Gdb state and national convention information

**State Convention**

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida’s annual convention is over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27, 2019. The convention is being held at the Embassy Suites, 661 N. W. 53rd Avenue, in Boca Raton, Florida. The hotel is well constructed and easy to navigate. Room rates are $99 per night, plus tax. There is a Manager’s Reception each night from 5:30-7:30 and breakfast is included.

Our annual conventions are vitally important to maintaining our affiliate in Florida. It is at convention that you elect leaders (President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the four Board members). Each year, elections are staggered so only a portion of the board is elected at the same time. As a current paid member of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, you also vote on any resolutions (policy statements of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida). This is the one time each year that divisions may meet face-to-face. You can mix and mingle with other members of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida or the National Federation of the Blind that you otherwise may not see regularly. Renew old acquaintances or make new friends. Taking a walk through the exhibit hall may show you new products available for purchase. Last and certainly not least, come and learn what your affiliate has been doing since the last convention to further the work of the Federation.

If you are planning to attend our state convention, please make your plans as early as possible. To help with the room expenses, find those you are comfortable sharing a room with. Each double hotel room comes with two beds and a roll-a-way bed can be ordered if necessary. If two couples want to share, the double rooms can sleep four.

Registration and banquet fees have not yet been set by the state board. Once they have, we will inform all of you. The gdb board has not yet decided which fees, if any, we will cover. If you are interested in attending state convention in 2019, please let Brian Norton, Kathy Davis, Jean Cerullo, or Bill Outman know and you will be placed on the list.

**National Convention**

The National Federation of the Blind will hold its annual convention at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The dates are Sunday, July 7, through Friday, July 12.

As with state conventions, our national convention is extremely important. Current paid members have the opportunity to hear what our National Office has been doing since the last convention. You will meet new friends in blindness and renew old acquaintances. The exhibit hall is full of vendors, state affiliates and national divisions, all showcasing exciting products, news from their divisions and goodies from each state.

The room rate is $99 per night, plus taxes; the hotel tax is 13.38% and sales tax is 8.25%. You will be required to leave a deposit in the amount of one night’s reservation, with 50% refundable if you cancel by June 1. Call the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino to reserve your room at (877) 632-9001. The resort fee has been waived for the NFB National Convention. Reservations can be made after January 1, 2019. Please make sure to advise the reservationist that you are booking a room for the NFB Convention to ensure you receive the special room rate. It does not matter if you reserve a single, double, triple or quad; the price remains the same.

Registration and banquet fees have not yet been released for the 2019 National Convention. All will be advised once those fee rates are available.

GDBhas not yet decided which fees, if any, will be reimbursed by the chapter. Any that are will be reimbursed following the convention. If you are interested in attending, please let Brian Norton or other GDB officers know and you will be placed on the list to help us plan. Deadlines for registration will be released at a later date.