Greetings, Fellow Federationists:

It is time for the annual Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa, to be held October 5-October 7, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Des Moines Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale, Iowa 50322. This year’s convention will be packed with information and fun! We are honored to have Scott LaBarre, the President of the National Federation of the blind of Colorado, to serve as our National representative on behalf of President Mark A. Riccobono.

Committees for the 2018 convention:

Nominating committee chair: Bob Ray – email [rjray@q.com](mailto:rjray@q.com)

Resolutions committee chair: Tai Tomasi – email [tai.tomasi8@gmail.com](mailto:tai.tomasi8@gmail.com)

New at the 2018 National Federation of the Blind of Iowa State convention

Child care will be provided on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of our state convention for families who are interested. On Friday, your kids will have the option to splash around in the hotel pool and play games with the Iowa Association of Blind Students. Saturday and Sunday they will enjoy arts and crafts, music, games, and much more during the convention’s general sessions. We invite all kids under 13 to join us for the fun!

Registration information

Once again this year we have online registration and we would prefer registration be done online, but as has been the case for the past few years, you can still mail in your registration along with your check to: NFBI, P.O. Box 93071, Des Moines, IA 50393. To get the discounted rate of $80 per night at the Holiday Inn, you must register for the convention. Also, by registering for the convention you will help the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa give a more accurate count to the hotel.

What are the perks for pre-registering for the state convention? The biggest perk is you save $5 off the cost of each food event you attend and the registration fee, plus you won’t have to wait in a longer line when picking up your packet. Don’t delay and miss out on the savings. , Pre-register and pay for the convention no later than September 25, 2018. After September 25, 2018 all prices go up by $5.00.

[Register online here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-federation-of-the-blind-of-iowa-2018-anual-convention-tickets-49777166846?aff=utm_source%3Deb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventname_text), or copy and paste the below URL in your web browser.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-federation-of-the-blind-of-iowa-2018-anual-convention-tickets-49777166846](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-federation-of-the-blind-of-iowa-2018-anual-convention-tickets-49777166846?aff=utm_source%3Deb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text)

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Des Moines Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale, Iowa 50322.

Hotel room rates this year will be $80.00 plus tax per night for standard and king-sized rooms.  When reserving your room, please mention the below information:

Group Name:  NFBI National Fed Blind of Iowa

Group Code:  NFB

Reservations Deadline: September 21, 2018

To Reserve:

Call: 515-278-4755 or 800-HOLIDAY (800-465-329)

Click to:  [www.holidayinn.com/desmoinesia](http://www.holidayinn.com/desmoinesia)  and use the 3-letter code above.

Meetings and events

The Iowa Diabetes Action Network will hold its annual meeting at 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM with registration beginning at 12:00 outside the meeting room.  Our main speaker will be Dr. Robert Dahlberg, a Des Moines dentist, who will talk about dental hygiene and your health.  We will also hold our election of officers and board members.  Registration is $5.

Parents of blind children networking seminar

Calling all parents of blind children. We will be hosting parents of blind children seminar on Friday the 5th from 12:30-5:00 PM. Topics being discussed will include adaptive physical activity, activities of daily living, library services, cane travel, a parent panel, legal rights for students in k-12, and much more. This will give parents the opportunity to share experiences and connect with other families as well as professionals in the blindness field. We encourage all families to stay for the remainder of our state convention. Financial assistance is available upon request and child care will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Jerad Nylin at jerad.nfbi@gmail.com or 319-535-3723.

The At Large Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa will hold its annual meeting at 3:00 p.m., Friday, October 5, 2018. Annual chapter dues will be collected and they are $5. Registration begins at 2:30 outside the room.

Convention registration will be open from 3:00-6:45 p.m. on Friday, October 5, and will resume Saturday, October 6, at 7:30-8:45 a.m.

Iowa Association of Blind Students annual meeting Friday October 5, 2018 – 12:00 pm-7:00 pm

Calling all students! Do you like swimming, networking, learning, and food? We sure do! Join the Iowa Association of Blind Students for our annual student seminar. We will kick it off with a pool party starting at 12:00. Our business meeting will begin at 3:00, where we will have dynamic speakers who will help us determine what the future of our movement looks like. Following the meeting, we will go out for dinner as a group and enjoy an evening of socializing with new and old friends. We hope you can make it and we can’t wait to meet you! Our dues are $5 and will be taken at the door.

A meet and greet reception will take place from 5:15-6:45 on Friday October 5, 2018.  Cost is $15 if purchased by September 25 2018, and $20 if purchased after September 25 2018.

The Resolutions Committee will consider resolutions at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Submit resolutions electronically to [tai.tomasi8@gmail.com](mailto:tai.tomasi8@gmail.com) by September 30, 2018. You may also bring resolutions in final Braille and written form to the committee meeting as long as there is provided an electronic version.

Saturday morning FREE working breakfast 7:00am- 8:00am

Are you wondering how you can help your local chapter and state affiliate when it comes to fundraising?   If you can commit to spending an hour per week, a conference call every quarter, and some fun in the community – we invite you to register for and attend the complimentary working breakfast.

8:00am – 8:45am join the board of directors for the annual face to face board meeting. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

9:00am – 12:00pm and 2:00pm – 5:00pm will be our general sessions. You won’t want to miss our National report from Scott LaBarre, the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa presidential report, BLIND INC presentation, Iowa Department for the Blind update from director Emily Wharton, National student report, and much more!

 Saturday evening will be the annual Banquet of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa. Scott LaBarre will deliver this year’s banquet address, and our very own Darrel Kirby, 2nd vice president National Federation of the Blind of Iowa will be the Master of Ceremonies. Pre-registration is $35.00.

The Iowa Association of Blind Students will be hosting hospitality following the banquet. We hope that you will join us for a fun night of board games and free ice cream. Can’t wait to see you there!

Sunday, October 7, 2018 – 8:00am-8:45am

Start your Sunday off right with a short morning devotional lead by Katy Olsen. We will gather together to talk about how our spirituality greatly affects our work in the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa. All are welcome!

9:00am will be the annual business session of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa. We will have state reports, elections, and other federation business to discuss. All are encouraged to attend.

Look for more convention information as it becomes available through our various communications channels.

I look forward to greeting you at this year’s National Federation of the Blind of Iowa state convention!

Sincerely,

Jerad S. Nylin, President

National Federation of the Blind of Iowa