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|  | **NATIONAL FEDERATION**  **OF THE BLIND**  **FLORIDA** |

Live the Life you want.

**2024 STATE CONVENTION**

***"BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER"***

**Friday through Sunday,**

**October 11 - 13, 2024**

**The Southbank Hotel and Conference Center,**

**(a Marriott Bonvoy property)   
1515 Prudential Dr.**

**Jacksonville, FL 32207**

**904-396-5100**

**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.**

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**Important Convention Information**

**You must be registered for the Convention to WIN door prizes.**

**Door prizes will be awarded at general sessions and 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 DoIla' auction items and door prizes at the NFB of Florida Registration Desk in the Propeller Room, Friday, October 11th from 3:30 - 6:30 or contact Peggy Fleischer at 386-931-2132.**

**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.

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**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.**](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**](mailto:code@nfb.org)**.**

**Formal   reports   can   be   submitted   at**[**https://www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-**](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**

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[survivors@nfb.org](mailto: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 Mastodon, X, Facebook or other social media sites. Some sessions and activities at the 2024 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 Hernandez at 305-877-2311 or [PresidentNFBFlorida.org](http://PresidentNFBFlorida.org).

**Hospitality Suite - Room 125**

Friday, October 11th 3:00pm - 7:00pm   
Saturday, October 12th, 12:00pm - 6:00pm   
Sunday, October 13th, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

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**Exhibit Hall — Starboard Ballroom**

Russ Davis, Exhibit Hall Coordinator   
Friday, October 11th, 12:00pm - 7:00pm   
Saturday, October 12th, 12:00pm - 6:00pm   
Sunday, October 13th, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

**Registration - Propeller Room**

Sylvia Young, Treasurer   
Friday, October 11th, 3:30pm - 6:30pm   
Saturday, October 12th, 8:00am — 8:45am   
Sunday, October 13th, 8:00am — 8:45am

**The Big Red Bus - Rope Room**

Friday, October 11th, 12:00pm - 6:00pm   
Saturday, October 12th, 12:00pm - 6:00pm   
Sunday, October 13th, 12:00pm - 5:00pm   
Appointments are encouraged, visit [oneblood.org/donate.](http://oneblood.org/donate.)

ID REQUIRED.

**Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center**

free hearing evaluations

*located in* the rear parking lot near the Exhibit Hall for,

Saturday, October 12th, 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Sunday, October 13th, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

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**Tactile Art Show and Sale - Bridge Foyer**

Friday, October 11th, 3:30pm - 6:30pm   
Saturday and Sunday, 12:00pm - 6:00pm in Exhibit Hall

**Schedule of Convention Events**

**Friday, October 11, 2024**

**12:00pm - 7:00pm   Exhibit Hall -** Starboard Ballroom

Russ Davis, Coordinator

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

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| **3:30pm - 6:30pm**  **3:30pm - 6:30pm** | **Tactile Art Show and Sale** Bridge Foyer  Vicki Lennon, National Federation of the Blind of Florida, Greater Jacksonville Chapter member  **Convention Registration** Propeller Room  Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida |

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**Volunteers & Talking Signs**

**Meet-up**

Hotel Lobby

Doug Ingram, Ambassadors

Committee Chair, National

Federation of the Blind of Florida

**Guided Hotel Tour**Led by Doug Ingram   
Hotel Lobby

**Mix & Mingle**

**Members & Exhibitors**

Windward and Starboard Ballrooms

**4:00pm - 5:00pm**

**5:00pm**

**5:00pm - 7:00pm**

**6:00pm 7:00pm   Rookie Round-up**

Port Ballroom

Jorge Hernandez, President,

National Federation of the Blind of

Florida

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| **7:00pm - 7:50pm** | **Resolutions Committee**  Port Ballroom  Camille Tate, Chair, Resolutions  Committee, National Federation of  the Blind of Florida |

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| **8:00pm - 9:00pm** | **Open Board Meeting**  Port Ballroom  Jorge Hernandez, President,  National Federation of the Blind of  Florida |

**9:00pm Until   Students Social - Networking**

Tug Room

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida Association of Blind Students

**Saturday, October 12, 2024**

**7:30am - 8:45am   Devotions**

Tug Room

The Blind Christians Group

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

Propeller Room

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

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**General Session I**9:00am to 12:00 Noon   
Port Ballroom

**Call to Order**

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

**Invocation**

Jodi Rice, Pastor, St Andrews

Lutheran Church By The Sea

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Jeffery Davis, Vice President, Tallahassee Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**National Anthem**

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

**9:00am**

**9:05am**

**9:10am**

**9:13am**

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**National Federation of the Blind Pledge**

Alexandra Diggs, Treasurer, Tallahassee Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**National Federation of the Blind**

**One Minute Message**

Carrie Renwick, Tallahassee Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**Welcome Host Chapters**

Kaye Baker, President, Greater Jacksonville Chapter and Donald Christie, President Tallahassee Chapter

**9:16am**

**9:18am**

**9:20am**

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| **9:30am** | **Welcome from the City of Jacksonville**  Kara Tucker, Chief of Disabled  Services Division, City of Jacksonville, Florida |

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| **9:40am**  **9:55am**  **10:30am** | **Jacksonville Transportation Authority**  Greer Johnson Gillis, P.E. Senior Vice President, Chief Infrastructure and Development Officer  **National Report**  Everett Bacon, National Rep, Second Vice President, National Federation of the Blind  **Report from the Bureau of Braille**  **and Talking Book Library**  Nicole Saunders |

**10:45am   ABLE United**

**11:00am   Better Business Enterprise**

Food Services, Inc. of Gainesville

**11:15am   Florida School of The Deaf and**

**Blind**

**11:30am   Charter-Spectrum Communications** Petr Kucheryavyy, Senior Manager, Accessibility Center of Excellence

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**11:45am   Acknowledgements and**

**announcements**

**12:00pm   Adjournment**

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

Grab and Go lunches available in lobby-$16 cash only

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

Navigator

Sylvia Young, Treasurer

National Federation of the Blind of

Florida

**12:00pm - 6:00pm Exhibit Hall Starboard Ballroom 12:00pm - 6:00pm Hospitality Suite Room 125**

**12:00pm 6:00pm The Big Red Bus**

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**Saturday Special Interest Meetings and**

**Workshops**

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

**1:00pm - 1:50pm   Tactile Art**

**Sail Room**

**Vicki Lennon, Greater Jacksonville**

**Chapter Member**

**Back by popular demand! Art you can feel! Come learn**

**how to create your own beautiful pieces of art.**

**1:00pm - 2:50pm   Deaf-Blind Division Annual**

**Meeting**

**Port Ballroom**

**Marilyn Baldwin, President, Deaf-**

**Blind Division of Florida**

**Living with the dual sensory loss of hearing and vision.**

**1:00pm - 1:50pm   Meet the 2024 Florida Leadership**

**Class**

**Anchor Room**

**Camille Tate, First Vice President,**

**National Federation of the Blind of**

**Florida**

**Come and meet the graduates of our 2024 Florida**

**leadership seminar! Hear about their experiences and**

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what they learned. Ask all the questions you could ever think of and learn about our wonderful organization.

**2:00pm - 2:50pm   Better Business Enterprise**

Sail Room

Food Services, Inc. of Gainesville

**2:00pm - 2:50pm   Reading Roundup**

Tug Room

Russ Davis, Board Member

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Books, BARD, and so much more! Join us for a lively discussion on the joys of reading. Come ready to share not only what you're reading but how you're making it happen. There's BARD and Bookshare and so much more.

**3:00pm - 3:50pm   ABLE United**

Sail Room

It's more than saving. It's investing for a better life.

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| **3:00pm - 3:50pm** | **Harnessing the Power of Al**  Tug Room  Peggy Fleischer„ Board Member  National Federation of the Blind of  Florida  15 |

Al is the newest buzzword in the technology arena. Find out how harnessing the power of Al can work in your daily life.

**Audio Description at Your**

**Fingertips for Free**

Anchor Room

Petr Kucheryavyy, Charter-

Spectrum Communications

**FABS Annual Business Meeting** Tug Room

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida Association of Blind Students

**FLAGDU Re-Vamp**

Sail Room

Board of Directors, National

Federation of the Blind of Florida

**Dress for Success, Dress with No Stress**

Anchor Room

Tricia Weckter, Blind Girl Design Shannon Harvey, The Men's Warehouse

**3:00pm - 3:50pm**

**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

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Ever wondered what to wear for work or interviews'? I-low about for a casual day out with family and friends? Shannon from The Men's Warehouse and Trish from Blind Girl Designs are here to share what works best for all occasions!

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| **5:00pm** | **Florida Statewide Chapter**  **Annual Business Meeting**  Tug Room  Zleah Liburd, President, Florida  Statewide Chapter |

**5:00pm - 7:00pm   Dinner - on your own**

**7:00pm   DoIla' Auction**

Windward Ballroom

Auctioneers James Jacobs & Sarah

Jacobs, Greater Jacksonville

Chapter, National Federation of the

Blind of Florida

Bring your dollar bills! We are having a DoIla' Auction!

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". \Ne will take your

dollar but wait...others can bid a dollar against you, so pay

attention!

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**Sunday, October 12, 2024**

**7:30am - 8:00am   Devotions**

Tug Room

The Blind Christians Group

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| **8:00am - 8:45am**  **8:00am - 8:45am** | **Nominating Committee**  **Delegates only**  Sail Room  Miranda Kilby, President, Tampa  Bay Chapter  **Convention Registration**  Final Opportunity!!  Propeller Room  Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National  Federation of the Blind of Florida |

**General Session II**9:00am - 12:00pm   
Port Ballroom

**9:00am   Call to Order**

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

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**Invocation**

John Johnson, Vice President,

Miami Dade Chapter

**Why I am a Federationists**

Jada Micheal-Christie, Member of

Tallahassee Chapter

**President's Report**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National

Federation of the Blind of Florida

**Resolutions Committee Report** Camille Tate, Chair, Resolutions Committee

**9:01am**

**9:05am**

**9:10am**

**9:30am**

**9:45am**

**10:10am   Division of Blind Services**

Robert Doyle, Director

**10:55am   Nominating Committee Report**

Miranda Kilby, President, Tampa Bay Chapter

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**11:00am   Elections**

**11:55am   Announcements & Adjournment**

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

Grab and Go lunches available in lobby-$16 cash only

**12:00pm - 12:50pm Secretaries Lunch**

Navigator

Kaye Baker, Secretary, National

Federation of the Blind of Florida

**12:00pm - 5:00pm Exhibit Hall - Starboard Ballroom 12:00pm - 5:00pm Hospitality Suite Room 125 12:00pm 5:00pm The Big Red Bus**

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**Sunday General Interest Meetings and Workshops   
1:00pm to 5:00pm**

**1:00pm - 1:50pm   Resume Building with Al**

Anchor Room

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

Ever wonder what to write in your resume? Unsure what makes a resume catch the attention of employers? Join us to find out how Chatt GPT can help create a stand-out resume.

**1:00pm - 1:50pm   Diversity and Inclusion**

Sail Room

Marilyn Baldwin, Chair

Vote 411 and Accessible Voting Information.

**1:00pm - 1:50pm   Self-Advocacy**

Tug Room

Camille Tate, First Vice-President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Advocating for Ourselves. How do we best advocate for ourselves? When is the right time to assert our rights and how can we educate the public on the courtesies when meeting a blind person for the first time? Come and learn

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**some of the best practices for self-advocacy, from asking for assistance to refusing the wheelchair at airports. We are the experts in what we need, so let's hear how we can best advocate for ourselves.**

**2:00pm - 3:50pm   Legislation**

**Port Ballroom**

**Russ Davis, Legislative Director**

**Camille Tate, Legislative Director Your Florida Legislative Directors will lead a crucial discussion on the importance of voting and how our voices must be heard. We'll also cover in detail NFB of Florida's specific legislative priorities for 2025. Find out more about plans our to march on Tallahassee early next year.**

**2:00pm - 2:50pm   Sighted Supporters Meeting**

**Tug 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 members who support and encourage our blind federation family and friends to live the life they want. Special**

**Guess, Jada Michael Christie.**

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**3:00pm - 3:50pm   Adjustment to Blindness**

Tug Room

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

New to blindness? Let's have a conversation with each other on what works for us and how we can travel this journey together.

**3:00pm - 3:50pm   Job Search Resources**

Sail Room

Kaye Baker, Secretary, National

Federation of the Blind of Florida Searching for employment? Where can you seek your new career? There are many tools available at your fingertips to find your dream job. Come to find the most accessible places to jump start your career.

**4:00pm - 4:50am   President's Reception**

Navigator Room

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

The presidents and vice-presidents are invited to a reception with Everett Bacon, National Rep, Second Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind.

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**Convention Banquet**

**Sunday, October 13, 2024**7:00pm - 1 0:00pm   
Miranda Kilby, Mistress of Ceremonies   
Port and Windward Ballrooms

**7:00pm**

**Call to Order**

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

**Introduction of Head Table** Miranda Kilby, President of Tampa Bay Chapter, Mistress of Ceremonies, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**Invocation**

Joyce Taylor, President, Melbourne

Space Coast Chapter

**Keynote Address**

Everett Bacon, National Rep, Second Vice President, National Federation of the Blind

**7:05pm**

**7:10pm**

**7:15pm**

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**8:00pm**

**Remembering our Lost Members** Judith Hamilton, President, Gainesville Chapter

**Presentation of Scholarship Winners**

Denise Valkema, Second Vice President, Chair, Scholarship Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**Awards Presentation**

Peggy Fleischer, Board Member,

Convention Chair, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**8:15pm**

**8:45pm**

**9:45pm   Raffles and Drawings**

**10:00pm   Adjournment**

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**Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors**

**Title Plus Sponsor   
Charter Spectrum**

**Title Sponsors   
ABLE United**

**Food Services Inc of Gainesville**

**Vanda**

**Equality Sponsors**

**Democracy Live Inc   
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**Security Sponsors**

**Blind Girl Design   
Emerald Coast Vision Aids   
Florida Reading & Vision Technology   
Friends of Library Access Inc   
GuideLights Solutions, Inc   
Odham Opals and Gems**

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**Non-Profit Exhibitors   
Florida Association of Blind Students   
Florida Statewide Chapter   
Greater Jacksonville Chapter**

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**We believe a**

**better way to say, "We're here for you," is to really be here for you.**

**Spectrum** is proud to support the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

**Spectrum**

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**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**

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

**NON-2**

**A circadian rhythm disorder**

**Visit us online at** [**www.non-24.com**](http://www.non-24.com)

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**W ABLE United**

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***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 20/200 or less.***

**Contact Us or Call 1-888-524-ABLE (2253)   
Website: https://www.ableunited.com/**

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**COMMITrED VALUES**

HONESTY • EXCELLENCE • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPECT

TEAMWORK • PASSION • PERSISTENCE

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COM PLY WITH THE TR I.S ERVICE FOOD CODE

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* ACTION-ORIENTED   • DETAIL FOCUSED
* AMBITIOUS   • HARD WORKING
* CONFIDENT   • CREATIVE

**FSIG works with state agencies to graduate legally**

**blind vendors into independent entrepreneurs.**

**FSIG provides legally blind vendors the technical**

**expertise, training, and all necessary financial**

**resources to obtain and**

**operate government contracts with no personal risk.**

**621 Washington Street, Suite 7A, Gainesville, GA 30501   
Tel: 770-535-8865 Fax: 770-532-7627**[**www.fsigonline.com**](http://www.fsigonline.com)

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**DEM@CRACYLIVE**

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 2.2AA 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   
5,000 elections, serving more than 2,500   
jurisdictions, in 34 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   
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**Products for the Blind and Visually   
Impaired**

**PATRIOT** VISION INDUSTRIES LLC, nestled in the rolling hills of central Florida, proudly designs, manufactures and distributes innovative assistive technology under our PATRIOT brand.

Pioneers in the industry, we continually strive to empower our customer's lives with our award winning products and improve the quality of life for those we serve.

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[**info@patriotvision.com**](mailto:info@patriotvision.com)

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**Southbank Hotel by Marriott-Description   
2024 National Federation of the Blind of Florida   
State Convention**

The Greater Jacksonville and Greater Daytona

Chapters of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida are ready to welcome you to our 2024 State convention at the Southbank Hotel.

Built in 1981, the Southbank Hotel is nestled on the south bank of the St Johns River and boasts convenience to both the San Marco and Riverside neighborhoods. The hotel has many amenities including an outdoor pool,

fitness center and on-site bar and restaurant. The hotel has been recently renovated and draws inspiration from the many ports and bridges around Jacksonville.

As we enter the hotel's entrance, we find ourselves in a spacious lobby. The lobby area is shaped like a

rectangle, with the entrance and elevators on the short sides of the rectangle, and the check-in area and bar along the long sides. If we were to walk straight upon entering the lobby we would come to a seating area with several couches and tables. This area can be best identified by the carpeting on the floor. The carpet is a great landmark to help us find the check-in desk, so after entering the main entrance, we will walk straight until we encounter the carpet, then make a right. Follow the carpet until it ends, then continue walking straight, and the check-

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in counter will be right in front of us. Immediately to the right of the counter is an ATM machine.

If we place the counter on our right and continue walking straight, the next area we come to will be a

vending area. Here, items such as snacks, Starbucks coffee, sodas and other sundries can be purchased. Note, the machine used to purchase the items is currently not accessible, so a member of the hotel staff, friend or volunteer will be happy to assist.

Making a right immediately after the check-in counter ends will lead down a long hallway which has the fitness center on the left, and a vending machine containing medical supplies such as pain relievers and masks.

Continuing past the vending area will bring us to a water station on the right. The water station is a table with a water cooler and cups sitting on it. There is also a trash can directly to the left of the water station so that any used cups can be discarded.

Once we come to the end of the water station, there will be a column on the left. This column is a good indicator that the hallway that leads to the elevators is coming up soon. Turning right at the next hall, will lead into the hallway that holds both the elevators and Convention center. The elevators are to the left, and convention center to the right.

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**For now, lets return to the main entrance, and explore the other side of the lobby. This time, from the entrance, we will again go straight until we get to the carpet, but instead of a right, we will turn left. Walk until the carpet ends on the right and turn right again. Johnny's bar will be immediately on the left.**

**If we continue past Johnny's and walk until the wall on our left side ends, the hotel restaurant will be straight ahead. The restaurant currently is open for breakfast only.**

**If we pass Johnny's and make a left when the wall ends, we will enter an area that has a pool table and a foosball table. Going straight will take us to an exit door. This door can be used to get to one of the dog relief areas.**

**For this exit door, a room key is not needed. Once we have exited the hotel, we will continue to walk straight until we reach a sidewalk. Make a right on the sidewalk and keep walking straight. One great landmark is the sound of the air conditioning units. Once we hear the AC units we know the dog relief area is on the right. A trash can with baggies is also being provided. To find this continue down the sidewalk until it veers to the left. Once the sidewalk turns, start checking on the right for the trash can and bag stand.**

**Now that we are back in the hotel, lets check out the convention center area. Remember that if we enter the hallway just after the water station, the elevators will be on**

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**the left, and the convention center on the right. The convention center is shaped like a crescent, with 3 entrances. When we first enter the convention center, we will find ourselves in the pre-function registration area. This is where we will hold convention registration. Making a right here will take us down a long hall with meeting rooms on the right, and seating on the left. The first meeting room we come to is Anchor, followed by Rope. After Rope is an open area with hallways that lead to the hospitality suite, the pool, and the second dog relief area. If we turn right here, we will come to some restrooms, and an exit that leads out to the pool. If we make a left instead of a right, we will come to a hall with some suites, including our hospitality suite and an exit. Using this exit to get to the second dog relief area will require a room key.**

**However, if we continue going straight through the open area and down the hallway, we will come to a dead end. If we make a left here, there will be windows on the right, and Port Ballroom on the left. Port is where our General Session will be held. The next room is Winward which is where the auction will be held. Starboard is next which is where our exhibit hall will be.**

**Remember that when we were in the pre-function area, we made a right to get to the meeting rooms. Now let's go back to the pre-function area and make a left. Doing this will bring us to a hallway with meeting rooms on either side. The first room on the right is Tug, on the left**

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are Rigging and Sail. There are two final rooms that

should be mentioned. They are just outside of the pre-function area. If we are coming from the elevators and walking straight, they will be on the right. Those rooms are called Commerce and Dockside.

Now that we have finished our tour of this great hotel, it is time to get ready for an awesome state convention. Remember that if you get a little lost listen for the talking signs. We will have talking signs and ambassadors throughout the hotel to assist whenever needed.

Also, don't hesitate to reach out to either of the host chapters or the state board with any questions or concerns.

**Nearby Pharmacies:**

Publix Pharmacy

Publix — Shops at East San Marco

2039 Hendricks Ave.

Jacksonville, FL. 32207

Distance from hotel = 1.5 miles

(904) 523-7317

**Nearby Veterinary Hospitals:**

San Marco Animal Hospital

1546 San Marco Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL. 32207

Distance from hotel = 0.9 miles

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ph. 904-516-9767

open 7 days per week

**After hours Emergency Veterinarian**

Blue Pearl Animal Hospital

3444 Southside Blvd. Unit #103

Jacksonville, FL. 32216

Distance from hotel = 7.4 miles

ph. 904-642-5911

**National Federation of the Blind of Florida**

**Officers and Board of Directors**

**Jorge Hernandez, President   
Camille Tate, First Vice President   
Denise Valkema, Second Vice President   
Kaye Baker, Secretary   
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The National Federation of the Blind of Florida thanks the**

**Jacksonville and Tallahassee Chapters, the Convention Planning Committee, and everyone who assisted for their dedication and hard work organizing the 2024 state convention. We thank all of our members for joining and supporting us here in Jacksonville. Florida. We acknowledge all our sponsors for their generous donations, as well as everyone who contributed to the development process to make our convention a great success. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you in 2025.**

**Let's go build the Federation!**

**Sincerely,**

**Jorge Hernandez, President**

**National Federation of the Blind of Florida**

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