

# **National Federation of the Blind - Alabama Affiliate 2022 Annual Virtual Convention**

Affiliate President - Barbara Manuel  
National Representative - Anil Lewis

**March 3 – 6, 2022**

Welcome to the 2022 Alabama State Convention

## **Connections, Independence, Empowerment: A Formula for Success**

Below are quick links to navigate the agenda:

[NFB Pledge](#)

[Officers and Board Directors](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Zoom Accessibility Features](#)

[Thursday Agenda](#)

[Friday Agenda](#)

[Saturday Agenda](#)

[Sunday Agenda](#)

[Banquet Program](#)

[AABS Virtual Concert](#)

[Seniors Division Prize Drawing](#)

[Sponsors and Exhibitors](#)

[At Large Chapter Fundraiser](#)

[One Minute Message](#)

## **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 Alabama Officers and Board of Directors 2021-2022**

President – Barbara Manuel, Alabama Affiliate

1st Vice President – Tamika Williams, Mobile Chapter

Secretary – Grace Anderson, Birmingham Chapter

Treasurer – Larry Povinelli, Huntsville Chapter

Board Seat 1 – Sandre Tyler, Birmingham Chapter

Board Seat 2 – Jeffery Wilson, Birmingham Chapter

Board Seat 3 – Jill Rossiter, At Large Chapter

Board Seat 4 – Brenda Houston, Tuscaloosa Chapter

Board Seat 5 – Luke Seibert, Huntsville Chapter

Board Seat 6 – Pazater Turner, Talladega Chapter

## **NFBAL 2022 Virtual Convention Planning Committee**

Larry Povinelli, Chair Person

Tamika Williams

Luke Seibert

Jennifer Reeves

Zippora Jones

## **Code of Conduct**

The following link will take you to the NFB website:

[Code of Conduct](#)

## **Zoom Accessibility Features**

The following information will help you get the most from your ZOOM Conference experience. If you have issues connecting during the convention you may reach out to any of the following contacts:

Ashley Malson - (251) 581-6436 or [shirochan@yahoo.com](mailto:shirochan@yahoo.com)

Tomecia Caver - (256) 649-0912 or [nfbal.co.membership@gmail.com](mailto:nfbal.co.membership@gmail.com)

### 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 plus 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 plus Y.

Always allow the host to lower your hand.

### Using Windows Desktop or Laptop Computer:

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

To raise your hand, press Alt plus 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 Voice Over 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.

All meeting times are Central Standard Time.

## **Thursday March 3, 2022**

### **Pre-Convention Meetings**

6:00 – 6:30 pm

#### **National Federation of the Blind; A Formula for Success**

2022 Rookie Roundup - Connecting and Empowering, One by One

Alabama Virtual Zoom Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

+16468769923,,2516565165# US

6:30 – 8:00 pm

#### **Division Connections**

##### **Alabama Senior Division**

Carol Braithwaite, President

Alabama Virtual Zoom Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

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##### **Alabama Association of Blind Merchants**

Tracie Watts, President

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

Meeting ID: 690 781 0976

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,6907810976# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,6907810976# US (New York)

### **Alabama Association of Blind Students**

Luke Seibert, President

Equality Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98213837163>

Meeting ID: 982 1383 7163

One tap mobile

+1 312 626 6799,,98213837163# US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923,,98213837163# US (New York)

6:30 – 8:00 pm

### **Exhibit Hall**

Zippora Jones, Florence, AL

Jennifer Reeves, Talladega, AL

Tamika Williams Mobile, AL

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8741505788>

Meeting ID: 874 150 5788

One tap mobile

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+16468769923,,8741505788# US (New York)

**Friday, March 4, 2022**

4:30 – 5:00 pm

**Virtual Information Table**

Sandre Tyler, Membership Coordinator

Tomecia Cavers, Co-Membership Coordinator

Alabama Virtual Zoom Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

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5:00 – 5:30 pm

**Welcome and Overview**

Barbara Manuel, President

NFBA Affiliate

**Sponsors and Exhibitors Showcase**

Zippora Jones

NFBAL At Large Chapter Secretary

5:30 – 6:30 pm

**Break Out 1**

**Empowering a Healthy Lifestyle**

Dr. Tarmen Siaway, PhD LPC, Clinical Director, The Family  
Guidance Center of Alabama

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

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## **Break Out 2**

### **Empowerment from Career to Personal – Aligning Your Image with Your Goals**

Madeleine White, Washington D.C., Professional Personal Stylist

Bethany Siggins, Certified Image Consultant, Dallas TX, Bethany Siggins Image Consulting LLC

### **Fashionistas Panelist:**

Evelyn Valdez, President Greater Alexandria Chapter, Logistics Management Specialist, Department of Veterans affairs, Alexandria, Virginia

Alex Castillo, Rehabilitation Instructor for Virginia's Dept. of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Northern Virginia

Ever Lee Hairston, Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind, Los Angeles, California

Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, Atlanta, Georgia.

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

Meeting ID: 690 781 0976

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6:30 – 7:00 pm

## **Break Out 1**



## **Code of Conduct**

Sandre Tyler, Membership Coordinator

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

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## **Break Out 2**

### **Independence & Innovation - the Direction of BEP**

Susan Sarro, Instructor, Business Enterprise Program for the Blind, E.H. Gentry, Talladega, Alabama

Jerry Todd, Jaguar Food Services, BEP Blind Vendor Mobile, Alabama

Alphonso Marsh, Snacks On Deck, BEP Blind Vendor, Huntsville, Alabama

Deborah Myrick, Director, Alabama Business Enterprise Program for the Blind, Montgomery, Alabama

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

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6:45 – 7:45 pm

### **Exhibit Hall**

Zippora Jones, Florence, AL

Jennifer Reeves, Talladega, AL

Tamika Williams Mobile, AL

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8741505788>

Meeting ID: 874 150 5788

One tap mobile

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+16468769923,,8741505788# US (New York)

7:30 – 8:30 pm

### **Break Out 1**

#### **Connections, Independence, Empowerment – A Formula for Success: How Alabama Regional Library Resources Can Get You There**

Angela Fisher Hall, Regional Librarian, Alabama Regional Library for the Blind, Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

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### **Break Out 2**

#### **Shielding Your Independence**

Personal Self-Defense for the Blind, by the Blind

Vencer Cotton, Jackson, Mississippi

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

Meeting ID: 690 781 0976

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8:30 – 9:00 pm

### **Affiliate Resolutions**

Michael Evers, Legislative Chairperson, Mobile, Alabama

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

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9:00 – 11:00 pm

### **Feuding with the Family - Chapter Faceoff**

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

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### **Saturday, March 6, 2022**

(All morning sessions are held in the Alabama Virtual Hall)

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile

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## **General Session**

### **Connections, Independence, Empowerment: A Formula for Success**

9:00 – 9:30 am

#### **Agenda**

Alabama School for the Blind Band

Call to Order: Barbara Manuel, President NFB Of Alabama

Opening Ceremonies

Welcome: Jill Rossiter, President NFBAL At Large Chapter

Invocation: Luke Seibert, Elder in Training Elkmont Baptist Church, Elkmont, Alabama

NFB Pledge: Grace Anderson, NFBAL Secretary

National Anthem: Cassidie Gorig-Worrell, Alabama School for the Blind

Pledge of Allegiance- Azarriah Tilley-Williams, Mobile AL

Greeting: Representative Adline Clark, Alabama House of Representatives, 97 District, Mobile, AL

9:30 – 10:00 am

#### **National Report**

Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute,

10:00 – 10:20 am

#### **Promoting Independence & Empowerment on the Screen**

Mike McKenzie, Director of Programming and Public Information, Alabama Public Television, Birmingham, Alabama

10:20 – 10:40 am

**Empowerment at the Polls**

Kathy Jones, Alabama League of Women Voters President,  
Madison, Alabama

10:40 – 11:00 am

**A Formula to Succeed - Parents of Blind Children**

Terri Rupp- NFB Board of Directors Member, Nevada Affiliate  
President, Las Vegas, Nevada

11:00 – 11:35 am

**Independence, Yesterday, Today & Future**

Peggy Chong, Blind History Lady, Aurora, Colorado

11:35 – 12:00 pm

**2022 Affiliate Address**

Barbara Manuel, NFBAL President

**Chapter Roll Call**

Nominating Committee

12:00 – 1:30 pm

**Lunch**

**NFB of Alabama Virtual Exhibit Hall**

Zippora Jones, Florence, AL

Jennifer Reeves, Talladega, AL

Tamika Williams Mobile, AL

1:30 – 2:00 pm

**Connection – A Formula for Success**

**Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind**

Jessica L. Edmiston, M.Ed., Executive Director, E. H. Gentry, Alabama Freedom Center Director, Talladega, Alabama

Alan Nunn, Principal, Alabama School for the Blind, Talladega, Alabama

Kyle Gregg- Executive Director, Alabama Industries for the Blind, Talladega, Alabama

Alabama Virtual Hall

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2:00 – 2:30 pm

### **Break Out 1**

#### **Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services**

W. Ashley Townsend, MA CRC, Assistance Commissioner, Blind and Deaf Services

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

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### **Break Out 2**

#### **Legislative Relationships**

Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, Atlanta, Georgia

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

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2:30 – 3:30 pm

## **Independence – A Formula for Success**

### **Break Out 1**

#### **Accessible Pharmacy Services for the Blind**

Lavell Keeling, Director of Business Development, Georgia and Alabama

Andy Berstine, Accessible Pharmacy Co-Founder, Alabama

Virtual Zoom Room

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

one tap mobile +16468769923,,2516565165# US

### **Break Out 2**

#### **IOS and Alexa Updates**

Alecia Bean, M. Ed., COMS, CATIS, CLVT, Computer Access Training, (CAT)Supervisor, Gulf Coast Veteran Health Care System, Biloxi, Mississippi

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

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### **Break Out 3**

#### **Android, Braille Note and Screen Readers**

Jordy Stringer, Executive Director, Center for Independent Living, Southeastern Ohio

Jason Meadow, Chief Executive Officer of a T guys, Michigan

Equality Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98213837163>

Meeting ID: 982 1383 7163

One tap mobile

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+1 646 876 9923,,98213837163# US (New York)

3:30 – 4:30

### **Empowerment – A Formula for Success**

#### **Breakout 1**

#### **Employment Marketing Tools for Success**

Angela Waldsmith, Employee Recruiter, Southern Food Service, Birmingham, Alabama

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165 one tap mobile

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#### **Breakout 2**



## **Blind Achievers**

Luke Seibert, Author, Huntsville Chapter President, Alabama Association of Blind Student President, Ardmore, Alabama

Zippora Jones, BEP Blind Vendor, At Large Chapter Secretary, Talking Blind Podcast, Florence, Alabama

Braydon Arata, South Alabama BELL student, Member of Robotic Club and Scholar's Bowl team, Mobile, Alabama

Clara Scelsi, North Alabama BELL student, Actor, Song Writer, and Performer

Opportunity Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6907810976>

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7:00 pm

## **National Federation of the Blind - Alabama Affiliate 2022 Banquet**

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165 one tap mobile

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## **Program**

Opening

Banquet Entertainment Presented by Tony Nixon, T. Nixon Entertainment

Presider: Tamika Williams, First Vice President, NFBA

Invocation: Rev. Richard Smith, NFBAL Montgomery Chapter President

Poem: Janetta Price, Beaumont, Texas, President of the Community Service Division

Entertainment: Tony Nixon, T. Nixon Entertainment

Introduction of National Representative: Tamika Williams; First Vice President, NFBA

Banquet Address: Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, Atlanta, Georgia

Scholarship Presentation: Grace Anderson, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Pre-Authorization Contribution (PAC): Tamika Williams

Closing

Entertainment by Tony Nixon, T. Nixon Entertainment

### **AABS Virtual Concert**

Alabama Virtual Zoom Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

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Join the Alabama Association of Blind Students for this exciting event. Throughout the concert, performers will perform a variety of music—including some original songs—as well as offer some

more information about the division. This is also a fundraiser, and any donations will be appreciated. More information on ways to donate coming soon.

## **Sunday, March 6, 2022**

8:00 – 9:00 am

### **Devotion**

Minister Percy Garrett, At Large Chapter Chaplin

Luke Seibert, Elder in Training

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98213837163>

Meeting ID: 982 1383 7163

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9:00 – 10:00 am

### **National Federation of the Blind of Alabama Affiliate Board Meeting**

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

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10:15 am

### **Alabama Affiliate Annual Business Meeting**

Alabama Virtual Hall

<https://zoom.us/j/2516565165>

Meeting ID: 2516565165

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## **Agenda**

Call to Order: Barbara Manuel, NFBA President

Invocation: Michael Evers, Mobile Chapter, NFBA Legislative Chair

Reading of Minutes: Grace Anderson, NFBA Secretary

Treasurer Report: Larry Povinelli, NFBA Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

Richard Smith

Positions: Constitutional Offices, Board Seats, 2 – 4 – 6

To place your vote, please text or dial (251) 325-5220

Appointment of 2022 Delegate and Alternate

Chapter Highlights

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

**A special thanks to our 2022 “Connections, Independence, Empowerment – A Formula for Success” Sponsors**

**Independence:**

**Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind**



P. O. Box 698  
Talladega, Alabama 35161  
(256) 761-3200  
mascia.john@aidb.org  
www.aidb.org

### **Empowerment:**

#### **Vanda Pharmaceutical**



2200 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C.  
(202) 578-9060  
vicki.preddy@vandapharma.com  
www.vandapharma.com

### **Exhibitor Showcase:**

#### **Accessible Pharmacy Services for the Blind**

Lavell Keeling

403 South Oxford Valley Road  
Fairless Hills, PA 19143  
215-799-9900  
info@AccessiblePharmacy.com

#### **Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services**

Paige Dewberry

236 Goodwin Crest Dr.  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
(205) 290-4308  
Paige.dewberry@rehab.alabama.gov

**Alabama Freedom Center**  
Jessica Edmiston

1105 Fort Lashley Avenue  
Talladega, AL 35160  
(256) 493-3360  
[edmiston.jessica@aidb.org](mailto:edmiston.jessica@aidb.org)  
[www.aidb.org](http://www.aidb.org)

**Blind Justice Defense**

Ron Brown, Owner

[rbrown@blindjusticedefense.com](mailto:rbrown@blindjusticedefense.com)

765-860-5522  
(800) 981-5119

**E.H. Gentry**

Jessica Edmiston

1105 Fort Lashley Avenue  
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(256) 493-3360  
[edmiston.jessica@aidb.org](mailto:edmiston.jessica@aidb.org)  
[www.aidb.org](http://www.aidb.org)

**E.H. Gentry - Technical Facility**

Doug Nixon

1105 Fort Lashley Avenue  
Talladega, AL35160  
(256) 589-6597

[nixon.doug@aidb.org](mailto:nixon.doug@aidb.org)  
[www.aidb.org](http://www.aidb.org)

### **Emerald Coast Vision Aids**

Mike Hage

163 East Burgess Road

Pensacola, FL

(850) 206-5375

[mike@ecvastore.com](mailto:mike@ecvastore.com)

[www.emeraldcoastvisionaids.com](http://www.emeraldcoastvisionaids.com)

### **NFB of Alabama- At Large Chapter**

Jill Rossiter

Rada Cutlery fundraiser

(256)702-0559

[nfbalatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:nfbalatlarge@gmail.com)

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5720329.6072e9f>

\*Make sure that you select “yes I want my purchase to support the National Federation of the Blind of Alabama.

### **NFB of Alabama Newsline**

Jeff Wilson

1809 3rd Street NW

Center Point, AL 35215

(256) 589-2096

[nfbmagicchapter@gmail.com](mailto:nfbmagicchapter@gmail.com)

[www.nfbal.org](http://www.nfbal.org)

### **Talking Blind**

Zippora Jones

“My blind does not define who I am, I am so much more.”

<https://www.clubhouse.com/@talkingblind>

**Vanda Pharmaceutical**

Vicki Preddy

2200 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, D.C.

(202) 578-9060

[vicki.preddy@vandapharma.com](mailto:vicki.preddy@vandapharma.com)

[www.vandapharma.com](http://www.vandapharma.com)

**The NFB of Alabama Seniors Division** is excited to announce a drawing for a Victor Reader Stream Second Generation! To be given away on June 13, 2022. Donation, \$5.00 each.

For more information, please contact Carol Braithwaite, Senior Division President @ [carolbraithwaite@icloud.com](mailto:carolbraithwaite@icloud.com).

Expressing sincere appreciation to Emerald Coast Vision Aids for donating this Victor Stream.

We'd like to thank **Pixelthin, LLC** for document preparation.

We'd like to thank **Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind** for ASL and Captioning services.

We'd also like to thank the following stations for their In-kind advertisement:

**Awesome AI internet Radio**, AI Eford, NFBAL Montgomery Chapter

**God's Gospel Train Internet Radio**, Julius Love, NFBAL At Large Chapter

**Randy Soul Internet Radio**, Randy Robertson, NFBLA Montgomery Chapter

The entire membership of NFB of Alabama takes this time to express sincere thanks to you for joining us. The connections we've made over the years and, future partnerships, The independence we daily advocate for and the empowerments we achieve has made us who we are. We appreciate each of you!



“WITH LOVE, HOPE AND DETERMINATION, WE ARE TRANSFORMING  
DREAMS INTO REALITIES”

**For More Information Contact:**

The National Federation of the Blind  
Alabama Affiliate  
896 Parliament Court  
Mobile, Alabama 36695  
(251) 656-5165  
[Nfbal.president@gmail.com](mailto:Nfbal.president@gmail.com)

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