 A.M. – NFB Divisions:**

**Do you have a hobby, special interest or want to become involved with initiatives that you hear about at NFB events? Do you know the difference between committees, groups and divisions? Come see what Divisions and groups have to offer you. Presented by Jeanette Kutash.**

**Mystic B Room.**

**10:45 A.M. – Invocation by Jeanette Kutash**

**10:50 A.M. – Board Meeting and Elections:**

**Mystic B Room.**

**12:00 P.M. – Convention Adjournment.**

**AUCTION ITEMS**

* **2 Red Sox Tickets – Saturday June 13th, Section 129 Row AA, Seats 1 & 2. Value: $212.00**
* **Gift Certificate to Legal Seafood, may be used in restaurant or for mail order. Value: $100.00**
* **Gift Certificate to Pizzeria Uno. Value: $100.00**
* **2 Night Stay at Capital Holiday Inn. Value: $360.00**
* **Plantronic Bluetooth Headphones. Value: $120.00**
* **Gift Certificate to L.L. Bean. Value: $100.00**
* **Gift Certificate to iTunes. Value: $100.00**
* **Autographed 8 x 10 of #75, Vince Wilfork of the New England Patriots**
* **Gift Certificate to Temazcal Tequila Cantina. Value: $100.00**
* **Assorted Tupperware**
* **Three Month Birchbox subscription for either men or women. Birchbox is a monthly subscription box received in the mail with a personalized mix of beauty, lifestyle and the occasional snack products.**

**OUR THANKS**

**Thanks to our board, chapters and members for generously donating auction items and making our auction a success.**

**Thanks to all who appeared on the agenda, who served on committees and worked in registration.**

**Thanks to Linda, Kevin and Carol for their great job with the door prizes and thanks to all who contributed door prizes.**

**A very special thank you to Frank Pasquarello and Jason Fopiano, whose help this weekend has been invaluable.**

**We wish to thank Mark Riccobono for his contributions as National Representative. The national perspective you brought to us is so important to our achievement of equality, security and opportunity.**

**Thanks to the management and staff of the hotel for all the help and assistance in planning this weekend and making our stay enjoyable.**

**Last, but certainly not least, we wish to thank all of the individuals who have contributed to our convention program. It is vitally important that we continue to receive your support. Your interest helps us to progress and achieve first class citizenship for all blind people.**

**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 policies and programs of the Federation and to abide by its constitution.**