

National Federation of the Blind of California, Ever Lee Hairston, President

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Welcome to the 2017

National Federation of the Blind of California Convention

November 2 – November 5, 2017

Embassy Suites 901 East Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035

Convention Hosts:

President, Ever Lee Hairston

 First Vice-President, Bryan Bashin

 Second Vice-President, Robert Stigile

 Secretary, Shannon Dillon

 Treasurer, Rochelle Houston

 Board Members: Karen Steele, Jim Barbour, Charlotte Carroll,

Jana Littrell,Tim Elder, Carmen Weatherly, Carla Scroggins

*The National Federation of the Blind is a community of members and friends who believe in the hopes and dreams of the Nation’s blind. Every day we work together to help blind people live the lives they want.*

**Convention Information**

Thursday movie night with snacks; Friday begins with the Vendor Showcase and Exhibit Hall; Friday night Federation Feud Game; Saturday luncheon and Banquet are all included in the $75 fee. If you prefer to attend only the convention sessions, the fee is $35.

**Vendors’ Showcase**

The Vendors’ Showcase takes place in the Amalfi room from 8:30 am to 9:30 am on Friday, November 3. At the Showcase you will hear vendors describe the current products and services which they will have on display in the Exhibit Hall.

**Convention Exhibits**

The Exhibit Hall will be open on Friday, November 3rd from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Exhibit tables are located in the Grand Ballroom.

**Guide Dog Relief Area**

Please take dogs to the rear of the hotel either through the side door or the front door exit.

**Chapter & Division Presidents**

Shasta Cascade - Debbie Worstman

San Joaquin - Ken Volonte

San Francisco - Christina Daniels

Tri-Valley - Carl Martin

River City - Tiffany Manosh

Bay Area - Shannon Dillon

At Large - Allison Depner

Inland Empire - Cheryl Thurston

San Fernando - Robert Stigile

Pathfinders of Los Angeles - Rochelle Houston

Escondido - Yvette Lee

Riverside/San Bernadino - Carmen Weatherly

San Diego - Lisa Irving

California Association of Guide Dog Users (CAGDU) - Tina Thomas

California Association of Blind Students (CABS) - Carla Scroggins

Senior Division - Charlotte Carroll

Diabetes Action Network - Joy Stigile

*Please encourage every member to participate in all convention activities!*

**Thank you to our generous sponsors!**

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**VOTEC Corporation**



**2017 National Federation of the Blind of California Convention Agenda**

Thursday, November 2

8:00 pm Movie and Snacks, “Do You Dream in Color?”

 Cordoba Room

Friday, November 3

7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration Packet Pickup

 Area in front of the Grand Ballroom

8:30 am - 9:30 am Vendor Showcase

 Amalfi Room

 Coordinator, Cheryl Thurston

 Listen to a brief description of products and services

9:30 am - 3:30 pm Exhibit Hall

 Grand Ballroom

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Board of Directors meeting

 Amalfi Room

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the public. Please join us as we greet our scholarship finalists, and our National Representative, Scott LaBarre, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado.

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Registration Packet Pickup

 Area in front of the Grand Ballroom

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Resolutions Committee

 Amalfi Room

 Chairperson, Bryan Bashin

The Resolutions Committee comes together once a year to decide on the policies and direction of the affiliate for the upcoming year.

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm California Association of Blind Students (CABS)

 Amalfi Room

 President, Carla Scroggins

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm California Association of Guide Dog Users (CAGDU)

 Amalfi Room

 President, Tina Thomas

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm Orientation Center for the Blind

 Amalfi Room

 President, David Chan

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Registration Packet Pickup

 Area in front of the Grand Ballroom

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Federation Feud

 Amalfi Room

Emcee, Michael Richardson

 Saturday, November 4

9:00 am General Session Call to Order

 Grand Ballroom

 President, Ever Lee Hairston

 Opening Ceremony

2017 Convention Coordinators, Jim Barbour, Christina Daniels, Rochelle Houston and the California Association of Blind Students

 Pledge of Allegiance

 Jim Barbour

 NFB Pledge

 Denise Bravell

Invocation, Carlos Miyares

 “God Bless America”

 Rachel Elizabeth Grider

9:15 am - 9:45 am National Report

National Representative, Scott LaBarre, National Federation of the Blind of Colorado President

9:45 am - 10:00 am Douglas G. Towne

Chairman, Disability Relations Group

10:00 am – 10:20 am Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Academy Northern California Coordinator, Debbie Worstman

10:20 am – 10:50 am Why I am a Federationist?

 Tim Elder, Tiffany Manosh, Rochelle Houston

10:50 am – 11:05 am Mike L. Marlin, Director

Braille and Talking Book Library

California State Library

11:05 am – 11:35 am Employment Panel

Moderator, Robert Stigile

 Shannon Dillon

 Ahmet Ustunel

Elizabeth Campos

11:35 am - 11:50 am Philosophy Skit

11:50 am - 11:55 am Senior Division Skit

11:55 am Shout out to First Time Attendees

Noon Adjourn

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Luncheon

 Special Presentation, Ruth Sager, National Senior Division President

 Speaker, Christina Daniels, San Francisco Chapter President

 Atrium

2:00 pm General Session resumes

 Grand Ballroom

2:00 pm - 2:10 pm President’s Report

 President, Ever Lee Hairston

2:10 pm - 2:20 pm Vanda Pharmaceutical

2:20 pm - 2:30 pm California Association of Guide Dog Users Skit

2:30 pm - 2:35 pm Exploring Round Table Options

2:35 pm – 3:45 pm Round Table Discussions

Topics:

KNFB Reader – Michael Richardson

iPhone for Beginners – Ed Davis

iPhone Apps including News Line and BARD - Christina Daniels

California Dept. of Rehabilitation (DOR) – Joe Xavier, Director/ Elena Gomez

Interview Preparation – Jannette Stewart

Parents of Blind Children – Debbie Worstman

How to Become a Leader - Scott LaBarre, National Representative

VOTEC, Disability Relations Group – Douglas G. Towne

California Association of Guide Dog Users - Tina Thomas

Legal Issues – Tim Elder

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm General Session resumes

 “No Boundaries: Release What Holds You Back”

 Grand Ballroom

4:30 pm Adjourn

7:00 pm Banquet

 Emcee, Bryan Bashin, NFBA First Vice President

 Banquet Address, Scott LaBarre, National Representative

 Scholarship Presentation, Jana Littrell

 Auctioneers, Michael Richardson & Michael Hingson

 Grand Ballroom

Sunday, November 5

9:00 am General Session

 President, Ever Lee Hairston

 Grand Ballroom

9:10 am – 9:25 am Elections: Report from Nominating Committee,

Chairperson, Robert Stigile

9:25 am – 9:40 am Resolutions

Chairperson, Bryan Bashin

9:40 am – 9:50 am Financial Report

Treasurer, Rochelle Houston

9:50 am – 10:50 am Chapter Reports - Pledges and Donations

11:00 am Adjourn

**Thank you to all of our Vendors and the generous donations from:**

**VOTEC, Douglas G. Towne**

**San Diego Foundation**

**Charitable Grant Rosen Bien Galvan and Grunfeld, LLP**

**Vanda Pharmaceuticals**

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

Convention Coordinators – Christina Daniels, Rochelle Houston and Jim Barbour

Resolutions Committee - Chairperson Bryan Bashin

Door Prize Committee - Chairperson Carmen Weatherly

Exhibit Hall Committee – Chairperson Cheryl Thurston

Scholarship Committee – Chairperson Jana Littrell

Auction - Chairperson Karen Steele

PAC Committee – Chairperson Michael Hingson

Ambassador Committee - Chairperson Michael Richardson