National Federation of the Blind of Idaho

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**2017 NFBI State Convention**

**March 23 -25, 2017 Boise, ID**

**“Transforming our Dreams into Reality”**

**Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 3300 S. Vista Avenue, Boise Idaho**

**Phone (208) 343-4900**

Our NFB National President, Mark Riccobono will be our National Representative this year.

**Registration will be in the Convention Center Lobby at**: 6:30 – 7:00 pm Thursday,7:45 – 8:15 am Friday, 8:00 – 8:30 am Saturday

**Hospitality will be in the Brundage Room and Childcare in the Syringa Room**

**Hospitality hours will be:** Friday 12:00 – 7:00, Saturday 12:00 – 2:00

**Convention Committee:** Sandy Streeter, Chair, Susan Bradley, Chris Jones, Judy Jones, Joe Thompson, Delaine Wardell, Alison Steven, Leslie Mora, Mike Gibson, Russell Smith, Frank Skogsberg.

**Auction Committee:** Ramona Walhof, Chair, Vickie Bateman, Larry Bateman, Josh Geisler, Jud Cottrell.

**Hospitality Committee:** Vel Slotten, Chair, Sharon Henderson, Shelley Newhouse, Noel Newhouse, Sue Brooks, Lynn Kneip.

**Fundraising Committee:** Ramona Walhof Chair, Vickie Bateman, Sandy Streeter, Chris Jones, Justin Bonner.

**Door prize Committee:** Judy Jones, Chair, Katie Pirnie, Kevin Pirnie and Vel Slotten

**Resolutions Committee:** Mike Gibson, Chair, Jennie Facer, Joe Thompson, Wanda Jolley, Alana Leonhardy.

**Nominating Committee:** Vickie Bateman, Chair, Mary Ellen Halverson, Joe Thompson

**Hotel Matters:** Larry Sebranek, Sue Sebranek

**Open Mic:** Chris Jones, Host

**Scholarship Committee** Mike Gibson, Chair, Russell Smith, Chris Jones, Sandy Streeter, Susan Ford

**Convention Streaming** David Jolley

**Web Committee**: Kevin Pirnie, Chair, Russell Smith, Mike Gibson, T.J. Squires, Sean Malone,

**Thursday, March 23, 2017**

6:30-7:00 P.M. Convention Registration: Convention Center Lobby

7:30-9:00 P.M. Reception hosted by Treasure Valley Chapter Meet our scholarship winners, welcome students: **Brundidge Room**

9:00-10:00 P.M. Resolutions Committee room to be announced

**Friday March 24, 2017**

**Cascade Room**

7:45-8:15 A.M. Convention Registration **Convention Center Lobby**

8:30 Call to order, invocation and opening announcements

8:45-9:05 A.M. ICBVI report, Beth Cunningham, agency director

9:05-9:10 A.M. Q. And A.

9:10-9:40 A.M. Blind federationists in the work force: Judy Jones, Sylvia Bernert, Hannah Corolewski

9:40-10:00 A.M. IESDB Report, Jeanne-Marie Copecky, Assistant Outreach Director

10:00-10:05 A.M. Q. and A.

10:05-10:20 A.M. An Artist’s dream Becomes Reality: Judd Cottrell

10:20-10:40 A.M. Idaho Commission for Libraries update Sue Walker

10:40-10:45 A.M. Resolutions

10:45-11:15 A.M. Strengthening Partnerships between agencies serving the blind and the NFB of Idaho

11:15-11:25 A.M. What’s Happening with NABS? Mike Ausbun

11:25-12:00 ITD Plan for Persons with Disabilities, the elderly, and persons with lower incomes; Discussion with the Federation and ITD

12:00-5:00 P.M. Blindness Product and Services Expo **Silverhorn**

1:00-2:00 P.M. Non24 Sleep Disorder, Learn about this common sleep disorder that affects many blind people who do not see light, Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Teton

1:30-2:30 P.M. Membership and Chapter Building **Alpine**

2:30-4:30 P.M. Senior Seminar **Cascade**

2:30-3:30 P.M. Experience the iPhone **Alpine**

3:30-5:00 P.M. Student Seminar **Teton**

5:30-7:00 P.M. Board meeting and Dinner **Ponderosa**

7:30-9:30 P.M. Open Mic. **Peregrine**

**Saturday March 25, 2017**

**Cascade Room**

8:00-8:30 A.M. Convention Registration, Convention center lobby

8:45-9:00 A.M. Call to order and opening ceremonies, Cascade

9:00-9:45 A.M. National Report, Mark Riccobono, NFB President and National Representative

9:45-10:15 A.M. Public Transportation: What are our legislative options? Melissa Wintrow, Rep. District 19 and member of transportation committee

10:15-10:40 A.M. State Report, Dana Ard, President

10:40-10:45 A.M. Reports and Resolutions

10:45-11:15 A.M. Building the federation through social media: Ramona Walhof

11:15-11:30 A.M. These Are My Favorite Things about BELL Academy: Bell students speak

11:30-1:30 A.M. Break

11:30-1:30 Student Meeting **Silverhorn**

11:30-1:30 BELL Academy Fair **Teton**

11:30-1:30 Parent Discussion **Alpine/Elkhorn**

11:30-1:30 Senior Business Meeting **Peregrine**

12:30-1:30 Introduction to Social Media: how to get on and what is next

**Caribou**

1:30-1:50 P.M. Increasing the Use of Braille in college courses in engineering and math; Donald Winiecki Ed.d., PhD Professor of Ethics and Morality in Professional Practice, Boise State University

1:50-2:25 P.M. Attending an NFB Training Center, Mikaela Stevens, Mike Ausbun, Mike Gibson, President Mark Riccobono

2:25-2:45 P.M. living the Life I want: from refugee to employed American Citizen, Faduma Kheyrow

2:45-3:15 P.M. Looking back at our Childhood: We’re sighted, our parents are blind: Chris Walhof, Brenda Axmaker, Matt Halverson, and Debbie Coburn

3:15-5:00 P.M. NFB of Idaho business meeting including Treasurer’s summary report, Nominating committee report and elections including delegate and alternate to National Convention, discussion of National convention, 2018 state convention location, using our national branding in communication, Chapter reports, Resolutions and other business

5:00 P.M. Adjourn

**Saturday Evening, March 25, 2017**

**Banquet 6:30, Cascade Room**

Invocation: Larry Bateman, Secretary Snake River Valley Chapter

Mistress of Ceremonies: Susan Bradley, President of NFB Treasure Valley Chapter

Introduction of Head Table: Mark Riccobono, National President; Dana Ard, President National Federation of the Blind of Idaho; Mike Ard; Susan Bradley, President Treasure Valley Chapter; Judy Jones, Door prize Chair, Chris Jones President, Central Idaho Chapter; Marshal and Jeannie Bautista.

Banquet Meal

Auction and door prizes will occur throughout the banquet.

Banquet Address: Mark Riccobono, National Federation of the Blind

Scholarship Class: Mike Gibson, Chair

Funding Our Movement through Preauthorized Contribution Plan PAC Jan Gawith

Harry and Jan Gawith Service Award Presentation, Dana Ard

Presentation of New Chapter Charters, Dana Ard

Presentation of Braille-a-thon Awards, Susan Ford

Grand Door Prize

**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation and to abide by its Constitution.

**One-minute message**

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