



— 2026 —

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF UTAH
ANNUAL CONVENTION

*“POSSIBILITIES IN MOTION: BRIDGING
POLICY, PURPOSE, AND PERSONAL POTENTIAL.”*

APRIL 23-25 | THE COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OGDEN
247 24TH ST. OGDEN, UTAH | 801-627-1190

IF YOU ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA DURING OUR CONVENTION:

#NFBU26

Welcome to the movement! We advance the lives of our members and all blind people in the United States. The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Everyday we raise expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

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

DOOR PRIZE CHAIRPERSON:

Barbie Elliott and Anitra Wells

AUCTION CHAIRPERSON:

Stephanie Cordova

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON:

Rebekah Jakeman

VENDOR FAIR CHAIRPERSON:

Kurt Manwaring

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, April 23rd, 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:

If you prefer to park your dog on grass, you will want to park your dog along the grass between the sidewalk and curb that runs East and West along the South side of 24th Street. All other entrances require parking dogs on concrete or pavement.

HOTEL LAYOUT:

The main entrance doors of the Ogden Courtyard by Marriott are on the North side of the building; as you enter the building, you face South with your back to 24th Street.

Establishing a general shape for the first floor of the hotel: Imagine that the main hallways of the hotel form an uppercase print letter H turned on its side with the main North-South hallway being the connector between the bars of the H.

Establishing the main North-South hallway: Walking through the main entrance (facing South) and continuing South along the tiled floor, you enter the Lobby of the hotel. The Front Desk or Check-in is to the West (right) after passing a table holding hotel informational pamphlets and past a hallway leading to conference rooms. The Front Desk check-in area is comprised of 3 standalone desks. Directly across from the Front Desk to the East in the Lobby is a carpeted seating area surrounding a fireplace. As you continue South past the Front Desk (placing the Front Desk on your right), the 24-hour Business Center is on the West (right)

and the Bistro is on the East (left), The Bistro information and additional dining options will be at the end of the walkthrough.

Continuing South past the Bistro is the Cottonwood conference room on the West (right) which will not be used in our convention, and immediately past on the East (left) is the Grand Ballroom's Northern hallway. The Grand Ballroom has hallways that run along the North, West (East side of the main North-South hallway), and South (also known as the Ballroom Foyer) side of the Ballroom. The Grand Ballroom has 3 doors on the North and South side hallways and 2 doors on the West side. The Grand Ballroom will be setup in banquet style seating with round tables for the entirety of the convention. The seats will be setup in a half-moon arrangement indicating where the stage is and allowing viewing without your back facing the stage. The main stage area is located on the far East wall, around which will be located the presentation podium, sound equipment, and door prize table.

Exiting the Grand Ballroom to the South (left) is the South Entrance doors. These doors require room key-cards to open. The South Entrance doors open to the back parking lot of the hotel and face the back of the 25th Street businesses and restaurants.

Returning to the West side of the North-South hallway and to the South of the Cottonwood conference room, is the elevator bank with 2 elevators that open facing West. When walking West (right) on the North elevator bank hallway, you will run into the Pool and Fitness Center door. The Men's Bathroom is to the North (right) of Pool and Fitness Center door, and the Women's Bathroom is to the South (left). The Fitness Center is through its own door to the North (right) and is open 24-hours a day; the Pool and Spa Tub is open daily between 6:00 am and 11:00 pm.

Establishing the North Entrance (Main) East-West hallway: Walking through the North Entrance facing South, to the East (left) is the Junior Ballroom that is comprised of 3 conference rooms. There is a carpeted hallway on the South side of the Junior Ballroom that allows access to the 3 conference rooms: 2 breakout session rooms and auction room on the North (left) of the hallway. The order of the rooms from West to East is Spruce - breakout session, Aspen - auction, and Juniper - breakout session. On the South (right) are 2 additional rooms Willow and Cedar. The breakout session room Spruce has an additional

door that accesses the main North-South hallway in the Southwest corner of the room.

Traveling West (right) from the North Entrance are to 2 additional conference rooms; the order of the rooms from East to West is English Walnut and Sycamore. The hallway continues North-South outside of Sycamore that will wrap around and back to the main North-South hallway, putting you immediately to the South of the Front Desk. You access the Mezzanine floor using the stairs that are found off this wrap-around hallway.

Establishing the South Entrance East-West hallway: Facing the South Entrance and walking East (left) you are traveling through the Grand Ballroom Foyer with a window bank along the South (right) wall. Located within the Foyer will be Vendors and Exhibits. Additional Vendors and Exhibits will be located next to the Grand Ballroom.

Returning to the South Entrance, on the West (right) is the hallway leading to the main floor guest rooms. Walking West down the hallway, the guest rooms are located on the North (right) and South (left) side of the hallway. Guest rooms on floors 2 and above are found by exiting the elevator, then turning left and then right; after which, the rooms mirror the main floor. The exit stairway is on the South (right) corner when walking East to the elevator.

The Bistro hours are as follows:

Breakfast hours:

Monday through Friday is between 6:00 am and 10:00 am

Saturday and Sunday are between 7:00 am and 11:00 am

Dinner hours:

Monday through Sunday is between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

The Bistro menu and pricing can be found here: https://guest.iris.net/OGDCY/outlet/order/6ef4189c-bbc6-4861-9cfb-2dfd932a2049?topbar=fb&utm_medium=the_bistro

Additional dining in the area can be found here:

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ogdcy-courtyard-ogden/dining/>

NFB OF UTAH WELCOMES OUR 2026 CONVENTION HONORED GUESTS



JESSE SHIREK NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Jesse Shirek is the Director of Advocacy for the National Federation of the Blind, specializing in autonomous vehicle policy, Randolph Sheppard entrepreneurial efforts,

and Social Security benefits programs. Since joining the NFB staff in 2021, he has led national advocacy, testified before Congress, and assisted with NFB-NEWSLINE operations. Before joining the national staff, he served as NFB of North Dakota affiliate President, elected in 2019. A lifelong advocate, he and his wife Sherry received the first annual Denney Wallacher Advocate of the Year Award from the city of Fargo. They now reside in Baltimore with Sherry's service dog Nikon and their cats Sweetie and Chloe.

NFB OF UTAH WELCOMES OUR 2026 CONVENTION HONORED GUESTS



DAVID DENOTARISKY'S THE LIMIT COMMUNICATIONS LLC

David was born with a rare eye condition Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). The “experts” attempted to impose negative limiting labels suggesting: blindness

would limit David’s ability to succeed at school, in sports or work. “My family, teachers and coaches helped me understand the power of hard-work, positive expectations and mental-toughness in-order for me to overcome the challenge of a disability”.

- Nationally known motivational speaker
- Best Selling Author
- World Champion Athlete
- And he also happens to be totally blind

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

WELCOME DINNER:

6:00 p.m. • Grand Ballroom

Meet our guest speakers and mingle with friends!

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:

7:15 p.m. • Sycamore Room

Resolutions Chairperson: Karl Smith, *2nd Vice President, NFB of Utah.*
Find out which resolutions the convention will be considering.

HUMANWARE BRAILLE EVOLVE:

7:30 p.m. • Junior Ballroom

Meet with Joel Zimba of Humanware and be the first to touch the new Braille Evolve!

MEET BLINDFIND AI:

8:00 p.m. • English Walnut Room

Meet Blindfind AI, the world's first AI-powered screenreader built for blind and sighted alike! Blindfind pairs cutting edge AI with age old screen reader design, enhancing the strengths and drastically reducing the limitations of both. AI vision took the world by storm, discover the equally groundbreaking potential of AI blindness.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

7:30 a.m. • Foyer of the Grand 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. • Grand Ballroom

Invocation: Brooke Garceau, *Red Rocks*

National Anthem: Kyle Woodruf, *DSBVI Teacher*

Pledge of Allegiance and NFB Pledge: Laura Vincent, *Utah Valley*

SETTING THE STAGE:

9:20 a.m.

OUR NATIONAL REPORT:

9:30 a.m.

Jessie, Shirek, *Director of advocacy and policy National Federation of the Blind*

CONGRESSMAN BLAKE MOORE:

10:05 a.m.

Congressman Blake Moore, *Utah's First District*

DSBVI REPORT:

10:25 a.m.

Jennifer Kennedy, *Cane travel instructor*

UTAH LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED UPDATE:

10:45 a.m.

Lisa Nelson, *Director*

Michael Harris Library Staff

DAVID DENOTERAS:

11:00 a.m.

David Denoteras, *Sky's The Limit Communications LLC*

WHY I'M A FEDERATIONIST:

11:30 a.m.

Zachary Ledford, *Salt Lake Chapter President UTABS President*

ADJOURN:

11:45 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCH:

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Grand Ballroom

Invocation: Ken Duke, *Board Member*

Presentation of 2026 Scholarship Finalists!

Speaker: Jared Mendenhall *of SAVI Services of Arizona*

Speaker: Dr. Chris Bischke *of University of Utah Multi University Consortium Visual Impairment Program*

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/exhibitors.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

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

AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION:

1:45 p.m. • Grand Ballroom

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT NFB UTAH:

1:50 p.m.

State of the State report, Everette Bacon, *President*

ANNA CINTRON:

2:15 p.m.

Anna Cintron, *Puerto Rico Entrepreneur*

HUMANWARE:

2:30 p.m.

Joel Zymba, *Humanware*

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER GIVES BACK:

2:45 p.m.

Karmaline Rios, *Vice President*

WHY I'M A FEDERATIONIST:

3:00 p.m.

Brynlee Cherry, *Northern Utah*

WHY I'M A FEDERATIONIST:

3:15 p.m.

Kurt Manwaring, *Utah Valley Chapter President*

ADJOURN

3:30 p.m.

ANNUAL NFB OF UTAH VENDOR FAIR

3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. • Outside of Grand Ballroom

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

Kurt Manwaring, *Chair*

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED FRIDAY EVENING!:

7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. • Grand Ballroom

Come hang out for an evening of fun for all ages! Whether you're coming with family, friends, or flying solo, there's something for everyone to enjoy! Come make memories, share some laughs, and kick off the weekend with us!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

7:30 a.m. • Foyer of the Grand 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.

SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR:

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. • English Walnut Room

Jessie Sherrick

HUMANWARE AND BRAILLE EVOLVE:

9:00 a.m. • Junior Ballroom

Joel Zimba

PARENTS DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING:

10:00 a.m. • Sycamore Room

STUDENTS ANNUAL MEETING:

10:00 a.m. • Grand Ballroom

SPANISH-SPEAKING DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING:

10:00 a.m. • English Walnut Room

BUILDING A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:

11:00 a.m. • Junior Ballroom

David Dana Terrace

EXHIBIT, VENDOR, FAIR:

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. • Outside of Grand Ballroom Foyer

FOOD AND FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

2026 NFBU ANNUAL AUCTION:

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. • Grand Ballroom

Invocation: Grant Christensen

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!

SCIENCE WITHOUT SIGHT NFB UTAH STEM TO YOU:

2:05 p.m.

Tina Reisner and Dr. Ned Lindholm

BRAILLE ENRICHMENT LITERACY AND LEARNING, NFB UTAH BELL, ACADEMY:

2:25 p.m.

Tara Briggs and Tara Purcell

WHY I'M A FEDERATIONIST:

2:45 p.m.

Sherry Shirek

BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS:

3:00 p.m.

Washington Seminar Report, Casey Reyes and Grant Christensen

Barbie Elliott, Secretary Presentation Of Minutes

Karl Smith, Second Vice President And Resolutions Chairperson

Mark Turley, Treasurer Annual Treasurer Report

NFB OF UTAH BOARD ELECTIONS:

4:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

5:00 p.m.

2026



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE:

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND OF UTAH'S

2026 BANQUET

THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL
AT SIX THIRTY IN THE EVENING
IN THE GRAND BALLROOM

PIANO PERFORMANCES

RON ROBERTS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MR. EVERETTE BACON

INVOCATION:

ANITRA WELLS

BANQUET ADDRESS:

JESSE SHIREK

PRESENTATION OF NFB OF UTAH

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

REBECCA JAKE MAN

DIAMOND AUCTION ITEMS

STEPHANIE CORDOVA

AND DAN ASHMAN

*The NFB of Utah wishes to thank
all our 2026 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!

SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS



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www.achillesinternational.org/utah



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services for the blind

SAVI SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

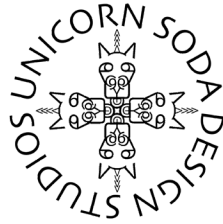
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UNIVERSITY OF UTAH/MULTI UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM VISUAL IMPAIRMENT PROGRAM

[https://special-ed.utah.edu/undergraduate/specializations/
undergrad-vis-impairment.php](https://special-ed.utah.edu/undergraduate/specializations/undergrad-vis-impairment.php)



UTAH ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

<https://idrpp.usu.edu/uatp/>



UTAH DISABILITY LAW CENTER

<https://disabilitylawcenter.org/>

SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS



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