

**Unlocking Our Possibilities**

**63rd ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA**

Tracy Soforenko, President

**Sunday, October 24 – Sunday, October 31, 2021**

**Virtually over Zoom**

For assistance with accessibility features for Zoom--whether vision or hearing, please visit the Zoom accessibility page: https://zoom.us/accessibility

**Our National Representative:**

**Denise Avant, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind and First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Illinois**

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# The Federation 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.”

# Convention Registration

Convention registration is available online. We ask everyone, whether a Virginia resident or not, to register. If you register before October 18, you will be entered into a drawing for $100. Additionally, current members of a Virginia chapter or division will be eligible to vote for resolutions and in our elections.

Online registration is free and simple:

<https://www.nfbv.org/registration>

Inclusivity, Diversity, and Social Conduct

We are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone. Thank you for cultivating an atmosphere in which participants from diverse backgrounds can learn, network, and share with each other in an environment of mutual respect. We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas.

These principles have been outlined in our code of conduct found at:

<https://nfb.org/code-conduct>

We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Prohibited behaviors include harassment, unwelcome sexual attention, and inappropriate use of the NFB of Virginia virtual convention platform. Prohibited behavior or misuse of the platform will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the convention and/or other consequences. For assistance or to report an incident at the convention, please call 703-672-1339, or email [help@nfbv.org](mailto:help@nfbv.org) for immediate attention. All reports will be fully investigated according to the steps in our code of conduct. Thank you for doing your part to contribute to our community and the high expectations we strive to maintain.

## Zoom Meeting Access

During the convention, we will be using one of three separate Zoom meetings to run all programming.

We have embedded the Zoom links into the agenda to make it easy to just select the link and access your meeting.

There are three meeting rooms which are being used based on our requirements for certain features.

High-Capacity Sessions such as General Session and the keynote will use:

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 998 626 1733   
Passcode: 20201940   
One tap mobile: [+13017158592,,9986261733#](Tel:+13017158592,,9986261733)

For many sessions, we will be using our Standard Virginia Zoom Room:

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 725 6345

One Tap Mobile: +[13017158592,,8297256345#](tel:+13017158592,,8297256345)

Finally, some additional meetings will use a third Zoom Room:

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/4926969418?pwd=dDdqOVRieXg4bXFwNmh1MjJyUGJ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 492 696 9418   
Passcode: 20201940   
One tap mobile: [+16468769923,,4926969418#](tel:+16468769923,,4926969418)

For those using a land line telephone to access the meeting, we have made most of the information the same except for the meeting ID.

The telephone number to call for all meetings is: 301 715 8592

If prompted, the Password is always 2020 1940

## Door Prizes

Door prizes will be drawn periodically throughout convention sessions on Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday and at the banquet. To be eligible for door prizes, you must be registered for the convention and present on Zoom when your name is called. To claim your door prize, you will need to email our door prize team within 10 minutes of the announcement. When your name is called you will need to provide the following information in your email door prize team at [doorprizes@nfbv.org](mailto:doorprizes@nfbv.org)

* Your name
* Your phone
* Your email address
* The special code provided at the time the door prize was called.

## Action Auction

Beginning October 18 and ending at 5:00 PM ET on Sunday, October 31, 2021 we will be holding an Action Auction to raise money for our new Silver Bells program for blind and low vision seniors. Most auction items will be available through the online auction only, but a few will be auctioned off on Saturday, October 30 in a live auction at the banquet. The auction will be great fun with many valuable items up for bid. You will have a chance to review and bid on all auction items through our online auction platform.

<https://www.32auctions.com/nfbv21>

For more information, contact Renee Valdez, Fundraising Co-Chairperson at (703) 966-0836 or

[reneerome@yahoo.com](mailto:reneerome@yahoo.com) or you can contact our auctioneer, Laurie Wages at (540) 287-5446 or

[lburns24@yahoo.com](mailto:lburns24@yahoo.com)

## Pre-Authorized Contribution Plan

The Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Plan is a phenomenal and easy way to fund the vital efforts of the National Federation of the Blind.  Protecting our rights, providing advocacy, and being able to offer programs such as our efforts around voting access, remote learning assistance for parents and children, and the innumerable programs and services of the Federation cannot happen without financial support.

Please consider joining the PAC Plan, or if you are already a member, please consider increasing your contribution. The recurring monthly contributions can be direct withdrawals from a checking account or charges to a credit card.  New members will be contacted for their bank account or credit card information.  Increased contributions from existing members will be debited from your existing account or charged to the card on file unless you wish to change this.

Details of the program and a form to sign up or increase your contribution are available at

<https://www.nfb.org/pac>

Please select Virginia in the affiliate to be credited field.

If you have questions or would prefer to work with someone over the phone, call 877-NFB 2 PAC or 877 632-2722.

Once you have filled out the form or called and left a message, please send an email to our Virginia Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Chair, Christine Grassman to tell her the following:

* Your Name
* New PAC or Existing PAC
* Monthly Increase Amount

Email this information to Christine at:

[cfgrassman@icloud.com](mailto:cfgrassman@icloud.com)

## Requesting Help or Assistance

If you need assistance from the NFB of Virginia (such as helping a blind child get a strong education, getting access to blindness skills training, learning to use NFB-NEWSLINE®, or resolving an employment discrimination problem), please email our help line, [help@nfbv.org](mailto:help@nfbv.org). You may also call the NFBV Help Line at: 703-672-1339. You may use this line to ask technical questions if you are having trouble logging into any of our Zoom sessions. Any questions that require the attention of President Soforenko will be forwarded to his attention. In certain cases, please know your inquiry may not be addressed until after the convention.

# Sunday, October 24, 2021

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Opening the Doors on This Year’s Convention

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

All convention attendees are cordially invited to attend a welcoming Zoom meeting. President Soforenko will be on hand to preview convention activities and provide a historical perspective of the organization and how it grew into one of the leading affiliates it is today. If you are new to the NFB, come learn a little more about the extended family that could become your own.

7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Advocating for your Blind Child, Part 1 of a seminar conducted by the Virginia Organization of Parents of Blind Children.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

We invite you to rejoice and celebrate children of all ages and endeavor to learn more about encouraging independence in our homes and communities.  Please join for part 1 of our parents’ program as we converse together and hear from guest speaker, Jordana Engebreston, the National Federation of the Blind 2021 Distinguished Educator of Blind Students.

# Monday, October 25, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Virginia Organization of Parents of Blind Children Annual Meeting, Beth Sellers, President, Virginia Parents of Blind Children.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

This is part 2 of the Parents Seminar.  Whether you have a newborn infant, or your child is a working adult, you are warmly invited to our annual parents of blind children meeting, where we brainstorm, reflect, and learn together to set our children up for success. Throughout the evening, we will hear from successful blind adults in the workforce and participate in interactive conversations on the school systems and supporting our children toward confidence and independence. The parents’ support network is stronger with your voice involved.

# Tuesday, October 26, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Embracing Our Diversity: Understanding distinctions between Prejudice, Bias, and Micro Triggers: Uricka Harrison and Chris Walker– Co-chairs, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

The National Federation of the Blind recognizes that our diversity is a core strength. This interactive session, organized by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will cover prejudice, bias, and microaggression. How are they different and how are they intertwined?

Key discussion facilitators will include:

* Denise Avant, National Federation of the Blind Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee National Committee Member, Chicago, Illinois.

# Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Partnering with the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

7:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m. Welcome Remarks: Tracy Soforenko, President.

7:05 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. Initiating, Engaging, Thriving:  The Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired Partners with Stakeholders and Pursues Opportunities

- Melody Roane, Director, Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired, Moderator, Richmond Virginia.

- Bella Teta, Participant in the 2021 LIFE Program, Gainesville, Virginia

- Shayla Winn, Student in the Adult Training Program, Midlothian, Virginia

- Matt Harding, TVI and O and M Instructor for Roanoke Public Schools, Pearisburg, Virginia

7:20 p.m. to 7:35 p.m. Rehabilitation Services for the Blind in Virginia. Raymond Hopkins, Commissioner, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

7:35 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Questions and Answers with Commissioner Hopkins.

7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Public Meeting on DBVI Divisions, Programs and Services: Susan K. Davis, Policy and Training Coordinator, Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

We are grateful that DBVI will hold a public meeting where attendees can ask questions and speak with agency leadership. DBVI wants to hear from you so come and share your thoughts and ideas on how DBVI can better meet the needs of blind and low vision Virginians.  Let your voice be heard.

8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Blind Parents' Annual Meetup: Virginia Blind Parents Seminar. Jessica Reed, facilitator.

[Meeting ID: 4926969418](https://zoom.us/j/4926969418?pwd=dDdqOVRieXg4bXFwNmh1MjJyUGJ3Zz09)

Just as there is more than one way to carve a pumpkin, there is definitely more than one way to blind parent. Whether you are a blind homeschooler, blind father, and yes even a blind homesteader there is always something new we can glean from each other. At times, we have all felt there is nothing scarier than parenting, so come on out for some sharing and exchanging of ideas on how to skin the cat.

# Thursday, October 28, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Virginia Association of Blind Students Seminar and Business Meeting, Jacob Ham, President.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

If you are a student of any age, this evening item is for you! Join students across the Commonwealth to share, learn, and grow until late hours of the evening. During this seminar, you will be introduced to successful and ambitious blind professionals and students, confident and independent throughout their lives. At the end, make your voice heard by participating in the student division's annual election!

9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Scholarship Mixer: Jimmy Morris, Chairperson.

[Meeting ID: 4926969418](https://zoom.us/j/4926969418?pwd=dDdqOVRieXg4bXFwNmh1MjJyUGJ3Zz09)

# Friday, October 29, 2021

### Senior Empowerment Seminar:

### Unlocking the Best of the Rest

Retirement does not spell the end of your productive years. It is the start of a fresh chapter, the freedom to live life on your own terms, and if you happen to be blind or low vision, there is a range of resources that is going to make independence taste sweeter than ever! Join us for an afternoon of interactive discussion and exploration. This is your time, your story, your opportunity to unlock the best of the rest!

While this seminar is targeting seniors, we believe that everyone could benefit from participating in the exciting programming we have defined.

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

1:00 p.m. The False Narrative - Tracy Soforenko, President, NFB of Virginia

1:10 p.m. Welcome to Our Family - Nancy Yeager, President, NFBV Seniors Division

1:15 p.m. Silver BELLS Are Ringing and What This Means for Your Independence - Sandy Halverson, Program Coordinator

1:30 p.m. Your Philosophical Spirit: What is it and how does it guide you? - Linda Melendez, President, National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

2:00 p.m. Who Says You Can’t Live Life the Way You Want? Cracking Down on How We Travel, Cook, and Communicate with Flare - Shimere Roberts, Moderator. Panelists: Chris Walker, Evelyn Valdez, and Wanda Taylor

2:30 p.m. Intermission. Take a moment to stretch, refill your beverage of choice, and come back to join us for more exciting programming!

2:40 p.m. Convention Weekend Previews

2:45 p.m. Controlling Your Health Using Audible Devices with Tactile Over the Counter and Prescription Medications - Accessible Pharmacy

3:00 p.m. Literature Unleashed: From the Classics to Contemporary Page Turners, Your library in your back pocket. - Joe Orozco

3:10 p.m. Get Plugged into Your Community: In Your Home and on the Go! - Karin Jernberg, Moderator

NFB Newsline: 500 Newspapers and Magazines at the Speed of a Finger Flick or Push of a Button - John Halverson, Coordinator

Virginia Voice: Your News Delivered with a Human Touch - Teresa Wray, Director

Access Virginia: From the Stage to Your Ears, Theater Description at Its Best - Jacki Bruce, President

3:45 p.m. Breaking Down Our Concerns and Building Up Our Confidence: An Interactive Dialogue. Keep your seats and allow a rotation of presenters to answer your most pressing questions about everything.

Team 1: Home Management Essentials

Team 2: Dealing with Your Family

Team 3: Managing Your health, Finances and Other Responsibilities

4:45 p.m. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Resolutions Committee: Deepa Goraya, Chairperson.

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

We encourage the participation of all members in setting Federation policy, and the best way to influence policy is through resolutions. As a grass roots organization, we serve our movement through collective action, and such action begins with policy making and debate. Come help shape the policies of the NFB of Virginia. Please refer to the [Principles of Engagement](http://nfbv.org/principles_of_engagement) for details on how to voice your positions on the proposed resolutions.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Virginia Association of Blind Merchants Division Business Meeting: Jimmy Cunningham, President, Virginia Merchants Division, Prince George, Virginia.

[Meeting ID: 4926969418](https://zoom.us/j/4926969418?pwd=dDdqOVRieXg4bXFwNmh1MjJyUGJ3Zz09)

The Merchants are as resilient today as we have ever been. Like everyone else, we continue to work toward improving upon our new norm. In doing so, we are reviewing new ideas and things that we can add to what we are presently doing to avoid pitfalls that we encountered from COVID-19.  free to join up at our Merchant meeting to hear and learn more.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. At-Large Chapter Meeting: Patrick Johnson, President.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

Come join the chapter for our annual reception and business meeting.

The virtual reception is open to all blind Virginians and family members regardless of where you live in the Commonwealth.

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Unlocking our Possibilities: A Federation Philosophy Seminar

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

Unlocking Our Possibilities

Three words. One theme. In this session, we will be analyzing this statement, breaking it down and creating meaningful discussion.  Our goal is to build collaborations that will connect to who we are and answer the question “who are we and what is next?” Come ready to speak your mind and be heard at this empowering session and work on unlocking your own possibilities.

## Virginia October Fest Party

Join us for this virtual house party where you can meet old friends, make new connections, and enjoy drinks and snacks from your personal collection. Meetings will be staggered to ensure there isn’t a rush at a specific time and we will be running these meetings over 3 separate Zoom Rooms.

8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Game Room

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

Join us for fun interactive games where you can compete against each other in team and individual settings. Name that Politician, Word Games, Family Feud, and other games will be organized by Mary Durbin and Christine Grassman.

8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Virginia Association of Blind Students (VABS) Welcoming Party

[Meeting ID: 4926969418](https://zoom.us/j/4926969418?pwd=dDdqOVRieXg4bXFwNmh1MjJyUGJ3Zz09)

Got something to do on a Friday night? We hope it's hanging with VABS! Get to know your fellow students with interactive icebreakers, engaging discussion, and high energy programming all in one session! All are welcome for an hour of fun, relaxation, and connections with the students.

9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Meet Our National Rep, Denise Avant

[Meeting ID: 4926969418](https://zoom.us/j/4926969418?pwd=dDdqOVRieXg4bXFwNmh1MjJyUGJ3Zz09)

Denise both serves as a Member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors and First Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois. She is also a warm, brilliant, and fun person and we are providing this opportunity to get to know her outside of her more formal role in the convention. Feel free to stop by and get to know her and share some of your ideas.

9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Campfire Stories – Do you believe in ghosts?

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

Have you ever experienced something that just can’t be explained by rational thought or science? Or, maybe you just enjoy a good spooky story. Come join us for an hour of deliciously scary chat. We can talk about favorite scary books, podcasts, or movies, or better yet, our own experiences... Whatever generates that spine-tingling chill. Find a quiet space with your favorite snack and cozy up to our crackling fire. Organized by the Virginia Association of Blind Students.

# Saturday, October 30, 2021

## General Session

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

9:00 a.m. Call to Order -Tracy Soforenko, President, NFB of Virginia.

9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Opening Ceremonies:

* Gavel Down - Nora Nadeem, BELL Academy In Home Edition Participant, Staunton, Virginia.
* Invocation – Carshena Gary, Vice President, Peninsula Chapter, Capron, Virginia.
* Presentation of the Colors and Veterans Salute.
* Pledge of Allegiance, US Army Veteran, Joseph Hobson, Potomac Chapter, Arlington, Virginia.
* Federation Pledge, Michael Matthews, Project RISE Participant, Yorktown, Virginia.
* Star Spangled Banner, Julie McGinnity, Potomac Chapter, Arlington, Virginia.
* Greetings from Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, Virginia 10th District.

9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. National Report, Denise Avant, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind and First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois.

9:45 a.m. to 9:55a.m. Update on NFB Safety and Support Initiatives – Kathryn Webster, Co-Lead, NFB Survivors Group, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

9:55 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. My Journey: From Where I was to where I am Now, A Confident Blind Senior- Karin Jernberg, Potomac Chapter, Alexandria, Virginia.

10:05 a.m.: to 10:20 a.m. Working to Move the Needle on Disability Employment and Close the Disability Wealth Gap Through Impact Investment: SmartJob - Regina Kline, Founder and CEO, SmartJob, LLC, Alexandria, Virginia.

10:20 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. Volunteering Your Way into Gainful Employment

* Brittany Ingram, Fredericksburg, Virginia.
* Cynthia Brandon, Mechanicsville, Virginia.
* Elana Crew, Baltimore, Maryland.

10:35 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Breaking Barriers: A Personal Story of a Blind Immigrant.

Sachin Pavithran Ph.D., Executive Director, US Access Board, McLean, Virginia.

10:45 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. Why Am I a Federationist – Jacki Bruce, Corresponding Secretary, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, and President, Greater Williamsburg Chapter, Williamsburg, Virginia.

11:05 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. AIRA: Your Special Sneak Peak From an Insider's Perspective, Tracy Yeager, Agent, AIRA Tech Corporation, Alexandria, Virginia.

11:15 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Introducing the 2021 NFB of Virginia James F. Nelson, Jr. Scholarship Finalists.

* Jimmy Morris, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Glen Allen, Virginia.
* Kailey Christian, Old Dominion University, Chesapeake, Virginia.
* Chris Infante, College of William and Mary, Henrico, Virginia.
* Desmond Walker, Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
* Wayne Edward Williams Jr., Lord Fairfax Community College, Winchester, Virginia.

11:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Reports and Announcements.

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Unlocking Our Possibilities:

The Key to Results That Last, A Presidential Report, Tracy Soforenko, President, NFB of Virginia.

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns.

# Saturday Afternoon Seminars

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12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Big Money Made Easy. Brianna Murray, Facilitator.

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

The path to financial success doesn’t need to be difficult but it does require discipline. From the 10 lessons written on an index card to techniques used by blind role models, you can learn the techniques for financial success.

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Leadership Bootcamp: Everything You Didn't Want to Hear About Leadership, Joe Orozco and Domonique Lawless, Co-facilitators.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

Chapter meetings are boring. People complain but never want to volunteer. We always do the same things. Yep, we've all heard the typical gripes, but what if the problem is you? Buck up, buttercup. This is not your grandpa's feel good seminar. Come ready to listen, learn, and lend your voice to making the organization stronger. Platitudes are not welcomed. Straight talk is encouraged, and action items are a must.

## 2021 Convention Keynote and

## Halloween Celebration

In Federation fashion, come dressed in costume and ready for a fine celebration with a keynote address by National Representative Denise Avant.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Trick Or Treat: Speed Dining.

[Meeting ID: 829 725 6345](https://zoom.us/j/8297256345?pwd=SFAyamlQNU44ZTJ6dUZNMTV4RmhCQT09)

Meet Old Friends, Make New Ones at this Virtual Banquet Meal. You will be moved to a new Zoom breakout table every 10-15 minutes.

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Keynote Program – Sandy Halverson, Master of Ceremonies and First Vice President, NFB of Virginia:

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

* Invocation— Christine Grassman, President, Potomac Chapter, Falls Church, Virginia.
* Keynote Address – Denise Avant, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind.
* 2021 James F. Nelson Scholarship Awards Presentation—Jimmy Morris, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Glen Allen, Virginia.
* Action Auction - Laurie Wages, Auctioneer
* Drawings and Announcements.

# Sunday, October 31, 2021

## General Session

[Meeting ID: 9986261733](https://zoom.us/j/9986261733?pwd=SFdxVkhKQ0tDTXg3MzVhMlE4OHp3UT09)

1:00 p.m. to 1:05 p.m. Invocation – Stewart Prost, President, Tidewater Chapter, Norfolk, Virginia.

1:05 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. Unlocking the Power of Words: Using the Tool of Storytelling.

* Qudsiya Naqui, Board Member, Potomac Chapter, Washington, District of Columbia.
* Amir Rahimi, Greater Alexandria Chapter, Arlington, Virginia.
* Althea Pittman, President, Eastern Shore Chapter, Melfa, Virginia.

1:25 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. Learning by Doing: Braille Enrichment for Literacy & Learning (BELL) Academy In Home Edition.

* Louise Walch, BELL Coordinator, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
* Renee Valdez, Virginia Supplemental BELL Coordinator, Alexandria, Virginia.

1:40 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Unlocking the Phoenix: Project RISE Reaches New Heights.

* Brianna Murray, Project RISE Program Coordinator, Highland Park, New Jersey.
* Ally Kelso, Project RISE student, Burke, Virginia
* Aleyanah Holden, Project RISE student, Triangle, Virginia
* Gheeti Nusrati, Project RISE graduate, Springfield, Virginia
* 2:00 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. What Students Are Doing to Unlock Their Potential– Logan Stenzel, Board Member, National Association of Blind Students, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2:10 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. Reports and Announcements

2:20 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Collaborating to Increase Our Access to Sensory Trails:

* Chris Walker, President, Winchester Chapter, Winchester, Virginia
* Laure Wallace, Virginia master naturalist, sky meadow State Park, Delaplaine Virginia.
* Tom Crosby, Winchester Host Lions club, Jim Barnett Park, Winchester, Virginia.

2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Interactive Town Hall Discussion with Denise Avant, Bord member, National Federation of the Blind and Tracy Soforenko, President.

3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. Reports and Announcements.

3:10 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. Business Session:

* Resolutions—Deepa Goraya, Chairperson.
* Audit Committee Report—Sean McMahon, Chairperson.
* Treasurer’s Report—Mark Roane, Treasurer.
* SUN Committee Report: Sandy Halverson, Chairperson.
* PAC Report: Christine Grassman, Virginia PAC Chairperson.
* 2022 Richmond and Washington Seminars.
* 2022 National Convention, July 5 - July 10, New Orleans, Louisiana.
* 2022 NFB of Virginia Convention, October 28– October 30, Westin Tyson’s Corner, Falls church, Virginia.

3:50 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Reports and Announcements.

4:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns.