
Accessible News Anywhere

Highlights from NFBNY-NEWSLINE

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Greetings from President Robinson

On behalf of the NFBNY Affiliate and the NEWSLINE team, thank you for your interest in NEWSLINE. We continue to work hard to make sure that NEWSLINE remains available free to all New Yorkers who are eligible to receive newspapers, magazines, and other content in a barrier-free format.

I want to also acknowledge the efforts made by Assemblyman Pretlow, Senator Parker, and all other members of the State Assembly and Senate who cosponsored A3144 (Pretlow)/S2924 (Parker), legislation to secure additional funding for NEWSLINE. While the legislation that they sponsored on our behalf will need to be pursued again in the next session, their steadfast

support of NEWSLINE, together with the Commission's funding over the years, lets us know that our commitment to provide accessible news and information is recognized and valued.

A Return to In-Person Events for NFBNY- NEWSLINE

What could be better than a day spent outdoors, at a lakeside park soaking in the sun? A day doing so in the company of others, conducting our first live NEWSLINE exhibit in over a year!

Our first in-person NEWSLINE event since the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic took place on June 13, 2021, at the Oswego Lions Club sponsored 2021 crafts



fair held at Breitbeck Park in Oswego New York. NFBNY-NEWSLINE Outreach Coordinator Bernice Bird, Jim Jonas, and I spent a spectacular early summer day along the shores of Lake Ontario enjoying the company of hundreds of craft fair patrons, browsing crafts on display by over fifty exhibitors, and partaking of good food and live music.

For us it was an opportunity to talk with folks about the work we do at NEWSLINE and to network. We distributed Kernel Books to interested children, the local bookmobile and provided information about NEWSLINE in a fun and festive atmosphere. It was a wonderful return to in-person events for NEWSLINE.

NEWSLINE is Now on Amazon Alexa

Yes, NEWSLINE is now available as a skill on the Amazon Alexa platform. If you are a subscriber and have an Amazon Echo product, just say: Alexa, open National

Federation. You will then hear a brief introduction and be prompted to log in by speaking your user ID number and four-digit code. Once you finish signing in you can select your content of choice.

Except for the commands to navigate between articles within a publication or section of a publication, all commands begin with: Alexa, ask National Federation to. To move through articles, just say, Alexa next or Alexa previous. Below is a listing of the basic commands you will need to begin enjoying NEWSLINE on your Amazon Alexa products. For each command in this list which specifies a particular publication, substitute your publication of choice.

- Alexa ask National Federation to read The New York Times
- Alexa ask National Federation to read the Wall Street Journal
- Alexa ask National Federation to go to next section
- Alexa ask National Federation to go to previous section
- Alexa ask National Federation to list publications from New York
- Alexa ask National Federation what sections are available
- Alexa ask National Federation to list issues

To move through articles just say, Alexa next or Alexa previous. Remember that all other commands need to begin with "Alexa ask National Federation to.

Selecting your preferred reading voice:

- Alexa ask National Federation to change voice.
- Alexa ask National Federation to use voice Paul.
- Alexa ask National Federation to use voice Kate.
- Alexa ask National Federation to use voice Eloquence.

To change the speed of the reading voice:

- Alexa ask National Federation to read a little faster.
- Alexa ask National Federation to read a little slower.
- Alexa ask National Federation to read much faster.
- Alexa ask National Federation to read much slower.

To have an article, a section, or a publication emailed to you:

- Alexa ask National Federation to email me this article.
- Alexa ask National Federation to email me this section.
- Alexa ask National Federation to email me this publication.

To add or delete a publication to or from your favorites, or to list the contents in your favorites:

- Alexa ask National Federation to add this to my favorites.
- Alexa ask National Federation to list my favorites.
- Alexa ask National Federation to delete this from my favorites.

If you have a question or need help using NEWSLINE with Alexa, or with anything else related to NEWSLINE, don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email. Our contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

New Magazines Added to NEWSLINE

Six new magazines are now available on Newsline:

- *Ability Magazine* focuses on issues of health and disability.
- *Animal Tales*, a children's magazine, shares animal stories.
- *Fast Company*, the world's leading progressive business media brand, focuses on innovation in technology, leadership, and design.

- *Forbes*, an American business magazine, educates on all things business.
- *J-14*, abbreviated from the original title "just for teens," entertains with all things celebrity.
- *Toastmasters* helps people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

Share the Awesome News about NEWSLINE!

Tens of thousands of people in New York State have a disability that limits or prevents reading print. We are committed to making sure that every New Yorker who is eligible for NEWSLINE can subscribe.

Every not-for-profit organization relies on the contributions of volunteers. NFBNY-NEWSLINE needs volunteers to help us reach out to potential subscribers.

The NYS NFB Student Division has made a commitment to help the NEWSLINE staff with educating their fellow students with a print disability about NFB-NEWSLINE when they return to their campuses. Thank you to our students.

Also, to show youngsters that even at an early age they can have

Braille access to interesting information, the BELL program is including a learning module about NEWSLINE.

If you know only one person you believe might benefit from using NEWSLINE, please contact us and we will help you with presenting the service to him or her. If you belong to or know about a group that includes people that you think would be eligible, contact us and we will talk with you about working with them. NEWSLINE needs you and your chapter, division, or group. You will find our contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Your Input is Valued and Always Welcome

After reading our last issue, one of our subscribers requested that we include information in this newsletter on using NEWSLINE on the Amazon Alexa platform. In response to her request our main article for this issue is devoted to that topic.

Do you have a question or topic you would like us to write about in this newsletter? Remember, if you want to know, probably others have the same question too. Email or call, and we will do our best to include that information in a future newsletter. Staff contact information can be found below.

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Watch for the NFB-NEWSLINE
newsletter coming to your inbox
again soon.