**Text

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**2021 50th Annual State Convention  
October 29th, 30th and 31st, 2021**

**Sheraton Hartford South**

**100 Capital Boulevard**

**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

**We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in a hybrid format so all members can participate in a manner that feels comfortable to them. Elections will be held by texting in your vote to 860-385-6788.**

**National Representative: John Paré, Executive Director, Advocacy and Policy, National Federation of the Blind**

**President: Maryanne Melley  
National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

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

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

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

**50/50 raffle tickets will be sold throughout the day and the winner will be announced at the end of the Banquet.**

**Guide Dog relief area: As you leave the conference room turn right. At the end of the hall take another right and then a quick left. Continue straight to the exit doors. Walk down the sidewalk until you come to a set of three stairs. At the bottom of the stairs there is grass on both sides for relieving. PLEASE pick up after your dog and deposit the waste in the trash receptacle back at the doors.**

**We would like to thank our generous sponsors:**

**Platinum Sponsor:**

****[**www.oakhillct.org**](http://www.oakhillct.org)

[cid:image006.png@01D6D853.9DFA7390](https://non-24.com/)

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

**Gold Sponsor: Youthful Images**

**Silver Sponsor: Retina Consultants, PC**

**Friday, October 29th, 2021**

**5:30p.m.- 7:30p.m. Dinner, Salon 2**

**Slider Station and Mashed Potato Stand**

**6:30p.m.-10:00p.m. NFB of CT Variety Show!**

**Join the fun of music, joke telling, poetry reading, sing a long, and so much more with your fellow federation family members!**

**Saturday, October 30th, 2021**

**7:00a.m.- 9:00a.m. Breakfast, Nutmeg Ballroom**

**9:00a.m. - Call to order**

**Invocation; Father Bob Kwiatkowski, Church of Saint Peter Claver**

**9:05a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance, NFB Pledge**

**9:10a.m. – Honoring our Veterans, Vernon F. Humphrey, Master Sergeant, US Army, retired and Leonard Schlenk, Staff Sergeant E6, US Army.**

**9:15a.m. – Announcements: Principals of Engagement, change to our State Constitution. Thank you to our donation mailers. Charlie Rival, Joe Kolczynski, Mary Silverberg, Cheri Duquette, Maryanne Melley, Ebony Simmons, Karine Pimental, Richard Ireland, George Reed, and Pam Taylor. Without all of you we would not be in the strong financial situation we are. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to this years’ convention committee, Beth Rival, Deb Reed, Jim Cronin, Brian Martin, Becky Ireland, and Kristen Dockendorf. Through all their challenging work and planning we are experiencing our first successful hybrid convention.**

**12:30p.m.-5:00p.m. Vendors, Salon1**

**2:00p.m.- 3:00p.m. Connecticut Association of Guide Dog Users, Rocky Hill Room**

**3:00p.m.- 5:00p.m. Connecticut Association of Blind Students, Rocky Hill Room**

**Recommended change to State Constitution**

**Article IX: Affiliation**

**Remove this portion: (NOTE: An amendment to the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind was passed in July 1971, restricting the use of the name only to organizations so affiliated. However, we did not pass this amendment with the Constitution of the Connecticut Federation, and your President feels it should not be part of this State Constitution. This note is for reminder to us that such a restriction exists in the National Constitution.)**

**Add this: The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and any affiliate, or local chapter or division of an affiliate, if it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind, (for whatever reason) shall forthwith forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.**

**Article XI: Dues**

**Remove this portion: A life-time membership may be secured for a fee of $100.00. A person must be a paid member at least fifteen (15) days in advance of a state convention to be able to vote at said convention.**

**National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut Proposed 2021 State Convention Principles of Engagement**

**These principles of engagement were adopted by the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut Board of Directors on July 31st, 2021, for recommendation to the State Convention. Nothing in these rules of engagement is intended to change the Federation’s constitution. The Board of Directors and members in good standing and in attendance may participate in all convention discussions as a matter of right. Any member of the NFB of CT may make or second motions [and] propose nominations.” These procedures simply implement the method for following the constitution in a hybrid convention.**

**The principles and procedures below are intended to provide clarity and advance notice on how the convention will be managed in 2021. They are consistent with practices used in previous hybrid conventions. This document will be read at the NFB of CT Opening Ceremonies on October 30th and then a second time on October 31st at the Business Meeting. Those eligible to vote on this proposal will be any enrolled voter present and voting at Business Meeting on October 31st as described below.**

**“A subcommittee of the board of directors comprising those who are not standing for election this year shall deal with questions and issues of credentials for voting. The subcommittee will include Nathanael Wales, Mary Silverberg, and Veronica Alston. Nathanael Wales shall chair the subcommittee.”**

**Voting**

1. **To be eligible to vote at the 2021 Convention, individuals must be registered to vote no later than October 22, 2021.**
2. **Be active members in good standing of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut either through the affiliate, State division, State Chapter or as a Member at-Large at the state level having paid dues for 2021.**
3. **Provide a phone number to be used for voting purposes.**
4. **The subcommittee or Lucia Lee will validate the list of eligible voters based upon the above criteria by October 22, 2021. The vetting process will include verification that the individual was a member in good standing prior to October 22, 2021, according to the state membership database. Any individuals who register to vote through the state convention registration but are not listed as active members will be contacted via email and offered an opportunity to provide proof of membership. If no email is given at the time of registration, the phone number provided for voting purposes will be used to communicate. The final list of eligible voters for the 2021 convention will be considered final on October 22, 2021. No exceptions will be made for members who fail to register to vote at the convention by October 22, 2021.**
5. **All individuals who are members in good standing in 2021, registered for the convention, and provided a valid phone number for voting purposes will constitute the pool of convention voters. “This includes members who will be voting virtually and in person.”**
6. **All voting will be done via phone.**
7. **Any matter must receive 51 percent support of the votes cast by the convention voters present and voting in order to be affirmed.**
8. **Present and voting will mean the subset of convention voters who actually cast a vote on a given question. Thus, voters who are indifferent to a matter cannot block its consideration by the convention by choosing not to cast a vote.**
9. **All votes will be allocated two minutes for vote time.**

**10.After two minutes, if the outcome to the question under consideration is unclear, the chair will poll the Board of Directors not up for reelection by voice vote for a definitive outcome.**

**11.If voting indicates 75 percent support for or against a question prior to the two-minute period elapsing, the chair may elect to move to the next order of business.**

**12.An opportunity to practice voting will be offered in the convention on a question that has no impact on the policy of the organization**

**9:20a.m. - Jim Cronin, Nominating Committee Report**

**9:25a.m. – John Paré, Executive Director, Advocacy and Policy, National Federation of the Blind**

**9:55a.m. – Justin Salisbury, National Association of Blind Students (NABS) Representative-Update from the National Student Division**

**10:15a.m. - Hear from our Scholarship Finalists:**

**Lizzy Capelli**

**Isabel Rosario**

**Yew Siang Cheong**

**Sasha Somuah**

**Jack Mc Donald**

**10:30a.m. - Maryanne Melley; Presidents Report**

**10:45a.m. - Dave Furland, Sighted Guide Techniques**

**10:55a.m. - Hans Jorgen, Be My Eyes**

**11:05a.m. - Nick Whitney, Fidelco guide dogs, a User, and a Spokesman.**

**11:15a.m. – Erin Spaulding, Hope and Possibility with Achilles Connecticut**

**11:30a.m. – Vicki Preddy, Vanda Pharmaceuticals**

**11:45p.m.- Shon & Jennifer Spears, Colorado Center for the Blind**

**12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Break for lunch**

**1:00p.m.- Amy Porter, Department of Rehabilitation Services**

**1:15p.m. - Vernon Humphry, The Effect of Vision Loss and Partners**

**1:30p.m. - Dan Parker, My Experiences as a Blind Racecar Driver**

**1:45p.m. - Brian Martin and Lizzy Cappelli, Adventures with LEAP (Learn, Earn and Prosper)**

**2:00p.m.- Lou Anne Blake and Jeff Kaloc, Our Right to an Independent Vote**

**2:15p.m.- Justin Salisbury, Welcoming Home Our Native Son**

**2:30p.m. - Patrick Olsen, Accessible Pharmacy Services**

**2:45p.m.- Rick Fox, Former Affiliate President, The History of the NFB of CT**

**3:00p.m. – Michael Ross, Dinosaur State park**

**3:15p.m. – Deborah Schander, State Librarian, Updates on the LBPH (Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped)**

**3:30p.m. – Marty Watts, Aira Presentation**

**3:45p.m. – Jon Sperling and AJ, A Puppy Raisers Job. Guide Dog Foundation**

**One Minute Message**

**The National Federation of the Blind 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**

**4:00p.m.- 6:00p.m. Break**

**6:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner, Nutmeg Ballroom**

**Invocation: Rabbi Michael Pincus, Congregation Beth Israel**

**Master of Ceremonies, Brian Martin**

**Keynote Address: John Paré, Executive Director, Advocacy and Policy National Federation of the Blind**

**Presentation of 2021 Scholarships:**

**Mary Silverberg and Deb Reed:**

**Scholarship Finalists:**

**Lizzy Capelli**

**Isabel Rosario**

**Yew Siang Cheong**

**Sasha Somuah**

**Jack Mac Donald**

**Scholarships:**

**Howard E. May Memorial Scholarship**

**Woodward Memorial Scholarship**

**C. Rodney Demarest Memorial Scholarship**

**Doris Higley Memorial Scholarship**

**Zukowski Family Foundation Scholarship**

**Conclusion of banquet.**

**Sunday, October 31, 2021**

**7:00a.m.-9:00a.m. Breakfast, Nutmeg Ballroom**

**9:00a.m. Call to order; Business Meeting**

**Roll Call**

**NFB Pledge**

***Reading of 2021 Principals of Engagement and Recommended changes to Constitution***

***Vote on said Principals and Constitution changes***

***Reports:***

***Reading of 2020 Business Meeting Minutes, Vote on Acceptance: Charlie Rival***

***Treasurers Report: Nathanael Wales, vote on report.***

***ABPVI (Advisory Board Persons with Visual Impairments): Mary Silverberg***

***SRC (State Rehabilitation Council): Deb Reed***

***BCAC (Bureau Consumer Advocacy Committee): Barbara Blejewski***

***PAC (Pre Authorized Contribution) Plan: Len Schlenk***

***Vehicle Donation: Maryanne Melley***

***Federationist: Brianna Rigsbee***

**New Business:**

**BELL Academy; Thank you Kristen Dockendorf and mentor Beth Rival**

**LBPH (Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) Answers to your Questions; Deb Reed**

***Washington Seminar Appointments; Mary Silverberg and Joe Kolczynski***

***Vote on Subsidy amount if we attend in person.***

**2022 Convention will be at this location**

***January Board Meeting January 15th Southern Connecticut Chapter, Milford, Hosts***

***Chapter News***

**Elections, John Paré, Moderator**

**Any member nominated from the floor should have already agreed to serve prior to this convention.**

**Nominees from the committee and from the floor will have one minute to state why they feel the affiliate should vote for them. The one minute time will be strictly enforced.**

**Elections: Results will be given to our national Representative John Paré at 860-385-6788.**

**Everyone will have 2 minutes to cast their vote.**

**Positions: Board Member**

**Board Member**

**Secretary-One Year Term**

**Zoom Links for Saturday and Sunday. Please be polite and mute yourselves when our guests are speaking.**

**NFB Connecticut is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: 50th State Convention General Session**

**Time: Oct 30, 2021, 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[**https://zoom.us/j/95845616778?pwd=UXlob1ZOam5ZNUt5dUkvQmZPWmpxdz09**](https://zoom.us/j/95845616778?pwd=UXlob1ZOam5ZNUt5dUkvQmZPWmpxdz09)

**Meeting ID: 958 4561 6778**

**Passcode: 683516**

**One tap mobile**

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**Meeting ID: 958 4561 6778**

**Passcode: 683516**

**Find your local number:** [**https://zoom.us/u/abi4fEIU3A**](https://zoom.us/u/abi4fEIU3A)

**Join by Skype for Business**

[**https://zoom.us/skype/95845616778**](https://zoom.us/skype/95845616778)

NFB Zoom host is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Connecticut Association of Guide Dog Users

Time: Oct 30, 2021, 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95452508460>

Meeting ID: 954 5250 8460

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Meeting ID: 954 5250 8460

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abDjj6QOQ>

Join by Skype for Business

<https://zoom.us/skype/95452508460>

NFB Zoom host is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Connecticut Association of Blind Students

Time: Oct 30, 2021, 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91255139598>

Meeting ID: 912 5513 9598

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Meeting ID: 912 5513 9598

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adVdzlRXSW>

Join by Skype for Business

<https://zoom.us/skype/91255139598>

NFB Connecticut is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NFB of CT Business Meeting

Time: Oct 31, 2021, 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98001999387?pwd=WmlHU3huenFZaVlHSS9XbFdaRFVvZz09>

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Passcode: 201002

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Meeting ID: 980 0199 9387

Passcode: 201002

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abKdsGnUCC>

Join by Skype for Business

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