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**2017 Annual State Convention
November 3, 4, and 5, 2017
Courtyard by Marriott
63 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT**

 **President: Gary Allen
National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

[**www.nfbct.org**](http://www.nfbCT.org)

**Facebook: National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

**Convention Hashtag: #NFBCT17**

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

**The National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut 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.**

**Dog Relief Area: There is a grassy lawn outside the hotel’s main entrance on Grand Street. There are trash cans near the entrance.**

**Drawings for our 50/50 and Basket Raffles will take place at the banquet. Tickets will be on sale throughout the day on Saturday until the time of the drawings.**

**50/50 raffle tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5.**

**Basket Raffle tickets are $5 per envelope of 10 tickets.**

**Door Prizes: Door prizes will be awarded throughout the convention. To be eligible, you must be registered and in the room when your name is drawn.**

**The Connecticut Association of Guide Dog Users (CTAGDU) will be selling Ghirardelli chocolate PAW POPS for $3.00 each throughout the convention until supplies last. We usually sell out of PAW POPS ever year.**

**Get on the PAC Plan: The Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Plan has come to be an ever-more important part of financing our movement. According to the chairman of the NFB’s PAC committee, Scott LaBarre, the Federation has raised more than ten million dollars over the years through the PAC Plan. The PAC Plan allows members, affiliates, chapters, and others to make recurring monthly donations by direct withdraw of funds from a checking account or a charge to a credit card. Because of the costs associated with operating the program, the minimum donation is $5.00 a month and there is no restriction on how much you donate. Please see Marie Beaulier to sign up at the convention to begin a new PAC contribution or to make changes to your current contribution. Your donation will help the blind live the lives we want.**

**Friday November 3, 2017:**

**All events will be held in Salon 2 of the Clock Tower Ballroom**

**JOB SEMINAR**

**1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. Comments from Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind**

**1:20 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. An overview of Department of Labor Services, including services that partners provide (Heidi Sulewski from the Department of Labor and Jill Larmett from the Department of Rehabilitation Services).**

**2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Resume tips (Heidi Sulewski)**

**2:30 p.m. - 3:15p.m. - A panel discussion (Sue Burton, an employment consultant from the Department of Labor, Suzanne Westhaver from the State Department of Human Rights and Opportunities (who is successfully working), Chelsey Duranleau who teaches Braille and technology at BLIND, Inc, and Sarah Elizabeth Carabetta who has employed blind and low vision clients from the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind.**

**PRESIDENT’S MEETING**

**5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind will meet with the State President and Chapter Presidents.**

**5:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Nathanial Wales, Treasurer of the National Federation of the Blind will meet with the Chapter Treasurers.**

**DINNER & EVENING ACTIVITIES
6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m. Dinner will be in the same room as the Job Seminar. Attendees will order off of the menu at their own expense.**

**7:30p.m. – 10:00p.m. Pool party and Bingo.**

**10:00 p.m: We will show the movie “Do You Dream in Color?” in the Waterbury Meeting Room.**

**This will be a time for friends to get together and socialize, catch up, relax and have fun. Bingo will be held in the same room as the Job Seminar, not in the pool area.**

**Saturday Morning, November 4, 2017**

**Morning Session & Lunch will be held in Salons B & C.**

 **8:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast**

 **9:00 a.m. Call to order; NFB Pledge.**

 **9:05 a.m. Opening Ceremonies Invocation
 Welcome from the Waterbury Chapter (Josephina Martinez)
 Convention arrangements/announcements
 Nominating Committee Report**

 **9:10 a.m. Low Viz Guide (Joe Roberts)**

 **9:20 a.m. National Report: Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind**

**10:00 a.m. Josephina Martinez will talk about Blind Camp.**

**10:10 a.m. What's New at the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind? Brian Sigman, Director, Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind.**

**10:30 a.m. Aira: Explore Your World. Edward Shaham, Former President of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

**10:40 a.m. Gordon Reddick, Director, Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped**

**10:55 a.m. Chapter 126 Fitness break**

**11.00 a.m. Jim** **McCollum, Legislative Coordinator, National Federation of the Blind of CT**

**11:15 a.m. President's Report: Gary Allen, President, National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

**11:25 a.m. Esther Levegnale will talk about her experiences skiing and going on cruises**

**11:35 a.m. Trantolo and Trantolo presentation**

**11:45 a.m. Anne West and Marie Beaulier will speak about HAM radio**

**12:00 p.m. National Centers Panel: Chase Cummins, alumni, Louisiana Center for the Blind;** **Chelsey Duranleau, BLIND, Inc; Brian Martin, alumni, Colorado Center for the Blind.**

**12:30 p.m. Adjourn and Lunch.**

**Saturday Afternoon Events:**

**Division meetings: Salon A
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m: The Connecticut Association of Guide Dog Users will hold their annual meeting.
 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m: The Connecticut Association of Blind Students will hold their annual meetings**

**Vendor Fair: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Clock Tower Ballroom
 This is a chance for attendees to meet some of the speakers as well as vendors who did not get a chance to speak in the morning. You will be able to purchase their items or get information about their services. A vendor list is on the back page**

**Car Show: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Roof-top level of the hotel parking garage.
 Many people who have lost their sight still have a passion for cars. So, on the top parking lot area of the parking garage, there will be several vehicles of various ages where our members as well as members of the public will be allowed to touch, feel, in some cases even sit in the cars and reminisce about the particular cars with the owners.**

**Seminars: Waterbury Meeting Room
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mobility Seminar
 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Storm Chasing
 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Chapter Presidents will create unique Mystery box to be used at outreach tables. A mystery box is a device that can be used to demonstrate the importance of touch.**

**Saturday Evening, November 4, 2017:**

**Salon C**

**5:00 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar in The Bistro
6:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner
 Maryanne Melley will be our Master of Ceremonies.
 Invocation
 Introduction of head table.
 Woodward Award Presentation
 Keynote Address-Mark Riccobono President, National Federation of the Blind.
 June Rose Killian Memoriam: Esther Levegnale
 Ellen Bedford Memoriam: Nathanael Wales
 Brenda Somerset Memoriam: Anne Walsh and Marie Beaulier
 Presentation of 2017 NFB of Connecticut Scholarships
 Basket Raffle Drawing
 50/50 Raffle Drawing**

**Cash Bar will follow the Banquet in The Bistro.**

**National Federation of the Blind of CT
Business Meeting Agenda
Saturday November 5, 2017
Salon C**

 **8:15 a.m: Full Breakfast**

**Chapter building with Mark Riccobono**

**Roll Call**

**Elections: we will have elections for two board members and the secretary position**

**Secretary’s Report**

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Reports:**

 **SRC-**

 **BCAC-**

 **BESB-**

**Committee Reports:**

 **Birdies for Charity: Debbie and George Reed**

 **PAC Plan: Marie Beaulier**

 **Vehicle Donation Program: Kimberly Tindell**

 **NFB-Newsline: Gary Allen**

 **Federationist: Maryanne Melley**

 **Coccomo Grants: Esther or Mary Silverberg**

**2018 National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut Convention.**

 **Convention committee**

**Chapter News: At-Large, Central CT, East of the River, Hartford, Middletown, Shoreline, Southern CT, Stamford, Waterbury.**

**Washington Seminar-**

**Adjournment at noon**

**Vendor List**

**Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB)

Guiding Eyes: Kathy Rooney

The Crafters Division: Leonard Schlenk

Non-24: David Campbell

Diabetic Division/Pack Plan: Marie Beaulier

Newsline: Jim McCollum and Gary Allen

Perkins School for the Blind: Kate Katulak

Jehovah’s Witnesses: Sue Shepard

Celphies Cell Phone Products: Ross Biernick

State Department Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO): Suzanne Weshaver

Chapter 126: Taylor Deegan

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped: Gordon Reddick

Candles for a Cause: John Mendonca

Low Viz Guide: Dan Roberts

Blind Inc. /Louisiana Center for the Blind: Chelsey Duranleau

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