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# 2023 National Convention Agenda #NFB23 Houston, Texas July 1 to July 6

Welcome to the

83rd Annual Convention of the

National Federation of the Blind

Mark A. Riccobono, President

National Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells Street *at Jernigan Place*

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

John Berggren, Chairman

Convention Organization and Activities

Norma Crosby, President

National Federation of the Blind of Texas

*The Hilton Americas-Houston*

1600 Lamar Street  
Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 739-8000

## Welcome!

Welcome to the world’s largest gathering of the organized blind, the National Federation of the Blind’s annual convention, where expectations are raised and lives literally transformed. This is our second attempt at returning to Houston after what has now been more than fifty years. Our plans were thwarted by the pandemic in 2020, but I can assure you that our eighty-third convention will be well worth the wait.

Once again, Federationists will come together to showcase the power and strength of our movement, to celebrate, to inspire, and to be inspired. More than just a list of the myriad of sessions you can attend, the agenda contains a wealth of information about the week including our community expectations of one another; a description of the hotel layout; and hours for the presidential and host affiliate suites, the exhibit hall, and the Independence Market. Read thoroughly and plan your week. Take every opportunity to explore, make new friends, and live the life you want at #NFB23.

### Rookie Roundup

All first-time convention attendees are cordially invited to attend an event from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, in Lanier Grand Ballroom A and D. President Riccobono and other Federation leaders will be on hand to welcome you to the convention and preview the week’s activities. Veteran conventioneers should encourage all first-timers to attend this special event. We cannot wait to welcome you! In anticipation, check out our First Timer’s Guide at <https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention/first-timers-guide>.

### Inclusivity, Diversity, and Code of Conduct

We are committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and healthy environment for everyone. Thank you for cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect in which participants from diverse backgrounds can learn, network, and share with each other. We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas. These principles have been outlined in our Code of Conduct found at<https://nfb.org/codeofconduct>.

We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Prohibited behaviors include harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct. Prohibited behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the convention and/or other consequences. To report an incident at the convention, please call 410-659-9314, extension 2475, or email [code@nfb.org](mailto:code@nfb.org). Formal reports can be submitted at <https://nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct/report-form>. All formal reports will be fully investigated according to the steps in our Code of Conduct. For support or guidance, connect with our Survivors Group at [survivors@nfb.org](mailto:survivors@nfb.org) or extension 2238 during the convention hours listed in this agenda. Thank you for your commitment to the safety and support of the blind community.

### Convention Registration

Registration activities take place on Level 4 of the Hilton in the pre-function area outside the Lanier Grand Ballroom beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. At 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and at other times as listed throughout the week, registration activities will be located at the Level 4 registration desk by the elevators nearest the convention center. All convention attendees (both local and from out of town) are asked to register. Those who registered for convention online may pick up their registration packets in the area designated “Preregistration.” Those who did not register online can do so at the area designated “Registration.” Please have your payment method ready as you approach the cashier. Convention registration is a requirement for door prize eligibility and a number of other convention activities. We condition rates for hotel rooms on proof of registration, including the showing of an NFB registration badge, if requested.

### Exhibit Hall and Independence Market

The Exhibit Hall and the NFB Independence Market are located in the Ballroom of the Americas on Level 2.

**Exhibit Hall hours of operation are:**

* Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
* Monday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
* Tuesday Noon to 1:45 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
* Wednesday Noon to 1:45 p.m. (final opportunity to visit the Exhibit Hall)

**Independence Market hours of operation are:**

* Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
* Monday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
* Tuesday Noon to 1:45 p.m.
* Wednesday Noon to 1:45 p.m. (final opportunity to visit the Market)

### Presidential and Host Affiliate Suites

The Presidential Suite and the Host Affiliate’s Suite are open during much of the convention. All are welcome to come to these suites to visit. Appointments to meet with President Riccobono may be made at the Presidential Suite. The Presidential and Host Affiliate Suites will be open during the following times:

* Friday 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Monday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Tuesday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Noon to 2:00 p.m., and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
* Wednesday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Noon to 2:00 p.m., and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
* Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Suite numbers will be shared via social media, posted in the convention mobile app, announced at the board meeting, and publicized in a number of other ways.

### Survivor Safe Space

As a part of our ongoing efforts to provide safety, support, and inclusion within the National Federation of the Blind, the Blind Survivors Group is providing a safe space for survivors and individuals who have been impacted or harmed by sexual misconduct and other forms of abuse within the NFB and affiliated programs/events. We welcome you to drop in for confidential peer support, to discuss questions/concerns about ongoing safety and support measures within the NFB, and to access resources for additional support. The safe space, in meeting room 331 on Level 3, will be available Saturday through Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

If you are not able to participate in the survivors’ safe space and need additional support or have further questions during the convention, you may email [survivors@nfb.org](mailto:survivors@nfb.org) or call 410-659-9314, extension 2238. A member of the Blind Survivors Group will respond to calls within four hours of the time of your message between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. during the week of convention.

## Saturday, July 1, 2023

### 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. NOPBC Youth Track

**Room 332**

Registration outside NOPBC Conference; for youth 11-18; free of charge. See Youth Track agenda for activity details.

### 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Reach for the Stars: Setting High Expectations for Our Blind Children

**Room 335 A**

Registration until June 30—adults $35, families $50, children (0-18) free. After June 30—online and on-site, each adult is $35, children (0-18) free. For details, visit <https://nopbc.org/all-events>. Sponsored by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Division (NOPBC).

Carla Keirns, President

* 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
* 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Opening Session
* 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session I

Job & Career Options When You’re Not Heading to College (Room 335 A)

From Diagnosis to Education Plan (Room 327)

Age-Appropriate Independence (Room 328)

Monarch—The Future of Braille Textbooks and Tactile Graphics (Room 338)

* 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session II

Exploring, Learning, Having Fun with Your Young Child (Room 335 A)

Independent Movement & Travel: From the Play Room to the Board Room (Room 327)

Preparing to Launch (Room 328)

From Screwdrivers to Rocket Launches: Supporting Your Child in STEM (Room 338)

* 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session III  
  Living the Low-Vision Life (Room 335 A)

Getting a Full Education for Your Child with Additional Disabilities (Room 327)

Sports & Recreation (Room 346 B)

Tactile Exploration of STEM Materials (Room 338)

### 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Issues in Rehabilitation and Education for the Blind—22nd Annual Rehabilitation and Orientation and Mobility Conference

**Room 335 B**

Come participate in the only national conference focused on structured discovery teaching and education for the blind, featuring world-renowned keynote speaker on management and leadership, Glen Shepard. Registration ([https://nbpcb.org/members/er.php?eid=519](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/zdqPCVO01wUx1AYDCGXnDB?domain=nbpcb.org)) is $85 before June 15, $100 afterwards. Registration available at the door.

Sponsored by National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) and the Professional Development & Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB) at the Louisiana Tech University.

### 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Ambassadors Committee Meeting

**Room 343 B**

### 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. What’s New with JAWS, ZoomText, and Fusion

Lanier Grand Ballroom L

Join Ryan Jones for the annual User Group meeting. All skill levels are welcome. We’ll demonstrate and discuss the recent developments and look at what’s coming in 2024. We will also discuss how you can help shape the future of our products. Bring your questions and join the fun.

Ryan Jones, VP Software and Product Management, Vispero

### 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Jernigan Institute Technology Seminars

**Room 340 B**

* 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Braille Hardware Showcase

Find out what’s current in refreshable Braille technology and try out new devices! Meet representatives from Freedom Scientific, HIMS Inc., HumanWare, and Orbit Research.

* 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. CENA Report

Learn about CENA’s work at the Jernigan Institute to make your life more accessible.

* 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Small Smart Appliances Evaluation

Join us as we demonstrate a selection of countertop kitchen appliances that can be controlled through your phone.

* 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. iOS vs Android Low Vision Accessibility Face-Off

Explore the latest smart phone low-vision features and capabilities as we compare and contrast each operating system.

Seminar Presenters: Kennedy Zimnik and Karl Belanger, CENA Staff, National Federation of the Blind

### 8:30 a.m. NFB Camp

Preregistration by June 15 was required. Please see convention note 11 for further information.

### 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration ($30), Packet Pickup, and Banquet Ticket Sales ($75)

Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area

### 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Employment Committee Meeting

**Room 346 A**

Annual meeting of the NFB Employment Committee. Learn about past and current events and committee initiatives. What skills do jobseekers need to be competitive in the job market? Come to ask questions and influence the committee's work.

Jennifer Wenzel, Chair

### 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ABLE Accounts 101: What They Can Do for You

**Room 330**

Join representatives from ABLE today as we walk through the benefits of an ABLE account—a financial savings vehicle available to anyone with a disability.

Eric Ochmanek, National Outreach Lead, ABLE today

### 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Target Accessibility: Meet the Team and Q&A

**Room 340 A**

Learn how Target’s Digital Accessibility team ensures our apps, website, and other digital experiences are accessible to all. We welcome any accessibility questions and feedback. We will share several times throughout the hour, so come when you like and stay as long as you want.

Steve Decker, Senior Accessibility Manager, Target

### 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder Q&A

**Room 339 B**

A clear comprehensive educational program lead by trained experts. Attendees will be able to learn about circadian rhythms, biology and symptoms of Non-24, its impact on the community, how to become one’s own advocate, and gain valuable information and resources.

Shauna Jatho and Maggie Felton, Nurse Educators, Vanda Pharmaceuticals

### 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Living with Multiple Disabilities

**Room 340 A**

Join our community of individuals living with various disabilities at the intersection of blindness. We provide a safe space to share your experiences. Whether newly diagnosed, seeking diagnosis, or living with your condition for years, come connect with others who can relate.

Bobbi A. L. Pompey, Coordinator

### 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. A Full Slate—News from HumanWare

**Lanier Grand Ballroom L**

Join HumanWare for a Q&A-driven session exploring features of products including the BrailleNote Touch Plus and the BI X Braille displays. We will also demonstrate the all-new Victor Reader Stream 3 and will examine exciting new updates to the Stellar Trek GPS device.

Joel Zimba, Blindness Products Specialist, and Peter Tucic, Director of Strategic Partnerships, HumanWare

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. NAGDU Annual Seminar

**Lanier Grand Ballroom K**

Advocating for Guide Dog Users: Tools and strategies for success. Come join NAGDU for networking, learning, and an in-depth panel presentation by various guide dog training programs.

Paul Sandoval and Stacie Gallegos, NAGDU Annual Seminar Co-chairs

### 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tactile Art and Picture Books

**Room 344 A and B**

Drop-in art-making and reading activities, free for all ages. Read picture books with tactile pictures. Make raised-line drawings and sculptures inspired by the stories in the books or inspired by the stories within you! To learn about scheduled evening activities, text 303-887-1713.

Ann Cunningham, Coordinator

### 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Seminario Hispano

**Room 342**

Ven a conocer a la federación, nuestras historias y recursos. ¡Conoce, conecta y comparte con nuestra comunidad hispanohablante! ¡Te esperamos! Nota: El seminario es completamente en español.

Shalmarie Arroyo, Coordinadora

### 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Senior Housing 101

**Room 342**

A seminar regarding housing options for blind seniors.

Glenn Crosby, President, National Federation of the Blind Seniors Division

### 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. NOPBC Youth Track

**Room 332**

For youth 11 – 18. See Youth Track agenda for activity details.

### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Job Seeker Seminar

**Room 339 A and B**

Two separate rooms with interactive, guided discussions. This year, explorers focus on career preparation and seekers on getting a job. Choose the one that fits you best. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee.

Jennifer Wenzel, Chair

### 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Website Coordinators and Contributors Meeting

**Room 346 A**

Whether you currently have a role or someday want to contribute, we know everyone can get involved in NFB affiliate/division websites from content to code. Join us to learn about the progress of our Drupal transition and help build upcoming training sessions for others.

Corbb O'Connor, Chair

### 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Mix-and-Mingle Reception for Rehabilitation Professionals

**Room 340 A**

### 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Responsible AI is Accessible AI

**Room 343 B**

Microsoft’s approach to the future of accessible technology and the usage of AI in products. AI is rapidly transforming the digital world. We aim to build inclusively by focusing on three principles: build accessibly, include data sets that represent disability, and innovate.

Laurie Allen, Senior Technology Evangelist, and Matt Philipenko, Customer Solutions Architect, Microsoft

### 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. NFB Legal Office Hours

**Room 327**

Meet with a disability rights attorney to discuss blindness discrimination concerns regarding employment, technology, education, voting, travel, COVID tests, housing, parental rights, and more. Schedule your appointment by emailing legal@nfb.org. Please request your appointment by June 23.

### 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Technology Evaluation Committee Exhibitor's Showcase

**Lanier Grand Ballroom L**

All are invited to join the Technology Evaluation Committee’s Exhibitor’s Showcase to learn about low- to high-tech products from vendors. From hardware to software and more. You can hear the latest from everyone at this meeting. You do not have to be on the committee to attend.

Mark Jones, Chair

### 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. NOPBC Fortieth Anniversary Celebration

**Lanier Grand Ballroom J**

Join us to celebrate the first forty years of assisting families and teachers and advocating for children! Sponsored by National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC).

### 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. Rookie Roundup

**Lanier Grand Ballroom A and D**

First-time convention attendees: don’t miss this event! President Riccobono and former rookies will be on hand to welcome you and answer questions about the week’s activities.

Pam Allen, Chair and First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind; President, National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana; Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind

### 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. NABS Student Networking

**Lanier Grand Ballroom K**

Blind students: kick off your convention right by joining our national student division to mix and mingle. Whether you are new or returning, we can't wait to welcome you!

Trisha Kulkarni, President

## Sunday, July 2, 2023

### 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass

**Room 339 B**

Those who wish to assist as Eucharistic ministers, or in other ways, should come thirty minutes early. Contact Louis Maher (713-444-7838 or [ljmaher03@outlook.com](mailto:ljmaher03@outlook.com)) if you have questions.

### 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Open Forum

**Room 335 A**

Come hear about the progress that the National Federation of the Blind is making in diversity, equity, and inclusion. What questions do you have? How can we drive DEI efforts across the Federation together? Come connect with the DEI committee with questions and feedback.

Shawn Callaway and Colin Wong, Co-chairs

### 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Committee for Advancement and Promotion of Braille

**Room 342**

The committee will discuss developments in the teaching and delivery of Braille, research priorities, Braille-related policy, strategies for bringing improvements where needed, and resources and activities across our organization. All are welcome! Jennifer Dunnam, Chair

### 8:45 - 10:30 a.m. NOPBC Cane Walk

**Boardroom 331**

For families with blind/low-vision children. Sponsored by National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC).

### 8:45 - 10:30 a.m. NOPBC Youth Track

**Room 332**

For youth 11-18. See Youth Track agenda for activity details.

### 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration ($30), Packet Pickup, and Banquet Ticket Sales ($75)

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

### 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall and Independence Market

**Ballroom of the Americas**

### 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Training Champions with the BLIND, Inc. Team

**Room 343 B**

Join the staff of BLIND, Inc. for this interactive event sure to help you learn how attending blindness skills training will help you become an all star!

Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director

### 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. When is Self-Employment an Option?

**Room 328**

Is quitting your job to become self-employed the right decision for you? Or are you better off finding traditional employment? Learn common characteristics successful self-employed people possess. Learn to develop resources in the workplace that can lead to entrepreneurship.

Colleen Wunderlich, Vice President, Partnerships, The Chicago Lighthouse

### 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Orientation to Career Fair

**Room 340 B**

Introduction to this year's career fair. Last minute information for registered employers and job seekers. Meet the employers and find out exactly what they are looking for. Brief questions permitted. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee.

Jennifer Wenzel, Chair

### 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Every Traffic Light Accessible with OKO

**Room 327**

Interested to know how a mobile application can assist you to cross the street in a safe way? Join us to learn how OKO can make every pedestrian traffic light accessible and get a sneak peek into the functionalities that will be added to OKO.

Willem Van de Mierop, AYES

### 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Diagnostic Testing at Home: What's New?

**Room 340 A**

Come listen as Ellume's CEO, Dr. Parsons, shares how home diagnostic testing has changed through the pandemic and how future accessibility product enhancements will improve all user's experience going from sick to well.

Sean Parsons, Founder and CEO

### 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting

**Room 335 B**

Affiliate membership chairs, membership committee members, chapter presidents, and all Federationists are invited to join us in finding creative ways to build our membership. Share best practices to take our chapters, affiliates, and our national organization to the next level.Denise Avant and Tarik Williams, Co-chairs

### 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. LGBT+: Protecting and Celebrating All

**Room 339 A**

Join us for a discussion around intersectionality, peer support, mentoring, transition, education, coming out, the job search, advocacy, and more. Allies welcome; members centered.

Sanho Steele-Louchart, Chair

### 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mujeres of the Federation

**Room 339 B**

This bilingual celebration of blind Latina excellence features dynamic speakers. Come for an environment of inspiration, mentorship, and strategies for success to the next generation of blind Latina trailblazers.

Kenia Flores, Coordinator

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Holy Braille Highway Construction Update

**Room 335 A**

The development of Monarch, the multiline tactile display, continues due to efforts by APH, HumanWare, and NFB. Join Greg Stilson, William Freeman, and Joe Hodge of APH for an update on tablet construction, EBRF developments, and other APH refreshable Braille devices.

Greg Stilson, Senior Director Global Innovation, American Printing House for the Blind

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Blind and MENA: A Different Type of Brown

**Room 346 A**

Members who are American Arab, North African, Middle Eastern, South Asian, Muslim, and Sikh face unique challenges in post-9/11 America. Join us to learn about community identities and stereotypes as well as resources available to members with these intersectionalities.

Ronza Othman, Facilitator

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder Q&A

**Room 338**

A clear comprehensive educational program lead by trained experts. Attendees will be able to learn about circadian rhythms, biology and symptoms of Non-24, its impact on the community, how to become one’s own advocate, and gain valuable information and resources.

Shauna Jatho and Maggie Felton, Nurse Educators, Vanda Pharmaceuticals

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Leveraging Technology in Work, Play, and Life

**Room 343 A**

Data collected from users is integral to product design. Learn about the latest features in accessibility used in different industries and areas of life. This session will include best practices and resources in Windows, Teams, Azure Cloud and AI, and Seeing AI.

Laurie Allen, Senior Technology Evangelist, and Matt Philipenko, Customer Solutions Architect, Microsoft

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. NOPBC Cane Walk

**Boardroom 331**

For families with blind/low-vision children. Sponsored by National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC).

### 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. What's New with Google Accessibility

**Room 343 B**

There have been many accessibility updates across Google products over the past year. This session will feature members of various Google teams to provide recent highlights. The talk will cover updates from Android, Workspace, Chrome, and many other important areas across Google.

Nimer Jaber, Mike Mello, Alexander Hauerslev, Siri Gubba, and Brook Sexton

### 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. NFB-NEWSLINE® Coordinating Innovation

**Room 340 A**

Attention: NFB-NEWSLINE® coordinators and affiliate presidents, we are in the process of revitalizing the NFB-NEWSLINE coordinators network. Join us for important, innovative marketing and outreach strategies that will help you build enthusiasm for NFB-NEWSLINE in your state.

Scott White, Director of Sponsored Technology Programs, National Federation of the Blind

### 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Leader Dogs for the Blind: Meet and Greet

**Room 339 B**

Come meet the Leader Dogs for the Blind team! They will be available to answer questions and share about our free services including Orientation and Mobility, Guide Dog, and Teen Summer Camp. All programs are offered completely free including room, board, and airfare!

Guide Dog Mobility Instructor

### 1:00 p.m. Resolutions Committee

**Lanier Grand Ballroom A - I**

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

Donald Porterfield, Chair

### 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Career Fair

**Lanier Grand Ballroom K and L**

Come to meet national and regional employers who are interested in hiring you, including many of our convention sponsors and Texas employers. This is your first step to a great future! Pre-registration required. Sorry, no walk-ins. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee.

Jennifer Wenzel, Chair

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Crafting without Sight but with Vision

**Room 342**

Come learn adaptive ways to continue in the craft world with the Krafters Group. Want to get started creating? Come join us and meet people who crochet, knit, make greeting cards, sew, and much much more! Once you gain your confidence and skills, you could even start up your own business.

Tammy Freitag, Chair, Krafters Group

### 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tactile Art and Picture Books

**Room 344 A and B**

Drop-in art-making and reading activities, free for all ages. Read picture books with tactile pictures. Make raised-line drawings and sculptures inspired by the stories in the books or inspired by the stories within you! To learn about scheduled evening activities, text 303-887-1713.

Ann Cunningham, Coordinator

### 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. NFB in the Kitchen Group

**Room 335 A**

What will it take for you to change your cooking routine or to start a new one? Come. Let’s talk strengthening in the kitchen. Come. Let’s talk all things food, tools, tech, and kitchen. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

Regina Mitchell, Chair

### 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. A Dive into Google Products

**Room 343 B**

In this session, Googlers will demo some of Google's products including Bard, Google's experimental chat bot, new Android features, and more. At the end of the session, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide your feedback.

Nimer Jaber and Mike Mello, Googlers

### 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. NOPBC Youth Track

**Room 332**

For youth 11-18. See Youth Track agenda for activity details.

### 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. Twenty-Third NABL Mock Trial (Admission: $5)

**Lanier Grand Ballroom G and J**

Federation lawyers oppose each other to enact a case addressing the civil rights of blind people, and the audience serves as the jury. The subject matter is serious, but the courtroom portrayers are very entertaining.

Ronza Othman, President, National Association of Blind Lawyers

### 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Interest Drives the Action

**Room 329**

Youth are our future leaders. Learn how your affiliate's strengths and skills can develop your youth programs. Hear about innovative activities happening across the country and imagine new ways to help blind youth live the lives they want.

Karen Anderson, Education Programs Coordinator, National Federation of the Blind

### 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Kellogg’s Accessible NaviLens Packaging

**Room 338**

Learn about Kellogg’s new accessible NaviLens packaging. Stop by to try the NaviLens or NaviLens GO app to locate some of your favorite cereal brands and hear their name, nutrition, and allergen information. Kellogg is proud to be the first food company to use this technology.

### 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Colorado Center for the Blind Open House

**Room 343 A**

Meet the staff, students, and alumni at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Learn how training can change your life! Discover new apps for your phone, get some favorite recipes, and use a click rule.

Julie Deden, Executive Director

### 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. NFB Legal Office Hours

**Room 327**

Meet with a disability rights attorney to discuss blindness discrimination concerns regarding employment, technology, education, voting, travel, COVID tests, housing, parental rights, and more. Schedule your appointment by emailing [legal@nfb.org](mailto:legal@nfb.org). Please request your appointment by June 23.

### 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. National Association of Blind Students (NABS) Annual Business Meeting

**Lanier Grand Ballroom K and L**

All are welcome to join our lively division as we dive into all things blind students! Registration begins at 6:00, followed by programming at 7:00. Only members who have completed our membership process before June 30 will be eligible to participate in official business.

Trisha Kulkarni, President

### 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Greek and Masonic Group

**Room 339 A and B**

Are you a member of a national Greek organization, the Masons, or the Eastern Star? Help build our relationships with Greek letter organizations to ensure inclusion and participation and to serve as a resource for the blind considering membership.

Shawn Callaway, Chair

### 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. SSI and SSDI 101: What You Need To Know

**Room 340 B**

Ever wonder what the difference between Blind Work Expenses and Impairment Related Work Expenses is? Afraid you might go over the SSDI earnings cliff? Hear from an expert on these programs and have all your questions answered.

Michael Dalto, Social Security Expert

### 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. White Cane Committee and Fundraising Seminar

**Room 330**

Join us for an interactive seminar. Come and learn how to use your programming to drive your fundraising. Gain practical knowledge of planning, budgeting, and then choosing the best fundraiser. Finally, learn how to make a big ask.

Everette Bacon, Chair

### 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Legislative Meet Up

**Room 329**

A recap of Washington Seminar, a rundown of priorities, and an opportunity for legislative directors and others interested in advocating for the rights of the nation's blind to exchange strategies to advance our legislative priorities at the local, state, and federal levels. Kyle Walls, Jeff Kaloc, Justin Young, and Jesse Shirek, Government Affairs, National Federation of the Blind

## Monday, July 3, 2023

### 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration ($30), Packet Pickup, and Banquet Ticket Sales ($75)

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

### 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall and Independence Market

**Ballroom of the Americas**

### 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. NFB Board Meeting

**Lanier Grand Ballroom A - I**

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

### 12:00 p.m. Megan Bening Memorial Fund Technology Giveaway

**Room 340 A and B**

For blind children twenty-one and under who are registered for the NOPBC conference, have a parent/guardian also registered for the conference, and have placed tickets into item containers. There will be $15,000 worth of technology! Must be present to win.

### 1:00 - 3:45 p.m. NOPBC Youth Track

**Room 332**

For youth 11-18. See Youth Track agenda for activity details.

### 1:00 - 3:45 p.m. National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) Annual Meeting

**Room 340 A and B**

Vendor Fair; hear from the Distinguished Educator of Blind Children; learn about cutting-edge products and opportunities for our kids. Experience Parent Power; participate in our business meeting, elections, and much more!

Carla Keirns, President

### 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. National Association of Blind Merchants

**Lanier Grand Ballroom J**

Randolph Sheppard employment opportunities for the blind—the GOAT. Is it still? We will discuss entrepreneurial opportunities for the blind. We will also discuss new rules/regulations regarding Social Security with Michael Dalto.

Nicky Gacos, President

### 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Blind Rehabilitation Professionals Division

**Room 343 A**

Calling all rehabilitation professionals! Join us as we explore the latest trends, strategies, tools, and resources to support our blind consumers in living the life they want in work and independent living goals. You will walk away with a full toolbox for the coming year!

Amy Porterfield, President

### 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Writers Division Business Meeting and Story Workshop

**Room 346 B**

Bring your questions and story ideas to our meeting. Help us elect our new division leaders for 2023. Fees for this meeting will be $15 including workshop, participation, and automatic membership in the Writers Division for 2023. See you there!

Shelley Alongi, President

### 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. National Organization of Blind Educators Division

**Room 342**

Blind educators discuss techniques they use in their classrooms. Participants meet in groups specific to grade level and content area to create a network of colleagues and mentors. If you teach or are considering a career in teaching, please join us.

* 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Registration

Cayte Mendez, President

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. NFB in Computer Science

**Room 335 A**

Enhancing nonvisual access to information technology and improving the ability of blind information and computer technology professionals to compete in today's world.

Brian Buhrow, President

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. DeafBlind Division

**Room 327**

Join us as we reorganize the DeafBlind Division. Consider the division’s most important issues, share experiences and solutions unique to the deafblind community, and participate in division elections.

Carla McQuillan and Sheila Wright, Coordinators

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Seniors Division

**Room 335 B**

Annual meeting of the National Federation of the Blind Seniors Division.

Glenn Crosby, President

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Diabetes Action Network Annual Meeting

**Room 329**

Come learn about blind diabetics who are self-sufficient, manage their disease, and work for the development of technology equivalent to that available to other diabetics. Join with those who have overcome being scared and who have embraced the challenge of this disease.

Debbie Wunder, President

### 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Performing Arts Division and Improv Workshop

**Room 343 B**

Come prepared to network with other performers! Join us for our annual business meeting followed by an interactive workshop all about improv. Gain skills for the stage and self-confidence for daily life.  
Katelyn MacIntyre, President

### 1:00 - 6:30 p.m. National Association of Blind Lawyers Division Meeting

**Room 344 A and B**

Examine legal issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic for the blind; address ongoing struggles to gain equal access to websites, employment, legal texts, and exams; share practice tips and technology tools for blind lawyers. Please go to [www.blindlawyers.net](http://www.blindlawyers.net) to register for the meeting.

* 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Division Meeting
* 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Ticketed reception

Ronza Othman, President

### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. National Association of Blind Veterans Meeting

**Room 338**

All veterans are invited. We will conduct our annual business meeting after a short networking period. We will not be holding elections this year. Remember your dues must be paid in full to vote.

* 2:00 p.m. Networking
* 3:00 p.m. Business meeting

Vernon Humphrey, President

### 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Human Services Division Annual Meeting

**Room 328**

If you have a passion for people, we invite you to join our meeting! We will hold our biannual business meeting, which will include the election of a new board of directors. Additionally, we will have dynamic speakers, important discussions, and a fun activity or two!

Candice L. Chapman, President

### 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sports and Recreation Division Business Meeting

**Room 330**

Come network, move, learn, share, have fun, and get down to business with the Sports and Recreation Division at our annual business meeting.  
Richie Flores, President

### 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Braille Book Fair

**Lanier Grand Ballroom K and L**

4:30 blind children only. 5:00 open to all. New/used Braille and print/Braille books—fiction, nonfiction, early readers, cookbooks, and more—all free! Volunteers will box and ship books Free Matter. Donations welcome.

Sponsored by the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults with the support of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children.

### 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Devices Accessibility at Amazon

**Room 339 A and B**

Amazon obsesses about customer delight, and that includes customers with disabilities. In this session, Amazon accessibility experts will discuss the latest accessibility features for Fire TV, Fire tablet, Echo Show, Echo buds, Echo Frames, and more.

Peter Korn, Josh Miele, and Elodie Fichet, Amazon

### 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Third Annual NFB Muslims Group Seminar

**Room 346 B**

Diverse in Culture United in Faith: Join us for a discussion on our involvement within the NFB and beyond. We will also have booths of accessible materials provided by Islam by Touch, hijab tips, mentorship, other essential resources, and so much more.

Tasnim Alshuli, Chair

### 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Affiliate Presidents and Treasurers

**Room 335 B**

All state affiliate presidents and treasurers are asked to attend this session. We will discuss issues related to tracking affiliate finances and other aspects of organization administration. Participants can discuss state issues with facilitator Bridgid Burke.

### 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. What’s New with Alexa?

**Room 339 A and B**

Alexa makes it easier for customers to order groceries and household essentials, ask product questions, use smart home devices, and collaborate with families and caregivers. In this session, Amazon accessibility experts share some of the neat things Alexa can do.

Jessie Lorenz, Fabio Sacca, and Juliana Tarpey, Amazon

### 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Accessible Prescriptions: A Tale of Two States

**Room 327**

Maryland and Hawaii successfully used the NFB’s model bill on accessible prescription labeling to get new laws passed. Come hear representatives from both states discuss the work that went in behind the scenes to get the laws passed and how you, too, can advocate in your state.

Jenna Reed (Moderator), Director of Marketing, En-Vision America

### 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Community Service Division Rodeo

**Room 340 A and B**

Are y’all feelin’ the Texas heat? CSD is fixin’ to strap on their boots and kick-up the dust with the hottest celebration in Houston! We’re gonna celebrate rodeo style, tip our hats to the finest division in town, and show y’all how our members serve bigger and better in Texas!

Jeanetta Price, President

### 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Professionals in Blindness Education Division

**Room 328**

All professionals serving students from birth through age twenty-one are welcome   
and encouraged to join our informative and interactive meeting. Come network and collaborate, sharing and learning with colleagues and future educators.

Emily Gibbs, President

### 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Blind Christians Group

**Room 342**

Publishers of Christian literature will provide an update regarding the work of their respective organizations. Other speakers will describe how their faith has helped them to overcome challenges.

Tom Anderson, Chair

### 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. National Association of Guide Dog Users Division

**Room 335 A**

Come learn how to make an informed choice when deciding to get a guide dog. Get current updates from our legal counsel about matters pertaining to guide dog users: airline and rideshare travel. Find out what NAGDU has been up to over the past year and elect our leaders!  
Raul Gallegos, President

### 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Assistive Technology Trainers Division

**Room 343 B**

Current and aspiring tech trainers: join us for professional development, networking, and fellowship. We’ll explore what it takes to become a great trainer, how to help our students build sustainable digital literacy skills, and what's new in the world of AT.  
Chancey Fleet, President

### 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. Science and Engineering Division

**Room 343 A**

Learn about STEM with interactive multi-line refreshable Braille and tactile graphics with color, biochemistry lab access, leading in STEM, dealing with two disabilities and combining engineering and theater.

* 6:30 p.m. Registration
* 7:00 p.m. Meeting

John Miller, President

### 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Hear What Your Camera Sees with Blink Camera

**Room 339 A and B**

The customer-obsessed team at Blink worked to combine the use of the Blink iOS app with Apple’s VoiceOver scene image recognition so customers can hear what the Blink camera sees. In this session, see, hear, and learn about the customer benefits to hearing what a camera sees.

Wendy Richardson and Michael Forzano, Amazon

### 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. National Association of Blind Government Employees

**Room 329**

Join employees, retirees, and applicants for employment of federal, state, and local government entities, including pseudo-government entities, as we explore barriers and opportunities related to access, employment, and benefits.

Ronza Othman, President

### 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Upward Mobility Seminar

**Room 330**

You're employed, but what comes next? Step out of your comfort zone with innovative ideas for career advancement and entrepreneurship. Brainstorming is always welcome. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee.

Jennifer Wenzel, Chair

### 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. National Organization of Blind Black Leaders Division

**Lanier Grand Ballroom J**

Come celebrate the numerous contributions of Black Federation leaders. We will conduct our first annual division meeting and present an inspirational program that will highlight the gifts and talents of our Black membership within the Federation.  
Shawn Callaway, President

### 7:45 - 8:30 p.m. Audio Description on Prime Video

**Room 339 A and B**

Join the Prime Video accessibility team to hear more about our journey to make audio description as common as captions, our text-to-speech voice improvements, and how we are enhancing customers’ audio experiences with our new feature, Dialogue Boost.

Dipa Balakrishnan, Jayashree Rajagopalan, and Pemra Narli, Amazon

### 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Here to Listen

**Room 335 B**

Join Dr. Lionel Wolberger, Chief Operating Officer of UserWay and member of the W3C Accessibility Platform Architectures, for an open forum about how you experience automated technology as a blind individual, family member, or ally.

Lionel Wolberger, UserWay COO and W3C Accessibility Platform Architectures member

### 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Friends of Recovery Meeting

**Room 346 A**

All convention attendees interested in getting or remaining clean and sober are welcome to our confidential meeting. For more information, call 828-505-0338.

### 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. Blind Survivors Group

**Room 327**

Join the Blind Survivors Group for reflection, support, and planning for future survivor and victim-centered programming within the Federation. Please email [survivors@nfb.org](mailto:survivors@nfb.org) with any access needs ahead of the event!

Kathryn Webster and Danielle Montour, Co-chairs

### 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Southern Strums

**Lanier Grand Ballroom G**

Join the NFB of Texas and Harley’s Wallet, a 501(c) 3 organization formed in memory of Harley Fetterman, for the triumphant return of Southern Strums! Stop by the cash bar and enjoy live acoustic covers. Your $10 donation will fund scholarships and Braille books for kids.

### 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. Audio Described Movie Screening

**Room 339 A and B**

After our evening sessions, join Amazon for a movie screening (audio described) and some treats!

## Tuesday, July 4, 2023

### 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Devotions

**Room 340 A**

### 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Registration ($30), Packet Pickup, and Banquet Ticket Sales ($75)

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

### 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

## Opening General Session (Tuesday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Call to Order and Invocation

### Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

National Association of Blind Veterans, a Division of the National Federation of the Blind

### Deep in the Heart of the Federation: Welcome from the NFB of Texas

2023 National Convention Host Committee: The National Federation of the Blind of Texas

### Celebration of Freedom: Veterans Recognized

Vernon Humphrey, President, National Association of Blind Veterans, a Division of the National Federation of the Blind; Mauk, Georgia

### Roll Call of States and Appointment of Nominating Committee

### Reports and Resolutions

### Adjourn

### 12:00 - 1:45 p.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

### 12:00 - 1:45 p.m. Exhibit Hall and Independence Market

**Ballroom of the Americas**

### 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Ask Me Anything

**Room 338**

Dr. Lionel Wolberger, COO of UserWay and W3C Accessibility Platform Architectures member on how AI automation and expert services work together towards digital accessibility. An open forum on benefits, risks, marketing claims, and real accomplishments of the past year.Lionel Wolberger, UserWay COO and W3C Accessibility Platform Architectures member

### 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. Louisiana Center for the Blind Open House

**Room 335 A**

Please join us to learn about our transformative programs. Reconnect with alumni and staff. Find out more about graduate degrees at Louisiana Tech University. Discover how LCB training will help you live the life you want!

Pam Allen, Executive Director

### 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Refreshable Graphics on the Cadence Tablet

**Room 340 B**

Experience the new Cadence Tactile Graphics Tablet from Tactile Engineering. Test and evaluate in-development software tools and apps, provide feedback, and learn about how we’re revolutionizing education and workplace access.

Dave Schleppenbach, CEO

### 1:15 - 1:45 p.m. Registration ($30), Packet Pickup, and *Final* Banquet Ticket Sales ($75)

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

## General Session II (Tuesday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### Call to Order

### Presidential Report

###### Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland

### Showing Heart on Route 66: A Ride for Literacy

###### Dan O'Rourke, National Hockey League Referee; Atlanta, Georgia

### Reflections on Four Decades and Growing Hope for the Future: Celebrating Parents of Blind Children within the Organized Blind Movement

###### Barbara Cheadle, President Emeritus, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children; Catonsville, Maryland

###### Carla Keirns, President, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children; Kansas City, Missouri

### The Braille Flyway: Giving Wings to Literacy through Partnership with Monarch

###### Craig Meador, President, American Printing House; Louisville, Kentucky

###### Bruce Miles, Chief Executive Officer, HumanWare; Drummondville, Québec, Canada

### Unlocking the Power of Our Stories: Imagining a Museum and Building Our Future

### Reports and Resolutions

### Adjourn

### 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. How to Get Legislation Passed in Your State

**Room 343 B**

Coalitions with other advocacy groups in your state can make the difference in the success or failure of getting your affiliate’s legislative priorities passed into law. Learn how to form strong coalitions around issues of common interest such as voting and subminimum wages.

Jeff Kaloc and Justin Young, Government Affairs, National Federation of the Blind

### 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall

**Ballroom of the Americas**

### 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Communications Committee

**Room 338**

Join chapter, affiliate, and division leaders to learn best practices in communications. We’ll explore the tools available to us through our national office and exchange ideas. Learn to effectively use communication to build the Federation. Everyone is welcome!

Liz Wisecarver, Communications Committee Chair

### 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Affiliate Historians: A Discussion

**Room 340 A**

Join us as we discuss the role of affiliate/division historians and how to approach saving items of importance from the start. A Q&A will follow. Open to anyone. Affiliate presidents and historians encouraged to attend.

Nichole Chrissis, Archivist, National Federation of the Blind

### 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Haymakers Happening in Houston

**Lanier Grand Ballroom J, K, and L**

The NFB of Texas invites you to enjoy this free concert featuring Federation leader Tom Page, a blind musician from Kansas. The Haymakers bring their special string blend of Americana, western swing, traditional folk, and more to the Lanier Grand Ballroom. You can preview the band on [Apple music](http://www.tinyurl.com/haymakersa1) and on [Spotify](http://www.tinyurl.com/haymakerss1).

Sponsored by Worley Enterprises.

## Wednesday, July 5, 2023

### 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Devotions

**Room 340 A**

### 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Registration ($30) and Packet Pickup

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

### 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

## General Session III (Wednesday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Call to Order and Invocation

### Financial Report, Including the Honor Roll Call

### Elections

### Building the Movement: Achieving Our Dreams through Strategic Investments

###### Members of the National Federation of the Blind Strategic Planning Steering Committee

### Transforming Corporate America from the Inside: Leadership, Blindness, and a Journey of Opening Doors

###### Susan Mazrui, Director, Global Public Policy, AT&T Services, Inc.; Seattle, Washington

### Shattering Injustice and Raising Expectations: Dedication to Equality by a Blind Attorney

###### Karla Gilbride, Civil Rights Attorney; Silver Spring, Maryland

### Reports and Resolutions

### Adjourn

### 12:00 - 1:45 p.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

### 12:00 - 1:45 p.m. Exhibit Hall and Independence Market

**Ballroom of the Americas**

Final opportunity to visit the Exhibit Hall and Independence Market.

### 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. NOPBC Brainstorming Session

**Room 339 A**

Come and share your ideas for making next year’s NOPBC conference even better. Carla Keirns, President

### 1:15 - 1:45 p.m. Registration ($30) and Packet Pickup

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

## General Session IV (Wednesday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### Call to Order

### Securing Equal Protection under the Law: The Essential Role of the Organized Blind Movement

###### Eve Hill, General Counsel, National Federation of the Blind, and Partner, Brown, Goldstein, and Levy; Baltimore, Maryland

### A One-Hundred-Year Legacy at the American Foundation for the Blind: What Will Be Different in the Decade Ahead?

###### Eric Bridges, President and CEO, American Foundation for the Blind; Arlington, Virginia

### Thousands of Voices Lift a Shared Agenda: A Report from the Federation’s Advocacy and Policy Department

###### Moderator: John G. Paré Jr., Executive Director for Advocacy and Policy, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland

###### Jeff Kaloc, NFB Government Affairs Specialist; Baltimore, Maryland

###### Jesse Shirek, NFB Government Affairs Specialist; Baltimore, Maryland

###### Justin Young, NFB Government Affairs Specialist; Baltimore, Maryland

### Reports, Resolutions, and Other Business

### Adjourn

### 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. What's New with Aira

**Room 343 B**

Join Aira CEO, Troy Otillio, for his annual presentation on all things Aira. We’ll demonstrate and discuss the new Aira app and give you a sneak peek at how AI ChatGPT will impact visual interpretation. Join the fun with some exciting prizes for lucky attendees.

Troy Otillio, CEO

### 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Digital Accessibility Professionals Meetup

**Room 339 B**

We designed this informal networking session for those working full-time in digital accessibility for corporations and nonprofits. We'll share best practices, trends that uniquely affect us as blind people, and suggestions for growing the Federation's brand in the field.

Corbb O'Connor, Facilitator

### 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. NFB in Judaism Meeting

**Room 344 A**

Ms. Livia Thompson, president of JBI International, will describe her organization's work and invite feedback from the organized blind regarding the impact that work could have.

Stewart Prost, Chair

### 7:00 - 9:45 p.m. NOPBC IEP Night

**Room 330**

* 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Why, What, & How to Document in the IEP Process
* 8:30 - 9:45 p.m. Assessment-Powered Advocacy in the IEP Process

Sponsored by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Division (NOPBC).

### 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. NOPBC Youth Track

**Room 332**

For youth 11 – 18. See Youth Track agenda for activity details.

### 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Friends of Recovery Meeting

**Room 346 A**

All convention attendees interested in getting or remaining clean and sober are welcome to our confidential meeting. For more information, call 828-505-0338.

### 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. NFB Oral Histories: Getting Started

**Room 339 B**

An introduction to oral histories and how to conduct them, from start to finish. Open to all those interested.

Nichole Chrissis, Archivist, National Federation of the Blind

### 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Twenty-First Annual Showcase of Talent

**Lanier Grand Ballroom J and K**

Join us for a night of great performances! Whether you take the stage or support your friends from the audience, it’s always an enjoyable evening of entertainment. Performers $10; admission $5. Cash prizes awarded. Email [nfbpad@gmail.com](mailto:nfbpad@gmail.com) with questions or to sign up.

Katelyn MacIntyre, President, National Federation of the Blind Performing Arts Division

## Thursday, July 6, 2023

### 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Devotions

**Room 340 A**

### 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Registration ($30) and Packet Pickup

**Registration Desk, Level 4**

### 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

## General Session V (Thursday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Call to Order and Invocation

### Leveraging Personal AI to Build the Organized Blind Movement

###### Suman Kanuganti, CEO, Personal.ai; San Diego, California

### Artificial Intelligence Directed by the Blind: Progress and Possibilities with Be My Eyes

###### Mike Buckley, Chairman and CEO, Be My Eyes; San Francisco, California

### Together Living Blindfully: Perspectives on the Wisdom of the Shared Blind Community

###### Jonathan Mosen, CEO, Workbridge, and Producer and Presenter, *Living Blindfully*; Wellington, New Zealand

### Rebuilding What I Should Have Known: Reflections on My Journey to be Accountable to the Blind Community

###### Shir Ekerling, Co-CEO and Co-Founder, accessiBe; New York, New York

### Defining Meaningful Access and Consumer Control: The Blind and the Evolution of Overlays

###### Curtis Chong, Nonvisual Access Technology Consultant; Aurora, Colorado

### Tired of Waiting: Perspectives on Ride Denials from Uber

Liza Winship, Director of Driver Operations for the US and Canada, Uber; San Francisco, California

### Full Participation of the Disabled in America: Nothing without Us

###### Andrés Gallegos, Chairman, National Council on Disability; Washington, District of Columbia

### Expanding the Reach of the National Library Service: A Commitment to High Expectations for Blind Patrons

###### Jason Broughton, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled; Washington, District of Columbia

### Reports and Resolutions

### Adjourn

### 12:00 - 1:45 p.m. Banquet Exchange

**Lanier Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area**

Final opportunity to exchange banquet tickets prior to banquet.

### 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. Raffles and Drawings

**Room 339 B**

### 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Amateur Ham Radio Group Meeting

**Room 329**

Talking with people around the world, responding to emergencies, and tinkering with electronics are just some of the benefits of becoming a licensed ham radio operator. Join us in a discussion about the hobby and plans for a permanent ham radio station at the Jernigan Institute.

Corbb O'Connor, Chair

### 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Preventing Veteran Suicide

**Room 330**

Become informed about suicide prevention, interventions, postvention, and education resources.

Clairmont Barnes, Associate Director, Partnerships and Community Relations, Veterans Health Administration

## General Session VI (Thursday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### Call to Order

### The Sixteenth Annual Dr. Jacob Bolotin Awards

###### Everette Bacon, Chairperson, Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award Committee, and Board Member, National Federation of the Blind; Salt Lake City, Utah

### Transformation of Jobs in the AbilityOne Program: Disability Advocacy, Leadership, and the Power of Concentrated Action

###### Chai Feldblum, Vice Chairperson, United States AbilityOne Commission; Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida

### By Us for Us: A Report on the Federation’s Research, Training, and Partnership Programs

###### Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland

### We Have Work to Do: Reflections on Changing the Blind Employment Paradigm

###### Mary Fernandez, Lead Disability Inclusion Consultant, Cisco Systems; Silver Spring, Maryland

### Working Together to Elevate the Blind in America: A Leader and Partner of the Organized Blind Movement

###### The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, United States House of Representatives, Eighteenth Congressional District; Houston, Texas

### Digital Access for All: Leading the Way in Advancing the Right to Live in the Twenty-First Century

###### The Honorable Tony Coelho, Former Congressman, United States House of Representatives, and Author, Americans with Disabilities Act; Doylestown, Pennsylvania

### Reports and Resolutions

### Adjourn

## Banquet (Thursday)

Lanier Grand Ballroom A – I

Zoom meeting ID: [916 8496 8543](https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/91684968543)

1CapApp Event: [nfb](https://ecs.1capapp.com/event/nfb)

##### **7:00 p.m.** Invocation

###### Master of Ceremonies: Pam Allen

###### Introductions and Presentations

###### Banquet Address: Mark Riccobono

###### Scholarships and Awards

## Convention Notes

### Note 1: Information Desk

A Federation information desk is outside Lanier Grand Ballroom A from Monday morning through Thursday for attendees with questions or in need of assistance.

### Note 2: Hotel Room Rates

Room rates at the Hilton Americas are $119 for singles, doubles, triples, and quads; the rates at the Marriott Marquis are $125 for singles, doubles, triples, and quads. In addition, the combined sales and hotel occupancy tax rate is 25.25 percent.

Proof of convention registration is necessary, including the showing of an NFB registration badge, if requested. Otherwise, regular hotel rates must be paid. Hotel sleeping rooms are non-smoking; smoking is permitted only in specified areas.

### Note 3: Banquet Tickets

Banquet tickets may be purchased for $75 at convention registration. No tickets will be available after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday. At the banquet ticket exchange table, located in the pre-function area outside Lanier Grand Ballroom A, you may make arrangements to reserve a specific seat for yourself or for a group of up to ten people. On the evening of the banquet, tickets will be required to enter the ballroom and will be collected at the tables. Tickets may be exchanged for vegetarian, vegan, kosher, or halal meals at the banquet ticket exchange table if done so by 2:00 p.m. on Monday.

Banquet ticket exchange will be available at the following times (also listed in the agenda):

* Monday 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
* Tuesday 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. and noon to 1:45 p.m.
* Wednesday 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. and noon to 1:45 p.m.
* Thursday 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. and noon to 1:45 p.m.

### Note 4: Guide Dog Relief Area

The guide dog relief area is outside the first floor doors to the Hilton’s bus lanes. These doors can be found at the end of the hotel nearest the convention center, just past the hotel’s gift shop. Exiting the hotel, the relief area is in the first lane beyond the curb and to the right. Traffic will be blocked from this area for the entirety of our convention.

### Note 5: Announcement Requests

All requests for announcements by President Riccobono during General Sessions must be submitted in Braille.

### Note 6: NFB Treasurer Information

Individuals needing to conduct business with the NFB treasurer may do so by going to Suite 434 on Tuesday between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. or on Wednesday between noon and 2:00 p.m.

### Note 7: NFB Convention Mobile App and Web Portal

The convention agenda can be accessed via the Attendee Hub platform beginning June 19. Mobile apps are available for both the iOS and Android platforms and a web portal for desktop use. All registrants will receive an email invitation with links for both the mobile apps and web portal. The Attendee Hub platform allows users to customize a personal agenda, chat with other Attendee Hub convention goers, and to join streamed sessions with the click of a button for those participating virtually.

### Note 8: Portrait Studio

The portrait studio wants and needs a photo of your gorgeous face! We use images in the *Braille Monitor*, on websites, and for other types of publications. Having a current photo on file is important even if you are not writing an article or sitting on your chapter board. We will email photos after convention to those who would like to have them. Please visit the portrait studio in the pre-function are outside Lanier Grand Ballroom D during the following hours:

* Monday 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
* Tuesday 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
* Wednesday 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
* Thursday 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

### Note 9: Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets will not be sold in the registration area, and no raffles or other such drawings will take place during convention sessions or at the banquet. The single exception will be that national divisions may (if they request it in advance) conduct drawings during the sessions or at the banquet. Groups or affiliates wishing to conduct their drawings (or any person wishing to know the winners) may go at noon on Thursday to meeting room 339 B.

### Note 10: FM Receivers Pick Up

The Amateur Radio Division coordinates the distribution of special FM receivers for our hard-of-hearing and Spanish-speaking attendees. Any interested attendee may pick up a receiver at a table in the pre-function area outside Lanier Grand Ballroom D. A deposit of $40 in cash is required, and exact change is appreciated. The deposit will be returned if the receiver is brought back to the checkout table in good condition by the end of the banquet or within thirty minutes of adjournment of the last convention session the borrower plans to attend.

### Note 11: NFB Camp (Childcare)

NFB Camp for children between the ages of six weeks and twelve years is available during convention sessions, most meetings, and the banquet. Preregistration and payment by June 15 are required for this childcare service. NFB Camp is organized and supervised by Carla McQuillan, the executive director of Main Street Montessori Association. Please note that childcare services provide morning and afternoon snacks, but parents are required to provide lunch for their child(ren) every day. Times listed are the opening and closing times. A late fee of $10 per quarter-hour per child will be assessed for late pickups. NFB Camp hours are:

* Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
* Sunday Closed
* Monday 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:45 to 5:30 p.m.
* Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
* Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
* Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
* Banquet 6:30 p.m. to 30 minutes after the banquet ends

### Note 12: Zoom and Ways to Access

For sessions broadcast on Zoom, there are multiple options for access. All convention times are in the central time zone.

Zoom via web at <https://zoom.us/91684968543>.

Or One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,91684968543# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,91684968543# US (Chicago)

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Webinar ID: 916 8496 8543

International numbers available: <https://nfb-org.zoom.us/u/aAN0h2bQS>

Closed captions will be provided on the Zoom platform, and you may also   
access the closed captions/transcript through 1CapApp at <https://ECS.1capapp.com/event/nfb>. More details for streaming available at [nfb.org/convention](https://nfb.org/convention).

### Note 13: Divisions, Committees, and Groups

The Federation carries on its business through the affiliated divisions, committees, and groups listed in this agenda.

#### Divisions:

Divisions of the National Federation of the Blind are organized around a specialized interest area usually related to employment or a major stage in life (e.g., parents or students). Divisions serve as a formal vehicle for building the organization at the national level.

Assistive Technology Trainers: *Chancey Fleet, President*

Black Leaders: *Shawn Callaway, President*

Computer Science: *Brian Buhrow, President*

Community Service: *Jeanetta Price, President*

DeafBlind: *Alice Eaddy, President*

Diabetes Action Network: *Debbie Wunder, President*

Human Services: *Candice Chapman*, *President*

Educators: *Cayte Mendez, President*

Government Employees: *Ronza Othman, President*

Guide Dog Users: *Raul Gallegos, President*

Lawyers: *Ronza Othman, President*

Merchants: *Nicky Gacos, President*

Parents of Blind Children: *Carla Keirns, President*

Performing Arts: *Katelyn MacIntyre, President*

Professionals in Blindness Education: *Emily Gibbs, President*

Rehabilitation Professionals: *Amy Porterfield, President*

Science and Engineering: *John Miller, President*

Seniors: *Glenn Crosby, President*

Sports and Recreation: *Richie Flores, President*

Students: *Trisha Kulkarni, President*

Veterans: *Vernon Humphrey, President*

Writers: *Shelley Alongi, President*

#### Committees:

Committees of the National Federation of the Blind are appointed by the President, with the exception of the nominating committee, and serve to advise the organization’s leadership on important matters and to carry out projects to build the organization at all levels.

Advancement and Promotion of Braille: *Jennifer Dunnam, Chair*

Ambassadors: *Dan Burke, Chair*

Automobile and Pedestrian Safety: *Maurice Peret, Chair*

Autonomous Vehicles and Innovations in Transportation

Blind Educator of the Year Award: *Robin House, Chair*

Communications: *Liz Wisecarver, Chair*

Distinguished Educator of Blind Students Award: *Carla McQuillan, Chair*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: *Shawn Callaway and Colin Wong, Co-chairs*

Employment: *Jennifer Wenzel, Chair*

Technology Evaluation: *Mark Jones, Chair*

Jacobus tenBroek Award: *Pam Allen, Chair*

Jacobus tenBroek Memorial Fund: *Kathryn Webster, Chair*

Kenneth Jernigan Fund: *Tracy Soforenko, Chair*

Membership: *Denise Avant and Tarik Williams, Co-chairs*

PAC Plan: *Ryan Strunk, Chair*

Research and Development: *Brian Buhrow, Chair*

Resolutions: *Donald Porterfield, Chair*

Scholarship: *Cayte Mendez, Chair*

Shares Unlimited in NFB (SUN): *Sandy Halverson, Chair*

Spanish Translation: *Daniel Martinez, Chair*

White Cane and Affiliate Finance: *Everette Bacon, Chair*

#### Groups:

Groups of the National Federation of the Blind serve as a resource to members around specific topic areas. Groups are coordinated by a chairperson appointed by the President and are intended to connect members across the country to strengthen the resource network of the organization.

Amateur Radio: *Corbb O’Connor,* *Chair*

Blind Christians: *Tom Anderson, Chair*

Blind Fraternal Greek and Masonic: *Shawn Callaway, Chair*

Blind Muslims: *Tasnim Alshuli, Chair*

Blind Parents: *Lisamaria Martinez, Chair*

Blind Professional Journalists: *Elizabeth Campbell, Chair*

Blind Survivors: *Kathryn Webster and Danielle Montour, Co-chairs*

Krafters: *Tammy Freitag, Chair*

NFB in Judaism: *Stewart Prost, Chair*

NFB in the Kitchen: *Regina Mitchell, Chair*

NFB LGBT+: *Sanho Steele-Louchart, Chair*

NFB Lions: *Milton Ota, Chair*

NFB Website Coordinators: *Corbb O’Connor, Chair*

## Navigating the Hotel

It is often helpful when writing a description of convention hotel floor plans to use an analogy to assist with the layout. This year, I want you to really stretch your imagination, to think creatively and picture a… rectangle. Yes, that’s it. Imagine a rectangle, and you've got the basic layout of the Hilton Americas nailed down. The three meeting-room rectangles sit atop the lobby rectangle and the sleeping-room rectangles are above the meeting-room rectangles.

While downtown Houston and the central business districts are laid out in a grid, that grid is set at roughly a forty-five-degree angle to cardinal directions. Rather than using northeast and southwest, I’ll refer to the front and the back of the hotel, those being the longer walls. The left and right ends of the hotel are the shorter sides of our rectangle.

Though the Hilton’s address is technically 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, you will likely arrive at the hotel’s front doors on Dallas Street, in the center of the long side of the rectangle. Taxi cabs and rideshare services will arrive at this valet entrance. For those interested, you are facing southwest as you walk through the Hilton's main entrance.

Entering into the hotel, you will find yourself in a large rotunda lobby. For our purposes, we will consider this the center of the hotel. If you turn left, you are heading in the direction of the George R. Brown Convention Center. If you turn to the right, you are facing toward the far end of the hotel, Pappasito’s Cantina. On the far side of the rotunda, up a couple steps, is the Lobby Bar, opening at 4:00 p.m. for light meals and drinks.

Let’s begin our exploration of the hotel by turning left from the rotunda. As you walk through the hotel's large lobby, there is a long registration desk to your right. On the left is first the bell stand and then a large, carpeted seating area. At the far end of the lobby are three banks of three elevators each. All elevators serve the three levels of meeting rooms and two banks also serve sleeping rooms up to the fifteenth floor. To the left, along the front wall of the hotel, is a Starbucks with seating. Beyond the Starbucks are exterior doors that open onto the corner of Dallas Street and the Avenida De Las Americas. Off to the right of the elevators, in the back-left corner of our rectangle is the Avenida Houston Shop (for souvenirs and questions about the area) and exit doors to the bus and coach lanes. For guide dog owners, this is important as the relief area is out these doors and to the right.

Now let's head back to the hotel's rotunda. This time, we will turn to the right. Along the exterior wall are a number of seating clusters. To the left is the 1600 Bar + Grille, open for breakfast and lunch beginning at 6:30 a.m. At the far right end of our rectangle is Pappasito's Cantina where you'll find TexMex lunch and dinner. To the left of Pappasito's entrance is another set of six elevators that serve the three levels of meeting rooms and sleeping rooms up to the twenty-second floor. These elevators also serve the health club, the hotel's spa, and the R24 Lounge. To the right of the Pappasito's entrance is a sweeping spiral staircase that goes to all three meeting levels.

Levels two, three, and four contain our meeting space. All three levels have similar U-shaped hallways—a very wide pre-function area along the floor-to-ceiling glass front wall of the hotel and a front-to-back hallway on both the left and the right ends of the hotel. At both ends of the pre-function area are escalators serving all three levels of meeting space, in addition to the elevators providing the same service.

Level two contains only the Ballroom of the Americas. The exhibit hall and Independence Market will be in the ballroom. There are restrooms at the right end of the rectangle near the elevators and at the left end along the front-to-back hallway. In the front-left corner of the second floor is a fully enclosed sky bridge that connects the Hilton to the convention center across Avenida De Las Americas. And in the front-right corner is the spiral staircase.

Level three is host to the majority of our breakout sessions. Room numbers increase from 326 in the back right of our rectangle, increasing around our U-shaped meeting space to 346 in the back-left corner. Note that on this floor, there are actually three front-to-back hallways on the right side of our U. Restrooms are near the elevators on both ends of this level with entrances along the pre-function area, the bottom of the U. And again, there is a sky bridge to the convention center and the spiral staircase, in the left- and right-front corners respectively.

Finally, on level four is the Lanier Grand Ballroom. Some of our larger breakouts will take place on level four as will our general sessions and the banquet. There are restrooms on both uprights of our U. In the front-right corner is the top step of the spiral staircase and meeting room 430. On Saturday, July 1, registration will be in the pre-function area on this level but will move to the front-right corner of our rectangle where attendees will find the registration desk.

### Additional Navigation Notes:

Discovery Green, directly across Dallas Street from the Hilton, is a twelve-acre park with dining options, a children's playground, a dog run, Kinder Lake, and many other attractions. Attendees should cross Dallas Street at the intersections at either end of the Hilton—there is a decorative iron fence running down the center of the Dallas Street median.

Those traveling to or from the Marriott Marquis may take the level-two sky bridge to the convention center and turn left. The convention center offers an air-conditioned, straight-line route to the Marriott, connected by a similar sky bridge at the opposite end of the convention center.

## The National Federation of the Blind acknowledges with gratitude our convention sponsors listed below. Their messages follow.

### Platinum:

### Google

### Horizon Therapeutics

### Microsoft

### UPS Foundation

### Vanda Pharmaceuticals

### Vispero

Wells Fargo

### Gold:

Amazon

HumanWare

Oracle

Target

Waymo

### Silver:

American Printing House

AT&T

Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP

JPMorgan Chase & Co

Lyft

Market Development Group

Pearson

Tusk Philanthropies

Uber

### Bronze:

Centene Corporation

Charter Communications (Spectrum)

Cruise

Ellume

Kellogg

United Airlines

UserWay

VitalSource Technologies

### White Cane:

Aira

C&P-Chris Park Technology

Central Intelligence Agency

Computers for the Blind

CVS Health

Democracy Live

En-Vision America

Envision, Inc.

GoodMaps

HIMS

IKE Smart City

Independence Science

Jackson Walker LLP

Leader Dogs for the Blind

McGraw Hill

National Industries for the Blind

National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress

Personal.ai

Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld, LLP

Saavi Services for the Blind

Tactile Engineering

The Chicago Lighthouse

VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention’s (OMHSP) Suicide Prevention Program (SPP)

## Sponsor Ads

### Platinum

#### Horizon Therapeutics

the top half of the ad features black and white portraits of different people, with the phrase, "Going to incredible lengths" on top. The ad reads, "Horizon is proud to support the National Federation of the Blind. Horizon is focused on researching, developing, and commercializing medicines that address critical needs for people impacted by rare, autoimmune, and severe inflammatory diseases. Our pipeline is purposeful: we apply scientific expertise and courage to bring clinically meaningful therapies to patients. At Horizon, we believe science and compassion must work together to transform lives." The Horizon logo is in the bottom left corner, and the website is [horizontherapeutics.com](http://horizontherapeutics.com).

#### Microsoft

This ad features a photograph of a blind Asian woman holding her long white cane. Over the bottom half of the photograph it says "Raising the bar" in all capital pink letters. Below that says, "Microsoft is a proud sponsor of the 2023 National Federation of the Blind Convention. Microsoft's mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Working together, we can create a world that's more inclusive, accessible, and equitable for everyone." The bottom of the ad links to [Microsoft.com/accessibility](http://Microsoft.com/accessibility).

#### Vanda Pharmaceuticals

The top half of the ad features a photo of a blind man walking with his guide dog inside a building. Below the photo is the Vanda logo. Below that it says, "Vanda Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community. Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting up to 70% of people who are totally blind. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness and nighttime sleeplessness, which leads to impaired social and occupational functioning. This is due to a misalignment between the internal master body clock and the 24-hour day. Come visit us at our booth to learn about Non-24 and sign up for additional information. Call a health educator toll-free at 1-855-856-2424. 24 hours a day, every day." [www.non-24.com](http://www.non-24.com).

#### Vispero

Vispero is written out in the top center. Underneath it says, "Vispero is a proud sponsor of the National Federation of the Blind National Convention," followed by "learn more about our innovative technology for blindness and low vision, and the passionate team behind it at [vispero.com](http://vispero.com)!" Below this are two headers. The first says "We're looking forward to seeing you again!" and "please visit us in the exhibit hall and during our presentation—we have so much to show you!" The second header lists the presentation name, "What's new with JAWS, Fusion, and ZoomText" on Saturday, July 1, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Below this is a headshot Ryan Jones. "Join Ryan Jones for the annual User Group meeting. All skill levels are welcome. We'll demonstrate and discuss the recent developments and look at what's coming in 2024. We will also discuss how you can help shape the future of our products. Bring your questions and join the fun as we kick off the 2023 Convention!" The bottom lists Vispero brands, including Enhanced Vision, Freedom Scientific, Optelec, and TPG.

#### Wells Fargo

The top of the ad features a photo of three women on the sidewalk in front of a city building. One has a guide dog. The Wells Fargo logo is in the top right, and the phrase, "together, there are no limits to what we can do" is on the bottom of the photo. It says, "At Wells Fargo, we value the unique capabilities and contributions of each of our employees and appreciate the strength that diversity brings to our organization. Working here, you’ll find an inclusive environment for everyone. We’re dedicated to providing all of our employees with the opportunity to be successful in their Wells Fargo careers. What other people are saying about us: *DiversityInc* magazine has ranked Wells Fargo No.2 on the list of the 2022 Top Companies for People with Disabilities. *DiversityInc* also ranked Wells Fargo No. 29 on the Top Companies for Diversity, and No. 1 Top Companies for LGBTQ. For the twelfth consecutive year, readers of *CAREERS & the disABLED* magazine recognized Wells Fargo as number 5 on 2023’s Top 50 Employers of people with disabilities." The right side of the ad says, "Wells Fargo is a proud sponsor of the National Federation of the Blind Convention." The bottom of the ad links to [wellsfargo.com/about/diversity/accessibility](http://wellsfargo.com/about/diversity/accessibility) and says, "accommodations and accessibility assistance for team members and job seekers. Visit [wellsfargojobs.com](http://wellsfargojobs.com) to apply or for more information." The Wells Fargo logo is in the bottom right along with the social media logos for LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

### Gold

#### Amazon

The top of the ad invites us to "Visit the NFB convention Exhibit Hall to learn more about Fire TVs, Fire tablets, Kindle, and Echo Devices." The image below is the Amazon logo, which is "amazon" written out with an arrow underneath going from the a to the z, with the listed Amazon devices above. Below this image says, "Amazon supports accessible experiences for shopping, reading, and entertainment. Learn more at [www.amazon.com/accessibility](http://www.amazon.com/accessibility)."

#### HumanWare

The right side of the ad features a photo of a hand holding a StellarTrek device. The ad says, "Unlocking accessibility with HumanWare. StellarTrek, leading the way in orientation and mobility." StellarTrek features are listed below, including "Guide in the last 40 feet to the destination with AI and the latest GPS technology, voice commands, OCR test-to-speech, barcode reading, and color recognition." The bottom of the ad says, "HumanWare is proud to be sponsoring NFB National Convention." They can be reached at 1-800-722-3393 and [humanware.com](http://humanware.com). The HumanWare logo is in the bottom right corner.

#### Target

The top of this ad says, "Target for all." To the left is a cartoon of two people sitting on the target bullseye, one on a laptop and the other on a phone. There is a small cartoon dog sitting in front of the bullseye. Underneath the bullseye is the word "digital" with Braille dots below. The rest of the ad says, "Target’s purpose is to help all families discover the joy of everyday life. Whether in our store or shopping online, we believe every blind person has the right to an equal experience. Our team of accessibility experts work every day to make that happen. Learn more about our accessibility efforts: [target.com/accessibility](http://target.com/accessibility). We welcome your feedback, thoughts, and suggestions. Email the Accessibility team: [accessibility@target.com](mailto:accessibility@target.com). Here are two new ways you can access all Target has to offer: Explore same day services allowing you to customize how you shop all of our products in the manner best fitting your lifestyle. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/tgt-same-day>. Aira service is available for free to assist you in all Target stores nationwide and while shopping online at Target.com. Learn more: aira.io/target." The bottom of the ad says, "Are you curious to hear more about Target's digital accessibility? Have questions about our apps, website, or stores? Join our seminar listed in the agenda and meet some of our experienced accessibility consultants as they share our team's efforts continuing to make Target an accessible shopping experience for all."

### Silver

#### American Printing House

The right side of the ad features a photo of a hand using an APH tactile device. The American Printing House logo is in the top left corner, next to the phrase, "The Braille Metamorphosis Has Begun!" It says, "Meet the Monarch, a dynamic tactile device that is capable of rendering multiple lines of Braille and tactile graphics on the same surface. Developed by APH and HumanWare, in partnership with the NFB, the Monarch feature ten lines of thirty-two refreshable Braille characters, in addition to a tactile array that displays images, such as charts, maps, or graphs. Stop by the APH booth to get hands on with this revolutionary Braille device as well as many other great products."

#### Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP

The top center of this ad says "we’re all in." It features headshots of Brown, Goldstein, and Levy employees. Next to the photos it says, "Proud to support the NFB's mission to advance the rights of blind individuals across the country." The Brown, Goldstein, ands Levy logo is in the bottom right, and underneath it says, "Trial lawyers and advocates. Tell us your story." 120 East Baltimore St, Suite 2500, Baltimore, MD 21202, and at 1300 Eye Street NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. 410-962-1030 and [browngold.com](http://browngold.com).

#### JPMorgan Chase & Co

The left half of this ad includes a photo of a hand reading a Braille sign. The top right says, "Commitment to Access and Inclusion." It continues on to say, "At JPMorgan Chase we want to help empower people with disabilities to grow their careers, develop job skills, reenter the workforce and gain expanded access to well-paying careers. We proudly support the National Federation of the Blind for its developing innovative education, technology and training programs and legislative advocacy that create pathways to independence and success for their constituents." The JPMorgan Chase & Co. logo is below, along with a link to [jpmorganchase.com/odi](http://jpmorganchase.com/odi).

#### Market Development Group

The top of the ad says, "Best wishes to the National Federation of the Blind for a successful 2023 National Convention in Houston, Texas." The middle of the ad hosts the Market Development Group, Inc. logo, which is a triangle with three stripes on each side. It says, "Market Development Group, Inc. A full-service marketing company. John Alahouzos, Executive Vice President." The address is 1834 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA. Phone number is 202-298-8030, and website is [www.mdginc.org](http://www.mdginc.org).

#### Pearson

The right side of the ad features a cartoon woman in a dress, carrying a briefcase up a swirling set of steps. The top says Pearson, preceded by an "@" symbol. It says, "Pearson, the world's leading learning company, is proud to be a sponsor of the National Federation of the Blind's 2023 National Convention." The bottom states, "Pearson is committed to making education accessible for all."

#### Tusk Philanthropies

The top of the ad says "Mobile Voting, with the V in voting as a check mark in front of a phone. The ad says, "Our mission is the expand voting option to include secure, accessible mobile voting so any voter, regardless of ability, can vote from anywhere. Electronic remote ballot delivery and return options are needed so voters with disabilities can vote independently and privately from home. We continue to stand with the National Federation of the Blind to expand voting options." Learn more at [mobilevoting.org](http://mobilevoting.org).

### Bronze

#### Ellume

The left side of the ad shows an Ellume Covid-19 rapid test and materials outside of the box. There is a phone showing a negative test result. The right side reads, "Accessibility is close to our heart. Screen reader-compatible in-app instructions. Easy to handle test components. Digital result in words." The Ellume logo is in the bottom right, along with a link to their website [ellumecovidtest.com/accessibility](http://ellumecovidtest.com/accessibility).

#### Kellogg

The top of the ad features the Kellogg's logo. It says, "Kellogg is proud to be the first food company to feature NaviLens accessibility technology on packaging in the U.S. It's just one of the ways we're creating a place at the table for everyone - and #BetterDays for 3 billion people by the end of 2030." The bottom center of the ad says, “to learn more, visit [www.kelloggs.com/navilens](http://www.kelloggs.com/navilens)." The bottom right corner features a QR code linking to the Kellogg's webpage about NaviLens.

#### UserWay

The right side of the ad features a photo of a blind man smiling and using a computer with the UserWay logo on the back. It says, "UserWay, celebrating NFB's 80 plus years of service. UserWay is committed to building an accessible web for everyone. Meet us at our interactive sessions and join the conversation."

#### VitalSource Technologies

VitalSource is written across the top. Underneath says, "designed with all learners in mind." The website is [get.vitalsource.com](http://get.vitalsource.com).

### White Cane

#### Aira

The middle of the ad includes a QR code that links to the Aira Explorer App. The text reads, “Download the new Aira Explorer App. Aira, the leading company in visual interpreting services, is proud to continue our partnership with the National Federation of the Blind." The bottom of the ad has the Aira logo, and <http://www.aira.io>.

#### Central Intelligence Agency

This ad features a photo of a woman in a wheelchair typing on a laptop. It says, “Everything you are is needed here. Be a part of a workforce that's as diverse as the nation we serve." The CIA logo is sideways along the right side of the ad. The bottom says, "DEIA enables mission" and links to the CIA careers page, [cia.gov/careers](http://cia.gov/careers).

#### The Chicago Lighthouse

The top right says, "proud to be a White Cane Sponsor." The top half features a photo of a female teacher assisting a young boy in glasses with an educational project. The Chicago Lighthouse logo is below the photo. The bottom half of the ad says, "Empowering people with disabilities. Providing education, technology, and rehabilitation services to empower those who are blind, visually impaired, disabled, and Veterans." The social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn are shown at the bottom, along with their website [www.chicagolighthouse.org](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org).

#### Computers for the Blind

The top of the ad says, "Computers for the Blind" with their logo, CFTB with the image of an eye in between the F and T. Below that says, "Special offer while supplies last, $50 plus tax laptops. JAWS or ZoomText free for a year, Inteli5, 250GB SSD, 8GB RAM, upgrades available. The bottom right corner of the ad includes a QR code that you can scan to sign up for future specials, training information, and more. [computersfortheblind.org](http://computersfortheblind.org) and 214-340-6328.

#### C&P-Chris Park Technology

This ad says, "C and P, known as Chris Park Technology, develops products for people with vision loss. CP is the real manufacturer of video magnifiers, canes, cameras, software for Optelec, Enhanced Vision, Freedom Scientific, HumanWare Europe, Ai Squared, NFB, and other organizations. We have been working with non-profit projects worldwide to help people. The world's first invention of iPhone compatible video magnifier, new true transportable i-loviewMAX, i-lowview16, and more." [sales@chrisparkdesign.com](mailto:sales@chrisparkdesign.com). The bottom of the ad features an image of a screen with i-loview13 pro, a folded retractable cane, and a man using a long white cane.

#### CVS Health

The CVS logo is across the bottom of the page. The ad reads, "Ever wish your pill bottle could talk? It can with Spoken Rx." An orange CVS pill bottle is shown with a speaker icon next to it.

#### Democracy Live

The Democracy Live logo is across the top center. In the logo, the O in Democracy is replaced by a ballot checkmark. Underneath the logo it says, "Democracy live—accessible voting technologies, anytime, anywhere. In too many states, voters with disabilities don’t have equal access to voting independently and privately from home. Fortunately, there are new accessible at-home voting technologies now available. The Democracy Live OmniBallot accessible at-home voting system is a fully ADA Section 508, WCAG 2.1 compliant remote ballot marking solution. The system has been tested to meet the accessibility requirements of over 90combinations of browsers, operating systems, screen readers and devices. OmniBallot has been deployed as an accessible absentee tool since 2008, in over 4,000 elections, serving more than 2,500jurisdictions, in 30states and 96 countries around the world. OmniBallot has been tested and reviewed by members of most every leading disability organization in the nation. For further information, please contact Democracy Live." Call 855-655-VOTE (8683), email [info@democracylive.com](mailto:info@democracylive.com), website [www.democracylive.com](http://www.democracylive.com).

#### En-Vision America

The top right of the ad says, "visit us!" The background features a photo of an older man on a couch, looking frustrated with his head in his hand. He is looking down at a pile of prescriptions on the table in front of him. The ad says, "accessible medication labeling" and shows an image of a Scrip Talk device prompting the user to take two capsules daily. The bottom of the ad says "En-Vision America." They can be contacted at 1-800-890-1180 and [www.envisionamerica.com](http://www.envisionamerica.com).

#### IKE Smart City

The left of this ad features a photo of a pedestrian using an IKE digital kiosk on the sidewalk in Houston. The top of the ad says, "Meet IKE. The interactive digital kiosk that connects cities with people." To the right of the photo it says, "IKE smart city pioneers innovative technology to improve lives in cities. Discovery, mobility, equity."

#### Independence Science

The top of the ad features the Independence Science logo, with their slogan, "empowering a new vision." The ad says, "Independence Science knows the unique challenges that come with being blind in the science classroom. We’ve been there ourselves and are here to help! We have many offerings to make your science experience a success! Tactile adaptation kits to make math and manipulatives easy. Lab gear kits have easy to use tactile science equipment. Custom consults for students provide instruction with blind scientists. Consults for instructors and employers for sensitivity training. Pre-ETS instruction complete with pre and post assessments available for a variety of budgets. Stop by to enter our daily drawings by telling us what you need for future science access for the chance to win a special t-shirt. Your support and ideas make us all stronger together!"

#### Jackson Walker LLP

The background of this ad features a black and white photo of a city skyline with a park in the foreground. The ad reads, "Jackson Walker proudly supports the National Federation of the Blind National Convention." Jackson Walker operates in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Angelo, and San Antonio. Their website is [JW.com](http://JW.com).

#### Leader Dogs for the Blind

The top of the ad asks, "Did you know Leader Dogs for the Blind also offers free O&M training?" and prompts us to visit leadersog.org/programs for more details. The left of the text has a black and white image of a person walking with a long white cane. The bottom of the ad says "Leader Dogs for the Blind" and links to the social media, saying "Follow the leader" with the image for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flikr, YouTube, and LinkedIn. The left of this text is an image of a guide dog in a harness with their handle being held.

#### McGraw Hill

The top left corner of the ad includes the red McGraw Hill logo. It says, "McGraw Hill unlocks the potential for all learners. McGraw Hill believes that the best learning materials should be accessible to students of all abilities. We are building an inclusive culture that considers the needs of every learner from the onset and we are making every effort to ensure that all new educational content and technology follows the WCAG AA guidelines and best practices." This ad includes a pink and red arrow starting on the top right, going down the right side to point at the phase "to learn more about the McGraw Hill commitment to accessible learning." The bottom of the ad also shows a QR code and the link [mheducation.com/about/accessibility](http://mheducation.com/about/accessibility).

#### National Industries for the Blind

This ad features the NIB logo and says, "National Industries for the Blind is proud to partner with the National Federation of the Blind to advance interests of people who are blind. Explore [NIB.org](http://NIB.org)."

#### Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld, LLP

The top of the ad includes the Rosen Bien, Galvan, and Grunfeld LLP logo and says, “trial and appellate lawyers." Below that is the text, "RBGG is proud to support the National Federation of the Blind so that blind people may live the lives they want." The bottom of the ad links to rbgg.com and says, "Advancing justice and solving problems on behalf of individuals and businesses for over 30 years."

#### Saavi Services for the Blind

At top center, Saavi appears in all lowercase. A Braille letter “i” replaces the title forming the letter “i” in Saavi. Services for the blind is written in all lowercase beneath Saavi. Below the logo are the words “Proud to partner with the National Federation of the Blind at #NFB23.” Images of smiling adult students reading Braille and using a computer appear inside of two large dots forming the Braille letter “i”. The phrase "It's not what you can see, it's what you can do" wrap around each large dot in print and in Braille. “Visit our booth to learn more about our transformative non-visual programs” appears centered above [www.saavi.us](http://www.saavi.us).

#### Tactile Engineering

This ad says, "introducing the Cadence Tactile Graphics Tablet. Tactile graphics, multi-line Braille, animated images. Visit Tactile Engineering's exhibit hall booth to experience dynamic content, educational apps, and our arcade for the Blind, featuring dynamic video games on the new Cadence tablet." [www.tactile-engineering.com](http://www.tactile-engineering.com).

#### VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention’s (OMHSP) Suicide Prevention Program (SPP)

This ad reads, "Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one? Reach out to the Veterans Crisis Line. Dial 988 then Press 1. Chat online at [veteranscrisisline.net/chat](http://veteranscrisisline.net/chat), test 838255. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect." The top of the ad shows the Veterans Crisis Line logo, which is a star encased in a chat text box, next to nine dots similar to the keys on a phone. The bottom of the ad has the US Department of Veterans Affairs seal.