Welcome to the 2016 Convention of the

National Federation of the Blind of California



**Stepping into the Future**

October 20 – October 23, 2016

Embassy Suites LAX South, 1440 E. Imperial Ave.,

El Segundo, CA 90245

President, Mary Willows



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.

**Convention Information**

Registration- $25.00

Banquet- $30.00

Diabetes Action Network Luncheon- $30.00

Stepping into the Future Dance- $10.00 at the door or $5.00 with pre-registration which includes one drink ticket (cash bar and light snacks)

If you have not pre-registered, there will be a few meal tickets available at the registration table which will be sold on a first come, first served, basis.

**Convention Exhibits**

The Exhibit Hall will be open on Friday, October 21st, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Exhibits are located in the Ambassador Ballroom.

**NFB Literature and Free White Cane Order Forms are Available**

**Hotel Layout**

 Upon entering the main entrance of the hotel, the Registration Desk is approximately 25 feet in front of you; however, there is a fountain just inside the front door. Trail the fountain around to the left and it will lead you directly to the Registration Desk. As you face the front desk, the lounges, east elevators, dining rooms, meeting rooms, and gift shop are to the left (East Lobby area). To the right of the front desk (west end of hotel) is another set of elevators and the pool area.

**Dog Guide Relief Area**

A grassy dog guide relief area is located on Imperial Avenue, straight across the street from the hotel entrance. An alternative cement relief area is located to the left of the hotel entrance, coned-off, with a garbage can. Please bring pet waste bags with you. Tina Thomas can provide extra bags if needed.

**Vendors’ Showcase**

The Vendors’ Showcase takes place in the Ambassador Ballroom from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Friday, October 21st. At the Showcase you will hear vendors describe the current products and services which they will have on display in the Exhibit Hall for the remainder of the day.

**Thank you to our generous sponsors!**

**Gold Level**

**Aira Tech Corp**

Website: <www.aira.io>

Address: 4225 Executive Sq. Suite 460, La Jolla, CA 92037

Email: [support@aira.io](support%40aira.io)

Phone: 858.876.2472

Learn how Aira is ushering in an exciting new stage in assistive technology through the use of wearable smart glass devices and cutting-edge video and data-streaming technologies to assist blind and low vision people in a wide range of daily activities. Augmented reality and artificial intelligence combine to render a new level of personal assistance.

**Silver Level**

**Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP**

Website: <www.rbgg.com>

Email: [mbien@rbgg.com](mbien%40rbgg.com)

Phone: 415.433.6830

**Bronze Level**

**Sprint**

Website: <www.sprint.com/vision>

Email: [kelly.egan@sprint.com](kelly.egan%40sprint.com)

Phone: 720.988.6744

Sprint Vision provides accessible devices, affordable plans, and extraordinary customer service

designed specifically to support the blind and low vision community.

**White Cane Level**

**Twisted Silver,** Vintage asymmetrical jewelry

Website: <www.twisted-silver.com>

Email: [Socialmedia@twisted-silver.com](Socialmedia%40twisted-silver.com%20)

Phone: 888.463.3389

**Phyllis Emelda Fashions**

Website:<www.phyllisemelda.com>

Email: [Shop@Phyllisemelda.com](Shop%40Phyllisemelda.com)

Phone: 510.686.1614

**2016 NFB of California Convention Agenda**

Thursday, October 20, 2016

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Meet and Greet the Board of Directors

 Executive Boardroom 581A

 Visit all four rooms and receive a drawing ticket for the chance to win a Starbucks gift card. Refreshments are available in each room.

Friday, October 21, 2016

8:00 am – 10:00 am Vendor Showcase

 Ambassador Ballroom

 Coordinators, Lisamaria Martinez and Cheryl Thurston

 Listen to a brief description of products and services.

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration

 East Lobby

 Pick up registration packet including agenda, badge, and meal tickets. Drop off door prizes and purchase raffle tickets.

10:00 am – 11:00 am National Federation of the Blind of California

 Board of Directors semi-annual in person meeting

 Granada Room

 President, Mary Willows

 First Vice-President, Ever Lee Hairston

 Second Vice-President, Robert Stigile

 Secretary, Shannon Dillon

 Treasurer, Rochelle Houston

 Board Members:

Karen Steele

Jim Barbour

Lisamaria Martinez

Jana Littrell

Tim Elder

Carmen Weatherly

Bryan Bashin

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the public. Please join us as we greet our scholarship finalists, National Representative, and other distinguished guests. Note: Board Members are the only ones who can vote.

**2016 NFB of California Convention Agenda**

Friday, October 21, 2016

11:00 am – noon Resolutions Committee Meeting

 Granada Room

 Chairperson, Robert Stigile, Secretary, Jana Littrell

 Members: Bryan Bashin, Michael Hingson, Angela Fowler,

 Ever Lee Hairston, Tim Elder

The Resolutions Committee comes together once a year to decide on the policies and direction of the affiliate for the upcoming year. Resolutions are an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind and are determined by the philosophy and purpose of the National Federation of the Blind.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Orientation Center for the Blind Alumni Association, Inc.,

 La Palma Room

 President, David Chan

 OCB Report, Acting Director, Jessica Grove

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm California Association of Guide Dog Users (CAGDU)

 Madrid Room

 President, Tina Thomas

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Parents of Blind Children

 Madrid Room

 Facilitator, Debbie Worstman

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm NFB in Community Services

 Granada Room

 President, Darian Smith

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm California Association of Blind Students Annual Business Meeting

 La Palma Room

 President, Carla Scroggins

 Elections and guest speakers

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Stepping into the Future Dance

 Ambassador Room

 Coordinator, Charlotte Carroll

 Please redeem your drink coupon between 7 pm and 8 pm;

 bar is cash only after 8 pm, appetizers will be served.

**2016 NFB of California Convention Agenda**

Saturday, October 22, 2016

7:00 am – 8:30 am Senior Division Breakfast

 Restaurant, Upper Deck

 President, Charlotte Carroll

 Pick up your buffet breakfast and join us for an informal discussion of possibilities for seniors facing blindness. Election of officers will be held.

8:00 am – 11:00 am Registration

 East Lobby

 Pick up your badge, meal tickets, and agenda.

9:00 am General Session Call to Order

 Granada / La Palma / Madrid

 President, Mary Willows

9:05 am Pledge of Allegiance

 Charlotte Carroll, President Senior Division

9:05 am NFB Pledge

 Tim Elder, President NFB of San Francisco

9:05 am Invocation

 Arietta Woods, Member Pathfinder Chapter

9:05 am National Anthem

 Esmeralda Hernandez, Member Pathfinder Chapter

9:15 am – 9:20 am Welcoming Remarks

 Lavada Theus, California Senior Assembly Member

9:20 am – 10:00 am National Report

 National Representative Dr. Marc Maurer, President Emeritus National Federation of the Blind

10:00 am – 10:15 am “AIM High for Education”

 Bryan Duarte, National Association of Blind Students State Liaison

**2016 NFB of California Convention Agenda**

Saturday, October 22, 2016

10:15 am – 10:40 am Braille Enrichment in Literacy and Learning (BELL) Academy Northern California Coordinator, Debbie Worstman Southern California Coordinator, Carmen Weatherly

10:40 am – 11:00 am “California Legal Advocacy Report”

 Timothy Elder, Attorney, TRE Legal Practice

11:00 am – 11:15 am “How Common Core Curriculum Effects the Education of Blind Children in California”

 Dr. Sharon Sacks, Superintendent,

 California School for the Blind

11:15 am – 11:40 am “California Report”

 Joe Xavier, Director, California Dept. of Rehabilitation (DOR)

 Elena Gomez, Deputy Director DOR

 Rosa Gomez, Assistant Deputy Director of Blind Field Services

11:40 am – 11:45 am Questions from the audience

11:45 am - noon “Say YES to Your Future”

 Lisamaria Martinez, Director Community Services

 Lighthouse for the Blind, San Francisco

 Richie Flores, Youth Services Coordinator

 Jamey Gump, Youth Services Coordinator

Noon Adjourn

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm Diabetes Action Network (DAN) Luncheon

 Ambassador Ballroom

 Joy Stigile, President

2:00 pm Reconvene General Session

2:05 pm – 2:20 pm California President’s Report, Mary Willows

2:20 pm – 2:50 pm “Braille Institute 2.0-Preparing for Our Second Century of Service” Peter Mindnich, President Braille Institute Reed Strege, Director of Library Services, Braille Institute

**2016 NFB of California Convention Agenda**

Saturday, October 22, 2016

2:50 pm - 3:05pm “The Future of Skills for Independence”

 Bryan Bashin, CEO Lighthouse for the Blind, San Francisco

3:05 pm Break

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm Round Table Discussions

 1. Parents of Blind Children, facilitator, Dr. Sharon Sacks

 2. Basic College Survival Skills, facilitator, Jimmy Cong

 3. Self-Advocacy in Higher Education,

 facilitators, Mary Church and Vejas Vasiliauskas

 4. Philosophy Corner, Jana Littrell and Ever Lee Hairston

 5. Aira Wearable smart glass devices, facilitator, Austin Marron

 6. Why Choose a Guide Dog? facilitator, Juliet Cody

 7. Beginner iPhone, facilitator, Robert Stigile

4:05 pm – 4:35pm Round Table Discussion Section Two

 Same Topics as Above

4:35 pm Adjourn

6:30 pm Cash Bar Open

 Sevilla/ Valencia/ Madrid

 Join us for a cocktail and bid on the enticing silent auction items on display in the back of the room

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm Banquet

 Sevilla/ Valencia/ Madrid

 Mistress of Ceremonies, Ever Lee Hairston

 Invocation-Cheryl Thurston

 Introduction of Head Table

 Banquet Address, Dr. Marc Maurer,

 Immediate Past President, NFB

 Tribute to Geraldine Croom

 Auction

 Presentation of NFBC Scholarships, Lisamaria Martinez

 Drawing for $600.00

**2016 NFB of California Convention Agenda**

Sunday, October 23, 2016

9:00 am General Session Call to Order

 President, Mary Willows

 Sevilla/ Valencia/ Madrid

9:10 am – 9:40 am Elections: Report from Nominating Committee

9:40 am – 10:00 am Resolutions: Chairperson, Robert Stigile

10:00 am – 10:10 am “Why I am a Federationist?” Arietta Woods,

 Member Pathfinder Chapter

10:10 am – 10:20 am Financial Report: Treasurer, Rochelle Houston

10:20 am – 10:35 am Aira

 Austin Marron, Vice-President of Products introduces wearable smart glass devices

10:35 - 11:30am Chapter Reports - Pledges and Donations

11:30 am Adjourn

**Thank you to all of the chairpersons and members of the committees that have helped to make this convention a success.**

Convention Coordinators – Rochelle Houston and Jim Barbour

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

Door Prize Committee - Chairperson Carmen Weatherly

Exhibit Hall Co-Chairs – Cheryl Thurston and Lisamaria Martinez

Scholarship Committee – Chairperson Lisamaria Martinez, Members: Shannon Dillon, Robert Stigile, Allison Depner, Paul Howard

Auction - Karen Steele

Transportation Committee - Carla Scroggins (Northern California bus), Denise Bravell (Escondido bus), Allison Depner (San Diego bus)

PAC Committee – Chairperson Michael Hingson

**Thank you to all of the volunteers who have given of their time.**

**OUR PROMISE: TOGETHER WITH LOVE, HOPE, AND DETERMINATION, WE TRANSFORM DREAMS INTO REALITY.**