

# 2023 NFB Kentucky TAD Symposium

## Eleventh Annual

The NFB Kentucky affiliate's Technology Assistance Division (TAD) has tons of great stuff in store for you this year, so don't you dare miss this! Mistress of Ceremonies will be our incredible Sandra Williams!

TAD will have a morning and afternoon session with presentations, vendors, lunch, and hands-on exploration of AT devices (afternoon session). The TAD Symposium will begin promptly at 9 AM and conclude at 4:30 PM on Friday, October 6th.

It's not too late to register for the NFB Kentucky State Convention. The deadline for registration is 9/20/23. To register, please visit us at [2023 NFB Kentucky Convention Registration](#)

Included in your \$15 convention registration cost for the weekend of October 6, 7, and 8, you will receive a free boxed lunch on Friday during the NFB Kentucky TAD Symposium, sponsored by [Retina Associates of Kentucky](#).

In addition, you will be eligible to win fabulous door prizes not only on Friday, but for the entire Convention weekend. Without further adieu, let us get down to business with what we have in store for you!

First up is our good friend, Dave Wilkinson! Dave, affectionately known as Speedy Turtle has been a TAD fan favorite for over a decade! Dave will be presenting on various technology devices that can aid us in our exercise and training regimens. Remember, healthy body - healthy mind! These are sports and rec devices that can be used by those with simple to more complex work-out regimens. To read more about Dave Wilkinson, please visit him at his LinkedIn profile [Dave on LinkedIn](#)

Next up will be a representative from OKO to present virtually on a smart camera app available in iOS and Android that will help you explore your surroundings with real-time feedback. Please note that OKO may be useful in conjunction with a long white cane for O&M to enhance independence; however, it is not designed to be a substitute for the training that you've received to navigate your surroundings effectively and safely.

Our next presenter will be Joseph Hodge, Quality Assurance Manager with APH who also happens to be the TAD Program manager. Joe will be presenting on [Polly](#), which is an electronic Wi-Fi enabled device that will assist users in learning and reinforcing braille concepts. Mr. Hodge will also introduce us to a futuristic braille device that will be on the market soon known as the Monarch, a multipurpose device which can receive digital textbooks from APH and other providers, significantly reducing the time to fingertips for our students. This invention is a collaborative effort between the American Printing House (APH), Humanware, and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). To read more about Monarch, please visit [Meet Monarch](#)

Last up in our morning session, Lora and Todd Stephens will be presenting on [NFB-NEWSLINE®](#), the audio reading service for the print impaired. This is a free audio reading service developed and implemented by the blind, but is not exclusive to the blind. This audio reading service has hundreds of international, national, state, and local newspapers; we have more than 80 award winning magazines on our service as well. NFB-NEWSLINE® is available 24-7 and is free to those who qualify under a print impairment. There are also TV listings, Job listings through Career Builder and USA Jobs. gov that can be accessed via touch-tone telephone, iOS App, online, and via Echo Smart Speaker featuring Alexa. We have much, much more on our service! Todd and Lora will be available to speak with you and get you signed up during our lunch break.

We will recess for lunch for an hour and a half where participants can enjoy a complimentary boxed lunch and visit with our presenters/vendors.

First up after lunch, we will hear from Diane Ducharme from [BlindShell USA](#) BlindShell is an intuitive smart phone that drastically reduces the learning curve for operating a smart phone. Whether you have a visual impairment or face other disabilities that hinder the use of traditional smartphones, this groundbreaking device empowers you like never before.

Next up will be Cheryl Saucier, owner of [Mountain View Low Vision Services](#) providing a wide variety of high quality low vision products to people with vision loss.

TAD's final presenter will be [Dennis McKinney](#) with Advanced Low Vision Technology. Dennis will deliver low cost and low vision solutions that many of our participants this year can appreciate and embrace. Upon the conclusion of the presentations in the afternoon, you are free to visit with our afternoon presenters.

The TAD symposium will end at 4 PM to make time for the NFB Kentucky TAD annual business meeting from 4 PM to 4:30 PM; so please join us as we put a fabulous bow on this Symposium! TAD will be the warm-up act for a wonderfully planned and exciting 2023 NFB Kentucky State Convention weekend; don't wait, get registered today.