The 2010 Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia will be held November 12 through 14, 2010 at the Marriott Fairview Park hotel, located at 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.  To make hotel reservations, call Marriott Worldwide Reservations at (800) 228-9290 or the hotel directly at (703) 849-9400.  The room rate for convention attendee's is $65 plus taxes per night.  When you call the hotel, make sure to tell them that you are attending the NFBV convention so that you will receive the special convention rate.  The deadline to make hotel reservations is October 18, 2010.  After the deadline, there is no guarantee that you will get a room at the convention hotel.

The hotel offers free shuttle service from the Dunn Loring station which is located on METRO's Orange Line.  The shuttle leaves the hotel at the bottom of every hour between 6:30 am and 9:30 pm and picks up at Dunn Loring at approximately 45 minutes past each hour.  To arrange for shuttle service, call the hotel directly at (703) 849-9400.

Child care is available to the children of convention attendee's (ages infant through 5th grade) during 4 sessions of convention.  These sessions are:

Session 1  Friday evening 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Session 2  Saturday morning 8:45 am to 12:15 pm

Session 3  Saturday afternoon 12:15 pm to 5:15 pm

Session 4  Saturday evening 6:45 pm to ½ hour after banquet adjournment

Snacks will be provided during Session 2 and Session 3.  Even though child care will be open and fully staffed during lunch on Saturday, lunch will not be provided.  Parents should either pick their child up for lunch at the end of Session 2 or provide a lunch for their child to eat in the child care room.  Also, dinner will not be provided on Saturday evening.  Parents should feed their child dinner prior to bringing them to Session 4.  The cost of child care is $5 per family per session.  If you need more information, please contact Child Care coordinator Nancy Yeager at (703) 283-2524 or nancyyeager542@verizon.net.  Please indicate the number of children per session on the convention pre registration form.

The Potomac Chapter has arranged for a guided tour of the National Air & Space Museum on Friday afternoon.  A shuttle will pick up guests at 1:00 at the convention hotel, travel to the museum for a guided tour which will last approximately three hours and return guests to the hotel by 5:00.  The cost of the tour is $25 per person.  The number of seats for the tour is limited so if you wish to take the tour, you must purchase tickets in advance on the convention pre registration form.  If participation in the tour is insufficient to cover the cost of the tour, the tour will be cancelled and a refund will be issued.  Requests will be handled on a first come first served basis.

On Friday afternoon, Going Mobile:  Tales on the Road, a Technology Seminar will be held from 1:30 to 4:30.  There is more content, more devices, and more choices for blind people on the go.  In this free Friday afternoon seminar, blind users will share their real world experiences on:

-         Accessing books, magazines, newspapers, podcasts, audio description for movies, and music from a variety of free and paid services.

-           Using Apple products (iPhone, iPod and Mac) as a blind person.

-           Getting content onto portable devices

-           Travelling the road supported by GPS technology.

If you need more information, please contact Technology Seminar coordinator Tracy Soforenko at (703) 635-2085 or PotomacNFB@verizon.net.  Please indicate on the convention pre registration form if you plan to attend the seminar.

Throughout the convention, and paralleling general session, a Student Track will be held for students (grade 6 through graduate school) and parents of blind students.  Students can expect discussions about the use of accessible technology in the classroom, access to textbooks, and how blindness can affect social situations.  Parent activities will be informal opportunities for networking and discussions on advocating with their students.  Some activities will involve students and parents jointly participating.  For more details, see the attached Student Track Information.  Complete and return the attached Student Track Registration Form if you plan to participate in the student track.  If you need more information, please contact Student Track coordinator Corbb O'Connor at (202) 684-6130 or corbbo@gmail.com.  Please indicate on the convention pre registration form if you plan to participate in the student track.

On Saturday, there will be luncheons for the Students Division, the Parents Division, the Diabetics Division and the Merchants Division.  Please indicate on the convention pre registration form if you plan to attend one of these luncheons.  Box lunches should be purchased if you plan to attend one of these luncheons.

On Saturday, box lunches will be available for a cost of $15 if purchased in advance on the convention pre registration form.  Box lunches can only be guaranteed for those purchased on the convention pre registration form.  A limited number may be available for purchase at the convention.

Complete the attached Convention Pre Registration Form and mail it with payment included to:

NFB of Virginia

702-5 Prince Edward Street

Fredericksburg, VA  22401