BREAKING NEWS

Newsletter

Issue 6 March/April 2017

President’s note:

Greetings Federation Family,

Spring is upon us and it is time for us to spring into action participating actively in the NFBF. We need our family to make our state convention this May enjoyable and meaningful! Thank you to those that have offered some suggestions. We are starting to plan the agenda. if you have ideas, send them to me or Miranda at [mbkilby@gmail.com](mailto:mbkilby@gmail.com). Thank you to those that called into the presidents’ call, open board meeting, and other meetings we have had this month. Here is a list of helpful dates and information:

• **May 26th-29th State Convention**: Call the Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Orlando at 866-247-3571 or 407-425-4455Option #1 referencing the group name: NFBFL STATE CONVENTION code: NFB **~Last day to book: 5/5/17**

Note: refrigerators while supplies last; may sure to let them know it’s including in our contact

• It pays to preregister for the convention, you have until **5/8/17.**

$20 registration & $40 banquet. Each go up $5 at convention.

The form is now available on www.nfbflorida.org. You can pay by credit card by calling Gloria's office at 813-837-1100 or 1-866-342-5080.

**• 4/3 Empowerment Committee** @ 8pm 712-775-7031 Code: 488500# (contact Marilyn or Tekesha, liaison, for more info.)

**• 4/6 Senior Committee** @ 8pm 712-775-7031 Code: 488500#

**• 4/9** Presidents call (presidents only) @ 7pm 712-775-7031 Code: 938047311#

• 4/12 Events Committee @ 8pm 712-775-7031 Code: 488500#

• 4/15 Kenneth Jernigan convention scholarship deadline

• 4/17 NFBF student scholarship deadline

• NFB 411 TBA, See email for time. 712-775-7031 Code:938047311#

• July 10-15 NFB National convention

Sincerely, Denise Valkema, President NFBF

Remember we want your tips, stories, recipes, chapter activities, here in the Newsletter.

Find us on twitter and FB @nfbflorida.

Denise Valkema, President NFB OF Florida

president@nfbflorida.org

Facebook & Twitter @nfbflorida



We are filled with hope, energy and love by participating in the National Federation of the Blind. Every day we work together to help blind people live the lives they want.

Announcements and Comments:

**NEW COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED**

We are proud to announce our newest committee in the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, our Communication Committee. This committee is designed to enhance the communication across Florida by utilizing the resources that we already use. Stay tuned to updates and the improvements form this committee.

**New Chapter Officers**

Reminder to send list of new officer’s names to the president and secretary so we can update our website and records. Thank you for your cooperation.

**The deadline for room reservation is May 5, 201 for state convention.** Call the Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Orlando at 866-247-3571 or 407-425-4455Option #1 referencing the group name: NFBFL State Conference, Code: NFB (refrigerators available while supplies last). Rate $99 plus tax. The convention dates are May 26-29, 2017. Preregistration deadline is May 8th, ($20 registration & $40 banquet). Rates increase $5 more for each event at the convention.

**Kenneth Jernigan scholarship** for first timers to NFB National Convention application deadline date is April 15, 2017.

**NFBF Student scholarship deadline date is April 17, 2017**

FROM PRESIDENT RICCOBONO

As you walk through your day and find examples of inspiration, admire them and use that experience to raise your own expectations. As you find those examples in individuals and organizations working to improve opportunities for the blind, please nominate them for our 2017 Dr. Jacob Bolotin Awards so that we all might have the opportunity to be inspired. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our Bolotin Award winners over the years. I anticipate again being inspired to raise my own expectations by our 2017 winners at the convention of the National Federation of the Blind this summer. Please visit the NFB’s Dr. Jacob Bolotin Awards webpage for more information about the 2017 awards program and links to our application criteria and online submission process.

Call to Action: What Can You Do to Help?

Share your story, and encourage others to share theirs, on social media (Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram) using #WhyImAFederationist. Tell us what the NFB means to you or how the NFB has helped you.

SHOP SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Start with a smile and shop smile.amazon.com and select NFBF as charity of choice. NFBF will benefit at no additional cost to you. Nothing changes, just use your regular sign on and password and shop as usual. NFBF will reap the rewards by you doing the what you usually do. Happy shopping! Amazon Smile: You shop. Amazon gives.

Birthdays & Celebrations:

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

**Birthdays:**

**March:**

*Jackie Bowman - Tallahassee*

*Tim Edwards - Treasure Coast*

*Cheryl Lenartiene - Treasure Coast*

*Christina Moore - Treasure Coast*

*Don Whitehouse - Treasure Coast*

*Debra Whitt – Gainesville*

*Ron Whittum - Treasure Coast*

**April:**

*Tamika Butts - Treasure Coast*

***Anniversaries:***

NFBF Calendar: You can also find important dates on our Webpage

**Convention Events Planning committee:** April 12, 2017 @ 8pm @ 8pm; 712-775-7031 Code: 488500#

**Empowerment committee meeting:** April 3, 2017 @ 8pm; 712-775-7031 Code: 488500#

**411 Interest Topic Call:** March 12, 2017 at 8pm Topic: NFB Philosophy; 712-775-7031 Code: 938047311# Next meeting will be held in May; watch for announcement for date and topic.

**Newsline Committee meeting:** TBA

**Presidents & Vice Presidents Committee meeting:** April 9, 2017 at 7pm; 712-775-7031 Code: 488500#

**Senior Committee meeting:** April 6, 2017 at 8pm; 712-775-7031 code: 488500#

**State Board Meeting:** April 30, 2017 by teleconference

**2017 State Convention: May 26-29, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Orlando**

**2017 National convention July 10-15, 2017. Call Rosen Shingle Creek at (866) 996-6338or (407) 996-9939 to reserve your room.**

**The Kenneth Jernigan convention scholarship deadline is April 15, 2017**

**The NFBF student scholarship deadline is April 17, 2017**

Legislative Updates:

Here’s a great and simple way to all you legislators contact information so you will be ready when a **call for action** is sent out. Text your zip code to 520-200-2223 and you will get a message with the phone numbers for all your legislators from your senator on down to your state representative. You will get the information in minutes.

Shared by Sherri Brun

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

Baltimore (March 23, 2017): The National Federation of the Blind today applauded the unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court in Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District, (Docket No. 15–827).

Mark A. Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said: “While we would have preferred an even stronger ruling, this decision clearly represents a shift from the paradigm of low expectations that has led to frustration and failure for so many blind students and their families. I know the frustration with this paradigm all too well myself, as both a blind person and a parent of blind children. The National Federation of the Blind knows that one of the biggest hurdles that students with disabilities confront is the low expectations too often set for them by well-meaning but misguided professionals in the education field. The Supreme Court of the United States has now affirmed that the blind and other students with disabilities can, and should, be expected to meet challenges and advance academically. The National Federation of the Blind stands ready to collaborate with educational administrators, teachers and parents of blind students to ensure that all blind students receive the kind of free appropriate public education that the IDEA and the Supreme Court's new interpretation of it require. At the same time, we will continue to hold school systems accountable when they fail to meet these requirements.”

**Washington Seminar Update**:

The purpose of this update is to bring you up-to-speed on legislative developments since we left the Washington Seminar two months ago, and to ask you to activate on several crucial issues. Please use this information as a good reason to reach out to your two Senators and your Congressman or Congresswoman and update them on developments since your visit to their offices. The summary of legislative developments will be followed by the call to action on three bills:

***The Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act***, also known as “AIM HIGH”, H.R. 1772. Congressman Phil Roe (R-TN) and Congressman Joe Courtney (D-CT) introduced this legislation in the House of Representatives earlier today. H.R. 1772 will promote instructional technology and content that are accessible to the blind and other students with print disabilities.

***The Access Technology Affordability Act*** of 2017 (ATAA) H.R. 1734 and S. 732. These companion bills were introduced by Representatives David Young (R-IA) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) in the House and by Senators John Boozman (R-AR) and Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) in the Senate on March 28, 2017. Please remind your Senators and Representative that this legislation will establish a per-person individual refundable tax credit to be used over a multi-year period to offset the cost of access technology for blind people.

***The Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment*** (TIME) Act of 2017 (H.R. 1377) As President Riccobono indicated, the TIME Act is still a priority of the National Federation of the Blind. It just wasn't front and center at the 2017 Washington Seminar. The bill was introduced by Representative Gregg Harper (R-MS) on March 8, 2017, to remove barriers to employment opportunities for people with disabilities by phasing out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act and facilitating the transitioning of people with disabilities now working in segregated employment settings into competitive employment opportunities in their communities. There is low hanging fruit we can secure from cosponsors of previous iterations of the TIME Act. Please see if your Senators and Representative will cosponsor this bill in the 115th Congress, especially members of the House of Representatives who have done so before.

**Call to Action**

Please call both of your Senators and ask them to cosponsor S. 732, the Access Technology Affordability Act. Also, please call your Congressman or Congresswoman and ask him or her to cosponsor the AIM HIGH Act (H.R. 1772), the Access Technology Affordability Act (H.R. 1734), and the TIME Act (H.R. 1377). This is an excellent opportunity to circle back with your Senators and Representative to provide them with updates on legislation, which will help blind Americans live the lives we want. The number to the Capitol Switchboard is 202-224-3121. From there, the operator can transfer you to your desired contact. Let me thank you for the groundwork you laid at the Washington Seminar, which has led to the introduction of this legislation. Let’s build on that momentum, as we turn our focus toward Orlando.

Parnell Diggs, Esq.

Director of Government Affairs

Technology: Tips & Tricks

**KNFB Reader** wants you to make the print yours and expand your horizons. KNFB Reader is a mobile app that reads print aloud. It's easy to use: take a photo and the app reads the text aloud in clear synthetic speech. And it's fast: the print will be yours almost instantly. The app is fully accessible thanks to Voiceover, Google TalkBack, and app functionalities that guide the blind user in independently taking the perfect picture. The app can currently recognize text in nineteen different languages and is compatible with connected Braille displays. To buy KNFB Reader visit www.knfbreader.com or visit the App Store or the Google Play Store. If you would like a demonstration or instruction contact Jorge Hernandez at Phone: 305-877-2311 or Email: [jeh1065@comcast.net](mailto:jeh1065@comcast.net).

Inspiration Conner:

“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.” – **Andre Gide**

Chapter, Division, and Committee updates:

**Greater Broward Chapter:** Tom Ryan, President; Phone: 954-442-1855, Email Ryantom@bellsouth.net.

**Central Florida Chapter:** Sherri Brun, President; Please like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/410985858949160>. We meet the third Saturday of each month from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Lighthouse Central Florida, 215 East New Hampshire Street, Orlando, Florida 32804.

**Greater Daytona Beach Chapter**: Scott Larson, President; Phone: 386-235-0565; Email: [Blindscotty@samobile.net](mailto:Blindscotty@samobile.net). We meet the fourth Saturday of the month 11:30am to 1:30pm at TGI Friday's, 24 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach FL 32176. Follow Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfbdaytona.

**Gainesville Chapter:** Judith Hamilton, President; Phone: 352-373-7806, Email: [gainesville\_nfb@earthlink.net](mailto:gainesville_nfb@earthlink.net). The Gainesville Chapter welcomes you to our monthly chapter meetings. Our meetings are held the second Saturday of each month from 2:00PM to 4:00PM, with meet and greet at 1:00PM. We meet at the Northwest Grille, 5115 Northwest 39TH Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Kathy Roskos will be retiring her dog guide, Windy, and we will meet the new addition this spring. The following are our newly elected board: Judy Hamilton, President, Kathy Roskos, Vice President, Max Daugherty, Treasurer, Debra Whitt, Secretary, Board Members: David Roskos, Marion DeBusk, and Betty Mack. We thank our previous board members, Reginald Howard and Lenora McGowan for their service and support during their tenure on the board.

March 25, an “Access Art” exhibition event will be held at the Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Southwest Hull Road and Southwest 34th Street from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. featuring guided tours of gallery paintings and pieces with description and 3D touchable replicas. Our chapter will have an information table to welcome everyone who stops by to learn about the NFB.

**Greater Jacksonville Chapter:** Marita Winston, President; Phone: 904-323–8597, Email: [marita.winston60@gmail.com](mailto:marita.winston60@gmail.com). We are planning a yard sale March 18 and a pancake breakfast at Applebee’s May 6, 2017. Please join us if you are in the area.

**Greater Miami Dade Chapter** Jorge Hernandez – President; Phone: 305-877-2311; Email: jeh1065@comcast.net. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Location: Denny's Restaurant, 5825 N. W. 36 Street, Miami, FL.

**Melbourne - Space Coast Chapter:** Joe Naulty,President; Facebook: www.brevard-nfb.org [www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne](http://www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne). Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 8, 2017. We meet at The Fountains, 4451 Stack Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901. The meeting is from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Anyone needing transportation, please call Joe Naulty, (321) 768-9500, by Tuesday, April 4. We will hold an open board meeting on Monday, May 8, at 8 p.m. The meeting is for observation only. However, we will have a time following adjournment of the meeting to allow for member participation. The call-in number is (712) 432-0460; access code is 548225#.

**Palm Beach Chapter:** Tekesha Saffold, President; 561-707-4799; Email: [tnsaffold82@gmail.com](mailto:tnsaffold82@gmail.com). We have monthly meetings on the Second Saturday of every month at 4746 North Congress Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33425.

**Pinellas Chapter:** Larry Ball; President; Phone: 727-614-9134; Email: [lball42@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lball42@tampabay.rr.com). Our meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at Applebee’s, 5110 E Bay Drive in Largo. We meet for lunch at noon and the business meeting starts at 1:00pm. We are working hard to change what it means to be blind in Pinellas county.

**Polk Chapter:** Joe King, President: Phone: 863-293-5648; Email: [joenkitty@earthlink.net](mailto:joenkitty@earthlink.net). Our meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at: Winter Haven Manor, 140 Avenue A S.W., Winter Haven, Florida, at 10:00am-12:00pm.

**FL State Wide Chapter:** Paul Martinez, President; Phone: 813-390-5720; Email: [nfbf.statewide@gmail.com](mailto:nfbf.statewide@gmail.com). The State-Wide Chapter invites you to join us on our conference call on the third Sunday of every month at 8:00pm. This chapter was designed for those who do not have a local chapter or for some reason cannot get to their local chapter for any given reason. We are in the middle of a raffle for Mother’s Day, drawing held May 5th. Tickets are $5 each and the prize is an $100 gift card to 1800flowers.

**Suncoast Chapter:**  Lauren Blum, President; Phone: 352-584-0795; Email: [nfbf.suncoast@gmail.com](mailto:nfbf.suncoast@gmail.com). We meet on the third Saturday of each month at IHOP, 363660 Commercial Way (US 19), Spring Hill, FL 34606.

**Tallahassee Chapter:**  Jada Christie, President; Phone: 850-766-9378 Email: [emeraldpink15@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldpink15@gmail.com). We meet the 1st Monday of each month and the Lighthouse of the Big Bend, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Spring has sprung! The Tallahassee Chapter will join the Lighthouse of the Big Bend and the Tallahassee Council of the Blind in the annual Springtime Tallahassee Parade Saturday, April 1st. We will demonstrate that we are an active part of the community while we participate in this event. With a heavy heart, we inform you that Donald Christie Lost his father, James A. Christie, Jr. Saturday, March 11th. Your thoughts and prayers for the comfort and strength of his family are appreciated.

**Tampa Chapter:** Miranda Kilby, President; Phone: 352-942-0417; Email: [NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com](mailto:NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com). Join us the fourth Saturday of every month. We are growing one member at a time. We are pleased to have participated in a membership campaign in the month of March and several members wrote why they are a Federationist. We are in the process of trying to get all our members to state convention and is pleased to announce that we will be donating a scholarship to the state affiliate.

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Tim Edwards, President; Phone: 630-432-5090; Email: [tred34990@gmail.com](mailto:tred34990@gmail.com). Come join the Treasure Coast Chapter of National Federation of the Blind for its monthly meeting on Saturday April 8th, from 10am till noon at WQCS Radio Station @ IRSC, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce. Our guest speaker this month will be Dr. Timothy Schoen PhD, Foundation fighting Blindness. Dr. Schoen will be discussing on-going research in the field of vision. Our monthly chapter meeting will follow. Please RSVP to Tim Edwards, President. Upcoming events: May 13th – picnic; June 10th – speaker Rachael Trinkowsky from Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches on technology; July - August - Summer Break; September 9th - Back to Business.

**Florida Association of Guide Dog Users (FLAGDU):** Sherrill O'Brien, Division President; flagdu@nfbflorida.org

**Deaf-Blind Division:** Julia Savage, President; Email: [Nfb.florida.deafblind@gmail.com](mailto:Nfb.florida.deafblind@gmail.com). The FL Deaf-Blind division meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 8:00pm. If you are interested in attending this meeting and learning what the division has; please contact the president.

**Florida Organization of Parents of Blind Children (FOPBC):** TheParents Division is being reorganized by Kimberly Banks, Email: kimberlybanks1984@gmail.com

**Florida Association of Blind Students:** The FABS invites any high school or college student to attend our conference calls on the third Sunday of every month at 6:00pm. For further information, contact the president, Paul Martinez at [nfbfabs@gmail.com](mailto:nfbfabs@gmail.com) To call into our meetings use conference number 641-715-324 and access code 401665.

**The National Association of Blind Veterans:** Dwight Sayer, President; 321-948-1466; Email: [president@nabv.org](mailto:president@nabv.org); PO Box 784957, Winter Garden, Florida 34778.

Photo Gallery:

Please contact any of the board with questions, comments, concerns or for general information.

NFBF Board of Director’s Information:

***Denise Valkema -President***

Phone: 305-972-8529

Email: president@nfbflorida.org

***Paul Martinez - 1st Vice President***

Phone: 813- 390-5720

Email: [paul09ms@gmail.com](mailto:paul09ms@gmail.com)

***Miranda Kilby – 2nd Vice President***

Phone: 352- 942-0417

Email: mbkilby@gmail.com

***Sylvia Young-Secretary***

Phone: 850- 322-5937

Email: [secretary@nfbflorida.org](mailto:secretary@nfbflorida.org" \t "_blank)@nfbflorida.orgtary@nfbflorida.org

***Gloria Mills –Treasurer***

Phone: 813-340-9754

Email: glorianfbf@gmail.comglorianfbf@gmail.comlorianfbf@gmail.com

**Board Members:**

***Jorge Hernandez***

Phone: 305-877-2311

Email: [jeh1065@comcast.net](mailto:jeh1065@comcast.net)

***Tekesha Saffold***

Phone: 561-707-4799

Email: [tnsaffold82@gmail.com](mailto:tnsaffold82@gmail.com)

***Rafael Fernandez***

Phone: 305-903-6299

Email: rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com

Editor: Sylvia Young

To have something posted in the NFBF Newsletter please submit it to the editor, Sylvia young at [secretary@nfbflorida.org](mailto:secretary@nfbflorida.org) by the 15th of each odd month.