

**58TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA**

Michael Kasey, President

**November 11 — November 13, 2016**

**Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront**

5700 Atlantic Avenue

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

(757) 428-7025

**HOSTED BY THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA**

Theresa Willis, President

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents 1

The Federation Pledge 2

Convention Registration & Information 2

Meal Functions 2

Door Prizes 3

Action Auction 3

Contact Table 3

Youth Track 4

Childcare 4

Dog Relief Area 5

Assistive Listening Devices 6

Presidential Suite 6

Friday, November 11, 2016 7

General Session 7

Friday Afternoon Concurrent Seminars 10

Saturday, November 12, 2016 14

General Session 14

Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions 18

2016 Convention Banquet 21

Sunday, November 13, 2016 22

General Session 22

Thank You to Our Sponsors 25

# The Federation 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.”

# Convention Registration & Information

Convention registration and information will be held in the Atlantic Foyer, located in the meeting room area. The cost of on-site registration is $25. Registration will be open:

* Friday, November 11: 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Saturday, November 12: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Door prizes and auction items can be brought to the registration desk beginning on Friday morning.

## Meal Functions

Tickets for the banquet are available at the registration desk. Banquet tickets must be purchased by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12.

**Banquet:** Banquet tickets may be purchased onsite for $35. We will not have reserved seating at the banquet this year. Seating will be open, so come early to get seats together.

**Box Lunch:** Due to a limited number of box lunches, they were only available through pre-registration.

**Note:** For more information about registration or meal functions, please contact Brian McCann at (757) 472-2494.

## Door Prizes

Door prizes will be drawn periodically throughout convention sessions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and at the banquet. To be eligible for door prizes, you must be registered for the convention and present in the room when your name is called. Please contact Karen Brown at (757) 567-8224 for more information.

## Action Auction

Throughout the convention, we will be holding an Action Auction to raise money for the affiliate. The auction will be great fun with many valuable items up for bid. You will have a chance to preview auction items on Friday afternoon in the Atlantic Foyer, located in the meeting room area. For more information, contact Jacki Brown, Chairperson and Auctioneer.

## Contact Table

If you need assistance from the NFB of Virginia (such as helping a blind child get a good education, getting access to blindness skills training, learning to use NFB-NEWSLINE®, or resolving an employment discrimination problem), please go to the contact table. After the convention, a member of the NFB of Virginia will contact you. In addition, if you would like to sign up to receive any of our publications or would like to get regular updates about our programs and legislative efforts, please also visit the contact table. The table will be open during the board meeting, after the opening ceremonies on Friday, during General Session on Saturday, at the end of the banquet, and all morning Sunday. For more information, please contact Alex Castillo at (917) 532-7439.

## Youth Track

Youth Track is coordinated by the Virginia Association of Blind Students and will run parallel to the main convention program. The Youth Track will connect students with positive role models and peers throughout the state; challenge students to think about themselves and their role in the civil rights movement; introduce students to our positive NFB philosophy on blindness; educate students about their choices for blindness skills training; and participate in a travel activity outside the convention hotel. For more information, please contact Derek Manners at (903) 271-6494.

## Childcare

Childcare will be available for infants through fifth graders throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. Childcare will be located in Room 201. We will have activities and games for the children. For more information, please contact Mary Durbin at (757) 472-2495.Childcare will be offered at the following times:

* Session 1: Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
* Session 2: Friday, 12:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
* Session 3: Friday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
* Session 4: Saturday, 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
* Session 5: Saturday, 12:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
* Session 6: Saturday, 6:45 p.m. to one half hour after the banquet adjourns

Snacks will be provided during Session 4 and Session 5. Even though childcare will be open and fully staffed during lunch on both Friday and Saturday, lunch will not be provided. Parents should pick their children up for lunch at the end of Session 1 and Session 4. Also, dinner will not be provided on Saturday evening. Parents should feed their children dinner prior to bringing them to Session 6. The cost of childcare is $5 per family per session.

## Dog Relief Area

In the 3rd building, go out the beach access doors and turn to the right. Follow that sidewalk to the grass straight ahead. This is where the “dog friendly” rooms are located. They will have several trashcans throughout the property if you cannot make it to the relief area. Please deposit all waste in the trashcans provided. Contact Michael Valentino at (804) 513-6261 with any questions.

## Assistive Listening Devices

A limited number of assistive listening devices are available during all general sessions, the technology seminar, the career seminar, and at the banquet. For an assistive listening device, please go to the contact table located in the back of the room.

## Presidential Suite

The Presidential Suite is Room 825.

# Friday, November 11, 2016

8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Registration: Atlantic Foyer

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. NFB of Virginia Board of Directors Meeting (Open to All): Rappahannock Room

## General Session

Rappahannock Room

10:00 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. Opening Ceremonies

* Call to Order—Michael Kasey, President, NFB of Virginia
* Invocation—Jessie Olds, Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Virginia Beach, Virginia
* Presentation of the Colors—NAS Oceana Color Guard and NFB of Virginia Veterans
* The National Anthem—Danielle Trevino, Baltimore, Maryland
* Pledge of Allegiance and Federation Pledge—Naomi O’Toole, Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Virginia Beach, Virginia
* Greetings from Our Host Chapter—Theresa Willis, President, Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Virginia Beach, Virginia
* Mount Olive Baptist Church Mass Choir, Virginia Beach Virginia
* Convention Arrangements—Brian McCann, Chairperson, Convention Arrangements and Activities

10:25 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. Celebration of Freedom: Veterans Recognized—Mary Durbin, Corresponding Secretary, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia

10:35 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Welcome to Virginia Beach—Senator Bill DeSteph, 8th District in Virginia Beach, Virginia

10:45 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. Surf and Spokes - Adventures in Adaptive Sports—Evelyn Valdez, Potomac Chapter, Alexandria, Virginia

10:55 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Engaging Members, Changing Lives—Danielle Trevino, Coordinator for Social Media and Member Engagement, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

11:10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Action Auction

11:15 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. Structured Discovery in Orlando: Reflections from Virginia’s 2016 McDonald Fellows and Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship Fund Winners—Sandy Halverson, Chairperson, McDonald Fellowship Committee, and NFB of Virginia Liaison, Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship Fund Committee

* James Baker, Arlington, Virginia
* Cynthia Brandon, Richmond, Virginia
* Elsie Castleman, Williamsburg, Virginia
* Earl Everett, Richmond, Virginia
* Tracy Jones, Ashland, Virginia
* Belinda Vann, Newport News, Virginia

11:35 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Fitness Break—Kiera Davis, Richmond, Virginia

11:40 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Residential Rehabilitation: Be Informed About Your Choice—Pam Allen, Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) and Melody Roane, Director, Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VRCBVI)

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns

12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration: Atlantic Foyer

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibits: Atlantic Foyer, Robert Parsons, Exhibits Coordinator

1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Joining Forces For Our Veterans: York Room, Mary Durbin, Pam Allen, and Robert Byrd, President, Hampton Chapter, Blind Veterans Association

The National Federation of the Blind and veteran organizations are joining forces to ensure that our veterans can live full and independent lives. Learn how we have partnered to serve the needs of blind and low vision veterans. Together, we can make a difference and advance our cause.

## Friday Afternoon Concurrent Seminars

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Microsoft, Apple, and Google – O My!: Rappahannock Room, Christopher O’Meally, Chair

The battle of the Technology giants is real, but which one will you pick? Join a host of presenters as they help you dive into all of the major operating systems across computers and mobile devices.

* 2:00 p.m. Apple IOS 10
* 2:30 p.m. Google Products
* 3:00 p.m. Macintosh OS
* 3:30 p.m. Windows 10

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Back to Basics - Dating, Relationships, and Culture: James Room, Uricka Harrison and Deepa Goraya, Co-Chairs

This seminar will explore a variety of topics surrounding blindness and its intersection between dating, relationships, and culture. Through panel discussions and breakout sessions, we will cover dating as a blind person, challenges and experiences with dating a blind person versus a sighted person, marriage and parenting as a blind person, issues surrounding blindness and culture and how that affects how you view blindness and how it is perceived by others, how culture and blindness affect your dating life and relationships, experiences using online dating sites, dating as a blind senior, experiences with traveling as a blind individual with your sighted or blind partner.

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Virginia Association to Promote the Use of Braille: York Room, Patricia Droppers, President

Discussion/Demonstration of the Orbit Braille Display and the BrailleNote Touch; assessing interest in sponsoring/assisting in providing braille instruction for adults in the Commonwealth; and a short business meeting.

3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Resolutions Committee: York Room, Jennifer Shields, Chairperson

We encourage the participation of all members in setting Federation policy. Come help shape the policies of the NFB of Virginia.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Public Meeting on Rehabilitation Services: James Room, Susan Payne, Policy and Training Specialist, and Pam Hinterlong, Director of Workforce Services, Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. At-Large Chapter Reception: Presidential Suite, Suite 825, Rick Holley, Chairperson

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Chapter Presidents and Treasurers Meeting: Rappahannock Room, Mark Roane and Charles Brown

Chapter Presidents and Treasurers should attend this informative session to understand the ever-changing guidance for managing the finances at a chapter level.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. First Time Convention Attendee Meeting: Mariner B, John Bailey, Second Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia and Carolina Garrison, Herndon, Virginia

This is the ‘must attend’ event for all first-time conventioneers. Get help with your questions so that you can get the most from your convention experience.

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Braille Carnival: Mariner A, Hosted by the Virginia Association of Parents of Blind Children, Laurie Wages, President

Join us, with your children of ANY age, as you explore our Native American themed Braille carnival. Go through the ABCs of Braille exploring our touch and feel stations that embrace all your senses. Come check out a real teepee, play games, do a craft and have a snack! We hope to see you there!

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Guide Dog Users Interest Meeting: James Room, Michael Valentino, Coordinator

The Virginia Association of Guide Dog Users a NEW division of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia is accepting new members. We will be offering FREE juno walks so folks can experience what it's like to have a guide and we will discuss legislative and other issues. You don't want to miss this event we're going to have a dog gone good time.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Convention Hospitality: Cape Henry-C, Hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Theresa Willis, President

All convention attendees are cordially invited to join in the fun at this reception titled “Veterans at the Beach”.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Student Social: York Room,   
Derek Manners, Coordinator

* 7:00 p.m. Icebreakers
* 8:00 p.m. Overcoming Challenges
* 9:00 p.m. National Association of Blind Students (NABS)
* 9:30 p.m. Common Interests/Hobbies

9:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Comedy by Richard Peck: Rappahannock Room, A PG-13 fundraiser for the Merchants Division,

Rick Peck is a comedian who has performed professionally over the past twelve years. Much of his material is drawn from his somewhat bizarre way of looking at his life's experiences. All proceeds support the Merchants Division’s efforts to ensure blind entrepreneurs have access to run vending facilities within U.S. Department of Defense buildings.

Admission $5 purchased at the door, Harold Wilson, President, Merchants Division

# Saturday, November 12, 2016

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Student Breakfast: Presidential Suite, Suite 825

8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Student Mobility Coaching: Meet at Presidential Suite, Suite 825

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Registration: Atlantic Foyer

## General Session

Rappahannock & James Rooms

9:00 a.m. Call to Order—Michael Kasey, President, NFB of Virginia

9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Invocation—Mark Roane, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

9:05 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. National Report—Pam Allen, First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind and President, National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana and Chairman of the Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Introducing Our New NFB of Virginia Leadership Fellows

* Alexander Castillo, Arlington, Virginia
* Earl Everett, Richmond, Virginia
* Michael Kitchens, Portsmouth, Virginia
* Domonique Lawless, Mechanicsville, Virginia
* Sean McMahon, Vienna, Virginia
* Christopher O'Meally, Richmond, Virginia
* Joe Orozco, Woodbridge, Virginia
* Robert Parsons, Richmond, Virginia
* Evelyn Valdez, Alexandria, Virginia

10:00 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. Action Auction

10:05 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. Introducing the 2016 NFB of Virginia James F. Nelson, Jr. Scholarship Finalists—Brian Miller, Chair

* Tracy Jones, University of the Rockies, Ashland, Virginia
* Sharon Jose, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
* Robert Parsons, Randolph Macon College, Richmond, Virginia

10:10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. NFB Philosophy in Action: From a Parents Perspective—Sandy Halverson, Parent Liaison, Arlington, Virginia, Moderator

Laurie Wages, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Zina Lewis, Chesapeake, Virginia

Learn how parents ensure the success of their children through educational and community Involvement.

10:25 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. DBVI Update—Raymond Hopkins, Commissioner, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired

10:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Fitness Break—Kierra Davis, Richmond, Virginia

10:50 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Advancing Opportunities for the Blind: A Worldwide Challenge—Dr. Fredric Schroeder, President, World Blind Union

11:10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Action Auction

11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Believing In Me—Kierra Davis, Richmond, Virginia

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Presidential Report—Michael Kasey, President, NFB of Virginia

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns

12:05 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. Box Lunch Pickup: Atlantic Foyer

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Blind Parents: Raising Kids as a Blind Parent: Mariner A, Jessica Reed and C. J. Fish, Moderators

This luncheon will be a discussion to address the techniques blind parents are using to raise their children throughout all facets of life. Come with your questions and our panelists will be ready to answer them.

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Blind Seniors Interest Group Luncheon and Business Meeting: Mariner B, Nancy Yeager, Coordinator

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Blind Vendors Division Luncheon and Business Meeting: False Cape B, Harrold Wilson, President, Merchants Division

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virginia Association of Blind Students Luncheon: Meet in main lobby by 12:15 p.m., Kimberly Valko, President

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virginia Parents of Blind Children Luncheon and Business Meeting: Cape Henry-C. Laurie Wages, President, and Sandy Halverson, Parent Liaison, NFB of Virginia

1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virginia Industries for the Blind — New Job Opportunities in Hampton Roads: York Room, Matthew Koch, General Manager, Virginia Industries for the Blind

Come learn about this growth and how you can be part of it. VIB has 21 existing locations and is ready to expand into the Hampton Roads area with a significant investment to offer quality jobs to area residents who are blind or vision impaired. VIB General Manager, Matt Koch, will discuss VIB’s present operations and potential future with you. Bring your resumes!

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration: Atlantic Foyer

## Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Take Charge: Strategies for Success - It’s More than Just about a Paycheck:

Rappahannock & James Rooms, Melody Roane, Coordinator

Whether you are pursuing your first job or you have been in your career for thirty years, this seminar is for you. In a competitive job market, learn about the tools that will empower you to take the next step toward achieving the career you want! Through interactive engagement, you will hear from presenters and other participants about their secrets for success. By taking an active role in securing your first job or advancing in your career, learn how to become the indispensable employee! Explore strategies to position yourself to become the employer if that is your dream!

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parent Track: Cape Henry-C, Laurie Wages, President, Virginia Parents of Blind Children, and Sandy Halverson, Parent Liaison, NFB of Virginia

What should you expect from your child and their school? Learn about the alternative techniques that work including technology, fitness /recreation, reading, and other ways our community can help you and your child. Join us; try our hands-on techniques and see how they work and we'll do our best to answer your questions.

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Virginia Association of Blind Students Business Meeting: York Room, Kimberly Valko, President

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Senior Track: Staying In The Game: Mariner B, Nancy Yeager, Coordinator

Learn about equipment and services available for seniors in Virginia.

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Social Media for Beginners: Cape Charles A, Danielle Trevino, Coordinator for Social Media and Member Engagement, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

This introductory session will help members understand how to use Facebook and Twitter for both achieving personal and Federation goals. This is a hands on session to get people started on these tools and explain why it is important.

Space is limited to the first 25 registered participants and individuals must pre-register to participate. Register by contacting Deepa Goraya at deepa.goraya@gmail.com

Include Introductory Social Media in the Subject Line.

Participants are highly encouraged to bring their tech to the session so they can participate directly in the program. This introductory session will not provide sufficient background to attend the advanced session.

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Advanced Social Media: Cape Charles A, Danielle Trevino, Coordinator for Social Media and Member Engagement, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

This advanced session will help members understand how to maximize their use of Facebook and Twitter for both achieving personal and Federation goals. This is an advanced hands on interactive session amongst sophisticated users of Facebook. The goal of this session is to assist sophisticated Facebook and Twitter users to take these tools to the next level.

Space is limited to the first 30 registered participants and individuals must pre-register to participate. Register by contacting Deepa Goraya at deepa.goraya@gmail.com

Include Advanced Social Media in the Subject Line.

Participants will receive assignments in advance of the session that must be completed to participate. Participants are highly encouraged to bring their tech to the session so they can participate directly in the program.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Reception (Cash Bar): Atlantic Foyer

## 2016 Convention Banquet

Rappahannock & James Rooms

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Banquet Program—Charles Brown, Master of Ceremonies and Past President, NFB of Virginia

Invocation—Rev. C. Jason Lewis, Virginia Beach Christian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia

2016 James F. Nelson Scholarship Awards Presentation—Brian Miller, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Banquet Address—Pam Allen, First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind, President, National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana and Chairman of the Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind

Action Auction—Jacki Brown, Chairperson and Auctioneer

Drawing for 2016 NFB of Virginia Raffle

# Sunday, November 13, 2016

8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Devotions: False Cape B

## General Session

Cape Charles A

9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Invocation—Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz, Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia

9:05 a.m. to 9:35 a.m. That’s Me: Exploring Our Common Bonds—Joanne Wilson, Federation Leader

9:35 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Youth Track - Scavenger Hunt and Philosophy Chat: Cape Henry C, Derek Manners, Coordinator

Youth will be divided into two groups based on age. The younger youth will participate in the scavenger hunt first while the older youth have an interactive philosophy chat. At around 10:15, the two groups will switch. Participants in the scavenger hunt will navigate the hotel to find different locations with mini-prizes. The first two to finish in each age range will receive a grand prize. So bring your travel skills and win some fantastic prizes.

9:35 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Creating Change and Taking Action: A transformational Journey That Built a Consulting Business—Jeremy Grandstaff, S & G endeavors, Alexandria, Virginia

9:45 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. Connecting the Dots: Analytic Investigation at the FBI—Joe Orozco, NFBV Leadership Fellow, Woodbridge, Virginia

9:55 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Action Auction

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Business Session

* Audit Committee Report—Brian McCann, Chairperson
* Treasurer’s Report—Mark Roane, Treasurer
* SUN Committee Report—Sandy Halverson, Chairperson
* 2017 Richmond and Washington Seminars—Jeannette Gholson and Deepa Goraya, Legislative Directors
* 2017 National Convention, July 10-15, Orlando, Florida
* 2017 NFB of Virginia Convention—Brian McCann, Chairperson, Convention Arrangements and Activities
* Resolutions—Jennifer Shields, Chairperson
* Nominating Committee Report—Charles Brown, Chairperson
* Elections
* Report of Youth Track Activities—Derek Manners, Coordinator
* Old and New Business
* Closing Remarks—Michael Kasey, President, NFB of Virginia

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns

Thank you to our Chesapeake Bay Chapter for hosting the 2016 NFB of Virginia State Convention. Your hospitality made us feel like family and it made the convention one of our best ever.

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**The Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society**

Help build a future full of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of the Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind can be made in the form of a will or living trust, an income-generating gift, or by naming the NFB as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. You can also become a member of the Jacobs tenBroek Legacy Society by making a legacy gift to your state affiliate. By committing to support an NFB affiliate, your gift will benefit both local and national programs as all bequests made to affiliates are split evenly with the NFB national treasury. In addition to having the satisfaction of contributing to the future success of the NFB's mission, tenBroek legacy society members will also receive a specially designed thank you gift and other benefits. For additional information about the Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society, please contact:

Lou Ann Blake

NFB Jernigan Institute

[lblake@nfb.org](mailto:lblake@nfb.org)

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