****

# 2023 STATE CONVENTION

**Friday through Sunday,**

**October 6 - 8, 2023**

***Embassy Suites Hotel***

 ***3705 Spectrum Blvd***

***Tampa, FL 33612***

***Phone: 813-977-7066***

**Please Note: This agenda is subject to change at any time without notice.**

# NFB PLEDGE

**I pledge to participate actively**

**In the efforts of the National Federation of**

**the Blind**

**To achieve Equality, Opportunity,**

**And Security for the blind;**

**To support the policies and programs of the**

**Federation;**

**And to abide by its constitution.**

# Important Convention Information

**You must be registered for the Convention to WIN door prizes and to qualify for the hotel’s special convention rates!**

**Door prizes will be awarded at general sessions and at the banquet. You must be PRESENT in the session or on approved National Federation of the Blind of Florida business to receive a door prize.**

**Please turn in auction baskets and door prizes at the NFB of Florida Registration Desk in the Pre-Convention Area Friday, October 7th from 4:30 - 7:30 pm.**

# COVID POLICY

Masks are optional at our convention. If any attendees wish to wear a mask, they may feel free to do so. The National Federation of the Blind of Florida will follow the hotel’s policies. We will additionally follow any guidelines mandated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local, state, or federal entities that may be enacted up until the close of our convention.

**Note**: This policy is subject to change based on hotel policy, local, state, or federal regulations that may be placed in effect at the time of our convention.

# INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, AND CODE OF CONDUCT

We are committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and healthy environment for everyone. Thank you for cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect in which participants from diverse backgrounds can learn, network, and share with each other. We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas. These principles have been outlined in our Code of Conduct found at https://nfb.org/codeofconduct.

We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Prohibited behaviors include harassment and sexual misconduct. Prohibited behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the convention and/or other consequences. For assistance or to report an incident at the convention, please call 410-659-9314, extension 2475, or email code@nfb.org. Formal reports can be submitted at https://www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct/code-conduct-complaint-report-form. All formal reports will be fully investigated according to the steps in our Code of Conduct. For support or guidance, connect with our survivor-led task force at survivors@nfb.org or extension 2238. Thank you for your commitment to the safety and support of the blind community.

# Privacy Notice

This is a public event. You may be filmed on video or captured in photos that may be published in media outlets, including Twitter, Facebook or other social media sites. Some sessions and activities at the 2023 National Federation of the Blind of Florida State Convention may be photographed or videotaped. By participating in the State Convention, registrants agree that The National Federation of the Blind of Florida has the right to use their image, likeness and/or voice or sound recording taken in connection to the State Convention in all Media.

# Presidential Suite - TBA

By appointment – Please make appointments by contacting President Martinez at 813-390-5720 or President@NFBFlorida.org.

# Hospitality Suite – Room 212

### Friday, October 6th

3:00pm – 7:00pm

### Saturday, October 7th

12:00pm – 6:00pm

### Sunday, October 8th

12:00pm– 5:00pm

# Exhibit Hall – Salon A, B, C

Russ Davis, Exhibit Hall Coordinator

### Friday, October 6th, 12:00pm – 7:00pm

### Saturday, October 7th, 12:00pm – 6:00pm

### Sunday, October 8th, 12:00pm – 5:00pm

# Schedule of Convention Events

## Friday, October 6, 2023

12:00pm - 7:00pm Exhibit Hall - Salon A, B, C Russ Davis, Coordinator

 National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 2:00pm - 7:30pm Convention Registration

Registration Office

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 4:00pm - 4:45pm Ambassadors Meeting

Hotel Lobby

Doug Ingram, Chair, Ambassadors Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

5:00pm Guided Hotel Tour

 Led by Ambassadors

Hotel Lobby

### 6:00pm Rookie Round-up

Salon E

Paul Martinez, President, National

Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 7:00pm - 7:45pm Resolutions Committee

Salon E

Camille Tate, Chair, Resolutions Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 8:00pm - 9:00pm Open Board Meeting

Salon E

Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

9:00pm - 11:00pm Meet and Greet

 Salon D

9:30pm - 11:00pm Trivia Night

 Salon F

 Russ Davis, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 10:00pm - 11:00pm Students Social

Cypress Room

Z’Leah Liburd, Vice President, Florida Association of Blind Students

## Saturday, October 7, 2023

### 7:30am - 8:45am Devotions

Magnolia Room

Communities of Faith

### 8:00am - 8:45am Convention Registration

Registration Office

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

## General Session I

9:00am to 12:00 Noon

Salon E

### 9:00am Call to Order

Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:03am Invocation

Sherri Brun, Statewide Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:08am Pledge of Allegiance and Veterans Salute

Doug Ingram, United States Navy

Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:20am National Anthem

Z’Leah Liburd, Statewide Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:25am National Federation of the Blind

###  Pledge

Camille Tate, President, Melbourne Space Coast Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:27am National Federation of the Blind

###  One Minute Message

Gathery McKinley, Statewide Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:30am Welcome from the City of Tampa

Raquel Pancho, ADA Coordinator, Chief of Staff, City of Tampa, Florida

### 9:50am National Report

Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind

### 10:20am What is the Florida Rehabilitation Council of the Blind?

 Jorge Hernandez, Frist Vice President, National Federation of the Blind; Chair, Florida Rehabilitation Council of the Blind

### 10:30am Report from the Division of Blind Services

 Robert Doyle, Director

### 10:45am Report from the Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library

Nicole Sanders, Bureau Chief

### 11:00am Career, Technology, and Training Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

###  Gerard “Jay” Boyle, Bureau Chief

### 11:15am First Reading of State Constitutional Amendments

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 11:40am Why I Am a Federationist

Kaye Baker, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 11:45am Title Sponsor: Spectrum

Petr Kucheryavyy, Senior Manager, Accessibility Center of Excellence

### 11:55am Exhibitor Showcase

### 12:00pm Announcements & Adjournment

### 12:00pm - 1:00pm *Lunch Break*

### 12:00pm - 12:45pm Treasurers Lunch

 Cypress Room

Sylvia Young, Treasurer

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 12:00pm - 6:00pm Exhibit Hall – Salons A, B, C

### 12:00pm - 6:00pm Hospitality Suite 212

## Saturday Special Interest Meetings and Workshops

***1:00pm to 5:00pm***

### 1:00pm - 2:45pm Employment Seminar

Salon D

Kaye Baker, Greater Jacksonville Chapter President

Back by popular demand! Last year you showed us some love but gave us great suggestions. We listened, and this year, the employment panel is back! Bring your questions about employment, taxes, and Social Security issues. A certified benefits planner will be with us to answer all your questions. We will discuss income taxes filing after employment, and even how continuing to receive your benefits will affect your taxes. We might even delve into some workplace etiquette while we are at it. Have you ever thought that working for someone else is a drag? Come find out a little about what it takes to be self-employed. We look forward to seeing you there!

### 1:00pm - 2:45pm Deaf-Blind Division Annual Meeting

Salon E

Marilyn Baldwin, First Vice-President, Deaf-Blind Division of Florida

Welcome to the “Empowering Abilities: Navigating a Bright Future” seminar hosted by the National Federation of the Blind of Florida’s Deaf-Blind Division. Join us in October 2023 for a transformative event where we’ll focus on empowering individuals with combined vision and hearing impairments. Through engaging workshops, inspiring speakers, and interactive sessions, we aim to enhance independence, foster inclusivity, and explore the latest technologies that can enable a brighter future for the deaf-blind community. Come together to learn, connect, and share experiences in this inclusive and supportive environment. Be a part of this remarkable journey towards empowerment and self-discovery.

### 1:00pm - 2:45pm Technology - iPhone and Android Back to Basics Seminar

###  Salon F

iPhone and Android Panel

Peggy Fleischer, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida, Ryan Mann, Greater Daytona Beach Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida and Wayne King, Greater Daytona Beach Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

The iPhone and android seminar will feature a look at the basics of iOS and android. Wayne King will show low vision users how to make the most of the accessibility features on an iPhone for low vision users. Peggy Fleischer will show you how to maximize voiceover for those who use speech on their iPhone. Ryan Mann will show you how to get the most out of your android phone and how to use its accessibility features.

### 1:00pm - 1:45pm UZURV

Salon G

Ron Brooks, Senior Director, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement, UZURV

*Transportation On Demand Designing TNC Partnerships that Work for Blind Riders*

A growing number of Florida communities are incorporating the use of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) into their on-demand transportation and paratransit programs. But what does that mean for people who are blind? This workshop will focus on the ways transit agencies are using TNCs, the advantages TNCs offer for agencies and consumers, the challenges that blind riders may face when using TNCs, and how individuals and groups can advocate for the quality, accessibility and safety they need when riding on a TNCs.

### 2:00pm - 2:45pm Spectrum

Salon G

Petr Kucheryavyy, Senior Manager, Accessibility Center of Excellence, Spectrum

Spectrum will present all the happenings with Spectrum and accessibility.

### 2:00pm - 3:45pm  Florida Association of Blind

###  Students Business Meeting

 Cypress Room

Z’Leah Liburd, Vice President,

Florida Association of Blind Students

Are you a student wanting to get involved? Come and join to see what the students are up to this year with the Florida Association of Blind Students at our annual business meeting. All positions are up for election, and we would like all active and new members to have their voices heard. So, come and join the fun!

### 3:00pm - 3:45pm Toastmasters

Salon D

Toastmasters has an informative presentation on public speaking that may be of value to those who are under-going the interview process. The presentation will cover what Toastmasters is and how to become involved. Additionally, there will be public speaking tips and tricks for blind people, such as room orientation, amongst other bits of information.

### 3:00pm - 3:45pm Senior Concerns Committee

Salon E

Judy Hamilton, President

Gainesville Chapter

Come join our workshop and learn how to stretch your finances during these challenging times. Learn about statewide resources that can stretch our dollars and reduce stress. We will also discuss future topics for our committee post-convention. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas!

### 3:00pm - 3:45pm Vispero

Salon F

Come and hear the latest from Vispero! Vispero has been a long-time producer of various technologies for blind people, including JAWS and Zoom Text. Come for all the updates!

### 3:00pm - 3:45pm FLAGDU

Salon G

Brittney Fraer, Chair, Florida Association of Guide Dog Users Committee

We will present a panel of guide dog schools, so come with all your questions about all things guide dogs!

### 4:00pm - 4:45pm Dress for Success

Salon D

Camille Tate, 2nd Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

We are often judged on our appearance! Come to Dress for Success to hear tips that will help you choose the right clothing for all the occasions of life. We will talk about dressing for interviews, casual outings and whether make-up is really worth all the trouble!

### 4:00pm - 4:45pm Microsoft

Salon F

Matt Filipinko & Crystal Jones Accessibility Team, Microsoft

Microsoft’s approach to the future of accessible technology and the usage of AI in products. AI is rapidly transforming the digital world. We aim to build inclusively by focusing on three principles; build accessibly, include data sets that represent disability, and innovate.

### 4:00pm - 6:30pm Florida Statewide Chapter

Cypress Room

Paul Martinez, President

Florida Statewide Chapter

### 5:00pm - 6:30pm Dinner - on your own

### 6:30pm - 7:30pm Dollar Auction

Salon D

Auctioneers James Jacobs & Sarah Jacobs, Greater Jacksonville Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Bring your dollar bills! We are having a dollar auction! For the first time ever, Florida will hold a dollar auction prior to our big fundraiser. How does it work? Make sure you bring your singles and let the fun begin! Each item in this auction will go one dollar at a time. If you see an item you like, hold up your buck and say your name “got a dollar”. We will take your dollar, but wait…others can bid a dollar against you, so pay attention!

### 7:30pm -10:30pm Annual Fundraising Auction

Salon D

Auctioneers James Jacobs & Sarah Jacobs, Greater Jacksonville Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

## Sunday, October 8, 2023

### 7:30am - 8:00am Devotions

###  Magnolia Room

###  Communities of Faith

### 7:45am - 8:45am Nominating Committee

###  *Delegates only*

Salon D

Jorge Hernandez, First Vice-President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 8:15am - 8:45am Convention Registration

###  *Final Opportunity!!*

Registration Office

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

## General Session II

9:00am - 12:00pm

Salon E

### 9:00am  Call to Order

Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:02am Invocation

Paul Lewis, Statewide Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

###

### 9:07am National Federation of the Blind

###  Pledge

Dan Hicks, Treasurer, Tampa Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:08am National Federation of the Blind

###  One Minute Message

Miranda Kilby, President, Tampa Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:10am President’s Report

Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:30am Treasurer’s Report

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:35am Resolutions Committee Report

Camille Tate, Chair, Resolutions Committee

### 9:50am Second Reading of State Constitutional Amendments

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**10:20am Title Sponsor: Florida Reading & Vision Technology**

### 10:30am Title Sponsor: ABLE United

John Finch, Director

### 10:40am Why am I a Federationist?

Peggy Fleischer, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 10:45am Nominating Committee Report

Jorge Hernandez, First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 10:50am Elections

### 12:00pm Announcements & Adjournment

### 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch - On your own

### 12:00pm - 12:45pm Secretaries Lunch

Cypress Room

Kaye Baker, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 12:00pm - 5:00pm Exhibit Hall – Salons A, B, C

### 12:00pm - 5:00pm Hospitality Suite Room 212

##

## Sunday General Interest Meetings and Workshops

***1:00pm to 5:00pm***

### 1:00pm - 1:45pm Sports and Rec

Salon G

Denise Valkema, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Lisa Fisher, Wellness Coordinator, New Vision for Independence

### Are you interested in learning how to practice yoga seated in a chair? Lisa Fisher, Wellness Coordinator at New Vision for Independence, Inc. will lead us in our practice.

### 1:00pm - 1:45pm Deaf-Blind Division Meeting

Salon E

Marilyn Baldwin, First Vice President, Deaf-Blind Division of Florida

### 1:00pm - 1:45pm Gaming

Salon F

Camille Tate, 2nd Vice President National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Interested in gaming? Want to play with friends and family? Come see what’s available for all of us to play together! There are options for single player games or games the whole family can play together, whether you are blind or sighted.

### 1:00pm - 1:45pm Beating Down the Door of Abelism in order to Live the Life You Want

Salon D

Tashara Kooper, Vice President and Karolyn Campbell, Treasurer, Central Florida Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida ﻿

### In this workshop, two Federationist will discuss the tools, tips, and everyday life hacks in order to live the life you want by beating down the misconceptions and microaggressions associated with ableism in different environments.

### 2:00pm - 2:45pm Florida Blind Parents

Stress, and how to deal with it

Salon D

Miranda Kilby, President, Tampa Bay Chapter

﻿ Join the blind parents’ group to learn a few coping mechanisms to help you deal with stress. No matter how old your child is there will be situations that can cause a little extra anxiety, Merry Schoch, a licensed clinical social worker will show us a few tricks to alleviate stress levels. This workshop is open to all, even if you don’t have a child.

### 2:00pm - 3:45pm Legislation and Self-Advocacy

Salon E

Russ Davis, Legislative Director

Camille Tate, Legislative Director

Come and join us as we discuss our state and national legislative priorities!

### 2:00pm - 3:45pm Technology - Screen Readers

Salon F

 Peggy Fleischer, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida and Ryan Mann, Greater Daytona Beach Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Jaws and NVDA screen reader seminar. In the seminar, we will explore the basics of using Jaws for windows, a little bit about fusion, and how to use the NVDA free screen reader. Find out new tricks and tips or just learn a few basics that you may have missed when you first learned how to use jaws or NVDA.

### 3:00pm - 4:45pm Diversity and Inclusion

Salon D

Marilyn Baldwin, President, Central Florida Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee invites everyone to a Seminar that will be jam packed with information for all, especially those who are blind and in underserved populations. Everyone is welcome to attend our Seminar.

### 3:00pm - 3:45pm Communications Workshop

Salon G

Doug Ingram, Communications Director, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Find out about the National Federation of the Blind Brand and how effective communications in the Florida affiliate promote the activities and participation in "Building the Lives we want".

### 4:00pm - 4:45am President’s Reception

Magnolia Room, Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

The presidents and vice-presidents are invite to a reception with Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind.

### 4:00pm - 4:45pm Adjustment to Blindness

Salon G

Alicia Bettencourt, Board Member, Statewide Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

The adjustment to blindness seminar at the National Federation of the Blind of Florida 2023 State Convention is a dynamic and insightful session focused on empowering individuals who experience blindness and visual impairments. This seminar provides participants with valuable tools, strategies, and resources to enhance their adaptability and independence. Attendees will learn practical techniques for self-advocacy and communicating effectively with those we love. Engaging speakers will share their experiences and expertise, fostering a supportive community and encouraging personal growth. Don’t miss this exceptional opportunity to ain valuable skills and embrace a journey towards a more fulfilling life. Join us at the Adjustment to blindness Seminar during the 2023 State Convention for the National Federation f the Blind of Florida.

### 4:00pm - 4:45pm Sighted Supporters Meeting

Cypress Room

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

## Do you ever wonder where the supporter gets support. Join us in this open discussion among sighted federation member who support and encourage our blind federation family and friends to live the life they want.

## Convention Banquet

## Sunday, October 8, 2023

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Russ Davis and Camille Tate, Masters of Ceremonies

Salon E

### 7:00pm Call to Order

Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 7:03pm Introduction of Head Table

Russ Davis and Camille Tate, Masters of Ceremonies, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 7:10pm Invocation

Paul Martinez, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 7:20pm Musical Entertainment

Stephanie D. Sanders, Statewide Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 7:45pm Keynote Address

Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind

### 8:45pm Presentation of Scholarship

###  Winners

Jorge Hernandez, Chair, Scholarship Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:25pm Awards Presentation

Doug Ingram, Chair, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

### 9:50pm Raffles and Drawings

### 10:00pm Adjournment

# Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors

## Title Sponsors

***ABLE United***

***Florida Reading & Vision Technology***

***Microsoft***

***Spectrum***

## Independence Sponsor

UZURV

## Equality Sponsors

Democracy Live Inc

En-Vision America

Lighthouse Central Florida/Lighthouse Works

OrCam

Vanda

## Security Sponsors

Emerald Coast Vision Aids

Friends of Library Access Inc

Vispero

Patriot Vision Industries

## Opportunity Sponsor

GuideLights And Gadgets, Inc

## Non-Profit Exhibitors

Florida school for the Deaf and Blind

Foundation Fighting Blindness

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

IFB Solutions Inc

JW.ORG

Penny Forward Inc

Southeastern Guide Dogs

The Seeing Eye

# ABLE United

# POWER UP

# YOUR SAVINGS

# GET $50

ABLE United gives Florida members of the National Federation of the Blind the power to save and spend their way, enjoying tax-free earnings without impacting public benefits.

During our Power Up Your Savings Event, you

will earn $50 when you open a new ABLE United

account by November 12, 2023.

**Ableunited.com**

*Eligible individuals will have a diagnosis of blindness or visual impairment with onset prior to age 26. The term “blind” means that the individual has central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. An eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees is considered to have a central visual acuity of 201200 or less.*



 ****

**Explore 5,8,12**

Lightweight portable digital video magnifiers (5in: $845 ,8in: $1275, and 12in w/ stand: $1895)

**Brailliant 20x/40x**

40 cell braille display with powerful Bluetooth technology (20x: $2199 40x: $3695)

**VR Stream 3**

Pocket-sized digital media audio player ($550)

**Reveal 16/16i**

Easy to use desktop CCTV Magnifier (Reveal 16- $3295, Reveal 16i: $4295)

**Luna 6 & 8**

6in & 8in video handheld electronic video magnifier with 10 high contrast modes

($795 & $895)

**Stellar Trek**

Digital orientation and mobility assistant ($1595)

**OrCam Devices**

Digital orientation and mobility assistant ($1595)

BrailleNote Touch +

Portable Text to Speech reader ($1990) Wearable ($4250) Read 3.0 ($2790)

All-in-one smart Braille Tablet, powered by Android

(32 Cell: $5795, 18 Cell: $4795)

**HEADQUARTERS@FLORIDAREADING.COM WWW.FLORIDAREADING.COM**

**800-981-5119**

****

# EN-VISION AMERICA

**Democracy Live**

**Voter Information Technologies**

In too many states, voters with disabilities don’t

have equal access to voting independently and

privately from home. Fortunately, there are new

accessible at-home voting technologies now

available.

The Democracy Live OmniBallot accessible at-

home voting system is a fully ADA Section 508,

WCAG compliant remote ballot marking solution.

The system has been tested to meet the

accessibility requirements of over 90

combinations of browsers, operating systems,

screen readers and devices. OmniBallot has been

deployed as an accessible absentee tool since

2008, in over 4,000 elections, serving more than

2,500 jurisdictions, in 30 states and 96 countries

around the world. OmniBallot has been tested and reviewed by members of most every leading disability organization in the nation.

**For further information, please contact.**

**Democracy Live:**

**855-655-VOTE (8683) Toll Free**

Email: info@democracylive.com

www.democracylive.com

# Older man looking confused with all his medications in front of him.



Accessible Medication Labeling

1-800-890-1180

[www.envisionamerica.com](http://www.envisionamerica.com)

**LIGHTHOUSE**

**CENTRAL FLORIDAWORKS!**

**We are Hiring!**

Lighthouse Works is the largest employer of people who are blind and visually impaired in Florida.

**APPLY NOW:**

Remote Positions Available

Training Support Provided

Advancement Opportunities

Full and Part-Time Positions

**VISIT LIGHTHOUSEWORKS.ORG/CAREERS**

NON-24

A circadian rhythm disorder

**Vanda Pharmaceuticals**

is dedicated to raising 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 70% of people who are totally blind. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness and nighttime sleeplessness, which leads to impaired social and occupational functioning. This is due to the misalignment between the internal master body clock and the 24-hour day.

# Embassy Suites Hotel-Description

Enter the hotel from the east of the building. Immediately as you enter, there is a small lobby which holds a cocktail table and several armchairs and sofas for seating. Immediately to the right, there are three registration desks. From the registration area, there is a corridor west and another heading north, both border the atrium which will be described later.

Traveling west down the corridor, along the corridor, on your left you will pass a small gift shop which sells sundries. Also on the left is a business center which has computers, tables and chairs for housing a business center. At the end of this corridor is a foyer which houses three elevators which will take you up to the eight floors to access your hotel rooms. On the south side of the foyer is another hallway which goes south towards the swimming pool. Along this corridor on the left side is the fitness room. At the end of the corridor on the right are the stairs which will take you up to your rooms if you prefer not to use the elevators. At the end of the corridor is the exit to the pool and Jacuzzi. On the right, prior to the exit, is a clean towel dispensary and a soil towel return bin. Room cards are required for a re-entry from the pool, fitness center and business center. From the check-in area, there is a northern corridor. Traveling north along this corridor, there is an ATM on the right. Also on the right is the Oak crest lounge, that serves light fare from 5 to 9 PM. Past the lounge, there is another corridor traveling east which exits the building and leads to an outdoor smoking area. Prior to the exit there are restrooms on the left. After the exit corridor, continuing north, you will reach the Mandarin restaurant. The northern end of the atrium is entered from the Mandarin restaurant. The breakfast buffet is in the northern end of the atrium. The atrium contains tables and chairs for eating.

* On the west side of the atrium there is a large, carpeted lobby giving entry to the conference rooms. On the southern side of that lobby are restrooms.

For convenience, there is an East-West walkway traversing the atrium. On the western side of this walkway there is a 30-step stairway to the second floor and more meeting rooms.

* The dog relief area is accessed by leaving the building from main entrance, traveling south and west along a sidewalk around the building. They have a bag dispensary and waste receptacle in this area.

Please ask at the hotel front desk what their room cleaning policy may be. The cleaning policy may have changed due to COVID protocols.

## National Federation of the Blind of Florida

## Officers and Board of Directors

Paul Martinez, President

Jorge Hernandez, First Vice President

Camille Tate, Second Vice President

Kaye Baker, Secretary

Sylvia Young, Treasurer

*Board of Directors:*

Russ Davis

Denise Valkema

 Peggy Fleischer

Douglas Ingram

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida thanks the Tampa Bay and Melbourne Space Coast Chapters, the Convention Planning Committee, and everyone else for their dedication and hard work organizing the 2023 state convention. We thank everyone for joining and supporting us here in Tampa. We acknowledge all our sponsors for their generous donations which made the convention a great success, as well as everyone who contributed to the development process. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you in 2024.

Let’s go build the Federation!

Sincerely,

Paul Martinez, President

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

## Chapters, Divisions, Committees, and Groups

### President*:*

State Affiliate - Paul Martinez, (813)390-5720, president@nfbflorida.org

## Chapters*:*

Greater Broward - Jake McEntyre, (954) 946-4148, jmac1920@yahoo.com

Central Florida - Marilyn Baldwin, 407-293-0565, commmdb@aol.com

Greater Daytona Beach - Brian Norton, (386) 871-3359, brian.edward.norton@outlook.com

Gainesville - Judy Hamilton, (352) 373-7806, hamilton.j.r.2309@gmail.com

Greater Jacksonville - Kaye Baker, 904-832-2884, nfbjax@gmail.com

Melbourne-Space Coast - Camille Tate, (321) 372-4899, Ctate2076@att.net

Greater Miami-Dade - Jorge Hernandez, (305) 877-2311, jeh6@bellsouth.net

Palm Beach Chapter – Leonardo Banes, (561) 704-4226, labanes@bellsouth.net

State-Wide - Paul Martinez, (813) 390-5720, nfbf.statewide@gmail.com

Tallahassee - Donald Christie, (850) 727-6794, doctime59@comcast.net

Tampa Bay - Miranda Kilby, (352) 942-0417, tampabay@nfbflorida.org

Treasure Coast - Rosemary Brunson (772) 519-0679 Rosemarybrunson1@gmail.com

### Divisions:

### Deaf Blind - Brian Norton, (386) 871-3359,

 brian.edward.norton@outlook.com

Florida Association of Guide Dog Users - Brittany Fraer, (804)274-8908, bcwilson4418@gmail.com

Florida Association of Blind Students – Jannik Pesch (941) 264-6305, jannikpesch85@gmail.com

## **Committees/Groups**:

Blind Parents - Miranda Kilby, (352) 942-0417, tampabay@nfbflorida.org

Communities of Faith - Marilyn Baldwin, (407) 293-0565, commmdb@aol.com

Diversity and Inclusion - Marilyn Baldwin, (407) 293-0565, commmdb@aol.com

Federation Foundations - Camille Tate, (321) 372-4899, Ctate2076@att.net

Legislation - Camille Tate, (321) 372-4899, Ctate2076@att.net and Russ Davis, (904) 469-8433; Russell@radiorusty.com

Newsline® - Russ Davis, (844) 827-7371, newslinesupport@nfbflorida.org

Senior Concerns – Gloria Mills Hicks, (813) 340-9754, Gloriannfbf@gmail.com