BREAKING NEWSLETTER

Issue 23 January/February 2020

# President’s note

Greetings Federation Family,

The Tampa Bay and Tallahassee chapters are excited to host our 50th State Convention. We need input for our celebration and history from all federationist. We need your help while our delegation is on the hill at Washington Seminar and when we return.

Feel free to share your ideas.

Thanks for your input, excitement and all you do.

See you in a few months! Together we are building the federation!

Denise Valkema, President NFB OF Florida

president@nfbflorida.org

Facebook & Twitter @nfbflorida

Find us on twitter and FB @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.

# How to navigate our newsletter with headings: To enable the quick keys on/off with JAWS use the command “insert + z”. By default, the quick keys are off in Microsoft Word. To browse through the headings of the newsletter. Make sure you have quick keys on and then press the letter “h”. This keyboard command will move from heading to heading on the document. When you find the title of the heading you would like to read, you can use the “insert +down arrow” or the “insert +numbpad2”.

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# Birthdays & Celebrations

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

**Birthdays:**

**January:**

*Bertha Alexander – Miami*

*Nicole D. Fincham-Shehan - Palm Beach*

*Lorna Gray – Miami*

*Reginald Howard – Gainesville*

*James Johnson – Statewide*

*Lynn Jones – Tallahassee*

*Betty Mack – Gainesville*

*Paul Martinez – Statewide*

*Cacia Noelle Shehan - Palm Beach*

*Sally Whitehouse – Treasure Coast*

**February:**

*Terrance Campbell – Treasure Coast*

*Ineko Gary – Tampa*

*Helga Snure – Treasure Coast*

***Anniversaries:***

*Marion and Richard DeBusk - February Anniversary – Gainesville*

# Calendar of Meetings and Events

**Groups, Divisions, and Committees for February 2020**

February 6th - Seniors Concerns Committee at 8 pm Phone: 712-775-7031 Code: 488550 1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,488550

February 11th - Deaf Blind Division meeting at 7 pm; Phone: 605-313-5111 Code: 305480, Touch mobile: 605-313-5111,305480

**The conference calls below operate on the same number: 712-775-7031, Code 938047311# 1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,938047311#**

Mobile users: 712-775-7031,938047311

February 5th - Diversity and Inclusion committee at 8:30 PM

February 10th - Diabetes Awareness at 8 pm

February 11th - Blind Parents Initiative at 9 pm

February 14th - Convention Planning at 8 pm

February 17th - Communities of Faith at 8:30 pm

February 18th - Legislation Committee at 8 pm

February 24th - Technology Q and A at 8 PM

February 27th - NFBF Book Club at 8 PM

**State and National Important Dates:**

February 10, 2020: Washington Seminar and Great Gathering-In, Washington, DC

March 26–27, 2020: Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, Baltimore, MD

May 22-25, 2020 NFBF State Convention – 50th Anniversary

# Article, Announcements and Comments

**Call for Resolutions**

From the desk of Camille Tate

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida is pleased to announce the 2020 Resolutions Committee. The committee members are as follows: Camille Tate, Chair, Melbourne; Merry Schoch, Tampa; Marion Gwizdala, Tampa; Jorge Hernandez, Miami; Russ Davis, Jacksonville; Debbie Malone, Statewide; Doug Ingram, Tallahassee

The 2020 National Federation of the Blind of Florida State Convention will be held over Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, 2020. It will be at the Embassy Suites USF, in Tampa. One of our workshops will be the Resolutions Committee. Once the agenda is set, the date and time will be announced. Resolutions are one of the cornerstones of our Federation.

Resolutions become the policy of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. It is the direction our members wish the affiliate to go moving forward. Once passed, it will be worked on, depending on the nature of the resolution and may become part of our legislative agenda. For example, those passed during the 2019 State Convention became part of our 2019 state legislative priorities.

It takes all of us to pass resolutions. You do not have to have any prior experience in writing one, any special degrees nor certifications to participate. If you have an idea for a resolution and want assistance to write one in the proper format, please feel free to contact the Resolutions Committee at Resolutions@NFBFlorida.org. If you are unsure of what a resolution is, what the format is or would like to read those passed at previous state conventions, please visit http://nfbflorida.org/resolutions.htm. The deadline to submit a resolution or idea for one, is April 30th.

The Resolutions Committee meeting at convention will follow this general format. After the meeting is called to order and roll call is taken, each resolution will be read in turn. The person defending the resolution (the author or their representative) will have an opportunity to address the committee from the floor. If necessary, the committee will discuss the resolution. The chair will call for a recommendation of pass or do not pass. The committee cannot pass a resolution, only the convention body may do so. This is simply a vote on whether to pass the resolution to the floor for vote at General Session. Members of the affiliate will have their opportunity to speak during General Session on whether they do or do not support the resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact the Resolutions Committee Chair, Camille Tate. You may Email ctate2076@att.net or call (321) 372-4899.

**The 2020 census** is counting on you

April 1st is Census Day. Census results play a crucial part in determining how government entities allocate hundreds of billions of dollars each year for services on which communities rely. But certain groups of people historically have been undercounted in the census. We want to make sure that the people NLS and its network libraries serve (people who are blind or visually impaired, or who have a disability that makes reading regular print difficult) are aware of, and participate in, the 2020 census.

Dates of Note: **March 12th**, the Census Bureau will mail households an invitation to respond to the census. For the first time, households will have three ways to respond: online, by calling a toll-free number, or by mail. The questionnaire takes less time to complete than drinking a cup of coffee. **In mid-April,** census workers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to collect information in person.

Visit <http://www.census.gov/> www.census.gov for more information about the census, or contact your network library for help locating additional resources.

**NFB 2020 National Convention**

The 2020 convention of the National Federation of the Blind convention dates are July 14 through July 19 at the Hilton Americas-Houston hotel (1600 Lamar Street, Houston, TX 77010). Preconvention seminars for parents of blind children and other groups and set-up of the exhibit hall will take place on Tuesday, July 14, and adjournment will be Sunday, July 19, following the banquet. The nightly rate at the Hilton Americas-Houston is $105 for singles, doubles, triples, and quads. In addition, the sales tax rate is 8.25 percent, and the hotel occupancy tax rate is 17 percent. To book your room for the 2020 convention, call 1-800-236-2905 after January 1. For each room, the hotel will take a deposit of the first night’s room rate and taxes and will require a credit card or a personal check. If you use a credit card, the deposit will be charged against your card immediately. If a reservation is cancelled before Monday, June 1, 2020, half of the deposit will be returned. Otherwise refunds will not be made. We have also secured overflow space at the wonderful Marriott Marquis Houston. The Marriott is only a three-block walk directly across Discovery Green, or attendees can walk entirely indoors through the George R. Brown convention center, connecting both hotels on the second level.

**Protect Yourself from Phone Scams**

Be on the Lookout for Fake Social Security Calls by the Social Security Administration

There are many telephone scams going on. Scammers are trying to trick you into giving them your personal information and money. Don’t be fooled!

Scammers pretend they’re from Social Security. The number you see on caller ID may even look like an official government number, but it is not. The caller may say there is a problem with your Social Security number or account. They may ask you to give them personal information like your Social Security number or bank account. They may tell you to fix the problem or to avoid arrest you must pay a fine or fee using retail gift cards, pre-paid debit cards, wire transfers, or cash. These calls are not from the Social Security Administration.

*Social Security will not:*

Threaten you.

Tell you that your Social Security number has been or might be suspended.

Call you to demand an immediate payment.

Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a pre-paid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.

Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.

Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

Request personal or financial information through email, text messages, or social media.

*Social Security will:*

Sometimes call you to confirm you filed for a claim or to discuss other ongoing business you have with them.

Mail you a letter if there is a problem.

Mail you a letter if you need to submit payments that will have detailed information about options to make payments and the ability to appeal the decision.

Use emails, text messages, and social media to provide general information (not personal or financial information) on its programs and services if you have signed up to receive these messages.

If you receive a suspicious call from someone alleging to be from Social Security, please:

Hang up right away.

Never give your personal information, money, or retail gift cards.

Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov to Social Security’s law enforcement team at the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Please share this information with your family and friends.

https://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm20/bm2002/bm200209.htm

# Apple Tips and Tricks

Apple Tips and Tricks

By Camille Tate

***Switching Back and Forth Between Calls***

Many of us who have full lives, tons of friends and not enough time to talk to everyone has experienced the dilemma of putting a call on hold to answer another one, then getting back to our original call. Some of us do not know how to put a call on hold. Well, here is the answer, taught to me by Russ Davis, from our Jacksonville Chapter.

To put a call on hold:

• When you are on a call and another one comes in, a series of options opens on the screen. Flick or slide your finger, usually down near the bottom of the screen, until you here “Hold and Accept”. Double tap.

• This puts the current call on hold and allows you to speak to the other person. Now, what if you want to go back to the original call. Do this:

• Before the second call hangs up, flick or slide your finger somewhere around the middle of the phone. There will be a button labelled “Swap”. Double tap.

• If the second call has already hung up, then flick or slide your finger somewhere around the middle, where all the buttons are. When you get to a button labelled “Select Hold”, double tap.

Now you have successfully put a call on hold and gotten back to your original call. Congratulations!

# Member Spotlight

Member Spotlight

Meet author and advocate Debbie Malone!

Debbie relocated from the great state of Massachusetts six years ago. While in Massachusetts Debbie participated in her local chapter of the NFB, and served on the local Commission of Disabilities, REDD (a local grassroots advocacy group), and the public transportation sub-committee representing people with disabilities. Debbie has taught disability awareness, sensitivity, and etiquette to election personnel, police cadets, and church volunteers.

After spending time enjoying the Florida weather, visiting beaches and acclimating herself to a new environment, Debbie returned to her purpose as an advocate. Opportunities to serve people with disabilities just fell into place. Currently, Debbie serves on several local boards, oversees the Disability Ministry at her church, and is active in the NFB of Florida Statewide Chapter. This year Debbie will represent the NFBF at the Washington Seminar and has recently agreed to be a part of the resolutions committee for our State Convention.

Debbie published 3 books in 2019 which focus on disability inclusion. ***Unlikely Dancer: A Memoir of Adversity and Healing*** brings the reader through a devastating accident in which she was hit by a car while using her white cane in a crosswalk to her ultimate recovery. ***Unlikely Dancer 2 & 3: Phases of Disability Inclusion and the Workbook*** discuss methods that increase accessibility within organizations and places of worship.

Debbie continues to teach disability sensitivity, awareness, and etiquette through her newly formed business, Inclusion Education.

# Link City

Here are some important links that may be of interest.

**NFB:** <https://nfb.org/>

**NFBF**: <http://nfbflorida.org/>

**Nation's Blind Podcast – November 27, 2019 – Meet Libra Robinson:** <https://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/podcast/nations-blind/nations_blind_podcast_november_2019.mp3>

**Presidential release - #490, January 2020:** <https://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/podcast/presidential-releases-en/2020_01_english.mp3>

**Braille Monitor – February 2020:** <https://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm20/bm2002/bm2002tc.htm>

# Inspiration Corner

*“Today I choose to make a difference, making a difference always matter even if it’s to only one.”*

***-Anonymous***

# Legislative Updates from the desk of Camille Tate

**Legislative Committee**

**From the desk of Camille Tate**

Washington Seminar is here! February 10-13, 2020 marks this year’s Washington Seminar, where members of the National Federation of the Blind will descend upon Capitol Hill to work on our legislative priorities.

We need your help. As the Florida delegation makes their way to the offices of our Representatives and Senators, you can make a difference. Tuesday, February 11th and Wednesday, February 12th are the days we expect to fulfill appointments made by the delegation to discuss the priorities of the National Federation of the Blind. How can you make a difference? On the days we are there, call your Representatives and Senators to ask them to support our legislation. This year, each of our bills have bill numbers and it is the most we have had at any one time. Here is a brief overview of those pieces of legislation, complete with their bill numbers.

• Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA), H.R.2086, S.815: A bill to provide a refundable tax credit to blind people so they may purchase assistive technology.

• Greater Access and Independence Through Non-Visual Access Technology (GAIN), H.R.3929: To make home use medical equipment, home appliances and fitness equipment accessible to the blind.

• Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education (AIM HI) Act, H.R.5312, S.3095: To make the digital classroom accessible to blind students through guidelines created by a special commission.

The above is just a brief sketch of the bills we are working on during Washington Seminar. To see the full fact sheets and further detailed information, please keep an eye on our list or visit nfb.org/Washington-seminar.

Please help us by calling your Representatives and Senators and ask them to co-sponsor these pieces of legislation. If you do not have your legislator’s direct office number in Washington, then call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for that office. If you do not know who your representative or Senator is, please visit Congress.gov, click on Find Your Representative and enter your zip code into the appropriate field. Or, you may text (520) 200-2233. You can also look on your Voter’s Registration Card to find the information as well.

It is through our collective voice that we can turn our dreams into reality.

# Photo Gallery

# Chapters

**Greater Broward Chapter:**  Jake McEntyre, President, Phone: 954-946-4148, Email: [jmac1920@yahoo.com](mailto:jmac1920@yahoo.com). Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Westfield Broward Mall located at 8000W. Broward Blvd. Plantation, Florida 33312 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. meetings take place inside the Plantation Police Outreach Center, just inside the north entrance to the mall.

**Central Florida Chapter:** Marilyn Baldwin, President, 407-293-0565 Home and 407-810-0554 Cell. Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month from 11 A.M. to 1 PM at Lighthouse Central Florida, 215 East New Hampshire Street Orlando, Florida 32804. Please like us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/410985858949160.

**Greater Daytona Beach Chapter**: Brian Norton, President, Phone: 386-871-3359 Email: [brian.edward.norton@outlook.com](mailto:brian.edward.norton@outlook.com). Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month from 1:00 till 3:00pm at Houligans Speedway restaurant, 1725 International Speedway Blvd. Daytona Beach, Florida. Follow Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nfbdaytona](http://www.facebook.com/nfbdaytona)

**Gainesville Chapter:** Judith Hamilton, President; Phone: 352-373-7806, Email: [gainesville\_nfb@earthlink.net](mailto:gainesville_nfb@earthlink.net). Gainesville Chapter meets monthly. Site or conference call to be determined. Please contact chapter president for meeting information or resource assistance. Together we can plan and participate to build the Federation in Gainesville, Florida.

**Greater Jacksonville Chapter:** Andy Rood, President; radiorexandy@gmail.comm, (904) 844-1449. Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month and take place at the Independent Living Resource Center, 2709 Art Museum Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32207 from 10:00 AM until 12 Noon. Please join us if you are in the area. Welcome aboard New President Rood!

**Melbourne - Space Coast Chapter:** Camille Tate,President; Phone: 321-372-4899; Email: [ctate20176@att.net](mailto:ctate20176@att.net). Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne](http://www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne). We meet on the second Saturday of each month at The Fountains of Melbourne, 4451 Stack Blvd., Melbourne, 32901. The meetings are from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Contact Camille Tate for more information.

**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 at Denny's Restaurant located at 5825 N.W. 36 Street Miami, FL 33166 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

**Palm Beach Chapter:** Tekesha Saffold, President; 561-707-4799; Email: [tnsaffold82@gmail.com](mailto:tnsaffold82@gmail.com). Meetings are held the Second Saturday of each month at IHOP at 1503 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, Florida from 10 am until noon.

**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 Perkins Pancake House and Bakery located at 6005 Cypress Garden Blvd. Winter Haven, FL 33884 from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon.

**Florida State-Wide Chapter:** Paul Martinez, President; Phone: 813-390-5720; Email: [nfbf.statewide@gmail.com](mailto:nfbf.statewide@gmail.com). Meetings are held the Third Sunday of each month at 8 pm (Eastern Time) via conference call using the following number: 605-475-4700 using the access code 800550#.

**Tallahassee Chapter:**  Jada Christie, President; Phone: 850-766-9378 Email: [emeraldpink15@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldpink15@gmail.com). We meet the first Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m., at the Lighthouse of the Big Bend located at 3071 Highland Oaks Terrace, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

**Tampa Chapter:** Miranda Kilby, President; Phone: 352-942-0417; Email: [NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com](mailto:NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com). Join us on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 12 Noon to 2:00 PM at Beef O Brady's located at 8810 North Himes Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614. The chapter is busy planning a BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) program. We are looking at holding the program June 17th through the 28th.

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Tamika Butts, President; 772-708-3749, E-mail: [tamika\_butts@gmail.com](mailto:tamika_butts@gmail.com). We will resume our monthly meetings September 14th. Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am - 12:00 Noon at WQCS Radio Station located @ IRSC, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce.

# Divisions

**Deaf-Blind Division:** The Division meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Keep an eye on the Florida List and Save the Date calendar for meeting notices and announcements. President: Brian Norton.

**Florida Association of Guide Dog Users (FLAGDU):** Merry Schoch, President, Phone: 813-625-1850, Email: flagdu@nfbflorida.org

**Florida Organization of Parents of Blind Children (FOPBC):** Cherice Togun, President; 407-257-7637; [chericeflemingtogun@hotmail.com](mailto:chericeflemingtogun@hotmail.com). Contact the President for meeting date and time.

# Groups and Committees:

**Blind Parents Connect - NFB of Florida:** Nicole Fincham-Shehan – Coordinator, Phone: Cell 410-493-4461; Email:  [ndfinchamshehan@yahoo.com](mailto:%20ndfinchamshehan@yahoo.com).If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me on my cell number.

The Blind Parents Connect Group would like to congratulate Paul and Miranda on their Princess, Isabella Michelle. She is a blessing and your lives will be an adventure everyday!!!

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month via conference call at 9pm. We are looking for topics that you would like to have discussed on our monthly calls. In addition, we are accepting ideas for what you would like to see the Blind Parents Connect group do at our 50th Annual NFB OF FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION. The call-in information is as follow: Phone Number: 712-775-7031, Access Code: 938047311. We hope to have you join our calls. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly, home: 561-768-5424, cell: 410-493-4461 or email [ndfinchamshehan@yahoo.com](mailto:ndfinchamshehan@yahoo.com).

**F.A.B.S. - Florida Association of Blind Students:** Rafael Fernandez, Phone: 305- 903-6299, Email: [rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com](mailto:rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com). Call Rafael information and details.

**Communication Committee:** We have been busy proofing items for members, sending out a calendar outline to help us all stay organize, and growing slowly on our social media platforms. Dan has sent out an email regarding our 50th anniversary project and hopefully submissions will start rolling in. We encourage everyone to submit something towards this project. We are trying to wrap up our PSA project, so if you have not recorded the 1-minute message, please do so soon.

**Communities of Faith Group:** We meet on the second Monday of each month at 8:00 P.M. Our group is continually growing, and all are welcome. If you are interest in joining us in this uplifting and comforting committee, call 712-775-7031, Code 938047311# or 1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,938047311# Marilyn Baldwin Chair or Kathy Davis co-chair.

**Community Service:** Tekesha Saffold – Chair, Phone: (561) 707-4799, Email: [tnsaffold82@gmail.com](mailto:tnsaffold82@gmail.com). Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 8 pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: 712-775-7031,938047311#.

**Diabetics Group:** Lauren Blum, Telephone: 352-584-0795, Email: [laurenblum79@gmail.com](mailto:laurenblum79@gmail.com). Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: 712- 775-7031,938047311#.The Diabetic Awareness Group held their meeting on January14th and had a lively discussion on what constitutes as a carbohydrate.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** The committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. The call-in number is 712-775-7031, access code 938047311. Keep an eye on the list for any notices from the committee. Chair: Marilyn Baldwin.

**Fundraising Committee:** Paul Martinez – Chair, 11903 Rose Harbor Drive Apt: 113, Tampa, Florida 33625, Phone: 813-390-5720, Email: [fundraising@nfbflorida.org](mailto:fundraising@nfbflorida.org)

**Legislative Committee:** The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. The call-in number is 712-775-7031, access code 938047311. Keep an eye on the list for any notices from the committee. Co-chairs: Merry Schoch and Camille Tate.

**NFBF Book Club:** The book club meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. The call-in number is 712-775-7031, access code 938047311. Keep an eye on the list for any notices from the group. Coordinator: Camille Tate.

**NFB411:** Our next NFB411 Call To be announced.

**Newsline:** Russ Davis, Chairperson. 844-827-7371, [newslinesupport@nfbflorida.org](mailto:newslinesupport@nfbflorida.org)

**President and Vice President Committee:** We would like to know what you all would like to discuss next. We are stronger together, when we work together! Call in number: 712-775-7031, access code: 938047311.

**Senior Concerns Committee:** Gloria Mills-Hicks, Chairman; Phone: 813-340-9754; Email: Glorianfb@irescuetax.com. Meetings are held the First Thursday of each month at 8pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: 712-775-7031,938047311#.

**Technology Q and A:** Rafael Fernandez – Chair; Email: [rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com](mailto:rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com). Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 8:00 pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: 712-775-7031,938047311#.

**The National Association of Blind Veterans:** "BLIND VETS SERVING BLIND VETS" Dr. Vernon Humphrey, President; The National Association of Blind Veterans, PO Box 784957, Winter Garden, Florida 34778; Email [mr\_president@nabv.org](mailto:mr_president@nabv.org), Phone: 706-329-7690

# NFBF Board of Director’s Information

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

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Email: mbkilby@gmail.com

***Sylvia Young-Secretary***

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# 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.