

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF NEW YORK STATE
62nd ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 19 – 21, 2018
HOLIDAY INN BUFFALO – AIRPORT
4600 GENESEE STREET, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY 14225
PHONE: 716-634-6969**

NFB PLEDGE

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity and security for the blind, to support the policies and programs of the Federation and to abide by its constitution.

We would like to thank all our 2018 sponsors:

SCHOLARSHIP Wegmans Food Markets

PLATINUM New York State Commission for the Blind

GOLD C Tech
Lighthouse Guild Vision + Health
Northeast Association of the Blind at Albany
Procter & Gamble
Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

SILVER Guiding Eyes for the Blind
Independent Living Aids
Vis-Ability, Inc.

BRONZE 3D Photoworks
Helen Keller National Center
Mystic Access
New Utrecht Pharmacy
Visions Services for the Blind
Xavier Society for the Blind

Free Aira Site Access at National Federation of the Blind State Conventions

The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with Aira to provide free Aira Site Access to NFB members during our 2018 state convention. Aira subscribers who are National Federation of the Blind members can use the service at our convention for free without having minutes deducted from their plans. In addition, those interested in Aira have the unique opportunity to try out the service for free while at our convention. This convention-wide, free site access is available only at NFB state conventions, giving NFB members an exclusive opportunity to test-drive Aira in a convention setting.

Aira allows blind individuals to connect via live video to a trained agent through a mobile app or wearable glasses to get real-time visual information or assistance. Learn more about Aira and special pricing available for NFB members at go.aira.io/NFB.

How it Works

Before you head to convention or as soon as you get there, download the free Aira app from the App Store, and create a guest account if you are not already an Aira subscriber. Also, make sure your phone's GPS feature is enabled. When you enter the convention Site Access location, your phone will receive a notification letting you know that the space you are in is part of the Aira Network. When you connect with an agent, he or she will also confirm that you are now covered by the network, and no minutes will be deducted from your account.

When you leave or enter convention areas that are covered by the Site Access network, you will be informed by the Aira agent.

To learn more about Aira and the special plan available exclusively to NFB members, visit go.aira.io/NFB.

MD Support and AudibleEye: LowViz Guide

Let indoor wayfinding technology be your guide around our event this year. MD Support is providing its LowViz Guide app at no cost to you or us. Just download it to your iPhone or iPad and let it describe all points of interest and routes throughout the hotel lobby and meeting areas.

For important information, see www.mdsupport.org/audioguide. Everything you need to know is there, including:

- A direct download link to the App Store
- Instructions for use
- Frequently asked questions
- An audio/visual demonstration of the app
- What you need to know ahead of time
- Articles and audio broadcasts about LowViz Guide

MD Support personnel will be on hand to provide technical assistance, but your advance preparation will make using the LowViz Guide application faster and easier.

Thanks to:

- Aira Tech Corp for providing free Aira site access at our convention
- Heather Bird for donating an auction item
- C Tech for donating auction items
- Margo Downey for donating door prizes and auction items
- En-Vision America for donating a special door prize
- Carl and Mindy Jacobsen for donating door prizes and an auction item
- JW.org for providing volunteers for our convention
- MD Support and AudibleEye for providing their indoor beacon navigation system at our convention
- Otterbox for donating an auction item

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hotel Shuttle: The hotel provides a free shuttle bus to and from the airport and the Depew train station.

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

Enter to win a cash prize! Stop by the registration table and sign up for New-York-News, our affiliate email list. Everyone who is already signed up and any new signups will be entered into a drawing for \$50 cash. The drawing will be held at the banquet. You must be present to win.

Breakfast: A complimentary breakfast is included in your room charge. You will receive breakfast vouchers to give your servers for these meals. Breakfast is served in the restaurant starting at 7:30 AM.

Childcare: Free childcare will be available at times shown in this agenda in Meeting Suite 136. Pre-registration is required.

Guide Dog Relief: Please walk your dog in the Courtyard (near the outdoor pool). Extra trash cans & bags will be provided there.

Ballroom: For many of our convention events, the Liberty Ballroom will be divided into three rooms: the Independence, the Commerce, and the Constitution. Please consult this agenda for locations of specific events.

Lunch: If you have pre-ordered a boxed lunch, you will have a choice of wraps: turkey & provolone, tuna salad, roast beef, or vegetable. Just let the server know your choice when you pick up your lunch.

Gluten free: If you have requested a gluten-free meal for the banquet, your server will take your order at your banquet table, and a meal will be prepared for you.

Lottery tree: You could be the proud winner of \$100 in New York Lottery scratch-off tickets. Tickets are \$5 each and will be available until the banquet.

How to pay NFBNY: The New York Affiliate is able to accept cash, checks, or credit card payments for any purchases made before, during, or after the convention.

EXHIBIT HALL

Please remember to visit the Exhibit Hall in the Constitution Room.

The Exhibit Hall will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on FRIDAY ONLY!! Our vendors this year have quite a wide variety of goods and services to enhance your freedom and add fun to your life. See the list below.

- **Aira & Wegmans** – Aira is a service that connects people to highly trained, remotely-located agents. At the touch of a button, Aira delivers instant access to visual information, enhancing everyday efficiency and engagement.
- **Angie Robinson** – Beautiful hand-crocheted products.
- **C Tech** – Adaptive technology and low vision products.
- **Exhibit Hall Coordinator** – Mindy Jacobsen

- **Guiding Eyes for the Blind** – Information on using and living with a guide dog.
- **Helen Keller National Center** – Technology for the deaf-blind.
- **Independent Living Aids** – Low-vision aids, tools and technology for the blind and visually impaired
- **JW.org** – Free Bible literature in Braille, large print, RTF format, and audio.
- **Lighthouse Guild** – Dedicated to addressing and preventing vision loss through a variety of vision and health services.
- **Mystic Access** – Tutorials, consulting, and training for assistive technology.
- **National Federation of the Blind of New York** – Information and demonstrations for the KNFB Reader and NFB-Newsline.
- **National Federation of the Blind Sports and Recreation interest group.**
- **Procter & Gamble:** Herbal Essences shampoo and conditioner with tactile labeling.
- **Tangible Surface Research** – Tactile icons: adding tactile interaction to touch screens.
- **Vanda Pharmaceuticals** – What can you do when you seem to sleep at all the wrong times?
- **Vis-Ability, Inc.** – Products that provide independence at work, at school, at home.

- **Visions Services for the Blind** – Residential vocational skills training.

AGENDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Childcare in Meeting Suite 136: 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, and 7:00 – 10:00 PM.

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Exhibit Hall. Coordinator: Mindy Jacobsen, Convention Coordinator and President, New York City Chapter NFB. **In the Constitution Room.**

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Open Forum with the New York State Commission for the Blind, Brian Daniels, Associate Commissioner. Voice your opinion to officials about services in our state. **In the Independence/Commerce Room.**

11:00 AM – 12 noon: NFBNY Board of Directors meeting. **In the Independence/Commerce Room.** All are welcome.

12 noon – 2:00 PM: PREPAID box lunches available **in the State Room.** You may eat your lunch in one of the breakout rooms: **Meeting Suite 104 and 110. Please take this time to visit our Exhibit Hall in the Constitution Room.**

2:00 – 5:00 PM: Student Division Seminar. Facilitator: Nihal Erkan, President, Student Division, NFBNY. **In Meeting Suite 104.**

2:00 – 5:00 PM: Parents of Blind Children Seminar. Facilitator: Jim Jonas, President, POBC Division, NFBNY. **In Meeting Suite 110.**

2:00 – 3:30 PM: Blind Seniors Group: Facilitator: Carl Jacobsen, Immediate Past President, NFBNY. **In the Independence/Commerce Room.**

2:00 – 3:30 PM: National Association of Guide Dog Users. Facilitator, Heather Bird, President, NAGDU of NFBNY. **In the State Room.**

3:30 – 5:00 PM: Blind Parents Group. Facilitator: Candice Attrill, President, Blind Parents Group, NFBNY. **In the Independence/Commerce Room.**

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Dinner break. On your own.

5:00 – 7:00 PM: PRIVATE Scholarship Dinner **in the Stateroom.**

5:15 PM: Meeting of the Chapter at Large in the hotel restaurant, Dutch treat. Meet Mary Lou Mendez, Chapter President, outside the restaurant. All members and others interested are welcome to attend.

7:00 – 10:00 PM: Everyone, please join us **in Meeting Suite 104 and the Liberty Ballroom** for our Hospitality Night, featuring food, drinks, trivia, dance lessons, and karaoke. Food and drinks will be in the Meeting Suite 104, and activities will be in the Ballroom. We look forward to seeing you there.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Childcare in Meeting Suite 136: 8:15 AM – 12 noon, 1:45 –5:15 PM, and 6:45 – 10:30 PM.

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

Morning General Session in the Liberty Ballroom

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Robinson, President, NFBNY; National Anthem, led by Mindy Jacobsen; introductions: pass the microphone; invocation: Carl Jacobsen.

9:00 – 9:20 AM: Presentation of the Scholarship Class of 2018: Cayte Mendez, Second Vice President, NFBNY; Chair, NFBNYS Scholarship Committee; and Chair, NFB National Scholarship Committee.

9:25 – 9:50 AM: Presidential Report, Mike Robinson.

9:55 – 10:20 AM: Report from the National Office: Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind.

10:25 – 10:50 AM: News from Our State Agency: Brian Daniels, Associate Commissioner, New York State Commission for the Blind.

10:55 – 11:05 AM: BELL Academy (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) report: Cayte Mendez, Lead Teacher, NFBNY BELL Academy.

11:10 – 11:25 AM: 3D Photoworks: tactile representations of visual artworks. John Olsen, Cofounder.

11:30 – 11:40: NFB-Newsline report. Carl Jacobsen, Newsline Director, NFBNY.

11:40 – 11:55 AM: Report from the Libraries: Chancey Fleet, Assistive Technology Coordinator, Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, New York, NY.

Lunch Break Information & Meetings

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

12: 15 – 1:45 PM: Blind Seniors Group lunch, coordinator, Carl Jacobsen. **In Meeting Suite 104,**

12:15 – 1:45 PM: POBC Lunch and business meeting, coordinator, Jim Jonas. **In Meeting Suite 110.**

Afternoon General Session in the Liberty Ballroom
Theme: Back to Basics

2:00 – 2:15 PM: A Brief Philosophy of the NFB: Kathryn Webster, President, National Association of Blind Students.

2:20 – 2:45 A Brief History of the NFBNYS: Carl Jacobsen, Immediate Past President, NFBNYS.

2:45 – 3:05: Branding and the NFB: Mark Riccobono, President, NFB.

3:10 – 3:20: Making Ride Sharing Work for Us: Margo Downey, member, NFBNY and Secretary, NFB Buffalo Chapter.

3:25 – 3:45: The Legislative Process: Peter Stuhlmiller, Educator, Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District.

3:50 – 4:20: A Word From Our Sponsors: Speakers from Aira, Audible Eye, Procter & Gamble, and Vanda Pharmaceuticals.

4:25 – 4:40: Putting Our Best Foot Forward: Image and Its Importance: Dennis Sumlin, member NFBNY and NFB New York City Chapter, and life coach.

4:40 – 4:50: Supporting Our Leaders: Mary Lou Mendez, President, NFBNY At Large Chapter.

4:50 – 5:00: A Philosophy Without Borders: How Federationism is Growing in Canada: Erik Burggraaf, Second Vice President, Canadian Federation of the Blind, and Chair, Ontario CFB Steering Committee.

Banquet

7:00 – 11:00 PM Banquet **in the Ballroom**. Mistress of Ceremonies: Valeria Jacobs.

- Cash bar available from 6:30
- Invocation: David R. Stayer, President Emeritus, Greater Long Island Chapter
- Keynote Address: Mark Riccobono, National President, NFB
- Presentation of Scholarships to the class of 2018: Cayte Mendez
- Address by representative of Wegmans Food Markets
- Presentations
- Drawings, auctions, pledges, and prizes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

7:00 – 8:45 AM: Resolutions Committee breakfast meeting in the State Room, Chair, Chancey Fleet.

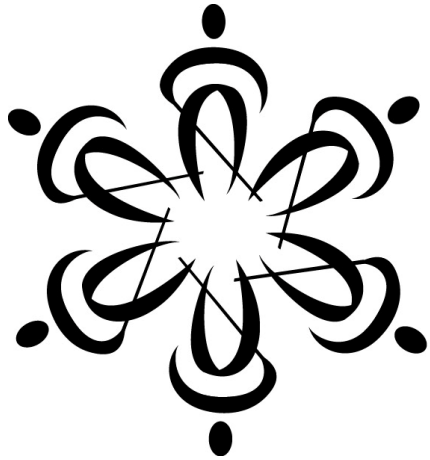
8:45 AM – 12 noon: Childcare in Meeting Suite 136.

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

- Invocation: Mike Robinson
- Report from the Resolutions Committee: Chancey Fleet, Committee Chair
- Consideration of, and voting on, resolutions
- Chapter and Division Reports
- New business

12 noon: Adjournment

Braille agenda facilitated by Mindy Jacobsen and Joyce Carrico



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.

Dream Makers Circle

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of New York can be made in the form of a will or living trust, an income generating gift, or by naming us as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, pension, or a life insurance policy. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage, or list NFB as one of several beneficiaries. For additional information, please contact Patti Chang at (410) 659-9314, extension 2422 or at pchang@nfb.org.

Vehicle Donations

The National Federation of the Blind uses car donations to improve the education of blind children, distribute free white canes, help veterans, and so much more. We have partnered with Vehicles for Charity to process donated vehicles. Please call toll-free (855) 659-9314, and a representative can make arrangements, or you can donate online by visiting www.nfb.org/vehicledonations.