

**MD POBC and**

**NFB of Maryland**

Presents Knowledge, Tools, and Connections: Empowering Our Children to Live the Lives They Want!

A Conference for Parents and Teachers

November 13, 2015

NFB MD State Convention

November 13-15, 2015

Carousel Resort Hotel and Condominiums

11700 Coastal Highway, 118th Street at the Ocean

Ocean City, MD 21842

(410) 524-1000

The National Federation of the Blind, and the Maryland Parents of Blind Children, know that blindness is not the characteristic that defines our blind children or their futures. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. Your children can live the lives they want; blindness is not what holds them back.

WELCOME TO THE MDPOBC 2015 CONFERENCE!

*\*Insider Information\**

The Maryland Parents Conference is a one-day event in conjunction with the National Federation of the Blind of MD State Convention. Here are a few tips to help you stay organized and take advantage of the many opportunities which are available.

*CONFERENCE DAY INFORMATION- Friday, November 13, 9:00 AM–6:00 PM*

Parents who are able to participate in a morning session are welcome to register for our conference beginning at 9 am. We will hold a “get to know you” session from 10:00 am until 11:00 am. This will be a great time to ask questions and make connections with other parents. We will take a break from 11:00 AM until 11:30 AM in order to allow later arriving families to register. All parents will come together at 11:30 AM for a welcome session. Boxed lunches will be available at that time; please make sure you register for the NFBMD convention by visiting

<http://nfbmd.olivero.us/stateconventionregistration/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention>

so you can place your order for a boxed lunch.

We will visit the exhibit hall as a group from 12:30 pm until 1:30 pm. At 1:30 pm, workshops will begin.

*CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES, (Fun with Friends) Tween and TEEN ACTIVITIES:*

* MDPOBC Friday –Saturday activities for children (6 wks to 9 years) will take place in The Fun with Friends room. To take part, your child must be registered for Fun with Friends (convention child care.) Complete this registration by visiting <http://nfbmd.olivero.us/marylandconventionchildcarere/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention-childcare>
* or by filling out the enclosed form.
* Tween Activities Friday- Saturday (ages 9-14) will include lessons in leadership, confidence building through fun public speaking and speech writing activities, a chance to run for office in a new Junior Student organization, a tour of the exhibit hall with parents, Independent Travel skills, and horseback riding on Saturday, WOW!!
* Teens (14-18)- Pizza, Advocacy Skills, and activities with the MD Association of Blind Students (MDABS.) Activities will include MDABS seminar, Exhibit Hall, and afternoon workshops on Friday. Saturday we recommend all Teens attend General Sessions to learn from all of the fantastic presenters who will be speaking. There will be a student gathering for lunch on Saturday, and teens can choose to sit with other students at the banquet on Saturday evening. (Information on banquet ticket exchange on Friday and also at parent lunch on Saturday.)

*SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ALL WEEKEND:*

* Certain activities for parents, children, and youth are listed only in this agenda such as MDPOBC workshop descriptions and Tween and Teen Activities.
* Other activities that we encourage you and your child to attend are listed in the NFB of MD Convention agenda (this is a separate document and registration

<http://nfbmd.olivero.us/stateconventionregistration/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention>

* ***Please register for both*** the MDPOBC conference and the NFB of MD State Convention so you will be aware of all that is going on.
* We realize there are many different pieces of the convention experience! It is easy to get confused, and we want to make sure all families have as smooth a convention experience as possible. If you are a family attending convention for the first time, or you have attended before, but still have questions about all of the convention details, we are here to help! Please call Melissa Riccobono at 443-708-3663 or email her at [mdpobc@nfbmd.org](mailto:mdpobc@nfbmd.org) Melissa will be happy to answer your questions, and she will also be glad to connect you to a veteran convention family who can help you before and throughout the convention weekend.
* Don’t miss all the MDPOBC activities listed in this agenda- and the many other fun, educational, and inspirational NFB of MD convention events listed in the Convention agenda, such as:
  + “The Braille Apocalypse”: a play performed by children on Friday evening; Beach Party hospitality after the play on Friday evening; NFB of MD convention sessions Saturday and Sunday; Banquet Saturday evening- Be sure to complete your **Banquet Ticket exchange (details on Friday and at Parents Luncheon)**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday November 13, 2015**

**9:00am-10:00am “Early Bird” REGISTRATION**

***Outside Delaware Room***

**9:30am-6:00pm Fun with Friends OPEN**

***Washington Room***

**9:30am-6:00pm TWEEN *Activities***

* **Tweens (9-14)** this includes blind students and any sighted siblings. Tweens will be escorted to condo 610 from the registration area. Morning activities will include play practice and audience feedback, active “get to know you” games, and part one of the leadership activities. Students will eat lunch, and will rejoin parents from 12:30 PM until 1:30 PM at the exhibit hall. At 1:30 PM, tweens will be escorted back to condo 610 to participate in public speaking activities, a leadership scavenger hunt, and speech writing. Staff from Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) and NFB of Maryland volunteers will supervise tweens until 6 PM, when parents need to pick up Tweens. For more information please contact Teresa Graham at 443-557-8696.

***Condo 610***

* **Teens (14-18)** should visit the exhibit hall with their parents from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM. They will then join the Maryland Association of Blind Students in condo 612 for activities from 1:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

**10:00am “Early Bird Getting to Know You” session**

**Melissa Riccobono, President, MDPOBC**

**It’s all about connections! Have a chance to network with parents in a relaxed setting. Ask and answer questions. Brag about successes. Get advice on getting around road blocks. This will be a wonderful way to begin your convention experience!**

**Delaware Room**

**11:00 AM-11:30 AM: Registration for all later-arriving families**

**Outside Delaware Room**

**(Please pick up your boxed lunch before coming to the 11:30 AM session. Be sure to register online for the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland convention at**

<http://nfbmd.olivero.us/stateconventionregistration/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention>

**to purchase your boxed lunch.)**

**11:30AM-12:30PM: Knowledge Is Power: What is the Maryland Parents of Blind Children? How can we all work together to help our children live the lives they want?**

**Melissa Riccobono, President, Maryland Parents of Blind Children**

**The transition from high school to work or college begins early! What parents need to know.**

Sue Schaffer, Director, Office of Blindness and Vision Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Maryland State Department of Education

**12:30 PM-1:30 PM: Exhibit Hall Visit Maryland Room**

**All parents, tweens, and teens will visit the exhibit hall together. Check out the latest accessible technology. Learn about resources available to help your children.**

**1:30 PM-2:30 PM: The ABLE Account and Your Child: Saving money now so your child will be ABLE to use it later Pennsylvania Room**

**2:45 PM-4:15 PM: Concurrent Sessions. Please choose to attend one of the below workshops.**

**Workshop 1: Braille, a Tool for Success: Fun ways to encourage Braille for young readers, and older Braille learners**

**Melissa Riccobono, President, Maryland Parents of Blind Children**

**Delaware Room**

**Workshop 2: How Much is too Little? How Much is too Much? How do we get the tools we need to help our children succeed in school, and live the lives they want in the future?**

**Mary Jo Hartle, NOMC, President, TLC Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland**

**Condo 611**

**4:30 PM-6:00 PM Concurrent Sessions**

**Please choose to attend one of the below workshops.**

**Workshop 3: Math Toys I Wish I Had When I was Six!: Your child, math, the Common Core, and how you can help**

Dr. Al Maneki, Senior STEM Advisor, NFB Jernigan Institute

Delaware Room

**Workshop 4: Take a Deep Breath; It’s Just Stuffed Animals and Spaghetti: Stress Relief for You and Your Child**

**Jeannie Massay, LPC, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind, President, National Federation of the Blind of Oklahoma**

**Condo 612**

**Please pick up your children from Fun with Friends, and your tweens from condo 610 at 6:00 PM.**

**6:30pm – 8:00pm PIZZA PARTY/ PARENTS MEET AND GREET Bring your Ticket from Registration Packet**

***Delaware Room***

**8:15 PM “The Braille Apocalypse”: A play performed by blind elementary and middle school students. All are invited to attend.**

**Pennsylvania Room**

**9:00 PM-Midnight BEACH PARTY!: GENERAL HOSPITALITY**

**Come enjoy free food and drink, a steel drum band, and beach themed games with your Federation family.**

**Pennsylvania Room**

***Saturday November 14, 2015***

**7:15 AM-8:00 AM NFB BELL Student Reunion**

***All participants in the NFB BELL Program in 2015 and their families are invited to enjoy a light breakfast while networking with other families. Parents will have the opportunity to interact with blind adult members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland. NFB BELL participants will have their first rehearsal for their performance for the Sunday morning session as well.***

***Condo 611***

**8:00am - 8:45am Cane Walk-** Tips on using a white cane for both children and parents

Condo 612

**8:15 AM – 12:00 PM Fun with Friends open- *Washington RooN***

**8:45 AM-12:00 PM General Session -  *Maryland and Virginia Rooms***

**9:45 AM-5:00 PM Tween activities (including horseback riding.)**

**Tweens will be escorted from outside the Maryland and Virginia rooms to condo 610. They will leave as a group for horseback riding at 12:45 PM. They should return to the hotel lobby around 5 PM.**

**12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Fun with Friends– *Includes lunch for kids****. This is only available to parents who attend the lunch sponsored by the Maryland Parents of Blind Children.*

**Washington Room**

**12:00 PM - 1:45 PM Parents Luncheon - Sponsored by the MDPOBC**

*Enjoy some inspiring words by our Distinguished Educator of Blind Children award winner for 2015,Phillip Cowit*

**My Experience in the National Braille Challenge**

**Sujan Dakal**

**Living the Life I want: Always On the Move**

**Brandon Pickrel**

**Hands on Chemistry Opportunity for Elementary School Students**

**Alfred D’Agustino, Chemistry Professor, University of Notre Dame**

*(Don’t forget to bring your application and dues to join the Maryland Parents of Blind Children. Also, please bring your Banquet Tickets with you for Banquet exchange.)*

**Pennsylvania Room**

**2:00 PM-5:00 PM Fun with Friends open Washington Room**

**2:00 PM-5:00 PM General Session – *Maryland and Virginia Rooms***

**6:30 PM-10:00 PM Fun with Friends open (includes supper for kids)**

**7:00 PM-10:00 PM Banquet Pennsylvania Room**

***Sunday, November 15, 2015***

**7:00 AM-8:15 AM MDPOBC Board Meeting Washington Room**

**8:30 AM NFB BELL Participant Final Rehearsal Condo 610**

**9:00 AM-12:00 PM General Session (including NFB BELL participant performance!) Maryland and Virginia Rooms**

***MDPOBC Seminar Registration***

Adult #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Adult #2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Cell or Work\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

Parent \_\_\_ Family Member \_\_\_Teacher \_\_\_\_ Paraprofessional \_\_\_\_\_\_

Administrator \_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_

If you need child care, please complete the Fun with Friends registration form online at <http://nfbmd.olivero.us/marylandconventionchildcarere/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention-childcare>

Or fill out the enclosed form.

Need Childcare? Yes \_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_

Tween Ages 9-14 #\_\_\_ Ages\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please note, if you would like your tween to participate in the horseback riding field trip, please fill out the enclosed liability waiver. The cost for horseback riding is $20 for each participant. Sighted siblings of this age group are welcome. Please bring payment and liability waiver with you to the convention. MDPOBC will make every effort for all interested tweens to participate in horseback riding regardless of ability to pay. Please see Teresa Graham or Chris Day at the convention to discuss financial need.

If your child does not wish to participate in horseback riding, please see Melissa Riccobono to discuss other alternative activities.)

Teens Grade 9-12 #\_\_\_\_ Ages\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mark number attending the sessions you plan to attend: (Please see above agenda for longer descriptions of workshops.)

10:00 AM-11:00 AM \_\_\_\_\_\_ Early Bird Getting to Know You Session

2:45 PM-4:15 PM \_\_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 1:** Braille, a Tool for Success: Melissa Riccobono

\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 2:** How Much is Too Little?... Getting the tools for future success: Mary Jo Hartle

4:30 PM-6:00 PM \_\_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 3:** Math Toys I Wish I Had When I Was Six!: Dr. Al Maneki

\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 4:** Stuffed Animals And Spaghetti: Stress Relief Techniques for you and your child: Jeannie Massay

Please email completed registration form to Melissa Riccobono at [mdpobc@nfbmd.org](mailto:mdpobc@nfbmd.org) or mail completed form to, MDPOBC; 1720 South Charles St.; Baltimore, MD 21230. 443-708-3663.

Remember you need to also register for the NFBMD State Convention

<http://nfbmd.olivero.us/stateconventionregistration/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention>

Convention Fun with Friends (Provided by the Maryland Parents of Blind Children)

You may also fill out this form online by visiting

<http://nfbmd.olivero.us/marylandconventionchildcarere/national-federation-blind-maryland-2015-convention-childcare>

Child-care for (name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ age\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2nd Child\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ age\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3rd Child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ age\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Times: (please check)

\_\_\_\_\_Friday 9:30 PM-6:00 PM childcare is available only to parents attending parent workshops or Helping with MDPOBC activities

\_\_\_\_\_Saturday: 8:30 am – Noon

\_\_\_\_\_Saturday: Noon - 2:00 pm Includes lunch for your child. This is only available to parents who attend one of the special luncheons sponsored by our state divisions.

Please note if the child has any food allergies:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_Saturday, 2:00 pm -5:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_Saturday Banquet, (includes supper) 6:30 pm until 10:00 pm

Name of parent/responsible adults who are allowed to pick up child from the Kid’s Club room (No more than 2 names):

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Special considerations/needs/anything we should know about your child/children (allergies, blind/visually impaired, sighted, difficulty walking, difficulty hearing, etc) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recommended fee/donation per child\*\*

Friday: $10/single child, $ 20/two or more children

All day Saturday including lunch and the banquet: $30/single child; $40/two or more

1/2 day no lunch: $15/single child; $25/two or more

Banquet only: $10/single child; $20 two or more

\*\*The MDPOBC will make every effort to provide childcare for members who need it regardless of ability to pay. For more information please contact Melissa Riccobono at 443-708-3663 or by email at [mdpobc@nfbmd.org](mailto:mdpobc@nfbmd.org)

Please make checks (for Fun with Friends only) payable to MDPOBC and mail to MDPOBC 1720 South Charles St.; Baltimore, MD 21230

## horseshelplogonew4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program

## *5367A Sixty Foot Road*

## *Parsonsburg Maryland 21849*

## *410-835-8814* [giddyup4steps@aol.com](mailto:giddyup4steps@aol.com)

## *website:www.4stepstrp.org*

To: Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Activity: Therapeutic Riding and Animal Partnership Activities

Date: Saturday, Nov 14, 2015 1:30-4:30 PM

**Wear appropriate clothing**

* leather soled shoes or boots with heels or **sneakers**
* long pants, sweat shirt or jacket (not too loose)
* helmets provided

#### Your child will be adequately supervised and have a fun day of learning about riding horses and horsemanship

* individual supervision while working around horses safely on the ground and mounted
* individual instruction in grooming and saddling horses
* with appropriate support, each child will have the opportunity to ride independently in the arena and on the trail

LIABILITY RELEASE – In consideration of the Maryland Parents of Blind Children (MDPOBC) and 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program allowing my child’s participation in this activity I agree to hold harmless and release MDPOBC and 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program from legal liability except in the event of gross and willful negligence, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions and causes of action, and/or litigation, against MDPOBC or 4STEPS TRP for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, property damage, sustained by my child in relation to the premises and operations of 4STEPS TRP, to include while learning about riding, or while riding, handling, or otherwise being near horses owned by or in the care, custody and control of 4STEPS. I UNDERSTAND THE ASSUMPTION OF RISK.

By signing below, I give permission to the MDPOBC to transport my child to and from the riding facility.

I give permission for the Maryland Parents of Blind Children to photograph or video tape my child during this activity, and for this organization to use these images as they see fit.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Participant’s Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Age\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this form, and $20 per participant with you to the Carousel Hotel and give it to Teresa Graham or Chris Day no later than Saturday, November 14.

***Enhancing Lives Through Equine Activities***