**SUBJECT: President Melendez Affiliate Notebook June 14, 2024**

Greetings,

I dislike flooding your Inbox with messages, so I choose to send you my Affiliate Notebook from time to time when there is important news to share. This document is formatted for the easiest read; if you use JAWS, just press the H key to move from heading to heading.

If you are new to the NFBNJ, please know that reading through this notebook will get you up and running on the latest information related to our organization and affiliate. Important information pasted below and attached in a word file goes out to you in this comprehensive e-mail to keep you in the loop.

With our national and state conventions coming up fast, there’s plenty of news you need to know. So, please read, save and share – here goes: Included in the email are:

1. NFB Mission Statement
2. National Convention News
3. Affiliate News & Updates
4. 49th NFBNJ Annual State Convention News

Warmly,

Linda Melendez, President  
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# **NFB Mission Statement**

All our work on a local, affiliate and national level must be in ordinance with our mission statement listed below:  
  
*The National Federation of the Blind advances the lives of its members and all blind people in the United States. We know 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. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.*

# National Convention News

## Affiliate Caucus Meeting

Whether you’re attending the NFB National Convention in person in Orlando, Florida or virtually on Zoom, save the below date and time for our annual New Jersey Caucus. This important event brings us all together, similar to our affiliate business meeting at the NJ state convention. I will update us on changes to procedures and projects in our affiliate. And I’ll also share any relevant affiliate and state convention news. Of course, let’s not forget the banquet exchange so we can be sure to have banquet seating with our fellow NJ Federationists if we choose.

## Meeting Participation Details0

**Date**: Tuesday, July 4, 2024

**Time**: 7 to 8:30 PM Eastern Time  
**In-Person Location**: Salon 2

**Virtual Location**: Affiliate Zoom’ credentials below  
<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=MUl1dnZQU1JxMkhUemdCSHZUM21HUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 647 766 0103  
**Passcode:** 460994

**One tap mobile**  
+16468769923,,6477660103#,,,,\*460994# US (New York)

**Dial by your location**  
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

## National Convention News

For the most up-to-date convention news please visit the webpage by using the link below or visiting [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)

[**National Convention | National Federation of the Blind (nfb.org)**](https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention)

## 2024 NFB Convention Mobile App

Next week national conventioneers will receive an invitation for the 2024 NFB Convention mobile app including a link and instructions to get a code for set up; watch your inbox.

## Virtual Registration

The Virtual Experience registration fee is 10 dollars. Registration includes access to the convention mobile app and the opportunity to win door prizes. Registration will be open until July 8, 2024.; please use the link below;

[Register for the 2024 National Convention Virtual Experience.](https://nfb.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=595)

## HTML Convention Agenda Link

To view the convention agenda please use the link below;

[**https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention/2024-national-convention-agenda**](https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention/2024-national-convention-agenda)

# Affiliate News

## NFBNJ Website Migration Update

The process is still ongoing; and upon completion our first priority is to complete state convention forms; stay tuned!

## Affiliate On-Line Calendar

Our new website will have an affiliate calendar to list all events and meetings. I will work with chapter presidents for one standard message regarding monthly meetings. A link to our chapter webpage will be available for additional chapter information. We will also post all affiliate and local events.

## Affiliate AV Equipment

The affiliate has purchased AV equipment for our conventions and other affiliate functions. AV systems will be set up in both the Windsor and Talmadge Ballrooms for an easy and enjoyable time for our AV Team and conventioneers during our upcoming state convention.

## Social Media

Jason Resnick, Central Jersey Chapter and Affiliate AV Team member has volunteered to be the Affiliate Social Media Coordinator. He has been sharing national posts affiliate and chapter news including about us, events and fundraisers since the beginning of June. Follow us on Facebook; link listed below and in addition to sharing and liking our posts. When sharing please include a personal message about the post. We plan to have a Social Media segment during our state convention.

[*https://m.facebook.com/NFB-NJ-353099574776238*](https://m.facebook.com/NFB-NJ-353099574776238)

# Introducing the New Jersey Abacus Bee

The American Printing House (“APH”) Abacus Bee is a fun and engaging competition designed to ignite a passion for mathematics in students who are blind or have low vision. By allowing the use of various formats like print, braille, UEB math, or Nemeth code, the competition ensures that participants can use methods that suit their individual learning styles. The Abacus Bee encourages the use of mental math and abacus skills, unlocking students’ full mathematical potential. The NFBNJ is partnering with VISTAS Education Partners to provide this event and it will be held on the last day of our state convention on Sunday, October 27 as one of our community service programs and will be included in our convention agenda; stay tuned for additional details

# 2024 State Convention News

The hotel contract has been signed and I am working with them on meal selections. Our host chapter this year will be the Central Jersey Chapter and the theme is “Don’t Stop Believing”.

## Dates & Location

Thursday, October 24 through Sunday, October 27  
Crowne Plaza Edison 2055 Lincoln Highway Edison, NJ 08817.

## Hotel Details

* $119 per night for 1 to 4 occupants plus taxes
* No deposit is required and is now open
* Block name is NFB
* Booking number: 732-692-1207
* Cutoff date is 5 PM Friday, October 4

## Pre-Registration

Registration Will be $25 and will open after the national convention. This year our form has been updated asking for additional information. The **hard** pre-registration cutoff date is 5 PM Friday, October 4. Conventioneers will also be able to purchase the breakfast buffet at a discounted price to help meet the BEO minimum. Conventioneers can pre-purchase:

* Breakfast buffet for Thursday through Sunday
* Boxed Lunches for Friday and Saturday
* Friday night Federation Meal
* Saturday Banquet

NO meal tickets will be available for purchase after pre-registration closes on October 4. The breakfast buffet will be offered in our convention space and should provide better service since no bills will be required. All pre-purchased meal vouchers will be included in pre-registration packets. Meal vouchers will be required and given to servers as payment. Lost vouchers will not be replaced! The affiliate BOD has voted to subsidize meals by a few bucks.; stayed tuned for additional details.

## Daily Outline

Thursday, October 24

* Tech Seminar from 1 to 5 PM
* Emlployment/Blind Professionals Segment from 1 to 2:30 PM
* Membership & Friendship Appreciation Pizza Party 5:30 PM
* Resolutions Committee Meeting 7 PM
* Senior Social Segment 8:15 PM

### Friday, October 25

* Exhibit & Resource Fair 8 AM to 1 PM
* Morning Breakout Sessions beginning at 8 AM and concluding at 11 AM
* Lunch Noon
* General Session One 1:15 PM
* Federation Family Meal 6 PM
* Affiliate Auction 7 PM
* Entertainment 8:30 PM

### Saturday, October 26

* General Session Two 9 AM; with traditional music beginning 8 at:30 AM
* Lunch Noon
* Student Lunch Gathering
* Afternoon Session to include affiliate business meeting 1:15 PM
* Banquet 7:30 PM

### Sunday, October 27

* Pre-purchased breakfast buffet followed by networking & socializing
* NJ Abacus Bee

# NFBNJ Dates to keep in mind

* June 20 10 AM Senior Book Club
* June 20 7 PM Senior Committee Meeting
* June 19 7 PM Braille Group Meeting
* July 4 7 PM Annual Hybrid Caucus Meeting
* August 27 7 PM Affiliate State Convention Meeting
* October 4 5PM Hotel Reservation and Pre-registration Ends
* October 24 through October 27 NFBNJ Annual State Convention concluding with NJ Abacus Bee