### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF NEW YORK STATE

**61stANNUAL CONVENTION**

**NOVEMBER 17 – 19, 2017**

**ALBANY RAMADA PLAZA, 3 WATERVLIET AVE. EXT.**

**ALBANY, NEW YORK**

**NFB 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.*

#### **We would like to thank all our 2017 sponsors:**

#### PLATINUM New York State Commission for the Blind

GOLD C Tech

 CyberEyez

 Lighthouse Guild Vision + Health

 Northeast Association of the Blind at Albany

Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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#### SILVER Vis-Ability, Inc.

BRONZE 3D Photoworks

 Easy Tactile Graphics (E.A.S.Y., LLC)

 Guide Dog Foundation

 Helen Keller National Center

 Independent Living Aids

 New Utrecht Pharmacy

 Strictly Car Service

 Visions Services for the Blind

Xavier Society for the Blind

Thanks to JW.org for providing volunteers for our convention.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Registration Table**: Please stop by to pick up your lunch and banquet tickets, agendas, and other materials. On Friday, starting at 8:30 AM, and on Saturday starting at 8:00 AM, the Registration Table will be in the hallway outside the Ballroom. On Saturday afternoon, the table will be in the rear of the Ballroom.

**Breakfast Buffet:** The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast for all guests. Hot and cold foods are available in the **Plaza Grill & Lounge.** Starts at 6:30 AM Friday and Saturday and 7:00 AM Sunday.

**Childcare:** Free childcare will be available at times shown in this agenda in **rooms 135 and 137.** Pre-registration is required.

**Guide Dog Relief:** An area will be provided outside the hotel’s side door, which is just beyond the ladies’ room on the first floor.

**Ballroom:** For many of our convention events, the Ballroom will be divided into three rooms: the Nassau, the Thacher, and the Helderberg. Please consult this agenda for locations of specific events.

**Saturday Panel Discussion:** Questions for the panel discussion on residential rehabilitation, to be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, must be submitted in Braille to Mindy Jacobsen. You are encouraged to do this prior to the panel discussion.

**Horse Race:** This popular annual fundraiserwill be held on Saturday evening at the banquet. Don’t miss the opportunity to support your favorite “horse” in this event. Tickets in $5 increments can be purchased from Mike Robinson or Jim Jonas or at the Registration Table. The betting window closes at 5:00 PM on Saturday.

**How to pay NFBNY:** The New York Affiliate is able to accept cash, checks, or credit card payments.

**Please remember to visit the Exhibit Hall in the Dutch/Schreiber Rooms.** The Exhibit Hall will be open on FRIDAY ONLY!! Our vendors this year have quite a wide variety of goods and services to enhance your freedom and add fun to your life. See the list below.

* **Angie Robinson –** Beautiful hand-crocheted products and homemade dog biscuits.
* **BLIND, Inc**. – One of our NFB training centers.
* **C Tech** – Adaptive technology and low vision products.
* **Cyber Eyez** – smart glasses with highly accurate text recognition.
* **Easy Tactile Graphics** – Products for creating and editing your own tactile graphics.
* **Exhibit Hall Coordinator** – Chancey Fleet
* **Guide Dog Foundation** – providing guide dogs and training.
* **Guiding Eyes for the Blind –** Information on using and living with a guide dog.
* **Helen Keller National Center** – technology for the deaf-blind.
* **JW.org** –Free Bible literature in Braille, large print, RTF format, and audio.
* **National Federation of the Blind of NewYork** – Information and demonstrations for the KNFBReader and NFB-Newsline.
* **Northeast Association of the Blind at Albany** – Products for daily living.
* **OrCam** – Wearable assistive technology solution for face recognition, supermarket product identification, and much more.
* **Vanda Pharmaceuticals** – What can you do when you seem to sleep at all the wrong times?
* **Vis-Ability, Inc.** – Products that provide independence at work, at school, at home.
* **Visions Services for the Blind –** residential vocational skills training.

**AGENDA**

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

**Childcare** in Rooms 135 & 137: 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, and 7:00 – 10:00 PM.

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Exhibit Hall. Coordinator: Chancey Fleet, Second Vice President, NFB of New York State, and First Vice President, New York City Chapter NFB. **In the Dutch/Schreiber Rooms.**

10:00 AM – 12 noon: Open Forum with the New York State Commission for the Blind, Brian Daniels, Associate Commissioner. Voice your opinion to officials about services in our state. **In the Thacher Room.**

12 noon – 2:00 PM: PREPAID box lunches available **in the Helderberg Room.** If you are not attending a lunchtime meeting or workshop, you may eat your lunch **in the Helderberg Room.**

12 noon – 1:00 PM: Guide Dog Division, Lucy Marr, President, New York State Guide Dog Division, and President, Syracuse Chapter NFB. **In the Nassau Room.**

1:00 – 2:15 PM: Blind Parenting: Carl Jacobsen, President, NFBNYS, panel moderator, and guest speaker Holly Bonner, MPA, MSW, CASAC, Creator of Blind Motherhood.com. Audience participation will follow. **In the Thacher Room.**

1:00 – 2:15 PM: Vendor Presentations: Each exhibitor will explain his/her products in a group presentation. **In the Dutch/Schreiber Rooms.**

2:30 – 3:45 PM: Student Division Social Event. **In the Helderberg Room.** Refreshments will be provided.

2:30 – 3:45 PM: Parents of Blind Children Workshop, Coordinators: Arthur Jacobs, Treasurer, POBCNY; Treasurer, National Association of Blind Educators; Legislative Liaison, NFBNYS; and Treasurer, NYC Chapter NFB; and Cayte Mendez, President, National Association of Blind Educators; Chair, Scholarship Committees, NFB National and NFBNYS; Secretary, NFBNYS; and Director of Educational Programs, NFBNYS. **In the Nassau Room.**

2:30 – 3:45 PM: Blind Seniors: Carl Jacobsen, facilitator, and Ruth Sager, President, NFB Seniors Division. An exploratory meeting to form a new division for seniors in our affiliate. **In the Thacher Room.**

4:00 – 5:00 PM: NFB of NYS Board of Directors meeting. All are welcome. **In the Thacher Room.**

5:30 – 7:00 PM PRIVATE Scholarship Dinner **in the rear section of the Plaza Grill.**

7:00 – 10:00 PM: Everyone, please join us **in the Nassau/Helderberg Rooms** for our Hospitality Night, featuring food, fun, and a cash bar. Hosted by Nefertiti Matos. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

**Childcare** in Rooms 135 & 137: 8:15 AM – 12 noon, 1:45 –5:15 PM, and 6:45 – 10:30 PM.

7:00 – 8:30 AM: PRIVATE Scholarship Breakfast in the **Dutch Room.**

**Morning General Session in the Thacher/Helderberg Rooms:**

8:30 – 8:45 AM: Call to order: Carl Jacobsen; Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Robinson, President, Buffalo Chapter NFB;

National Anthem: Cantor, Dr. Mindy Jacobsen, First Vice President, NFBNYS, First Vice President, NFB Diabetic Action Network; and President, New York City Chapter NFB.

8:45 – 9:00 AM Presentation of the Scholarship Class of 2017:

Cayte Mendez, Chair, Scholarship Committee NFBNYS.

9:00 – 9:30 AM: State of the State Address: Carl Jacobsen, President NFBNYS.

9:30 – 10:00 AM: State of the Union Address: Dr. Marc Maurer, Immediate Past President, NFB.

10:00 – 10:15 AM: Vanda Pharmaceuticals: Karen Orband, RN, BSN, CDE, Notheastern Regional Nurse Educator.

10:15 – 10:30 AM: Bringing Clean Water Back to Lake Onondaga: Luis Mendez, attorney and NFBNYS member.

10:30 – 10:45 AM: Living in Two Worlds: Mike Robinson, President, Buffalo Chapter NFB.

10:45 – 11:00 AM: A Word from Our Sponsors.

11:00 – 11:15 AM: Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany: Where Are We Now, and Where Are We Going? Chris Burke, Executive Director, NABA.

11:15 – 11:45 AM: Report from the Libraries: Jill Rothstein, Chief Librarian, Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, New York, NY; and Shawn Lemieux, Senior Librarian, Talking Book and Braille Library, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY.

11:45 AM – 12 noon: A Word from Our Senior Division: Ruth Sager.

**Lunch Break Information & Meetings**

12 noon – 2:00 PM: PREPAID box lunches available **outside the Schreiber Room.** If you are not attending a lunchtime meeting or workshop, you may eat your lunch **in the Nassau Room.**

12 :15 – 1:45 PM: Blind Parents group, coordinator, Heather Bird, President, Rochester Chapter**. In the Schreiber Room.**

12:15 – 1:45 PM: Student Division, Nihal Erkan, President, Student Division, NFBNYS. **In the Dutch Room.**

**Afternoon General Session in the Thacher/Helderberg Rooms:**

2:00 – 2:20 PM: The Bell Keeps Ringing: Report from our New York State BELL Academies: Cayte Mendez, Director of Educational Programs, NFBNYS, and Lead Teacher, BELL, and Rasheta Bunting, BELL Program Coordinator.

2:20 – 2:30: Nothing About Us Without Us: Consumer Access to VR Information: Chancey Fleet.

2:30 – 2:45 PM: Blind Parenting: Holly Bonner.

2:45 – 3:00 PM: Xavier Society for the Blind, Malachy Fallon, Executive Director.

3:00 – 4:00 PM: Panel: The Many Faces of Residential Rehabilitation: Nancy Miller, Executive Director/CEO, Visions Services for the Blind, New York, NY; Peter Slatin, Alumnus and Board Member, Colorado Center for the Blind, Littleton, CO; and Dan Wenzel, Executive Director, BLIND, Inc., Minneapolis, MN. **Questions for the panelists must be submitted in Braille to Mindy Jacobsen, preferably before 3:00. No questions will be taken directly from the floor.**

4:00 – 4:15 PM: Chapters as Windows into our Philosophy: Cayte Mendez.

4:15 – 5:00 PM: News from our state agency: Brian Daniels, Associate Commissioner, New York State Commission for the Blind. This presentation will include a question-and-answer period.

6:30 – 11:00 PM **Banquet in the Ballroom.** Mistress of Ceremonies: Mindy Jacobsen.

* Cash bar available from 6:30
* Invocation: David R. Stayer, President Emeritus, Greater Long Island Chapter
* “Horse Race” game
* Keynote Address: Dr. Marc Maurer
* Auctions, pledges, and prizes
* Presentation of Scholarships to the class of 2017: Cayte Mendez

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

7:00 – 8:30 AM: Resolutions Committee breakfast meeting in the Dutch Room, Chair, Chancey Fleet.

8:45 AM – 12 noon: Childcare in Rooms 135 & 137.

9:00 AM – 12 noon: **General Session in the Ballroom**

* Invocation: Carl Jacobsen
* Report from the Resolutions Committee: Chancey Fleet, Committee Chair
* Consideration of, and voting on, resolutions
* Report from Nominating Committee, David Stayer, Chair
* Election of Officers
* Chapter and Division Reports
* New business

**12 noon: Adjournment**

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**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 York 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).