**National Federation of the Blind of Massachusetts, Inc.**

[**http://www.nfbma.org**](http://www.nfbma.org)

**SIXTY-EIGHTH**

**ANNUAL**

**STATE CONVENTION**

**February 18-21, 2021**

**National Office**

**200 East Wells Street**

**Baltimore, MD 2123**

**http://nfb.org**

**Telephone: 410-659-9314**

**Twitter: @NFB\_Voice**

**NFB of Massachusetts Constitutional Officers**

**President: Amy Ruell, Cambridge, MA**

**First Vice President: Shara Winton, Swampscott, MA**

**Second Vice President: Mika Pyyhkala, Boston, MA**

**Secretary: Georgie Sydnor, Ruston, Louisiana**

**Treasurer: Steve Booth, Salem, MA**

**At Large Board Members**

**Karen Dupuis, Springfield MA**

**Cullen Gallagher, Quincy MA**

**Barbara Lomax, Boston, MA**

**Mark Paquette, Springfield, MA**

**Precious Perez, Chelsea, MA**

**David Ticchi, Cambridge, MA**

**Important Notes**

**Convention Registration:**

**Registration Deadline: January 31, 2021**

**Registration is free for our virtual convention this year. All registrations need to be completed by January 31 by going to**

[**https://www.nfbma.org/state-convention/registration**](https://www.nfbma.org/state-convention/registration)

**Voting:**

**We are holding elections for all constitutional offices as well as three board positions this year. Only paid members are eligible to vote. We will be using the same voting platform and strategy as was used at the 2020 NFB convention. The link to register to vote will be provided as soon as it becomes available.**

**Door Prizes:**

**Margaret O’Donnell is our door prize chair for 2021. Please send her information about door prizes you plan to donate by February 14 by email at** [**kaitlynsgramma@yahoo.com**](mailto:kaitlynsgramma@yahoo.com)

**or call her at 413-330-3271. You must be in the room when your name is called to claim your door prize.**

**Convention Updates:**

**We will update Twitter** [**http://twitter.com/nfbma**](http://twitter.com/nfbma)

**and Facebook,** [**https://www.facebook.com/National-Federation-of-the-Blind-of-Massachusetts-1593379944322253/**](https://www.facebook.com/National-Federation-of-the-Blind-of-Massachusetts-1593379944322253/)

**throughout the weekend with announcements and logistical details. Please follow social media to receive the most current information before, during, and after convention!**

**Interested in serving on the board or as an officer:**

**If interested, contact Amy Ruell at** [**aruell@comcast.net**](mailto:aruell@comcast.net) **or call 781-267-4432.**

**Zoom links for all sessions will be emailed to all registrants and added to this agenda as soon as they are confirmed.**

**Auction Items Needed:**

**Please send information about all auction items to Amy Ruell by February 12. Donors will be expected to send items to successful bidders. This is our only fund-raiser for our convention this year, please be as generous as you can. Come and win valuable items and help our affiliate!**

**Open Mic Night:**

**Share your talents with your fellow Federationists: Sign up with Precious Perez by emailing** [**pulyperez1@gmail.com**](mailto:pulyperez1@gmail.com) **or call 781-521-2134, especially if you need accompaniment.**

**Questions for Massachusetts Agency Leaders?**

**Please send all questions to Amy Ruell at aruell@comcast.net or call 781-267-4432**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, February 18, 2021**

**7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.: NFBMA Social**

**Musical chairs via Zoom**

**FRIDAY: February 19, 2021**

**3:00 P.M.: Get that Job!!**

**Dressing for success and interview tips**

**Chris Danielson, NFB Director of Communications, Baltimore, Maryland;**

**Mary Fernandez, I&C Global Strategy Research Lead, Cisco Systems Inc.**

**3:00 P.M.: Resolutions Workshop:**

**Sharon Maneki, NFB Resolutions Committee Chair, Baltimore Maryland**

**3:00 P.M.: Micro-Aggression, Privilege, Police and More:**

**Shawn Callaway, NFB National Board Member, NFB State President, Washington, D.C., Co-chair Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

**4:00 P.M.: Coping and Mental Health During Covid-19 and Beyond:**

**Barbara Lomax, LICSW, NFBMA Board Member,**

**Leena Bandy, Vice-President, NFBMA At Large Chapter, Secretary, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter**

**4:00 P.M.: New and Improved: Challenges and Opportunities for Blind Seniors:**

**Ruth Sager, NFBMA At Large Chapter, NFB Senior Division President,**

**Margaret O’Donnell NFBMA Springfield Chapter**

**4:00 P.M.: Make-up, Hair, and Nails Oh My!:**

**Amy Wilson, NFB of Missouri Board Member, Old Drum chapter president, and Mary Kay consultant., LaKisha Holmes, NFB of Texas San Antonio chapter, NFB Performing Arts Division Treasurer, and Color Street independent nail stylist.**

**5:00 P.M.: Student Meetup: Precious Perez, NFBMA Student President and two-time National Scholarship winner,**

**Keri Svendsen, NFBMA At Large Chapter President**

**5:00 P.M.: Making Real and Lasting Wellness Changes:**

**Maureen Nietfeld, NFBCO Secretary and president of the Sports and Recreation Division, Health and Lifestyle Coach,**

**Erin Daily, Successful wellness client.**

**5:00 P.M.: Fun and Convenience in the Kitchen: Gadgets that Make Cooking Enjoyable:**

**Ricky Enger, Assistive Technology Specialist, Hadley School for the Blind.**

**6:00 P.M.: Meet with NFB Training Representatives! Pam Allen, Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind, Julie Deden, Director, Colorado Center for the Blind, Rachel Kuntz, Resource Development Coordinator, BLIND Inc.**

**6:00 P.M.: Parents Meeting:**

**Penny Duffy, NFB NOPBC Board Member**

**Fernanda Sylva, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter**

**Hai Nguyen Ly, NFBMA At Large Chapter**

**8:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.: Open Mic Night:**

**Precious Perez and Shane Lowe:**

**SATURDAY, February 20, 2021**

**MORNING GENERAL SESSION:**

**9:00 A.M.: Musical Selection:**

**Masha Sten-Clanton, Cambridge Chapter**

**9:05 A.M.: NFB Pledge:**

**Joanne Jordan, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter, and attendees**

**9:10 A.M.: Announcements:**

**Amy Ruell, NFBMA President**

**9:15 A.M.: National Report:**

**Shawn Callaway, National Representative**

**10:00 A.M.: Nominating Committee Report:**

**Robert Baran, NFBMA Vice-president, Greater Springfield Chapter,**

**Barbara Lomax, NFBMA Board Member,**

**John Oliveira, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter**

**10:05 A.M.: Proposed Resolution on MCB Office Closures:**

**Amy Ruell**

**10:10 A.M.: Living Here and Abroad as a Blind Person:**

**Precious Perez,**

**Kobena Bonasking Bonney Mosenney, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter,**

**Bonnie Mosen, Rehabilitation Counselor, New Zealand**

**10:30 A.M.: Perkins Library Update:**

**Kim Charlson, Director, Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library**

**11:00 A.M.: Leadership Roundtable: Serving the Blind in the 21st Century:**

**Amy Ruell, Moderator:**

**Representatives from Ma. Commission for The Blind, Mass. Association for The Blind and Visually Impaired, Carroll Center, National Braille Press, and Perkins School for The Blind**

**12:00 P.M.: Lunch and Break**

**12:00 P.M.: Student Meeting:**

**AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION**

**1:00 P.M.: Musical Selection**

**Leena Bandy, Vice-President, NFBMA At Large Chapter, Secretary, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter**

**1:05 P.M.: Ayanna Pressley, United States House of Representatives, Massachusetts Seventh District**

**1:30 P.M.: Sexuality, Consent, and Managing Uncomfortable Situations:**

**Marcy Carpenter, NFB Survivor Task Force, President, NFB of Washington.**

**2:00 P.M.: Legislative Report:**

**Mika Pyyhkala, NFBMA Second Vice-president,**

**Earl Williams, NFBMA Cambridge Chapter**

**2:20 P.M.: Presidential Report:**

**Amy Ruell**

**2:45 P.M.: Panel on Diversity and Discrimination: Leena Bandy**

**Barbara Lomax**

**Syed Rizvi**

**Earl Williams**

**3:30 P.M.: Legal Report:**

**TRE Legal Services**

**SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET**

**7:00 P.M.: NFBMA Banquet**

**Keynote: Shawn Callaway:**

**Scholarship Awards, NFBMA Scholarship Committee**

**Federationist of the Year**

**2021 NFBMA Auction**

**SUNDAY, February 21, 2021**

**9:30 A.M.: Accessible Voting:**

**Charlie Kinnune, Director of Outreach, Democracy Live**

**10:00 A.M.: SuperSense, New Scanning App: Super Lidar: New Navigation App:**

**Shane Lowe, Community Operations Manager, Mediate**

**10:30 A.M.: NFB Business and Board Meeting: Treasurer Report**

**Chapter Reports**

**Elections**

**12:00 P.M.: Adjourn**

**OUR THANKS**

**Thanks to our board, chapters and members for generously donating door prizes and auction items.**

**Thanks to all who appeared on the agenda or served on committees.**

**Thanks to Margaret O’Donnell and Lorna DeRoses for their great job with the door prizes.**

**We wish to thank Shawn Callaway for his contributions as National Representative. The national perspective you brought to us and your leadership are so important to our achievement of equality, security, and opportunity.**

**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.**