

Greetings to All!

Here is what I hope to be the most inclusive and informative email about our upcoming convention. Of course, if you have any questions, please write, [lucas.bonnie@gmail.com](mailto:lucas.bonnie@gmail.com).

## **ANNOUNCING THE 2022 STATE CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF ALASKA**

### **National Federation of the Blind of Alaska Annual Convention**

November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Uniting the Blind of Alaska!

Bonnie Lucas, President

Pam Van Hoozer, First vice President

William Craig, Second vice president

Carmen Jameson, Treasurer

Brian Blair, Secretary

Candy Powell, Board Member

Katie Lester, Board Member

**Our 2022 convention will be held at the Lakefront Hotel (4800 Spenard Road) in Anchorage, 907-243-2300, (Press 1 to make a reservation.). The room rate is \$109 plus 15 percent tax. for singles and doubles. Children under thirteen are free. To receive our event rate, give this code: “2211akcent”.**

Set on the shore of Lake Spenard next to Lake Hood and close to the Ted Stevens International Airport, the Lakefront is the only Anchorage hotel located on a lake. Amenities include 24-hour free shuttle to the airport, along with places to eat and relax. Enjoy the warmth of the fireplace in the hotel lobby.

register to attend the NFB of Alaska annual convention, the largest gathering of blind people in Alaska. [Click here to go directly to the registration page!](#)

The cost is \$55 which includes registration and food for the convention. Membership will be valid until the end of 2023. Please send your food choices to [lucas.bonnie@gmail.com](mailto:lucas.bonnie@gmail.com). They are as follows:

These are for Saturday. Lunch and the dinner banquet.

Lunch: Choose between chicken Caesar and vegetarian wraps.

Banquet: Choose between chicken piccata and pasta primavera.

Dessert: Choose between berry crisp and chocolate mousse

We have also provided a donate option as it is expensive for our small organization to put on our annual state convention and to do the work that benefits the blind of Alaska.

We are a membership organization. Should you decide to join us, we meet monthly. If you find it difficult to attend due to personal circumstances, you will be included in all communications. We look forward to having your ideas and sharing the philosophy and knowledge about blindness that will support you in living 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.

If you have any convention questions or difficulty filling out this form, please email Bonnie Lucas.

[Lucas.bonnie@gmail.com](mailto:Lucas.bonnie@gmail.com)

[Click Here to Register for the NFB of alaska 2022 State Convention, November 4th and 5th in Anchorage](#)

Agenda to follow:

The National Federation of the Blind of Alaska is committed to

## promoting equity and inclusion of a

diverse global community. Our diverse community includes, but is not limited to, the intersectionality of ability, age, religion, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity or expression, and sexual orientation.

We are committed to honoring **the** lived experiences of those with congenital and acquired blindness; those with different geographic backgrounds, different languages, labor and socioeconomic status in the exchange of ideas, opinions, and actions. Through advocacy, awareness, and educational activities, we strive to advance policies and practices that cultivate a climate of awareness and understanding; acceptance and opportunities for advancement; and respect for the dignity of all people.

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to broaden the scope of awareness and understanding of the definition of full inclusion;

to explore and expand on the cultural makeup of the organization, providing education and training, guidance and advocacy where needed. Our goal is to cultivate a federation that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

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. Live the life you want! Blindness is not what holds you back!

## NFB 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.

## Friday November 4:

1:00PM: Welcome, Bonnie Lucas, President

Treasurer's Report, Carmen Jameson

1:15 PM: David Newman—[Alaska State ADA Coordinator](#), Appointed in 2018, he has worked to increase the rights of the blind in Alaska (from state websites to NewsLine)

1:35PM: Jesse Shirek—[NFB-NEWSLINE®](#)

NFB NewsLine (Making NewsLine a reality for all print disabled Alaskans)

2:00 PM: Robert Corvisier—[Alaska Human Rights Commission](#) (He cares about people with disabilities who may be discriminated against)

2:20 PM: Jocelyn Bucaro—[Tusk Philanthropies](#), (Accessible ballots from your home)

2:40PM, Freya Anderson—[Talking Books of Alaska](#) (ever changing to serve the print and physically disabled)

3:00 PM: Break

3:10 PM: Jeff Dick—[Challenge Alaska](#) (Community recreation for Alaskans with disabilities)

3:30PM: Tyler Merren—[ReVision Fitness App](#) (Bringing all aspects of fitness to you in an accessible format.)

3:50 PM panel of blind Alaskans participating and living the fit life they want!

- Kevin Whitley
- Nate Kile
- Charlie Rogge
- Tom Class
- Stephen Priddle

4:15PM: CB Brady—Executive Director, ([Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#))

4:30: Jeff Yam—Sharing his creation of Digication, digication.com (What is digication and how does it help the blind?)

5:00 PM: Meet and greet to include

- Appetizers/finger foods
- Accessible games

- Using the voting machine
- Braille corner
- Questions about cane travel
- Guide dog stories

## Saturday November 5

9:00 AM: Welcome, Musical Number featuring Ileina Milos

9:10 AM: Patti Chang--President's report (Learn about ground-breaking initiatives of the National Federation of the Blind and more)

9:50 AM: President, Bonnie Lucas (the affiliate president's annual report and future projections)

10:15 AM: Michael Lauf— Our stellar webmaster ([Accessible Windows Software and iPhone Apps, All in One Place!](#))

10:35 AM: Raul Gallegos— (President [National Association of Guide Dog users](#)

10:55 AM: Debbie Wunder— President ([NFB Diabetes Action- Network](#))

11:15 AM: Glenn Crosby—President ([NFB Seniors Division](#)

You don't have to be a senior to belong to the seniors division.)

11:35 AM: Chancey Fleet—[New York Public Library Accessibility](#) (more than a talking book library)

11:55AM: Break for lunch

1:15PM: Gary Wunder—editor [NFB Braille Monitor](#) (flagship publication of the National Federation of the Blind)

1:35PM: Emily Schlenker—pharmacology student, University of Kansas (high expectations and full participation)

2:00 PM: Tom Class, Forever Alaskan (A blind Alaskan living his life as a home owner and fulltime employee)

2:15PM: Dan Bigley—Living the life he wants (husband, father, director of social service agency)

2:40 PM: Katie Lester—National Federation of the Blind (\$8 thousand Scholarship Winner)

3:10 PM: Kevin Whitley--known by all (Manual skills instructor at the Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired)

4:00 PM: Elections—All dues payers are welcome to vote.

4:45 PM: Break while hotel staff prepare room for Banquet

6:00 PM: Banquet to include Guest speaker, Patti Chang and her personal story, importance of fund raising, Etc.

### **Patti Gregory-Chang, Development Director, Attorney, Advocate, Mother**

After graduating from Harbor Springs High School in 1981, Patti planned to attend school with hopes of becoming a teacher of the visually impaired. After earning her teaching certificate at Michigan State University, she discovered a passion for law and enrolled in the University of Chicago Law School.

Patti graduated from law school in 1988 and worked in the City of Chicago Law Department for twenty-eight years. She began her tenure in the Traffic Division and worked her way up to Assistant Corporation Counsel. In this position she prosecuted housing court matters in the Circuit Court of Cook County and handled collection matters for the Building and Land Use Litigation Division of the City of Chicago Law Department.

Patti became Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Law Department in 1998. In this role she prosecuted cases, supervised attorneys prosecuting cases, coordinated law clerks and externs, and served on various committees and task forces. She belongs to several professional associations including the National Association of Blind Lawyers, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and the Illinois State Bar Association. Patti currently serves as Vice Chair of the Disability Law Committee of the Illinois State Bar Association and as a member of the Administrative Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association.

In 2016 Patti embarked on a second career, accepting the position of Director of Outreach for the National Federation of the Blind, the largest organization of blind people in the world.

In fact, Patti has devoted much of her free time to the National Federation of the Blind since joining in 1981. Patti currently serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Illinois affiliate of the NFB and has served on its National Board of Directors as well as working as national scholarship committee chair for some years.

Patti lives in Chicago. In her spare time, Patti and her husband love travel, dancing, and enjoy spending time with family and friends. They boast of two successful adult children, Johnathon and Julia, and a wonderful grandchild, Kayla Ma Chang.



## DREAM MAKER CIRCLE

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle. It is easier than you think. You can visit your bank and convert an account to a P.O.D. (payable on death) bank account which is payable after your passing to the National Federation of the blind or one of our affiliates. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of {insert state} can be made in the form of a will or living trust, an income generating gift, or by naming us as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, pension, or a life insurance policy. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage, or list NFB as one of several beneficiaries. For additional information, please contact Patti Chang at (410) 659-9314, extension 2422 or at [pchang@nfb.org](mailto:pchang@nfb.org).

## Vehicle Donations

The National Federation of the Blind uses car donations to improve the education of blind children, distribute free white canes, help veterans, and so much more. We have partnered with Vehicles for Charity to process donated vehicles. Please call toll-free (855) 659-9314, and a representative can make arrangements, or you can donate online by visiting [www.nfb.org/vehicledonations](http://www.nfb.org/vehicledonations).

## Preauthorized Contributions (PAC)

Can you help the National Federation of the Blind on a regular basis? Please consider joining our preauthorized contribution plan. Starting at \$5 monthly, you can help us turn dreams into reality and raise expectations. Visit: <https://nfb.org/pac>.