**NABS Notes October 2015**

*The National Association of Blind Students --*

*A proud division of the National Federation of the Blind.*

**In this edition of NABS’ monthly bulletin:**

1. Last Chance to Join the 2015 Legislative Leadership Workshop
2. October Membership call: Meet the NABS Board
3. State Updates
4. NABS Board Meeting Minutes for October

**Last Chance to Join the 2015 Legislative Leadership Workshop**

Are you passionate about shaping the future for blind students through legislative initiatives? Are you interested in advocacy, but don't know how to get started?

If so, join the National Association of Blind Students and the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut for an empowering and interactive legislative workshop!

WHO: Any students who have an interest in legislative action. Both experts and novices are welcome and will benefit from this exciting workshop.

WHAT: An afternoon of interactive breakouts, moderated discussions and informative presentations that will provide you with the skills and know-how that will prepare you to improve accessibility of technology and educational opportunities for the blind by passing laws in Congress.

WHEN: Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Holiday Inn, 35 Governor Winthrop Blvd. New London, CT 06320

Interested? Act now! Space is limited, and the NFB of CT has graciously volunteered to cover the cost of registration, lunch and banquet dinner on the day of the event for the first 20 registrants. Hurry up and register today:

<http://goo.gl/forms/HLd0DC6RWF>

Have questions? Get answers!

Email Sean Whalen at nabs.president@gmail.com or call 262 309-1034.

We hope to see you in Connecticut in November. Let’s build up legislative leaders and build a brighter future for blind students across America!

**October Membership Call: Meet the NABS Board**

Have you been wanting to know more about this year’s NABS Board?
Wondering what new and exciting things NABS is doing? Well, wait no
longer! Join the Membership Committee for its October Membership
Call! We will be introducing the members of our board and updating
you on the new structure of our committees and what each of them will
be doing this year!

Please join us Sunday, October 25th at 7 p.m. eastern for this month's
membership call. Use phone number 605-475-6700 and use code: 7869673.
As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Candice Chapman, membership committee chair at chapman.candicel@gmail.com.

**State Updates**

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

**Arizona:**

Greetings from the Arizona students association! Here in the valley of the sun we are all thankful for the October month because with it comes a slight weather change!!!

 This year our students division is hard at work planning for a state wide seminar we would like to host. During this seminar we plan to conduct presentations on blindness, recruit new members, and out reach with the general public. It is our goal to not only increase our student involvement but also increase the knowledge of the general public regarding blindness. We all understand that we are capable of living the lives we want through hope, love, and determination, but there are some people who do not know this fact so we are hard at work spreading the word that here in Arizona, blindness is not what defines us!

 We are looking forward to this year and all the impact we will make either through the recruitment of new members or social awareness of blindness. Have a great October and awesome Halloween from all of us in AABS!!!

**California:**

My my how time does fly! The NFB of California State Convention is less than two weeks away. We will gather in Newark, CA at the Doubletree hotel on Thursday, October 29, and our convention will run through Sunday, November 1. There will be much excitement, including a CABS pizza social immediately followed by our annual business meeting, entitled Feeling the Power! We even have something for your sweet tooth, as we will be selling high quality chocolates from Trader Joes and Whole Foods. So come join us, meet new people, be inspired, and let's Feel the Power!

**Colorado:**

CABS just held a student leadership seminar on September 26th, 2015. We educated students from all corners of Colorado about advocating and succeeding in college.  Presenters spoke about rehabilitation services for blind college students and financial aid as well as other positive topics.  We are now getting ready for our student meeting which will be held on Saturday October 31st at the Colorado State convention. We have some exciting fund raising planned for the convention.  One of them includes selling hand made key chains.  There is a handful of the key chains that say in braille the NFB's quote: "Live the life you want." Mark Riccobono is our National Representative for convention.  We will have more updates after the Colorado State convention. Thanks!

**Connecticut:**

The Connecticut Association of Blind Students (CTABS) will hold its fourth annual business meeting, including elections, on Saturday, November 7, as part of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut State Convention, at which we will continue our snack pack fundraiser. We are proud that a graduate of the summer program at BLIND, Inc., has recently joined our division: until that point, the Louisiana Center for the Blind was the only one represented in our entire state affiliate. Our membership continues to grow as, together, with love, hope, and determination, we are transforming dreams into reality.

**Georgia:**

GABS held our state convention from October 9-11. On Friday night, the Gems program, a mentoring program composed of students, hosted a pizza dinner. Afterword, we had a card game fundraiser. The next day at our business meeting, we spoke about vocational rehabilitation, scholarships, stenography, heard from our NABS rep Hindley Williams, and more. Elections were held, voting in Justin Heard as president, Joseph Pier-louis as vice-president, Nautica Whitehead as secretary, Jackson Schwoble as treasurer, and Ernic Eyma as a board member. We look forward to the year to come.

**Illinois:**

Our state convention will be held from October 30-November 1. There will be lots of fun things going on including IABS Idol, a costume contest, and a student lunch where our NABS rep Candice Chapman will present.

**Kansas:**

Fellow students, I am writing to share with you some exciting updates in our lovely state of Kansas. We are proud to announce that the NFB of Kansas has recently established a student division, and we are delighted to finally join our big family. We are working hard on recruitment, and hopefully soon we will bring in many more people to build the federation together. During this month we elected the board, voting in Anya Avramenko as president, Alosha Moore as vice president, Ashley Neybert as secretary, and Pavan Chelikani as treasurer. We are rapidly approaching the time of our state convention, which will take place in Wichita, Kansas on November 20 through 22nd. We are very excited about this event because it will be our first convention where the members of our newly-formed student division will have a chance to get together to brainstorm ideas and to create a plan for our future activities and projects. We have invited our national liaison from NABS, Hindley Williams, who will help us generate ideas about making our student division active and successful. We might be able to stream our convention online, and everyone is invited to virtually join and enjoy our great convention with us. Later we will be posting the information about the means through which the streaming will be available. Anybody who would like to come and participate is also welcome!

We are very excited that, despite all the challenges, we were still able to create the student division in Kansas, and we greatly anticipate collaborative work with NABS in the future. All the members of Kansas student division are very involved, dedicated, and enthusiastic, and I am looking forward to working with them on building the lives we want.

For any questions, comments, or suggestions, please reach the president Anya Avramenko at: (720)499-4730, or via e-mail at: annita.co.usa@gmail.com

Or vice president Alosha Moore at (316)312-3454 or via e-mail at: aloshamoore@gmail.com

**Maryland:**

The 49th convention of the NFB of Maryland is just around the corner, and the Maryland Association of Blind Students is hard at work planning a variety of activities which will empower you to live the life you want as a blind student. The focal point of our activities will be our annual business meeting, which will take place on Friday, November 13 from 2:00-4:00 PM. We have a jam-packed agenda planned, including a presentation from a blind chemistry professor who shows that blindness need not hold you back from participating in college-level science classes, inspiring remarks from our affiliate President about how students serve as a valuable part of our movement, an informational presentation on the ABLE Act and how it can benefit you as a blind student, a panel of college students who share their firsthand perspectives on the college experience, and much more. Also, we are planning a fun and inspiring luncheon just for students on Saturday afternoon, featuring an opportunity to get to know our members and leaders, a keynote address by our national representative, Jeanie Massay, and—oh yes—pizza! This will be a convention you will not want to miss! Join us November 13-15 at the Carousel Hotel in beautiful Ocean City as we learn together how the Maryland Association of Blind Students is transforming dreams into reality!

**Massachusetts:**

MASSABS hosted our fall student meeting on Saturday October 17 at Harvard Law School. We had around 20 people in attendance including three newbies. We are also beginning to plan our state convention agenda for February 2016 in Boston.

**Michigan:**

The Michigan Association of Blind Students is busy planning for a weekend of

federation fun, food, and friendship to take place during our state

convention on November 6 - 8, 2015 in Lansing, Michigan. The festivities

kick off on Friday evening with a student dinner followed by ice breaker

games. The activities continue On Saturday with a business meeting during

the convention lunch break where we will hear from our national

Representative, Kevan Worley, along with electing new members to our board.

We will also be holding a raffle fundraiser with three fabulous prizes. For

more information on how you can get involved with these fun activities,

please contact MABS President, Jordyn Castor, at students@nfbmi.org

**Minnesota:**

The Minnesota Association of Blind Students has a new board! The new

officers are as follows:

President: Cody Beardslee

1st Vice President: Jessica Katzung

2nd Vice President: Megan Bening

Secretary: Quinn Haberl

Treasurer: Candice Chapman

I am excited to be working with the new Board! We look forward to

keeping you posted with all of our news and events!

-Candice Chapman

**North Carolina:**

Hello and Happy Halloween from the students of the North Carolina Association of Blind Students, better known as NCABS!!!The focus of our conference call this month was to lay out the goals for NCABS over the next year. Five committees were appointed to help us reach our goals and continue to make NCABS better and better. The Event Planning Committee will be planning events for blind students across the state. The Fundraising Committee will be creating ways for us to raise money and help fund the movement. Our Legislative Committee will be advocating for equal access legislation. We will be spreading the word about NCANS and the NFB through our Media and Publicity Committee. And last, but not least, our Membership Committee will be using creative and strategic methods to increase the number of people participating in our great organizations. So as you see, NCABS has a lot planned for the next year and with our dedicated members we are sure to reach them all. Please stay tuned for more NCABS updates, and spread the word about us to any blind students you know in our great state!

**Pennsylvania:**

The Pennsylvania Association of Blind Students is gearing up for what is sure to be a memorable state convention! Our state convention will be taking place from November 13-15 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. We are excited to have President Mark Riccobono at our convention as the national rep. We are also excited for our student activities, including a business meeting on Friday evening, and a fifty-fifty raffle fundraiser. For any questions about how to attend our state convention, please contact Hindley Williams at hbwilliams16@gmail.com.

**Texas:**

Here in Texas, we are looking forward to our state convention to be held in Austin on November 13-15. We have a jam packed business meeting happening on Friday night in which elections will be held. TABS will be selling snack packs and breakfast tacos during the convention. These snack packs are filled with tons of goodies and are worth their $5.00. We will be having a lunch for students on Saturday afternoon. As usual, our convention promises to be filled with fun, food, and federation friends and family.

**Virginia:**

We are 2 weeks away from what will be an amazing convention!! Convention will be held at Tyson's Corner in Falls Church, VA. We have a great youth track planned 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 to the Metro and will have a seminar lead by one of our great leaders in the Federation, Dr. Fred Schroeder. 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. The other will be a bake sale at the exhibit hall. We are looking forward to have a great time and welcoming Kathryn Webster, our NABS rep, to Virginia.

**October NABS Board Meeting Minutes**

National Association of Blind Students

Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:04 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:

Checking account: $4,848.82

Authorization needed for Hindley’s reimbursement and Candice’s agenda copies.

No outstanding checks.

We are going to handle Stitchville by sending Al Elia a check.

Committee Reports

Communications: Bre, Hindley, and Chris

NABS Notes: In need of state updates; due to Hindley Monday at midnight. Email hbwilliams16@gmail.com.

We will start incorporating our one-minute message in NABS Notes.

Social Media: Increasing followers and friends on Twitter and Facebook (respectively.) Please join and share our event for the “2015 Legislative Leadership Workshop” that will take place during the 2015 Connecticut State Convention on Saturday, November 7.

Blog: BELL blog is coming.

Bre is working on scholarship page. Bre and Kathryn will begin incorporating new links into our website to list scholarship opportunities.

Fundraising: Kathryn

Please spread Gofundme (www.gofundme.com/blindstudents) to family, friends, colleagues, different Facebook groups/pages.

Distribute funding packet to local businesses, sororities/fraternities, Lions Clubs, Elks lodges, etc.

We are having a Chile’s fundraiser on October 21 in Ruston, LA.

We have an Applebee’s fundraiser in December.

Legislative: Sean and Kathryn

Legislative workshop: Registration is still open. The first 20 registrants will receive free registration, meals, and banquet dinner for the CT State Convention courtesy of the CT Affiliate. You can find the workshop registration link on our website. Please encourage your states to register. If in need of transportation funding, reach out to local chapters and affiliates.

Letter campaign: We are pushing for 250 by early to mid-December. Please write one if you have not; and please encourage your states to do the same.

College update: Progress at Arizona State University, Wake Forest University, and Ramapo College

Membership: Candice

Interested in doing a “Meet the Board” conference call. This is planned for Sunday, October 25 at 7 p.m. eastern. Let your states know; and Candice will handle the blast through NABS-L and NFB Student list.

Website: Kathryn

Please send state president updates to Kathryn as conventions happen.

State Updates

Minnesota: new Board; new president; excited for the upcoming year; Candice was in attendance.

Georgia: Went really well; Hindley was the NABS Rep. Good fundraisers

Maryland: Convention November 13-15; Chris would love for board members to come

Michigan: Candice will handle it if it’s either Friday evening or Saturday

Colorado: We will not be sending a NABS Rep since it is two weeks away, but we will hopefully appear through Skype.

Note: NABS Reps should be in contact with the National Rep prior to Convention.

Old Business:

Matching for Washington Seminar: We will be distributing the application for student sponsorship very soon. Forms are due on November 22 and decisions will be made on December 15. Please recruit future leaders, current leaders, and your states. Funding will be determined based on how much we raise by the deadline. Anil, Patti, Kathryn, and Sean will be discussing further details this week.

Note: Dates are tentative for application and turn around.

New Business:

We will be putting our NFB logo on all social media accounts and website.

Creating a NABS Rep follow-up form for state presidents to fill out after State Conventions.

Washington Seminar activities: Legislative training on Monday afternoon potentially. Instead of our Resource Fair, we could distribute a resource packet.

We will be in contact with President Riccobono on his thoughts, since there is a legislative training already held each year.

Fundraising during Washington Seminar: NABS Auction on Monday or Tuesday? Will be decided at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns or suggestions. The NABS Board works for you, and we want to know how we’re doing! Thanks for reading, and we’ll be back in November.

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