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**2018 Annual State Convention
November 2, 3 and 4, 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: #NFBCT18**

**National Representative: Patti Chang, Outreach Director, 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.**

**There will be an auction on some baskets and other items.**

**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.**

 **Friday November 2, 2018:
All events will be held in the Grand Ballroom**

**1:00 p.m. Advocacy Seminar**

**We will have a panel discussion moderated by Patti Chang, Outreach director National Federation of the Blind. Each person will talk about their agency and what they do.**

**Guests include:
Eileen Healy, Executive Director
Independence Northwest**

**Gretchen Knauff, Executive Director
Disability Rights Connecticut**

**Don Overton, Advocate for
Blind and Disabled Veterans**

**Phillip Magalnick, Peer Advocate**

**PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS MEETINGS**

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

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

**DINNER & EVENING ACTIVITIES
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be in the same room as the Advocacy Seminar.**

**7:30p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Game Night Family Feud and Cards Against Humanity.**

**Students will also be available to answer questions that we have on assistive technology. i.e. JAWS, ZoomText, and iPhone & Android apps that visually impaired people use.**

**10:00 p.m: This will be a time for friends to get together and socialize, catch up, relax and have fun.**

**Saturday Morning, November 3, 2018**

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

**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: Josefina Martinez
 Convention arrangements/announcements
 Nominating Committee Report**

**9:10 a.m: National Report: Patti Chang, Outreach Director of the National Federation of the Blind**

**9:40 a.m: Brian Sigman, Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB): The Future of the Agency That Serves the Blind Here in CT and Around the US.**

**10:00 a.m: President's Report: Gary Allen, President, National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

**10:10 a.m: Jim McCollum, Legislative Coordinator, National Federation of the Blind of CT**

**10:20 a.m: Tiffany Healey, Waterbury Police Department: Public Safety**

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

**10:50 a.m: Vendor Roundup**

**11:10 a.m: Dina Rosenbaum, Director, Carroll Center**

**11:30 a.m: Aira. Aira will be available in the hotel from Thursday through Monday, free of charge.**

**11:40 a.m: Chris Kelly, CRIS Radio: New projects around the state, including kids' programming and CRIS for in-patients in hospitals around CT.**

**11:55 a.m: Chelsey Duranleau, BLIND, Inc**

**12:05 p.m: Janae Burgmeier, National Association of Blind Students**

**12:15 p.m: Announcements for Lunch**

**Saturday Afternoon Events:**

**Division meetings: Salon A
1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m: CTAGDU
2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m: Student Division.**

**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**

**Seminars: Waterbury Meeting Room**

 **1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. Live the Life You Want! Build strength and confidence through fitness!
Trainers from Chapter 126 will show us how!
Christy Bosley, exercise physiologist
Larissa Yost, exercise physiologist
They will talk briefly about what they do and then lead us in a workout, complete with props

 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Athlete's Forum
How have sports helped you to live the life you want? Moderator-Mary Silverberg, Ballroom Dancing and Kayaking,
Guests:
Erin Spaulding, President, Achilles International.
Steven Famiglietti, Team Oak Hill
Melissa Carney, Accomplished Equestrian
Brianna Rigsbee, Track & Field, Chearleader****Christy Bosley, exercise physiologist
Larissa Yost, exercise physiologist**

**Each participant will have five minutes to tell their story, then Q & A, and discussion.

 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Dog Guides: What is the process. What you need to know.
Guests:
Kathy Rooney, Guiding Eyes, CT
Ellen Ringle, Seeing Eyes, NJ**

**Saturday Evening, November 3, 2017:**

**5:00 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar in The Bistro**

**Salon B & C
6:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner
 Invocation: Father Frederick Aniello, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Waterbury
 Introduction of head table
 Woodward Award Presentation
 Keynote Address: Patti Chang, Outreach Director, National Federation of the Blind
 Presentation of 2018 NFB of Connecticut Scholarships
 Basket Raffle Drawing
 50/50 Raffle Drawing
 Auction**

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

**National Federation of the Blind of CT
Business Meeting Agenda
Saturday November 4, 2018
Salon C**

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

**Roll Call**

**Elections: we will have elections for the President,
1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Board Positions.**

**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:**

 **NFB-Newsline: Gary Allen**

 **Federationist: Maryanne Melley**

**2019 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**

**BLIND, Inc, Chelsey Duranleau:**

**Brenda Elliott: Homemade knitted items**

**Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB): Display of services offered**

**Carroll Center, Dina Rosenbaum: Training programs including computer instruction & employment experiences.**

**Dominicanos – USA, Karime Pimentel: Arts & crafts items; Dominicano y flan**

**Guiding Eyes, Kathy Rooney**

**Humanware, Joel Zimba: BrailleNote Touch, Brailliant 14, VR Trek, Stream Explore 5 & 8**

**Jehovah’s Witnesses, Jim Fennessy: free info on Bible**

**Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Gordon Reddick**

**Logan Tech, Gary Tilbe: 6-dot Braille Label Maker and Braille Coach**

**NEAT Center, Steve Famiglietti: Display of technology for daily use.**

**NFB of CT: buy your NFB of CT t-shirt for just $10!**

**NFB-Newsline: Gary Allen**

**Project Ray, Patrick Olsen: Smartphones & services for low-vision & blind consumers**

**St. Mary’s Physical & Occupational Therapy and Lions Low Vision Center, Raechaell Corbett: Items from the Lions Low Vision Center**

**Seeing Eye: Ellen Ringold**

**Silver Lining Technologies, Stephen DelTatto: Low vision & blindness technologies**

**That’s My Handbag, Lavonne Womack: Handbags, purses, fannypacks, bookbags**

**VisionCam, Marilyn Davidson: OrCam, a small camera that attaches to a pair of glasses**