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**2022 51st Annual State Convention  
November 4, 5, and 6, 2022**

**Sheraton Hartford South**

**100 Capital Boulevard**

**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

**Door Prizes: Door prizes will be awarded throughout the convention. To be eligible, you must be registered and 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. Basket raffles are back this year! Be prepared to buy tickets to try and win your favorite chapter basket.**

**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)

**Gold Sponsor: Youthful Images**

**Silver Sponsor: Retina Consultants, PC**

**National Representative: Ron Brown, 2nd Vice President, 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**

**Friday, November 4th**

**Dinner and entertainment in Salon II starting at 6:00p.m.** **Please feel free to join in with Judy Potter, Jim Cronin and our National Representative for an evening of entertainment. Also bring your extra cash for Jailhouse Karaoke. For $1.00 or any amount you want, put someone in “jail”. That person has to either sing a song or pay at least $1.00 to get out of “jail.” Have fun putting people on the spot! Also, there will be a cash bar available.**

**In Salon I the Vendor Fair will be happening from 7:00p.m. through 11:00p.m. Take your time to visit our vendors.**

**Saturday, November 5th, 2022**

**Connecticut Association of Blind Students Meeting: 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. Rocky Hill Room**

**Connecticut Association of Guide Dog Users Meeting 4:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. Rocky Hill Room**

**7:00a.m.- 9:00a.m. Continental Breakfast, Nutmeg Ballroom (This is not the hotel breakfast)**

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

**Invocation – Father Ed Pryzgocki - Holy Apostle Church**

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

**9:10a.m. – I would like to thank our donation mailers: Charlie Rival, Pam Taylor, Glenn Miller, Rich Ireland, George Reed, Cheri Duquette, Carol Lemieux, and Karime Pimental. Without their hard work we would not be in the strong financial position we are in today. Today let us have a moment of silence for two members that passed away this year, they are Marcia Baran and Jackie Billey. Carolyn Dodd wrote an article for the Braille Monitor regarding Jackie Billey, and she would like to read it for us now.**

**Change to our State Constitution.**

**CURRENT wording.**

**Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

**Paragraph two regarding dues now reads “At the same time, each local Treasurer shall forward to the State Treasurer its dues in the amount of $3.00 for each member of the chapter.”**

**NEW Wording.**

**Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

**Paragraph two regarding dues change to “At the same time, each local Treasurer shall forward to the state Treasurer its dues in the amount of $5.00 for each member of the Chapter.”**

**9:20a.m. – Melissa Thompson - Nominating Committee Report**

**9:25a.m. – Ron Brown - 2nd Vice President, National Federation of the Blind**

**9:55a.m. – Elizabeth Rouse - Treasurer, National Association of Blind Students (NABS) -Update from the National Student Division**

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

**10:20a.m. – Maryanne Melley – President’s Report**

**10:30a.m. – Fit Break**

**10:45a.m. - Father Ed Przygocki – Holy Apostle Church, Outreach with Blind Children in Peru**

**11:00a.m. – Congressman John B. Larson, representing Connecticut’s 1st District**

**11:45p.m. – Matt Geeza – LBPH**

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

**1:00p.m.- Amy Porter - Commissioner Connecticut Department of Aging and Disabilities, DORS**

**1:15p.m. – Justin Salisbury – Explaining Blind Rehabilitation to Health Professionals using their Language**

**1:30p.m. – Marilyn Davidson – VisionCam, Distributor of OrCam**

**1:45 – Diane Weaver Dunne, CRIS Radio**

**2:00p.m.- Fit Break**

**2:15p.m.- Andy Bernstein - Accessible Pharmacy Services for the Blind**

**2:30p.m. – Todd Sweet - Hartford Braillers Hockey Team**

**2:45p.m. - Shonda Rosetta – My Experiences Working for Amazon**

**2:50p.m. – Steve Famiglietti - What’s New with NEAT**

**3:05p.m. Jennifer Harnish - Carroll Center for the Blind**

**3:20p.m. – Noreen Grice - NFBCT BELL Academy**

**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: Reverend Harold Williston - Crossroads Community Cathedral**

**Master of Ceremonies: Deb Reed**

**Keynote Address - Ron Brown, 2nd Vice President, National Federation of the Blind**

**Thank you to our BELL Academy Volunteers**

**Presentation of 2022 Scholarships:**

**Beth Rival, Mary Silverberg, and Nathanael Wales**

**Scholarship Finalists:**

**Lizzy Cappelli**

**Isabel Rosario**

**Yew Siang Cheong**

**Lydia Randall**

**Scholarships:**

**C. Rodney Demarest Memorial Scholarship**

**Doris Higley Memorial Scholarship**

**Zukowski Family Foundation Scholarship**

**Brian Cummins Memorial Scholarship**

**Please join our students in the Rocky Hill Room for card playing and relaxation. The room will be open through midnight.**

**Thank you for being here tonight for our 51st annual banquet!**

**Sunday, November 6, 2022**

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

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

**Roll Call**

**NFB Pledge**

**Recommended changes to Constitution**

**CURRENT wording:**

**Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

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**Vote on Constitution changes**

**Reports:**

**Reading of 2021 Business Meeting Minutes, Vote on Acceptance: Joe Kolczynski**

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

**ABPVI (Advisory Board Persons with Visual Impairments): Beth Rival**

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

**BCAC (Bureau Consumer Advocacy Committee): Korrine Herlth**

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

**Federationist: Brianna Rigsbee**

**New Business:**

**Washington Seminar Appointments: Volunteer/Volunteers Needed**

**Washington Seminar: Vote on Subsidy amount**

**Donation Mailings: Two more volunteers needed. Should we go to a mail merge format where everything is typed or keep requests handwritten.**

**Committee for new location for our 2023 State Convention needed**

**NFBCT Technology Grant: should we increase amount by adding funds from affiliate? More advertising is needed. All members on the committee should receive applicant emails.**

**Credit Card Payments: How would we go about receiving this form of payment? Your input is needed**

**Creating a support group for partners of blind members: Richard Ireland**

**January Board meeting, where and when?**

**Chapter News**

**Elections; Ron Brown, 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 Ron Brown.**

**Each member that has paid dues for 2022 will receive eight index cards, one for each election. If you wish to vote for a person nominated from the floor you will tear off one corner of the card for that person. If you wish to vote for the person nominated by the committee, leave the card whole. If two people are nominated from the floor, you will tear one corner to vote for the first person and two corners to vote for the second person, still leaving your card whole to vote for who was nominated by the committee.**

**This is much more efficient than handing out slate and styluses, pens, different colored cards, Brailling and writing down votes, and having them counted by two people. It was suggested to me by John Pare last year.**

**Positions up for election:**

**President**

**1st Vice President**

**2Nd Vice President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**Board Member**

**Board Member**

**Board Member – One Year Term**

**Meeting adjourned**