[](https://nfb.org/)

**Agenda**

**2015 Annual State Convention of the**

**National Federation of the Blind of California**

**Friday, October 30, 2015**

**Through**

**Sunday, November 1, 2015**

**Double Tree by Hilton Hotel**

**39900 Balentine Drive**

**Newark, CA 94560**

**The National Federation of the Blind of California is**

**Uniting Blind People through**

**Love, Hope, & Determination**

**Our Mission Statement is to achieve wide spread emotional acceptance and intellectual understanding that the real problem of the blindness is not the loss of eyesight but the misconceptions and lack of information which exist. We do this by bringing blind people together to share their successes, to support each other in times of failure, and to create imaginative solutions.**

**Registration Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Registration Fee ……………………………… | $20 |
| Orientation Center for the Blind Alumni Lunch ………………………………………….. | $20 |
| Louisiana Center for the Blind Reunion Lunch ………………………………………….. | $20 |
| Colorado Center for the Blind Reunion Lunch ………………………………………….. | $20 |
| Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions Inc. Reunion Lunch ……………………………….. | $20 |
| Masquerade Ball and Costume Contest (cash bar and snacks) ………………………. | $5 |
| Diabetes Action Network Luncheon ……….. | $25 |
| Banquet ……………………………………….. | $30 |

**Thank You to Our Sponsors**

The NFB of California would like to give an extra special thank you to **Wells Fargo bank** for their generous donation of time, money, and educational resources to support our convention.

Also, hank you to **Mike May** from **Sendero Group** for his generous donation of a Seeing Eye GPS XT app for iPhone. Raffle tickets are available for $5.00 each or 3 for $10.00. Ticket holder must be present at the drawing to be held at the NFBC banquet to win!

**Silver Sponsor**

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Bronze Sponsor**

Telesensory Services

**Convention Announcements**

**Announcement 1.** The NFB of California registration desk is located outside the conference center doors and will be open on Friday from 10 AM to 12 noon and 1 P.M to 5 PM

**Announcement 2.** Raffle tickets for a Seeing Eye GPS XT app for the iPhone are available for $5.00 each or 3 for $10.00. Ticket holder must be present at the drawing to be held at the NFBC banquet to win!

**Announcement 3.** An Exhibitor Showcase will be held on Friday, October 30, 2015, from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Come to ballroom II on Friday and listen to brief product descriptions from exhibitors over coffee and pastries. Then, visit the exhibit hall itself in Ballroom I, and see everything in the exhibit hall.

**Announcement 4. Celebrate Halloween this year at a** Masquerade Ball on Friday night from 8 PM to 11 PM. Bring your costume and mask for a fun and scary time with fellow Federationists. Prizes will be given away. We will have a cash bar and a DJ so you can hit the dance floor and show us your best moves! We will do a little meet and greet prior to the costume party. $5 at the door. Be there or be scared!

**Announcement 5.** If you wish to purchase a Diabetes Action Network Lunch ticket or a banquet ticket at the Convention, there will be a few tickets available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis at the registration table.

**Announcement 6.** The guide dog relief area is located outside the hotel doors. Exit the front door of the hotel and head left to the grassy area. Please clean up after your dog. A trash can will be placed outside the front door of the hotel—please use it. In case of emergency, Tina Thomas will have extra bags.

**Announcement 7.** As you enter the conference center, the Grand Ballroom is Ballrooms I, II, III, and IV, opened up into one large room, and will be on your right. The Boardroom is the Newark, Freemont, Cedar, and Balentine rooms all opened up into one large room, and will be on your left.

**Announcement 8.** For the first time, we are sponsoring a Free White Cane Donation Campaign to benefit blind people in South Africa and Mexico coordinated by the Pathfinders Chapter. DONATE your unwanted, usable folding or rigid canes. Your name will then be entered into a drawing for a $50 Gift Card. The drawing will be held at the NFBC banquet on Saturday evening. You must be present to win!

**Committees**

Thank you to the following people for making this convention a great success!

**Agenda Editors:** Jim Barbour, Lisamaria Martinez, Mary Willows, Joy Stigile

**Convention planning committee:** Jim Barbour (Chairperson), Shannon Dillon, Tim Elder, Carl Martin, Lisamaria Martinez, Janeen Rockwell-Owens

**Convention Streaming Committee:**Jim Barbour, Brian Buhrow

**Door Prize Committee:**

Rochelle Houston , Janeen Rockwell- Owens

**Resolutions Committee:** Robert Stigile (Chairperson), Jana Littrell (Secretary), Ever Lee Hairston, Angela Fowler, Bryan Bashin, Tim Elder, Michael Hingson

**Scholarship Committee:**Shannon Dillon (Chairperson), Ever Lee Hairston, Robert Stigile, Allison Depner, Lisamaria Martinez, Karen Steele

**Masquerade Ball Planning Committee:**

Rochelle Houston (Chairperson), Charlotte Carroll, Candace Luther, Michael Richardson, Carmen Weatherly

**Exhibit Hall Coordinators:**Lisamaria Martinez, Cheryl Thurston

**Auction Basket Coordinator:** Karen Steele, Joy Stigile

**NFB of California Board of Directors:** Mary Willows (President), Ever Lee Hairston (First Vice President),

Robert Stigile (Second Vice President), Shannon Dillon (Secretary),

Rochelle Houston (Treasurer), Jim Barbour, Bryan Bashin, Tim Elder, Jana Littrell, Lisamaria Martinez, Karen Steele, Carmen Weatherly

**Schedule of Events**

| **Friday, October 30 - Morning** | |
| --- | --- |
| 8:30 AM  10:00 AM | Exhibitor Showcase — Lisamaria Martinez and Cheryl Thurston, Coordinators — Ballroom II |
| 8:30 AM  3:00 PM | Exhibit Hall — Coordinators Lisamaria Martinez and Cheryl Thurston — Ballroom I |
| 10:00 AM  12:00 PM | NFBC Registration Desk, just outside the conference center. |
| 10:00 AM  11:00 AM | NFB of California Semi-Annual in-person Board of Directors Meeting — Mary Willows, President — Ballroom IV |
| 11:00 AM  11:20 AM | NFB of California Resolutions Committee Meeting — Robert Stigile, Chairperson — Ballroom IV |

| **Friday, October 30 – Employment – Ballrooms II and III** | |
| --- | --- |
| 11:20 AM  12:00 PM | A Guide on How to Obtain a State of California Job Through the “Limited Examination and Application Program (LEAP)” — Jerry Gibbins, Manager of the Disability Management Program, Office of Civil Rights, California Department of Human Rights Resources — Ballroom II |
| 12:00 PM  12:30 PM | Transitioning from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to independence — Aaron Couts, Area Work Incentives Coordinator, Public Affairs, Social Security Administration — Ballroom II |
| 12:30 PM  1:00 PM | California Department of Rehabilitation Services, Scope and Eligibility — Elena Gomez, Deputy Director, California Department of Rehabilitation and Rosa Gomez, Assistant Deputy Director Blind Field Services – Ballroom II |
| 1:00 PM  2:00 PM | Hands on Banking — Denise Clark, Wells Fargo Bank — Ballroom II |
| 1:00 PM  2:00 PM | Resume Writing and Interview Tips — Wells Fargo Bank — Ballroom III |
| 2:00 PM  3:00 PM | Hands on Banking — Denise Clark, Wells Fargo Bank — Ballroom II |
| 2:00 PM  3:00 PM | Resume Writing and Interview Tips — Wells Fargo Bank — Ballroom III |
| 3:00 PM  5:00 PM | Wells Fargo Job Opportunities Fair — Ballroom II |

| **Friday, October 30 – Lunch – Ballroom IV** | |
| --- | --- |
| 12:00 PM  1:00 PM | Orientation Center for the Blind Alumni Association INC Lunch — David Chan, President — Ballroom IV |
| 12:00 PM  1:00 PM | Louisiana Center for the Blind Lunch Reunion — Ballroom IV |
| 12:00 PM  1:00 PM | Colorado Center for the Blind Lunch Reunion — Ballroom IV |
| 12:00 PM  1:00 PM | Blind Learning in New Dimensions Lunch Reunion — Ballroom IV |

| **Friday, October 30 – Afternoon** | |
| --- | --- |
| 1:00 PM  5:00 PM | NFBC Registration Desk, just outside conference center |
| 3:00 PM  5:00 PM | NFBC Community Services Division — Darian Smith, President — Newark Room |
| 5:00 PM  7:00 PM | California Association of Blind Students – Angela Fowler, Acting President — Ballroom I |
| 5:00 PM  7:00 PM | NFBC Blind Parents Division Organizing Meeting — Lisamaria Martinez, Coordinator — Ballroom III |
| 5:00 PM  7:00 PM | California Association of Guide Dog Users — Tina Thomas (President) — Ballroom IV |

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| **Friday, October 30 – Evening – Board Room** | |
| 8:00 PM 11:00 PM | Masquerade Ball and Costume Contest, Board Room |

| **Saturday October 31 –General Session -Grand Ball Room** | |
| --- | --- |
| 9:00 AM | Call to Order — President Mary Willows |
| 9:05 AM | Pledge of Allegiance — Darian Smith |
| 9:10 AM | NFB Pledge — Brooklyn Rodden |
| 9:15 AM | Greetings and Welcoming Remarks — Mason Fong, Staff Assistant, District Office of Congressman Mike Honda |
| 9:25 AM | NFB National Report — Pam Allen, first Vice President, National Federation of the Blind and  Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind |
| 10:00 AM | “Tough Things First”, thoughts from Silicon Valley’s Longest Servicing CEO; who happens to be blind — Ray Zinn, Micrel Semiconductors |
| 10:20 AM | Update on Educating the Blind in California — Dr. Sharon Sacks, Superintendent, California School for the Blind |
| 10:35 AM | Update on Rehabilitation Services in California — Elena Gomez, Deputy Director California Department of Rehabilitation and Rosa Gomez, Assistant Deputy Director of Blind Field Services |
| 11:00 AM | Update on California Library Services for the Blind — Mike Marlin, Director California Braille and Talking Book Library, American Library Association Executive Board Member |
| 11:15 AM | A Report from the Lighthouse — Bryan Bashin, CEO San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind |
| 11:35 AM | Lighthouse Youth at National Convention Panel Discussion — Jamey Gump, Light House Youth Program Coordinator |
| 12:00 PM | Adjournment |
| 12:15 PM | Diabetes Action Network Lunch and Business meeting — President Joy Stigile, Fremont/Cedar Room |
| 2:00 PM | Round Table discussions, Session I (See Below) |
| 3:15 PM | Round Table Discussions, Session II (See Below) |
| 4:30 PM | NFBC Legal Issues Report — Tim Elder, Lead Attorney, TRE Legal |
| 4:40 PM | Presidential report — Mary Willows, NFBC President |
| 5:00 PM | Adjournment |

**Round Table Discussions**

This year, we will be holding 2 sessions of in depth, round table discussions. There are 2 45 minute sessions, each attendee is encouraged to pick two tables that interest them and attend those tables. Moving from table to table during a session is fine, especially if you decide you’ve made a wrong choice, just be courteous of your fellow attendees who have been attending their discussion from the beginning.

| **Table number** | **Round Table Discussion Topic** | **Facilitator(s)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | KNFB reader update and demonstration | Robert Stigile |
|  | iPhone for beginners | Rochelle Houston |
|  | Finding and downloading Phone apps | Tiffany Manosh |
|  | iPhone and Email | Michael Hingson |
|  | Education options | Sharon Sacks |
|  | Newsline for the blind | Tim Ford |
|  | Braille and talking books | Mike Marlin and Jane Gladsby |
|  | Social media for everyone | Lisamaria Martinez |
|  | Department of Rehabilitation, signing up and getting Started | Elena Gomez |
|  | Department Of Rehabilitation, services for the blind | Rosa Gomez |
|  | Deaf blind tips | Angela Fowler |
|  | Leap information table | Ted Clark |
|  | Wells Fargo employment info | Denise Clark |
|  | Legal issues Q&A (Option A) | Tim Elder |
|  | Legal issues Q&A (Option B) | Mike Nunez |
|  | SSDI advocacy | Dazell Malory |
|  | Louisiana Center for the Blind | Pam Allen |
|  | NFB Training and leadership | Ever Lee Hairston |

**Saturday October 31 –— Banquet — Grand Ball Room —7 PM**

Mistress of Ceremonies, Ever Lee Hairston

* Introduction of head table
* Auction Baskets: Karen Steele
* Keynote Address: Pam Allen national representative
* Awarding of Scholarships:
* Drawing for Seeing Eye GPS XT app from “The Sendero Group”

| **Sunday, November 1** | |
| --- | --- |
| 7:30 AM | NFBC Chapter On Aging Breakfast — Charlotte Carroll, President — location TBA |
| 9:00 AM | Call to order, Announcements and Housekeeping — Mary Willows, President |
| 9:05 AM | Report of Resolutions Committee – Robert Stigile, Chairperson |
| 9:10 AM | NFB philosophy corner- A skit presented by Jana Littrell and Ever Lee Hairston |
| 9:30 AM | Elections, Report of the nominating committee — Ever Lee Hairston, Chairperson  The following members of the NFBC Board of Directors are up for election:   1. Karen Steele 2. Carmen Weatherly 3. Tim Elder 4. Jana Littrell   Plus, the Delegate/Alternate to the 2016 National Convention |
| 9:50 AM | NFBC annual financial report — Rochelle Houston, NFBC Treasurer |
| 10:30 AM | Why the National Federation of the Blind of California — Jim Barbour, NFBC Board Member |
| 10:45 AM | Updates from around the country —   * New Mexico: Jack and Pat Munson * Arizona: Don and Amy Porterfield * Louisiana: Roland and PAM Allen |
| 11:00 AM | Adjournment |

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