The 42nd Annual State Convention

**National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**



**LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT—**

**BLIND WITH VISION**

Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel

515 US Highway 1 South, Iselin, NJ 08830

November 1, 2, 3, 4, 2018

Joseph Ruffalo, President

973-743-0075

nfbnj1@verizon.net

www.nfbnj.org

www.blindchildren.org

**Who We Are & What We Do**

The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of and for the blind in the US, is made up of blind/ visually impaired people of all ages, and their families and friends. We help newly blind people adjust to vision loss, assist parents and teachers of blind children, and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities. Our activities include:

•    Assisting blind persons in acquiring the skills of independence and developing confidence in themselves
•    Supporting parents and teachers of blind children with mentoring, role modeling, information, and training
•    Preparing blind students for careers and self-sufficiency through training and academic scholarships
•    Encouraging blind seniors to continue active and meaningful lifestyles
•    Advocating for policies that eliminate discrimination, promote civil rights, and guarantee equal access to high quality educational and rehabilitation programs
information campaigns and legislative action at the state and national levels
•    Educating the public through community activities and publications

**Spotlight on NFB of NJ**

Since 1976, the National Federation of the Blind of NJ, an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, has been providing invaluable information and resources to blind/visually impaired people throughout the state. Our members work together for a brighter tomorrow by raising expectations for blind people everywhere so that blind persons can live the life they want. Our seven chapters meet monthly; our nine divisions hold events at various times through the year. For more information on the affiliate, chapters, divisions, committees, programs, and projects, visit www.nfbnj.org. Please join us— we would welcome your participation.

**Live the Life You Want**

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. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

**The 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 programs and policies of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

We will be **recording** and **streaming** the Convention on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKEDbjGsCYHMlwd4gqpBPjg>. We will also post Convention videos and updates to our Facebook page, NFBNJ, or use link https://m.facebook.com/NFB-NJ-353099574776238/. Click the like button, then scroll down the page to see the latest postings. Broadcast times: Saturday, Nov. 3, General Session—8:45 am–12 pm & 1:50–5:00 pm; Banquet—8:00 pm-Conclusion.

***Food Pantry Donations:*** Please drop off your items at the Registration area.

***Hotel Navigation:*** Free Aira navigation for the convention! Aira connects blind individuals via live video to a trained agent through a mobile app or wearable glasses to get real-time visual information or assistance. The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with Aira to provide Aira Site Access to NFB members free of charge during the convention. NFB members interested in Aira receive the exclusive opportunity to test-drive Aira in a convention setting. Those already subscribed will not have minutes deducted from their plans.

For those new to Aira: Before or at convention, download the free Aira app from the App Store, and create a guest account. Make sure your phone GPS feature is enabled. When you enter the convention Site Access location, your phone will receive a notification letting you know that the space you are in is part of the Aira Network. When you connect, the agent will confirm that you are now covered by the network, and for Aira subscribers, that no minutes will be deducted from your account. When you leave or enter convention areas that are covered by the Site Access network, you will be informed by the Aira agent. To learn more about Aira and the special plan available exclusively to NFB members, visit [go.aira.io/NFB](http://go.aira.io/NFB).

***Breakfast Coupons:*** NFB convention attendees who are registered with the hotel will receive coupons upon check in, two per room, for a free the breakfast buffet at the hotel restaurant for each morning of the convention. Breakfast begins at 6:30 am. The hotel is full, so arrive early for breakfast in order to be on time for sessions.

***Banquet Ticket Exchange:*** For a smooth seating process, we use a Banquet Ticket Exchange. After you purchase your banquet ticket, bring it to the ticket exchange, where you will trade it in for a ticket with a table number. If you would like to sit with friends, gather ALL tickets and exchange them together (you must have everyone’s ticket when you go to the exchange). Ten people can sit at a table. Exchange hours: Friday, 8 – 8:30 am, and Saturday, 7:45 – 8:30 am, 12 – 12:45 pm, and 5 – 5:15 pm. If you do not exchange your ticket, you will be seated where there is space available.

***The Exhibit Hall*** will be open in the Ruby Room at the following times:

Thursday, 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Friday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.

***Guide Dog Relief Area:*** From the elevators turn left and walk toward the lobby. Continue walking until you get past the lobby, bar, and hotel restaurant area and you reach the Modern Asian Cuisine Restaurant. From the front door of the Modern Asian Cuisine Restaurant walk approximately 42 feet. When you feel the mat turn right and with the restaurant to your back, there are two push doors in front of you.

After going through the doors walk approximately 75 feet and turn left. Walk approximately 25 feet. When you feel the crack in the sidewalk you are approaching the grassy area on your left. This grassy area is a very long rectangular shape.

You can also access this same grassy area from the exhibit room exit. Walk straight toward the outside doors; there is a square sitting area between you and the doors. After the square sitting area there is a revolving door with push doors on both sides. Go through the doors. Walk approximately 45 feet and turn right. Walk approximately 15 feet and the grassy area will be on your right side after several bushes.

There will be garbage pails on each end of the grassy area. For additional concerns, contact Dan Facchini at 201 906 8655.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 1, 2018**

**1:30-5:30 pm—Technology Seminar: The Future is NOW—Crystal Ballroom A**

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

**1:30 pm—Welcome & Overview**

Joe Ruffalo, President, NFBNJ

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

**1:45 pm—Aira: Blind with Vision**

Marty Watts, Director of Marketing, Aira

**2:00 pm—Braille Note Touch and Google Drive**

Mac Biggers, Technology Specialist, NJ Commission for the Blind and VI

**2:15 pm—Google Chrome Book and NVDA**

Rick Fox, Board Member, Technology Division

**2:55 pm—ios 12 and iPhone: Comparisons**

Tony Santiago, Vice President, Technology Division

**3:15 pm—Take a Bit and a Byte of the Apple**

Matt Vollbrecht, Certified Apple Teacher; Owner, The Tech Juggernaut

**4:15 pm—Seminar concludes**

**4:30 - 5:30 pm—Hands-on Help Workshop—Crystal Ballroom C**

Walk from table to table and get your tech questions answered. Featuring: ios, MAC, Windows, Apple devices, Android, KNFB Reader, Seeing AI, Victor Reader Stream, BrailleNote Touch, Google Chromebook, Scriptalk, and more.

**3:00 to 9:00 pm—Exhibit Hall open—Ruby Room**

**Special Drawing**—Visit every Exhibit Hall table, listen to what is available there, and collect a table number card at each one. Hand in your cards at the Registration table between 1:00 and 1:45 on Friday. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a prize worth up to $100 donated by SW Unlimited, Sherlock Washington, President. Drawing will be held at the conclusion of the Friday afternoon session. You do not need to be present to win.

**5:30 – 6:30 pm—Pick Up Preregistration Packets—Outside Crystal Ballroom A**

**6:30 pm—Preregistration Special Drawing—Exhibit Hall—Ruby Room**

Winner will receive gifts valued up to $100 donated by SW Unlimited, Sherlock Washington, President. You do not need to be present to win.

**8:00 – 9:30 pm—Introduction to Audio Darts—Crystal Ballroom C**

Come learn how to play Audio Darts. Then you’ll be ready for the big game on Friday night! Tony Santiago, Board Member, Sports & Rec Division

**FRIDAY, NOV. 2, 2018**

**6:30 am—Breakfast Buffet—Hotel Restaurant**

*Breakfast buffet is provided free of charge in the hotel restaurant for those registered with the hotel. Bring your breakfast coupon. The hotel is full so get to breakfast early so you can be on time for sessions.*

**8:00 – 8:30 am—Banquet Ticket Exchange Open—Crystal Ballroom C**

 See Linda Melendez

**8:30 am–12:00 pm—Registration Open—Outside Crystal Ballroom A**

 **Pick up Pre-Registration Packets or Register**

Convention registration: $30

Friday Dinner: $45

Banquet tickets: $45

(Note: Prices are increased for walk-up registration. Next year, preregister!)

Drop off food pantry donations

**8:00 am–1:00 pm—Exhibit Hall Open—Ruby Room**

**8:45 am–12:00 pm—Division & Chapter Meetings—Crystal Ballroom**

**8:45 – 9:15 am—Senior Division Meeting**

Jane Degenshein, President

**9:20 – 10:00 am—Technology Division Meeting**

Jane Degenshein, President

**10:05 – 10:20 am—At Large Chapter**

Joe Ruffalo, President

**10:25 – 10:55 am—Sports & Recreation Division**

Linda Melendez, President

**11:00 – 11:30—Diabetic Division Meeting**

Ed Godfrey, President

**11:35 – 11:55 pm—Braille Division Meeting**

Mary Jo Partyka, President

**12:00–1:45 pm—Lunch on your own.** Afternoon session begins at 1:45. Hotel will provide quick Cash & Carry lunch items. Listen for location announcement.

**1:45 pm—Welcome & Opening Remarks—Crystal Ballroom**

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ; National Board Member, NFB

Carla McQuillan, National Representative; President, NFB of OR

**1:55 pm—I Can Connect & SSP: Opportunities for Independence**

Carly Fredericks, Outreach Coordinator

**2:05 pm—What’s New at the Library**

Adam Szczepaniak, Director, NJ Talking Book & Braille Center

**2:15 pm—Getting There: NJ Transit & Access Link**

Makia Pennix, Customer Service & Outreach, ADA Services, NJ Transit

**3:15 pm—Sports, Rec, & Tech**

**3:15 pm—Welcome & Overview**

Linda Melendez, President, Sports and Recreation Division

 **3:25—Newsline Sports & Rec Calendar and NFB NJ Book Club**

Jane Degenshein, Coordinator

**3:35 pm—Hitting the Road**

Philly Italian Market—Mary Jo Partyka

6 Dot Dash—Ada Crandle

Personal Challenge—Ellen Sullivan

Fit Break

**3:55 pm—On the Move**

Asbury Park Beach Day—Veronica Gaspa

Step Challenge—Marian Lee

Audio Darts—Tony Santiago

Regional Activities—Annemarie Cooke

**4:15 pm—Rec & Tech**

Tony Santiago, Board Member, Sports & Rec Division

**4:35 pm—Sports & Rec: What’s Ahead in 2019?**

Linda Melendez, President, Sports & Rec Division

**4:45 pm—Exhibit Hall Tables Drawing**

**5:00 pm—Announcements & Adjourn**

**5:15 pm—Dinner on your own—**Hotel restaurant is open.

**NFB of NJ Dinner—**Those who preregistered and prepaid for the NFB of NJ dinner, please proceed to **Crystal Ballroom C**.

**7:00 pm—Resolutions Committee Meeting— Crystal Ballroom C**

Ryan Stevens, Chair

 All are welcome.

**8:00–11:00 pm—RAISING CANES!—Crystal Ballroom**

Hosted by the State Affiliate & the Sports & Recreation Division

 Music and Dancing Karaoke

 Hula Hoop Contest Trivia Game

 Audio Darts Auction Prizes & Cash Bar

**SATURDAY, NOV. 3, 2018**

**6:30 am—Breakfast Buffet—Hotel Restaurant**

*Breakfast buffet is provided free of charge in the hotel restaurant for those registered with the hotel. Bring your breakfast coupon. The hotel is full so get to breakfast early so that you can be on time for sessions.*

**7:00–8:30 am—NJ Assoc. of Guide Dog Users Division Breakfast Meeting— Hotel Restaurant**

Dan Facchini, President

**7:00–8:30 am—Student Social Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant**

 Vee Gaspa, President

**8:00–8:45 am—Registration Open—Outside Crystal Ballroom A**

**7:45 – 8:30 am—Banquet Exchange—Crystal Ballroom C**

See Linda Melendez

**9:00 am—Welcome, Call to Order—Crystal Ballroom A**

 Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ

Linda Melendez, President, Sports & Recreation Host Division

**9:05 am—Invocation & Opening Ceremonies**

Jane Degenshein, President, Tech & Senior Divisions

**9:25 am—Introduction of Scholarship Class of 2018**

 Annemarie Cooke, Member, Scholarship Committee

**9:35 am—Presidential Report**

 Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ

**10:00 am—Blind with Vision—The National Report**

Carla McQuillan, National Representative; President, NFB of OR

**10:30 am—Protecting the Civil Rights of Blind Parents**

 Rick Fox, President, Northern Chapter, NFB NJ; Mary Jo Partyka,

1st VP, NFB NJ

**10:35 am—Working Together for the Rights of the Blind**

Yvonne Lopez, NJ Assemblywoman, 19th Legislative District

**10:50 am—Working Together to Make a Difference**

Elisa Neira, Deputy Commissioner, NJ Dept. of Human Services

Dr. Bernice Davis, Acting Exec. Director, NJ Comm. for the Blind & VI

Rick Fox, Chair, State Rehabilitation Council

**11:20 am—Louisiana Center for the Blind: Opportunity & Independence**

Connor Mullin, Graduate Student, LA Tech University

**11:30 am—Tapping It Forward: Sending Canes around the World**

Vee Gaspa, President, NJ Association of Blind Students

**11:40 am—The BELL Ringers—Braille Enrichment Learning & Literacy**

Joe Ruffalo, President, NFB NJ; Mary Jo Partyka, BELL Program Coordinator;Parents and Students

**11:55 pm—Announcements**

**12:00 pm—Adjourn**

**12:00 – 1:50 pm—Lunch on your own**

Hotel will provide a quick Cash & Carry lunch. Listen for location announcements.

For those eating in the hotel restaurant, please ask your server to bring your check when your meal is served. Paying at the time of service will save you time and allow you to arrive in time for the afternoon session.

**12:00 – 12:45 pm—Banquet Ticket Exchange—Crystal Ballroom C**

See Linda Melendez

**12:00 -1:45—Student Division Meeting**

Call Vee Gaspa, President, Student Division, at 434-989-1868 for location

**12:00 – 1:45—DeafBlind Division Meeting—Jade Room**

Alice Eaddy, President, DeafBlind Division

**1:00 – 1:45—Getting Your Child’s Education & Independence Skills on Track**

**—Crystal Ballroom A**

Carol Castellano, Founder, Parents of Blind Children-NJ

Carla McQuillan, NFB National Representative

**AFTERNOON SESSION—Crystal Ballroom A**

**1:50 pm—Announcements & Auction Prize**

Joe Ruffalo, President, NFB NJ

**2:00 pm—Brian Mackey: Blind with Vision**

Joe Ruffalo, President, NFB NJ

**2:05 pm—The Convention Experience: Raising Expectations**

Dawn Ferrara, Jonathan Zobec, Katie Maunder

Recipients of the Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship

**2:25 pm—Raising the Bar for Blind Kids**

Carol Castellano, Founder, POBC-NJ

**2:40 pm—NFB EQ: Engineering Quotient**

Natasha Ishaq & Sami Ishaq, Students

**3:00 pm— Auction Prize and Fit Break**

**3:05 pm— EDGE—Employment, Development, Guidance, Engagement**

Carlos Herrera & Lia Stone, Employment Specialists; Jonathan Zobec, Student

**3:25 pm—Business Enterprise NJ—BENJ: Opportunities for Entrepreneurs**

Nicky Gacos, President, National Association of Blind Merchants

**3:40 pm—Auction Prize & Fit Break**

**3:50 pm—Jersey Shore Running Club: Put Your Best Foot Forward**

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Michael Procopio, President, Jersey Shore Running Club

**4:05 pm—Aira: Blind with Vision**

Marty Watts, Director of Marketing, Aira

**4:15 pm—Of Diapers, Baby Bottles, and Civil Rights**

Paul Vail, Marisa Lewis, Dan Aronoff, Ania Meyner, Joanna Mallard, Parents

**4:40 pm—Why I Am a Federationist**

 Bea Olivetti, Member

**4:50—Auction & Announcements**

**5:00—Adjourn**

**5:00—5:15 pm—Final Banquet Ticket Exchange Open—Crystal Ballroom C**

See Linda Melendez

**6:45 pm—Banquet—Crystal Ballroom**

**Master of Ceremonies**—Nicky Gacos, Pres., Nat’l Assoc. of Blind Merchants

 **Invocation**—Rick Fox, President, Northern Chapter, NFBNJ

 **Banquet** **Address**–Carla McQuillan, NFB National Representative

**Awards**—Carol Castellano, Awards Committee

Raising Expectations Award

Agnes Allen Award

**NFB of NJ Scholarship Awards**—Annemarie Cooke, Scholarship Committee

 Klaus & Michelle Zechner Scholarship

 Louise and Peter Facchini Memorial Scholarship

 Tara Carty Memorial Scholarship

 Gail & Tom Ferry Memorial Scholarship

 Annemarie Cooke & Doug McCray Scholarship

**Auction**

We thank our members, chapters, divisions, and friends for their generous donations of auction items. Please bid high and bid often, as all proceeds will assist in growing the affiliate and making a difference!

 **Cash Bar** available

**SUNDAY, NOV. 4, 2018**

**6:30 am—Breakfast Buffet—Hotel Restaurant**

*Breakfast buffet is provided free of charge in the hotel restaurant for those registered with the hotel. The hotel is full so get there early to be on time for our meeting. Bring your breakfast coupon.*

**7–7:30 am—Morning Devotions—Ruby Room**

Misty Hagen

**Please Note:** Checkout time is 11:00 am. Bring your luggage with you to the meeting or bring it to the hotel desk before the meeting for storage.

**8:45 –11:30 am—Program and Business Meeting—Crystal Ballroom A**

 **Invocation—**Alice Eaddy

 **Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions**

 **Blind with Vision—We’re Making It Happen—**Carla McQuillan

**Legislative Report—**Ryan Stevens, Chair, Legislative Committee

 **Resolutions—**Ryan Stevens, Chair, Resolutions Committee

 **Chapter, Division,** **Committee Reports**

 **Elections**

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the NJ Talking Book and Braille Center for Brailling this agenda.

We thank the following donors to our Auction:

The Able Baker, Maplewood, NJ

Bausch Foundation, Bridgewater, NJ

Michael Benson and the Visual Experience Foundation

Duncan Donuts, Bloomfield, NJ

Jon Gabry, Artist

JSR Tech Consulting

Lord and Taylor, Bridgewater, NJ

LS&S Products, LLC

Robert and James Rizzolo, NY, NY

Shop Rite Nutley, NJ

Starbucks at Macy’s, Willowbrook Mall, Wayne, NJ

Trader Joe’s, Millburn, NJ

WAWA Foundation

Wegmans, Woodbridge, NJ

Whole Foods, Vauxhall, NJ

Zalli’s Shop Rite, Medford, NJ

And all our chapters, divisions, and individual members

for their generous donations

For information on NFB of NJ and our divisions, chapters, committees,

programs, and projects, please visit nfbnj.org.

**SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS**

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***Aim High Level***

**Bausch Foundation**

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

## *Blind with Vision Level*

**Radwell International**

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

## *Raising Expectations Level*

**Sprint Vision**

Warren Knight, Outreach Specialist

Kelly Egan

619-246-7107

Sarah.garcia@sprint.com

[www.sprint.com/accessibility](http://www.sprint.com/accessibility)

## *Live the Life You Want Level*

**3D PhotoWorks**

[www.3dphotoworks.com](http://www.3dphotoworks.com)

**Aira**

Marty Watts, Director of Sales

858-876-2472

marty.watts@aira.io

[www.aira.io](http://www.aira.io)

**C TECH**

Chuck Cohen, President

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**Independence Science**
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**Mariposa Essence**Rosa Santiago, Owner
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**The Seeing Eye Institute**

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Melissa Allman, Adv. & Gov. Relations

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**Tangible Surface Research, LLC**

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## *Transforming Dreams Level*

**Family Resource Network, EDGE**

Carlos Herrera, Roula Mashal, Lia Stone, EDGE Employment Specialists

Gloria Florez, EDGE Employment Developer

732-937-6397

cherrera@familyresourcenetwork.org

www.familyresourcenetwork.org

**Heightened Independence and Progress (HIP)**

Trisha Ebel, Independent Living Assistant

201-996-9100 X 19

tebel.ber@hipcil.org

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

**iCanConnect/NJ**

Carly Fredericks, Outreach Coordinator

609-771-2711

carly.fredericks@tcnj.edu

https://njcscd.tcnj.edu

**Industries for the Blind Solutions**

Haleig Yarboro, HR representative

336-759-0551 X 5754

hyarboro@ifbsolutions.org

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

**JW.org**

Keith & Janet Parmerter

Roger Freeman
678-407-9787

janet@parmertertours.com

www.jw.org

**NJ Commission for the Blind & VI**

Pamela Gaston, Public Info. Specialist

877-685-8878

Pamela.gaston@dhs.state.nj.us

[www.cbvi.nj.gov](http://www.cbvi.nj.gov)

**NJ State Library**

**Talking Book & Braille Center**

Adam Szczepaniak, Director

Andy O'Rahilly, Machine Lending Specialist
800-792-8322

aszczepaniak@njstatelib.org

www.njstatelib.org/tbbc

**Support Service Providers of NJ (SSPNJ)**

Kathleen Spata, Statewide Program Coordinator

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https://njcscd.tcnj.edu/support-service-providers-of-new-jersey/

**The Tech Juggernaut**

Matt Vollbrecht, Founder

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