**NABS Notes August 2015**

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**NABS and Connecticut Partner on Exciting Regional Legislative Workshop**

NABS is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the Connecticut affiliate to run an interactive legislative workshop to help students build legislative advocacy skills. On Saturday, November 7 in New London, Connecticut, several members of the NABS board and other student leaders will be running a legislative workshop that is being sponsored by the Connecticut Affiliate. Students will learn how to effectively interact with Congress in meetings and influence laws through grass roots advocacy to advance the agenda of blind Americans. Attendees will also gain an understanding of current policy issues impacting blind students and have the chance to practice their skills in mock meetings. Connecticut has generously offered to cover the cost of registration for the workshop and ticket to the NFB of Connecticut banquet later that night for the first 20 students who register. The workshop is being run in conjunction with the NFB of Connecticut state convention. For details about the workshop, or to request a link to register to attend, please contact Kathryn Webster at:

<Kathrynwebster.nfb@gmail.com>

**Connect with NABS on Social Media**

As we begin a new year of spreading our message of hope to all blind students across our nation, the NABS communications committee is recommitting itself to social media involvement and engagement. We are now regularly updating our Facebook and Twitter feeds with the latest information about NABS, our state divisions, and the NFB at-large. We are also combing the Web for inspirational and informative articles which are of interest to blind students. Our social media platforms are becoming happening places, and we want you to get in on the excitement! All you have to do is friend NABS on Facebook by searching for Nabs Link and sending us a friend request, and follow us on Twitter by searching for @nabslink and clicking that awesome "follow" button. Then sit back and watch as information, inspiration and entertainment roll into your timeline or news feed. We also want to hear about cool articles or posts you come across which you would like to share with blind students nationwide. Please send your findings to Chris Nusbaum at [dotkid.nusbaum@gmail.com](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/h/2xjecd204lt1/?&cs=wh&v=b&to=dotkid.nusbaum@gmail.com). He will read your submissions and determine whether to share them on NABS social media. Whether it's by liking or favoriting, sharing or retweeting, let's get connected, get involved and get active! See you on social media!

**Share Your Training Center Story**

Are you a graduate of BLIND Inc., The Colorado Center for the Blind or the Louisiana Center for the Blind? Do you have a story to tell about how receiving quality training at one of these world-class adjustment to blindness training centers helped you raise your expectations, confidence and perceptions of blindness? Did receiving the training that you did truly allow you to live the life you want?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, then the National Association of Blind Students wants and needs to hear from you!

We want to share with those who’ve thought about training, those who haven’t yet seriously considered training, and blindness professionals such as vocational rehabilitation counselors, the triumphs, challenges and transformation to independence that come from attending a training center.

We want to show that no matter where you are or where you want to be, what you know or what you want to know, the investment of time is well worth the payoff that comes once you complete the program.

If you want to share with us your story so that it might be featured on the National association of Blind Students website please contact Darian Smith at:

[dsmithnfb@gmail.com.](%20dsmithnfb@gmail.com.)

**State Liaison Reassignments**

Due to a recent resignation, the following states have been reassigned to the following NABS Board members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your respective State Liaison with any questions or concerns.

Connecticut: Kathryn Webster, kathrynwebster.nfb@gmail.com

Indiana: Chris Nusbaum, dotkid.nusbaum@gmail.com

Maine: Michael Ausbun, mausbun@unr.edu

Massachusetts: Kathryn Webster, kathrynwebster.nfb@gmail.com

New Hampshire: Chris Nusbaum, dotkid.nusbaum@gmail.com

Montana: Garret Mooney, gmanmesa@gmail.com

Vermont: Hindley Williams, hbwilliams16@gmail.com

**State Updates:**

Announcements appear below as they were received from their senders. No effort to edit these announcements has been made on the part of NABS.

Arizona:

Hello from the Arizona student division! During the 75th National Convention, we held our annual pizza party for the Colorado Center and the SAAVI students. This is a great way for our Association to network and recruit new students around some great food and fun. With the Arizona State Convention quickly approaching on September 11 through the 13, we have been hard at work planning for an enlightening and engaging Convention. During Convention, we will be holding elections for the AZSA board. Our current president, Garret Mooney, will be stepping down at the end of his term and we are looking forward to his continued success and involvement on the NABS board and NFB overall. We invite everyone out to share in the Arizona heat with us during our annual convention, taking place in Phoenix!

Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C, and Virginia:

Last month, students from the Maryland, Delaware, D.C., and Virginia areas gathered at the NFB’s National center in Baltimore to learn from experienced leaders, network with other students, and gain the skills necessary to being a critical part of their state student division. The seminar had 21 attendees, and a variety of speakers and presentations. Each of these four affiliates looks forward to what is in store for their students in the future from these enthusiastic seminar attendees!

Nevada:

Exciting things are still happening in the state of Nevada! We are happy to inform everyone that the planning for the Western Student Seminar is still in progress. Due to a desire to make it most affordable for the largest number of people, we have changed the location to Las Vegas. The date has been set for the weekend of March 25-27. Stay posted for future updates concerning hotel information, agendas, guest speakers, and the like. Hope to see you all there! The Nevada State convention will be taking place October 30 – November 1 at the main Street Station Hotel in Las Vegas Nevada. Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy the Freemont street experience!

North Carolina:

The North Carolina Association of Blind Students is preparing for what is going to be a phenomenal State Convention. Our event takes place in Wilmington, North Carolina from September 18-20. We are excited to welcome our national student representative, President Sean Whalen, to the Tar Heel state. In addition to a pizza dinner Friday night and an engaging Business Meeting for lunch at Olive Garden on Saturday, we will have great presentations from national rep Anil Lewis and Sean Whalen. Early Saturday morning, our students will have the option to learn from trained professionals how to surf on the beachy waters of Wilmington! Finally, we have creative fundraisers planned, including a jail break fundraiser, a popcorn/drink sale, and a lollipop raffle. Our annual elections will take place over lunch, so we’re eager to welcome the new leaders of organization!

Ohio:

The Ohio Association of Blind Students is already preparing for our affiliate convention which will take place Nov 19-21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Independence Ohio. The division will most likely have a fundraiser of some sort and is interested in trying new ideas. Our seminar will take place from 12:00-2:00 on Nov 21 and board elections among other business items will be handled at that time. Our current focus is our application for the Gavel Award competition, which recognizes the best chapter, best division, and the most improved chapter or division for the year. Last year OABS won the award for most improved division, but we hope to make the leap to best division this year.  We are also excited to have NFB 1st Vice President and former Ohio student Pam Allen as our national rep.

Washington:

Washington is getting ready for our state convention Friday, October 30 through Sunday, November 1. One of the most exciting parts of convention will be during the pizza lunch for students on Saturday when we officially revitalize our student division!

As many of you know, revitalization takes a lot of work, and we need help to welcome students into our affiliate. If you would like to attend our convention, join the student division, and assist us as we prepare, please email me at clb5590@gmail.com. We need your help and look forward to building the federation one student at a time in Washington!

We also have a scholarship program with a fast approaching deadline, September 18, and we will be welcoming our own NABS president, Sean Whalen as our NABS rep to the convention. Our affiliate also welcomes NFB of Utah president and newly elected NFB board member, Everett Bacon as our national rep, and we look forward to an exhibit hall Friday afternoon and a social event fundraiser Friday evening. Read on for all of the convention and scholarship program details!

Convention Information

Hotel: Red Lion Hotel, Seattle Airport

18220 International Blvd, Seattle

Room Rates: $99 + tax per night for any size room!

Call (206) 246-5535 for reservations

Use promo code NFBW2015 to get the discounted rate!

Registration and Banquet: $60 until September 30, $70 after

A registration link is coming soon. Please email clb5590@gmail.com if you would like the registration link sent directly to your inbox.

Scholarship Program

Each year, the National Federation of the Blind of Washington awards 2 Washington residents who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students scholarships, one in the amount of $2,000 and one in the amount of $3,000. Applications will be accepted through September 18, and can be found here. All application materials should be submitted to

scholarships@nfbw.orgScholarship winners will receive assistance to attend the entire NFBW convention, and students will not learn which of the two scholarships they will receive until the banquet. Remember to pass on this information to all of your friends in Washington, and please be in in touch to learn how you can make history by joining the revitalized student division!

**Meeting Minutes**

**National Association of Blind Students**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

August 16, 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:01 p.m.

Members Present:

Sean Whalen (President)

Candice Chapman (1st Vice President)

Bre Brown (2nd Vice President)

Kathryn Webster (Secretary)

Hindley Williams (Board Member 1)

James Garret Mooney (Board Member 2)

Chris Nusbaum (Board member 3)

Michael Ausbun (Board Member 4)

Derek Manners has resigned as Treasurer of NABS; Sean will address next steps this week.

Treasurer’s Report:

Checking account balance: $4,741.90

There is an outstanding check in the amount of $100.00

A check to Stitch Ville needs to be done

Awaiting a deposit of $123.44 from Gofundme donations

Committee Reports

Communications: Brown, Nusbaum, and Williams

Ten responses from recruitment email; everyone has been contacted. The conference call will be next Sunday.

Fundraising: Ausbun, Webster, and Whalen

Began creating a list for grant and donation requests. Michael will begin reaching out to corporate donors for Washington Seminar auction.

Kate and Sean made funding packet for local businesses/student organizations; this will be sent out early this week to board for commentary.

Kate made a Gofundme page

Legislative: Whalen and Webster

We had our first conference call last Thursday. Each member of the committee will be assigned a certain number of states. There, they will collect letters and recruit student leaders on campuses for college support.

We plan to work very closely with National throughout all our efforts.

Membership: Chapman

Solid recruitment; having conference call either Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Start working on membership database and student division rosters to amplify our outreach.

Website: Webster

Has been updated.

Blog articles and NABS Notes are being posted regularly. The donation link has been put on our homepage. Bre and Kate will be adding a link to various scholarships on our homepage soon.

State Liaisons: How it works and how it differs from NABS Reps

NABS Reps are those chosen to represent NABS at State Convention and other relevant events. State Liaisons are NABS Board members who have been assigned certain states. Regardless of region, NABS leadership will stay in close contact with their state student divisions.

Old Business:

NABS Repr Request forms from Washington and California

Garret is available for California; he will check prices.

Motion made by Kate to send Garret to California at a maximum of $200 for airfare; motion carries.

Sean is available for Washington; price is $255.

Motion made by Kate to send Sean to Washington for $255; motion carries.

New Business:

Funding students to Washington Seminar: outline of the program and next steps

Sean will be talking with National.

General consensus that an application process should be in place. Affiliate presidents should be contacted in order to provide recommendations for perspective students.

We would like to have a subcommittee with NABS leaders and National leaders to make final decisions on those students that will be sponsored.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kathryn Webster | Secretary

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns or suggestions. The NABS Board works for you, and we want to know how we’re doing! Thanks for reading, and we’ll be back in September.

Sean Whalen

President, National Association of Blind Students

(608) 332-4147

President@nabslink.org

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