

**2019 Convention Agenda**

National Federation of the Blind of Washington

President: Marci Carpenter

Date: November 1-3, 2019

Location: Hotel RL Olympia, 2300 Evergreen Park DR SW

Olympia, WA 98502

The National Federation of the Blind of Washington 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. Together with love, hope and determination we transform the dreams of blind Washingtonians into reality.

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**Important Information and Announcements**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in the Spruce Ballroom. Exhibits will be in the Fir Ballroom. All meeting rooms are located on the ground floor. The hotel restaurant and the lounge are located on the main lobby level.

The dog guide relief area is the grassy area behind the hotel. Please make sure to clean up after your dog guide.

Groups not scheduled for a convention session may meet at other times. Announcements will be made during convention.

The hotel restaurant provides a free, full breakfast to NFBW guests. The restaurant is also open for dinner and lunch.

We are proud to announce our sponsors of the NFB of Washington convention:

Bronze sponsors: TBA

Silver sponsors: TBA

Gold Sponsors: TBA

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

Friday, November 1, 2019:

10:00am-3:00pm: UEB Re-certification Session, Room Pine, TBD.

10:00am-1:00pm: Job Seeker Seminar (interviewing, resume writing, blind professionals, looking for jobs), Cedar/hemlock Room, TBD.

12:00 pm-7:00 pm (Break 5:00pm-6:00pm) Exhibits

Fir Ballroom

2:00pm-3:00pm: Legislative meet-up, Hemlock/Cedar Room, TBD.

3:00pm-4:00pm: Social Media and Me, Hemlock/Cedar Room, Kris Colcock, President, At-Large Chapter, NFB of Washington.

4:00 pm-5:00 pm Registration

Ballroom Foyer

7:30 pm-8:30 pm NFB of Washington Board of Directors meeting

8:30 pm-9:30 pm Resolutions Committee meeting

9:30 pm-11:00 pm “Take the Stage” talent show hosted by Washington Association of blind Students [WABS] (karaoke and performances at the Hotel RL stage [Hotel lounge open until 12:00am])

Saturday, November 2, 2019:

8:00 am Convention Registration

Ballroom Foyer

9:00 am Welcome and Opening Announcements

9:10 am Convention Sponsor, TBD.

9:20 am NFB National Report, Pam Allen, First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind, President, NFB of Louisiana,Executive Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB.

10:00 am NFBW State Report

Marci Carpenter, President, NFB of Washington (NFBW)

10:20am: What does the NFB stand for? TBD.

11:00 am My National Convention Experience:

David Fair, President, Inland Northwest Chapter, NFBW; Nikki Palm, Treasurer, At-Large Chapter, NFBW; Janell Landgraf, Vice-President, At-Large Chapter, NFBW; and Luc Gandarias, Washington Association of Blind Students, Junior at South Whidbey High School

11:30 am Resolutions.

Noon – 2:00 pm Lunch

Let’s Taco about It, Youth Lunch and Games, State Room, TBD.

Breakout Sessions: Choose one to attend during each time slot.

2:00 pm-2:45 pm

Parents of blind children meet-up, Hemlock Room, Washington Parents of Blind Children.

Student Meet-up, State Room, Washington Association of Blind Students.

Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Volunteer Training, Cedar Room, TBD.

2:45pm: Break

3:00pm:

Financial Management, Cedar/Hemlock, Northwest Access Fund

Technology at home, school and Work, Fir Ballroom, Michael Forzano, Software Development Engineer, Amazon, Luc Gandarias, Washington Association of Blind Students, Junior at South Whidbey High School

Sightless Self-defense, Pine Room, Anacortes Soo Bahk Do.

3:50 pm Break.

4:00pm: The Barriers to Services to Blind Adults in Washington; Order of Selection and Independent Living Program, Fir Ballroom, Lou Oma Durand, Executive Director, Department of services for the Blind.

4:15pm: Subminimum Wages; Eliminating Barriers to Gainful Employment in Washington, Fir Ballroom, Marci Carpenter, President, NFBW.

4:45pm: My Vision for the Orientation and Training Center, Fir Ballroom, Deja Towell, Administrator, Orientation and Training Center, Department of Services for the Blind.

5:00pm: Adjourn

6:00 pm Reception and Cash Bar, Fir Ballroom.

7:00 pm Convention Banquet, Fir Ballroom.

Master of Ceremonies, Gary Mackenstadt

Banquet Address, Pam Allen, Executive Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB).

Presentation of Scholarships, Bennet Prows and Michael Forzano.

(Hotel lounge open until 12:00 am)

Sunday, November 3, 2019:

9:00 am Announcements

9:05 am Chapter Reports.

9:35 am Legislative Update

Legislative Coordinator, NFB of Washington

9:50 am Elections

10:20 am Closing Remarks from Pam Allan, Executive Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB).

10:35 am Building Membership in the NFB of Washington

11:20 am Convention Wrap-up.

11:30 am Adjourn

**INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, AND SOCIAL CONDUCT**

As an attendee at our convention, you not only represent yourself but also represent our organization. We want you to enjoy our time together and to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Although we encourage members to socialize and have fun, the convention also provides a valuable opportunity to come together to continue the work of our organization, to learn about the important initiatives that we are involved with on local, state and national levels, and to plan our work for the future.

The National Federation of the Blind seeks to provide a convention environment in which di-verse participants, including members, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers, may learn, network, and enjoy the company of friends and colleagues in an environment of mutual respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are therefore specifically prohibited:

harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, physical appearance, or another group identity

sexual harassment or intimidation, including unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or unsolicited physical contact

public drunkenness and associated behaviors (e.g., belligerence, yelling, hostility, destruction of property)

Participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all convention venues, including online arenas, social media, and convention social events. Participants who are asked to stop a behavior that the recipient considers hostile or harassing are expected to comply immediately.

For assistance or to report an incident, please call or text Buna Dahal at 303-910-6413 or President Carpenter at 206-604-5507. All reports will be fully investigated according to the steps outlined in our Code of Conduct. Based on the information found in the investigation, appropriate action will be taken and may involve organization leaders and legal counsel. Based on the circumstances, hotel security and/or law enforcement may become involved, when appropriate.

We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas. These principles have been delineated in our Code of Conduct adopted by our Board of Directors in 2017. This document may be found at nfbw.org and clicking on the “Code of Conduct” link.