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## 71st Annual State Convention

## We are the Heart Beat of the Federation: The Heart Beats On

## The members of the host committee welcome you to the 71st Annual State Convention for the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona.

National Federation of the Blind of Arizona

Donald Porterfield, President

5147 E. Circulo Las Cabanas

Tucson, AZ 85711

[donaldpfield@cox.net](mailto:donaldpfield@cox.net)

Joe Goode, Chair, Convention Arrangements Committee

This Year’s Hosts:

Blind Merchants Division, Debra Smith, President

Arizona Association of Blind Students, Bryan Duarte, President

August 31 through September 3, 2017

Hyatt Regency, Phoenix

122 N. 2nd Street

Phoenix, AZ

602-252-1234

## NFB National Representative: Gary Wunder

Gary Wunder is the editor of the Braille Monitor, the flagship monthly publication of the National Federation of the Blind. Some of Gary’s claims to fame include: Former secretary of the National Federation of the Blind National Board, Longest tenure in his 37 years as state president of Missouri, First blind student to graduate as a computer annalist from the university of Missouri where he went on to work a thriving career in that field. Gary brings with his multi-faceted talents a rich depth of history and Federation philosophy that will infuse our convention with true authenticity.

## Registration: Sharonda White

Registration will take place in the Atrium and will be open Friday, September 1, and will be open from 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM. It will be closed during lunch. Registration will open again on Saturday, and will be open from 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM. If you are unable to register, or pick up your registration packet during these hours, please contact the state president in advance to make special arrangements.

You must be registered for the convention and present to have your name drawn for door prizes! Even if you have pre-registered, please come to the registration table to pick up your registration packet.

## **Exhibit Hall and Mini Independence Market:**

The Exhibit Hall and Mini Independence Market will be in the Cowboy Room. The Exhibit Hall will be open Friday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. It will be closed during lunch. It will open again on Saturday from 12:00 PM until 1:45 PM.

Stop and talk with this year’s selection of Convention Exhibitors and find out what is new in technology, products, and services.

Table 1: Information table NFB Braille, print, and recorded literature is available at tables in the convention hall. Please take all you can make use of and distribute our positive message of blindness far and wide!

Table 2: Newsline/Bureau of Engraving and Printing: Jenny Kasl

Table 3: Arizona Industries for the Blind AIB: Dan Martinez, Public Relations.

Table 3: Colorado Center for the Blind: Brent Batron, Co-Coordinator Youth Services

Table 4-5: Desert Low Vision - Vision services and products in Southern Arizona: Janet Dylla and Tom Northrop

Table 6-7: Digital Apex - The Pinnacle of Information Access: Mark Nelson, President

Table 8: JW.COM: Bible educators: William Salzgeber

Table 9-10: NFB Mini – Independence Market: Megan Homrighausen

Table 11: Saavi Services for the Blind: Roxanne Torres, Outreach Coordinator

Table 12: Sun Sounds of Arizona, Radio Reading Service and Information Access: Marres Wright

Table 13: Vanda Pharmaceuticals: Mark Hynes

Table 14-15: ViewFinder: Elizabeth Evans,

Table 16: Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library: Christine Tuttle, Outreach and Special Projects Supervisor

Table 17: Governors Council on Blindness: Amy Porterfield Chair

Table 18: Blind and Disabled Golf Association: Bob Newell

Table 19: Sports and Rec Division: Mike Armstrong

Table 20: Rehabilitation Services Administration: Business Enterprise Program; Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Independent Living Services: Deb MacIlroy

Table 21: Lyft: Kristin Sheff, Marketing Lead,

Table 22: Aira: Instant Access to Information: Kelly Lovett

## **Hospitality Suite**

The Hospitality Suite is located in Room 2129. It will be open for a lite bite and beverages from 7:00-9:00 AM on Friday, and 7:00-8:30 AM on Saturday. It will also be open from 5:00-6:30 PM on Friday for pizza and beverages. A $5.00 donation is suggested for the pizza.

## **CONVENTION AGENDA**

## **Thursday, August 31, 2017**

**7:00 PM: Philosophy Session – Phoenix Ballroom**

Amy Porterfield, Membership Recruitment and Engagement Committee Chair

Gary Wunder, NFB of Missouri

Come explore with our federation family the generations of our movement.  From hunger, to jobs, to civil rights, to the progress and partnership that leads to true integration, it is the heart of our collective membership that keeps us living the lives we want.  Join in and get to know the largest and strongest support system of blind people speaking for ourselves.

## Friday, September 1, 2017

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM: Registration – Atrium**

Breakout Sessions:

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM: Exhibit Hall – Cowboy Room**

**9:00 AM-11:30 AM: Blind Parents – Curtis Ballroom**

Garrett Mooney, Secretary, NFBA

Art projects blind parents can participate in with their children

Helping blind parents participate in their children's extracurricular activities

Going through the IEP and IFSP processes

Ways to help your children with their homework

**9:00 AM-11:30 AM: Access Technology Seminar – Phoenix Ballroom**

Sharonda White, Board Member, NFBA

Joe Goode, Board Member, NFBA

This year, the Technology Committee has cooked up a few things that are relevant to both the experienced as well as the beginner! We will discuss three Google products—Drive, Calendar, and docs—and how they work on various platforms and with different screen readers. We will also have some fun learning more about the Amazon line of Echo products and giving it some fun and less known commands!!! Lastly, we’ll compare Seeing AI and the KNFB Reader and discuss differences as well as similarities!!! Come ready to take notes, ask questions, and be inspired to take on something new!!!

To finish off, Aira will help you “learn how to get instant access to information.”

**9:00 AM-10:00 AM: Sports and Rec Division – Ellis Ballroom**

Learn the basic cuts and techniques of traditional Samurai Sword from Sensei Armstrong. Expand your awareness through the movement and check out how sword fighting can be adapted for the blind.

**10:00 AM-11:30 AM: We Teach Each Other Seminar – Ellis Ballroom**

Bob Kresmer, NFBA 2nd Vice President

As Federationists, we not only teach each other skills and attitudes, but we also teach each other leadership by example.  Our participants will share the experiences that helped them become leaders in their careers and in our community.

**Noon-1:30 PM: Lunch – Regency Ballroom**

Luncheon Guest Speakers:

Gary Wunder, National Representative, NFB of Missouri

The Honorable Charlene Fernandez, Arizona House of Representatives

**1:30 PM-3:15 PM: Students Seminar – Phoenix Ballroom**

Bryan Duarte, President Arizona Association of Blind Students

Kathryn Webster, President, National Association of Blind Students

Greetings from the Arizona Association of Blind Students. This year we are excited to present the 2017 AZABS student seminar packed with fun and activities. This year we will be holding our student seminar in a round table group format. Each table will offer one on one time with a different AZABS board member where they will be hosting an activity they are knowledgeable about. Make sure you visit all 7 tables and are paying close attention. For those students who meet all 7 board members and have their punch-card completed will be entered in a drawing for a prize! Did someone say pie??? Yeah, we did! Find your best friend and come to the last table where you can challenge them to a trivia battle where the loser takes a pie in the face!!! Come on, who doesn't want to pie their besty in the face and claim superiority over them all convention for beating them in trivia??? To wrap up the seminar we will be getting you pumped up with some fun fitness challenges. This year’s student seminar is not one you will want to miss. So, get ready... bring your friends... and we will see you at the 2017 Arizona Association of Blind Students Seminar for some NFB style fun!!!

**1:30 PM-3:15 PM: Blindness Professionals Seminar – Curtis Ballroom**

Amy Porterfield, Secretary, National Association of Blind Rehabilitation Professionals

1. Round Table discussion: This years raised expectations
2. How the new Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act changes our rehabilitation experience:  Presentation and discussion.
3. Accessibility in the schools.  Accessible and Inaccessible instructional materials.  Barriers and opportunities.
4. Expanded Core curriculum, or pre-vocational skills:  What do they have to do with job retention.
5. Philosophy discussion:  Vision centered versus Authentic perspective approaches in blindness training.
6. What’s new at the Colorado center for the Blind.

**1:30-2:30: Sports and Rec Seminar with Mike Armstrong – Ellis Ballroom**

“The Modern Basics of Exercise”

Learn about the teachings from the National Academy of Sports Medicine from Certified Personal Trainer Mike Armstrong.

**2:00-3:15: Exhibitors Presentations – Ellis Ballroom**

**3:30-5:00: Legislative Seminar – Phoenix Ballroom**

Sami Hamed and Jordan Moon, Co-Chairs

Come learn about how we as Federationists can help enact legislation to protect one of our most basic rights:  The right to parent.

* The Honorable Nancy Barto in the Arizona senate joins US as we dialogue with her about our hopes and concerns regarding blind parenting legislation in Arizona.
* \* Meet with members of the press as we discuss ways in which we as federationists can engage with our media sources to change what it means to be blind in Arizona.
* Meet with experts in social media as we try our hands in developing social media campaigns for our movement

**5:00-6:30: Hospitality Suite – Room 2129**

The host divisions are offering pizza and cold beverages for a donation fo $5.00

**6:30-8:00: Resolutions committee – Curtis Ballroom**

Sami Hamed and Jordan Moon, Co-Chairs

**8:00: Hospitality night with Karaoke – Phoenix Ballroom**

Cash bar and light snacks will be provided

**9:00-10:00: Nominating Committee – Board Room**

Bob Kresmer, Chair

This is the only meeting during the convention that is not open to the public

## **Saturday, September 2, 2017**

**8:00-9:00 AM: Registration – Atrium**

**9:00-5:00: children and Youth Track – Room 316**

General session – Regency Ballroom

**9:00: Opening with President Donald Porterfield**

**9:05: Invocation,**

**9:10: Color Guard with Roy Stinson**

Posting of the Colors by Agua Fria Union High School Air Force ROTC Color Guard, Avondale, AZ

**9:20: Host Committee Welcome**

* Merchants – Debra Smith
* Students – Bryan Duarte

**9:30: Membership Committee Celebration**

Amy Porterfield and Sharonda White

**9:40: The Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind: Partnering with the NFBA** Annette Reichman, Superintendent

**10:00: Transit – Know Your Rights**

Ron Brooks, Valley Metro Manager of Accessible Transit

**10:20; Rehabilitation Services Administration**

Rich Sorey, Services for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Deaf Program Manager

**10:40: Fit Break**

**10:45: Resolutions**

Sami Hamed and Jordan Moon, Co-Chairs

**11:30: Aira Presentation**

Kelly Lovett

**11:50: Sports and rec Division**

Mike Armstrong

**Noon – 1:45: Box Lunch Pick up – Atrium**

**Noon- 1:45 Lunch and breakouts**

* Exhibit hall – Cowboy Room
* Arizona Parents of Blind Children – Remington
* Arizona Association of Blind Students – Regency Ballroom
* Arizona Association of Blind Merchants – Russel Meeting room

Afternoon General Session: Regency Ballroom

**2:00: 00: President’s Report**

Donald Porterfield, President, NFBA

**2:30: National Rep Report**

Gary Wunder, National Rep.

**3:00: Why I am a Federationists**

Megan Homrighausen, Board Member, NFBA and President, East Valley Chapter

**3:10: Colorado Center for the Blind**

Brent Batron, Co-Coordinator Youth Services, Colorado Center for the Blind

**3:25: Saavi Services for the Blind**

Amy Porterfield, Chief Operations Officer

**3:40: NFB BELL Academy**

Amy Porterfield, Arizona BELL Academy Coordinator and Board Member, NFBA

**3:55: Nominating Committee Report and Elections**

Bob Kresmer, Chair

**5:00: Adjourn**

**6:00 – 7:00: Reception No-host cash bar – Atrium (Cash bar)**

**7:00: NFBA Banquet – Regency Ballroom**

* Keynote Speaker
* Scholarship Awards
* Raffle and Auction

## Sunday, September 3, 2017

**7:00-8:00: NFBA Worship Service – Room 314**

**8:00-noon: Children and Youth Track – Room 316**

**8:00 – 9:30 AM: Chapter/Division Breakfast – Regency Ballroom**

* Chapter and Division Reports

**9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon Business Meeting and Strategic Planning:  Regency Ballroom**

Making the plan for our future

**12:00 Noon: Adjourn**

## Additional Information:

National Federation of the Blind of Arizona

2017 Convention Hotel Description

By: Jordan Moon and Eythor Thrastarson

Hyatt Regency Phoenix

122 North Second Street

Phoenix, Arizona, 85004

Tel: +1 602 252-1234

The following is a brief summary of the hotel’s layout. Please note that the best way to learn the hotel is by actually traveling and exploring it. It is our hope that this description provides you with a general understanding of the hotel’s layout and features. Cardinal directions are the easiest way to describe locations throughout the Hotel. West will always be west, but left for you may be left for someone else, depending on which elevator you came out of for example.

We are Jordan Moon and Eythor Thrastarson and we’ll be your tour guides. Come journey with us as we explore together…

The Main entrance to the Hotel is on 2nd Street. It is the east entrance and will be our point of reference. When you walk through the doors, you are immediately in the main lobby area on the first floor. You are in the center of a long north/south hallway. Most of the points of interest on the first floor are along this hallway. Seating areas are located along the center of the hallway, with walkways on both the east and west sides.

Let’s start our exploring by heading north. (Turning right as you come into the lobby.) If you head north, one of the first places on your right side will be Einstein Bros. Bagels. Yay, Coffee!!! It is open from 6:00 A.m.-2:00 p.m. Now that you have got your coffee, let’s continue walking north. You will then pass the Gilbert Ballroom on your right. As you continue north, you will hit the North Entrance which exits out to Monroe Street. Now let’s turn around, head south and walk down the west side of the hallway on the other side of the seating areas. The first door on the west wall leads to the Hyatt Gift Shop, which sells souvenir items, as well as snacks. After the shop, you will pass by the rental car desk, a business center and the Sundance ballroom. The Elevators are just past that, which We’ll further explain later. Now that we’ve got our Barings, let’s head back to the main Entrance.

So, for purposes of this writing, let’s take a step outside to get some fresh air, because man, navigating that north walkway was really tough. Okay, we’re calm and collective now and ready to enter again!

Walking back into the east Entrance, we will now head south (turning left.) Hey, what’s that sound on your left? It sounds like escalators. Let’s not go up them, but let’s use this as an awesome landmark. Next to the escalators, along the east wall of the hotel lobby are the bellman and concierge desks. Let’s keep that wall to our left and continue heading north. As we continue walking, we will begin to smell something delicious. Not coffee this time, but food! Yes, we are passing the restaurant Networks Bar and Grill. If you did go and decide to eat there, you will find that breakfast is served from 6:00-11:00 a.m. and the kitchen is open until midnight. But SHHHH, a little birdy told me that the bar could be open until 2:00 a.m. if it is filled with federationists… We want you to have a clear mind and not miss anything on this tour, so let’s not go in there for now. Instead, let’s keep walking south. You will then find yourself at the south Entrance doors, which lead out to Adams Street. Man, we need some fresh air again. Let’s head outside. If we were to cross the street directly in front of the south entrance on Adams is Steve’s Greenhouse Grill, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with a full bar. We strongly recommend you check out that place, it’s soooo good! But for now, we’re not headed in there. Remember, we want a clear mind!

Let’s head back inside, putting the south doors behind us and the Networks Bar and Grill on our right. But now we are on the opposite side of the walkway, with the couches now on our right side and the restaurant on our far right. As we head north, just past the south doors will be the hotel registration/check in desk. But you have already picked up your room key, so you’re good on that front. As we past the long counter, we will then find the Regency ballroom area on our left. This is directly across from the escalators, as a point of reference. This is where we will have general session and the banquet. Let’s turn left and head into the Regency ballroom area, because we just can’t help it. As we enter, we will find restrooms on our right. Sorry, there’s no time for a bathroom break right now either. This train’s moving! As we continue down the hallway, we will eventually make our way into the Regency Ballroom foyer. If you continue heading through the foyer, we will find six double-door Entrances which lead into the large ballroom. Now, let’s turn around and head out, putting the restrooms on our left.

Continuing north, in the main lobby area, we now find ourselves along a wall. On the other side of this wall are the elevators. The elevators are in a long hallway with elevators on each side. The elevators are parallel with the main Entrance and the hallway runs north and south, just like the lobby mall. Are you ready for this? Let’s head up the elevators!

As we hear the lovely voice of the elevator say, “Second Floor,” we smile and exit once the doors open. Most of our meeting rooms are on this floor. We step out and head south. You will notice a big open space. This is the Atrium. As we continue south, we will find the Cowboy room on the west; or right side. This is where the exhibit hall is. Make sure you stop by the independence market! As we continue south from the Cowboy room, we will pass the Phoenix ballroom on our right side. Also on the right is the Curtis ballroom, which is in a hallway. The NFBA Registration desk will be directly against the south wall in the atrium. If you were to head north after heading out of the elevators, eventually you’d find the Ellis ballroom. All this walking around makes you sweaty and hot right? Well, let’s head to the third floor and see what we can do about it.

As we head out of the elevators on the third floor, we will head out of the west doors. Ahhhhhhh, yes, a pool! If you were to walk north instead of heading up the stairs to the pool, you’d find the fitness center.

Well, that’s the end of our tour. We hope you enjoyed it. It’s important to remember that the best way to actually learn the layout of the hotel is by exploring it on your own. But We hope this tour was enlightening and at least helped you get a decent idea of the layout. Please remember to tip your tour guides!

## 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.