**Week Ending July 29, 2023 NFBNJ President Melendez Notes, Items of Interest including 47th Annual State Convention details and Convention Dates to Keep in Mind**

Greetings all,

As we wind down from our amazing 2023 National Convention. I wanted to thank everyone for their support and well wishes during my breast cancer journey. As I mentioned during the convention caucus meeting my treatment is complete and I am officially cancer free. I will continue to work behind the scenes until the end of August as I wrap up my doctor appointments and take my annual summer family staycation.

Included in this email are the following:

1. NFBNJ Board Member Update:
2. 47th Annual State Convention; It Begins with Us   
   a. Saturday General Session Afternoon Recommendations   
   b. Exhibitor Recommendations  
   c. Friday Afternoon Breakout Session Recommendations  
   d. Hotel Reservations and Details  
   e. Pre-Registration Information  
   f. Daily Schedule Outline
3. Convention Dates to Keep in Mind

Please save this email for future reference.

Warmly,   
Linda Melendez, President   
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey   
908-590-1747   
[president@nfbnj.org](mailto:president@nfbnj.org)

**NFBNJ Board Update:**

Zoraida Krell, member of the Northeast Chapter and Affiliate Board Member has resigned her board seat for personal reasons. We would like to thank her for years of service on the board and wish her well as a continued NFBNJ member.

Rick Fox, President of the Northern Chapter has been appointed to her vacated seat. I know I speak for everyone with congratulations and thanks to Rick for his continued leadership and support.

# **47th Annual State Convention; It Begins with Us:**

1. **Saturday Afternoon General Session Recommendations**   
   To suggest a topic or presenter for the Saturday, Nov. 11 afternoon General Session please click on the link below to complete and submit a form by Monday, August 21st.   
   <https://www.nfbnj.org/state-convention/agenda-recommendation-form>
2. **Exhibit Hall Recommendations**   
   To suggest an exhibitor or sponsor please click on the link below to complete and submit a form by Monday, August 21st.   
   <https://www.nfbnj.org/state-convention/vendor-sponsor-recommendation-form>
3. **Friday Afternoon Breakout Session Recommendations:**   
   We have the availability to offer a breakout session in the afternoon of Friday, November 10. This breakout session should be targeted for the general membership since we will be having breakout sessions at the same time for Parents of Blind Children, Blind Parents and Job Seekers. Please send your recommendations to [nfbnj.convention@gmail.com](mailto:nfbnj.convention@gmail.com) by Monday, August 21st.
4. **Hotel Reservations and Details:**   
   We are pleased to have this year’s convention at the Crowne Plaza Edison located at [2055 Lincoln Highway, Edison, NJ 08817](https://www.google.com/maps/search/2055+Lincoln+Highway,+Edison,+NJ+08817?entry=gmail&source=g). The room rate is $119 per night plus applicable taxes (outlined below). We have also negotiated this room rate from one to four occupants per room per night.   
     
   [Please click here for the booking link](https://www.crowneplaza.com/redirect?path=asearch&brandCode=CP&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=EDSCP&checkInDate=08&checkInMonthYear=102023&checkOutDate=12&checkOutMonthYear=102023&rateCode=6CBARC&_PMID=99801505&GPC=NFB&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)or you can paste the address below directly in your browser:   
   <https://www.crowneplaza.com/redirect?path=asearch&brandCode=CP&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=EDSCP&checkInDate=08&checkInMonthYear=102023&checkOutDate=12&checkOutMonthYear=102023&rateCode=6CBARC&_PMID=99801505&GPC=NFB&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>Bookings can also be called in to our central reservations at 877-666-3243  
   Booking Code: NFB  
   Last Day to Book: Thursday, October 26th 5 PM  
     
   The above rates are subject to 6.625% New Jersey State tax, 5.0% Occupancy tax and 3.0% Municipal tax. All taxes are subject to change without prior notice. Rates include Bagged Continental Breakfast (chef’s choice to include a bread, fruit, juice and hot beverage)
5. **Pre-Registration:**  
   I am in the process of finalizing menu options and hope to have pre-registration open at the beginning of August; stay tuned for details.
6. **Daily Schedule Outline:**  
   **Thursday, November 9**  
   11:00 AM to 9 PM – Exhibit Hall Open  
   1:00 to 5:00 PM - Technology Session   
   5:30 to 7:00 PM – Membership & Friendship Appreciation Pizza Party; Sponsored by the NFBNJ  
   7:30 to 9:30 PM – Affiliate Membership Committee Segment  
     
   **Friday, November 10**  
   8:00 to Noon - Exhibit Hall Open  
   9:00 AM to Noon - Committee & Division Meetings  
   Noon to 12:30 PM - Pre-Purchased Box Lunch Pick-Up  
   1:30 to 4:30 PM - Breakout sessions  
   5:30 to 7 PM – Federation Family Dinner   
   7:00 PM – Resolutions  
   8:15ish to 11:00 PM – Entertainment; Sponsored by Affiliate Membership Committee  
     
   **Saturday, November 11**  
   8:30 to 9:00 AM- Traditional Pre-Convention Music  
   9:00 AM to Noon - General Session One  
   Noon to 12:30 PM - Pre-Purchased Box Lunch pick-up  
   1:15 to 5:00 PM - General Session Two  
   7:00 PM - Banquet  
     
   **Sunday, November 12**  
   8:30 to 11:30 AM Affiliate Business Meeting

# **Convention Dates to Keep in Mind**

* August 21 – Last Day to submit Afternoon General Session Recommendations
* August 21 – Last Day to submit Exhibitor Recommendations
* August 21 Last Day to submit Friday Afternoon Breakout Session Recommendations
* October 26th 5 PM Last Day for Hotel Reservations
* October 26th 5 PM Last Day for Pre-Registration
* November 9 to November 12 47th Annual State Convention; It Begins with Us