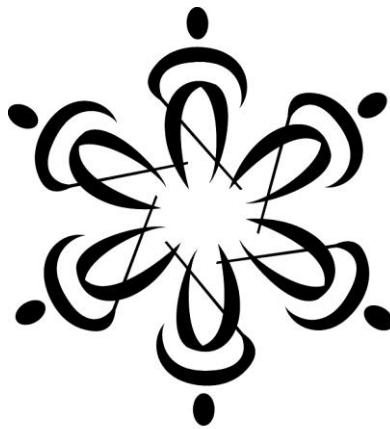


The 41st Annual State Convention
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey



**LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT—
LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

Holiday Inn
151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
November 9, 10,11,12, 2017

Joseph Ruffalo, President
973-743-0075
nfbnj1@verizon.net

www.nfbnj.org
www.blindchildren.org

Who We Are & What We Do

The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of and for the blind in the US, is made up of blind/ visually impaired people of all ages, and their families and friends. We help newly blind people adjust to vision loss, assist parents and teachers of blind children, and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities. Our activities include:

- Assisting blind persons in acquiring the skills of independence
- Helping blind persons develop confidence in themselves
- Teaching blind persons the skills of leadership through active participation in conventions, chapter meetings, and civic activities
- Encouraging blind seniors to continue their active and meaningful lifestyles
- Preparing blind students for productive, tax-paying careers through training and academic scholarships
- Supporting parents, teachers, and friends of blind children with mentoring, role modeling, information, and training
- Informing those losing their sight due to diabetes about techniques for dealing with vision loss
- Advocating for policies that eliminate discrimination and guarantee equal access to high quality educational and rehabilitation programs
- Educating the public through community activities and publications
- Protecting and promoting the civil rights of blind persons through public education and legislative action at the state and national levels

Spotlight on NFB of NJ

Since 1976, the National Federation of the Blind of NJ, an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, has been providing invaluable information and resources to blind/visually impaired people throughout the state. Our members work together for a brighter tomorrow by raising expectations for blind people everywhere so that blind persons can live the life they want. Our seven chapters meet monthly; our eight divisions hold events at various times through the year. For more affiliate, chapter, and division news and information, visit www.nfbnj.org. Please join us— we would welcome your participation.

Subscribe to the *Sounding Board*

Get our state newsletter the *Sounding Board* delivered to your email inbox. Send a message to Alice Eaddy at nfbnj.secretary@aol.com with *subscribe Sounding Board* in the subject line. Also available at www.nfbnj.org and Newsline.

Live the Life You Want

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. Together, with love, hope and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

The National Federation of the Blind 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 programs and policies of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

The KNFB Reader App

We proudly sponsor the KNFB Reader app! This revolutionary tool enables you with the touch of a single button, to read virtually any type of printed text, such as mail, receipts, class handouts, and memos. To learn more about, visit www.nfb.org/knfbreader and www.knfbreader.com.

Funding Our Movement

The National Federation of the Blind of NJ is a 501c(3). Please consider making a tax-deductible donation or marking a special date in honor of a loved one with a gift to the NFB of NJ.

Get on the PAC Plan

The PAC Plan (Pre-Authorized Contribution Plan) is a critical part of funding our movement. According to national PAC chair Scott LaBarre, PAC Plan contributors have raised more than \$10 million for the Federation over the years. On the PAC Plan, members and other individuals, affiliates, chapters, and divisions donate monthly via direct debit or on a credit card. You can get started with as little as \$5 per month. Get on the PAC Plan; sign up today, right at this convention, or increase your PAC pledge. Your donation helps the blind live the lives we want.

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 New Jersey 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, contact Patti Chang at (410) 659-9314 X 2422 or pchang@nfb.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will be posting Convention videos and updates to our Facebook page, NFBNJ, or use link <https://m.facebook.com/NFB-NJ-353099574776238/>. Click the like button, then scroll down the page to see the latest postings. We will be **recording** and **streaming** the Convention on our YouTube channel. Go to nfbnj.org for more info. We plan to broadcast at the following times:

- Friday , November 10, Afternoon Session—1:30 - 5:00 pm
- Saturday, November 11, General Session—8:45 am – noon
- Saturday, November 11, Banquet—7:00 pm - Conclusion
- Sunday, November 12—Business Meeting—8:30 am – Conclusion

Food Pantry Donations: Please drop off your food pantry donation items at the Registration area.

Hotel Navigation: We are pleased to feature **LowViz Guide**, an indoor navigation app for the blind and visually impaired. Developed in 2015 as a free community service by Macular Degeneration Support, the app has been provided at more than a dozen state and national conventions for blind/visually impaired attendees who have access to iPhones or iPads. LowViz Guide gives information on hotel points of interest and meeting room and schedule details. They will provide step-by-step user instructions in large print, audio, and Braille formats and personal support for users during the entire event. For more information about LowVis Guide, visit <http://www.mdsupport.org/audioguide>.

Breakfast Coupons: NFB attendees will receive free breakfast coupons upon check in. Those staying at the hotel Wednesday night will receive a coupon for Thursday breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Breakfasts will be served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings in the one of the hotel ballrooms. Register for the Convention in order to receive free breakfast and our special hotel rate.

Banquet Ticket Exchange: To ensure a smooth seating process, we have initiated Banquet Ticket Exchange. After you purchase your banquet ticket, bring it to the ticket exchange, where you will trade it in for a ticket with a table number. If you would like to sit with friends, gather tickets and exchange them together. Ten people can be seated at each table. Exchange will be open Friday, 8 – 8:30 pm, and Saturday, 12 – 12:30 pm and 5 – 5:15 pm. If you do not exchange your ticket, you will be seated where there is space available.

Vendors will be available in the Exhibit Hall—Dunes Ballroom at the following times: Thursday, 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Friday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Guide Dog Relief Area: The guide dog relief area will be in one location only. There will be both a grassy area and a cement area. Directions from the hotel lobby: Step off the elevator and turn right. Proceed 8 or 9 steps and turn left. Proceed about 50 steps through the convention hall corridor to reach the rear exit doors. Once outside, walk about 4 steps and turn left to find the sidewalk. Walk on the sidewalk about 100 feet to the relief area. The grassy area and cement areas are on the right at the end of this sidewalk. There is a line trash can on the grassy area. Please note: there is a parking lot to the right of the long sidewalk and a service delivery area just beyond the relief area. It is not necessary or advisable to step off the curb at any time to access the relief area. If there are any questions, please contact Dan Facchini at 201-906-8655.

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Support Service Providers of NJ (SSPNJ)

SW Unlimited LLC

THURSDAY, NOV. 9, 2017

2:00-6:00 pm—Technology Seminar: Live the Life You Want—Atlantic Ballroom

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

2:00 pm—Welcome & Overview

Joe Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ; Jane Degenshein

2:15 pm—LowViz Demo

Jerrod Witt, Associate, MD Support

2:30 pm—BrailleNote Touch and CBVI Update

Mac Biggers, Member, Technology Division

2:50 pm—The Newest Victor Reader Stream

Annemarie Cooke, Brian Mackey, Board Members, Technology Division

3:10 pm—Alexa and SIRI

Tony Santiago, Board Member, Technology Division

3:30 pm—All About iOS 11

Tony Santiago, Board Member, Technology Division

3:50 pm—AIRA: The Visual Interpreter for the Blind

Kevan Worley, AIRA Advocate

4:15 pm—Q and A

4:30 pm—Break Out Sessions—Presented by members of the division

Table 1: Health and Equipment

Lester Cameron, Christine Franz, Fannie Davis, Angela Perrone

Script Talk, talking blood pressure cuff, talking glucose meter

Table 2: Android and Braille Sense U2

Lydia Keller, James Hulme, Mary Jo Partyka

Table 3: Apps and More Apps

Linda Melendez, Alice Eaddy

Health app, communication apps

Table 4: Technology Questions Answered

Tony Santiago, Jane Degenshein

Table 5: Games and Indoor Navigation

Ken Lawrence, Liz Morgan, Jerrod Witt

Accessible games, NVDA, iPod Touch, putting described movies and free music on Apple devices, LowViz

Table 6: Victor Reader Stream

Annemarie Cooke, Brian Mackey

4:00 to 9:00 pm—Exhibit Hall open—Dunes Ballroom

Special Drawing—Visit every Exhibit Hall table, listen to what is available there, and collect a table number card at each one. Hand in your cards at the designated area (TBA) and your name will be entered into a drawing for a prize worth approximately \$100. Drawing will be held at the Banquet. You do not need to be present to win.

5:30 – 6:30 pm—Pick Up Pre-Registration Packets—Dunes Ballroom**FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 2017**

Friday breakfast is provided free of charge in the main ballroom for those registered with the hotel for Thursday evening. Bring your coupon.

8:30 am–12:00 pm—Registration Open—Pre-Function Area outside Atlantic Ballroom**Pick up Pre-Registration Packets or Register**

Convention registration: \$25

Box lunch can be purchased in the Registration Area: \$15

Diabetic lunches available

Friday Dinner: \$35

Saturday Lunch: \$15

Banquet tickets: \$40

(Note: Prices are increased for walk up registration. Next year, preregister!)

Drop off food pantry donation items

8:00 am–1:00 pm—Exhibit Hall Open—Dunes Ballroom**9:00 am–12:00 pm—Division & Chapter Meetings—Beach Ballroom**

9:00 – 9:30 am—Senior Division Meeting

Jane Degenshein, President

9:35 – 10:15 am—Technology Division Meeting

Jane Degenshein, President

10:20 – 10:40 am—At Large Chapter

Joe Ruffalo, President

10:45 – 11:25 am—Diabetic Division Meeting

Rebecca Bryant, President

11:30 – 12:00 pm—Braille Division Meeting

Mary Jo Partyka, President

11:30–1:00 pm—Lunch—Atlantic Ballroom

1:30–5:00 pm—PROGRAM—Atlantic Coastal Ballroom

1:30 pm—Welcome & Opening Remarks

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ; National Board Member, NFB
Scott LaBarre, National Representative; President, NFB of CO

1:40 pm—What’s New at the Library

Adam Szczepaniak, Director, NJ Talking Book & Braille Center

1:50 pm—AIRA—Visual Interpreter for the Blind

Kevan Worley, AIRA Advocate

2:10 pm—Auction Prize

2:15 pm—First-Timers Panel

Amy Albin, Connor Mullin, Andrew Rees, Rosa Santiago
Recipients of Jernigan Convention Scholarship

2:35 pm—EDGE—Employment, Development, Guidance, Engagement

Connor Mullin & Patricia Ebel, EDGE Employment Coordinators

2:45 pm—CO Center for the Blind: Let Your Freedom Bell Ring!

Monique Melton, Staff; Serena Cucco, Graduate; Lia Stone, Student

3:10 pm— The Joys of Small Business

Ivis Trejo, Amway; Rosa Santiago, Mariposa Essence

3:40 pm—Auction Prize

3:50 pm— Have Cane, Will Travel

Annemarie Cooke & Mary Fernandez, Travelers

4:10 pm—My Federation Journey: Life after Blindness

Linda Melendez, Board Member, NFB of NJ

4:25 pm—Working: Much More than 9-5

Veronica Gaspa, Intern, National Center for the Blind

4:35 pm—Blind or Sighted—Perfect Together

Rick Fox & Debbie Bloomer; Sherlock & Kim Washington;
Misty & Marty Hagan

5:00 pm—Adjourn

5:15 pm—Dinner on your own—Hotel restaurant is open.

NFB of NJ Dinner—Those who preregistered and prepaid for the NFB of NJ dinner, please proceed to **Beach Ballroom**.

7:00 pm—Resolutions Committee Meeting—Beach Ballroom

Ryan Stevens, Chair

All are welcome.

8:00 pm—Blind Merchants Committee Meeting—Location TBA

Contact Dan Facchini, President, at 201-906-8655

8:00—8:30 pm—Banquet Exchange Open—Main Atlantic Coastal Ballroom/C

See Linda Melendez

8:00–11:00 pm—LET’S MAKE IT HAPPEN—RAISING THE ROOF—

Atlantic Coastal Ballroom

Hosted by the Central Jersey Chapter, Mac Biggers, President & Promote the Use of Braille Division, Mary Jo Partyka, President

Music and Dancing

Salsa Lesson—Krystle Allen, Eyes Like Mine, Dancing with the Blind

Auction prizes

Snacks for sale by host chapter & division—please support!

Cash Bar

NOTE: Breakfast will be served from 7:00 – 8:30 am on Saturday morning in **Beach Ballroom** for those registered in the hotel.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11, 2017

7:00–8:30 am—Breakfast for those registered in the hotel—Beach Ballroom

7:00–8:30 am—NJ Assoc. of Guide Dog Users Division Breakfast Meeting—Atlantic Ballroom; Dan Facchini, President

7:00–8:30 am—Student Social Breakfast—Back of Dune Ballroom
Vee Gaspa, President

8:00–8:45 am—Registration Open—Outside Atlantic Coastal Ballroom

9:00 am—Welcome, Call to Order—Atlantic Coastal Ballroom
Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ
Jerilyn Higgins, Honoree; Mac Biggers, President, Central Jersey Chapter; Mary Jo Partyka, President, Braille Division

9:05 am—Invocation & Opening Ceremonies
Jane Degenshein, President, Tech & Senior Divisions

9:25 am—Introduction of Scholarship Class of 2017
Mary Fernandez, Chair

9:35 am—Presidential Report
Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ

10:00 am—The NFB—Making It Happen for the Blind
Scott LaBarre, National Representative; President, NFB of CO

10:30 am—NJCBVI—Working Together to Make It Happen
Daniel Frye, Executive Director, NJ Commission for the Blind & VI

10:55 am—The Spark, the Flame, I'm on Fire!
Linda Melendez, Board Member, NFB of NJ

11:05 am—She Made It Happen
Joe Ruffalo, Carol Castellano, Dan Facchini, Lynn Heitz

11:30 am—The BELL Ringers—Braille Enrichment Learning & Literacy
Mary Jo Partyka, BELL Program Coordinator; Braille Instructor;
Amy Albin, Assistant Instructor; Parents and Students

11:50 pm—Announcements

12:00 pm—Adjourn

12:00 – 12:25 pm—Banquet Ticket Exchange—Coastal Ballroom

See Linda Melendez

12:00 – 1:15 pm—Lunch—Pick up box lunch in Beach Ballroom

Reminder: You must have a lunch ticket.

Diabetic lunches available.

12:10–1:30 pm—Deaf-Blind Division—Room TBA

Contact Alice Eaddy, President, for room number—856-285-4747

Pick up lunch in Beach Ballroom & proceed to meeting room

12:10–1:30 pm—NJ Association of Blind Students—Dune Ballroom

Vee Gaspa, President

Pick up lunch in Beach Ballroom & proceed to meeting room

12:30–1:30 pm—Establish Sports & Recreation Division—Coastal Ballroom

Linda Melendez, Chair

AFTERNOON SESSION**1:40 – 2:40 pm—Tech Talk & Tips—Beach Ballroom**

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

Optical Recognition and Visual Assistants

Seeing AI and Be My Eyes

Rick Fox

Technology division Board Member

AIRA : the Visual Interpreter for the Blind

Kevan Worley

AIRA Advocate

1:40 – 2:40 pm—College and Accommodations—Dune Ballroom

Vee Gaspa, President, Student Division

A round table discussion on the state of accommodations on today's college campus

2:50 – 3:50 pm—Sports & Recreation: Past, Present, Future!—Dune Ballroom

Linda Melendez, Chair

Building membership, fundraising, outreach events, elections. Results of our Pilot Step Challenge and implementation of an annual Sports & Recreation Division Meet the Blind Step Challenge during the month of October.

2:50 – 3:50 pm—IEPs for Success—Atlantic Ballroom

Carol Castellano, Chair, Parents of Blind Children-NJ

What's different about the education of a blind/visually impaired student? What should be in a BVI student's IEP? How can I make the IEP meeting more successful?

4:00—5:00 pm—Town Hall Meeting—Working Together to Make a Difference—Beach Ballroom

Scott LaBarre, NFB National Representative; Dan Frye, Exec. Director, CBVI

A strong Federation and a strong state agency equals raising expectations to live the life we want!

5:00—5:15 pm—Final Banquet Ticket Exchange Open—Back of Beach Ballroom

See Linda Melendez

6:45 pm—Banquet—Atlantic Coastal Ballroom

Master of Ceremonies—Nicky Gacos

Invocation—Rick Fox

Banquet Address—Scott LaBarre, NFB National Representative

Raising Expectations Award

NFB of NJ Scholarship Awards—Mary Fernandez, Scholarship Chair

Klaus & Michelle Zechner Scholarship

Louise and Peter Facchini Memorial Scholarship

Tara Carty Memorial Scholarship

Gail & Tom Ferry Memorial Scholarship

Edwin Lewinson Memorial Scholarship

Auction

We thank our members, chapters, and divisions for their generous donations of auction items. Please bid high and bid often, as all proceeds will assist in growing the affiliate and making a difference!

SUNDAY, NOV. 12, 2017

Morning Devotions will be held from 7–7:30 am on Sunday in Beach Ballroom.
Rebecca Bryant, Misty Hagen

Please Note: Checkout time is 11:00 am. Bring your luggage to the meeting with you or bring it to the hotel desk for storage before the meeting.

7:45 am—Breakfast—Atlantic Coastal Ballroom

8:45 –11:30 am—Program and Business Meeting—Atlantic Coastal Ballroom

Invocation—Rebecca Bryant

Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions

Live the Life You Want—We're Making It Happen—Scott LaBarre

Legislative Report—Ryan Stevens, Chair, Legislative Committee

Resolutions—Ryan Stevens, Chair, Resolutions Committee

Chapter, Division, Committee Reports

Elections

Thank you to the NJ Talking Book and Braille Center for Brailing this agenda.

For information on NFB of NJ and our divisions, chapters, committees, programs, and projects, please visit nfbnj.org.

Exhibitors

National Federation of the Blind of NJ

Joe Ruffalo, President
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AIRA

Marty Watts, Director of Marketing
Kevan Worley, AIRA Advocate
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www.aira.io

Amway

Alberto and Ivis Trejo
Ivis Trejo, Owner
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Association of Blind Athletes of NJ (ABANJ)

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Sharon Gunderman, President
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C TECH

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Eye Assist, LLC

Paul Hansen, President
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iCanConnect/NJ

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Independence Science

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JW.org

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Roger Freeman
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Mariposa Essence

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NJ Commission for the Blind & VI

Pamela Gaston, Public Info. Specialist
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**NJ State Library
Talking Book & Braille Center**
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Andy O'Rahilly, Machine Lending
Specialist
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www.njstatelib.org/tbbc

Sprint Vision
Warren Knight Outreach Specialist
Kelly Egan
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www.sprint.com/accessibility

**Support Service Providers of NJ
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