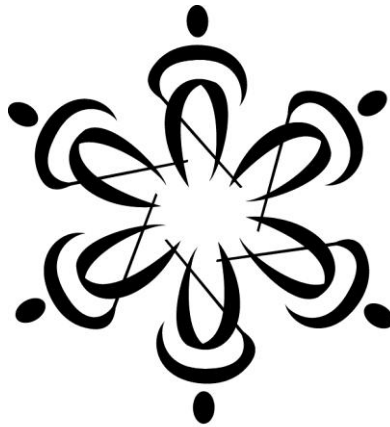


The 42nd Annual State Convention
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey



**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.

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**

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 Brailleing 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

Blind with Vision Level

Radwell International
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

Live the Life You Want Level

3D PhotoWorks
www.3dphotoworks.com

Aira
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Transforming Dreams Level

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JW.org

Keith & Janet Parmerter
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NJ Commission for the Blind & VI

Pamela Gaston, Public Info. Specialist
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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

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