

The following information will help you get the most from your ZOOM Conference experience.

Using Telephone:

To mute or unmute your audio, press *6.

Note: during General Session, all persons will be muted by default. You must raise your hand to request the ability to speak.

If your name is mentioned as a winner of a door prize, you must raise your hand to claim your prize.

To raise your hand to ask a question, or claim your door prize, press *9.

Always allow the host to lower your hand.

Using Mac Computer:

Mute your microphone by pressing Command+Shift+A or press spacebar on the mute audio button. To unmute, press Command+Shift+A again or press the spacebar on the unmute button.

To raise your hand, press Option+Y.

Always allow the host to lower your hand.

Using Windows Desktop or Laptop Computer:

Mute your microphone by pressing Alt+A or press spacebar on the mute audio button. To unmute, press Alt+A again or press the spacebar on the unmute button.

To raise your hand, press Alt+Y.

Always allow the host to lower your hand.

Using iPhone or iPad:

Tap on the settings button and look through the options to improve your experience.

*There are two buttons, meetings and general. Meetings has settings you should review.

Auto connect to audio allows you to select connect using internet audio.

This gets rid of the prompt before you connect to a meeting and ensures you get the best sound quality.

Always mute my microphone when joining a meeting ensures you are never accidentally heard until you want to speak.

Then just double tap the unmute audio button when you have something to contribute.

Always turn off my video ensures you never unintentionally show yourself or your environment when you did not mean to.

Important: To prevent the annoyance of VoiceOver always speaking the names of participants as they join and leave, turn off Show name when participants join.

When connecting, you will get a prompt saying, "to hear others, please join audio." Select the "call using internet audio" option or go into settings and select internet audio to always be automatically connected.

Important: Find and double tap the mute my audio button until you want to be heard. Or go into settings and choose to always mute audio upon entry.

To raise your hand, tap on the more button on the far lower right, then double tap the button to raise your hand. This will exit you to the main screen. Allow the host to lower your hand.

To know who is currently speaking, swipe to the far left. It will say, displaying person's name avatar.

You may want to use earbuds.

Again, always make sure your microphone is muted when you are not speaking to prevent background noise or people hearing you.

***Note: Agenda times are all Eastern Standard time zone.**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95539617118>

Meeting ID: 955 3961 7118

One tap mobile:

+16468769923,,95539617118#

Dial in by phone:

+1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID:

955 3961 7118

Instructions for listening on an Echo device:

Wake word Alexa: call 646 876 9923

Just like calling on the phone, you will hear “welcome to Zoom. “

Meeting ID when prompted, then say wake word Alexa: Press 955 3961 7118 pound, listen for “enter your meeting ID or just press pound.” Then say Alexa Press pound to enter the meeting.

Wake word Alexa: Press *6 to mute and unmute

A Huge THANK YOU to all our Sponsors!

**48th National Federation of the Blind of Georgia
2021 State Convention****Theme:**

Removing Obstacles - One Opportunity At A Time

Affiliate President, Dorothy Griffin

National Representative, Norma Crosby,

NFB National Board of Directors Member, Texas

October 7-10, 2021

Georgia Affiliate Zoom Virtual Platform

Welcome to the 2021 48th Georgia State Convention

Our Affiliate President Dorothy Griffin, the board of directors and the convention committee would like to welcome you to the 48th annual state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia. Many people have worked hard over the last several months to create a dynamic and engaging agenda with something for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any board member at theblind@nfbga.org and we will help you take care of whatever you need.

Our convention theme this year is “Removing Obstacles - One Opportunity At A Time”

The past year has been an exciting time of growth for the NFB of Georgia. We invested in our movement by training our seniors, supporting our students, advocating for higher education & job training services and working for our right to accessible voting and to do it privately and independently. We want to celebrate those accomplishments and plan the next phase of sharing Free opportunities to help members remove obstacles one opportunity at a time!

So, jump in. Your contributions are wanted and needed. We strongly believe that “Many hands make light work.” Let’s go build the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia!

NFB Pledge:

I pledge to participate actively in the effort 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.

NFB of Georgia Officers and Board of Directors 2020-2021:

President – Dorothy Griffin, Georgia Affiliate

1st Vice President – Gaylon Tootle, Central Savannah River

Chapter

2nd Vice President –Vanessa Meadows, Atlanta Metropolitan

Chapter

Secretary – Katey Jackson, Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter

Treasurer – Nata Watkins, At Large Chapter

Seat 1 – Marcia Robinson, Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter

Seat 2 – Angela Daniel, Southside of Atlanta Chapter

Board Seat 3 – Stancil Tootle, Bainbridge Chapter

Board Seat 4 – Shikha Desai, Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter

Board Seat 5 – Vacant

Seat 6 – McArthur Jarrett, Chatham County Chapter

***All meeting times are eastern standard time zone.**

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Thursday October 7, 2021, Sessions begin at 5:30 PM

Thursday Meetings:

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM - Accessible Pharmacy, Andy Burstein,
Chief Executive Officer

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM - IBUG Today, Presenter: Sandhya Rao
Vice President,

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Hadley Marc Arneson, Director of
Community at Hadley.

Friday, October 8, 2021 - Seminar Day

Friday: Sessions begin at 9:30 AM

09:30 AM - 10:15 AM - Blind 3D Artist, Aishwarya Pillai

10:30 AM - 11:55 AM - NFBGA Senior Division Vanessa Meadows, Presi-
dent.

12:00 PM - 12:55 PM - NFBGA Diabetes Action Network Division, Robert
Smith, President.

1:00 PM - 2:55 PM, VR Process - Shirley Robinson, Coordinator of Blind Services.

3:00 PM - 3:55 PM - Angel Eyes Fitness & Nutrition, Dawn Wells

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM - Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Vicki Preddy

5:00 PM - 5:55 PM - NFBGA Board Meeting (Open to All)

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - NFBGA Student Division Seminar, President Joshua Olukanni.

Saturday, October 9, 2021

General Session

Join Zoom Meeting for sessions on Saturday & Sunday:

<https://zoom.us/j/95539617118>

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Meeting ID:

955 3961 7118

8:45 AM - Pre-General Session

9:00 AM - Call To Order & Moment of Silence

9:05 AM - Invocation, Ed Hightower

9:10 AM - Welcome, Gaylon Tootle

9:15 AM - Celebration of Freedom: Veterans Recognition

Vernon Humphrey, President, National Association of Blind Veterans, 1st Vice President, Fountain City Chapter, Mauk, Georgia

9:25 AM - NFB Pledge - Nata Watkins

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM National Report, National Representative, Norma Crosby, NFB National Board of Directors, Texas

10:00 AM - 10:10 AM Door Prize and Fit Break,
Vanessa Meadows

10:10 AM - 11:00AM Centers for Independent Living

Northwest Georgia, Christina Holtzclaw, Rome Ga.

LIFE, Sabrina Floyd, Savannah, Ga.

Walton Options, Augusta, Ga., Gaylon Tootle

11:00 AM – 11:05 AM Door Prizes

11:05 AM - 11:20 AM GLS for the Blind & Print Disabled,

Gina Martin Outreach Manager

11:20 AM - 11:35 AM GaRRS - Rebecca Arayan, Executive

Director - rarayan@garrrs.org, Phone: 404-685-2822

11:35 AM - 11:50 AM NFB Newsline Service, Jessica Beecham

11:50 AM - 11:55 AM VANDA Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Vicki Preddy, MSN,
RN Nurse Educator

11:55 AM - 12:00 PM Door Prizes and Announcements

12:00 PM - Adjourn

Special Meeting for Decatur Area Chapter:

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NFB Decatur Area Chapter - DeKalb Co. Voter Registration & Elections Nytia R. Harris

Afternoon General Session:

1:30 PM - Call to Order

1:35 PM - 1:50 PM State President Report – Dorothy Griffin,

Affiliate President

1:50 Pm – 1:55 PM Door Prizes

1:55 PM - 2:10 PM National Association of Blind Students - Justin Salisbury

2:10 PM - 2:25 PM Updates from Project Independence, Kay McGill Program Manager, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

2:25 PM - 2:40 PM How I Removed Obstacles To Obtain
Employment, Dimitrios Kouniaris

2:40 PM - 2:45 PM Door Prize and Fit Break

2:45 PM - 2:55 PM Student Division Joshua Olukanni

Saturday, October 9, 2021 -Continued

2:55 PM - 3:05 PM Senior Division Vanessa Meadows

3:05 PM - 3:20 PM Diabetes Division Robert Smith

3:20 PM - 3:30 PM Door Prize

3:30 PM - 4:00PM NFB Constitutions Patrice Lewis

4:00 PM - 4:05 PM Announcements

Adjourn

NFB Banquet & Fundraiser

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM - NFBGA State Convention Banquet,

6:00 PM - Welcome, Dorothy Griffin, Pres.

6:05 Pm - Invocation - Ed Hightower

6:10 PM - Master of Ceremony: Garrick Scott

6:20 PM Keynote Speaker: National Rep., Norma Crosby

- Fundraiser Host - Garrick Scott

Documentary Film: Straight Off The Canvas,

by Anthony Saldana, Film Maker.

Sunday, October 10, 2021

12:00 PM - Call to order

12:05 PM - Door Prizes

12:15 PM Annual Business Meeting

12:15 PM 12:45 PM - Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM Officer Reports

1:05 PM - Door Prizes

1:15 PM - 1:20 PM - President Report,

1:20 PM - 1:30 PM - Special Drawing,

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM – Break

1:45 PM - Elections

During the election, please use the following telephone number to place your vote: 12292103555

Final remarks from National Representative and other guests.

Adjourn

National Representative Biography

Norma Crosby



Photo: Female, upper chest to head shot, wearing a blue top or dress with a bright smile on her face.

Norma Beathard was born on January 25, 1956, in Conroe, Texas. She was the first of five children born to Robbie and Joseph Beathard. Norma was born legally blind because her mother contracted rubella during her pregnancy; however,

Norma's blindness remained undetected until she began walking. At that time her parents began to notice that she seemed to bump into things that a sighted child should see, and they had her vision tested. A determination was made that she was blind when she was two years old. Years of surgery followed with no improvement.

Norma was an active child. She joined her siblings in most of the games they played, and her blindness was not a real obstacle when she was small. But she couldn't read the blackboard when she started school, and she experienced a number of problems related to her vision as she grew older.

Norma always attended school in rural communities, a circumstance which she describes as "both a blessing and a curse." Because no one in her life knew anything about blindness skills, she wasn't able to learn Braille or cane travel. She used large print books, which were bulky and heavy for a tiny girl. Since her vision was extremely limited, she had to read with her nose practically touching the pages of her books, even though the print was enlarged. Despite the lack of training in blindness skills, Norma feels that she received a quality education because she had caring teachers who always found ways of making it easier for her to learn. She was fortunate to have the same teacher from her first-grade year through her third grade year, and that teacher was determined that Norma would be included in everything the class did. Her name was Jean Todd, and she spent countless hours offering Norma one-on-one instruction. Other teachers with similar attitudes were a part of Norma's life throughout her K-12 experience.

Professionals in the field of work with the blind were not as helpful. When Norma asked for Braille training, she was told by a rehabilitation professional that she was wasting his time, and she was made to feel guilty because, according to him, she was depriving a "real" blind person of the opportunity to learn by making this frivolous request. Eventually she was able to convince him that he should provide her with training, and he traveled to her small town and spent two hours with her. This was woefully inadequate,

but it did allow her to learn the alphabet, Braille numbers, and some punctuation symbols. Her experience with inadequate Braille training has made Norma a strong advocate for providing Braille education to children with low vision.

After completing her education, Norma found herself living in a small community with no opportunities for a blind person. She knew she had to leave her rural home if she was to become successful. Her father was opposed to her leaving, but her mother understood that a different environment would provide Norma with a better chance of living the life she wanted to live. So, she took the unusual step of going against the wishes of Norma's father; drove Norma to the bus station in Lufkin, Texas; and purchased a ticket to a better life for her daughter. Norma traveled to Austin that day, and although she had no idea what she would do to become successful, she was confident that she would be able to make a life for herself.

Norma began her working life as an employee at the Travis Association for the Blind. That employment did not last long because Norma found that she couldn't live on the \$1.05 an hour that the sheltered workshop was paying its trainees, and her questions about how to make a higher wage went unanswered. In fact, it became clear that she was unlikely to be paid the federal minimum wage anytime soon, so Norma began to look for other work. She also married during this time and began a family. Her first son was born on March 10, 1976, and her second son was born on March 10, 1978. Once her children were out of diapers, Norma started work at the Texas School for the Blind. She worked as a dorm parent at the school from 1979 to 1982.

After a divorce Norma found the National Federation of the Blind and became an active member in 1983. By 1985 she was living in Houston, and she was an important part of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas leadership. She didn't hold elective office in the Federation, but she worked hard to help the affiliate president and other leaders to carry out the organization's mission. She became president of the Houston Chapter in 1989, and she continued in that role for eight years.

When Norma joined the Federation, she met Glenn Crosby. Glenn was serving as president of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas, and as the two worked closely together, a personal relationship developed.

They were married on April 15, 1989. Each of them had two children, and the two families have blended into a harmonious group. Glenn and Norma are now the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren, ranging in age from three to twenty.

Four years before they married, Glenn asked Norma to begin managing the office for his food service business, and they became professional partners. The Crosbys owned five food service locations during the late 1980s and early 1990s, but they sold all but two of the locations and were operating those two locations when they retired in 2013.

Though both Norma and Glenn grew up in Texas, they decided they wanted a change in 2001, and they spent about a year in South Dakota. Then they spent several months in Ajijic, Mexico. Ajijic is near Guadalajara, and, while they enjoyed their time there, they needed to be closer to home for business reasons. So, in 2005 they moved to Ruston, Louisiana. Shortly after arriving in Ruston, Norma was elected to serve as president of the North Central Chapter of the NFB of Louisiana. She remained in that position until January of 2009, when she and Glenn made the decision to move back to their native Texas. They now live in Alvin, near Houston, on four acres of land and have a few cows.

In 2012, Norma was chosen to serve as the first president of the Lone Star Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas. Then, at the affiliate's 2014 convention, she was elected to serve as the state president. While Norma believes strongly that it is not necessary to hold an office in order to be an effective leader, she is honored to serve as both the president of the NFB of Texas and, since her election at the 2015 National Convention, as a member of the organization's national board of directors.

2021 State Convention Sponsors

We want to thank all our convention sponsors for your support!

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Happy Feet Mission

The National Federation of the Blind of Georgia would like to thank you all for attending our 48th State Convention and we look forward to seeing you all again next year. Please remember 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