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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**

**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.**

**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 Mc Donald**

**Scholarships:**

**Howard E. May Memorial Scholarship**

**Woodward Memorial Scholarship**

**C. Rodney Demarest Memorial Scholarship**

**Doris Higley Memorial Scholarship**

**Zukowski Family Foundation Scholarship**

**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**

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