
Accessible News Anywhere

Highlights from NFBNY-NEWSLINE

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Greetings from President Robinson

At last, we are emerging from winter and eagerly looking forward to enjoying warm weather and being outside without needing to bundle up. As always, I want to thank you for subscribing to NFBNY-NEWSLINE.

Spring is a time for growth... So, in the spirit of creativity, we are introducing a new feature, a guest article written by one of our subscribers. These articles reflect the experiences, views, and opinions of their authors and do not reflect the views of NFBNY-NEWSLINE.

Our inaugural guest author is Mr. Chester M. Smalley. Using his many tools of blindness, Chet created a successful 20-year career

as a blind vendor before finishing his Masters in Orientation and Mobility at Louisiana Tech University. He spends his retirement as an active member, and treasurer, of the Alumni Association at the New York State School for the Blind. We hope that this is the first of many guest articles contributed by subscribers.

If you are interested in submitting an article, please let us know. As always, we provide our contact information at the end of the Newsletter.

Another Sad Farewell, This Time to Our Invaluable Administrative Assistant

Claudia Bienenfeld has served as NFBNY-NEWSLINE's Administrative Assistant since 2014. In this role she has worked tirelessly to keep the program moving forward even through the toughest of times.

No matter what has been asked of Claudia, she has delivered with professionalism, grace, and exacting diligence. She has put together grant applications, managed claims, called subscribers, kept meeting minutes, kept the rest of us on task, and most recently collaborated with me to turn my legendarily rough first drafts into polished final copy.

With a background in accounting and later as a teacher, Claudia brought many skills to NFBNY-NEWSLINE. We owe a real debt to Mindy and Carl Jacobsen for having hired Claudia, and to Claudia for enthusiastically and steadfastly embracing the work, and the mission of the National Federation of the Blind.

Claudia says that she is going to retire. If, and when she does, she will have more than earned it. However, it wouldn't surprise me if a year from now she is fully engaged in some new venture.

We Want to Connect with You

Your NFBNY-NEWSLINE team wants to connect with you. We plan to host monthly virtual events where we will: offer tips and tricks for optimizing your NFB-NEWSLINE experience; share info on upcoming NFB-NEWSLINE state initiatives; and gather subscriber feedback on how we can improve the service. To help us plan for this event we have put together a brief survey which we have posted to our local channel and as a Google form. You can access the survey online at [NFBNY-NEWSLINE Survey](#).

We want to know which of the following nights subscribers would prefer as a meeting time: 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30 PM; 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 PM; or 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

We also want to know how you learned about NFB-NEWSLINE; whether there are any features that are missing from the service that you would like to see added; and whether there are any New-York-State-specific resources other than newspapers that we should consider adding.

If you cannot access the online survey or would prefer to give us feedback by reaching out, please feel free to connect with us using the contact information provided at the end of the newsletter.

Now, We Can Read All About It

By Chester M. Smalley

Father Nelson was a man of generous proportions, with a commensurately booming voice. His enormous white beard matched his dominating nature, giving him license to play either Santa Claus or God, whichever persona fit the circumstance.

Father Nelson roamed the halls of Canisius College in the 1970's with complete confidence. He was, in addition to a devout Jesuit, a political science professor and a student of constitutional history. I yearned to absorb as much of his encyclopedic knowledge of the constitution as I could; but I was always frustrated by one of his thunderous commandments!

Those of us who were brave enough, or foolish enough, to spend 75 minutes each Tuesday and Thursday with Father Nelson were always charged with the

obligation to pick up a copy of "The New York Times" from the Canisius bookstore on Tuesdays—so, we could read all about the on-goings from the bench of the Supreme Court. In 1975, had I done that, I would have needed to pay my reader to read the paper to me. Today, that is not the case! Life is good!

NFB-NEWSLINE has been around for more than 40% of my life, having been launched in 1995. But not until October of 2013 when I finally plunged into the initially confusing world of Apple's operating system—first with an iPod Touch and then when I graduated to an iPhone—did I discover the magic of NFB-NEWSLINE's mobile application. And now I'm hooked. The evenings when you don't find me seated in my 24-year-old recliner swiping my way through the "New York Times" and "The Buffalo News" are evenings when I am off base. It is hard for me to imagine not having access to NFB-NEWSLINE.

The news that was presented by radio and television, before NFB-NEWSLINE, was the "news," to which blind people had independent access. Until I began reading the Braille edition of "The New York Times, Large Type

Weekly" (NYTLTW), I never realized the limited headline service I was receiving. Then I discovered that the stories in the NYTLTW were abridgments, frustrating me again! While, as a practical matter, NFB-NEWSLINE cannot present the entire newspaper, the articles subscribers now have full access to are not abridged!

The Internet is the place to go for complete coverage; but the internet is not necessarily a forum for all blind people. NFB-NEWSLINE is the closest we have come to having timely access to unabridged newspaper and magazine content. I am grateful to the giants of the Federation who brought this service in to existence almost 30 years ago.

Today, blind students of Father Nelson's successors can read all about the Supreme Court in "The New York Times," browsing articles written by legal scholars such as Linda Greenhouse and Adam Liptak! NFB-NEWSLINE is more than an invaluable tool; it is an integral element in the lives of blind people who want to be well informed. And remember, you need not be a digital expert, just pick up your phone, a device with age-old blind friendliness built in.

Using KNFB Reader Basic, Included in the NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile App

Version 3.0 of the NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile App for iOS includes KNFB Reader Basic. These free features of the KNFB Reader App allow NFB-NEWSLINE subscribers to quickly scan, read, and save text from printed pages. To take advantage of KNFB Reader Basic, download the NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile App to an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch from the Apple App Store and follow these simple steps.

Swipe left with three fingers until you get to the screen labeled NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile Settings. Once on that page use a one finger swipe either left or right to navigate between the various text boxes, buttons, and controls on the page. At the Subscriber ID text field, enter your six-digit subscriber identification number. At the field labeled Security Code enter your four-digit code.

On this page you can also, set your reading speed. To do this, swipe up with one finger to increase the reading speed, or swipe down with one finger to decrease the speed. You can also set the KNFB Reader Basic to automatically recognize

text and to automatically read text by setting these two buttons to 'on'. If you set them to 'off', you will have to press the 'Use Image' button on the KNFB Reader Basic screen after you have taken the picture of the text you want to read.

To begin using KNFB Reader Basic, do a three-finger swipe until you are on the KNFB Reader Basic screen. This is the place you will go to take a picture of any text you want to read. There are three buttons on the KNFB Reader screen. These controls are 'Take Picture', 'Tilt on/off', and 'Flash on/off/auto'. Swipe left or right using one finger to access these buttons. Double tap on each control to activate it.

The Take Picture button takes a picture of the text you want to read. The Tilt button lets you get a sense of whether the camera and the text are in alignment. The faster the taps on the phone or other device, the more off-center the text is. Use the Flash button to provide more light when taking a picture. The amount of available light can affect accuracy. If you are having trouble getting an accurate scan, try changing the flash settings and/or using the tilt feature to improve results.

Once you have taken a picture of the text, if you have set the automatically recognize text and automatically speak text to on, you will be placed in the recognized text page and the scanned text will be automatically read. If these buttons are set to off, you will have to navigate to, and double tap the 'Use Picture' button to have the image recognized and go to the recognized text screen.

On the recognized text screen, you will find the text you want to read. You will also find the following buttons. At the top left of the screen is a button labeled 'Image Previous' which when double tapped takes you back to the KNFB Reader Basic screen. Use this button if you are done or do not want to use the recognized text. The button or control on the top right of the screen is labeled 'Add'. Double tapping this button will also take you back to the KNFB Reader Basic screen, however, the currently recognized text will be kept so that you can add to it. When using the add feature the top left of the image, or KNFB-Reader screen, now has a closed button which when double tapped will take you back to the recognized text screen. On the lower left of the recognize text screen is the 'Start Speaking' button. If you have set

the Automatically Speak Text button to off, double tap this button to start reading the recognized text using the KNFB Reader's built-in voice. The button label switches to 'Stop Speaking'. Double tap this button if you want to stop reading.

On the bottom right of the recognize text screen is the 'Share' button. This allows you to save your content to the queue, for later reading on the app. It also allows you to export the text to another application such as Word or to convert the content to a PDF.

The KNFB Reader Basic is a simple, yet powerful scanning tool. Using it will give you access to printed materials that would otherwise not be independently accessible. With this tool, you can now read printed text on the go or save for later use.

If, for what ever reason, you need your subscriber information, please call, or email us. Our contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

We'd love to know how you are using this handy feature of the NFB-NEWSLINE App. With your permission, we will share some

examples of how KNFB Reader Basic is expanding your horizons. Look out for that in our next issue.

Your Input is Valued and Always Welcomed

If you have a question, or a specific topic that you would like us to cover in a future newsletter, please let us know. Our revised contact information appears below.

Also, we are scheduling online and a limited number of in-person presentations. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation please let us know.

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