



Live the life you want.

2025 STATE CONVENTION

“55 and Cruising Forward”

**Friday through Sunday,
October 3 - 5, 2025**

**Hilton Altamonte Springs
350 Northlake Blvd
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
407-830-1985**

**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.

BELIEF MESSAGE

The National Federation of the Blind advances the lives of its members and all blind people in the United States. We know that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

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 Dolla' auction items and door prizes at the NFB of Florida Registration Desk in the Chambers, Friday, October 3rd from 4:00pm - 7:00pm or contact Peggy Fleischer at 386-931-2132.

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 Mastodon, X, Facebook or other social media sites. Some sessions and activities at the 2025 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 only – Please make appointments by contacting President Tate at 321-372-4899 or **President@NFBFlorida.org**.

Hospitality Suite – Executive Suite 7th Floor

Friday, October 3rd 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday, October 4th, 7am - 8:45am & 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Sunday, October 5th, 7am - 8:45am & 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Exhibit Hall – Crystal Salons ABC

Russ Davis, Exhibit Hall Coordinator

Friday, October 3rd, 12:00pm – 7:00pm

Saturday, October 4th, 12:00pm – 6:00pm

Sunday, October 5th, 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Registration – Chambers

Sylvia Young, Treasurer

Friday, October 3rd, 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Saturday, October 4th, 8:00am – 8:45am

Sunday, October 5th, 8:00am – 8:45am

Tactile Art Show and Sale - Crystal Foyer

Friday, October 3rd, 4:00pm – 6:30pm

Schedule of Convention Events

Friday, October 3, 2025

12:00pm - 7:00pm **Exhibit Hall - Crystal Salons ABC**
Russ Davis, Coordinator
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

4:00pm - 6:30pm **Tactile Art Show and Sale**
Crystal Foyer
Vicky Lennon, National Federation
of the Blind of Florida, Greater
Jacksonville Chapter member

4:00pm - 7:00pm **Convention Registration**
Chambers
Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National
Federation of the Blind of Florida

5:00pm - 6:00pm **Ambassadors Meeting**
Hotel Lobby
Andy Rood, Jacksonville Chapter

6:00pm – 7:00pm **Rookie Round-up**
Crystal Salons DE

Camille Tate, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

7:00pm - 7:50pm

Resolutions Committee

Crystal Salons DE

Jorge Hernandez, Chair,
Resolutions Committee, President
of Miami-Dade Chapter

8:00pm - 9:00pm

Open Board Meeting

Crystal Salons DE

Camille Tate, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

9:00pm

55 Cruising Forward

Mix and Mingle

Royal Palm Ballroom

Have a taste of the tropics and jam with your fellow members! Don your resort wear and find out about our 2026 Norwegian Cruise fundraiser. We are “55 and cruising forward!”

10:00pm – Until

Students Social - Networking

Hospitality Suite – Executive Suite
7th Floor

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

Ready to mingle with some of the most fun folks on the ship? Drop your anchor and join the fun! Before the convention sets sail at full speed, swing by our student-led social for a laid-back gathering filled with laughs, games, and good company. We'll have a fun icebreaker, light refreshments (first come, first served), and our National Student Rep from NABS ready to share what we're all about.

Students, this is your moment to connect, chill, and get hyped before the cruise really kicks off. Not a student? No worries! If you're curious or just want to hang out with some great people, you're more than welcome to dock with us and join the fun.

See you on deck!!!!

Saturday, October 4, 2025

7:30am

Devotions

Conrad

7:15am - 8:45am

**Presidents and Vice Presidents
Breakfast**

Capital 1

Breakfast with Presidents and Vice Presidents or chapter delegates and alternate delegates

8:00am - 8:45am

Convention Registration

Chambers

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

General Session I

9:00am to 12:00pm

Crystal Salons DE

9:00am

Call to Order

Camille Tate, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

9:01am

Invocation

Dr. Joyce Taylor, President,
Melbourne Chapter
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

9:05am

**National Federation of the Blind
Pledge**

Gathary McKinlay, Florida
Statewide Chapter

9:06am

Belief Statement

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

9:07am

**Presentation of Colors and
Celebration of Freedom**

Doug Ingram, Tallahassee Chapter
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

9:20am

**Convention Planning Committee
Report**

Peggy Fleischer, Second Vice
President, National Federation of
the Blind of Florida

9:30am

National Report

Kevan Worley, National Rep
National Federation of the Blind

10:15am

PAC Report

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

- 10:25am** **National Association of Blind Students Report**
Zachary Ledford, Second Vice President, National Association of Blind Students
- 10:35am** **Why Am I a Federationist?**
Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida Statewide Chapter
- 10:40am** **Presentation of 2025 Florida Leadership Seminararians**
Jorge Hernandez, President, Miami-Dade Chapter
- 10:50am** **The Access Technology Project**
Ayse Torres, Ph.D., CRC, LMHC
Associate Professor
Florida Atlantic University Professor
- 11:05am** **Lions Vision and Hearing Foundation**
Dennis Dulniak, Lions Club MD350

11:15am

Why Am I a Federationist?

Javier Diaz, Board of Directors
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

11:20am

**Kenntn Jernigan Leadership and
Service Program**

Javier Diaz, Board of Directors
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

11:25am

Calling all Parents

Javier Diaz, Board of Directors
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

11:15am

National Legislative Report

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

- 11:25am** **State Legislative Report**
Camille Tate, President
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida
- 11:35am** **Announcements**
- 12:00pm** **Adjournment**
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm** **Lunch - On your own**
Lunch Buffet is available in the U restaurant
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm** **Secretaries' Luncheon**
Capital 1
Sherri Brun, Secretary
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida
- 12:00pm - 6:00pm** **Exhibit Hall**
Crystal Salons ABC
- 12:00pm - 6:00pm** **Hospitality Suite**
Executive Suite 7th Floor

**Saturday Special Interest Meetings and
Workshops
1:30pm to 6:00pm**

1:30pm - 3:20pm

**Deaf-Blind Division Annual
Meeting**

Crystal Salons DE

Marilyn Baldwin, President, Deaf-
Blind Division of Florida

Are you experiencing hearing loss combined with vision loss? The Deaf Blind Division of Florida welcomes you to our annual business meeting. Come to hear what is available for you and meet others who share combined vision and hearing loss.

1:30pm - 3:20pm

Independence Fair

Dogwood

Jerilyn Higginss, Florida Statewide
Chapter

Come to the Independence Fair and visit our information stations. Adjusting to vision loss? Looking for what is available for you? Come to the Fair and experience kitchen gadgets, technology and Braille devices!

1:30pm - 3:20pm

**Individualized Education
Program (IEP) 101**

Waldorf

Camille Tate, President

National Federation of the Blind of
Florida and Javier Diaz, Board of
Directors, National Federation of
the Blind of Florida

Interested in Individualized Education Programs (IEP)?

Are you the parent of a blind child or work with children in
the K-12 and want to learn what is required for an IEP?

Attend this the IEP 101 workshop as we go back to basics
to explain the process.

2:00pm - 2:50pm

The Access Technology Project

Conrad

Ayse Torres, Ph. D., CRC, LMHC
Associate Professor

Florida Atlantic University

Come and hear about the exciting project underway at
Florida Atlantic University.

2:00pm - 3:50pm

**Florida Association of Blind
Students Business Meeting**

Capital 2

Z'Leah Liburd, President

Florida Association of Blind Students

The winds of change are here—and student leadership is reporting for duty! Join us on deck for our annual business meeting, where you'll hear exciting updates from our affiliate president and National Rep, watch a short highlight video showcasing what we've been up to, and help shape our future by voting on a newly amended constitution and electing a fresh board of officers. We'll wrap things up with a quick and fun sports and rec activity to keep the energy high and the vibes fun.

Important Reminders:

Dues will be collected 10 minutes before the meeting begins. You must be a paid member to vote on any motions or in the elections. To run for a board seat, you must be present at the meeting.

Whether you're a student leader or just curious about what's happening in our world, hop aboard—we'd love to have you with us as we sail into what's next!

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Seniors

Conrad

Judy Hamilton, President,
Gainesville Chapter

After a long hiatus, we invite you to a Senior's Committee Conversation: Looking Ahead After the Convention.

3:30pm - 5:20pm

Florida Association of Guide Dog Users

Crystal Salons DE

Florida Association of Guide Dog Users

The Florida Association of Guide Dog Users invites you to join their annual business meeting. Learn about all things guide dogs!

4:00pm - 4:50pm

Work Incentive

Waldorf

Javier Diaz, Board of Directors,
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

It Always Pays More to Work. Are you an SSA disability recipient? Are you interested in returning to work? This workshop will provide you with the information you need to use work incentives to help protect your cash and healthcare benefits. An overview of Social Security Work Incentives will help you get on a path to financial stability! Presented by Javier Diaz, MS CFP® RMA® ChSNC®

4:00pm - 4:50pm InnoSearch

Conrad

Patrick Long, CEO

An exciting business built with accessibility in mind. Patrick Long, CEO and co-founder, is here to share the services of InnoSearch, a company designed for blind shoppers and searchers. Visit to find out the who, what and why of InnoSearch.

4:00pm - 4:50pm Performing Arts while Blind

Capital 2

Matt Weihmuller, Statewide Chapter

Come and meet “the Saxman”! Matt Wiemler is a blind musician who has taken his love of music into the classroom! Interested in the performing arts? Ever wondered how to create music accessibly? Visit the workshop with your questions.

5:00pm - 6:00pm Florida Statewide Chapter

Hospitality, Executive Suite 7th Floor
Z’Leah Liburd, President, Florida Statewide Chapter

Ahoy Statewide Members and Supporters. Are you new to the NFB of Florida and looking for a chapter to join? Or maybe you're already part of a chapter and enjoy meeting new people and having great conversations?

Either way, we'd love for you to join us! The Florida Statewide Chapter is hosting a casual meet-and-greet with light refreshments (first come, first served). Come connect with our warm and welcoming board members, fellow chapter members, and others from across the state. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, make new friends, and simply enjoy spending time together. We hope to see you there!

7:00pm

Dolla' Auction

Royal Palm Ballroom

Bring your dolla' bills! Have some fun while bidding on items at our Dolla' Auction! This is a fun event that fundraises for our affiliate. Each bid is in one-dollar increments. Raise your hand and yell out your name "got a dolla'!" You could win great items. But beware, someone else might have a dolla' to beat you!

Sunday, October 5, 2025

7:30am

Devotions

Conrad

7:30am - 8:30am

Nominating Committee

Delegates only

Conrad

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

8:00am - 8:45am

Convention Registration

Final Opportunity!!

Chambers

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

General Session II

9:00am - 12:00pm

Crystal Salon DE

9:00am

Call to Order

Camille Tate, President, National
Federation of the Blind of Florida

9:01am

Invocation

Bruce Coleman, Vice President,
Miami-Dade Chapter

9:05am

**National Federation of the Blind
Pledge**

Jada Michael Christie, Board
Member, National Federation of the
Blind of Florida

9:06am

Belief Statement

Javier Diaz, Board Member,
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

9:07am

President's Report

Camille Tate, President, National
Federation of the Blind of Florida

9:25am

Treasurer's Report

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

9:35am

Resolutions Committee Report

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

9:50am	Eye Spy Foundation Nick Mendler, President Eye Spy Foundation
10:05am	Ellie Mental Health Dina Hargrave, Ed. S, LMHC
10:20am	InnoSearch Patrick Long, CEO
10:30am	Audit Committee Report Javier Diaz, Chair, Audit Committee National Federation of the Blind of Florida
10:40am	Nominating Committee Report Jorge Hernandez, Chair, Nominating Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Florida
10:45am	Elections
11:55am	Announcements
12:00pm	Adjournment

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

Lunch Buffet is available in the U restaurant

12:00pm - 1:30pm Treasurers' Luncheon

Capital 1

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

12:00pm - 5:00pm Exhibit Hall – Crystal Salons ABC

**12:00pm - 5:00pm Hospitality Suite Executive Suite
7th Floor**

Sunday General Interest Meetings and Workshops

1:30pm to 5:00pm

1:30pm - 3:20pm

Legislation

Capital 2

Camille Tate, Legislative Director

Russ Davis, Legislative Director

Legislation is a pivotal part of the National Federation of the Blind. As we gear up for state and national legislation, come to find out what we have accomplished this year and what direction we are going to in 2026. How can you be part of our legislative and advocacy plans? Come to our Legislative Committee workshop and find out!

2:00pm - 2:50pm

Eye Spy Foundation

Conrad

Nick Mendler, President

Eye Spy Foundation

Coming together after the election. With voting behind us for the 2025 general election, it's the perfect time to discuss how we can all still work together in a respectful and effective way on the issues we have in common.

2:00pm - 2:50pm

The Sleep-Wake Cycle and Non-24

Waldorf

Vicki Preddy, Registered Nurse

Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Ever wonder why you have difficulty sleeping at night? Or, cannot stay awake during the day? Ask your questions about Circadian rhythms and the body clock with Vicki Pretti from Vanda Pharmaceuticals.

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Telling Our Truth: Storytelling for Advocacy and Impact

Conrad

Adriann Keve, Board of Directors,
Jacksonville Chapter

This workshop draws inspiration from How to Tell a Story by The Moth - a guide to crafting personal narratives that resonate. We will explore how storytelling can be a powerful tool for advocacy, education, and connection. Whether you're speaking to legislators, educating the public, or sharing your lived experience, your story can shift perspectives and spark change.

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Sighted Supporters Meeting

Waldorf

Sarah Jacobs, Board of Directors,
Jacksonville Chapter

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.

4:00pm - 4:50pm

Meet the 2025 Florida Leadership Class

Conrad

Jorge Hernandez, President, Miami-Dade Chapter

The Florida Leadership Class has spent the last year learning about leadership in the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. This cohort has given their time and energy to expand and grow their leadership within our affiliate. Come and meet the class of 2025 and hear about their experiences and what they have learned.

4:00pm - 4:50pm

The Mental Health Side of Blindness

Waldorf

Dina Hargrave, Ed. S, LMHC

Ellie Mental Health

Want to learn how to cope with the mental side of blindness? Dina Hargrave from Ellie Mental Health will share some tips for those having difficulty coping as they journey through vision loss.

4:30pm - 5:20pm

Ham Radio (Exhibit Hall)

Crystal Salons ABC

Russ Davis, Board of Directors

National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

Andy Rood, KM4CSX, Greater

Jacksonville Chapter and Dave

Hillebrandt, W4CI

Interested in amateur radio? Ever wondered if the blind are involved in Ham radio? Several blind hams will tell you just how open, accessible and fantastic the hobby of a thousand hobbies can be. Join the presenters and other hams inside the Exhibit Hall to find out why it's so much fun and so easy to get on the air.

Convention Banquet
Sunday, October 5, 2025

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Z'Leah Liburd, Mistress of Ceremonies
Royal Palm Ballroom

7:00pm

Welcome

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida
Statewide Chapter

7:01pm

Invocation

Donald Christie, President,
Tallahassee Chapter

7:05pm

Introduction of Head Table

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida
Statewide Chapter

7:45pm

Keynote Address

Kevan Whorley
National Federation of the Blind of
Colorado

8:45pm

Scholarship Presentation

Donald Christie & Z'Leah Liburd,
Scholarship Committee

9:20pm

Awards Presentation

Nancy Epps, Board of Directors
National Federation of the Blind of
Florida

9:40pm

Raffles and Drawings

10:00pm

Adjournment

Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors

Title Sponsor
VANDA PHARMACEUTICALS

Independence Sponsor
ABLE United

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Democracy Live Inc

Security Sponsors
Blind Girl Designs
Florida Visually Impaired and Blind Services, LLC
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Dogs Inc

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Eye Spy Foundation

Florida Association of Blind Students

Florida Statewide Chapter

JW.ORG

The Seeing Eye



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-24

A circadian rhythm disorder

Visit us online at www.non-24.com



ABLE United account gives Floridians with a disability a tax-free way to save while protecting public benefits.

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)

DEMOCRACYLIVE

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
Email: info@democracylive.com
www.democracylive.com

Hilton Altamonte Springs

2025 State Convention Hotel Map

Introduction

Navigating a hotel can be one of the biggest challenges of attending a state convention. This guide is here to make that process easier. We encourage you to take time to explore the hotel and get familiar with its key landmarks. If you need help along the way, don't hesitate to ask the hotel staff for assistance. This guide provides a general overview to help you get started. While it's not a detailed blueprint, it's designed to give you a basic sense of the layout and help you feel more comfortable moving around.

Starting at the East Entrance

It's located on the east side of the building and is likely where rideshares and vehicles will drop you off. If you're walking, it's also the most direct entrance from the road.

Outside the East Entrance you will find yourself in a walkway with a variety of plants and hedges, creating a garden-like atmosphere. If you're facing the sliding glass doors that lead into the building, you'll find a long bench to your right along the wall. On your left, a few sculptures.

Entering the Hotel

Once you step through the east entrance, you'll find yourself in the main lobby. The space is both wide and deep, roughly forming a large square. The entrance is now behind you, and ahead lies an open area filled with seating options: couches, armchairs, ottomans, and standard chairs and tables, surrounded by indoor plants.

To your right is the bar and restaurant area, and on the left side, you'll find a small grab-and-go pantry for snacks or drinks. From this reference point, you have three options: you can walk left, right, or continue straight ahead keeping the carpeting on your right.

For the smoothest walking experience, we recommend sticking to the tiled floor. While the carpeted areas provide the most direct routes to several destinations, they are filled with furniture that can be difficult to navigate around. Unless you're looking to sit, it's best to avoid the small, carpeted areas and stay on the tile.

Heading Left from the Entrance

With the east entrance still behind you, turn left. Now, the entrance is on your left, a cluster of chairs is on your right, the restaurant and bar are behind you, and the front desk is straight ahead.

The first thing you'll notice on the left are the luggage carts. While this hotel does not have bellhops, staff may still be able to assist you with a cart if you're carrying a lot of luggage; just ask.

Continue forward and you'll come to a small seating area with couches on your left. As you pass them, the path begins to curve slightly right. Following the left wall, the next stop is the grab-and-go pantry.

Let's turn into the pantry briefly. This is a carpeted, compact space enclosed on three sides, with shelves lining the wall. A counter can also be found in this space. These shelves hold snacks, and on the left side, there's a fridge stocked with drinks such as soda, iced tea, and water. To purchase something, just take what you want and pay at the front desk. The pantry is open 24 hours a day. Now let's exit the pantry and place it to your left as we continue forward.

Up next is the front desk, where you can check in, ask questions, and pay for items from the pantry. The front desk is made up of three desks. We'll now keep the front desk to the left as we first veer right away from the desk to avoid the line and then veer back slightly left and continue along a wall.

Soon, you'll pass an abstract sculpture with water-like patterns, surrounded by plants and additional seating. Keep following the wall and you'll find yourself approaching the south entrance hallway.

Pass this hallway, keeping to the wall. You'll soon come to an opening on the left; this is a lounge area with tables, chairs, a TV, and an ATM machine.

To reach the ATM, enter the space and follow the left wall. Be mindful of the furniture along the way. The machine is straight ahead. For blind users, please note that using wired earbuds will offer the best experience for accessing the machine's audio features.

Leaving the lounge, return to the main path and keep the lounge to your left. You'll find a set of double glass doors on your left; this is the Board Room, which is hotel employee space. Keep

going and you'll pass Banquet and Convention Services. The Braille sign for this space is labeled oddly as "ffiretffiret"; this is not a typo but how it appears.

Next, you'll reach the Dogwood Meeting Room, and just beyond that is a small hallway on the left that leads to a keycard-only access door. Finally, you'll arrive at a carpeted area; this marks the beginning of the breakout rooms section, which we'll explore later. For now, let's retrace our steps and return to our starting point at the east entrance.

To the Right of the East Entrance

With the east entrance behind you, turn right and follow the right-hand wall. Soon, you'll come to an opening that leads into a hallway.

Inside this hallway, there is seating lined along the wall. In addition, on the right wall, you will find a buffet counter. On the left-hand side, across from the buffet counter, you'll find a set of restrooms. Continue straight ahead and you'll arrive at the Royal Palm Room with double doors; this is where our receptions and banquet will take place. You will know that you are in the Royal

Palm Room when you feel carpeting. Now let's step back out to the main area, returning to the hallway's entrance.

With the Royal Palm Room now behind you, turn right once more and walk forward. You'll soon feel carpeting; this marks an entrance to the U-Lounge and U-Restaurant area.

Straight Ahead from the East Entrance

With the east entrance behind you, walk straight ahead on the tiled floor. On your right, you'll pass a series of small, carpeted seating areas with chairs and coffee tables. These seating areas are spaced out, separated by sections of tile.

As you continue forward, you'll notice a break in the carpet, a wider section of tile that opens to the right. If you turn right here, you'll enter the U-Lounge and U-Restaurant area, located approximately 20 to 30 feet from the main path. This is a large, carpeted space with a bar, restaurant, and scattered tables and chairs. You can also reach this area by continuing right past the hallway that leads to the Royal Palm Room. Be sure to avoid the giant pillars along the path.

Just past the restaurant area and about 20 to 30 feet to your right from the main path is Cool Beans, the hotel's coffee bar. One

way to find the café is by listening for a fridge noise. Unlike the restaurant, this area is not carpeted. It features a counter where you can order Starbucks coffee and a selection of pastries. You'll also find a microwave available for guest use.

As you keep walking forward on the tile, you'll eventually encounter more tables and chairs, which gradually guide you to the left. This gentle curve brings you closer to the elevator area.

Getting to the Elevator

There are two main routes to reach the elevators from the east entrance.

Route 1: Front Desk Route

With the east entrance behind you, walk toward the front desk. Once you reach the desk, turn around so the desk is behind you and continue walking straight ahead. You'll pass several carpeted seating areas with chairs, as well as some pillars. Keep going, and eventually, you will arrive at the elevators directly in front of you.

Route 2: Banquet Services Route

Starting again with the east entrance behind you, head towards the front desk. Walk past the desk and then veer left. Along this path, you'll pass the hallway with the south entrance, the lounge, the board room, and then the banquet and convention services room. Remember this room? It has a braille sign with a large typo, but it's likely intentional because there's a fire alarm directly above the sign.

With the door to this banquet and convention services room behind you, continue walking straight ahead for a short distance, and you'll arrive at the elevator hall with the elevators to the left.

Elevator Hall

The elevator hall is a corridor with three elevators lined up along one wall. Nearby, you'll find a trash can and a tactile sculpture of a human figure affectionately called Freddy by the convention planning committee and hotel staff. The best part? Freddy is fully tactile, making it accessible to us.

Meeting Rooms

With the entrance behind you, turn left and follow the left wall. You'll pass the grab-and-go pantry, the front desk, the south

entrance hallway, the lounge, banquet services, and the Dogwood meeting room.

Continue following the wall until you reach the carpeted breakout rooms pre-function area. All the breakout rooms are located on your left. Along this stretch, you'll pass the following rooms in order: Mobley, Conference Host Office, Baron, Conrad, and Waldorf.

Keep walking past these rooms, and soon you'll step onto a tiled floor. Directly ahead, you'll see a wall with doors: the fitness center is the first door straight ahead, the pool entrance is to the right, and restrooms are on the left.

Let's turn around and head back to the carpet. Continue following the carpet until you reach the tile area near the elevators. From here, turn left and walk straight into the Crystal Foyer, another carpeted area. Veer toward the left wall. There, you will find a set of restrooms.

Return to where you entered. The foyer features a large opening between tile and carpet shaped like a lowercase "v." Straight ahead is the Crystal Ballroom, the hotel's largest ballroom, divided into two halves separated by a thick wall divider.

The first half, Crystal A, B, and C, will serve as our exhibit hall. The second half, Crystal D and E, functions as our general session room. Across from Crystal E, you'll find the Chamber Room, where registration and packet pickup will take place. Just beyond the Chamber Room is a glass door; this is another entrance to the pool area.

Returning to Crystal C, put it on your left. Continue straight, and on your right, you'll find Capital 1 and Capital 2, which serve as breakout rooms. These two sections are separated from each other by a large wall divider.

Nearby Pharmacies:

Publix Pharmacy
482 E Altamonte Dr #1005
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Distance from hotel = 1.3 miles
(407) 260-9973

Nearby Veterinary Hospitals:

Altamonte Veterinary Hospital
1089 E Altamonte Dr,
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Distance from hotel = 2.5 miles
ph. 407-339-1922

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Camille Tate, President

Kaye Baker, First Vice President

Peggy Fleischer, Second Vice President

Sherri Brun, Secretary

Sylvia Young, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Russ Davis

Nancy Epps

Javier Diaz

Jada Michael Christie

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida thanks the Statewide and Central Florida Chapters, the Convention Planning Committee, and all who assisted, for their dedication and hard work in organizing the 2025 state convention. We thank all our members for joining and supporting us here in Altamonte Springs, 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 2026.

Let's go build the Federation!

Camille Tate, President

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

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