

**Diamonds in the Federation: Building Our Future**

**60TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA**

Tracy Soforenko, President

**November 9 — 11, 2018**

**Fredericksburg Hospitality House**

2801 Plank Road

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

(540) 786-8321

**HOSTED BY THE FREDERICKSBURG AREA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA**

Holly Frisch, President

**Our National Representative:**

**James Gashel, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind**

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2

The Federation Pledge 4

Convention Registration & Information 4

Meal Functions 4

Door Prizes 5

Action Auction 5

Information Table 6

Youth Track 6

Childcare 7

Dog Relief Area 8

Assistive Listening Devices 8

Presidential Suite 8

Free Aira Site Access at National Federation of the Blind State Conventions 8

Thursday, November 8, 2018 11

Friday, November 9, 2018 11

General Session 12

Friday Afternoon Concurrent Seminars 14

Saturday, November 10, 2018 18

General Session 18

Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions 22

2018 Convention Banquet 24

Sunday, November 11, 2018 26

General Session 26

Thank You to Our Sponsors 29

Special Event Sponsors 29

Platinum Plus Sponsors 29

Gold Sponsors 30

Silver Sponsors 30

Bronze Sponsors 30

NFBV Chapters and Divisions 33

Exhibit Hall Door Prizes 34

Dream Makers Circle 35

Vehicle Donations 35

# 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 Lobby 3, located in the Conference Center, or C Wing, of the hotel. The cost of on-site registration is $25. Pre-registration packet pick up and on-site registration will be open the following times:

* Thursday, November 8 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
* Friday, November 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and   
  12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
* Saturday, November 10 from 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 Thursday evening.

## Meal Functions

Tickets for all meal functions are available at the registration desk. Banquet and box lunch tickets must be purchased by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 10.

**Banquet:** Banquet tickets may be purchased onsite for $37. We will not have reserved seating at the banquet this year. Seating will be open, so come early to get seats together. Do not forget to bring your ticket because tickets will be checked at the door.

**Box Lunch:** If you did not pre-register for a boxed lunch, tickets may be purchased onsite for $17, while supplies last. Box lunch tickets will be sold for both Friday and Saturday and must be used for the specific day purchased. In addition, a limited number of student pizza lunch tickets may be available for those who did not pre-register for $7.

**Note:** For more information about hotel, registration or meal functions, please contact Joe Orozco at (202) 810-4023.

## 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.

## 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 exhibit area. For more information, contact Jacki Brown, Chairperson and Auctioneer.

## Information Table

If you need assistance from the NFB of Virginia (such as helping a blind child get a strong education, getting access to blindness skills training, learning to use NFB-NEWSLINE®, or resolving an employment discrimination problem), please go to the information table outside the Presidential Ballroom. 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 information 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 on Sunday. For more information, please contact Alex Castillo at (917) 532-7439.

## Youth Track

If you are under the age of 14, or are bringing a young person to convention who is, our youth track activities are exactly what you would hope and dream for! These sessions are specifically designed for young people — interactive games that foster positive attitudes about blindness and encourage social interactions among the blind and low vision youth and successful blind mentors. Through arts & crafts, travel, and fun games, the kids will not want to leave to go home!

For more information, please contact Kathryn Webster at (203) 273-8463.

## Childcare

Childcare is available for infants through fifth graders whose parents are registered for the convention. It is available throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. Childcare is located in the Executive Lounge, 3rd Floor. We have activities and games for the children.

For more information, please contact Michael Kasey at (540) 760-3885.

Childcare is 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 5:15 p.m.
* Session 6: Saturday, 6:45 p.m. to one half hour after the banquet ends

Snacks will be provided during Sessions 1, 2, 4 and 5. Even though childcare will be open and fully staffed during lunch on both Friday and Saturday, lunch will not be provided. Parents should either pick their children up for lunch at the end of Session 1 and Session 4 or provide a lunch for their children in the childcare room. Also, dinner will not be provided on Friday or Saturday evening. Parents should feed their children dinner prior to bringing them to Session 6. The cost of childcare is $10 per family per session.

## Dog Relief Area

The Hospitality House has designated a place for dog relief in the courtyard of the hotel. The courtyard can be accessed by going through the Palm Room, if not in use, or may be accessed by any of the exits directly across from the Presidential Ballroom. The designated place is across from the gazebo, but please ask a member of hotel staff to point you directly to the designated spot.

## Assistive Listening Devices

A limited number of assistive listening devices are available during all convention sessions and at the banquet. For an assistive listening device, please go to the contact table located in the back of the hall during all convention general sessions. A credit card or identification card is required as a deposit for the equipment.

## Presidential Suite

The Presidential Suite is Room 365 on the third floor. You may use the elevator in A Wing or the elevator in C Wing, adjacent to the Presidential Ballroom.

## Free Aira Site Access at National Federation of the Blind State Conventions

The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with Aira to provide free Aira Site Access to NFB members during our 2018 state convention. Aira subscribers who are National Federation of the Blind members can use the service at our convention for free without having minutes deducted from their plans. In addition, those interested in Aira have the unique opportunity to try out the service for free while at our convention. This convention-wide, free site access is available only at NFB state conventions, giving NFB members an exclusive opportunity to test-drive Aira in a convention setting.

Aira allows blind individuals to connect via live video to a trained agent through a mobile app or wearable glasses to get real-time visual information or assistance. Learn more about Aira and special pricing available for NFB members at [go.aira.io/NFB](file:///C:\Users\cdanielsen\Dropbox%20(NFB)\Aira\go.aira.io\NFB).

**How it Works**

Before you head to convention or as soon as you get there, download the free Aira app from the App Store, and create a guest account if you are not already an Aira subscriber. Also, make sure your phone’s GPS feature is enabled. When you enter the convention Site Access location, your phone will receive a notification letting you know that the space you are in is part of the Aira Network. When you connect with an agent, he or she will also confirm that you are now covered by the network, and no minutes will be deducted from your account.

When you leave or enter convention areas that are covered by the Site Access network, you will be informed by the Aira agent.

To learn more about Aira and the special plan available exclusively to NFB members, visit [go.aira.io/NFB](file:///C:\Users\cdanielsen\Dropbox%20(NFB)\Aira\go.aira.io\NFB).

# Thursday, November 8, 2018

6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Virginia Chapter Leadership Institute Kick Off: Presidential Suite Room 365; Joe Orozco and Domonique Lawless, Co-Chairs. By invitation only. We are kicking off the inaugural class of the Virginia Chapter Leadership Institute!

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration: Lobby 3.

# Friday, November 9, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration: Lobby 3.

8:40 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Advanced Vision Morning Coffee: Presidential Ballroom.

A special thanks goes out to Silver Sponsor Advanced Vision for hosting our Convention Kick-off Coffee Break.  Grab a cup of coffee, say hi to new and old friends, and grab a seat to get our 60th Convention started.  Be sure to stop by the exhibit hall between 12pm-5pm and thank Advanced Vision for their gracious hospitality.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. NFB of Virginia Board of Directors Meeting and Chapter Reports (Open to All): Presidential Ballroom.

## General Session

Presidential Ballroom

10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Opening Ceremonies:

* Call to Order - Tracy Soforenko, President, NFB of Virginia
* Invocation - Rev. Colin Davis, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fredericksburg, Virginia
* Presentation of the Colors - American Legion Post 320 Spotsylvania, Bruce Moganson, USMC Honor Guard Captain
* Pledge of Allegiance
* Federation Pledge
* Star Spangled Banner –Emanuel Finnell, Richmond Chapter, Emporia, Virginia
* Welcome to Fredericksburg, Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Fredericksburg, Virginia
* Welcome from Delegate Robert “Bob” Thomas, 28th District, Fredericksburg, Virginia
* Greetings from Our Host Chapter – Holly Frisch, President, Fredericksburg Area Chapter, Fredericksburg, Virginia
* Convention Arrangements - Joe Orozco, Chairperson, Convention Organization and Arrangements

10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A Friend in Congress. Congressman Robert Wittman, Virginia 1st District.

10:30 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. Diamonds in the Federation.

* The 1960s: Nancy Yeager, President, Seniors Division, Arlington, Virginia
* The 1970s: Alan Schlank, Past President, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, Arlington, Virginia
* The 1980s: Charles Brown, Past President, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, Winchester, Virginia
* The 1990s: Althea Pittman, President, Eastern Shore Chapter, Melva, Virginia
* The 2000s: – Earl Everett, Secretary, Richmond Chapter, Richmond, Virginia

10:55 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Action Auction.

11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. The Journey is the Destination: Run, Ski, or Ride to Independence.

* Robert Hartt, Moderator, Alexandria, Virginia
* Mike Davis, Suffolk, Virginia
* Susan Gashel, Avon, Colorado
* Irwin Ramirez, Alexandria, Virginia
* Evelyn Valdez, Alexandria, Virginia

11:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Aira: Disruptors in Access Technology. Daniel Frye, Director - Public Sector Engagement and Strategy, Aira Tech Corporation, Arlington, Virginia.

11:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. Action Auction.

11:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Rehabilitation Services for the Blind in Virginia. Raymond Hopkins, Commissioner, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

11:50 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Announcements.

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns.

12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration: Lobby 3.

12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Box lunch pick-up: Lobby 3.

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibits: Monroe Room. Annette Carr, Exhibits Coordinator.

1:00p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Resolutions Committee: Patrick Henry Room, Deepa Goraya, Chairperson. We encourage the participation of all members in setting Federation policy, and the best way to influence policy is through resolutions. As a grass roots organization, we serve our movement through collective action, and such action begins with policy making and debate. Come help shape the policies of the NFB of Virginia.

## Friday Afternoon Concurrent Seminars

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Me, You, and the Independence Between Us: Domonique Lawless and Jimmy Morris, Co-Chairs, Washington Room. Join us as we discuss ways to gain our independence and freedom through various methods of travel and technology. Learn about your world, how to move around in it, and how to directly engage it.

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Virginia Association to Promote the Use of Braille: Palm Room, Patricia Droppers, President. Please join us to discuss both the status of Braille in Virginia, and the future of the division.

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Student Power Hours! Fredericksburg Room, Virginia Association of Blind Students. Students of all ages are invited to a fun and interactive session where we will get to know each other. During this 2-hour ice breaker, students will play critical thinking games, challenge their problem-solving skills, and enjoy getting to know the rest of our blind and low vision students! Who doesn’t like some friendly competition on a Friday afternoon?

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Public Meeting on DBVI Divisions, Programs and Services: Madison Room, Susan K. Davis, Policy and Training Coordinator, Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. At-Large Chapter Meeting and Reception: Presidential Suite, Room 365, Rick Holley, President.

6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Student Membership Kickoff and Dinner: Fredericksburg Room, Virginia Association of Blind Students. All students, and only students, are invited to dine with our student leadership and members. Here, we will discuss the weekend, enjoy company time with each other, and engage in meaningful conversation about being a blind student in Virginia. You won’t want to miss the delicious food, enthusiastic company, and lots of information shared.

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Young Professionals Happy Hour. Susie D’Mello and Evelyn Valdez, Coordinators, Presidential Suite Room 365. Are you a young professional looking for something exciting to do on Friday evening? Come mingle, make new connections, and enjoy a drink or two at the Young Professionals Happy Hour in the Presidential Suite.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Convention Hospitality: Washington-Jefferson Rooms. Hosted by the Fredericksburg Area Chapter, Holly Frisch, President. All registered convention attendees are welcome to join us for this fun evening of fellowship and hospitality featuring Jazz from Doug Gately. Don’t forget your ticket provided with your registration to enter this event. Mix, mingle, and network with Federation members and distinguished guests, all while enjoying appetizers and a cash bar.

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. First timers Welcome Reception as Part of Convention Hospitality: Washington Room. John Bailey, Coordinator. Enhance your convention experience by broadening your network within the Federation at this event towards the back of the convention hospitality room. Meet Federation leaders and get better connected.

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Around the World: Braille Carnival: Monroe Room. Hosted by the Virginia Parents of Blind Children: Laurie Wages, President. Join us, with your children of any age, as you experience our carnival featuring highlights from countries from around the globe. Come play games and have a snack! We hope to see you there!

8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Virginia Association of Guide Dog Users Meeting: Patrick Henry Room, Joy Relton, Vice President. The Virginia Association of Guide Dog Users will be conducting an informative business meeting regarding future division programs, legislative updates, and elections. Please join in to cover topics like the ride share monitoring program, airline and other travel policies, post training techniques, and medical/health related tips for new and seasoned handlers.

10:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. Scholarship Mixer: Presidential Suite, Room 365, Brian Miller, Chairperson.

# Saturday, November 10, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 10:00a.m. Registration: Lobby 3.

## General Session

Presidential Ballroom

9:00 a.m. Call to Order -Tracy Soforenko, President, NFB of Virginia.

9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Invocation – Brittany Crone Ingram, Fredericksburg Area Chapter, Stafford, Virginia.

9:05 a.m. to 9:35 a.m. National Report – James Gashel, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind, Honolulu, Hawaii.

9:35 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Introducing the 2018 NFB of Virginia James F. Nelson, Jr. Scholarship Finalists. Brian Miller, Chairperson.

9:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Action Auction.

9:45 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. The Kellogg’s Rice Krispies Braille Love Notes Story: Showing the Love. Tabatha Mitchell, Board Member, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, Nokesville, Virginia And Emmi Mitchell, 2010 BELL Academy participant.

9:55 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. Diamonds in the Federation. The 2010s: Fredric Schroeder, PhD, President, World Blind Union and Past President, National Federation of the blind of Virginia, Vienna, Virginia.

10:05 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Enjoying Theater: Student Performance and Audio Description. Tiffany Boyle, Audio Describer and Meaghan Mozingo, Theatrical Instructor, Access Virginia, Newport News, Virginia.

10:15 a.m. to 10:25 An Innovation at Our NFB Training Centers:

* Dan Wenzel, BLINDNESS: Learning in New Dimensions, (BLIND, Inc.) Executive Director, Minneapolis, Minnesota
* Conrad Austen, Home management Instructor, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Ruston, Louisiana

10:25 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Action Auction.

10:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Learning through Volunteering: Reflections from Virginia’s 2018 McDonald Fellows and Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship Fund Winners:

* Moderator: Mary Durbin, Chairperson, McDonald Fellowship Committee, and NFB of Virginia Liaison, Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship Fund Committee, Virginia Beach, Virginia
* Phuong Dang, Falls Church, Virginia
* Why Asia Hurtado, Woodbridge, Virginia
* Kristen and Maddie Martin, Ashburn, Virginia
* Oscar Montiel, Woodbridge, Virginia

10:50 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Project RISE: Resilience, Independence, Self-Advocacy, Employment. Kathryn Webster, Project RISE Program Coordinator, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, Arlington, Virginia.

11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Making the Summer Count: Students Working to Build Their Futures:

* Melody Roane, Director, Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VRCBVI), Moderator, Richmond, Virginia
* Nick Petrillo, Project RISE, Clifton, Virginia
* LIFE Program Participant
* Hannah Wages, Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) Buddy Program Participant, Fredericksburg, Virginia

11:20 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. Seniors in Charge and Thriving – Wanda Taylor, Greater Alexandria Chapter, Alexandria, Virginia.

11:25 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Action Auction.

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Presidential Report, Tracy Soforenko, President, NFB of Virginia.

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns.

12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Box Lunch Pickup: Lobby 3.

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Upward Mobility Luncheon, Susie D’Mello, Coordinator, Palm Room. During this informal panel discussion, we will hear from several successful blind professionals about their tips and strategies for getting the job you want, sharpening those networking skills, and advancing in your career. Whether you are a young professional, trying to navigate early in your career, or a recent graduate, ready to jumpstart your career, grab a lunch, and let's talk career advancement.

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Seniors Division Luncheon and Business meeting, Monroe Room. Nancy Yeager, President. Join other seniors for lunch and conversation, followed by a short business meeting.

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virginia Association of Blind Merchants Division Luncheon and Business Meeting: Patrick Henry Room. Harold Wilson, President.

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virginia Parents of Blind Children Luncheon and Business Meeting: Commonwealth Room, 2nd floor. Laurie Wages, President. All parents are welcome to dine together, learn from each other, and conduct business alongside our Parent Division Leaders. Whether you have questions about raising a blind or low vision child, eager to get involved and help other parents, or just want to learn more, our Parent Luncheon offers all of the above, and so much more. Join us as we expand our circle and parenting and welcome you and your family with open arms.

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Blind Students Luncheon and Business Meeting: Fredericksburg Room. Student Pizza Lunch pick up will be held in the Fredericksburg Room starting at 12:05 p.m. The Virginia Student Division welcomes all students to attend our annual business meeting, where we reflect on the past year, plan for the upcoming, hear from national leaders, hold elections, and much more! Come shape the future of our division!

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration, Lobby 3.

## Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Youth Track: Fredericksburg Room, Annette Carr, Coordinator. If you are under the age of 14, or are bringing a young person to convention who is, our youth track activities are exactly what you would hope and dream for! These sessions are specifically designed for young people — interactive games that foster positive attitudes about blindness and encourage social interactions among the blind and low vision youth and successful blind mentors. Through arts & crafts, travel skills, and fun games, the kids will not want to leave youth track to go home!

2:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. – Exploring Your Future: What’s Next for You? Washington Room, Kathryn Webster, Coordinator. Whether you are a working professional, high school or college student, interested in transitioning career paths, or just an overall curious individual, this interactive workshop is for you! Through engaging discussions, ambitious speakers, round-table discussions, and various rotations, this seminar will teach attendees the possibilities of success, but most importantly: how to get there!

2:00 p.m. to 4:30p.m. Parent Track: Fueling the Fire for Higher Expectations Commonwealth Room, Laurie Wages, President, Virginia Parents of Blind Children. You are essential in helping shape the future of your children and your family, but that’s not easy. Come one, come all, to learn together, grow together, and feed off of the talented parents in this engaging parent seminar. During this time, we will hear from incredible parents on raising children and breaking down the obstacles of society, students who are succeeding in school and beyond, and a plethora of resources for you and your family.

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Senior Track: Seniors in Charge: Monroe Room, Nancy Yeager, President. Participate in discussions and presentations including:  volunteering in your community, historical sites in Fredericksburg and Amazon Echo - how seniors are using it.

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bottom Dollars, Patrick Henry Room. Join us for a screening of the film “Bottom Dollars” about sub-minimum wages and the impact of this discriminatory practice on people with disabilities. This film, produced by an organization called Rooted in Rights that specializes in documentaries and social media campaigns related to disability issues, exposes the exploitation of workers with disabilities through the payment of subminimum wages and calls for a phase-out of this discriminatory practice. This will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions to NFB leaders. We will also discuss how the NFB can help in a discussion facilitated by James Gashel, National Representative.

4:30pm – 4:50pm Youth Track Performer’s debut. Fredericksburg Room

Family and friends are invited to watch an original play performed by our Youth Track performers. Don’t miss this opportunity to support our aspiring young actors. Once they become famous you can say, “I knew them when…!”

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Project RISE Open House for Virginia students and parents: Patrick Henry Room, Kathryn Webster, Project RISE Program Coordinator. Learn more about Project RISE, meet our team and ask your questions.

## 2018 Convention Banquet

Presidential Ballroom.

In Federation fashion, come dressed to impress as we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary year with a keynote address by National Representative James Gashel.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Reception (Cash Bar): Lobby 3.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Banquet Program – Fredric Schroeder, Master of Ceremonies and Past President, NFB of Virginia:

* Invocation—Arielle Silverman, Deputy Coordinator for Project RISE, Silver Spring, Maryland
* 2018 James F. Nelson Scholarship Awards Presentation—Brian Miller, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Alexandria, Virginia
* Banquet Address – James Gashel, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind
* Fredericksburg Derby
* Action Auction - Jacki Brown, Chairperson and Auctioneer

# Sunday, November 11, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Devotions: Patrick Henry Room.

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Youth Track: Monroe Room, Annette Carr, Coordinator. If you are under the age of 14, or are bringing a young person to convention who is, our youth track activities are exactly what you would hope and dream for! These sessions are specifically designed for young people — interactive games that foster positive attitudes about blindness and encourage social interactions among the blind and low vision youth and successful blind mentors. Through arts & crafts, travel skills, and fun games, the kids will not want to leave youth track to go home!

## General Session

Presidential Ballroom.

9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Invocation - Stewart Prost, President, Tidewater Chapter, Norfolk, Virginia.

9:05 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. Celebration of Freedom: Veterans Recognized. Gerald Meredith, coordinator, south Chesterfield, Virginia.

9:20 a.m. to 10:20 A.m. Business Session:

* Audit Committee Report—Andre Tynes, Chairperson
* Treasurer’s Report—Mark Roane, Treasurer
* SUN Committee Report: Sandy Halverson, Chairperson
* 2019 Richmond and Washington Seminars—Deepa Goraya and Derek Manners, Legislative Directors
* 2019 National Convention, July 7-12, Mandalay Bay resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
* 2019 NFB of Virginia Convention, November 1 – 3, Renaissance Portsmouth – Norfolk Waterfront, Portsmouth, Virginia
* Resolutions—Deepa Goraya, Chairperson
* Nominating Committee Report—Fredric Schroeder, Chairperson
* Elections

10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Action Auction.

10:30 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. Federation Philosophy Discussion: NFB and You. Joanne Wilson, Federation Leader, Alexandria, Virginia. An interactive session to build your individual beliefs about blindness for future growth.

10:55 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. Building Our Future Together in Virginia. Tracy Soforenko, President.

11:05 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Students are Paving the Path for Our Future - Kenia Flores, 2nd Vice President, National Association of Blind Students, Charlotte, North Carolina.

11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Meaning of the NFB for blind people both now and in the future. James Gashel, Honolulu, Hawaii.

11:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Researching the Employee Experience at Work: The Life of an Industrial/Organizational Psychologist. Susie D'Mello PhD, Alexandria, Virginia

11:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. report of Youth Track Activity, Kathryn Webster, Youth Coordinator.

11:50 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Reports and Announcements.

12:00 p.m. General Session Adjourns.

Thank you to our Fredericksburg Area Chapter for hosting the 2018 NFB of Virginia State Convention. Your hospitality made us feel like family and it made the convention one of our best ever.

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

Travel through the Exhibit Hall and fill up your passport. Visit each exhibitor, find out what they have to offer, and earn a sticker for your passport card. Once your Passport card is full, drop it at the Exhibit Information table on your way out, and you will be entered into the drawing for a door prize. If you do not have a passport card, before going into the Exhibit Hall stop by the Exhibits Information table and request one. One passport card submission per person.

## Special Event Sponsors

* Aira – Free Aira Access at the Hotel and Fredericksburg train station, November 8 through November 11.
* Advanced Vision – Friday Board meeting coffee break.

## Platinum Plus Sponsors

* Aira – Promotes independence through the use of modern technology and real-time remote assistance to visual information to those with vision loss. At the press of a button, the Explorer is immediately connected via Smart Glass to a network of certified Agents. 858-876-2472 [www.aira.io](http://www.aira.io)

## Gold Sponsors

* VANDA Pharmaceutical - A specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel therapies to address high unmet medical needs and improve the lives of patients, such as those with Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24). 202-734-3400 <http://www.vandapharma.com/>

## Silver Sponsors

* Advanced Vision – Distributor of a wide range of digital magnification products that can assist those with low vision. 804-400-1151 [www.enhancedvision.com](http://www.enhancedvision.com)

## Bronze Sponsors

* Ability2Access – Distributor of Vispero low vision products. 540-639-9732 800-444-4443
* ABLEnow – Virginia is among the first states in the country to offer an ABLE program, which provides people with disabilities and their families the opportunity to save money for today’s needs or invest for tomorrow in a simple, affordable and tax-advantaged account. Save for the future without endangering eligibility for certain benefit programs critical to health and well-being. 844-NOW-ABLE 804-310-0961 [able-now.com](http://www.able-now.com/)
* Access Virginia – Audio description accommodation services. 7572761761 www.accessvirginia.info/AudioDescription
* Christian Ministry Teachers – Free Bible literature in Braille, large print, audio, and RTF formats. 910-619-6576
* Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind – Provides a comprehensive, integrated range of services including low vision care and rehabilitation, job development training, and employment for people of all ages who are blind to enable them to remain independent. 202-454-6400 [www.clb.org](http://www.clb.org)
* Cyber Timez – Cyber Eyez is an app that brings a lot of tools to your smart phone to provide access to visual information. Can be used at home, school and work to accomplish countless tasks. It can zoom in on things, read text, identify over 1,600 colors and recognizes facial expressions such as happy, sad, angry or surprised. An interface with Skype connects you with someone you know when you need them. A variety of hardware options allows you to put together a package that best fits your needs. 202-827-6883 [www.cybertimez.com](http://www.cybertimez.com)
* Integration Technologies Group, Inc. – Adaptive Technology available through Humanware for People with Visual Disabilities. 703-698-8282 [www.accessibilityproducts.net](http://www.accessibilityproducts.net)
* LegalShield – Legal and ID Theft Coverage. 757-814-9640 Claudialynch.wearelegalshield.com
* S&G Endeavors, Ltd. – Do you work for the government, a non-profit organization, a for-profit company, or are a member of the NFB?  Are you looking to improved growth potential, increased organizational effectiveness, and/or increased efficiency to achieve your mission?  S&G Endeavors can assist with the development of collaborative strategic planning, meeting facilitation, and organizational development. Their services will result in increased collaborative decision making within the team, development of future leaders, improved team’s effectiveness, and/or a strategic plan for future growth. 614-519-3026 [www.sgendeavors.com](http://www.sgendeavors.com)
* TCS Associates – TCS offers a full suite of innovative accessible services and solutions to ensure that employees with disabilities, students and individuals are able to perform the essential functions of their positions, have equal access to technology in the workplace and enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment and the pursuit of their personal or professional goals. 240-248-1826 [www.tcsassociates.com](http://www.tcsassociates.com)
* The Bureau of Engraving and Printing – Distribution of the iBill money Readers (Free). 202-874-2608 [www.bep.gov](http://www.bep.gov/)
* Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired – VRCBVI provides quality training in the skills of blindness and promotes positive attitudes about the capabilities of blind individuals to make positive contributions at work and in the community. In addition to the training program we offer for adults, we also offer innovative and fun programs for blind youth that will challenge them to reach their full potential. Learn about these and other exciting initiatives at VRCBVI! 804-371-3323 <https://www.vrcbvi.org>
* Volunteers for the Blind – Connects people with visual impairments in the Fredericksburg area with volunteers to assist with shopping and reading. Visit our table in the Exhibit hall and meet author Carol Shelton (A.K.A. Marla Beagle) who is selling copies of her books “Marla Wears a Halo” and “The Adventures of Hot Cocoa and Salt Water Taffy”. These books include both braille and print text. 540-899-8847

## NFBV Chapters and Divisions

* Blue Ridge Chapter – Hand-painted glass ornaments for sale. They make great holiday gifts. Stop by and check out the “Taste of Charlottesville” basket being raffled. Once you see what is included you will not be able to resist buying a raffle ticket or two. 434-409-8013 [lmeheart@yahoo.com](mailto:lmeheart@yahoo.com)
* Peninsula Chapter – Book for sale, “Head Held High” by Butterfly Thomas. Sales will benefit the chapter. Print $16, e-book available online $4. [butterfly.m.enterprises@gmail.com](mailto:butterfly.m.enterprises@gmail.com) 757-848-1781 Chapter President, [uricka.harris@iCloud.com](mailto:uricka.harris@iCloud.com)
* Senior’s Division – Information distribution. Nancy Yeager, President 703-283-2524 [NFBVseniors@gmail.com](mailto:NFBVseniors@gmail.com)
* "Virginia Association of Blind Merchants – 50/50 raffle. Gather your friends and buy a few tickets. The more tickets that are purchased will increase the jack-pot. The more tickets you buy the better your chance of feeding your wallet with some extra cash. Harold Wilson, 410-404-5255 [haroldwilson02@gmail.com](mailto:haroldwilson02@gmail.com)

## Exhibit Hall Door Prizes

* A big thanks goes out to all those who have donated Door Prizes for our 2018 Exhibits Passport game. A list of Door Prize donors will be listed on the NFBV Convention website as the information becomes available.

# Dream Makers Circle

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia 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.

# 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).