President’s Notebook, March 2022:

Hello friends,

We are reviving the President’s Notebook. I was tempted to call it “Keeping up with California” after the CABS periodicals, but I thought that would be overkill.

The President’s notebook is a great way to stay up-to-date on affiliate efforts and events. We will provide contact info if you want to get more involved with events, legislative advocacy, etc.

This time, I have attached the notebook as a word document. It is also pasted below if you want to make good use of that “read all” command. Want it in different formats? Let me know for future editions. If a format is requested by enough people, I will do it. Or try, at any rate.

One more note from me before the real updates: March is Women’s History Month. Take some time to celebrate the strong women in your lives. Women have struggled to obtain equal rights, and though we sort of have those on paper, we still work to overcome the prejudices that run rampant in society. I’d like to give particular kudos (in no specific order) to Bobbi Pompey, Lisamaria Martinez, Ever Lee Hairston, and Rachel Grider. I admire the confidence with which all of you pursue life, and I am proud to work alongside you.

That’s all from me. Enjoy those updates. Questions? Comments? Complaints? Let me know.

Cheers,

Cricket

In this edition, you will find:

A Note from the President

Updates from CABS, Bakersfield, and Central Valley

A note from the President:

President: Tim Elder

Email: president@nfbcal.org

﻿Dear family:

We have been working hard in 2022 as we continue to advocate for greater accessibility in education, employment, and recreation.  I want to thank you all for the work you do each day to promote our positive philosophy on blindness. Just within the last few months, our members have started two new divisions: the Sports and Recreation Division, and the DeafBlind Division in our affiliate, and we are also working on starting the Spanish At-Large Chapter. In addition, we continue to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in California with a standing committee. Great work, everyone!

Last month, several of our California Federationists met with Congress to promote four of our legislative priorities for this year during our annual Washington Seminar.  While we were able to gain several cosponsors, there is still much work to do to get our priorities passed.  Stay tuned for opportunities to call on your representatives to promote our bills.  Meanwhile, you can learn more about our legislative priorities here:

https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar

We still need your help to protect the civil rights of blind students at Los Angeles Community College.  Please continue engaging with the hashtag #BackOffLACCD on Twitter to help stop Los Angeles Community College District from petitioning the Supreme Court to limit the rights of students with disabilities. These are our blind students. While some of the petitions circulating on social media did not mention the National Federation of the Blind, you should feel free to join with those cross-disability movements to support our case.

The National Federation of the Blind continues to investigate access barriers with Labcorp kiosks.  If you have visited Labcorp and encountered an inaccessible kiosk, please contact Valerie Yingling at vyingling@nfb.org.

Our 2022 National Convention will take place in New Orleans from July 5 through July 10.  You can reserve a room at the main hotel, New Orleans Marriott, by calling (800) 654-3990, or at the overflow hotel across the street, The Sheraton New Orleans, at (855) 516-1090.  Registration for convention opens on March 1st. Click the below link for more information.

https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention

I am excited to work with everyone here to continue marching forward in our movement. Behind the scenes, we have been revamping our website and building some information technology infrastructure to better serve members and leaders in our digital age. I’m looking forward to being in the same space with folks again and attending some in-person chapter meetings around the state this spring. Together, we are showing the state of California what it really means to be blind!

--Tim Elder

CABS Update:

President: Shelbi Felter

Email: sfelts@hotmail.com

Cabs has been busy with Washington seminar, as well as the various events that NABS runs during it. We relaunched our podcast, Educating Blind Bears, which can be found on Spotify. Our committees, FundrAising and Outreach, have been very busy planning. Our committees meet every third Saturday of the month at 4:00 and 5:00 PM, respectively. Our next membership call will be on March 12th at 4:00 pm, and will be all about women in the movement.

--Shelbi Felter

Bakersfield:

President: Veronica Martinez

Email: veronica38martinez@gmail.com

The Bakersfield chapter of the National Federation of the blind, will be having a presentation at our March meeting. We are planning a fundraiser, with sensi. Anyone is welcomed to attend. Please contact me For more information. Thank you.

--Veronica Martinez

Central Valley:

President: Rachel Grider

Email: Rachel.grider@gmail.com

The Central Valley Chapter is working with Starship Technologies to help improve accessibility in their delivery service. We are very excited to build a relationship with this company so that blind people will be able to independently use their app and website.

Also, save the date! On June 12, the Central Valley Chapter will be partnering with Opera Modesto for a special recital fundraiser at Mistlin Art Gallery, 1015 J Street, Modesto. More information will be coming soon.

--Rachel Grider

General resources:

NFB of California site: http://www.nfbcal.org

NFB site: <http://www.nfb.org>

National Convention page: <http://www.nfb.org/convention>

Request a free white cane here: <https://nfb.org/programs-services/free-white-cane-program>

Article on LACC and blind students: https://www.legalreader.com/los-angeles-community-college-district-plans-to-appeal-decision-in-disability-discrimination-suit/