**NABS Notes February 2016**

*The National Association of Blind Students --*

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

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**The NFB National Scholarship – APPLY TODAY!**

Are you legally blind?

Do you reside in the United States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico?

Are you pursuing or planning to pursue a full-time, postsecondary course of study at a U.S. institution in the 2016 scholastic year?

Are you available to attend the entire NFB National Convention in Orlando, Florida from June 30-July 5, 2016?

Are you eager to meet Federation leaders and network with some of the brightest, most passionate mentors out there?

If you said yes to all of these questions, then we strongly encourage you to apply to our 2016 National Scholarship Program!

To recognize achievement by blind scholars, the National Federation of the Blind annually offers blind college students in the United States and Puerto Rico the opportunity to win one of thirty merit-based, national-level scholarships ranging in value of $3,000 to $12,000. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership.

Visit our website at [www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.nfb.org/scholarships) to begin your application!

Remember: applications, along with all necessary documents, must be submitted no later than March 31, 2016. Do not wait until the end of February to start gathering additional information and beginning the online form.

**Report your experiences with Pearson products**

The NFB has engaged in a consultation agreement with Pearson in an effort to improve the accessibility of Pearson’s educational products. It is important that we report to Pearson the barriers that NFB members are experiencing. If you have encountered access barriers with any Pearson product, such as MyLab or Course Connect, please contact Valerie Yingling, Paralegal, at [vyingling@nfb.org](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/3zk918f49huq/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=vyingling@nfb.org), or [410-659-9314 ext. 2440](tel:410-659-9314%20ext.%202440).

**The NFB National Scholarship: Upcoming Membership Call**

Are you interested in applying for an NFB national scholarship, but have some questions about forms, requirements, the application process, or the national NFB convention that scholarship winners attend? Then join NABS on February 28 at 7 PM eastern as we hear from a scholarship committee representative about all of the ins and outs of the scholarship application and program. Dial into the conference line to participate using the following information: phone number (605) 475-6700, access code 7869673. Come get all of your scholarship-related questions answered!

**Attention High School Students! – NFB EQ**

Are you interested or know someone who might be interested in pursuing work in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) after high school? Do you enjoy investing your talent and energy in solving real-world problems? Join the National Federation of the Blind for NFB EQ, a week-long engineering program for blind and low-vision high school students.

At this program, you will collaborate with other students to solve authentic problems that exist in developing countries. You will spend the week working on a team to engineer solutions to a given problem. Your team will create proposals with accompanying models, which you will pitch to various stakeholders. After constructing life-size prototypes of your designs, you will test them in authentic settings. You will also have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with a number of engineers from across the country, some of whom happen to be blind.

To learn more and to apply, visit:

[www.blindscience.org/NFBEQ](http://www.blindscience.org/NFBEQ)

NOTE: State student leaders, please spread the word! Reach out to high school students and schools in your state so that they are aware of this exciting opportunity.

**The NFB Summer Internship Program**

The application date is right around the corner! Have you considered applying for the unique experience of interning at the NFB Jernigan Institute in Baltimore? For more information, visit the following link:

<https://nfb.org/blog/vonb-blog/national-federation-blind-2016-summer-internship-program>

Remember, all application materials are due on March 11.

**February NABS Blog Update**

Often times we want to get involved in school or in the community, but sometimes we just aren’t sure where to start. Check out this step by step approach to getting involved by Lizzie Muhammad. The link is:  
[http://nabslink.org/content/step-step-approach-getting-involved](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fnabslink.org%2Fcontent%2Fstep-step-approach-getting-involved&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFtwVTKYVEWjZrvhTvxP6VWmWQGhQ) .

If you have any ideas for articles or would like to write one, you can email Bre Brown at [bbrown@nfbtx.org](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/mmhkd6c8ve71/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=bbrown@nfbtx.org). Stay tuned for the blog update in March.

**State Updates**

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

**Arizona:**

Greetings from your Arizona students. The new year has officially been welcomed with January business out of the way, and February underway. Following a very challenging but still very productive Washington Seminar we are proud to report that we were able to send 9 Arizonians to our nations capital including two of our students division board. Along with our advocacy work on Capital Hill we are working hard to continue our advocacy work locally during our Phoenix Seminar.

Finally the students division is organizing a students seminar with a theme of "Transitioning". We are going to have break out sessions, presenters, and a panel to discuss everything from transitioning from high school to college, college to the work place, training facilities to the work place, and even some health and wellness, and NFB philosophy. We are working towards 50 student participants from all over Arizona. Thank you all for taking the time to read our state updates and lets go live the life we want.

**Colorado:**

Now that our Broncos have won the superbowl, we have winners for our NFL playoffs pool fundraiser.  Congratulations to Richie Flores from Texas for coming in second place, and Karen Rogers from Colorado for a first place win!  The division is planning an informative student seminar for April where we plan to talk about many topics related to being a successful blind student.  We are also starting to plan a membership outreach event in Boulder, in order to reach out to new students.  With the NFB's Colorado Center for the Blind close by, we are able to work with them in many ways, including mentoring and education at the Colorado School for the Blind, working with younger students in Denver to facilitate fun activities that teach skills and positive philosophy, and speaking to the center students on different topics important to blind students.  We are experiencing membership growth and looking forward to what is to come!

**Maryland:**

The Maryland Association of Blind Students continues to focus our energy on membership growth and rebuilding. To begin this process, our Membership/Communications Committee held our division's first membership call on February 20. In this call, participants got a chance to meet the current MDABS Board, learn about our committees and the work they do, and share their ideas with our leaders. Though attendance was a bit lower than expected, we were able to introduce a few enthusiastic new members to the work of the organization, in which they were eager to get involved. Our Board is also beginning to make plans for a student seminar focused on independent living skills, to be held in early May. Stay tuned for more information on this seminar as we get logistics worked out.

**Massachusetts:**

MASSABS is excited to report that 5 of the 8 NFBMA members in attendance at Washington Seminar were students, two of whom were there for the first time including Meaghan Roper and Dylan Hedtler Gaudette, President Precious Perez also endured 7 flight cancellations to make it.  
  
Our state convention is Feb. 26-28 in Boston and we will be electing a new board. We are very excited to have Kathryn Webster as our NABS Rep. In addition, we have 50/50 raffle tickets for sale that are already up to about $250 in prize money and climbing. If you want to buy some, contact Derek Manners at [derekmanners@gmail.com](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/mmhkd6c8ve71/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=derekmanners@gmail.com) and he can take your order via PayPal. Finally, we will be auctioning off some 3D printed items as well as some fudge and cookies made by our talented baker, Secretary Meaghan Roper.

**New Jersey:**

In January NJABS raised about 200 dollars conducting a raffle at the NFBNJ holiday party put on by the state affiliate. NJABS is also planning our first seminar with the newly elected board. NJABS is also working with PABS to put on this seminar. It should be a great collaboration and we are looking forward to a great event.

**Texas:**

The Texas Association of Blind students in conjunction with the Texas  
Parents of Blind Children will be holding our annual youth conference  
in Dallas, April 8-10. The conference is for Parents of blind  
children, blind students, and related professionals to come together  
during this exciting weekend to network, learn, and have lots of fun!  
We will have exhibits, a reception, an open TABS board meeting, a  
joint session for parents, students, and professionals, a formal  
luncheon, breakout sessions for students and parents, a recreational  
trip, and more. We are pleased to welcome Jeannie Massay from Oklahoma  
as our national representative. This is always an exciting time here  
in Texas, and this year will not be any different. You can find all of  
the details at [www.nfbtx.org](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nfbtx.org&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGLrSxQgEgNJmd6mMN1oPc7Q1jtQg). If you have any questions, feel free to  
email me at [bbrown@nfbtx.org](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/mmhkd6c8ve71/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=bbrown@nfbtx.org) .

**February 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=1530c5168feee83c&attid=0.1&disp=attd&zw)

National Association of Blind Students

Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Meeting called to order at 9:07 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)

Garret Mooney (Board member 2)

Chris Nusbaum (Board member 3)

Michael Ausbun (Board Member 4)

Treasurer’s Report:

Checking account balance: $3,278.58

Savings account balance: $7,157.27

Washington Seminar Success:

NABS Café wristbands: $345

NABS Auction: $521; awaiting money from Everett and Virgil

NABS Winter Seminar Registration: $150

Raffle tickets: $12

NABS Café Bar costs: -$185

We still owe Sean $2,296.16 and will reimburse him once an expenditure sheet has been sent to the Wash Sem Funding Committee;

$300 for Sean’s flight;

And $200 for one more student who received funding from NABS to attend Washington Seminar

Stay tuned for final numbers once all the money has been handled with National, funded students, and Sean.

Wash Sem Debrief:

Great turnout! We had more than 50 attendees at the NABS Winter Seminar, which is more than last year and more than we expected given the weather.

A huge thank you to President Riccobono for combining the reception and the NABS Café into one event; and for the match from National in order to get more than 20 students who would otherwise have not attended due to financial burden.

Chris will send thank you emails to each presenter from our NABS meeting.

We made great connections with various affiliate leaders and student leaders; and thank you for joining us in Washington DC!

State Updates

Hindley:

Alaska does not have a student division, but Hindley keeps them in the loop. Attending a few conference calls. Vermont is harder to keep in touch with.

Garret:

Garret is working closely with California, Colorado, and Arizona. Arizona is going to have a student seminar on April 9. Colorado is having a student seminar next week. There is a new student president in Arizona as of this week. Garret is helping states build relationships with affiliate leadership.

Chris:

Maryland had their first membership call of the year last night. Michigan is doing well with their new president; working on a seminar. Illinois is having a student seminar this spring. Difficulty contacting New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Michael:

Working closely with Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette with Maine. Nevada and Ohio are working closely with Michael. South Carolina is doing well. Oklahoma is having a student seminar in conjunction with the Oklahoma affiliate.

Mid-Year Review/Moving Forward

Communications:

NABS Notes: going well. Let Hindley know if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

NABS Notes have been effectively blasted across our database, discussion list, and master list.

Social media:

Doing a solid job. NABS Notes and blog posts are broadcasted on social media. Chris and other board members need to do more blindness articles to trigger discussions. Chris should work on putting out more NABS updates on social media. Get photos and captions to Chris while we are NABS Repping at various State Conventions.

Slate blog posts:

They are becoming more and more consistent. We are posting at least once a month. We would love for more ideas or articles to post. We should revamp the student division spotlight post for different states once a month.

Kathryn will look into creating a comment section for the blog.

Fundraising:

Have done a great job! We still have our GoFundMe page. Kathryn will post an update that advertises NABS from an organization standpoint, more so than the one initiative to raise money for Wash Sem.

We are awaiting the $240 from the Applebee’s fundraiser and the amount for the Chipotle one in California.

Kathryn is going to coordinate a 5-k walk/run at Wake Forest to raise money toward National Convention expenses. We could look into grant writing if money gets tight in the future, but we are doing very well as of right now.

Membership:

We have our scholarship membership call on Sunday, February 28 at 7pm eastern. Join Scholarship Committee Chair Patti Chang to get all of your questions answered!

NABS Reps:

Kathryn will be in Massachusetts this coming weekend;

Bre in Alabama the following weekend;

And Michael in Idaho at the end of April.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 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 March.

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.