

2022 Annual Convention
#NFBMN
November 4-6, 2022

**Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport**3800 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425

**Steve Jacobson, President**
National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota
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[www.nfbmn.org](http://www.nfbmn.org)

**National Representative:**
Everette Bacon, Secretary
National Federation of the Blind
Salt Lake City, UT

The National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota 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.

# Making our Convention Safe

In order to make our convention as safe as possible, please get a free test for COVID-19. Upon receiving a negative test, you will receive a wristband that will give you access to convention events.

Tests will be administered in the Cardinal Perch room at these times:

* Friday: 12:30 PM-5:00 PM and 7:00 PM-8:00 PM
* Saturday: 8:30 AM-12:00 PM
* Upon request by texting or calling Daniel Ashman at (612) 547-9821

Members of the Federation will ask to touch your wristband as you enter various meetings. While it is not required, you are welcome to remove it from your wrist and hand it to the marshal; this will add additional social distance. Those who do not have a wristband will be asked to take a test before entering the meeting.

In addition, please wear a face covering when attending meetings or when in the exhibition area. A complete copy of our policy will be available.

Finally, everyone who participates in our convention must follow our "Code of Conduct" which has been adopted by all affiliates of the National Federation of the Blind. To read it, go to www.nfbmn.org

# Navigating the Hotel

As you walk north through the main entrance of the Hilton, a short flight of steps to the right of a fountain will take you up to the front desk; to the west (your left), a ramp will also bring you to the front desk. Immediately to the west (your left), as you first enter the hotel, is the Grand Staircase (that connects the first and second floors). All of our meeting rooms are on the second floor.

On the first floor, after ascending the steps or the ramp, you will be facing north. From the west to east (far left to right), you will find: the Corner Pantry (a small market with beverages and grab-and-go foods), the front desk, entrance to the hotel bar (called the Blue Water Lounge), and the guest room elevators. The entrance to the indoor pool and hot tubs is on the right as you approach the guest room elevators.

If you proceed into the Blue Water Lounge, the entrance to the restaurant is to the east (your right), though the distinction between the two spaces is difficult to locate.

To access the Fitness Center, follow the hallway that runs northeast between the guest room elevators and the east edge of the Blue Water Lounge & Grill, and you'll find the entrance on your right after the restrooms.

The second floor roughly follows the shape of a rectangular U-shape, with the flat edge of the U on the south wall. The east part of the U is called the Wildlife Conference Center, the flat edge of the U is a balcony that overlooks the lobby, and the west part of the U is the entrance to the Minnesota Valley Ballrooms. The guest room elevators are roughly in the bottom-right corner of the U.

Cardinal Perch is one of the rooms in the Wildlife Conference Center hallway, and it is the first on the east side. If you put Cardinal Perch on your right and continue north down the hallway, you’ll find Eagles Nest, Hawks Ridge, Mallard Point, and Owl Overlook on the east (right) side of the hallway. On the west side of the hallway, you'll find Red Fox Den and Wood Duck Pond. White Pelican Bay is at the far, north end of the hallway.

The exhibits, registration, meals, and general session will be held in the Minnesota Valley Ballroom, located across the hotel on the west side. Exit the guest room elevators on the second floor and proceed west along the balcony that overlooks the lobby. Passing the Grand Staircase on your left and restrooms on your right, continue straight to the end of the hall. The foyer and ballrooms will be on your right.

# Registration

Registration is required to attend and participate in convention activities. Please consult the times in the agenda for when the registration desk will be open. On-site registration is available for $15, and a limited number of meals are available at the following rates:

* Casual Dinner on Friday evening: $20
* Senior Breakfast on Saturday: $20
* BLIND, Inc. Luncheon on Saturday: $25
* Banquet on Saturday evening: $45

Please also ensure we have your most current contact information, including your email address. If you do not currently receive *The* *Braille Monitor*—our national monthly magazine—please let us know, and we will sign you up.

# Social Media

The Social Media Committee invites you to share your convention experience with your friends and family to show them how the NFB of Minnesota is empowering blind people. Post to Twitter or Facebook using #NFBMN. We love pictures…just remember to add descriptions so everyone can enjoy them.

# Auction

One of our largest state fundraisers will again be our auction of services, some baked goods, and other donated items. In past years we’ve had homemade candies, snack mixes, gift baskets and cards, useful services, and in-home prepared dinners for small groups. You can be sure that Tara Coyne and our auction team will land a good price and new home for your item!

Please bring donated items to the exhibit area on Friday afternoon, or to the site of the auction: the Wood Duck Pond room at 7:00 PM. Please also bring your checkbooks and credit cards!

# Door Prizes

Prizes will be awarded throughout the convention. To be eligible, you must be registered and present in the room when your name is drawn. Donations should be brought to coordinators Amy Baron, John TeBockhorst, or Tom TeBockhorst in the front-left corner of the room before the start of Saturday’s General Session.

# Live Streaming

For those unable to join us in person this weekend, the convention will be live streamed using the Zoom platform. Please note that you will not be able to participate or vote via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96842698713>

Meeting ID: 968 4269 8713
Passcode: 63266102

You may also join by phone by calling (312) 626-6799 and enter the meeting ID above.

# Childcare

Childcare will be provided during scheduled meetings and during the banquet in room 1200.

* Friday: 2:30 PM-5:15 PM and 6:30 PM-9:30 PM (Note that childcare is not included during the Casual Dinner or the later part of Hospitality.)
* Saturday: 8:45 AM-12:15 PM, 1:45 PM-5:15 PM, and
6:30 PM-10:30 PM
* Sunday: 8:45 AM-12:15 PM

Please keep your cell phone charged and turned to vibrate, as we will call you if your child needs you. For more information contact childcare coordinator Briley O’Connor at (703) 380-8876.

# Get on the PAC Plan

The Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Plan has come to be an increasingly important part of financing our movement. According to the chairman of the NFB’s PAC committee, Scott LaBarre, the Federation has raised more than $11 million over the years through the PAC Plan.

The PAC Plan allows members, affiliates, chapters, and others to give a regular and automatic donation to the Federation every month. All you need provide is your checking account, debit card or credit card information. Because of the costs associated with operating the program, the minimum donation is $5 per month, yet there is no restriction on how much you donate. Please sign up at the convention to begin a new PAC contribution or to make changes to your current contribution.

Your donation will help the blind live the lives we want. Complete the PAC form online at <https://www.nfb.org/pac>

# Friday, November 4

## 12:30-5:00 PM and 7:00-8:00 PM—COVID-19 TESTING (Cardinal Perch)

Please help make our convention as safe as possible by getting a free COVID-19 test. A negative result will entitle you to a bracelet that guarantees admittance to meetings and activities. There will be experienced people to give you whatever instructions you need.

## 2:00–5:00 PM—REGISTRATION (Minnesota Valley Ballroom Foyer)

Those who pre-registered should pick up meal tickets and agendas.

## 3:00–4:00 PM—EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR (Mallard Point)

Daniel Ashman and Dick Davis, Facilitators

## 3:00–4:00 PM—WHY THE FEDERATION? (White Pelican Bay)

Our national representative, Everette Bacon, will present and lead a discussion of why it is essential that blind people speak with a national voice.

## 4:00–5:00 PM—RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (White Pelican Bay)

Jennifer Dunnam, Chairperson

## 4:00–4:30 PM—ACCESSIBLE VOTING: WHERE DO THINGS STAND? (Mallard Point)

Steve Jacobson and Judy Sanders will answer questions about various aspects of accessible voting in conjunction with the demonstration of the Democracy Live OmniBallot machine.

## 5:15–6:45 PM—CASUAL DINNER (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 3 & 4)

Join your federation family for a fast, casual, and affordable dinner with a cash bar. We guarantee to have you fed before the start of the evening sessions.

## 7:00–8:00 PM—REGISTRATION (Minnesota Valley Ballroom Foyer)

Another chance for those who pre-registered should pick up meal tickets and agendas.

## 7:00–8:30 PM—ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS (White Pelican Bay)

Logan Stenzel, President

## 7:00–8:30 PM—AT-LARGE CHAPTER IN-PERSON MEETING (Mallard Point)

David Andrews, President

## 7:00–11:00 PM—FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, AUCTION, AND TRIVIA (Wood Duck Pond)

Join the Metro chapter for a fun evening of snacks and dessert. At 8:00 PM, we will begin our auction along with occasional tests of your knowledge of trivia. A cash bar will be available.

# Saturday, November 5

## 7:00 AM—BREAKFAST AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF MINNESOTA SENIORS DIVISION (Mallard Point)

Judy Sanders, President

## 7:30 AM–12:00 PM—REGISTRATION (Minnesota Valley Ballroom Foyer)

This is your last chance to register for the convention and pick up a copy of the agenda.

## 8:30 AM–12:00 PM—COVID-19 TESTING (Cardinal Perch)

Another chance to be tested for COVID-19 free of charge. If nobody is available, call or text Daniel Ashman at (612) 547-9821.

## 9:00 AM–12:00 PM—GENERAL SESSION (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 1-3)

Coffee and Pastries will be available in the back of the General Session room.

* 9:00 AM, Opening Ceremonies—Deanna Langton, President, Metro Chapter; Honorable Tim Busse, Mayor, Bloomington Minnesota
* 9:25 AM, What's Happening Across the Nation in the Federation—Everette Bacon, Secretary, National federation of the Blind
* 10:05 AM, Pro Tip 1
* 10:10 AM, New Ways to Read and New Braille Services—Catherine Durivage, Director, Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library
* 10:30 AM, Fit Break—Kyle Hanneman
* 10:35 AM, What's Happening at the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind—John Davis, Director, MSAB
* 10:55 AM, Blind People Travel the World—Kaden Colton, Communications Instructor, Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions (BLIND), Inc.
* 11:10 AM, Successes and Challenges to Educate our Blind Children—Kristin Oien, Specialist for the Blind/Visually Impaired, Minnesota Department of Education
* 11:30 AM, Pro Tip 2
* 11:35 AM, Presidential Report—Steve Jacobson, President
* 11:50 AM, Pro Tip 3
* 11:55 AM, Announcements
* 12:00 PM, Adjourn

## 12:15 PM—BLIND, INC. LUNCHEON (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 4)

Please join the students and staff of Blindness: Learning In New Dimensions (BLIND) Inc. as we celebrate the progress and accomplishments of our consumer-directed training center rooted in Federation philosophy. Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director

## 2:00 PM–5:00 PM—GENERAL SESSION (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 1-3)

* 2:00 PM, Call to Order
* 2:05 PM, Review and Evolve: What's Happening at State Services for the Blind, and How They are "Evolving" for the Future—Natasha Jerde, Director, Minnesota State Services for the Blind
* 2:25 PM, Pro Tip 4
* 2:30 PM, Buddies, NFB-BELL and More—Michell Gip, Youth Program Coordinator, BLIND, Inc.; Briley O'Connor, NFB-BELL Coordinator, NFB of Minnesota
* 2:50 PM, Teachers of Tomorrow in Minnesota—Wendy Harris, Teacher of the Blind, Metro Deaf School; Amy Kaufman, Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Teacher of Blind/Visually Impaired, School District 917
* 3:10 PM, Pro Tip 5
* 3:15 PM, Rewards and Challenges of Changing Jobs—Stacy Fuehrer, Customer Care Specialist, Beyond Vision/Associated Industries for the Blind; Kotumu Kamara, Affirmative Action Officer, Minnesota Department of Health; Corbb O'Connor, Director of Accessibility Advocacy, Level Access
* 3:40 PM, Fit Break
* 3:45 PM, What's Happening at our Training Center—Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director, Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions (BLIND), Inc.
* 4:15 PM, Report from our Student Division—Sara Luna, National Association of Blind Students; Logan Stenzel, President, Minnesota Association of Blind Students
* 4:35 PM, Pro Tip 6
* 4:40 PM, The 2022 Scholarship Class—Aviana Kasal and Rocky Hart
* 4:55 PM, Door Prize and Announcements
* 5:00 PM, Adjourn

## 6:00 PM—SOCIAL HOUR AND CASH BAR (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 4)

Join us before the banquet for good conversation and a cash bar.

## 7:00 PM—BANQUET (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 1, 2 and 3)

Yadiel Sotomayor, MA, NCRTB, NOMCT, NCUEB, Master of Ceremonies

* Invocation
* Introduction of Head Table
* Raffles and Drawings
* Presentation of Scholarships
* Essay Contest Presentation
* Keynote Address: Everette Bacon, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind
* Final Auction Item

## 10:00 PM–MIDNIGHT—POST BANQUET SOCIAL AND CASH BAR (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 1-4)

# Sunday, November 6

Please remember to set your clocks one hour back. Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday morning, which gives us one extra hour of sleep.

## 9:00 AM—BUSINESS SESSION (Minnesota Valley Ballroom 1-3)

Coffee and Pastries will be available in the back of the General Session room.

* 9:00 AM, Call to Order
* 9:05 AM, Resolutions—Jennifer Dunnam, Resolutions Committee Chair
* 9:35 AM, Pro Tip 7
* 9:40 AM, Treasurer's Report—Jennifer Dunnam, Treasurer
* 9:55 AM, Elections
* 10:25 AM, Election of Delegates to National Convention
* 10:30 AM, The Federation on External Committees and Boards
* 10:55 AM, Getting Reconnected—Steve Jacobson, President
* 11:10 AM, Reports from Our Chapters
* 11:25 AM, In-person Convention Lessons Learned—Group Discussion
* 11:35 AM, Pro Tip 8
* 11:40 AM, Auction Report—Tara Coyne, Auction Committee Chair; Jennifer Dunnam, Treasurer
* 11:45 AM, Convention Final Announcements and Comments
* 12:00 PM, Adjourn

# Special Thanks

The activities of this organization can only succeed with the help and dedication of many Federationists, and the convention is no exception. The National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota offers particular thanks to the Metro Chapter for their hospitality, and to all of the many Federationists who have worked both out in front and behind the scenes to make this convention happen.

# NFB of Minnesota Board of Directors:

* Steve Jacobson, Edina (President)
* Briley O'Connor, Minneapolis (Secretary)
* Jennifer Dunnam, Saint Louis Park (Treasurer)
* Dave Andrews, Stillwater
* Cody Beardslee, Minneapolis
* Kotumu Kamara, St. Anthony
* Michael Colbrunn, Mankato
* Jan Bailey, Rochester

# NFB of Minnesota Chapters

* At-Large: Dave Andrews, President
* Metro: Deanna Langton, President
* Riverbend: Michael Colbrunn, President
* Rochester: Jan Bailey, President
* Twin Ports: Todd Olson, President

# Divisions, Committees, and Work Groups

* Convention Auction: Tara Coyne
* Convention Childcare: Briley O’Connor
* Convention COVID-19 Testing: Daniel Ashman
* Convention Door Prizes: Amy Baron, John TeBockhorst, and Tom TeBockhorst
* Convention Logistics: Corbb O’Connor
* Convention Sound, Recording, and Streaming: Ryan Strunk
* Membership Committee: Jan Bailey, Chairperson
* Minnesota Association of Blind Students: Logan Stenzel, President
* *Minnesota Bulletin* Editorial Team: Jennifer Dunnam and Kayde Rieken
* Resolutions Committee: Jennifer Dunnam, Chairperson
* Scholarship Committee: Steve Jacobson, Chairperson
* Social Media: Samantha Flax and Kayde Rieken, Co-chairpersons
* National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota Seniors’ Division: Judy Sanders, President