# NABS Notes – March 2021

**“Remember that sometimes not getting what you want is a wonderful stroke of luck.” -Dalai Lama**

Welcome to the March edition of our NABS Notes! Every day, we consider ourselves lucky to have members like you. We hope you’ll take some time to catch up on all things new with NABS. Read on to learn more about our upcoming events and updates from committees. In this edition you will find:

•A Message from the Board

•March Blog Post

•March Episode of the NABS Now Podcast

•Committee Updates

•Stay Connected | NABS Social Media

## Marching Forward Toward a Brighter Future

It is difficult to believe that a full year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic started and thousands of blind students across the country were sent home to navigate the uncharted territory of virtual learning. As we reflect on this anniversary, we could not be more proud of our membership for the resilience and determination that you all have shown during these unprecedented times, especially in the face of tangible accessibility barriers. Know that we are cheering for each of you as this school year comes to a close, and we are happy to speak with you if you are looking for support in any way.

As March draws to a close, our NABS board is elated at both the progress we have made over the past month as well as our upcoming initiatives. With a powerful Midwest Student Seminar in the books, we can begin gearing up for national convention and finishing off this Federation year strong! We welcome students to get in contact with our NABS leaders if you have any questions or ideas to share.

Here are a few highlights to note:

•Our NABS website is under reconstruction, and we ask for your patience as we navigate this transition. We are beyond excited to bring you a new and improved nabslink.org.

•Our NABS board will be undergoing sexual assault and prevention training through RAINN during the month of April.

## March Blog Post | The Real Experts on blindness

Ever wondered what the National federation of the Blind can offer you? Well, besides the obvious scholarships, mentorships, and other social/professional opportunities, this month’s [blog post](https://thestudentslate.wordpress.com/2021/03/15/the-real-experts-on-blindness-by-justin-mh-salisbury/), written by Justin Salisbury, highlights one of the greatest things our Federation family can offer our students--knowledge! Take some time to read and ruminate on the resources that we all have access to 24/7, and always remember that knowledge is power!

## March Episode of the NABS Now Podcast | Wisdom & Willpower - Celebrating Women’s Empowerment

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the NABS Now team created an episode focused on female leaders in the Federation. From humorous to emotionally inspiring, this episode is all about what it means to be a woman in countless realms. We talked with women about discovering empowerment, using their voices, and identifying those who have come before us, blazing a trail for future leaders to follow. Whether you are a member of our national student division, an elected officer at any level, or simply a Federation friend, this episode can teach you a thing or two about finding your own sense of empowerment and even a few new ways to empower others.

Thank you to special guests Ever Lee Hairston, Jennifer Bazer, and Samantha Flax.

Created and produced by Nina Marranca, Elizabeth Rouse, Kenia Flores, and Seyoon Choi.

Are you interested in assisting with the planning and production of the NABS Now Podcast? Email Nina at: ninam0814@gmail.com for more information.

Find us on [Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/47rJlZrFHD4EIqvgLRNhHM), [Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/nabs-now-podcast/id1507437256?uo=4), [Google Podcasts](https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmNob3IuZm0vcy8xYWRjNWZmNC9wb2RjYXN0L3Jzcw%3D%3D%20), or see [our Anchor page](https://anchor.fm/nabs-now%20) for more ways to listen!

## Committee Updates

### Keep Calm & Podcast On

Have you been listening to the second season of the NABS Now Podcast? If not, you’re missing out! Trust the over 5,000 listeners who’ve been keeping up with our latest releases. We’d love to hear your feedback on our released content as well as ideas you’ve got for future episodes! So, catch up on your listening and bring your thoughts to our next committee meeting, taking place on Sunday, April 11 at 8:00 PM EST. For questions on how to get involved, email Committee Chair Nina Marranca.

### Accepting Ideas and Suggestions

The NABS Fundraising Committee is working hard and creating options for our membership to both promote our work and assist in building our treasury. Currently, we are collecting favorite recipes to be compiled in NABS Nuggets, a NABS cookbook collaboration between the Fundraising and Diversity and Inclusion Committees, coming summer of 2021. If you have a recipe that is close to your heart and want to share the story of why it’s significant to you, please submit [this Google Form](https://forms.gle/F3fGbHsP2FUWqGoY8) to have your recipe considered for inclusion in the project. For more information about these endeavors and how you can support the work we do, please join us for our next committee meeting, taking place on Sunday, April 11 at 9:00 PM EST. For questions on how to get involved, email Committee Chair Robert Parsons.

### Keeping Up & Getting Involved

The NABS Legislative and Self-Advocacy Committee invites you to join our next committee call, happening on Sunday, April 18 at 8:00 PM EST. For questions on how to get involved, email Committee Chair Justin Salisbury.

### Proposing D & I Policy this July

The NABS Diversity and Inclusion Committee thanks everyone who joined us in March by either participating in our committee meeting an/or celebrating Women’s History Month. We remain delighted with the conversations that are happening within this space every month. Between now and July’s national convention, we will begin thinking about policy recommendations our committee can make to the incoming NABS board, surrounding future in-person student events from a diversity and inclusion perspective. We encourage you to join our next committee meeting on Sunday, April 18 at 9:00 PM EST with your thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Unable to attend our next meeting or simply have more questions on how to get involved? Email Committee Chair Monica Wegner or join the committee [GroupMe](https://groupme.com/join_group/58566316/Tqug79NE), where members coordinate our activities.

… And don’t forget our monthly membership call, taking place on Sunday, April 25 at 9:00 PM EST!

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