**NABS Notes**

**March 2015**

In this edition of NABS monthly bulletin:

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**NABS Announcements**

 **As we as students begin to make our plans for the summer and solidify our goals for next year,** NABS would like **to remind the current and upcoming college students of the opportunity they still have to apply for and win an academic scholarship through the National Federation of the Blind. The information for this scholarship is as follows:**

Are you a legally blind college student living in the United States or Puerto Rico? This annual program offers 30 scholarships worth from $3,000 to $12,000 to eligible students, from high school seniors beginning their freshman year in the fall semester of 2015, up through grad students working on their PhD degrees. These merit scholarships are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership. In addition to the money, each winner will receive assistance to attend the July 2015 NFB annual convention in Orlando, Florida from July 5th through July 10th, providing an excellent opportunity for high-level networking with active blind persons in many different professions and occupations.  To apply, read the rules and the Submission Checklist, complete the official 2015 Scholarship Application Form (online or in print), supply all required documents, and request and complete one interview by an NFB affiliate president (unless the president requests a later date). Applications are accepted  through March 31, 2015. Go to [www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nfb.org%2Fscholarships&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNG17y1sENEIHpSfCTdNTFNmBM_dBA)

**State Updates:**

**Connecticut**

The Connecticut Association of Blind Students was proud to attend the NFB of Massachusetts State Convention from February 27 through March 1. This was made possible with the generous financial support of the NFB of Connecticut, which sponsored two rooms for the weekend. We participated in all of the excellent student programming and are optimistic about the relationship we are building with our neighboring student division. CTABS is planning a fundraiser for the national convention and is already looking down the road to our student seminar at ourstate convention in November. CTABS Treasurer Kathryn Webster is coordinating the Connecticut BELL Camp and is keeping our division involved. We continue to hold two conference calls per month: one philosophy discussion and one business meeting. Join us on the second and fourth Sundays at 9:00 pmET if you’re interested!Enter the password to open this PDF file.

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**Illinois:**

The NFB of IL would like to announce our upcoming Teacher, Parent and Student Seminars, which will feature many topics and presentations relevant to each of these 3 groups (Teachers of the Visually Impaired, parents of blind children, and blind students respectively).

The three seminars are being held at The Chicago Marriott Midway Hotel:

6520 S Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

708-594-5500 (for hotel reservations).

All 3 conferences are the weekend of April 17-18.

The TVI Seminar ($30) is Friday, April 17 (and Teachers attending can receive CPDU credits for attending).

The Parents' Seminar ($30) and Student Seminar ($15) are concurrent on Saturday, April 18th.

You can register for any of the seminars at:

[http://nfbofillinois.org/?page\_id=579](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fnfbofillinois.org%2F%3Fpage_id%3D579&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGwZoms4bGKPPC7tVl4fgOz2ul17A)

**North Carolina:**

The North Carolina Association of Blind Students (NCABS) is continuing our growth and expansion as we are diving into various fund-raisers and seminars. In addition to our monthly gift card giveaway to a random member present on each conference call, we are launching a new fund-raiser entitled BMAP for Braille Menu Accessibility Program, connecting the blind across restaurants. We are charging each restaurant a fee of $30 in order for us to emboss their menus. Furthermore, we are hosting a new and engaging speaker on our monthly calls in order to provide a greater wealth of knowledge for our membership. Our web site has been recently updated and changed to a WordPress domain in order to give flexibility among the web masters.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Kathryn Webster, President of NCABS, with any questions or inquiries.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Webster

**If you think of updates from your student’s state division which you would like published in our next month’s edition, you are most welcome to send them along to Karen at:**

**kea.anderson@gmail.com**

**Or Rebecca at:**

**becsjoynfb@gmail.com**

**NABS Minutes 03-08-15**

Meeting called to order: 9:04 pm eastern

Members present: Sean Whalen, Karen Anderson, Gabe Cazares, Bre Brown, Candice Chapman, Cody Bair, Garrett Mooney, Derek Manners

Treasurer's report: Balance: Checking: $4,575.12 Savings: #17..00 This is not including what we made at Washington Seminar. Candice is still trying to talk to someone at Wells Fargo about the savings maintenance fees. Candice will be sending out reimbursement checks this week. We made $1,166.00 at Washington Seminar. Reimbursementfor Derek: $134.00 for the transportation of the keyboard.

Committees

Communications: THE communications committee will be having a call in the near future.

Fund raising: Apple may be matching the $3,000.00 donation we received.

Legislation: The committee had a conference call lastweek. They are beginning a spread sheet for legislation information.

Membership: The committee will be managing a list of NABS contact info on the website and in a read only doc on dropbox. The membership call will be about disability resources and laws.

Training calls for state presidents will begin in the near future. We will be looking at the best way to organize rosters. The state presidents email list is being reorganized. State presidents or specified contacts and NABS board members will be on thelist.

We discussed the changes in the process for requesting a NABS rep. Karen motioned to accept the changes, and Candice seconded. All approved.

State Updates:

Alabama is currently working on reorganizing their student division.

Montana is working on forming a student division.

NABS Rep Requests:

IL: Pending clarification on room and registration forCandice.

NM: Cody will be attending.

There are new requests for Karen to come to Michigan and Wisconsin. Candice will also be checking in to these two states. Those who are potentially available for MI should turn in information by March 10thTurn in information for Wisconsin by March 16th.

We will be submitting requests to have rooms for the NABS social, the business meeting and the Monte Carlo night at national convention.

Meeting adjourn: 10:40 pm eastern

Respectfully submitted

Bre Brown, Secretary

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