NABS Notes September 2015

In this edition of the NABS monthly bulletin:

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Kindel Products in Colleges and Universities:

Colleges and universities are implementing Kindle products at an alarming rate and the NFB needs your help to expand our advocacy efforts. Primarily, we need you to find out whether your school is implementing or considering implementing an Amazon storefront, Whispercast, or Kindle ebooks. If you learn that your school uses or is planning to use Whispercast or Kindle content, we need you to educate your school and administrators about the importance of ebook accessibility. Be prepared to explain why accessibility is critical, why it is important to ensure during the procurement phase that technology is accessible, and that accessible technology is required under the law. Provide your school with copies of the NFB's August 26, 2015, letter to the New York City Department of Education<[https://nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/kindle-books/nfb\_letter\_to\_ramirez\_8.26.15.pdf](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fnfb.org%2Fimages%2Fnfb%2Fdocuments%2Fpdf%2Fkindle-books%2Fnfb_letter_to_ramirez_8.26.15.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNG9FeAq0uW-UIbzPWEYvqIQ2yWSrw)>, ebook accessibility comparison chart<[https://nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/kindle-books/inaccessibility\_of\_kindle\_books\_chart\_8.27.15.pdf](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fnfb.org%2Fimages%2Fnfb%2Fdocuments%2Fpdf%2Fkindle-books%2Finaccessibility_of_kindle_books_chart_8.27.15.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEgBE_KwuF6AvfXa1eI93MK3EKsMQ)>, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice's Joint Dear Colleague letter<[http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20100629.html](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww2.ed.gov%2Fabout%2Foffices%2Flist%2Focr%2Fletters%2Fcolleague-20100629.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGZlIF2Xh8noplHcC4hL9q8TzZzbw)>, and the U.S. Department of Education's FAQ<[http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-ebook-faq-201105.html](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww2.ed.gov%2Fabout%2Foffices%2Flist%2Focr%2Fdocs%2Fdcl-ebook-faq-201105.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFmcQW8-DqIZCcbBjRKf7VPvqrIsQ)> and May 6, 2013, letter from Seth Galanter<[https://nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/kindle-books/letter\_from\_seth\_galanter\_5.6.13.pdf](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fnfb.org%2Fimages%2Fnfb%2Fdocuments%2Fpdf%2Fkindle-books%2Fletter_from_seth_galanter_5.6.13.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFrHl-xaLsupmr-6m0Y3AdCzLZwdg)>. And, if you learn that your school uses or is planning to use Whispercast or Kindle content, contact Valerie Yingling, paralegal at the NFB, at [vyingling@nfb.org](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/1b02cwepixrhh/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=vyingling@nfb.org)<mailto:[vyingling@nfb.org](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/1b02cwepixrhh/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=vyingling@nfb.org)> or (410) 659-9314, extension 2440

Tune in: NABS President to be Interviewed on KJSC Radio:

Don’t miss it! Tune in on Tuesday, September 29 at 8 PM eastern to hear an interview with Sean Whalen. To listen, go to kjscradio.com, click on “listen,” and then select your media player.

State Updates:

The below announcements are printed as they were received from their senders.

Arizona:

FromSeptember 11 through the 13 we had our state convention which was a lot of fun and a great success. Our state president Mr. Bob Kresmer was reelected for the 11th term, and we had president Ricabono present to share in the fun. Our former student division president Garret Mooney was the recipient of the Arizona state scholarship this year and was excited to receive this award when several of his mentors were present. We are also excited to share with you that our student board has a newly elected president Christian Able, and also new officers and board members.

President: Christian Able

First Vice: Thomas Camargo

Second Vice: Isaac Zwinger

Secretary: Bryan Duarte

Treasurer: Jonathan Candler

First Board: McDaniel Murrieta

Second Board: Brittany Bomboy

Thank you to everyone who attended our state convention and we all look forward to another year of service together!

California:

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| CABS is moving full speed ahead toward our State Convention, which will be held Oct. 30 through Nov. 1 in Newark, CA. We look forward with eager anticipation to our business meeting, which promises to be action packed. The theme this year will be Feeling the Power! We will have speeches from, among others, National rep Pam Allen and NABS rep Garret Mooney. Prior to the meeting we will have a pizza social, where students can eat lots of amazing pie and meet lots of even more amazing folks. And of course, convention isn’t convention without a fund raiser. Taking inspiration from our friends in Massachusetts, we are selling high quality dark chocolate bars from Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods. So come join us, you California dreamers, and let’s feel the power! |

Connecticut:

The Connecticut Association of Blind Students is preparing for our 44th annual State Convention, which will take place in New London, CT, from November 6-8. We will be selling our usual snackpacks; and welcoming several new students to the Federation. In addition to the Career Fair on Friday afternoon hosted by the affiliate, the students will have our meeting over lunch on Saturday, followed by an interactive and engaging Legislative Leadership Workshop hosted by the National Association of Blind Students (NABS) and our very own CT Affiliate. We are eager to award our state scholarships. Finally, Connecticut students are proud to enjoy some time with many NABS Board members during this week of learning, interaction, and teaching!

Georgia:

The Georgia Association of Blind Students invites you to join us at our state convention from October 9-11 in Atlanta! Be a part of the fun activities that we have in store, including a card games fundraiser and a student meeting agenda packed full of informative presentations. The date of our convention is swiftly approaching, so contact us quickly if you would like to attend! Please email Justin Heard, Georgia Student Division President, at [braillemasterjustin@gmail.com](mailto:braillemasterjustin@gmail.com), or call him at (678) 516-2464.

Massachusetts:

Massachusetts is continuing our work on building our division. We have recently scheduled a fall student social at Harvard Law School on October 17 from 1-3 P.M.  
  
We are also contacting every college and university DSS office to let them know about our upcoming student event as well as information on how to use the NABS and MASSABS student list as a crowd sourcing resource.

Nevada:

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| Coming up in five weeks, the Nevada Affiliate will be gathering to continue our efforts in building the federation. We will be holding our convention at the famous mane street station hotel in Las Vegas NV. On the weekend of October 30–November 1. Our agenda has some heavy hitting polititions, judges, and other influential figures–do not miss out! |

North Carolina:

The North Carolina Association of Blind Students is proud to report that our annual State Convention was a huge success. With presentations from both our National Rep Anil Lewis and our NABS Rep Sean Whalen, our students were enlightened by words of inspiration, positivity, and knowledge. Our three fundraisers turned out to be a great success, raising over $500 through selling popcorn and soda, hosting a lollipop tree raffle, and having some NC leaders get bailed out for our jail-break fundraiser.

Our students got to welcome brand new members, while getting to know our past leaders through a long drive to Wilmington, a student lunch, and various activities during Convention.

A big congratulations to our two state scholarship winners: our immediate past president Kathryn Webster and a new Federationist Katie Pyant!

Our entire membership is eager for the upcoming year and would like to welcome our newly elected officers to NCABS. Thank you to our past leaders for such a successful year!

 President: Bobbi Pompey

1st Vice President: Trey Roach

2nd Vice President: Anderson Smallwood

Secretary: Kenia Flores

Treasurer: Alan Chase

Pennsylvania:

The Pennsylvania Association of Blind Students is gearing up for what is sure to be a fantastic convention! Don’t miss out on the chance to meet and network with other blind students from all over the state. The convention is taking place from November 13-15 in Wilkes-Barre, the exact town and weekend in which the National Federation of the Blind was founded 75 years ago. If interested in attending or you have questions, contact Hindley Williams at [hbwilliams16@gmail.com](mailto:hbwilliams16@gmail.com) or (443) 823-0867.

Virginia:

The Virginia Association of Blind Students is preparing for what will be an amazing convention, which will be held halloween weekend at Tyson's Corner in Falls Church, VA. We are in the midst of planning the youth track, which will involve a halloween themed meet and greet on Friday evening where students will meet other students and mentors and participate in icebreakers. In addition students will have a travel excursion either at the Metro or the mall and will have a seminar lead by one of our great leaders in the Federation. Saturday afternoon, the student division will conduct our annual business meeting, which will include elections. It will be an exciting time as new leaders emerge. We are also planning to have two different fundraisers during convention, one of which is a jailbreak fundraiser borrowed from the North Carolina Association of Blind Students.

NABS Board Meeting Minutes:

**If there are images in this attachment, they will not be displayed.**   [Download the original attachment](https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?view=att&th=15011a9e1c9534d4&attid=0.1&disp=attd&zw)

September 27, 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:03 p.m.

 Members Present:

 Sean Whalen (President)

Candice Chapman (1st Vice President)

Bre Brown (2nd Vice President)

Kathryn Webster (Secretary/Treasurer)

Hindley Williams (Board Member 1)

Chris Nusbaum (Board member 3)

Treasurer’s Report:

Balance as of September 27, 2015: $4,967.42

Reimbursements to Sean and Garrett (NC/WA and CA) were issued.

Awaiting $45 from Karen from January’s auction.

Committee Reports

 Communications: Bre, Chris, Hindley

Working on a blog; will be up shortly. Committee call happened. We have moderators for the NABS list.

Social media: We are growing a great deal on Twitter. If you see any info you want posted or articles hsared, send to Chris Nusbaum at [dotkid.nusbaum@gmail.com](mailto:dotkid.nusbaum@gmail.com)

NABS Notes: Will be going out tomorrow. Please contact your state presidents each month to urge them for NABS Notes updates!

Fundraising: Kathryn

Please distribute funding packet to student organizations, employers, restaurants, and local businesses. Please share Gofundme page on all social media outlets!

[www.gofundme.com/blindstudents](http://www.gofundme.com/blindstudents)

Legislative: Sean, Kathryn

Anil Lewis, Patti Chang, Kathryn Webster, and Sean Whalen are handling Washington Seminar sponsorships. Application for students will be out before October 15. Applications will be due around November 15. Notifications will be sent out around Thanksgiving.

Legislative Committee should make a packet to help state student divisions during conventions and seminars. Template letters, sample letters, how to write one, etc.

NABS is partnering with NFB of CT to host a Legislative Leadership Seminar on November 7 from 1-5 p.m. in New London, CT. First 20 registrants will be paid for by the NFB of CT. To register: <http://goo.gl/forms/HLd0DC6RWF>

Membership: Candice

Planning a membership call for October and December.

 Website: Kathryn

Please email Kathryn with any student division leadership updates every time a Convention happens. That will have name, email, and phone number for student presidents.

State Updates

New York NABS Rep: they want Bre; motion made to send Bre up to $165; motion carries.

Illinois NABS Rep: Candice is going free of charge to NABS

Virginia NABS Rep: Kathryn is going free of charge to NABS; Chris will go Saturday.

Georgia NABS Rep: We are sending Hindley for $90

Louisiana NABS Rep: Bre is going free of charge to NABS

Michigan wants a NABS update: Candice will handle it on November 7, from 12-2 pm central

 Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.