# National Federation of the Blind New Member Orientation

When a new member joins the Federation, they immediately begin the orientation process to learn about the organization and its philosophy. This orientation takes place after the new member ceremony.

## The New Member Form

1. When the new member joins, the chapter membership coordinator takes their contact information.
2. The chapter membership coordinator fills out the new member form on the website.
3. When the new member form is filled out and submitted, it triggers a series of emails:
4. A message to the affiliate president letting them know that a new member has joined the affiliate
5. A message to the National Federation of the Blind membership building coordinator letting them know to ready the new member packet
6. A series of seven emails sent to the new member two weeks apart

## The New Member Orientation Emails (In Order of Appearance):

1. Welcome letter by President Riccobono
2. Letter by Pam Allen recommending The Nature of Blindness by Marc Maurer
3. Letter by Sharon Maneki recommending Competing on Terms of Equality by Kenneth Jernigan
4. Letter by Denice Brown recommending “What a Relief” by Denice Brown from the December 2006 *Braille Monitor*
5. Letter by Nicky Gacos recommending Blindness: Of Visions and Vultures
6. Letter by Membership Committee co-chairs recommending 2018 banquet speech by Mark Riccobono.
7. Closing letter by President Riccobono

## Affiliate Role in New Member Orientation

1. Within a week of the new member ceremony, the affiliate president calls the new members to introduce themselves and get to know the new Federationists.
2. The leadership of the chapter chooses a mentor for the new member. This mentor can be the chapter membership coordinator or another chapter leader but should be assigned based on common interests.
3. The mentor discusses the discussion questions and the publications provided in the new member emails.
4. The mentor shares their own story and experiences with the Federation with the new member and recommends the speeches or articles that were meaningful in their understanding of blindness.
5. The new member is introduced to other Federationists who share common interests and belong to divisions, groups, and/or committees relevant to their preferences and skills.

Note: The new member orientation process will take approximately fifteen weeks to complete.