BREAKING NEWSLETTER

Issue 39 September/October 2022

# President’s note

**Greetings Federation Family:**

The 52nd National Federation of the Blind of Florida state convention is finally in the books, and what a wonderful convention it was. I hope all who attended had as much fun as I did reuniting with old friends and making new ones. We also heard from some great speakers and presenters who embodied the ideas we have of moving our organization forward. Our work is not done yet. We still must leave those hard hats on and continue to build the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. We must continue to bring in new members and change their lives, and we must continue to show the world what it means to be blind. As we move into the holiday season, start thinking about the next role you would like to play in the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. Whether it is fundraising, membership or advocacy, we need you and your ideas.

Finally, as you are enjoying your holidays with family and friends, I encourage all of you to hold your loved ones near and remind them how much you care about them. Be safe and healthy this season and come back next year ready to keep building.

Growing Together,

**Paul M. Martinez, President NFB OF Florida**

Paul09MS@gmail.com

president@nfbflorida.org

Facebook & Twitter @nfbflorida

Find us on twitter and FB @nfbflorida

# 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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# CLUSIV

Building Unseen Talent

**Clusiv is the world's first accessible e-learning platform built for & by people who are blind.**

Clusiv training teaches you the necessary skills needed to access remote job opportunities in today’s modern workforce.

Learn confidence-building techniques for virtual interviews, save files on the cloud, master email platforms, and become a vital part of any remote team with Clusiv’s training.

Clusiv is remote and self-paced so you can learn from the comfort of home. Ask your vocational rehab counselor about Clusiv today!!!

Visit [Clusiv.io](http://clusiv.io/) to find out more.

# Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Vanda pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising the awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community.

Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting up to 30% of totally blind individuals. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness, nighttime sleeplessness which leads to impaired social and occupational function due to misalignment of the internal master body clock to the 24-hour day, disrupting the sleep-wake cycle.

Come visit us at our booth to learn more about Non-24

and sign up for additional information

Non-24

A circadian rhythm disorder

Visit us online at www.non-24.com

Call a health educator toll free at 1-855-856-2424, 24 hours a day

# Stellar MLS

is proud to collaborate with Lundy, Inc. to bring search by voice and enhanced data accessibility to our customers, their prospects, and homebuyers and sellers who are searching for homes in Florida and Puerto Rico. Now, with Lundy's comprehensive voice-activated property search engine via Amazon's Alexa app, blind and visually impaired individuals can be immersed in the home buying experience.

# Florida’s Disability Savings Program

ABLE United has provided thousands of Floridians

with disabilities a new way

to save tax-free without

impacting government

benefits. Open an account

today — it’s more than

just saving, it’s investing

in a brighter future.

Save with the potential for tax-free growth

Save with the help of family and friends

Save without impacting Medicaid or SSI

Use for housing, assistive technology and more

ENROLL BY NOVEMBER 11 AND RECEIVE A $50 ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTION

**ableunited.com**

# OrCam

MyEye Technology for independence

OrCam’s assistive devices help those who are blind, visually impaired or have reading challenges regain their independence.

ORCAM.com

# Birthdays & Celebrations

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

***September:***

***Jim East - Gainesville***

***Judy Hamilton – Gainesville***

***Denise Valkema – Jacksonville***

***October:***

***Lenora McGowan – Gainesville***

***David Roskos – Gainesville***

***Joe Naulty – Melbourne***

***Maria Rigogliosi – Melbourne***

***Linda Waddell – Melbourne***

***Victor Edmund – Melbourne***

***Morgan Hasslett – Melbourne***

***Mary Ann Mraz – Melbourne***

***Monique Bowden – Tallahassee***

***Jeffrey Davis of Tallahassee*** *reports that on Thursday, August 18, he became a grandfather again. He says “M*y baby girl had a baby girl. Thursday evening 9:38 PM the babies name is Rochelle Joy Right. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz., and she was 19 1/4 inches long.

***Anniversaries:***

***Glen and Kaye Baker celebrated five years on October 7th.***

WITH AGE COMES WISDOM

As you get older you will understand more and more that it’s not about what you look like or what you own; it’s all about the person you become.

In the end, what really matters is:

Not what you bought, but what you BUILT

Not what you got, but what you SHARED

Not your competence, but your CHARACTER

Not your success, but your SIGNIFICANCE

Not your intelligence, but your IMPACT

Not the length of your resume, but your LEGACY

I will never regret getting older.

I know too many people who never had that privilege.

Live a life that truly matters.

Live your life, not someone else's.

***Here's to another year around the sun. Happy birthday!***

# Important Calendar Events

**NFBF Monthly Calendar Meetings**

**These are the meetings of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida in 2022. Please keep an eye on the Florida list serv for any updates to meeting schedules or Zoom information.**

**First Monday: Tallahassee Chapter, 6:30 p.m.**

In-person or dial in by calling 605-313-4802 access code 790189

**First Tuesday**: No events

**First Wednesday: Diversity and Inclusion**

via Zoom https://zoom.us/j/99374511935

First Thursday: Senior Concerns Committee, 8 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/99374511935

Meeting ID is: 993 7451 1935

**First Saturday: Jacksonville Chapter**

10:00 A.M. Join us via Zoom, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9851473331

Meeting ID: 985 147 3331

**Second Monday: Communications Committee** (Closed), 7 p.m.

**Second Tuesday: Sports and Rec**, 8 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/93835426045Meeting ID: 938 3542 6045

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,93835426045# US (New York)

+13017158592,,93835426045# US (Washington DC)

**Second Wednesday**: No events

**Second Thursday: Leadership Building**, 8 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/94434710090

Meeting ID: 944 3471 0090

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,94434710090# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,94434710090# US (New York)

**Second Saturday: Broward Chapter**, 10 a.m.

**Treasure Coast Chapter**, 10 a.m.

**Melbourne Chapter,** 10 a.m.

**Palm Beach Chapter**, 10 a.m.

**Polk Chapter,** 10 a.m. (via Free Conference Call)

**Gainesville Chapter**, 12:30 p.m. Join via Free conference call, (857) 357-0254

**Second Sunday: Deaf Blind Division**, 5 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/98765742578

Meeting ID: 987 6574 2578

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,98765742578# US (Chicago)

**Constitution Review Committee** (Closed), 8 p.m.

**Third Tuesday: Home-wise,** 8 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/95074337811

Meeting ID: 950 7433 7811

One tap Mobile: 6468769923,,,95074337811#

**Third Wednesday: Communities of Faith,** 12 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/91398845944

One Tap mobile: +1(646) 876-9923,,91398845944#

**Blind Parents Connect and FLAGDU** (will alternate each month), 8 p.m.

**Third Thursday: Miami Chapter**, 6:30 p.m.

**Third Saturday: Central Florida Chapter**, 12 p.m.

**Third Sunday: Student Division**, 6 p.m.

**Statewide Chapter,** 8 p.m. via Zoom, https://zoom.us/j/97396225920 Meeting ID: 973 9622 5920

**Fourth Tuesday: Federation Foundations, formerly Book Club,** 8 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/94787313485

Meeting ID: 947 8731 3485

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,94787313485# US (Chicago)

**Fourth Thursday: Legislation**, 8 p.m.

https://zoom.us/j/94416346364

Meeting ID: 944 1634 6364

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,94416346364# US (Chicago)

**Fourth Saturday: Daytona Chapter,** 12:30 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9357099741?pwd=YVhxTVg0Nm1KQytCQ0xJM1JvZDhYUT09

**Tampa Chapter,** 12:30 p.m.

**Fourth Sunday: Affiliate Board** Meeting (Closed), 8 p.m. (unless an open meeting is announced)

# Articles, Announcements and Comments

NEWSWORTHY

In Memory of:

**Mrs. Florence Drummer**

Dear Federation family,

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of Mrs. Florence Drummer.  Mrs. Drummer is the mother of our beloved Sylvia Young.

Sylvia serves as the Affiliate Treasurer and as the Secretary of the Tallahassee Chapter.

Mrs. Drummer transitioned late Saturday, September 10th.

Let us keep Sylvia, her father Mr. Drummer and the entire family in our thoughts and prayers.  More details will be forthcoming.

Per Sylvia’s request, please express your condolences via text message or email only.

Thank you for supporting our Federation sister.

Warmly,

Donald Christie

During our State Convention, we were made aware of the passing of another longtime member. Here is what her loving husband Bryan Norton writes.

Dear friends of my wife **Earline**,

I was blessed to spend 5 wonderful years with this amazing woman. She has been an active voice in helping the blind since the birth of her son Bill Outman. She had rubella when 2 months pregnant and raised him to be an intelligent and independent leader in the National Federation of the Blind.

Below is the obituary which is also on-line for publication in the Wednesday October 26, 2022, edition of the Daytona News-Journal.

Peace and love from Brian and Earline’s family

Bessie Earline Outman Norton (nee Hall) passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at Advent Health Daytona Beach after a two-week battle with injuries sustained from an accidental fall in her home in Daytona Beach, Florida. She was a wonderful wife, dear mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother, cherished sister, aunt, cousin, and devoted friend to many.

Earline was a registered nurse for over 65 years and worked in various nursing jobs including family practice, surgical/hospital nursing, geriatric/elder care nursing, psychiatric care, school nursing, home health care, summer camp nursing, church nursing, prison health care and her current position as director of nursing at the Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired in Daytona Beach. She was an alum from Landon High School, Jacksonville, FL, St. Luke’s School of Nursing, St. Francis University, IL, and Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Bessie was her professional name, but she liked to be called Earline. She was born during the depths of the depression on November 23, 1935, to Alton Freeman Hall and Nancy Irene (nee Harden) Hall in Jacksonville, Florida. Earline has two sisters, Aldean West, and Debbie (David) Ash, and one brother Ronald (Susan) Hall who all reside in Florida. She married William “Bill” Henry Outman, on June 9, 1956, in Clay County, Florida after which they moved to Marseilles, Illinois where they raised three children; Lora (David) Clark of Florissant, MO; William Outman of Daytona Beach, FL; and Wayne (Dawn) Outman of St Augustine, FL. Earline married Brian Edward Norton on November 22, 2020, in Daytona Beach, FL. and welcomed Brian’s three sons, Michael, Matthew, and Ross into her heart. Earline is survived by her husband Brian, her children and two stepchildren, and ten grandchildren: Korie Clark, Kimberly (Ian) Reed, Kristopher (Lisa) Clark, Melanie (John) Heberton, Camille Norton, David Outman, Wade Outman, Wesley Outman, Callon Norton, and Caedon Norton. She is also survived by 18 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild, a sister-in-law: Virgene Outman Lockas, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Earline was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bill, her stepson Ross Norton, one great grandson Jacob Clark, one sister-in-law Henrietta “Sissy” Outman Barber, two brothers-in-law, George Barber and Billy West, and three nephews Bradley Ash, Dale West and Dean Lockas.

Earline began her nursing career during the 1955 polio epidemic, and her proudest moment in nursing was when she worked as a missionary in the jungles of Guatemala and delivered a baby unassisted. Earline assisted her husband Brian in Court with his substance abuse legal clients with the Regional Conflict Counsel. She was an active member and elder of her church, the First Christian Church of Daytona Beach, Disciples of Christ.

After the death of her husband, Bill, Earline moved to Florissant, MO to be near her daughter where she became an active participant in the St. Andrew United Methodist Church and the St Louis Concert Choir. Earline was proud to be an avid Elvis fan. She was a Mary Kay Consultant for many years and loved helping women feel better about themselves. Earline was a welcomed regular (non-alcoholic) participant of the Almous Alcoholics Anonymous Club where she provided a unique perspective and occasional humorous remarks. She was an active member of the National Federation of the Blind supporting independence for the blind. Her blind husband and son are both officers of the NFB Daytona Beach Chapter. She was an active member of the Volusia Democratic Party. Earline was very active until her unfortunate fall. She always lit up a crowded room with her lively and energetic spirit.

She will be cremated, and a service will be held on Saturday, October 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church of Daytona Beach, Disciples of Christ, 326 Palmetto Avenue, Daytona Beach.

After this spiritual memorial service, friends and family will gather for a celebration of life to share memories of this amazing woman at the Conklin-Davis Center for the Visually Impaired.

A graveside service will be held in the spring at Riverview Cemetery in Marseilles, IL.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Conklin-Davis Center, 405 White Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32214, in her name

In times of darkness, love sees.

In times of silence, love hears.

In times of doubt, love hopes

In times of sorrow, love heals.

And in all times, love remembers.

**A note from the Social Security Administration**

As the year comes to an end, a thought on the minds of many is how much will Social Security Increase in 2023? Here is a brief article from SSA with some good news for recipients.

***Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Information for 2023***

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 8.7 percent in 2023. The 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 65 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2023. Increased payments to more than 7 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2022. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits)

Read more about the [Social Security Cost-of-Living adjustment for 2023](about:blank#10-2022-2).

The maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $160,200. The earnings limit for workers who are younger than "full" retirement age (see [Full Retirement Age Chart](about:blank)) will increase to $21,240. (We deduct $1 from benefits for each $2 earned over $21,240.) The earnings limit for people reaching their “full” retirement age in 2023 will increase to $56,520. (We deduct $1 from benefits for each $3 earned over $56,520 until the month the worker turns “full” retirement age.)

There is no limit on earnings for workers who are "full" retirement age or older for the entire year. Read more about the [COLA, tax, benefit and earning amounts for 2023.](about:blank)

***Medicare Information***

Information about Medicare changes for 2023 is available at [www.medicare.gov](about:blank). For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, their new higher 2023 benefit amount will be available in December through the mailed COLA notice and [*my* Social Security's](about:blank) Message Center.

***Your COLA Notice***

In December 2022, Social Security COLA notices will be available online to most beneficiaries in the Message Center of their [*my* Social Security](about:blank) account.

This is a secure, convenient way to receive COLA notices online and save the message for later. You can also opt out of receiving notices by mail that are available online. Be sure to choose your preferred way to receive courtesy notifications so you won’t miss your secure, convenient online COLA notice.

Remember, our services are free of charge. No government agency or reputable company will solicit your personal information or request advanced fees for services in the form of wire transfers or gift cards. Avoid falling victim to fraudulent calls and internet “phishing” schemes by not revealing personal information, selecting malicious links, or opening malicious attachments. You can learn more about the ways we protect your personal information and [*my* Social Security](about:blank) account [here](about:blank).

**Blind and low-vision voters hail Massachusetts’ new statewide online voting option**

Original source:

[https://www.wgbh.org/news/politics/2022/10/28/blind-and-low-vision-voters-hail-massachusetts-new-statewide-online-voting-option](about:blank)

Kim Charlson speaks at an event at the Perkins School for the Blind. Charlson first voted electronically in 2021 and plans to do so again in the midterm elections.

Courtesy of Kim Charlson

By Meghan Smith

October 28, 2022

To vote in this year’s election, Watertown resident Kim Charlson won’t need to go to her polling place, print out a ballot or sign any forms. Charlson, who is blind, plans to take advantage of a new voting system for people with disabilities that allows them to cast their ballot electronically through a secure web portal.

The option was available in five cities last year: Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, Watertown and Worcester. It is now permanently available statewide, thanks to a lesser-known provision in the VOTES Act passed in June, which aimed to make voting in the state overall easier by permanently offering mail-in voting for all Massachusetts voters and expanding early voting. Advocates say, in many ways, it puts Massachusetts at the forefront of accessible voting as one of just a handful of states now allowing the electronic option for disabled voters. Once they apply, voters using the new method can cast their ballot electronically early or before polls close on Election Day at 8 p.m. on Nov. 8.

“I'm just delighted at the ease of voting, and the privacy of being able to do it independently and submit my ballot and know I'm all set,” said Charlson, executive director of the Perkins Library at Perkins School for the Blind, who first used the new system last year. “It makes me feel good about the democratic process.”

Charlson remembers that when she first voted at age 18, her best option was to have a friend or poll worker join her in the voting booth to help fill out a ballot. She and other advocates say having more voting options — from secure web voting, to mail-in ballots, to accessible machines at polling places — are a big step forward for disabled people.

“I think the disability community takes it [voting] very seriously because we had to kind of fight the fights to get to have the opportunity to vote privately and independently,” Charlson said.

In 2020, the Disability Law Center partnered with the Bay State Council of the Blind and the Boston Center for Independent Living to sue the state over lack of accommodations made for disabled people to vote safely and securely during the pandemic. Secretary of State Bill Galvin settled the lawsuit right before the election to allow disabled voters to vote electronically.

But during the 2020 election, voters with disabilities who chose the electronic method still needed a printer and had to physically sign the ballot. Advocates pushed for the option to last beyond that single year and worked with the secretary of state’s office to make it even more accessible.

“We wanted to get away from mail-in because once you're dealing with hard copy anything, then it's not accessible for blind people,” explained David Kingsbury, president of Bay State Council of the Blind. “Somebody is going to have to fill it out. Somebody is going to have to print it, somebody is going to have to put it in the mail and so on.”

To use the new system, the voter fills out an application on the secretary of state’s website, verifying their voter registration status and certifying that they have a disability. The application, due Nov. 1 by 5 p.m., then goes to the town’s election official, who sends two separate emails back to the voter — one with a PIN and one with the ballot that can be accessed through a secure web portal. The voter uses their own screen reading technology to independently fill out the accessible ballot at home. The platform has been tested on more than 90 combinations of screen readers and web browsers.

Kingsbury, who is blind, was impressed by how smoothly it went last year in the five municipalities during the off-year elections. He plans to vote electronically in Stoughton this November.

“Overall experience has been extremely positive,” Kingsbury said. “I think for something being put in place the first time; it's worked incredibly smoothly.”

Janet Murphy, the town clerk for Watertown, helped implement the new system last year. Six people used the system in 2021, and she told GBH News so far eight applications have come in for 2022. Murphy said the town spent under $2,000 to get it up and running with the help of Democracy Live, a voting technology company. Both Murphy and Charlson say they’re actively working to spread the word about the new option.

“It made complete sense to me, especially given that Perkins School for the Blind is here in Watertown,” she said.

Offering the electronic option “couldn’t be easier” for town election workers, she said. “It’s not cumbersome ... it’s very straightforward.”

Massachusetts is the fourth state in the nation to enact such a program for voters with disabilities, following West Virginia, Colorado and North Carolina. It’s the same technology that some states use to allow overseas military members to vote.

“This is not purely a blue state type of thing,” Kingsbury said.

In addition to the electronic option, disabled voters can also use the options available to every voter in the state: they can vote early, vote by mail or vote at their polling place on Election Day. Every location is required to have an AutoMark machine to enable accessible voting, and every polling place itself must be accessible for people with physical disabilities through ramps and accessible parking spots.

Rachel Tanenhaus, executive director of Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, is glad to have options. In 2020, she used the electronic vote system because she didn’t want to risk getting exposed to COVID-19. This year she plans to vote at her polling place in Malden.

“Not everybody is voting online. And I like voting in person,” she said, noting that not all disabled people are proficient with assistive technology. “When there are not 10 million accessibility barriers, it's actually pretty cool to do. ... The important point is that you have that choice.”

Tanenhaus, who has low vision, can use an AutoMark machine to increase the size of the ballot text, increase the contrast and use tactile raised buttons or Braille to fill out her ballot privately.

Occasionally she has encountered problems with such machines: it wasn’t plugged in, the poll worker didn’t know how to use it, or the machine was faced outward so that everyone could see her ballot. There are also transportation accessibility challenges getting to polling places, such as navigating public transportation and weather like rain, ice and snow that makes it harder for people with mobility devices or who are blind to get around.

Even with the occasional obstacle, she enjoys voting in person and says technology has improved access.

“The experience is so much better,” she said. “I don't have to have panic attacks when I go vote anymore, because it's just really important to me — just like it's really important to you and a lot of other people to be able to vote.”

For Kingsbury, the success of the new secure electronic voting system indicates a future where voting access is expanded for everyone — not just people with disabilities.

“This really goes beyond disability,” he said. “I mean, this is the 21st century. We do pretty much everything else by internet. ... And I just sort of think, in the future, this is really something that should hopefully be adopted by many states for all varieties of voters.”

Dial 211 for Essential Community Services In many states, dialing "211"

provides individuals and families in need with a shortcut through what can be a bewildering maze of health and human service agency phone numbers. By simply dialing 211, those in need of assistance can be referred, and sometimes connected, to appropriate agencies and community organizations.

Dialing 211 helps direct callers to services for, among others, the elderly, the disabled, those who do not speak English, those with a personal crisis, those with limited reading skills, and those who are new to their communities.

211 is available to approximately 309 million people, which is 94.6 percent of the total U.S. population. 211 covers all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. To find out whether 211 services are offered in your area and to obtain more information, visit [http://www.211.org](about:blank) I clicked on the above link and entered a few different Florida zip codes. 211 seems to be available in Florida and provides a wealth of community services. Check it out.

# Travel the World

In early October, many Florida Federationists and friends gathered in Jacksonville for our 52nd annual State Convention. Many members have advised that they had a wonderful time. One first timer even found it “life changing.” Here is what Aaron has to say.

**THE UNCONVENTIONAL CONVENTION**

By Arron Faxon

As I walked into the Southbank Hotel on October 6th, 2022, I couldn’t help but feel a ball of excitement exploding from me from the inside out like a starfish that eats by turning inside out. In this case I walked in with excited trepidation absorbing the monumental first-time event that was about to unfold before me. From the time I entered those doors the first night to the time I laid my head to sleep I could hardly contain myself for the rewarding amalgamation of food, friendships, networking, and fun I would enjoy and encounter. Little did I know that as big as I thought this weekend was it would be so much bigger.

October 7th, 2022, I got to meet everyone, almost, and the stage would be set for the convention. I was nervous about the impression I would leave. I knew however, that in order to integrate myself into this amazing community of like-minded individuals I would have to put myself out there and that is just what I did. October 8th, 2022, we hit the ground running with an amazing general session. Seeing and hearing the amazing people and organizations that were represented and the cataclysmically monumental work they were doing began to start a fire within my belly which would grow to an inferno that Dante would be jealous of. I then took a trip to the exhibit hall to see the organizations from a personal one-on-one basis. Clusive, Patriot Tech, and Blind Girl Designs were the booths that I was mostly enamored with. I made more friends and the fire continued to grow. October 9th, 2022, the second general session occurred, and I loved learning and mentally absorbing more and more. I learned about the plight of the blind community in terms of politics and medicine during the resolutions meetings and voting on them was an honor that I will cherish forever. The fire has become the inferno.

I’ve learned so much and am so thankful for the first-timer scholarship and relationships that got me here, to be able to have experienced this convention. The fire that is lit inside of me cannot be quelled and is stronger than anything I’ve felt before. If there was anything that needed work, it was the auction due to the high bids and things ending up in the wrong baskets. With that in mind It was great because it gave me a chance to develop rapport with the most amazing people I’ve ever met. In this the auction was redeeming. The National Federation of the Blind of Florida can capitalize off this convention and build an affiliate that revolutionizes the art of advocacy for the blind or visually impaired.

# Tips and Tricks

***Submitted by Kaye Baker***

***Accessibility Support Phone Lines You Should Know***

With a welcomed emphasis on accessibility and inclusion, numerous companies now offer specialized support services for customers with vision loss. They are there to help you get the most out of their products and to ensure your devices are set right to accommodate your needs. This is an effort we greatly appreciate and are delighted to spread the word.

Amazon’s Accessibility Customer Service

[888-283-1678](about:blank)

Call to speak with an accessibility specialist who can help you buy books and other products or get you directly to tech support for Amazon devices and services including Alexa, Kindle & Fire Tablet. Hands raised triumphantly for accessible and inclusive smartphones.

Audible Support: [888-283-5051](about:blank).

Apple Accessibility Support Line

[877-204-3930](about:blank)

For users of Apple’s iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Apple Watch, or Mac – this is a gift. It is a special support line reserved for customers with vision, hearing, motor, and learning impairments. Senior AppleCare specialists are available 24/7 to help you get your Accessibility Settings right, answer your questions, and resolve your technical issues. They’ll even teach you a thing or two.

AT&T

National Center for Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD)

[866-241-6568](about:blank)

This is where wireless customers with vision loss get answers to questions about accessibility features and services available from AT&T.

Comcast Accessibility

[866-668-6703](about:blank)

Direct line to a dedicated team, specially trained to support customers who rely on accessibility services including voice guidance and video description.

Google

To request a call back, from a Google Disability support specialist, complete this online [form](about:blank).

Call an accessibility specialist at Google through the [BeMyEyes](about:blank) app on a smartphone or tablet. Click the ‘Specialized Help’ button on the app’s home page, select Google in the Technical tab.

Google Technical Support: [855-971-9121](about:blank) may (or may not) be able to help with accessibility questions, depends on the specialist you connect with.

HP Accessibility Support

[888-259-5707](about:blank)

Technical support for customers with accessibility needs, pertaining to HP (Hewlett Packard) products, available from 6am to 9pm Mountain Time.

**LinkedIn Disability Answer Desk**

**Call on** [Be My Eyes](about:blank) **app**

Contact an accessibility specialist at the LinkedIn Disability Answer Desk through the Be My Eyes app, on a smartphone or tablet; click the Specialized Help button on the apps home page, then select Technical to get to LinkedIn.

Microsoft Disability Answer Desk

[800-936-5900](about:blank) or the [Be My Eyes](about:blank) app

The features you need to make your PC ‘vision friendly’ are built right into Windows – unfortunately, many people don’t know that. Microsoft recognized this as a significant problem and put in place a support team specialized in accessibility. So, dial them up and get your computer set up to work for you (not against you). And, to make it even easier on yourself — allow them remote access to your PC and they can make the adjustments.

**Peloton**

The Accessibility Team at Peloton will answer your questions and give you a call, if you request it by email to: [accessibility@onepeloton.com](about:blank).

**T-Mobile Accessibility**

[833-428-1785](about:blank)

T-Mobile has an [Accessibility Support](about:blank) web page. It says, “T-Mobile will provide accessible support for wireless network service and billing inquiries. Please contact our Accessibility Customer Care at [1-833-428-1785](about:blank) if you have any questions or need special assistance. For additional support, please contact Customer Care.”

Spectrum Accessibility Support

[844-762-1301](about:blank)

Call this support line to learn about and take advantage of Spectrum cable accessibility accommodations.

**Spotify**

**Call on** [Be My Eyes](about:blank) **app**

Get help from your smartphone or tablet with any questions you may have about Spotify, the world’s largest music streaming service. Speak to a trained customer service specialist on BME; go to Specialized Help, Technical, then Spotify.

Verizon Center for Customers with Disabilities

[800-974-6006](about:blank)

[verizon.com/disabilities](about:blank)

Free 411 for your home phone and for your mobile phone. Get your bills in the format of your choice…large print or digital. They can help you with anything else pertaining to your home phone service.

Verizon Wireless National Accessibility Center

[888-262-1999](about:blank)

It can sometimes be challenging to get information about accessibility features that make your mobile phone, or tablet, work for you. Questions about enlarging text, using voice commands effectively, or using the screen reader, often remain unanswered when posed to your store representative. That should be the case no more – now there is a customer service and technical support center dedicated to helping people maximize the accessibility features built into all of Verizon’s mobile devices. Let them help you get your device set just right for you, from 8am – 9pm EST, Monday – Friday.

[vote.org](about:blank)

**Call on**[Be My Eyes](about:blank)**app**

Get help, on a smartphone or tablet, registering to vote, checking your registration status, and requesting a mail-in ballot. On BME, go to Specialized Help on the home page, then Civic Engagement, then select [vote.org](about:blank).

We will continue adding Accessibility Support services as we discover them. Please let us know if you know of any before we do, and we’ll share by posting to this list.

*This article was originally published April 1, 2017 and most recently updated on Aug 31, 2022.*

For comments, questions or feedback, [email us](about:blank),

Please note, this article was not written by the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, and the list is not maintained by us. Here is a bit about the author.

About the Author: Dorrie Rush  
  
Dorrie Rush is the Chief Content Officer and Visual Accessibility Expert at Ophthalmic Edge Patients (OE Patients), an online resource, presented by the Association for Macular Diseases, providing practical information and empowering advice for living a full and successful life with vision loss.  
  
She is the former Director of the Grunwald Technology Center and Information Resource Service at Lighthouse International 2001 to 2016. Dorrie is known to have an eccentric view, which is particularly useful in compensating for her central vision loss from Stargardt Disease.

# Laugh it up!

It's been said that 'Laughter IS the Best Medicine.' Nothing works faster or is more dependable to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded, focused, and alert. Here's to living a longer, healthier, and happier life! Laughter is the best medicine. Take as much as you can, several times a day.

**A Fun Fact for Each State**

ALABAMA **....  Was the first place to have 9-1-1, started in 1968.**

**ALASKA** **...  One out of every 64 people has a pilot's license.**

ARIZONA **....  Is the only state in the continental U.S.  that doesn't follow** Daylight Savings Time**.**

**ARKANSAS** **....  Has the only active diamond mine in the U.S..**

**CALIFORNIA ...  Its economy is so large that if it were a country, it would rank seventh in the entire world.**

COLORADO **....  In 1976 it became the only state to turn down the Olympics.**

CONNECTICUT **...  The Frisbee was invented here at Yale University.**

**DELAWARE** **....  Has more scientists and engineers than any other state.**

**FLORIDA** **....  At 759 square miles,** Jacksonville **is the U.S.'s largest city.**

GEORGIA **....  It was here, in 1886, that pharmacist** John Pemberton **made the first vat of Coca-Cola.**

**HAWAII** **...  Hawaiians live, on average, five years longer than residents in any other state.**

IDAHO **...  TV was invented in** Rigby, Idaho**, in 1922.**

**ILLINOIS** **... The** Chicago River **is dyed green every St. Patrick’s Day.**

**INDIANA** **....  Home to** Santa Claus, Indiana**, which get a half million letters to Santa every year.**

**IOWA** **...  Winnebagos get their name from** Winnebago County**. Also, it is the only state that begins with two vowels.**

**KANSAS ...** Liberal, Kansas**, has an exact replica of the house in** The Wizard of Oz**.**

**KENTUCKY** **....  Has more than $6 billion in gold underneath Fort Knox.**

**LOUISIANA** **....  Has parishes instead of counties because they were originally Spanish church units.**

MAINE **...  It's so big, it covers as many square miles as the other five New England states combined.**

MARYLAND **....  The Ouija board was created in Baltimore in 1892.**

**MASSACHUSETTS** **...  The** Fig Newton **is named after Newton, Massachusetts.**

**MICHIGAN** **....  Fremont, home to Gerber, is the baby food capital of the world.**

**MINNESOTA** **....  Bloomington's** Mall of America **is so big, if youspent 10 minutes in each store, you'd be there nearly four days.**

**MISSISSIPPI** **...  President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear here ...  that's how the** teddy bear **got its name.**

**MISSOURI** **....  Is the birthplace of the** ice cream cone**.**

**MONTANA** **....  A** sapphire **from** Montana **is in the Crown Jewels of England.**

NEBRASKA **....  More triplets are born here than in any other state.**

NEW HAMPSHIRE **...  Birthplace of** Tupperware**, invented in 1938 by** Earl Tupper**.**

**NEW JERSEY ...  Has the most shopping malls in one area in the world.**

**NEW MEXICO** **...  Smokey the Bear was rescued from a 1950 forest fire here.**

**NEW YORK** **....  Is home to the nation's oldest cattle ranch, started in 1747 in** Montauk**.**

NORTH CAROLINA **...  Home of the first Krispy Kreme doughnut.**

NORTH DAKOTA **...  Rugby,** North Dakota**, is the exact geographic center of** North America**.**

**OHIO** **...  The hot dog was invented here in 1900.  OH !!!!**

OKLAHOMA **....  The grounds of the state capital are covered by operating oil wells.**

**OREGON** **...  Has the most** ghost towns **in the country.**

PENNSYLVANIA **...  The smiley, :) was first used in 1980 by computer scientists at** Carnegie Mellon University**.**

**RHODE ISLAND ...  The nation's oldest bar, the** White Horse Tavern**, opened here in 1673.**

SOUTH CAROLINA **...** Sumter County **is home to the world's largest gingko farm.**

SOUTH DAKOTA **...  Is the only state that's never had an earthquake.**

**TENNESSEE** **....  Nashville's** Grand Ole Opry **is the longest running live radio show in the world.**

**TEXAS** **...** Dr.  Pepper **was invented in Waco back in 1885.**

**UTAH** **...  The first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant opened here in 1952.**

VERMONT **....** Montpelier **is the only state capital without a McDonald's.**

**VIRGINIA** **....  Home of the world's largest office building, the** Pentagon**.**

WASHINGTON **...** Seattle **has twice as many college graduates as any other state.**

**WASHINGTON** **D.C.  ...  Was the first planned capital in the world.**

WEST VIRGINIA **...  Had the world's first brick paved street, Summers Street, laid in** Charleston **in 1870.**

**WISCONSIN** **....  The ice cream sundae was invented here in 1881 to get around Blue Laws prohibiting ice cream from being sold** on Sundays**.**

**WYOMING** **....  Was the first state to allow women to vote. I hope you enjoyed this.  I found it interesting.**

# Legislation

Legislative Updates

Our legislative team is hard at work planning the 2023 Washington Seminar. I am certain they will be sending emails very soon letting us all know how we can get involved. Legislation is something we can all participate in because we all have a story. While we eagerly wait for Washington Seminar, here is an update on one of our recent issues.

Good morning fellow Federationist:

Thank you for your patients and hard work. The Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act has been introduced in both the House and the Senate. The House bill number is H.R. 9021 and Senate bill number is S. 4998. It will take Congress.gov sometime to input the bill text on their website. While the National Federation of the Blind organized and began the efforts to introduce this bill, other organizations were key to its introduction. Those organizations are the American Council of the Blind, the American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Disability Rights Network.

The following links will lead you to multiple press releases. First the joint press release from the National Federations of the Blind, the American Council of the Blind, the American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Disability Rights Network. Next a press release from Senator Duckworth, the sponsor of the bill in the Senate. Lastly, a press release from Representative Sarbanes, the sponsor of the bill in the House. In addition, the Washington Post has written an article outlining the importance of the bill below:

Noted: Sen. Duckworth introduces bill to improve internet access for people with disabilities

By Amanda Morris

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) introduced a bill Thursday that aims to improve internet access for people with disabilities.

Access has been especially difficult for blind and low-vision people, who have had issues using websites and have been pushing for improvements for years. Some of the most common issues, according to advocates supporting the bill, involve images and other items, such as buttons or headings on a website, being unlabeled or mislabeled in a way that blind people cannot navigate using screen readers, a device that reads labels and text fields out loud.

Despite numerous lawsuits against websites that blind people said were inaccessible, legal requirements for businesses and website creators have remained murky, the advocates say.

The Department of Justice attempted to clarify the issue earlier this year by issuing guidance that the Americans With Disabilities Act applies to all online goods and services offered by public businesses and organizations. But Mark Riccobono, the president of the National Federation of the Blind, which is a key supporter of Duckworth’s bill, says that without a clear legal standard for what websites must do to be considered accessible, court rulings on the issue have been inconsistent.

“There’s still a lot of confusion and misinformation about web accessibility, the requirements and the standards,” he said. “Blind people, in the meantime, are left waiting, and we believe it’s time for Congress to speak on this issue.”

Duckworth’s Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act aims to clear this confusion by directing the Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to create and enforce legal accessibility standards for websites. If the bill becomes a law, it would also give the U.S. Attorney General the ability to impose a civil penalty on websites that do not comply with the standards.

Duckworth said the goal of the legislation, though, isn’t to open up a “rash of federal lawsuits,” but to help businesses provide services to more people and have greater clarity on what standards would be most appropriate.

To help ease the transition, her legislation would also establish a technical assistance center and advisory committee to provide advice and resources to help website designers and others meet new accessibility standards.

Ensuring online accessibility has grown more critical since the pandemic, said Clark Rachfal, director of advocacy and governmental affairs for the American Council of the Blind, which also supports this legislation. Many goods and services moved online, and access to the internet became integral to societal participation. Rachfal called the bill a good “starting point” for the future.

“It’s critical that rights of people with disabilities are protected as technology plays an increasing role in all of our lives,” he said.

Duckworth said the pandemic spurred her to act, because she realized how much the online access issues were negatively affecting people with cognitive or visual disabilities.

“It was ten times worse for members of the disability community to access information and the help that they needed,” she said. “Especially as covid went on, they became more and more isolated.”

She also said that she has seen firsthand the difference this access can make. When she was recovering in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center from injuries she sustained serving in the armed forces, she said one of the other soldiers, who had lost his eyesight, struggled with using an iPhone touch screen. But now that iPhones have features that allow blind people to use them more easily, the soldier uses his iPhone daily, Duckworth said.

She hopes her bill can make it easier for other blind people to use the internet.

Now that the bill has been introduced in the house and senate, it is up to us to reach out to our Florida Representatives and encourage them to sponsor the bills. We can all achieve success in the legislature if we work together.

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

Russ Davis

russell@radiorusty.com

904 993 8433

Camille Tate

Ctate2076@att.net

321 372 4899

***One of our many important tasks at State convention, similarly to National, is the passage of our resolutions.***

This convention was no different. We passed three great resolutions this year.

Resolution 2022-01 Reaffirming Our Equality and Independence Through the Americans with Disabilities Act, Resolution 2022-02 Concerning Remote Vote by Mail and Sharing to the Disabled Community, and Resolution 2022-03 Concerning the Labelling of Blind and Low-Vision Patients as Fall Risks in Hospitals. These resolutions will become the policy of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, and we will work on them as time goes on.

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

# Florida Spotlight

Member Spotlight

Nothing was submitted for this issue. Stay tuned for future Spotlights on our great

members.

If you want to be featured in this section. Please send a bio of yourself to

[newsletter@nfbflorida.org](mailto:newsletter@nfbflorida.org).

# Recipe Conner

Thanks goes out to Camille for finding this recipe for a yummy and quick desert.

**EASY BISCUIT BEIGNETS**

Course: Dessert

Servings: 16 servings

Ingredients

32 oz. Pillsbury Buttermilk Grands biscuits two 16-oz cans

Oil for frying

½ cup powdered sugar

Instructions

Prep: Pour the oil into a large saucepan, you will need 2-3 inches of oil to fry the beignets. I recommend using a 2-3 quart saucepan for this. Heat the oil over medium-high heat until the oil registers 375 degrees F. This will take several minutes, so prep the biscuits while you wait. Open the cans of biscuits and separate them, gently press each one to flatten them a bit. After that, use a sharp knife or pizza cutter to cut each biscuit into thirds.

Fry biscuits: Once the oil is has reached 375° F, fry each biscuit piece for 2-3 minutes, turning them over often so that they cook and brown evenly. I turn mine over every 30 seconds or so, doing each side twice. When you remove the biscuits, use a slotted spoon to let excess oil drain from them and transfer to a paper towel-lined plate or baking sheet.

Coat: To cover the beignets in powdered sugar, I find that it helps to pour powdered sugar into a paper bag, and then after allowing the biscuits to cool for 1 minute, you can toss them in the powdered sugar by adding a few pieces to the bag and closing it. Shake gently, and they will come out nicely coated. Another option is just to sprinkle them with powdered sugar. After cooling slightly, do this by placing them onto a baking sheet and sprinkle each side with powder sugar. Transfer the beignets to a dish lined in paper towels and serve hot, enjoy!

Source: Butter with a Side of Bread

Now that the holiday season will soon be upon us, it is time to start thinking about holiday desserts. Here is a little pumpkin cheesecake to start us off.

**No Bake Pumpkin Cheesecake Recipe**

SERVINGS 12

Ingredients

2 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs

1/2 cup butter melted

3/4 cup heavy whipping cream 35%

3 packages full fat cream cheese 8oz each, room temperature

1 1/2 cups pure pumpkin puree

1 3/4 cups powdered sugar

1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

1 teaspoon vanilla

Whipped cream for garnish if desired

Instructions

Line 9" springform pan with parchment paper (pinch it in between the sides and the bottom) and preheat oven to 350 degrees F (baking the crust is optional, but helps it stay together more firmly). Combine graham crumbs and melted butter in a bowl. Press firmly into the bottom and 1" up the sides of the prepared pan. Bake crust for 10 minutes or until it looks slightly dry. Remove and let cool to room temperature. In a medium bowl, whip cold cream until stiff peaks form. Set aside. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the pumpkin and beat until combined, scraping down the sides as necessary. Add the sugar, pumpkin pie spice and vanilla and beat on medium-low with an electric mixer until combined, scraping down the sides of the bowl as necessary. Use a spatula to gently fold in whipped cream until no white streaks remain. Pour filling into pan, smooth the top, cover lightly with foil or plastic wrap and refrigerate until set, about 8 hours or overnight. Garnish with whipped cream if desired and serve.

Notes: \*I highly recommend tasting your filling before pouring into the crust — this way you can adjust and add more sugar or more spices if you prefer!

Source: The Recipe Rebel

*If you have a favorite recipe you would like to submit for this section, please send it to newsletter@nfbflorida.org.*

# Health and Wellness

**8 Surprising Ways to Add Carrots to Your Meals**

Even Bugs Bunny would be delighted by these tasty innovations and transformations

by Beth Lipton, [**AARP**](about:blank), October 28, 2022

Our favorite rascally rabbit was right to munch on his favorite snack: Carrots are packed with healthy nutrients that are [important for eye health](about:blank). They're rich in vitamin A, which the retina needs to function. They also contain vitamin C — which is associated with a lower risk of cataracts and age-related [macular degeneration](about:blank) — and lutein, a carotenoid that may help protect the retina and lens from sunlight, smoke and air pollution. If you're ready to go beyond baby carrots as a snack, here are some delicious ways to use them in recipes.

1. Bacon

Use a vegetable peeler to create long, thin slices. Mix soy sauce, garlic powder, smoked paprika, olive oil and a little maple syrup; brush on. Air fry at 350ºF for 10 minutes.

2. Hummus

Roast chopped carrots with cumin, then blend in a food processor with tahini, lemon juice, garlic and olive oil.

3. Noodles

Spiralize carrots. Boil briefly or sauté until tender, then toss with butter, Parmesan, lemon zest and pepper.

4. Energy bites

In a food processor, combine dates, carrots, walnuts, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla and a pinch of salt until well blended. Roll into balls; no cooking needed.

5. Waffles

Add ½ to 1 cup shredded carrots to your favorite waffle recipe (or mix).

6. Salad dressing

Blend carrots with ginger, rice vinegar, olive oil, garlic and toasted sesame oil for a zesty salad topper.

7. Mashed Potatoes

Replace some of the spuds in your favorite mashed potato recipe with carrots for sweetness and a vitamin boost.

8. Tacos

Toss chopped carrots with oil and Chile powder; roast until caramelized. Pile into tacos with avocado, radishes, cilantro and sour cream.﻿

# Link City

Here are some important links that may be of interest.

**NFB:** [https://nfb.org/](about:blank)

**NFBF:** [http://nfbflorida.org/](about:blank)

**Braille Monitor: October, 2022** [**https://nfb.org//images/nfb/publications/bm/bm22/bm2209/bm2209tc.htm**](https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm22/bm2209/bm2209tc.htm%20) **Presidential Release:** October, 2022 - #520 <https://nfb.org/sites/nfb.org/files/2022-10/presidential_release_live_october_2022_chapter_version.mp3>

**State of the Affiliate Video**: [https://youtu.be/6r2sQ7CYXus](about:blank)

Link to our NABS Podcast, Letter to our Teacher [http://anchor.fm/nabs-now](about:blank)

# Inspiration Conner

***Submitted by Sylvia Young***

“Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present.” By [Bil Keane](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/bil-keane-quotes)

# Photo Gallery

**Pictures of Florida members at State Convention in Jacksonville Florida**



## **John Pare’ our National Rep speaking in general session.**

A group of people holding certificates

Description automatically generated

## **Kaye Baker, Kara Tucker, Chief at Disabled Service Division, Peggy Fleischer and Paul Martinez with proclamation**



## **Members on a walk along the Riverwalk in Jacksonville at our 22 state convention. Beautiful sunrise.**



## **Scholarship winners and board members at banquet.**

# Chapters

**Greater Broward Chapter:** Jake McEntyre, President, Phone: 954-946-4148, Email: 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. 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. You can also attend our meetings on Zoom with the following link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9357099741?pwd=YVhxTVg0Nm1KQytCQ0xJM1JvZDhYUT09](about:blank) Meeting ID: 935 709 9741 Passcode: 8888 Follow Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfbdaytona.

**Gainesville Chapter**: Judith Hamilton, President; Phone: 352-373-7806, Email: gainesvillechapter@nfbflorida.org. The Gainesville Chapter has been meeting monthly on 2nd Saturday by Free Conference Call due to COVID 19. (857) 357-0254; Meeting I.D. has not changed-remains 195715. We are looking forward to making more connections and serving in our community when it is safe to do so. We invite and welcome members and those interested in learning about the National Federation of the Blind. Let’s move forward to build the Federation together!

**Greater Jacksonville Chapter:** Kaye Baker, President, phone: (904) 580-6819, Email: nfbjax@gmail.com. Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month. We meet at the Independent Living Resource Center 2709 Art Museum Drive, and on Zoom with meeting ID 9851473331. The Greater Jacksonville Chapter welcomes anyone wishing to attend.

**Melbourne Space Coast Chapter:** Camille Tate, President, Phone: 321-372-4899, Email: ctate20176@att.net. Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne. We meet on the second Saturday of each month, currently via Zoom. Please contact Camille Tate, President for ways you can join us.

**Greater Miami Dade Chapter**: Jorge Hernandez, President, Phone: 305-877-2311, Email: jeh6@bellsouth.net. The chapter continues to meet virtually, and members are encouraged to participate. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

**Polk Chapter:** Joe King President, Phone: 863-293-5648, Email: 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. The Statewide Chapter meets via Zoom every third Sunday of the month at 8:00 pm. Join us with the following link: https://zoom.us/j/97396225920 Meeting ID: 973 9622 5920 Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Tallahassee Chapter:** Donald Christie, President; Phone: 850-727-6794 Email: doctime59@comcast.net. 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. We are meeting in person, but you can also call in via telephone conference at 605-313-4802 access code 790189

**Tampa Chapter:** Miranda Kilby, President; Phone: 352-942-0417; Email: NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com. Join us on the fourth Saturday of each month at our Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/98776627448 Meeting ID: 987 7662 7448Tampa Bay Chapter.

**Treasure Coast Chapter**: Nicole D. Fincham-Shehan, President; 410-493-4461, E-mail: treasurecoastnfb@gmail.com. The Chapter will have conference call meetings until further notice. Our calls are held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10am.

# 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, president. Phone: 386-871-3359 Email: brian.edward.norton@outlook.com.

**Florida Association of Guide Dog Users (FLAGDU**): Britany Fraer, President; Phone: 804-274-8908, Email: flagdu@nfbflorida.org

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

# Groups and Committees:

**Blind Parents Connect** - NFB of Florida: Miranda Kilby – coordinator. Phone: 352- 942-0417; Email: mbkilby@gmail.com. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

**F.A.B.S.** - Florida Association of Blind Students: Jannik Pesch, President

**Communication Committee:** Chair - Douglas Ingram contact information: Phone: 850-567-8123; Email: dingram59@comcast.net

**Communities of Faith Group:** We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at noon via zoom. https://zoom.us/j/91398845944

One Tap mobile: +1(646) 876-9923,,91398845944#

Our group is continually growing, and all are welcome. Come and see what this warm and uplifting group is all about.

Marilyn Baldwin Chair, Peggy Fleischer co-chair.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** The committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. via Zoom https://zoom.us/j/99374511935

Keep an eye on the list for any notices from the committee. Chair: Marilyn Baldwin.

**Fundraising Committee**: Brittany Fraer contact information: Email: Brittany Fraer <bcwilson4418@gmail.com or fundraising@nfbflorida.org

Phone: 804-274-8908

**Legislative Committee:** The Legislative Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Keep an eye on the Florida List for meeting notices. Co-Chairs: Russ Davis and Camille Tate.

**Federation Foundations:** We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. via Zoom. Join us by visiting https://zoom.us/j/92344776358

Keep an eye on the Florida List for meeting notices and the selection for the month. Coordinator: Camille Tate.

**Newsline:** Russ Davis, Chairperson. 844-827-7371, newslinesupport@nfbflorida.org

**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 Zoom https://zoom.us/j/99374511935

**Technology Q and A:** Jorge Hernandez – Chair. Phone: 305-877-2311; Email: jeh6@bellsouth.net. Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 8:00 pm via Zoom. Contact Jorge to find out how to join.

# NFBF Board of Director’s Information

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

***Paul Martinez - President***

Phone: 813-390-5720

Email: Paul09MS@gmail.com or president@nfbflorida.org

***Jorge Hernandez – 1st Vice President***

Phone: 305-877-2311

Email: jeh6@bellsouth.net

***Camille Tate – 2nd Vice President***

Phone: 321-372-4899

Email: ctate2076@att.net

***Kaye Baker - Secretary***

Phone: 904-832-2884

Email: kaye.j.zimpher@gmail.com

***Sylvia Young - Treasurer***

Phone: 850- 322-5937

Email: Treasurer@nfbflorida.org

**Board Members:**

***Russell Davis***

Phone: 904-993-8433

Email: [russell@radiorusty.com](about:blank)

***Denise Valkema***

Phone: 305-972-8529

Email: [valkemadenise@aol.com](about:blank)

***Peggy Fleischer***

Phone: 386-931-2132

Email: [peggyfleischer@bellsouth.net](about:blank)

***Douglas Ingram***

Phone: 850-567-8123

Email: dingram59@comcast.net

# Editor: Kay Baker

To have something posted in the NFBF Newsletter please submit it to the editor, Kaye Baker at newsletter@nfbflorida.org by the 15th of each odd month.