



— 2025 —

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF UTAH
ANNUAL CONVENTION

“WHEN YOU DON’T SEE THE PATH, MAKE YOUR OWN.”

MAY 1-3 | PROVO MARRIOTT & CONFERENCE CENTER
101 W 100 N, PROVO, UT 84601 | 801-377-4770

IF YOU ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA DURING OUR CONVENTION:

#NFBU25

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future.

Everyday we raise expectations because we know that low expectations create barriers between you and

your dreams. You can live the life you want;

blindness is not what holds you back.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND 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 programs and policies of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

NFB OF UTAH MISSION STATEMENT

In the National Federation of the Blind of Utah the blind and interested sighted persons come together to create programs to improve the quality of life of the blind; to provide a means of collective action for parents of blind children; to promote the vocational, cultural, and social advancement of the blind; to achieve the integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality with the sighted; and to take action which will improve the overall condition and standard of living of the blind. We work toward the removal of legal, economic, and social barriers to full participation by blind people in all aspects of community life. The NFB of Utah is the blind speaking for ourselves.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION CHAIRPERSON:

Jerry Nealey, *Weber/Davis Chapter*

DOOR PRIZE CHAIRPERSON:

Barbie Elliott and Anitra Wells

AUCTION CHAIRPERSON:

Stephanie Cordova, *Salt Lake Chapter*

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Ned Lindholm, *Board of Directors*

VENDOR FAIR CHAIRPERSON :

Willie Black, *Board of Directors*

REGISTRATION:

Convention registration is **\$10 per person or \$20 for a family of 3 or more!** Registration will be open before all general sessions (*any additional times are stated in the agenda below*). You may pay for meals, Banquet, and Membership Dues with cash or card. Registration will be held right outside the main general session ballrooms, in the Lobby.

MEALS:

There will be a **\$10 meal** on Thursday evening, May 1st, beginning at 6pm.

On Friday and Saturday, Plated Lunches will be available for \$10 per person.

On Saturday evening, Banquet Dinner will be \$25 per person.

You can pay for meals ahead of time by going to www.nfbutah.org and selecting the donate button. There you will be prompted by Paypal. Please place the word "meals" in the note field.

Affiliate Membership Dues are \$1. You must pay membership dues in order to vote during elections and resolutions.

VIRTUAL GENERAL SESSIONS & SELECT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Join us on Zoom. Everyone will be muted and cameras will be disabled.

<https://zoom.us/j/8061136194>

or call 17207072699,,,8061136194#

or stream the convention on YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXJU3pIPw9tcmE72GLauB1w>

DOOR PRIZES:

We will draw for a variety of door prizes during each general session and at the banquet. You must be registered with the convention in order to have your name placed in the drawing, and you must be present when your name is called in order to win. You may win multiple door prizes, so be sure to arrive on time and attend every session.

GUIDE DOG RELIEF AREAS:

A small plot of grass East of the Front East Entrance doors, between the building and the parking structure. Please be courteous and pick up after your dog.

HOTEL LAYOUT:

Upon walking through front door, the front desk is to your left. The restaurant is directly in front of you. The elevators for sleeping rooms are off to the right of the front desk and there are two sets of elevators. The hotel has two sections for meeting areas. With your back to the front entry door, if you go to the right, you will be heading towards the rooms for general sessions and meals. All general sessions will be in Zions and all meals will be in Arches. There is a Starbucks on the way to these meeting rooms on your right before your feet touch carpet. Across from Zions are restrooms. Across from Arches is the Timpanogos: room which will offer child care. At the end of the hall past Arches and Timpanogos: is the Olympus room which has been designated as a quiet room. Let's go back to the front door of the hotel, if you head to the left, you will pass the front desk on your right and you will head towards the other side of the hotel which will host our breakout sessions and exhibit hall. In order to reach the breakout rooms, you will encounter a small set of stairs. There is also a small service elevator if you are unable to take the stairs. The breakout room area has 4 breakout rooms that surround an open lobby area with seating for visiting and mingling. The names of the breakout rooms are Juniper, Elm, Cedar, and Aspen.

NFB OF UTAH WELCOMES OUR 2025 CONVENTION HONORED GUESTS



NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE: MARK RICCOBONO

Mark Riccobono is the President of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), leading the nation's transformative movement to promote opportunity, equality, and full inclusion for blind individuals.

Legally blind since the age of five due to glaucoma, Mark's journey has been defined by perseverance, innovation, and leadership.

After facing early challenges in education and accessibility, Mark found empowerment through the NFB, where he learned essential skills like Braille and independent travel. He went on to earn a business degree and served as Director of the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired before joining the NFB's Jernigan Institute in Baltimore. In 2014, he became the Federation's president.

Under his leadership, the NFB has launched groundbreaking initiatives including the Blind Driver Challenge®, STEM programs for blind youth, nationwide mentoring efforts, and advocacy for accessible technology and Braille literacy.

Mark is also a devoted husband and father of three. Alongside his wife Melissa, he actively demonstrates that blindness is no barrier to leading a full, successful family life.

NFB OF UTAH WELCOMES OUR 2025 CONVENTION HONORED GUESTS



NFB DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER: JOE STRECHAY

Joe is a producer and consultant for entertainment and film projects involving blindness or disability. His projects have included Netflix's All the Light We Cannot See, The OA, Marvel's Daredevil; AppleTVPlus' SEE and casting for numerous streaming networks and entertainment companies. He has advised on theatre productions, commercials, books and podcasts. He is an individual who is blind and grew up with a learning disability. He is passionate about mental health and accessing employment and your goals. Joe's undergraduate is from East Carolina University and his graduate is from Florida State University. He has worked within and managed state government agencies in New Jersey, Florida and Pennsylvania. Joe and his wife, Jen, reside in Fayetteville, West Virginia.

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

SPECIAL ACCESS TECHNOLOGY TRAINING:

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. • Location to Be Announced

CES credits available upon request: Come and get specialized training and demonstrations on the many products available from the American Printing House for the Blind aph.org. Training provided by C.A.T.T. And Axis Technology.

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION DINNER:

6:00 p.m. • Arches / Canyons Ballroom

Come and meet our National Representative President Mark Riccobono and our special guest speaker Joe Strechay!

Title Sponsor: Comcast Utah, F.S.I.G.

Diamond Sponsor: C.A.T.T.

Gold Sponsors: Lundy LLC, Explore Utah Valley, Independence Assistive Technology, Aira, Willie B's Cafe LLC

Silver Sponsors: Achilles Utah, Utah Disability Law Center, Humanware

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:

7:30 p.m. • Zions / Bryce Ballroom

Resolutions Chairperson: Karl Smith, 2nd Vice President, NFB of Utah. Come learn about the 2025 resolutions that will be presented at this year's convention. All are welcome.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

7:30 a.m. • Outside of Zions Ballroom

Registration is \$10 per person or \$20 for a family of 3 or more!

Membership Dues \$1 per person.

Plated lunches on Friday and Saturday are \$10 per person.

Banquet on Saturday evening is \$25 per person.

FRIDAY MORNING GENERAL SESSION

VIRTUAL ON ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/8061136194>

or call 17207072699,,,8061136194#

or stream on YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXJU3pIPw9tcmE72GLauB1w>

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

9:00 a.m. • Zions / Bryce Ballroom

Invocation: Kevin Ledford, *Salt Lake Chapter*

National Anthem: Pianist Ron Roberts, *Utah Valley Chapter*

Pledge of Allegiance and NFB Pledge: Laura Vincent, *NFB Board of Directors*

Native American Honor Song: Navajo Tribe Kester Tapaha, *Red Rocks Chapter*

DEFINING THE PATH FORWARD

9:35 a.m.

A presentation from our National Representative, National President Mark Riccobono, *Greater Baltimore Chapter*

PRESENTATION FROM LT. GOVERNOR DEIDRE M. HENDERSON

10:15 a.m.

Charting the pathway for elections.

VIDEO FROM CONGRESS WOMAN CELESTE MALOY, 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

10:35 a.m.

THE PATH NEEDS TRAINING ALONG THE WAY:

11:00 a.m.

Alejandra Reyes, Instructor Home Management DSBVI Utah, Spanish Division

READING ILLUMINATES THE PATH:

11:25 a.m.

**A presentation from the Utah Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
Lisa Nelson, Director**

NFB UTAH MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

11:40 a.m.

A presentation from Dan Cameron on his KUTV morning news broadcast with Master Chef Blind Restaurant Owner Kristine Ha.

ADJOURN:

11:55 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCH:

12:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. • Arches / Canyons Ballroom

Invocation: Ken Duke, President, Salt Lake Chapter

NFB of Utah Board Meeting and Chapter Report.

Come and hear from all the members of the NFB of Utah Board, chapters, divisions, clubs, and groups of the NFB of Utah.

Hear from some of our sponsors: Independence Assistive Technology, FSIG, and Comcast Utah.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

****HUGE DOOR PRIZE. BE SURE TO BE ON TIME.****

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 NFBU SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS:

1:50 p.m. • Zions / Bryce Ballroom

Dr. Edwin Lindholm, Chair, Salt Lake Chapter

MAKING OUR WAY IN UTAH!:

2:05 p.m.

State of the State report, Everette Bacon, President

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD: A BLIND MAN THAT HAS CONQUERED THE ENTERTAINMENT FIELD:

2:30 p.m.

Joe Strechay, Entertainment consultant and producer, NFB of West Virginia

SOMETIMES THE PATH CAN LEAD TO A NEW HOME:

2:55 p.m.

Justin Lundy, owner of Lundy LLC and the Amazon Alexa skill "Finding Homes"

TEACHERS OF TOMORROW:

3:10 p.m.

Katee Westover, Teacher of Blind Students, Nebo School District

WHY I AM A FEDERATIONIST:

3:30 p.m.

Renae Pavlus, Utah Valley Chapter

ADJOURN

3:45 p.m.

ANNUAL NFB OF UTAH VENDOR FAIR

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. • Aspen Breakout Room

Please come and visit with all of our sponsors and exhibitors!

Willie Black, *Chair*

NFB AUCTION PREVIEW

5:00 p.m. • Timpanogos

Come and get a sneak peak at some of our lovely auction items!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

7:30 p.m. • Arches / Canyons Ballroom

Come and experience accessible games and toys, a bounce house, socializing, and musical offerings! Ice cream will be served! All are welcome!!!

A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE!

8:30 p.m. • Zions / Bryce Ballroom

Come and experience a Sound Bath with Himalayan Singing Bowls, Native American drums. You will learn how these frequencies can heal the body and mind and you will leave feeling relaxed and rejuvenated!

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

7:30 a.m. • Outside of Zions Ballroom

Registration is \$10 per person or \$20 for a family of 3 or more!

Membership Dues \$1 per person.

Plated lunches on Friday and Saturday are \$10 per person.

Banquet on Saturday evening is \$25 per person.

NFB PHILOSOPHY AND ADVOCACY:

9:00 a.m. • Zions / Bryce Ballroom

President Mark Riccobono and Everette Bacon

PARENTS DIVISION:

10:00 a.m. • Juniper Room

Moderator: Sarah Erb

Elections and Updates.

SPANISH DIVISION MEETING

10:00 a.m. • Cedar Room

Moderator: Ulvia Guadalrama

Take part in our Spanish Division so that together we can help in changing common myths and misconceptions of blindness within other cultures. English translation will be provided.

STUDENT DIVISION MEETING:

10:00 a.m. • Elm Room

Moderator: Zachary Ledford, UABS

Utah Association of Blind Students. Elections and updates.

BREAKING THROUGH THE ENTERTAINMENT BARRIERS

11:00 a.m. • Zions / Bryce Ballroom

Joe Strechay

FOOD AND FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

2025 NFBU ANNUAL AUCTION:

12:10 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. • Arches / Canyons Ballroom

Invocation: Jennifer Kennedy, *Salt Lake Chapter*

Auctioneer: Dan Ashman, *Salt Lake Chapter*

Auction Chairperson: Stephanie Cordova, *Salt Lake Chapter*

One hundred percent of funds raised through the annual auction are used for funding a summer braille enrichment program for elementary school children, and collegiate scholarships.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS MEETING AND GENERAL SESSION

CALL TO ORDER:

2:00 p.m.

Big Door Prize!

THE YOUTH ARE ON THE MOVE:

2:05 p.m.

Nikhil Dadlani, *Secretary*

What is going on with NABS

RING MY BELL, RING MY BELL!:

2:15 p.m.

Tara Briggs, *Coordinator*

2025 Utah BELL Academy coming this June!

SCIENCE WITHOUT SIGHT:

2:35 p.m.

Dr. Edwin Lindholm and Deja Powell, *Coordinators*

2025 STEM 2U scheduled for June 28.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

2:55 p.m.

Cheralyn Johnson and Millie Creer, *Weber/Davis Chapter*

2025 Washington Seminar Report

BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS:

3:15 p.m.

Secretary Report Barbie Elliott, *Weber Davis Chapter*

NFB OF UTAH TREASURER'S REPORT:

3:30 p.m.

Mark Turley, *Treasurer, NFB of Utah.*

NFB OF UTAH RESOLUTIONS:

3:50 p.m.

Karl Smith, *2nd Vice President NFB of Utah.*

NFB OF UTAH BOARD ELECTIONS:

4:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

5:00 p.m.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE:

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND OF UTAH'S

2025 BANQUET

THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY

AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MR. EVERETTE BACON

BANQUET ADDRESS:

MARK RICCOBONO

PRESENTATION OF NFB OF UTAH

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

DOCTOR EDWIN LINDHOLM

PAC PLAN PRESENTATION

CHRIS WYCOFF

DIAMOND AUCTION ITEMS

STEPHANIE CORDOVA

2025

*The NFB of Utah wishes to thank
all our 2025 sponsors and vendors,
without you we couldn't put on such
a wonderful convention. It takes the
love and support of our local and
national community sponsors to
make what we do happen.*

Thank you!

TITLE SPONSOR - \$5,000

Comcast NBCUniversal



**COMCAST
NBCUNIVERSAL**

Comcast NBCUniversal is committed to making our products, services, and experiences accessible to the widest possible audiences — creating new pathways to independence and inspiration for people with disabilities. We're continuously innovating to expand the utility of our products, from the cable industry's first talking guide, to narrated voice descriptions of TV programs, to remotes that can be manipulated through eye-tracking devices — all of which are available today. We are also committed to making our workplaces inclusive for employees of all abilities and to building a workforce that reflects the demographics of the disability community.

<https://corporate.comcast.com/company/nbcuniversal>

TITLE SPONSOR - \$5,000

F.S.I.G.



FSIG works with state agencies to graduate legally blind vendors into independent entrepreneurs. FSIG provides legally blind vendors the technical expertise, training, and all necessary financial resources to obtain and operate government contracts with no personal risk.

621 Washington Street, Suite 7A, Gainesville, GA 30501

Tel: 770-535-8865 Fax: 770-532-7627

www.fsigonline.com

DIAMOND SPONSOR - \$2,500

C.A.T.T.



The regional Center for Assistive Technology Training - Southwest (CATT or CATT-Southwest) program is a collaboration between Foundation for Blind Children (FBC), American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB). Together, we are committed to empowering individuals with visual impairments through cutting-edge assistive technology training. Experience the impact of our united expertise at CATT.

Our mission is to provide assistive technology training as well as access to assistive technology products to students, educators, service providers, parents, administrators and other community members.

APH fills the gaps in access to assistive technology options. FBC's CATT team will provide training and other support.

<https://seeitourway.org/services/catt/>

GOLD SPONSORS - \$1,000



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EXPLORE UTAH VALLEY

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TECHNOLOGY**

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GOLD SPONSORS - \$1,000



AIRA

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SILVER SPONSORS - \$500



ACHILLES UTAH

www.achillesinternational.org/utah



UTAH DISABILITY LAW CENTER

<https://disabilitylawcenter.org/>



HUMANWARE

www.humanware.com/en-usa/

EXHIBITORS - \$250

Salt Lake Acting Company

DSBVI Utah

Guiding Eyes

Utah Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

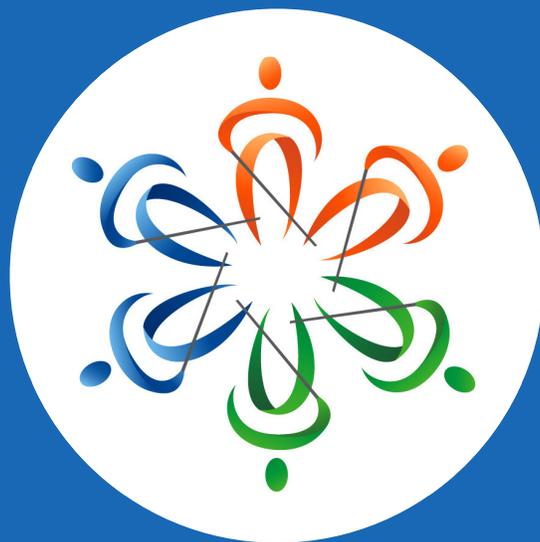
Blind Girl Designs

Utah Transit Authority

Utah Assisted Technology Program

Unicorn Soda Design Studios

Balanced Capital



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