# National Federation of the Blind of Arizona Logo

# **77th Annual State Convention**

**August 24 – 27, 2023**

**Hyatt Regency Downtown**

**122 E. 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ**

## **The Movement: WE are the Center**

On behalf of the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona Board of Directors, the Convention arrangements Committee, and the Host Chapter and Division, we welcome you to the 77th Annual State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona. This is our movement and we are its center. Our movement represents the organized blind movement. We have a story to tell, and we

look forward to writing another successful chapter in our story!

**National Federation of the Blind of Arizona**

Donald Porterfield, President

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Jordan Moon, 1st Vice President

Convention Arrangements Committee Chair

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

**Phoenix Chapter, Co-Host**

Jordan Moon, President

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

## **Arizona Association of Blind Students, Co-Host**

Ammar Tarin, President

[Ammar.tarin@gmail.com](mailto:Ammar.tarin@gmail.com)

## **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 policies and programs of the Federation and to abide by its constitution.

## **Registration**

Registration is available online at [www.az.nfb.org](http://www.az.nfb.org). You may also register at the convention. The registration table will be located pu. Please see the additional information at the end of the agenda for a description of the first floor of the hotel and the location of the convention registration table.

If you have any problems registering, please contact your chapter president in advance to make special arrangements. You may also contact Sharonda Goode at [Sgoode1013@gmail.com](mailto:Sgoode1013@gmail.com), or 602-281-5955.

## **Door Prizes**

You must be registered for the convention and present in the room to be eligible to win a door prize. When you register on-line, you should receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation, please contact your chapter president or Sharonda Goode.

## **Code of Conduct**

We welcome all attendees to our convention and embrace diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. Please keep the following expectations in mind when joining us.

Out of respect for our attendees who have reactions to strong odors and scents, please do not wear perfume, cologne, lotions, or other items that have strong scents or aromas.

The National Federation of the Blind provides support to members and advocates for our right to live the lives we want through advocacy, public awareness, and mentoring.

As a member or guest at our convention, you not only represent yourself but also our organization. We want you to enjoy your time with us, make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Although we encourage members to socialize and have fun, the convention also provides an important opportunity to come together to continue the work of our organization, to learn about the important initiatives that we are involved with on a local and national level, and to plan our work for the future.

Please remember these guidelines:

1. Welcome new attendees: Although you will undoubtedly enjoy time with your friends, please reach out to those who have never joined us before and help them to be comfortable. We welcome people from all walks of life and with diverse needs and experiences.
2. Attend and participate in sessions.
3. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If your behavior could possibly make anyone uncomfortable, even if you would not be upset by it yourself, do not do or say anything that could be considered inappropriate by anyone.

## **NFB National Representative: Marci Carpenter**

Marci Carpenter was born in 1959, the youngest of three children gifted to Rodney and Betty Carpenter. It was clear early on that her vision was limited. Within a month the family realized her eyes were not tracking. That being acknowledged, the message about whether she was blind was slow in coming and frustratingly unclear. That lack of clarity would be a problem during many of Marci's formative years, but she believes every experience has value in helping to form character and in understanding her fellow human beings.

Marci's father loved to fish, and she loved it as well. He also shared his love of professional football with her, and these created a tremendous bond between them for which she will be eternally grateful. Fishing is but one of many outdoor activities she remembers. Being a person who spends quality time outside is very important to her. Walks are a way of relieving stress, but just the wind and the sun are a part of her life balance that includes enjoying and being thankful for nature.

As much as she needs and enjoys physical activity and being outside, Marci also is a lover of books, and reading is one of her major pastimes. It has taken her to places and given her experiences through the adventures of others that she has been able to incorporate into her life. She credits reading with helping her appreciate and respect differences in people, respect their cultures, and do so with acceptance and a real appreciation of who they are and the values they hold dear.

Marci remembers loving elementary school, but as she went through the experience of public education, she met with the taunts that our not-so-innocent children are masters at delivering. When she was teased and bullied at school, she was told not to take nicknames such as Blindy, Bat, and Four Eyes seriously because, after all, she was not blind; she just couldn't see as well as some. But, when it came to attending little league softball games, she was told she might be injured because, being blind, she couldn't duck or get out of the way of foul balls.

These contradictions were apparent in what her parents wanted from her and from her school. They wanted her to learn Braille, but for her to use a cane was out of the question. When she took a typing class, she could read from a large print book and type the material, but when the teacher put things on the board for transcription, Marci could not read them. Though she suggested alternatives, Marci was told that since she could not do the work in the way it was prescribed, she should immediately leave the class. This was the year after the passage of landmark legislation known as Public Law 94-142 but before regulations were in place. Though no one was happy with Marci's expulsion, she was not encouraged to be an advocate, and no one stepped forward to demand what would have been a reasonable accommodation. The term wasn't yet in law or regulation, but the concept made sense long before it was recognized as a legal mandate.

Interestingly, when the physical education teacher decided there was no place for Marci in his class, her parents decided to fight back, and alternatives in which she could participate were adopted. This was yet another contradiction for Marci to reconcile: why was there fighting for accommodations in one class and a passive acceptance in one that might be equally important?

Marci was drawn to involvement in public activities by her mother's work in their community. The family matriarch created a park, helped get funding for a historical society, and later was instrumental in the creation of a museum. With this family tradition and orientation, in third grade Marci had her first opportunity to move onto the public stage and do public speaking, her talk being about the magnifiers she used in class. The hope was that better understanding in the student body would mean less bullying, and the chance to address her schoolmates would bolster her self-confidence. The latter came to pass, but the abuse remained a problem.

Even with the adversity, Marci was determined to remain positive and active. At the request of her class, in her freshman year she went to the school's principal and asked permission for the school to host a parade. The principal agreed but said it would take the concurrence of the city council to close off several of the town's streets. Marci went before the council, got permission, and the parade was a success.

Primarily as a result of blindness and the ambiguity about whether or not she was blind, Marci developed contradictory feelings about school. In a place down deep, she loved it; but with the bullying and the denials, she remembers wanting to flunk out, get it over, be done with the conflict. Given that it was always assumed she would go to college, there wasn't much of a future in acting on the emotions that came from the hurt in her heart that urged her to give up and quit. Her feelings about school were further complicated by the fact that she easily made good friends, and the mutual benefit they provided was a source of real joy.

In high school she remembers going to school games on the bus the school provided for the team's rooters. In getting off at the event, she soon learned that if she ran to keep up with her classmates, she might stumble and get unwanted attention. If she didn't run, she would fall behind and never find her group at the game. Running was the better of two bad choices, but again she did not tell her friends she was blind because she wasn't sure where she fit in the world of the blind and the somewhat sighted.

Even with her intelligence and enthusiasm, Marci realized her academic performance was hampered. In working on a senior term paper, she found that notes she quickly wrote were unreadable. She needed more than print; she really did have a significant problem, but blindness still wasn't the word she and others would use to identify it.

Her first work with any blindness entity was with the Hadley School for the Blind and the correspondence course in typing that would substitute for what she had been denied. After that came rehabilitation through the Washington Commission for the Blind. There she received good skill training, but the program did not fundamentally tackle the way she felt about herself. Although she read speeches by Dr. tenBroek and Dr. Jernigan while there, it wasn't until 1981 that she met the National Federation of the Blind. Here she came to understand that both skills and attitude figured into what life could be for blind people and that she was indeed a blind person. These Federationists were suggesting she was blind and that was okay. "These people took me from thinking of myself as a broken sighted person to a proud blind person. It is hard to put into words the difference in those two perspectives. One leaves you feeling you want to be invisible; the other makes you say, I'm a normal, capable woman, and I'm here to live, compete, and be seen for the full human being I am."

Marci has had her share of disappointments in looking for jobs. She once applied for a job preparing food. The requirement was to take food from a freezer, place it in a microwave oven, and then sell it to the waiting customer. She was denied on the grounds she might slip and fall. That rejection didn't stop her. In the paid job she values most, she worked in the University of Colorado disability services office. She helped students gain needed resources and is proud that she brought to that job the philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind: ask only for what you need, and since you are the person with the most to win or lose, do for yourself whatever you can. Don't let your success depend on the work of others. She emphasized to students that any skill learned in college would prepare them to be better employees, teaching them to deal with an ever-changing world and giving them practice at the "think outside the box" paradigm required of so many successful blind people.

One message Marci would like to communicate is that she is not what the stereotypic Federationist is portrayed to be. She does not hold some highly prestigious job requiring multiple undergraduate and graduate degrees. She has multiple disabilities including hearing loss, asthma, and Essential Trimmer disease, which is similar to Parkinson's in its manifestations. She deals with chronic depression and wrestles with anxiety, but she demonstrates that none of this stops her from living an active and happy life with her husband Raymond Spicer, partners and soulmates since 2007. She was elected president of the National Federation of the Blind of Washington in 2014, and canvasing affiliate members reveals they couldn't be happier with their choice. She leads by example, leads with wisdom, leads with compassion, and leads by emphasizing that there is nothing more important than clear and frequent communication.

Marci is particularly proud of the role she has played as a part of the National Federation of the Blind Survivor Task Force. As a person who has suffered from sexual and emotional abuse, she knows the feelings, relates to the stories, and provides a path leading to hope and healing. "This has taken more time over the last year than I thought it would, but I consider it time well spent. I want people to know that we listen to them, we believe them, and we intend to make our organization better as a result of experiences expressed through their stories."

When asked what she would like to say about her life and her work in this organization we share, Marci says: "I am a testament to the fact that what people think it takes to be a leader in the Federation is way too narrow. As I mentioned during my acceptance speech at the 2021 National Convention, I was out of the Federation for about a decade, but when I came back, I was welcomed with open arms. All of my experiences make me certain that the Federation is more needed today than ever before. I'm proud to be a part of it, and I urge those who think that they can't become a part to think about my life, my contributions, and how they might follow a similar path. We must go forward together, and through the organization we nurture and support, this is exactly what we will do."

## **National Association of Blind Students Representative: Sara Luna**

Sara Luna (She/Her), Second Vice-President

**Email:** [sol.sky.luna@gmail.com](mailto:sol.sky.luna@gmail.com)

Sara is thrilled to enter her second year as Second Vice President of NABS. After spending the majority of the past year in Minnesota attending the adult program at (and later working for) Blind Inc, she is happy to return to her home  of Chicago to pursue various career opportunities. In the fall she will begin working to obtain a professional certificate in museum studies from NorthWestern University to, complement her bachelors in history and communications from Northpark University. She plans on prioritizing, improving museum accessibility and highlighting the perspectives of marginalized populations within historical narratives, in her professional endeavors. Sara is a passionate martial artist as,  she earned the rank of Shodan, first degree black belt in judo, in the spring of 2022. Her other hobbies include, listening to an absurd amount of audio books/ podcast’s, editing her scrapbook, drawing, sampling different teas and, adding to her collection of miscellaneous historical facts. As NABS constantly reminds Sara that, she is never alone in her challenges or successes, she invites all members of the NABS Family to reach out if they ever want to talk.

## **Fundraising**

Can you feel the energy? A raffle, blankets,  Popcorn, Coffee, Auction, and more! Yes, there are plenty of opportunities to support our affiliate during this convention. You will even be able to purchase canes and cane tips in the exhibit hall! Please consider all the ways you can support the NFB of Arizona  so that we can remain the center of all things blindness in our state. Rachel Kuntz, Affiliate Fundraising Chair

Daily Raffle

Enter to win fun and fabulous prizes throughout convention weekend. Tickets will be available for purchase starting at $2 per ticket depending on the prize. Drawings will take place at different times during convention and the winner does not have to be present to win. Cash and credit will be accepted. Get ready to be the big winner!

NFB Travel Blankets

The affiliate will be making available for purchase a warm and cozy travel blanket emblazoned with the National Federation of the Blind logo. This black fleece blanket with white NFB logo converts into a convenient carrying case with handle when not in use in front of your favorite streaming service or while reading a terrific book. The Affiliate Fundraising Chair, Rachel reports that her furry companions (both cat and dog) have endorsed the travel blanket’s coziness for an afternoon siesta. Blankets are $20 each and can be purchased by a variety of cash or credit card payment methods. Already have lots of blankets. Never fear, this convenient travel blanket is self-contained in a smooth carrying case that can serve as a NFB pillow, back support, cushion, and has pockets in which you can carry things on the go. Anybody would want this versatile gift.

Popcorn

The Phoenix chapter will be selling four popular flavors of Fun Factory Sweet Shop’s fluffy popped popcorn for $8 per bag. Each bag of the delicious, popped goodness will help keep you engaged throughout convention weekend. When you run out of popcorn, you will get the chance to order more post-convention and have it shipped straight to your door. That is a great deal so Get your taste buds ready for a treat. Cash and credit accepted.

Coffee, Anyone?

Have you ever been needing a cup of coffee so bad but you did not want to leave the general session because you feel like you may miss something or  even lose out on winning a door prize? Well, have no fear, this year the student division is here!!! For a donation, the student division will have a runner go and get your cup of coffee or beverage for you so that you don’t miss out on anything. More information about this to come throughout the weekend.

## **Auction**

Have your positive energy ready to bid on Auction items during the banquet.

## **Lets Get Social!**

As much as we love our convention, we can’t let moments like this pass without sharing #nfbaz23 to the world. We are the center and everyone needs to know it. To encourage our members to spread the word online about our convention, there will be two contest taking place throughout the weekend involving our social media channels.

Hash it, Check it, Share it, Like it

The NFB of Arizona is very active on Facebook. You can find us at facebook.com/blind Arizona. You should join the Facebook fun! In order to enter into a drawing for a door prize, you must do all the following 4 things:

1. Hash it: Use the hashtag #NFBAZ23 in a post
2. Check it: check into the Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix hotel on Facebook
3. Share it: Share an affiliate  #NFBAZ23 post to your Facebook Feed
4. Like it: Like an NFB of Arizona Facebook post

\*\*\*Pro tip, if you’re clever you can do all 4 in one post…\*\*\*

Mastodon Fun!

Yes, the NFB of Arizona is on Mastodon! For anyone who subscribes to the NFB feed and uses the hashtag #NFBAZ23, you will be entered to win a door prize! If you have any questions about Mastodon, Sharonda Goode will be glad to answer them

## **Convention Streaming**

Although we want everyone to join us in person we will be streaming a small amount of our convention online. Please visit our Facebook page or www. az.nfb.org/convention to find streaming options, or join us on zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89692502098?pwd=TldMMXJCZGp4VU5MK1NFMWNVaFVxQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 9250 2098

Passcode: 199805

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,89692502098#

Please note that those tuning into our virtual feed will not be eligible to vote or win a door prize.

## **Hospitality Suite**

The Hospitality Suite is located in the General Manager’s suite 420. It will be open from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM on Friday and Saturday. It will also be open Friday evening, immediately following the Legislative Seminar. The host chapter is offering a light dinner. A $5.00 donation for expenses is requested.

### Muslim Prayer Space – Suite 325

Muslim prayer space is available beginning Thursday, August 24 at 7:00 PM – Sunday August 27 at 12:00 PM.

### Quiet Space – Morin room

A quiet space is available beginning Thursday, August 24 at 7:00 PM – Sunday August 27 at 1200 PM.

## **Thursday, August 24, 2023**

### **6:00 PM - Philosophy** **Session: Hanson**

**The Movement: We Are the Center!**

Welcome to our Theme. Welcome to our philosophy session, And ultimately welcome to our Movement.

In this session we bring the energy and the heartbeat to our convention.  We will have interactive discussion and opportunities to work as a team, learn how our movement was shaped,  and discover that while the movement has shaped our experience, the movement can only exist because we are the center.

Are you searching for a life changing experience?  Do you want to learn more about the organized blind movement?  Welcome to The National Federation of the Blind of Arizona!  We know who we are, and we are not going back!

Tarik Williams, Board Member and Affiliate Membership Recruitment and Engagement Committee Chair

## **Friday, August 25, 2023**

### **8:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Registration: Ballroom Foyer**

### **8:30 AM – 12:00 PM - Exhibit Hall: Regency Ballroom A and B**

### **9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Access Technology Seminar: Ellis Room**

**Tech Pathways: Navigating Mastodon, Document Accessibility, and AI Advancements**

Come one, come all to this year's technology seminar that promises to be both informative and enjoyable. We have an exciting lineup of topics that will keep you engaged throughout the event. Be sure to bring your questions, as this is your chance to experience some of the latest trends!

Joe and Sharonda Goode, Affiliate Technology Committee Co-Chairs

### **9:30 AM – 11:30 AM - Employment Seminar: Phoenix Room**

Have you been wondering how to boost your income potential? Or want to get ahead at work? In this four-part Employment Seminar participants will learn how to start and successfully run their own business, jump into the Business Enterprise Program, use the gig economy to get ahead, and climb the employment ladder while blind. Anything is possible with the right skills, network, and dedication to the dream. Join in the conversation and take away strategies that will lead to future success.

Rachel Kuntz, Board Member andAffiliate Fund Raising Committee Chair

### **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Senior Seminar and More: Hanson Room**

A collaboration between Arizona Rehabilitation Services and the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona is bringing you this two part event, held simultaneously. If you or someone you care about are new to vision loss, then you are especially encouraged to join in.

The Cane Walk is where those who are hesitant about using a long white cane for independent travel or who may have never had the opportunity for instruction can gain some experience. Qualified mobility specialists will be on hand to perhaps give you your first cane and coach you on the basics. There will be opportunity for practical exercises to help you feel comfortable as you grasp your new friend in groups or on your own. Lots of fun to be had here.

For those who may be waiting their turn, the fun continues as a mini workshop on some essential skills will be provided covering topics such as kitchen safety, appliances, self- advocacy, resources and the future of the senior division. Again, you do not need to be a senior to participate in this workshop, everyone’s voice is valued and tips from the group are very welcome. We want to hear from those who walk the walk.

EvaMarie Sanchez – RSA Supervisor for the Older Independent Living Blind Program, Mark Feliz – Phoenix Chapter President and Affiliate Board Member; and Scott Michael Tokunaga – NOMC, Saavi Services for the Blind

### **12:00 PM – 12:30 PM – Islamic Friday Prayer: Suite 325**

### **Noon – 1:30 PM - Lunch: Regency Ballroom C and D**

Speakers:

Marci Carpenter, National Representative

Sara Luna, NABS Representative

Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator

### **1:30 PM - 5:00 PM – Registration: Ballroom Foyer**

**1:30 PM - 5:00 PM – Exhibit Hall: Regency Ballroom A and B**

### **1:30 PM - 3:00 PM - Student Division Seminar: Ellis Room**

Arizona Association of Blind Students

Ammar Tarin, President Arizona Association of Blind Students

### **1:30 PM - 3:00 PM - Blindness Professionals Seminar: Phoenix Room**

Come find a place where peers working in the field of blindness can come together to explore ideas, resources, and strategies for blind students ages Birth through retirement. This year we will dive into building confident travel with children and youth, using the Ereader for Braille for all areas of instruction, successful employment without college, and much more.

Amy Porterfield, Affiliate Board Member, and President, Saavi Services for the Blind

### **2:30 PM – 3:30 PM – Leadership in the National Federation of the Blind. Hanson Room**

Join us as we meet with policy makers and discuss voting.

### **3:30 PM – 5:30 PM - Legislative Seminar: Regency C and D**

Join us as we engage in a discussion with policy makers at the highest level of state government. How do we as a community move our priorities forward and bring about positive change for Arizona’s blind community.

We will also discuss how to find the best advocate for you.

Guest speakers include:

* Andy Sugrue, Human Services Advisor to Governor Katie Hobbs
* Ariel Morin, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor, Gov. Katie Hobbs

### **5:30 PM – 6:30 PM - Hospitality Suite – General Manager’s Suite**

Join the Phoenix Chapter and the Student Division for a quick meal before the resolutions committee meeting. A $5.00 donation for expenses is requested.

### **6:30 PM – 8:00 PM - Resolutions Committee: Regency C and D**

### **8:00 PM – 11:00 PM - Hospitality Night: Regency C and D**

As co-host, the Student Division is adding a new twist to hospitality and entertainment. This year, you will be entertained by fellow Federationists as they compete in a talent show

### 9:00 PM – 10:00 PM - Nominating Committee: This is a closed meeting. This is the only meeting during the convention that is not open to the public

Bob Kresmer, Affiliate 2nd Vice President, Nominating Committee Chair

## **Saturday, August 26, 2023**

### **8:00 AM - 9:00 AM - Registration: Regency Ballroom Foyer**

### 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM - Youth Track: Cameron

### **9:00 AM - 12:00 PM – Morning General Session: Regency Ballroom C and D**

9:00 AM – Call to Order by President Donald Porterfield

9:05 AM - Invocation

9:10 AM - Opening Ceremony

9:20 AM - Convention Planning Committee Welcome

Jordan Moon, Committee Chair

9:30 AM - Membership Committee Celebration

10:00 AM – Panel Discussion

Panelists:

* Dr. Brian Dulude, Region III Program Manager Services for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and the Deaf
* David Steinmetz, Arizona Industries for the Blind
* Annette Reichman, Superintendent, Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind
* Christine Tuttle, Arizona Talking Book Library

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM – National Convention Panel Discussion

Hear from first-timers, and not so first-timers, about the first time they experienced our national convention.

Panelists:

* Mambo Karama, (and his interpreter)
* Maranda  “Mara” Ulvestad
* Christopher Krawley

### **Noon – 1:30 PM - Division Meetings**

* Arizona Parents of Blind Children: Regency B
* Arizona Association of Blind Students: Regency A
* Diabetes Action Network: Sundance
* Seniors Division: Regency C and D

### **1:30 - 5:00 PM - Afternoon General Session: Regency Ballroom**

1:30 PM - President’s Report

Donald Porterfield, Affiliate President

2:00 PM - National Representative Report

Marci Carpenter, National Representative

2:30 PM – Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Bob Kresmer, Committee Chair

3:15 PM - Resolutions

4:00 PM - SAAVI Services for the Blind

Amy Porterfield, Chief Operations Officer

4:20 PM - NFB BELL Academy

Amy Porterfield, Arizona BELL Academy Coordinator and Affiliate Board Member

5:00 PM - Adjourn

### **6:00 PM - Reception: Ballroom Foyer**

### **7:00 PM - Banquet: Regency Ballroom**

Keynote Speaker – Marci Carpenter, National Representative

Scholarship Awards – Amy Porterfield, Committee Chair

Auction – Donald Porterfield, Affiliate President, and Jordan Moon, Affiliate First Vice President

## **Sunday, August 27, 2023**

### 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM – Worship Service: Regency A

### **7:30 AM - 8:00 AM - Youth Track: Cameron**

### **8:00 AM – 12:00 PM - Business Meeting and Chapter Reports Breakfast: Regency Ballroom**

Chapter Reports:

* East Valley
* Phoenix
* Tucson

Treasurer’s Report: Donna Silba, Affiliate Treasurer

2023 – 2024 Events

* Blind Equality Achievement Month (Meet the Blind Month)
* Phoenix Seminar
* Washington Seminar
* 2024 National Convention
* 2024 NFB BELL Academy
* 2024 State Convention

## **Hotel Layout –**

Below, you will find important information about the hotel, a detailed layout of the hotel to aid you in navigation and a description of food options in the hotel.

## Important Information about the Hotel

### Complimentary Wi-Fi

Hyatt guest can access free Wi-Fi by selecting the Hyatt\_wifi option then entering the guests name and room number when prompted. The service is available throughout the hotel except meeting rooms.

### Smoking Policy

Hyatt is a non-smoking hotel. Smoking is not permitted indoors, at the pool, on guest room balconies, or within 30 feet  of any entrance. A designated smoking area is located outside of the Adams and Monroe St exits.

### Credit Only-Cash Free Environment

The Hyatt has moved to a credit or debit card only system and will not take cash at any of their dining facilities, shops, or provide change at the reservation desk. Cash can be given for tipping purposes to housekeeping and other staff members as desired, but no change will be provided.

The national federation of the Blind of Arizona will accept all forms of secure payment including cash at registration and all other fun activities in which you can participate within our convention programing. An ATM is located on the south end of the main floor of the hotel near the Adams St exit.

### Parking

Stop at the hotel valet on 2nd St to pick up a parking pass to use Chase Tower garage next to the Hyatt. Self-parking is $30 and valet parking service is $40 . Overnight guest of the hotel can qualify for 25% off of parking rates. Inquire about the discount at check-in.

### Daily Room Fee

Hyatt guests are asked to provide a credit or debit card to cover a $50 per day incidental fee to cover charges made to the room. This is in addition to the daily reservation amount and taxes. The fee is refunded minus any charges to the room. Note if using a debit card this refund process will take longer. If using a credit card, the hold will be released immediately upon check-out.

### Microwaves

Public Microwaves are located on each floor. Guests can request a microwave for their room at a fee of $25. This fee may be waived for convention attendees. Inquire at check-in.

## Navigating the Hotel:

### Surrounding Streets

North 2nd St, East Adams, North 1st St, and East Monroe.

### Hotel Entrance

The hotel’s main entrance and valet are located on North 2nd St. Additional hotel entrances are found on East Monroe and East Adams.

### Dog Relief Area

The dog relief area for dog guides or other service animals is located outside of the hotels north entrance on East Monroe. A trash receptacle and animal waste disposal bags will be located there as well. Pets are not permitted at the Hyatt.

### Reservation/Front Desk

The Reservation desk is located centrally on the west wall on the main floor immediately across from the 2nd St entrance.

### Elevators

The elevator bay is directly behind the reservation desk. This desk /counter is somewhat long so seek out the first opening on either end of the counter to enter the elevator bay.

Your room key will be needed to access the floors above level three. From inside the elevator, locate the box below the buttons/control panel. Hold your room key in front of this box until a beep is heard or wait two to three seconds then press the button for the desired floor. If boarding with a group, one person can perform this task and select multiple levels in the same key scan.

The process for scanning the key is similar to holding the key when entering a hotel room. It does not matter which side of the card is held over the square box just that you give it time to read the card before selecting the desired floor.

A room key is not needed for levels one to three and for descending from any level.

### Escalators

Escalators traveling from the main floor to the second floor are located on the southeast side of the hotel between the 2nd St entrance and the  Barrel & Bushel  bar.

### Grand Stairwell

A grand stairwell to the second floor is located on the Northeast wall between the Monroe and the 2nd St entrances.

### Meeting Rooms-Main Floor

Convention Registration and Regency Ballroom

Convention Registration will be on the main floor in the foyer/hallway outside of the Regency Ballrooms. The large Ballroom area will host our Exhibit Hall, Plated Lunch, Hospitality Night, General Session, and Banquet.

To get to the Registration table and the Regency Ballrooms travel south away from the reservation desk on the west side of the hotel. Pass the opening for the elevator bay. Take the next opening on the right while traveling south. A large column separates the opening where we begin traveling west towards a set of double doors.

After entering this doorway continue traveling west to a larger hallway/foyer. The Convention Registration table will be in this space and the Regency Ballrooms will have many doors to choose from along the west wall.

Public Restroom – Main Level

A set of public restrooms are located on the North wall in the short hallway before entering the double doors leading to the registration and ballroom area.

### Second Floor Meeting Rooms

Cowboy Artist Room: located on the west wall when heading south from the elevator bay. When traveling away from the escalators it is on the west wall between the hall leading to more meetings spaces and the elevator bay.

Cameron Room: the southeast most room on the south wall of the atrium.

Hanson Room: located in the center of the south wall in the atrium.

Curtis A, B, and C Rooms: found on the east wall within a north/south hallway at the first opening when traveling west away from the Hanson Rooms.

Public Restrooms are found on the south wall while traveling west away from the Hanson Room just past the north/south hallway leading to the Curtis Rooms.

Phoenix East and West Rooms: Located on the south wall when traveling west away from the Hanson Room and after entering a set of double doors just past the restrooms.

Moran Room: This is where the quiet space will be. Located on the North wall across from the Phoenix Room.

Just past the Phoenix West Room, the east/west hallway ends, and we arrive at the center of the north/south hallway.

Remington A, B, and C Rooms: Located on the west wall beginning on the south end of the hallway.

Board Room: found on the east wall at the south end of the hallway.

Russell A, B, and C Rooms: located on the west wall at the north end of the hallway.

Boren A, B, and C Rooms: located on the east wall of the north end of the hallway.

### POOL & FITNESS CENTER — 3RD FLOOR

the exit from the hotel to the fitness and pool area is on the third floor on the Northwest side of the hotel. A key card is needed to access both the pool at its entrance gate and the fitness room entrance. Pool hours are 6:00AM - 10:00PM daily. A towel station and large towel receptacle for used towels is immediately outside the hotel exit to the pool area. the fitness room is only accessible from this exterior space and is found while traveling north and then west along the exterior wall. A water station is located inside the large fitness room. Fitness Center is open 24 hours .

## What About Food?

There are many food options in the hotel. Please note that no outside food is permitted in the hotel. There will be a nearby restaurant guide posted on the NFB of Arizona website. Throughout the hotel, you can find the following food options:

### Gift Shop

If you forget any essentials, a fabulous gift shop is located in the Northwest corner of the hotel. Follow the west wall away from the reservation desk moving north toward the exit to Monroe. The shop will be the last doorway on the left before leaving the hotel.

### ON-SITE DINING OPTIONS

Braille menus will be available at each location along with a QR code to scan for menu options.

Compass- Open Wednesday-Sunday: 5PM-9:30PM \*Newly Renovated

\*Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made at [compassarizona.com](http://compassarizona.com)

Compass Lounge-Open Wednesday-Sunday: 9:30PM-11PM (snacks, desserts, and cocktails)

Located on the top floor. The Compass gets its name because of its rotating view of the city and beyond. This is a fine dining experience.

B&B Market — Open Daily: 6AM-10:30PM. Grab N Go Snacks and drinks available until 11PM. after 11 PM go to the front desk for assistance with purchasing items from the market.

The B&B Market counter is located on the main level in the Southwest corner between the Adams St exit and the short hallway leading to the Regency Ballrooms and Registration table.

Barrel & Bushel —Open Daily:

Lunch: 11AM-4PM (limited menu)

Dinner: 4PM-12AM

\*Food service offered until 10:30PM and beverage

service until midnight

Located on the main floor on the southeast corner across from the B&B Market  and between the escalators and Adams St exit.

## **2023 Convention Sponsors**

The National Federation of the Blind of Arizona would like to thank the following sponsors for their commitment to helping us hold a successful convention and for helping us fund our movement

### Platinum Sponsor $2,500

Waymo

https://waymo.com/about/#:~:text=Waymo's%20mission%20is%20to%20make,the%20potential%20to%20transform%20lives.

Waymo's mission is to make it safe and easy for people and things to get where they're going. From moving people to moving goods, we're using autonomous driving technology to get to new places. Our mission is big and our work has the potential to transform lives.

### **Gold Sponsors: $1,000**

**SAAVI Services for the Blind**

SAAVI Services for the Blind is a blindness rehabilitation training center providing skills training in nonvisual techniques to people of all ages.

www.saavi.us

**Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB)**

Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) is an employer of choice for people who are pursuing career opportunities that empower them to achieve their version of the American Dream. AIB is a role-model for the community, demonstrating that with the right technology, right training and right attitude people who are blind can be successful in the workplace and the community.

www.azifb.com

### Silver Sponsor $500

The Center for Natural Health

We are a wholistic company with a passion and desire to help rebuild your body to optimal health! I will take my time with you to make sure you understand every step in your journey. You will feel better, look better, and your life will be better!

### Copper Sponsor $250

Computers for the Blind

<https://computersfortheblind.org/about/#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20Computers%20for,tax%2Dexempt%2C%20charitable%20organization>.

The mission of Computers for the Blind is to open the world of information technology to persons who are blind or visually impaired by providing computer equipment, software, and training. CFTB is a 501(c)(3) organization and is approved as a tax-exempt, charitable organization.

ICNA Relief Arizona

Mission : ICNA Relief USA seeks to alleviate human suffering by providing caring and compassionate service to victims of adversities and survivors of disasters. ICNA Relief USA strives to build healthy communities, strengthen families and create opportunities for those in despair while maintaining their dignity.

Volunteers from across the country help us accomplish our mission every day. We are a Muslim organization and feel it is our religious responsibility to support those in need in our country regardless of their race, religion or other identifying features.

Orcam

<https://www.orcam.com/en-us/home>

Our mission is to enrich people's daily experiences with personal assistive handheld and wearable AI devices that increase confidence and independence.

**Arizona participating Operators Committee- APOC**

Scott Weber, Chair

The Arizona Business Enterprise Program provides employment opportunities for individuals who are legally blind to own merchandising businesses, including vending and food service operations.

[Business Enterprise Program (BEP) | Arizona Department of Economic Security (az.gov)](https://des.az.gov/services/employment/rehabilitation-services/business-enterprise-program-bep#:~:text=The%20Arizona%20Business%20Enterprise%20Program%20provides%20employment%20opportunities,if%20you%20meet%20all%20of%20the%20following%20requirements%3A)