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**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF NEBRASKA**

**45th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**

**OCTOBER 7-9 2016**

**Ramada Columbus and River's Edge Convention Center**

**Columbus, Nebraska**

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska
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**“WELCOME” FROM THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers:**

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Mike Hansen, Lincoln
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**ABOUT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF NEBRASKA**

# The National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska 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. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND 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.

**STAY CONNECTED AND IN THE KNOW!**

Follow the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska on Twitter! Visit <http://www.twitter.com/nfbn>

Like us on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/nebraskasblind](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fnebraskasblind&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFrjiHXakUTnq8GE1UJdsXPtkfLDg)

Stay connected with your fellow Nebraska Federationists by joining our state e-mail listserv. This list allows you to receive affiliate and national announcements. To sign up, visit [www.nfbnet.org](http://www.nfbnet.org/).

Visit us online at [http://www.ne.nfb.org](http://www.ne.nfb.org/).

**FUNDING THE MOVEMENT**

**GET ON THE PAC PLAN!**

At the 1974 national board meeting, E.U. Parker came up with the idea of what we first called the Bank Draft Pledge System to help finance the Federation. This system is now called the Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Plan. The PAC Plan has come to be an ever-more important part of financing the movement. According to the chairman of the NFB’s PAC committee, Scott LaBarre, the Federation has raised more than $10,000,000 over the years through the PAC Plan.

The PAC Plan allows members, affiliates, chapters, and others to give a regular and automatic donation to the Federation every month. All you have to provide is your checking or savings account identification information. Because of the costs associated with operating the program, the minimum donation is $5 a month and there is no restriction on how much you donate.

Barbara Loos chairs our PAC efforts. Please contact her to begin a new PAC contribution or to make changes to your current contribution. Barbara can be reached by phone at (402) 486-3679 or e-mail, beloos@neb.rr.com. Your donation will help the blind live the lives they want.

**The KNFB Reader**

Now you can have the convenience of an OCR scanner in the palm of your hand. The KNFB Reader app is a revolutionary tool that you can use, with the touch of a single button, to read virtually any type of printed text, including mail, receipts, class handouts, memos, and many other documents. Accuracy is facilitated by a field-of-view report, automatic page detection, and tilt control.

Proprietary document analysis technology determines the words and reads them aloud to the user with high quality text-to-speech. Read the words you want to read; live the life you want.

Visit the Apple App Store to purchase the KNFB Reader app and start enjoying it today!

For the latest news and information about the KNFB Reader, follow us on Twitter @KNFBReader or like us on Facebook.

**WE EXTEND SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS!**

Empowerment Level Sponsors:

Vanda Pharmaceutical

For people who are totally blind, these may be symptoms ofNon-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) – a serious, chronic circadian rhythm disorder.Non-24 results from a body clock that is out of sync with the

24-hour day, which can make it difficult to fall asleep or stay asleep at night and can create an uncontrollable urge to sleep during the day. This may lead to exhaustion, difficulties with school or work, and problems with concentration. To learn more about the link between total blindness and a sleep pattern that is out of sync with the 24-hour day, visit

[www.non-24.com](http://www.non-24.com).

Health educators are available to answer your questions about Non-24.

## Call toll free: 1-855-856-2424 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Nebraska Association of Transportation Professionals

## Moving Nebraskans to the Good Life...

*Transit is for Everyone!*

Nebraska Association Of Transportation Providers

Our passengers want to maintain their autonomy, dignity and self-esteem. They are people who may have a physical limitation, do not have the resources to provide their own transportation, or are conscious of the environmental effects of utilizing their own vehicle. Our services allow individuals to have a choice to be independent and not be a direct burden to the State, their local communities or their families. Our members provide affordable, safe and dependable transportation services to citizens from across the state. Find a transportation provider in your area by visiting:

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

PO Box 10 - Milford, NE 68405

(402) 761-2216

tfougeron@youraam.com

[www.neatp.org](http://www.neatp.org)

**EXHIBITS**

Vendors will be here Friday from 2:30 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM to Noon to demonstrate their products.

The following is a partial list of exhibitors and sponsors:

## Nebraska Association of Transportation Professionals, Empowerment Level Sponsor

Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Empowerment Level Sponsor

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, Exhibitor

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, Omaha Chapter, Exhibitor

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, Lincoln Chapter, Exhibitor

On The Go, Exhibitor

Secretary of State’s Office, Exhibitor

Ski for Light, Exhibitor

Note: This year we will once again be conducting a special prize drawing for all those who can prove that they have visited all the exhibitors. You will be given a card in your registration packet which each exhibitor needs to punch. If your card is complete, it will go into the hat for a special drawing Sunday morning. Must be present to win.

**CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS**

If you have any questions about convention arrangements, contact Mike Hansen, Convention Arrangements Chair.

All persons taking advantage of the reduced room rates offered by the Ramada Columbus for this convention are required to register with the convention and to pay the registration fee of $25.00.

**SHAKE IT UP**

You may be the lucky winner of a fabulous door prize!

Names will be drawn throughout the general sessions and banquet. To be eligible to win, you only need to be registered and be present when your name is drawn. All donations of door prizes should be clearly labeled in Braille and print and turned in to Jamie Richey, Door Prize Chairperson.

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

Note: Please be courteous and turn off all cell phones, pagers, radios, MP3 players, IPods etc. during convention meetings and the banquet.

**Friday, October 7, 2016**

9:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.: Registration. Mike Hansen, Convention Arrangements Chair

Registration Costs
Registration: $25
Banquet: $50
Friday Fun Luncheon: $25

All convention participants must register to be eligible for door prizes, hotel convention rates, and to participate in convention activities. Both print and braille agendas are available at the registration desk.

11:00 A.M.: Opening of General Session— Grand Ballroom.

Call to Order: Amy Buresh President, National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska

Invocation: Linda Mentink, Columbus, Nebraska

Welcome to Columbus: Mike Moser, Mayor of Columbus

Housekeeping and Announcements: Mike Hansen, Convention Arrangements Chair

11:20 A.M.: A Bridge between Baltimore and You: Empowering Us to Live the Lives We Want: The National Report. Adelmo Vigil, Member, Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind and President, National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico.

12:25 P.M.: Notes from the Chairman, Commission Board Report, Mike Hansen, National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, Designee to the NCBVI Board of Commissioners, Lincoln, Nebraska.

12:35 P.M.: Partners for Success in Living the Lives We Want: Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Report, Pearl Van Zandt, Ph.D., Executive Director; Carol Jenkins, Supervisor, Nebraska Center for the Blind; Carlos Servan, Deputy Director, VR Services, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1:20 P.M.: Non-24-Hour Sleep Wake Disorder: What is it? What to do if I Think I Have It: And How to Keep It From Letting Me Live the Life I Want: Seth Smith, Vanda Pharmaceuticals.

1:30 P.M.: Living the Life You Want Through the Pages of a Book: News from the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Services. Scott Schultz, Director, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1:50 P.M.: Living the Life We Want On the Road: Getting From Here To There: Helping Us Travel Where we Want, Tiffany Fougeron, Nebraska Association of Transportation Professionals

2:00 P.M.: Voting How We Want: The Status on Accessible and Private Voting in Nebraska, Neal Erickson, Nebraska Secretary of State’s Office

2:15 P.M.: Adjourn.

2:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.: Exhibits - Courtyard

2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.: 1Touch™ Self**-**Defense: South Bank Room: Jeff Altman, Facilitator. Practical, effective and empowering, the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska is pleased to present an introduction to 1Touch Self-Defense. This training will introduce the basic movements and concepts of the 1Touch system, including One Touch, One Step, Releases, Feeds, Basic Locks, Contouring, and Touch Strike. This seminar is your opportunity to learn about this system of self-defense which can help you build the confidence and techniques to effectively respond to the sort of unexpected situations that could impact your personal safety.

2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.: Navigating the Muddy Waters of Benefits: North Bank Room: Raina Gulbrandson, MSW, Community Work Incentives Coordinator, Nebraska Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program Facilitator. In this presentation, you will learn about the cash and medical benefits associated with disability, specifically, the entitlement and differences between SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) and associated medical benefits, Medicare and Medicaid. Get an introduction to the multitude of federal and state work incentives available that support disability beneficiaries in returning to or advancing in the workforce.

4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.: Rookie Round-Up: Commons Room: Bridgit Kuenning-Pollpeter, Facilitator. If you are new to our convention, then I strongly urge you to attend this event. You’ll have a chance to meet and hear from Federation leaders and learn first-hand who and what we are all about.

5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.: Registration—. Mike Hansen, Convention Arrangements Chair

Registration Costs
Registration: $25
Banquet: $50
Friday Fun Luncheon: $25

All convention participants must register to be eligible for door prizes, hotel convention rates, and to participate in convention activities. Both print and braille agendas are available at the registration desk.

7:00 P.M.: Resolutions Committee: Grand Ballroom: Barbara Loos, Resolutions Committee Chair

8:00 PM to 12:00 P.M.: Trivia Night! Grand Ballroom: Gather your smartest friends together or come yourself and join a team. Show off your mental agility and win something sweet! $5.00 entry fee per round (three rounds played). Top notch items will be auctioned off in between trivia rounds. A cash bar will be available. Proceeds go to fund state and national legislative efforts.

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**

7:15 A.M.: Breakfast with the Board: TBA: Open to all, bring your meal and hear from the board of directors.

8:30 A.M.: Nominating Committee (closed meeting): Board Room: Carol Jenkins, Nominating Committee Chair

9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.: Exhibits: Courtyard

9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.: Appcast 2016: South Bank Room: Brought to you jointly by the Nebraska Association of Blind Students and the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Tech Team. Representatives from each organization will be on hand to demo applications and answer any questions you may have. This is an “open event” so there is no need to register, just show up. Expect to see the KNFB Reader App, the Voice Dream Reader app, and more.

10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.: Blind Parents Discussion Group: Commons Room: Bridgit Kuenning-Pollpeter, Facilitator

11:00 A.M. To 12:00 P.M.: Senior Division Meeting: North Bank Room: Robert Newman, President

11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.: NABS business meeting: South Bank Room: Chase Crispin, President

2:00 P.M.: General Session: Grand Ballroom

2:05 P.M.: Tails and Tales: Sharing the Message We Want: Celebrating the Adventures of Oskar and Klaus, Travis Bossard, Lincoln, Nebraska.

2:25 P.M.: Helping Us Read What We Want: NFB-Newsline®, Jamie Richey, Newsline® Coordinator; Secretary, NFBN, Lincoln, Nebraska.

2:35 P.M.: Gadgets and Gizmos: How Technology is Empowering Us to Live the Lives We Want. Wes Majerus, Lincoln, Nebraska.

3:00 P.M.: Come On Ring Those Bells! The music continues …Hear all about the Academy. Hear where we’ve been and where we are headed next summer to empower Nebraska’s blind youth to live the life they want: Jamie Richey, Lincoln, Nebraska.

3:25 P.M.: Living the Lives They Want: Blazing New Trails: Kayde Rieken, Chase Crispin, and Ross and Bridgit Pollpeter.

4:00 P.M.: Reflecting the Flame: Why Attend a National Convention: Jeff and Brandon Peters, Lincoln, Nebraska and Dustin Wardyn, Syracuse, Nebraska

4:25 P.M.: Reports and Resolutions.

4:30 P.M.: Adjourn.

6:00 P.M.: Cocktail Reception/Cash Bar —Courtyard

7:00 P.M.: Annual NFBN Banquet —Courtyard, Emcee: Barbara Loos.

Invocation: Cheryl Livingston, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska.

Keynote Address: Adelmo Vigil, Member, Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind, President, National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico.
Scholarships: Shane Buresh, Chairperson.

9:30 P.M.: After Banquet Camaraderie (ABC) – The NFBN Senior Division is offering you an ABC room! Engage in conversation, have some snacks, play both traditional and Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Academy games. Enjoy!

**Sunday, October 9, 2016**

8:00 A.M.: Non-denominational Devotions: Commons Room: Nancy Coffman, Coordinator

9:30 A.M.: Opening of Business Meeting: Grand Ballroom.
Invocation: Shane Buresh, Member, NFBN Board of Directors, President, NFBN Lincoln Chapter.
Learning How to Empower the Work to Fuel the Dreams To Live the Lives We Want

Reports:
A. Minutes of the 2015 Convention.
B. Treasurer's Report.
C. Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions.
D. Resolutions.
E. Nominating.

Elections

12:00 P.M.: Adjourn

**SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT**

To those who helped with registration, welcomed new members, assisted with hospitality, served on committees, collected door prizes and auction items, your efforts are truly appreciated. This is OUR Federation! We built it and we will continue to grow it.

To our distinguished guests and presenters, thank you for your service and your commitment to increasing opportunities for blind children and adults in Nebraska.

To those who contributed to PAC, played trivia, sold raffle tickets and participated in all the fund-raisers needed to support our organization, your generosity and sacrifice make our programs possible.

To state and chapter officers, your support and dedication are invaluable. Thank you for spreading our message of love, hope and determination throughout Nebraska.

To my colleague, Adelmo Vigil, thank you so much for your leadership, inspiration and words of wisdom.

To the staff of the Ramada, Columbus, we appreciate your excellent service.

To Shane, Noah and Sarah, thank you for your patients, love and understanding. Most of all, for being a constant source of humility, strength, comfort, laughter, and light. XOXO always and forever!

To each member, thank you for your never-ending enthusiasm, love, sacrifice, and tireless commitment to our organization. Together, we are forever shattering barriers and misconceptions about us: living the lives we want and turning dreams in to reality! I am filled with hope, energy, and love by participating in the National Federation of the Blind because my expectations are raised, my contributions make a difference to me and to others, and I can celebrate the realization of my dreams with my Federation family.

 Now, LET’S GO BUILD THE FEDERATION!

—Amy Buresh

**Live the life you want**

**by J.P. Williams, James Brown, Richie Flores, and J.J. Meddaugh**

**Live the life you want**

**nobody can stop you,**

**Shoot for the sun,**

**break on through,**

**So your blind, you'll be fine, we've got good news,**

**you can live the life you want**

**we know the truth.**

**Grab a cane, get trained, gotta get moving.**

**Make a change, earn a wage, that's what we're doing.**

**Come with me,**

**to live the life you want,**

**You and me, NFB**

**let's dream together,**

**NFB, you and me**

**lives on forever,**

**you will see.**

**You can live the life you want, nothing can stop you.**

**Shoot for the sun, break on through,**

**So your blind, you'll be fine, we've got good news,**

**you can live the life you want,**

**cause we know the truth.**

**you can live the life you want,**

**cause we know the truth.**