



*Live the life you want.*

## **OUR 61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**

If you are a blind person, raising a blind child, related to a blind person, a professional in the field of work with the blind, or simply interested in the future of blind people in New York and the world, this is for you. The National Federation of the Blind of New York State will hold its sixty-first annual convention and celebration over the weekend of November 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Albany Ramada Plaza, 3 Watervliet Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12206. Hotel reservations must be made with the NFBNY office by using our printed or online registration form.

It is our pleasure to welcome back as our National Representative Dr. Marc Maurer, Immediate Past President of our national organization. Dr. Maurer comes with a wealth of experience, both in the Federation and in the world. It will be our privilege to hear his stories and to benefit from his wisdom.

As has been our practice, we will begin the convention on Friday morning with a town meeting facilitated by the New York State Commission for the Blind. Commission officials will be available to hear your input and ideas about their services to the blind in our state.

From 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, our Exhibit Hall will be open, featuring technology and products for blind and visually impaired people of all ages. The exhibitors will have come from far to offer their products, but you won't have to go far to take advantage of a vast array of merchandise. You will see everything from practical items for everyday living to the latest accessible technology, as well as creative wares for purchase from some of our members. Make the Exhibit Hall your one-stop holiday shopping source!

On Friday afternoon there will be workshops: for blind parents, for blind senior citizens, and more. A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Affiliate, to which all are invited, will follow at 4 pm. On Friday evening, please join us for a social event where you can relax and mingle in an informal atmosphere. Refreshments will be served.

On Saturday morning, meet the scholarship class of 2017, and then listen as our National Representative and Affiliate President fill us in on the continuing momentum of our organization. You won't want to miss the other exciting speakers and activities throughout the day, in celebration of over six decades of trailblazing, advocacy, and building our NFB family. And don't forget, there will be enough door prizes for one and all. At lunchtime on Saturday, the various Divisions will have time to meet.

The excitement will continue during Our Saturday evening banquet, with an address by our keynote speaker, Dr. Marc Maurer, the fun of our annual "horse race," and more prize giveaways. The special moment when the scholarship winners receive their awards will bring our banquet to a dramatic close.

On Sunday morning we will hold our annual business meeting, elect our state officers, and chart our course for the coming year. We will also consider the resolutions that the Convention deems vital for our future. We will hear Chapter and Division reports from around the state. We will then return home, revitalized and ready to live the lives we want.

Room rates this year are \$85 per night, banquet tickets are \$30, and in order to save time in a full convention schedule a box lunch will be available on Friday and Saturday for \$15 each day. The registration fee for the convention is \$15. Please fill out the enclosed form and mail it in with your check or money order. Or, to use your credit card, please register on line at [nfbny.org](http://nfbny.org), by clicking on Conventions on the home page and following the prompts. **All payments including the hotel room must be made through the NFB of New York.** A five percent discount will be given to anyone who registers by October 15, 2017.

**Free childcare will be provided during all our events. Pre-registration for this service is required by October 27.**

**Please call the office at 718-567-7821 with any questions regarding this year's convention.**