

**BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

**WELCOME TO THE 48th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF LOUISIANA!**

**SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2020**

**We hope these tips will be helpful as you participate in our virtual convention:**

**Zoom Reminders**

All Meeting IDs are embedded so you can click on the link and it will bring you directly to the zoom meeting if you are on the computer or have the zoom app on your device.

Helpful commands:

Phone commands to mute/unmute: \*6

Phone commands to raise/lower hands: \*9

Computer shortcuts to mute/unmute: Alt+A

Computer shortcuts to raise/lower hands: Alt+Y

In some meetings all participants will be muted upon entry and can only be unmuted by the host, such as General Sessions. In other meetings, participants may have the ability to mute and unmute themselves. It would be helpful if you could remain muted if you are not speaking to the group in order to minimize background noise. Raise your hand if you wish to talk, and please wait for an indication from host before beginning. If on video, remember that whatever is in the camera’s view can be seen by all.

If you have questions about accessing the convention, please call 318-251-2891.

**EXHIBITS**

Exhibits will be open on Saturday from 11:15am to noon as one of the concurrent sessions. Exhibitors will include American Printing House for the Blind, Rosina Foster - DotShop, The Talking Books and Braille Library, Southern Assistive Technology LLC, HIMS Inc, and Vanda Pharmaceuticals.

**DOOR PRIZES**

Names will be drawn throughout the convention general sessions and banquet for door prizes. To be eligible to win, you must be registered for convention and respond when your name is called by either virtually raising your hand or emailing [bausbun@louisianacenter.org](mailto:bausbun@louisianacenter.org) within the designated window of time. The door prize chairpersons are Zena Pearcy and Bre Ausbun.

*FRIDAY, September 18, 2020*

1:00–5:00pm THE VILLAGE APPROACH: BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING THROUGH COLLABORATION

LOUISIANA TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Institute on Blindness, Louisiana Center for the Blind, and National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

[**https://zoom.us/j/98912967946?pwd=U0RZWTM2QWxlTFU4SmNuN2NtaVA2UT09?#success**](https://zoom.us/j/98912967946?pwd=U0RZWTM2QWxlTFU4SmNuN2NtaVA2UT09?#success)

**Meeting ID: 989 1296 7946**

**Passcode: 045892**

**One tap mobile: +13462487799,,98912967946#,,,,,,0#,,045892#**

6:00 - 6:30pm RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Eric Guillory, Chairperson

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664**](https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664)

**Meeting ID: 782 097 0664   
One tap mobile: +13017158592,,7820970664#**

**Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866**

6:30 – 8:30pm LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS MEETING

Ana Martinez, President

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/91921451681**](https://zoom.us/j/91921451681)

**Meeting ID: 919 2145 1681**

**One tap mobile: +16468769923,,91921451681#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

All high school, college, and graduate students are invited to attend this exciting and informative meeting. Share your experiences and get ideas from other successful students.

6:30 - 8:30pm NFBL MERCHANTS' DIVISION MEETING

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89266343993**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89266343993)

**Meeting ID: 892 6634 3993**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,89266343993#**

**Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866**

All Randolph-Sheppard vendors and persons interested in business enterprises are welcome.

6:30 – 8:30pm SENIOR BLIND MEETING

Wendy Ortego, Coordinator, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Techniques for Living Confidently Program

**Dial-in number: (609) 663-1905**

Join us and learn tips and techniques for seniors experiencing vision loss. Losing your vision does not have to mean losing your independence.

6:30 until… LOUISIANA PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN DIVISION

Alison Tarver, President

Eric Guillory, Director of Youth Services, Louisiana Center for the Blind

Krystal Guillory, NFBL BELL Academy Coordinator

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81456513903**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81456513903)

**Meeting ID: 814 5651 3903**

**One tap mobile: +13017158592,,81456513903#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

If you are a parent, grandparent, teacher, or individual interested in educational issues facing blind children, please join us.

SATURDAY, September 19, 2020

7:45 - 8:30am NFBL STATE BOARD MEETING

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86818245029**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86818245029)

**Meeting ID: 868 1824 5029**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,86818245029#**

**Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866**

**GENERAL SESSION**

9:00am - 11:00am

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/93216561522**](https://zoom.us/j/93216561522)

**Meeting ID: 932 1656 1522**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,93216561522# US (Chicago)**

**Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592**

9:00am CALL TO ORDER

Pamela Allen, President, NFBL

"HAVE GAVEL WILL TRAVEL"

Treva Olivero, President, North Central Chapter, NFBL

INVOCATION

Eric Guillory, 1st Vice President, NFBL

WELCOME AND NFB PLEDGE

Diane Legendre, President

Greater Baton Rouge Chapter, NFBL

9:15 - 10:00am BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: A National Perspective

Shawn Callaway, NFB Board Member, President, NFB of District of Columbia, <https://www.nfb.org/about-us/leadership/board-directors/shawn-callaway>

10:00 - 10:20am BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Exploring the Opportunities

Kevin Monk, Executive Director, Blind Services, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Baton Rouge

10:20 - 10:35am BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Let’s Talk about NFB Newsline

Zena Pearcy, Louisiana NFB Newsline Coordinator, Ruston

10:35-11:00am BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: The Foundation is Our Philosophy

Sarah Patnaude, Graduate Student, Louisiana Tech University, LCB Graduate, Ruston

Yolanda Harris, LCB Student, Texas

Georgie Sydnor, Graduate Student, Louisiana Tech University, Teaching Blind Students, Ruston

Alex French, LCB Student, Ohio

*The following concurrent sessions will provide excellent information and a chance for participants to share ideas and learn from blind people about tools and techniques that increase independence and confidence. Blindness does not hold you back from living the life you want! Come find out what is possible...*

11:00 – 2:45pm BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Parent Power Track

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566832765**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566832765)

**Meeting ID: 895 6683 2765**

**One tap mobile: +16465588656,,89566832765#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

Parents and teachers of blind children are encouraged to participate in this interactive seminar. Business meeting and elections will be held during lunch.

**11:15 - 12:00pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**SESSION 1: Get Lightning Fast With iOS and Watch Out!**

Jack Mendez and Jewel Ardoin, LCB Technology Instructors, Ruston

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275322888**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275322888)

**Meeting ID: 872 7532 2888**

**One tap mobile: +13017158592,,87275322888#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

Super charge your productivity with tips, tricks, and shortcuts. Using the Apple Watch to stay active and healthy.

**SESSION 2: The Secret Superpowers of Successful Blind Networkers**

Eileen Rivera Ley, CEO of Blind Savvy USA, Maryland

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/95530793135**](https://zoom.us/j/95530793135)

**Meeting ID: 955 3079 3135**

**One tap mobile: +16468769923,,95530793135#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

The greatest things in life are achieved while collaborating with others. Join us for a fun and unconventional workshop to discover the finest blindness nuances of networking. We will cover strategies for mingling, networking, and building your circle of influence in order to make great things happen for you and for others. [This session will repeat at 1:15pm.]

**SESSION 3: Exhibitor’s Showcase**

American Printing House for the Blind

DotShop – Rosina Foster

HIMS Inc.

Southern Assistive Technology LLC

The Talking Books and Braille Library

Vanda Pharmaceuticals

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89051107200**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89051107200)

**Meeting ID: 890 5110 7200**

**One tap mobile: +13017158592,,89051107200#**

**Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799**

Join our Exhibitors for a Q&A about their products and resources

**SESSION 4: Speak Up! Speak Out!**

Paul Phillips, President, Dale Carnegie of New Orleans

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664**](https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664)

**Meeting ID: 782 097 0664   
One tap mobile: +19294362866,,7820970664#  
Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799**

Make the best impression possible. Learn about tools for communicating with confidence.

\* \* \* \* \*

12:00 - 1:00pm LOUISIANA CENTER FOR THE BLIND ALUMNI DROP IN

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86045781683**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86045781683)

**Meeting ID: 860 4578 1683**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,86045781683#**

**Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866**

All LCB alumni and those interested in learning about training are invited. Reconnect with your LCB family.

12:00 – 1:00pm Deaf-Blind Division

Cathy Miller, Coordinator

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/92305042269**](https://zoom.us/j/92305042269)

**Meeting ID: 923 0504 2269**

**One tap mobile: +13017158592,,92305042269#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

Meeting for those interested in learning about and discussing issues affecting deaf-blind individuals. All are welcome.

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1:15-2:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**SESSION 1: Staying Fit and Having Fun**

Roland Allen, LCB Cane Travel Instructor, Ruston; Katy Olsen, Graduate Student, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664**](https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664)

**Meeting ID: 782 097 0664   
One tap mobile: +19294362866,,7820970664#  
Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592**

Simple ways to exercise in any environment. General wellness to be your best you.

**SESSION 2: The Secret Superpowers of Successful Blind Networkers**

Eileen Rivera Ley, CEO of Blind Savvy USA, Maryland

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/94988142825**](https://zoom.us/j/94988142825)

**Meeting ID: 949 8814 2825**

**One tap mobile: +13017158592,,94988142825# US (Germantown)**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

The greatest things in life are achieved while collaborating with others. Join us for a fun and unconventional workshop to discover the finest blindness nuances of networking. We will cover strategies for mingling, networking, and building your circle of influence in order to make great things happen for you and for others.

**SESSION 3: Diversity and Inclusion Round Table Discussion**

Shawn Callaway, NFB Board Member, President, NFB of District of Columbia

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/92746891780**](https://zoom.us/j/92746891780)

**Meeting ID: 927 4689 1780**

**One tap mobile**

**+16465588656,,92746891780# US (New York)**

**+13017158592,,92746891780# US (Germantown)**

**SESSION 4: Career and Success, Tips for Getting and Keeping a Job**

Karol Austen, Portuguese and Spanish Medical and Legal Interpreter, Ruston

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88266344513**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88266344513)

**Meeting ID: 882 6634 4513**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,88266344513#**

**Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099**

Discover strategies for helping you find employment and excel at work.

2:00-2:45pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**SESSION 1: Technology Q & A**

Jack Mendez and Jewel Ardoin, LCB Technology Instructors, Ruston

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87377771775**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87377771775)

**Meeting ID: 873 7777 1775**

**One tap mobile: +13017158592,,87377771775#**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

Bring your most taxing technical topics to the experts and join in this interactive question and answer session. Win prizes for answering technology trivia. [You may submit questions to [jmendez@louisianacenter.org](mailto:jmendez@louisianacenter.org) or [jardoin@louisianacenter.org](mailto:jardoin@louisianacenter.org).]

**SESSION 2: Blind Parent Meet-up**

**Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88354888391**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88354888391)

**Meeting ID: 883 5488 8391**

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,88354888391#**

**Dial by your location:+1 929 205 6099**

Here’s a chance to connect with blind parents and share ideas and learn about the NFB’s Blind Parent Initiative

**SESSION 3: Investing 101**

Conrad Austen, LCB Home Management Instructor, Ruston

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664**](https://latech.zoom.us/j/7820970664)

**Meeting ID: 782 097 0664   
One tap mobile: +19294362866,,7820970664#  
Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592**

Making money in the stock market isn’t about having the highest IQ or trading on insider information. It’s about having the right mindset and managing your emotions. And you don’t need thousands of dollars to get started; you can get invested with as little as one dollar. Come learn why you should be investing, how to get started, and how to avoid common investing mistakes. This discussion is open to all experience levels. [This discussion is intended to be generally informational and should not be taken as personalized financial advice or used as the sole basis for financial decisions.]

**SESSION 4: Maintaining Balance**

Candace Chapman, 1st Vice President, NFB of Mississippi, Doctoral Candidate, Mississippi State University

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/95253952378**](https://zoom.us/j/95253952378)

**Meeting ID: 952 5395 2378**

**One tap mobile**

**+16465588656,,95253952378# US (New York)**

**+13017158592,,95253952378# US (Germantown)**

Discover ideas for managing uncertainty in ever-changing times

**GENERAL SESSION**

***3:00 – 5:00pm***

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/95575627205**](https://zoom.us/j/95575627205)

**Meeting ID: 955 7562 7205**

**One tap mobile: +16468769923,,95575627205# US (New York)**

**Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799**

3:00 - 3:30pm BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Partnerships and Progress

Ernest Garrett III, Superintendent, Special School District, Baton Rouge

Melanie Hall, Principal, Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, Baton Rouge

Edward Bell, Ph.D., Director, Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness, Louisiana Tech University

3:30 – 3:55pm BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW:

Moving On: Living as a Blind Person in Our Changing Times

Michael Hingson, Author, Speaker, Advocate, and Consultant, California

3:55 – 4:00pm BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Perspectives from a Student Leader

Trisha Kulkarni, National Association of Blind Students, President, NFB

4:00 - 5:00pm BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Taking Care of Business

Reports and Elections

7:00pm BANQUET

Master of Ceremonies, Eric Guillory

Keynote Address, Shawn Callaway

Awards and Scholarship Presentations

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://zoom.us/j/93323265827**](https://zoom.us/j/93323265827)

**Meeting ID: 933 2326 5827**

**One tap mobile: +16468769923,,93323265827# US (New York)**

**Dial by your location: 312 626 6799**

The National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana seeks to provide a convention environment in which diverse participants, including members, speakers, exhibitors, staff, and volunteers, may learn, network, and enjoy the company of friends and colleagues in an environment of mutual respect. As an attendee at our convention, you not only represent yourself but also represent our organization.

We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all.

We are committed to diversity, equity, integrity, and respect in all aspects of our conference.

Please contact Jewel Ardoin at [jardoin@louisianacenter.org](mailto:jardoin@louisianacenter.org) or 318-251-2891, x 3011 if you have concerns or questions.

**You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality. – Walt Disney**

**With Heartfelt Gratitude from the State President:**

**To Shawn Callaway, our national representative - your passion and commitment shine through in all you do! So happy to welcome you and your beautiful family! Thank you for sharing your powerful story with us!**

**To our distinguished presenters, guests, and exhibitors – your willingness to collaborate with us expands possibilities for all blind people!**

**To Leslie Alleman and the Crowne Plaza team – your understanding and flexibility are much appreciated; we look forward to returning in the future.**

**To everyone who assisted with convention planning and logistics – your dedication and hard work helped make our convention a success!**

**To all who support our fundraising efforts through the year – your generosity and giving spirit help to make our programs, scholarships, and outreach efforts a reality!**

**To those attending their first convention – your interest in learning more about our organization is so appreciated! Welcome to our NFB of Louisiana family! We are here for you!**

**To LCB students, staff, and alumni and to the staff and students of our Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University – your example and commitment to excellence motivate others! Thank you for demonstrating that blindness does not stop you from transforming dreams into reality!**

**To our chapter, division, and state officers – your actions and words inspire others to grow and excel! Each day, you give tirelessly to promote the work we do together! Thank you for your extraordinary service and leadership!**

**To our NFBL members – you are the reason we achieve our goals! Through your example, you show that blindness does not stop us from living the lives we want!  Because of your work and commitment, expectations are raised and our future is full of hope! Let’s go build the National Federation of the Blind!**

**Pamela Allen**

*Live the Life You Want*

Tune and lyrics by J.P. Williams, James Brown,

Richie Flores, and J.J. Meddaugh

Live the life you want

nobody can stop you,

Shoot for the sun,

break on through,

So you’re blind, you'll be fine, we've got good news,

you can live the life you want

we know the truth.

Grab a cane, get trained, gotta get moving.

Make a change, earn a wage, that's what we're doing.

Come with me,

to live the life you want,

nobody can stop you,

Shoot for the sun,

break on through,

So you’re blind, you'll be fine, we've got good news,

you can live the life you want

we know the truth.

You and me, NFB

let's dream together,

NFB, you and me

lives on forever,

you will see.

You can live the life you want, nothing can stop you.

Shoot for the sun, break on through,

So you’re blind, you'll be fine, we've got good news,

you can live the life you want,

‘cause we know the truth.

you can live the life you want,

‘cause we know the truth.

**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.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**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 are interested in giving back to the NFB, please see below to help support our work:**

[**http://www.nfbla.org**](http://www.nfbla.org) **and Click Donate**

[**https://www.nfb.org/get-involved/ways-give**](https://www.nfb.org/get-involved/ways-give)

**\* \* \* \* \***

**To subscribe to the Braille Monitor, follow the links below depending on your preferred format:**

**You can**[**subscribe to the email version here**](https://web.nfbcal.org/mailman/listinfo.cgi/brl-monitor)**. To subscribe to the print, Braille, or USB flash drive version, or to change your format or mailing address, please contact us at 410-659-9314, ext 2344, or**[**nfbpublications@nfb.org**](mailto:nfbpublications@nfb.org)**.**