

2015 National Federation of the Blind of Oklahoma Convention

Raising Expectations; Living the Lives that We Want!

April 10, 11, & 12, 2015

**The National Federation of the Blind knows 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. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.**

**Sooner Legends Inn & Suites**

**1200 24th Avenue SW
Norman, Oklahoma 73072
Local 405-701-8100
Toll Free 866-715-3111**

The rate for the hotel this year is a fantastic $89.99 for singles and doubles. The rate includes a FREE, hot breakfast buffet in the hotel restaurant. All applicable taxes apply. Each attendee must make their hotel reservations.

\*At this time, the main hotel, listed above, is sold out. This is a great problem to have! Additional rooms may still be available at the overflow hotel listed below:

**La Quinta Inn**

930 Ed Noble Pkwy, Norman, OK 73072
(405) 579-4000

La Quinta is honoring the rate and free breakfast that sooner Legends is offering. Remember to mention the National Federation of the Blind in order to get the rate. Additionally, a shuttle to the convention hotel will run both ways.

**Convention Rates and Packages:**

**Convention Package $90.00**

Includes Registration, Boxed lunch for Friday and Saturday and 1 Banquet meal for Saturday evening.

**Ala Carte Pricing**

**Registration - $25.00**

**Boxed Lunch (Available Friday and Saturday) - $20 each**

**Banquet Meal - $35.00**

\*If you require a specialized meal, please indicate so on your registration.

This year you have the opportunity to register and pay online using a Pay Pal account. If you prefer to register online and mail a check or pay at the door with a check or cash, you may do so at the same link.

Our awesome Webmaster (1st Vice President, Audrey Farnum) has completely redesigned our website and has worked very hard to make this happen for us! Registration with the inclusion of any food items should be made online or by phone with Glenda Farnum, Convention Chair, at 405-255-6482, by April 2, 2015. Please follow this link to do so.

<http://www.nfbok.org/state-convention/>

**Friday, April 10, 2015**

8:00 – 10:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:00 Board of Directors Meeting

 Open to Membership

10:00 – 6:00 Exhibit Hall (Located in the 89’er Room)

**Raising Expectations**

A day of seminars for all blind Oklahomans, their friends and family members relating to the development of blindness skills and the achievement of independence. How to live the life you want!

All Friday Sessions will be located in the Sooner room.

10:30 -12:00 Discovering, Developing and Encouraging Independence: Raising Expectations of ourselves and those we like or love. Part One

Sessions from 10:30 – 12:00 are:

1. Cane Travel

Professional Orientation & Mobility Instructors will be on hand to dynamically teach participants the basics of using a long white cane to navigate the world as a blind person.

Led by Jedi Moerke, Mike Harvey, and others.

2. Tech Talk & Demonstrations

Do you have a Love/ Hate relationship with your technology? This seminar is for beginners to those who are tech savvy. Bring questions about the technology that you depend on. Hopefully, we can provide the answers.

Led by Audrey Farnum.

3. Simple Solutions for Daily Living

Tips and tricks to using non-visual techniques to do the things that daily life requires along with hobbies that you enjoy. Cooking, cleaning, sewing, etc.

Led by Glenda Farnum and Christine Boone.

4. Preparing for the Job!

Interactive discussion regarding what it takes to get a job as a blind individual. Blindness skills (what are those anyway?), education, vocational education and more.

Led by Pam Allen, Dan Wetzel, Jeannie Massay and Rob Brown.

**12:00 - 1:30 Lunch**

1:30 – 4:30 Discovering, Developing and Encouraging Independence: Raising Expectations of ourselves and those we love. Part Two

Sessions from 1:30 to 3:00 are:

1. 1Touch - Self Defense for the Blind

These self-defense techniques are fully accessible and designed for practicality. There is no age limit, no physical strength needed or prior martial arts background necessary. 1Touch™ works with, multi-disabled, deaf/blind, children, adults and seniors.

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Led by Audrey Farnum

4. Why do I need Braille?

Even if you don’t plan on learning how to read War and Peace using Braille there are a multitude of uses that are practical and necessary for any blind person. Learn to make your life easier and more independent using Braille.

Led by Christine Boone.

Sessions from 3:00 – 4:30

*1. 1Touch - Self Defense for the Blind*

These self-defense techniques are fully accessible and designed for practicality. There is no age limit, no physical strength needed or prior martial arts background necessary. 1Touch™ works with, multi-disabled, deaf/blind, children, adults and seniors.

2. Simple Solutions for Daily Living

Tips and tricks to using non-visual techniques to do the things that daily life requires. Cooking, cleaning, sewing, and lots more!

Led by Glenda Farnum and Christine Boone.

3. The Working Blind

A panel discussion with employed individuals who happen to be blind, moderated by Pam Allen, Director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind. Panelists from a variety of interests and jobs will speak about their jobs and the skills that they use daily to bring home their pay!

4. Supporting Independence for the Blind person in your life!!!!

Do you have a friend or family member who is blind or visually impaired? If so, this session is for you! Learn tips from a sighted person who is married to a strongly independent blind woman and their equally independent blind friend on how to be supportive and encouraging

without compromising the independence of the blind person you love.

Led by Doug Boone and Julie Deden, Director, Colorado Center for the Blind.

5:00 – 7:00 Chapter Presidents Leadership

 Working dinner (Chapter Presidents and Affiliate Board Members should attend. Location will be in President Massey’s room. Call her when you arrive to convention for the details.)

7:00 – 10:00 Socialize, Meet & Mingle - Sooner Room

Didn’t get your question answered during the sessions today? Now is the time to do so! Also, we’ll have games, cards and other activities while we get to know each other better. This activity is for all age groups. Come join the fun!

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**8:00 Registration (Outside of Sooner Room)**

**National Federation of the Blind Membership Pledge**

**I pledge to participate actively in the effort 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.**

**General Session – Sooner Room**

9:00 Call to Order – Jeannie Massay, President

9:15 Invocation

9:20 National Report, Scott LaBarre, President, National Federation of the Blind Colorado

10:05 Raising Expectations, Joe Cordova, Director, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation

10:35 Special Presentation, Rob Brown, President, Oklahoma Association of Blind Merchants, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind Oklahoma

10:45 Raising Expectations: Presidential Report, Jeannie Massay, President, National Federation of the Blind Oklahoma

11:15 Raising Expectations, Doug Boone, Division Administrator, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation, Visual Services

11:45 The Message, the Mission, the movement, we are the National Federation of the Blind

**12:00 Lunch**

12:45 – 1:45 Oklahoma Association of Blind Merchants - Division Meeting – Boomer Room

12:45 – 1:45 Oklahoma Association of blind Students OKABS Division Meeting - 89er Room

2:00 - 5:00 Break – Out Sessions

2:00 – 3:30 Books without Borders: the Marrakesh Treaty – Boomer Room

Led by Scott LaBarre. A presentation and discussion about the treaty that will bring millions of books to the blind across the world, including all of us!

2:00 – 3:30 Do you know a blind child or teen? – 89er Room

If the answer is yes, or if you are a blind child or teen, come to this session! Learn about Local and National Programs for Blind children and youth.

Led by Pam Allen, Julie Deden, Dan Wetzel, and Jeannie Massay

3:30 – 5:00 What is the Federation? Why am I a Federationist? – Boomer Room

Learn about the foundations of the National Federation of the Blind and why some of our local members and those from across the nation have become members. Be prepared to listen, learn and to ask questions.

Led by Christine Boone.

3:30 – 5:00 Are you a blind adult or senior? Do you know someone who is? - 89er Room

This session will introduce you to programs that are designed to get back or achieve the independence that will allow any blind person to live the life they want!

7:00 – 10:00 Raising Expectations: The Banquet Address

A gathering celebrating our successes and challenging our engagement for the future. Featuring keynote speaker Scott LaBarre, President, National Federation of the Blind of Colorado and attorney at law, defending the rights of the blind around the world.

**Sunday , April 12, 2015**

9:00-11:00 Affiliate Business Meeting

Chapter Reports

Secretary’s Report

Treasurer’s Report

Legislative Report

Resolutions

Elections

11:00 Adjourn

1:00 4:00 Available Tour

 National Weather Service

If you are interested in taking this guided tour of the National Weather Service Campus, please indicate so on your registration or when you speak to Glenda. The tour is limited to thirty-five participants.

**Hotel Description**

**The Sooner Legends Inn is a comfortable hotel that is very straight forward in its design. The front door is on the North side of the Lobby, so you are facing south as you enter in the front door. When entering the hotel, you are between the front desk which is to your right (West of you), and the lobby television with some couches and chairs on your left (to the east). If you walk straight (south) after entering the front door, you will run directly in to the Boomer Room. The Boomer Room is one of the 3 main meeting rooms that we will use over the course of the weekend.**

**If you turn left in front of the Boomer room and walk East, you will walk up a ramp. At the top of this ramp are the other two meeting rooms. On your right is the Sooner room. To your left is the 89er room. So, the Boomer and Sooner rooms are on the south side of the lobby, and the 89er room faces the Sooner room at the top of the ramp.**

**Continuing east after reaching the top of the ramp, you will find restrooms on your left hand side after the 89er room. If you keep walking east, you will find the Hotel Restaurant. If you enter the restaurant and continue walking east to the far end of the restaurant, you will find the bar. The bar is smoker friendly.**

**Back in the lobby, if you walk south which is straight ahead from the front door, you once again hit the Boomer room. Turning right (or west) in front of the Boomer Room will lead you toward the sleeping rooms. As you enter the hallway that leads toward to sleeping rooms, you will find a little market on your right hand side (on the north side of the hallway). This market sells a variety of snacks, sodas and toiletries. There is not a cashier in this Market. All guests are expected to take their desired items to the front desk and either pay for them there, or have the price of the item billed to their room.**

**Continuing west past the market is the Business center (also on the right or north side of the hall) which is a little area with computers and some seating for people that would like to use the hotel’s PCs. Free wifi is included for all guests of the hotel. Across from the business center is the door that leads outside to the heated pool. Continuing west you will find carpet and all of the 100 numbered sleeping rooms.**

**Hotel description provided by Mike Harvey**