**LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT**

**WELCOME TO THE 43rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF LOUISIANA!**

**REGISTRATION & INFORMATION** **- *Atrium***

The NFBL Registration Desk will open at 3:00pm on Friday, April 17, 2015, and will remain open at scheduled intervals throughout the convention. All convention participants must register to be eligible for convention meals, door prizes, hotel convention rates, and to participate in all activities. Name badges should be worn throughout the convention. Both print and Braille agendas are available at the Registration Desk. For those who have pre-registered, a separate table will also be located in the Atrium where packets, including meal tickets, name badges, and agendas, may be obtained. The onsite registration fee is $30.00 for adults. Registration for children six years and under is free. Registration for children between the ages of seven and ten is $15.00, and children who are eleven and older are $30.00. Banquet tickets are $30.00 and may be purchased at the NFBL Registration Desk. Tickets for complimentary meals will be issued to each convention attendee upon registration, and meal tickets must be presented at each meal. A light complimentary continental breakfast will be served to registered convention attendees between 7:30am and 8:45am on Saturday and Sunday in the Atrium. All registered, first-time convention participants should sign up at the NFBL Registration Desk to participate in a special drawing on Sunday morning. The first-time attendee, the individual who invited the new member, and the chapter to which the new member belongs will each receive $100. Attendees must register for the convention in order to receive conference rates at Holiday Inn West.

**CANE TRAVEL INSTRUCTION - *Atrium***

Instructors will be available at the NFBL Registration Desk on Friday from 3:00pm to 7:00pm and on Saturday morning from 8:00am to 8:45am to provide orientation to the Holiday Inn West and to offer basic instruction in cane travel skills.

**TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITS – *New York Room***

Technology exhibits will be open on Friday from 3:00pm to 9:00pm. Technology exhibits will also be open from 8:00am to 9:00am and from 11:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday.

**EXHIBITS – *Corporate Corner***

On Saturday and Sunday, there will be an exhibit area at the back of Corporate Corner. Canes, cane tips, slates, and styluses will be available for purchase. NFB literature and information from agencies and service providers will also be available. “Braille Rocks” t-shirts and Braille tote bags, along with other items, will be for sale in the back of general session in order to raise money for the NFB BELL Program and other youth activities. Information about State Library services and federal financial aid for students will also be available at exhibit tables in the general session room.

**MASSAGE THERAPY** - Let your worries melt away! Jewel Ardoin, LCB staff member and licensed massage therapist, will be offering five minute (shoulder and neck) massages for a donation of $5.00. The massages will be conducted throughout the convention at your request in the back of the Corporate Corner.

**DOOR PRIZES**

**Shake 'em up! You may be the lucky winner of a fabulous door prize. Names will be drawn throughout the convention general sessions and banquet. To be eligible to win, you must be registered for convention and present in the room when your name is drawn. All donations of door prizes should be turned in at the NFBL Registration Desk. The door prize chairperson is Treva Olivero**

**CHILD CARE SERVICE** - Room number will be provided at NFBL Registration Desk. Free child care will be provided during convention sessions and the banquet for those children registered for the convention. Please note the following schedule:

 Friday 6:45pm to 9:15pm

 Saturday 8:45am to 12:15pm; 1:45pm to 5:00pm;

and 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Parents are responsible for their children at all other times and during meals. (Please be sure to complete child care information form available in the Child Care suite.)

**NOTE: Please be courteous and turn off all cell phones during convention meetings and the banquet.**

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

***FRIDAY, April 17, 2015***

**3:00 - 7:00pm REGISTRATION - *Atrium***

**3:00 - 7:00pm CANE TRAVEL INSTRUCTION**

 *NFBL Registration Desk - Atrium*

**3:00 - 9:00pm Technology Exhibits – *New York Room***

We welcome the following exhibitors:

 Emerald Coast Vision Aids

 En-Vision America

 HIMS Inc.

 Southern Assistive Technology, LLC

Come learn about the latest developments and experience hands on demonstrations of adaptive equipment.

**5:00 - 7:00pm HOSPITALITY DINNER – *Restaurant***

Complimentary to convention registrants! Come enjoy a delicious buffet featuring jambalaya and dessert. Hosted by the Caddo-Bossier Chapter.

**6:00 - 7:00pm RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

 *Exchange Room*

Eric Guillory, Chairperson

**6:30 - 7:00pm REGISTRATION FOR LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS**

 *American Room*

**7:00 - 9:00pm LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS MEETING**

 *American Room*

 Treva Olivero, President

All high school, college, and graduate students are invited to attend this exciting and informative meeting. Share your experiences and get ideas from other successful students.

**7:00 - 9:00pm NFBL MERCHANTS' DIVISION MEETING**

 *Exchange Room*

 Lee Frazier and Sherman Stevens

All Randolph-Sheppard vendors and persons interested in business enterprises are welcome.

**7:00 - 9:00pm SENIOR BLIND MEETING**

 *Private Dining Room*

Wendy Ortego, Coordinator, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Techniques for Living Confidently Program

Come join us and learn tips and tricks for seniors experiencing vision loss. Losing your vision does not have to mean losing your independence.

**7:00 - 9:00pm LOUISIANA PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN DIVISION**

*Board Room*

Laura Bostick, President

If you are a parent, grandparent, or teacher of a blind child, please join us for a discussion about current issues. Help us set priorities for the upcoming year. Learn about resources for you and your child.

**9:00pm until… NFBL AUCTION**

*Directors Room*

Jerry Whittle, Auctioneer

Sports memorabilia, chapter gift baskets, homemade goods, autographed items, and collectibles along with other surprises. Join us for an entertaining way to raise money for our affiliate. We put the "fun" in fundraising!

**SATURDAY, April 18, 2015**

**7:00 - 8:00am NFBL STATE BOARD MEETING**

 *Private Dining Room*

**7:30 - 8:30am Scholarship Breakfast**

 (for 2015 NFBL scholarship finalists and committee members)

 *Board Room*

7:30 - 8:45am COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST

 Free for convention registrants

 *Atrium*

**8:00 - 9:00am REGISTRATION**

 *Atrium*

**8:00 - 9:00am CANE TRAVEL INSTRUCTION**

*NFBL Registration Desk, Atrium*

**8:00 - 9:00am TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITS**

 *New York Room*

**8:00 - 8:45am EXHIBITS AND NFB LITERATURE**

 *Corporate Corner*

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**

***Corporate Corner***

**9:00am - 12:00 Noon**

**9:00am CALL TO ORDER**

**Pamela Allen, President, NFBL**

**"HAVE GAVEL WILL TRAVEL"**

**Eric Guillory, President**

**North Central Chapter, NFBL**

**INVOCATION**

**Jerry Whittle**

**First Vice President, NFBL**

**WELCOME**

**Tolita Mitchell, President**

**Caddo-Bossier Chapter, NFBL**

 **The Honorable Ollie S. Tyler,**

 **Mayor of Shreveport**

**9:20 - 10:05am Live the Life You Want: The National Report**

**Ever Lee Hairston, NFB Board Member,**

 **Los Angeles, California**

**10:05 - 10:25am Live the Life You Want: Creating Partnerships with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services**

**Kevin Monk, Executive Director, Blind Services, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Baton Rouge**

**10:25 - 10:35am Live the Life You Want: News from the State Library**

**Shelia Coleman, Coordinator of Special Services, State Library of Louisiana, Talking Books and Braille Library, Baton Rouge**

**10:35 – 10:45am Live the Life You Want: What’s New at Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)**

**Susie Stewart, Program Supervisor, Device Demonstration and Device Loan Programs, LATAN, Shreveport**

**10:35am-2:15pm Parent Power Track**

 ***Exchange Room***

 **Parents and teachers of blind children are encouraged to participate in this interactive seminar, which will include box lunch (with registration).**

***\*\*\* The following concurrent sessions will provide excellent information and a chance to learn from blind people about techniques and tools that increase independence. Learn how to get involved at school, at work, or in your community. \*\*\****

**10:50 - 11:30am Concurrent Sessions**

 **Blindness 101**

 ***Private Dining Room***

 **Do you have questions about blindness? Learn about alternative techniques for doing things nonvisually. You can live the life you want. Learn from positive blind role models who have first-hand experience.** If you are interested in learning about joining a members-at-large chapter, please attend. **If you are new to the Federation, learn what we have to offer. [This session will repeat at 11:35 in the same location.]**

A Brief Introduction to Android

Jack Mendez, Director of Technology, Louisiana Center for the Blind

 *Board Room*

Have you always been curious about android but never got the chance to try it? Come learn about the latest android offerings on a Nexus7 tablet.  Learn how gestures can help you navigate around the tablet. Learn what applications are available on stock android and how to find others from the Internet.

The Mac: A Tool for Success

**Jewel Ardoin, Adaptive Technology Instructor, Louisiana Center for the Blind**

**Jade Keller, current LCB student**

***Directors Room***

An overview of the Mac and VoiceOver.

Discussion of different Mac computers. Comparing Mac and VoiceOver to Windows and NVDA (free screen reading software). Learn commands for general navigation, reading text, mail, and web browsing.

**Live the Life You Want: Get Fit and Have Fun**

**Roland Allen, Cane Travel Instructor, Louisiana Center for the Blind**

 ***American Room***

**Learn how you can stay in shape and have fun. Don’t sit on the sidelines when you can be part of the team.**

**11:35-12:15pm Concurrent Sessions**

Collaboration with Google Docs

Jack Mendez, Director of Technology, Louisiana Center for the Blind

*Board Room*

Learn how to use JAWS or NVDA to move around a document, how to check basic formatting, and how to share documents with others. (This session assumes participants have moderate to advanced screen reader experience.)

The iPhone: Apps for Reading and Working While on the Go

**Jewel Ardoin, Adaptive Technology Instructor, Louisiana Center for the Blind**

***Directors Room***

Demonstration of three apps that will help you live the life you want: KNFB Reader, Voice Dream Reader, Voice Dream Writer

**Live the Life You Want: Dancing with the Stars (or Just Learn to Dance like a Star)**

**Sheena Manual, Outreach Specialist, Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston**

 ***American Room***

**This interactive workshop will give you a chance to learn basic dance moves in a fun environment.**

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**12:15 - 1:30pm COMPLIMENTARY BOX LUNCH**

 ***Atrium***

**Free for convention registrants**

**Hosted by the North Central Chapter**

**(Must have ticket)**

**11:00 - 2:00pm TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITS**

 ***New York Room***

**12:30 - 1:30pm LOUISIANA CENTER FOR THE BLIND ALUMNI GATHERING**

 ***Private Dining***

**All LCB alumni and persons interested in learning about the exciting opportunities LCB has to offer are invited. Please bring your box lunch.**

**12:15 - 2:00pm PARENT POWER TRACK**

 ***Continues in Exchange Room***

**Laura Bostick, President, Parents of Blind Children**

**Eric Guillory, Director of Youth Services, Louisiana Center for the Blind**

**12:30 – 1:30pm Informal gathering for those interested in learning about and discussing issues affecting deaf-blind individuals. Please bring your box lunch.**

**Cathy Miller, Coordinator**

***Parent Hospitality Suite* (number to be announced)**

**12:30 - 1:30pm REGISTRATION - *Atrium***

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**GENERAL SESSION**

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**

***Corporate Corner***

**2:00 - 5:00pm**

**2:00 - 2:15pm Live the Life You Want: Seniors on the Move**

**Wendy Ortego, Coordinator, Techniques for Living Confidently, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Ruston**

**2:15 – 2:45pm Live the Life You Want: Transforming Rehabilitation and Education through Research and Training**

**Edward Bell, PH.D., Director, Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston**

**2:45 – 3:05pm Live the Life You Want: Planting the Seeds of Independence**

**Sheena Manual, Outreach Specialist, Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston**

**3:05 – 3:20pm Live the Life You Want: From Freedom Bell to Paycheck**

**Gabe Cazares, LCB Graduate, Graduating Senior, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas**

**3:20 – 4:30pm “In Everything that Matters”**

An original production by Jerry Whittle. This dramatic work pays tribute to the accomplishments of leaders and members, past and present, of the National Federation of the Blind and provides informative and uplifting context as we celebrate the Federation's 75th year of helping the blind Live the Lives We Want! Production and Sound Direction: **Jerry Darnell, Jack Mendez, and Eric Guillory**

**4:30pm ADJOURNMENT**

**4:30pm NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**7:00pm BANQUET**

 ***Corporate Corner***

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF LOUISIANA**

**Annual Banquet**

**Corporate Corner – Holiday Inn West, Shreveport, Louisiana**

**7:00 PM**

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES……................................................. Eric Guillory**

**President, North Central Chapter, NFBL**

**INVOCATION ................................................................ Sherman Stevens**

**President, Greater St. Landry Chapter and Board Member, NFBL**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS ....................................................... Ever Lee Hairston**

**NFB Board Member**

**AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

**Immediately following the banquet, there will be several activities for your enjoyment:**

 **DANCE – *Corporate Corner***

 **GOSPEL EXPLOSION – *Private Dining Room***

 **BINGO – *Exchange Room***

**SUNDAY - April 19, 2015**

**7:30 – 8:45am COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST**

 ***Atrium***

**8:00 - 8:45am ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE**

 ***New York/American Rooms***

**Sherman Stevens, Coordinator**

**8:00 - 8:45am EXHIBITS and NFB LITERATURE**

 ***Corporate Corner***

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**GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION**

**Sunday, April 19, 2015**

***Corporate Corner***

**9:00am - 12:00 Noon**

**9:00am CALL TO ORDER**

**Pamela Allen, President**

**9:10 - 9:50am Live the Life You Want: Our Philosophy in Action**

**Mary Ann Mendez, Board Member, North Central Chapter, Ruston**

**Caitlin Best, current LCB student, Ruston**

**Karolline Sales, current LCB student, Ruston**

**9:50 - 10:10am Live the Life You Want: Let’s Go Build the Federation**

 **Ever Lee Hairston, NFB Board Member, Los Angeles, California**

**10:10 -10:30am Live the Life You Want: Taking Care of Business**

 **Secretary’s Report**

 **Treasurer’s Report**

**10:30 -11:20am Live the Life You Want: Making a Difference in our Community**

 **Committee Chairpersons and Chapters and Division Presidents will share updates and present state fundraising donations.**

**11:20 -11:40am Nominating Committee Report and Elections**

**11:40 -11:50am Closing Remarks and Announcements**

**11:50am "Have Gavel Will Travel" Award Presentation**

**12:00pm ADJOURNMENT**

**“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working together is success.” - Henry Ford**

**With Sincere Appreciation from the State President:**

**To our Caddo-Bossier Chapter – for your hard work and gracious hospitality!**

**To Ever Lee Hairston, our national representative – your example, wisdom, dedication, and leadership motivate us and help us realize we can live the lives we want!**

**To our distinguished speakers and guests – thank you for sharing your knowledge and for working with us as we make a positive difference for blind children and adults!**

**To all those who assisted with convention planning, helped with registration, handled transportation and logistics, contributed door prizes, helped with exhibits, provided childcare services, served on committees, performed in the play, and welcomed new members – your commitment and energy truly helped make this weekend a success!**

**To all who contributed and purchased auction items, supported our NFB BELL program, played Bingo, signed up for the PAC plan, and participated in other fundraising efforts – your generosity makes our programs, scholarships, and outreach activities possible!**

**To chapter and state officers – your service and dedication to the Federation are unparalleled! Your words and example strengthen our movement and share our positive message of hope and independence!**

**To the management and staff of the Holiday Inn – your hospitality and outstanding customer service helped our conference run smoothly!**

**To Joanne Wilson, founder of the Louisiana Center for the Blind - your sacrifice and never-ending belief has helped shape a generation!**

**To the LCB staff, students, and alumni – thank you for your tireless efforts to help change what it means to be blind!**

**To each NFBL member – thank you for your support, love, and energy!**

**Together with love, hope, and determination, the National Federation of the Blind transforms dreams into reality! As we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year, we know that our future is bright with promise and opportunity!**

**Pamela Allen**

**BATTLE SONG OF THE NFB**

**Copyright: Josephine Huff**

**and Floyd S. Field, 1969**

***Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic***

**Blind eyes have seen the vision of the Federation way;**

**New White Cane legislation brings the dawn of a new day;**

**The right of the blind to organize is truly here to stay;**

**Our Cause goes marching on.**

**Chorus:**

**Glory, Glory, Federation;**

**Glory, Glory, Federation;**

**Glory, Glory, Federation;**

**Our Cause goes marching on.**

**We have seen it in the actions of four hundred chapters strong;**

**Good leadership and courage have righted many wrongs;**

**Let's aid NFB's program and join in its Battle Song;**

**Our Cause goes marching on.**

**(Chorus)**

**tenBroek has sounded trumpet which shall never sound retreat;**

**We have sifted out the hearts of blind before our Judgment Seat;**

**Oh, be swift all blind to answer and be jubilant your feet;**

**Our Cause goes marching on.**

**(Chorus)**

**To aid the blind's long struggle we have formed the NFB;**

**To free them from their bondage of workshop and agency;**

**To give a hand to all the blind wherever they may be;**

**Our Cause goes marching on.**

**(Chorus)**

**NFB PLEDGE**

**I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.**

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**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 have the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.**