

NATIONAL FEDERATION  
**OF THE BLIND**

*Live the life you want.*

**2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**JULY 7 to JULY 12**

THE MEMBERS OF THE  
HOST AFFILIATE COMMITTEE  
WELCOME YOU TO THE  
79<sup>th</sup> 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

*Terri Rupp, President*  
National Federation of the Blind  
of Nevada

*Dana Ard, President*  
National Federation of the Blind  
of Idaho

*Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino*  
3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119  
877-632-9001

## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to the 79<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind being held in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. A detailed description of the layout of the hotel can be found immediately after the Convention Notes, which are at the end of the program listings. Check the Convention Notes for further information about a variety of convention topics. When you check in to the hotel, you will be asked to confirm your departure date. If you decide to leave earlier than the departure date you confirm when you check in, there may be a change fee.

## **ROOKIE ROUNDUP**



All first-time convention attendees are cordially invited to attend a reception from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, in the South Pacific F Ballroom. President Riccobono and other Federation leaders will be on hand to welcome you to the convention and preview the week's activities. Veteran conventioners should urge all first-timers to attend this special event.

## **INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, AND SOCIAL CONDUCT**

As an attendee at our convention, you not only represent yourself but also represent our greater organization. We want you to enjoy our time together and to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Although we encourage members to socialize and have fun, the convention also provides a valuable opportunity to come together to continue the work of our organization, to learn about the important initiatives that we are involved with on local and national levels, and to plan our work for the future.

The National Federation of the Blind seeks to provide a convention environment in which diverse participants, including members, speakers, exhibitors, staff, and volunteers, may learn, network, and enjoy the company of friends and colleagues in an environment of mutual respect and professionalism. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are therefore specifically prohibited:

- harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, physical appearance, or other group identity
- sexual harassment or intimidation, including unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or unsolicited physical contact

- public drunkenness and associated behaviors (e.g., belligerence, yelling, hostility, destruction of property)

Participants are expected to abide by these rules and behaviors in all convention venues, including online arenas, social media, and social events. Participants who are asked to stop a behavior that the recipient considers hostile or harassing are expected to comply immediately.

For assistance or to report an incident, please call 443-216-9777. All formal reports will be fully investigated according to the steps outlined in our Code of Conduct. Based on the information found in the investigation, appropriate action will be taken and may involve staff, organization leaders, and legal counsel. Based on the circumstances, hotel security and/or law enforcement may become involved, when appropriate.

We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas. These principles have been delineated in our Code of Conduct found at <https://nfb.org/code-conduct>.

## **PREREGISTRATION AND ON-SITE REGISTRATION**

Registration activities take place in the foyers outside the Islander and South Pacific Ballrooms beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday. At 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday and at other times as listed throughout the week, registration activities will be located at the Islander Registration Desk. All convention attendees (both local and from out of town) are asked to register. Those who preregistered for convention may pick up their registration packets in the area designated "Preregistration." Those who did not preregister may go to the area designated "Registration." Please have your check or cash ready to pay the registration fee of \$30 per person; **we cannot accept credit cards at registration**. 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 Islander Ballroom. There is a special sponsor-only exhibitor preview for convention attendees on Monday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

### **Exhibit Hall hours of operation are:**

Monday	9:00 to 11:00 AM (sponsors only)
Monday	11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tuesday	8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Wednesday	Noon to 1:45 PM, and 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Thursday	Noon to 1:45 PM (final opportunity to visit the Exhibit Hall)

**Independence Market hours of operation are:**

Monday	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Wednesday	Noon to 1:45 PM
Thursday	Noon to 1:45 PM (final opportunity to visit the Market)

**SPECIAL ATTENTION ITEMS**

- The Presidential and Hospitality Suites are both open during much of the convention. All are welcome to come to the suites to visit. Appointments to meet with President Riccobono may be made at the Presidential Suite.

The Presidential and Hospitality Suites will be open during the following times:

Saturday	4:00 to 7:00 PM
Sunday	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Monday	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Tuesday	7:00 to 9:00 AM, and 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM
Wednesday	7:00 to 9:00 AM, Noon to 2:00 PM, and 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Thursday	7:00 to 9:00 AM, Noon to 2:00 PM, and 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Friday	7:00 to 9:00 AM, and Noon to 2:00 PM

- Banquet tickets may be purchased for \$75 by cash or check at the on-site registration area. No tickets will be available after 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday. At the banquet ticket exchange table, 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 or kosher meals at the banquet ticket exchange table if done so by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Banquet ticket exchange will be located outside the South Pacific Ballroom at the following times:

Tuesday	Noon to 2:00 PM
Wednesday	8:45 to 9:15 AM, and Noon to 2:00 PM
Thursday	8:15 to 8:45 AM, and Noon to 2:00 PM
Friday	8:15 to 8:45 AM, and Noon to 2:00 PM

- General Sessions will be held in South Pacific Ballroom E through J.
- Individuals needing to conduct business with the NFB treasurer may do so by going to the South Pacific Registration Desk on Wednesday between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., or on Thursday between noon and 2:00 p.m.

# CONVENTION AGENDA



**SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019**

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**7:30 - 8:45 AM**—AMATEUR RADIO DIVISION—EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## **Coral B**

Discuss convention frequencies, hotel architectural features, and distribution of special FM receivers for the hearing-impaired and Spanish-speaking attendees. David Chan (NC6D), President

**7:30 AM - 4:45 PM**—BLINDNESS SKILLS: THE ONLY SURE BET IN VEGAS  
**Tradewinds D**

Registration: adults, \$35; two or more adults, \$50; children (ages 0-18), free. Sponsored by the NFB's National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Division (NOPBC). Carlton Anne Cook Walker, President

7:30-8:45 AM—Registration

9:00-10:45 AM—General Session

11:00 AM-12:15 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session I

Convention 411—**Tradewinds D**

Science Is Everywhere! (focuses on children 0-8)—**Tradewinds E**

Saving for the Future with ABLE Accounts—**Tradewinds F**

Cane or Guide Dog: I Use Both—**Tropics A**

2:00-3:15 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session II

Sensory Integration Therapy—**Tradewinds D**

Late Elementary/Early Middle School Science—**Tradewinds E**

Science in Middle, High School, and Beyond—**Tradewinds F**

Blindness Skills or Visual Skills? Efficiency's the Key—**Tropics A**

3:30-4:45 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops Session III

Creating Tactile Maps—**Tradewinds D**

Creating Tactile Models for Scientific Concepts—**Tradewinds E**

Saving for the Future with ABLE Accounts—**Tradewinds F**

The Transition to College or Work—**Tropics A**

**7:30 AM - 5:00 PM**—CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND—EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REHABILITATION AND ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CONFERENCE

## **Tradewinds C**

Registration: students, \$75; professionals, \$85 before June 15, (\$100 after that date). Sponsors: National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) and the Professional Development & Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB) at the Louisiana Tech University. Dr. Edward Bell, Chair

7:30-8:30 AM—Registration

8:30 AM—Conference Begins



## **SUNDAY, JULY 7, Continued**

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### **8:00 AM - 12:00 PM—KRAFTERS MARKETPLACE**

#### **Coral A**

Looking for that one-of-a-kind souvenir from convention? Want to support Federation entrepreneurs? Shop the Krafters marketplace for beautiful and unique handmade creations. Tammy Freitag, President

### **8:30 AM—CHILD-CARE SERVICES**

(Preregistration by June 15 was required.)

Please see Convention Note 6 for further information.

### **8:30 - 11:30 AM—WHAT'S NEW WITH JAWS, FUSION, AND ZOOMTEXT**

#### **Tradewinds F**

Discounted home annual licenses for all attendees! Join Eric Damery for his annual user group NFB meeting with everyone using JAWS, Fusion, or ZoomText. Demonstration and discussion of all the new developments during the past year. Eric Damery

### **8:30 AM - 12:00 PM—JERNIGAN INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS**

#### **Tropics A**

8:30-8:35 AM—Welcome; Karl Belanger, Presenter

8:35-10:05 AM—Stem Resources to Help Blind Students Excel;  
Matt Hackert, Presenter

10:30 AM-12:00 PM—Fun and Learning with Arduino; Chancey Fleet,  
Presenter

### **9:00 AM - 12:15 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)**

#### **Shell Seekers A and B**

### **9:00 AM - 4:00 PM—SPORTS AND RECREATION WORKSHOPS**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom J**

Sponsored by the Sports & Recreation Division, Jessica Beecham, President

9:00-10:00 AM—Guide Running/Walking 101: Come learn all about guide running/walking! Check out tethers, learn about resources for finding guides and running groups, and get the chance to try it out!

10:30 AM-12:00 PM—Eating Healthy on a Budget: During this interactive session, we will discuss topics including meal prep, budgeting, understanding nutritional facts, and alternative techniques for accessing nutrition information. Bring your ideas and questions.



## **SUNDAY, JULY 7, Continued**

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12:30-1:30 PM—Yoga for Beginners: Come practice yoga in an open and judgement-free environment with a blind yoga instructor. We welcome yogis of all ability levels, but this session is targeted toward beginners. We will not have mats, so bring a mat or towel from your room.

2:00-3:30 PM—One Touch Self-Defense: Come learn One Touch Self-Defense, a form of self-defense designed with the blind in mind.

### **12:30 - 1:45 PM—LUNCH WITH NOPBC BOARD**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom A**

Get to know your NOPBC board in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Grab some food from the food court or a restaurant and join members of the NOPBC board for a brown bag lunch as we get to know one another and share our experiences and ideas. Carlton Anne Cook Walker, President

### **1:00 - 3:30 PM—SENIORS DIVISION SEMINAR—GET MOVIN', BE HEALTHY, STAY HEALTHY (\$5)**

#### **Tradewinds C**

The NFB Senior Division with Jessica Beecham hosts a health and wellness seminar; stretching exercises and a healthy living discussion for anyone of any age. Get inspired! Reach new goals and meet a bunch of seniors actively promoting healthy living. Ruth Sager, President

### **1:00 - 5:00 PM—JOB SEEKER SEMINAR**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom B**

This year's seminar and breakout sessions are designed to give you the exact skills you need to get a job using our career fair and other NFB resources. Get overall information at the large group seminar and hone your job-seeking skills at the small group breakouts. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee. Dick Davis, Chair

1:00-3:00 PM—Large Group Seminar for Jobseekers and Employers

3:00-5:00 PM—Small Group Training and Discussions

### **2:00 - 4:00 PM—HIMS USER GROUP**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom C**

HIMS believes choice is vital! Polaris math and Google drive integration, QBraille's hybrid keyboard (QWERTY keys and Perkins comfort), or the Actilino's active tactile control are unique and innovative solutions that don't exist anywhere else. Come to our user group and check it out.



## **SUNDAY, JULY 7, Continued**

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**2:00 - 5:30 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)  
**Shell Seekers A and B**

**5:00 - 7:30 PM**—MIX-AND-MINGLE RECEPTION FOR REHABILITATION  
PROFESSIONALS  
**Tropics B**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**—NOPBC FAMILY HOSPITALITY  
**South Pacific Ballroom A**

Relax, chat, meet new families and teachers, and connect with old friends. Veteran attendees will be on hand to welcome you and provide information.

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**—MUJERES OF THE FEDERATION  
**Tradewinds E**

Join us for a keynote address from a dynamic Latina leader. This session will provide inspiration and mentorship opportunities for the next generation of blind Latina trailblazers. ¡No te lo pierdas! Shawn Callaway and Rosy Carranza, Co-Chairs, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

**6:00 - 8:30 PM**—EXHIBITORS SHOWCASE PRESENTED BY THE  
TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION COMMITTEE  
**Tradewinds C**

Come explore ways to evaluate new products. Hear the technology-related exhibitors briefly explain what they are exhibiting and where they are located in the exhibit hall. All are welcome. Mark Jones, Chair

**6:00 - 9:00 PM**—2019 NAGDU SEMINAR  
**Tradewinds D**

Come join other guide dog users. Learn about common household products that can be harmful to our dogs, get your burning questions answered from a seasoned veterinarian, and hear from a panel of owner-trained guide dog users. Marion Gwizdala, President

6:00 PM—Registration

7:00 PM—Welcome



## **SUNDAY, JULY 7, Continued**

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### **6:00 - 9:30 PM—JERNIGAN INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS**

#### **Tropics A**

6:30-7:30 PM—Low-Vision Accessibility Faceoff: iOS vs. Android; Kennedy Zimnik, Presenter

8:00-9:30 PM—Basic Braille Production for the Home User; Steve Booth, Presenter

### **6:30 - 10:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)**

#### **Shell Seekers A and B**

### **6:30 - 10:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND OFFICE PROFESSIONALS**

#### **Coral C**

Learn about assistive technology in the workplace, training opportunities, and any job announcements available. Lisa Hall, President

6:30 PM—Registration

### **7:00 - 8:30 PM—LIVING HISTORY GROUP**

#### **Coral A**

Dedicated to recording, preserving, and appreciating Federation history. Michael Freholm, Chair

### **7:00 - 9:00 PM—BLACK LEADERS ADVANCING THE FEDERATION**

#### **Tradewinds F**

Celebrate the numerous contributions of black Federation leaders. Let's inspire youth through personal empowerment, leadership development, and mentorship. All are welcome to attend. Shawn Callaway and Rosy Carranza, Co-Chairs, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

### **7:30 - 9:30 PM—NABS STUDENT NETWORKING**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom D**

Kick off your convention right by joining our students, of all ages and from across the country, to mix and mingle, make friends, and reconnect with old ones before the week gets started! NABS leadership is so excited to meet you at our annual networking event! Kathryn Webster, President



## **SUNDAY, JULY 7, Continued**

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**7:30 - 9:30 PM—HISPANIC SEMINAR**

**Tradewinds E**

Blindness is blindness, no matter the language. Learn about Federation philosophy and the truth about blindness—in Spanish. Alpidio Rolón, Moderator

**8:00 - 9:30 PM—ROOKIE ROUNDUP**

**South Pacific Ballroom F**

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 Vice President, National Federation of the Blind; President, National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana; Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind

**8:00 PM - Midnight—KARAOKE NIGHT** 🎵🎵 (Admission: \$6)

**South Pacific Ballroom AB**

Here's your chance to sing like a rock star and help support BLIND, Inc. youth programs. Enjoy music, door prizes, and a cash bar as you learn about innovative programs at BLIND, Inc. Show us your talent! Hosted by BLIND, Incorporated.

**9:00 - 10:00 PM—NFB AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Coral A**

Dan Burke, Chair



**MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019**

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**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP**  
**Pacific Registration Desk**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—REGISTRATION (\$30) AND BANQUET TICKET SALES (\$75)**  
**Bayview Court South**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—INDEPENDENCE MARKET**  
**Islander Ballroom**

**9:00 - 11:00 AM—SPONSOR-LEVEL EXHIBITORS PREVIEW**  
**Islander Ballroom**

The exhibit hall opens its doors and is dedicated solely to sponsor-level exhibitors. Come say “thank you” to our sponsors and enjoy their interesting offers and demonstrations. Our exhibiting convention sponsors follow:

**Elite:**

Aira Tech Corp

**Platinum:**

Google, Inc.; HumanWare; Microsoft Corporation; OrCam Technologies; UPS; Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Vispero

**Gold:**

BlindShell, Uber

**Silver:**

Amazon, Delta Air Lines, Lyft, Pearson

**Bronze:**

Educational Testing Service (ETS), National Industries for the Blind, Sprint, VitalSource Technologies

**White Cane:**

C&P - Chris Park; Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Duxbury Systems, Inc; Election Systems & Software; En-Vision America; Envision, Inc.; HIMS, Inc.; Law School Admission Council, Inc.; Nevada Blind Children's Foundation; RTB Safe Traffic, Inc.; TRE Legal Practice



## **MONDAY, JULY 8, Continued**

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**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)  
**Shell Seekers A and B**

**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**—2019 EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR  
**Tradewinds F**

All convention attendees are invited to gain confidence, embrace individuality, and explore ways to feel empowered through challenging ourselves. Blind people continue to advocate, but it takes a village, not a single person, to break down society's misconceptions. Pam Allen, Chair and Vice President, National Federation of the Blind; President, National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana; and Kathryn Webster, President, National Association of Blind Students, Facilitators

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**—GETTING YOUR NFB BELL ACADEMY UP AND RUNNING

**Mariners B**

Would your affiliate like to host an NFB BELL Academy next summer? If this'll be your first time, or it's been a while since the BELL rang in your state, you'll want to be here! Come for an overview of the training, planning, and prep required to run a successful NFB BELL Academy. Carla McQuillan, NFB BELL Coordinator

**11:00 AM - 5:00 PM**—EXHIBIT HALL  
**Islander Ballroom**

**1:00 PM**—RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

**South Pacific Ballroom**

Sharon Maneki, Chair

**1:00 - 2:15 PM**—ABLE ACCOUNTS: EMPOWERING YOUR OPPORTUNITIES  
**Tradewinds F**

The ABLE Act continues to purposefully impact the lives of people with disabilities. Learn more about its empowering choices, financial inclusions, and positive impacts in your life. Eric Ochmanek, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer of Ohio



## **MONDAY, JULY 8, Continued**

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### **1:00 - 2:30 PM—MASTER THE BASICS OF MANAGING YOUR MONEY**

#### **Tradewinds E**

In this session, you'll discover the benefits of using a financial institution, opening checking and savings accounts, and keeping track of your money. Learn how to choose checking and savings accounts that are right for you; make purchases and pay bills with ATM cards, debit cards, and checks; track and manage your transactions; and avoid or minimize fees. In addition, learn the basics of budgeting and gain access to tools to help you create a personal spending plan.

### **1:00 - 4:00 PM—DEAFBLIND HOPE: HAVE ONLY POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS**

#### **Coral A**

Join our workshop designed to give unique solutions and create positive changes for those who live with a combined loss of hearing and sight. Featuring presentations from Sprint IP Relay, CapTel, BookShare, Aira, and more. Sponsored by the NFB Deaf-Blind Division. Alice Eaddy, President

1:00-1:30 PM—Registration (\$5)

### **1:00 - 4:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH STYLE SHOW**

#### **Tradewinds D**

Our young blind models and NFB stars strut their stuff on the runway. We extend a special invitation to our kids with additional disabilities. Come enjoy the fashions and music and support NOPBC. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Penny Duffy, First Vice President, NOPBC, and Carlton Anne Cook Walker, President, NOPBC

1:00 PM—Rehearsal

2:30 PM—Style Show Begins

### **1:00 - 4:00 PM—BLIND MUSICIANS GROUP**

#### **Coral C**

Master class on improvisation and performances by attendees. Parents and students are welcome. Linda Mentink and Chris Nusbaum, Co-Chairs

### **1:00 - 4:45 PM—HUMANWARE PRODUCT SHOWCASE**

#### **Tropics B**

1:00-1:30 PM—What's New and Trendy in Low-Vision Tech?

1:30-3:00 PM—The Newest Features of the BrailleNote Touch Plus and Brailiant BI14

3:00-4:00 PM—Victor Readers Unite! Learn Some New VR Tricks

4:00-4:45 PM—Participate in an Open Forum with HumanWare!



## **MONDAY, JULY 8, Continued**

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**1:00 - 5:00 PM**—NFB NATIONAL CAREER FAIR

**South Pacific Ballroom AB**

Forty-five employers, face-to-face. They really want to hire you if you have the right stuff. Do you? Dress for interviews (we mean it), bring a polished résumé and cover letter, and get ready to sell yourself. Attend the Job Seeker Seminar for information on their needs and how to impress them. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee. Dick Davis, Chair

1:00-3:00 PM—Career Fair

3:30-5:00 PM—Employer Interviews (by Appointment Only)

**1:00 - 5:00 PM**—AIRA AFTERNOON DELIGHT

**Coral B**

The afternoon sessions begin with post-secondary education discussions with BTS students and Aira representatives. Just as in life, our education talk will be followed by an employment discussion, first, as a resource in identifying and securing a job, then using Aira on the job.

**1:00 - 5:30 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)

**Shell Seekers A and B**

**1:00 - 6:00 PM**—NFB-NEWSLINE® DEMONSTRATION OPEN HOUSE

**Tropics A**

Stop by and learn how the information sources of NFB-NEWSLINE can help you become a part of your community's conversation and live the life you want. Now available on Amazon Alexa! Our NFB-NEWSLINE experts are here to answer your questions. Not a subscriber? We can sign you up on the spot!

**1:00 - 6:00 PM**—KNFB READER OPEN HOUSE: LEARN HOW TO POINT, SHOOT, AND READ!

**Tropics A**

Read inaccessible print and PDFs with KNFB Reader! KNFB Reader uses the power of digital photography and a specially designed mobile device app to read print on the go using your iOS, Android, or Windows 10 computer. Come get your questions answered and request a demonstration from KNFB Reader experts.

**1:00 - 8:00 PM**—INSPIRING ARTISTS, BEGINNERS TO PROS

**Tradewinds C**

1:00-5:00 PM—Drop-in Activities: Free activities for all! Make tactile drawings and sculpt with friends. Contact: [ann@acunningham.com](mailto:ann@acunningham.com) for information about exhibiting your artwork.



## **MONDAY, JULY 8, Continued**

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6:00-8:00 PM—Let's Explore Perspective: Learn how perspective works in pictures and create your own. Deborah Kent Stein and Ann Cunningham, Coordinators

### **3:00 - 4:30 PM—USING CREDIT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE**

#### **Tradewinds E**

Learn the basics of credit, including information on credit scores, how to obtain and read a credit report, and how to establish a good credit history. In addition, you'll learn how to use your credit to your advantage to help you achieve your goals and dreams. Attend this session to learn about the types of loans available; how to shop for, compare, and choose a loan product; how to choose a lender; and how to protect yourself from risk.

### **4:15 - 5:45 PM—TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MOCK TRIAL (Admission: \$5)**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom CD**

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 portrayals are very entertaining. Scott LaBarre, President, National Association of Blind Lawyers

### **4:30 - 6:00 PM—ASIAN MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Coral A**

Contribute and gather ideas on how to provide culturally relevant outreach and support to the Asian community. Your thoughts are critical in shaping the course of this initiative. Shawn Callaway and Rosy Carranza, Co-Chairs, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

### **4:30 - 6:30 PM—BLIND CANCER SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP**

#### **Coral C**

Join us for a meet and greet, a panel discussion, and personal stories of strength and courage. Our group's purpose is to help all cancer survivors get well and stay well, to offer preventive measures, and to create a platform for cohesive dialogue and information dissemination. Isaiah Nelson, Coordinator

### **5:00 - 7:00 PM—ACCESSIBILITY @ MICROSOFT + WINDOWS MAGNIFIER**

#### **Tradewinds E**

Microsoft's mission is to empower every person and organization on the planet to achieve more. Blind and low-vision employees share our latest efforts to embed accessibility into our products, websites, services, and culture. Deep dive into Windows Magnifier improvements. And peek into what's next!



## **MONDAY, JULY 8, Continued**

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**5:00 - 10:00 PM**—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND VETERANS  
RECEPTION AND MEETING

**Tradewinds F**

All veterans are invited to our reception and meeting. We will hold our semi-annual elections and conduct our annual business meeting after the reception.

Dwight Sayer, President

5:00 PM—Reception

7:00 PM—National Meeting

**6:00 - 9:30 PM**—AIRA EVENING NIGHTCAP

**Coral B**

Join us for “a look under the hood” as we discuss our inclusive design and product development process. We’ll also spark a post-dinner conversation about the Aira mindset. And will hear from Aira Explorers from different walks of life, who will discuss their own Aira experiences.

**6:15 - 10:00 PM**—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS (NABS)

**South Pacific Ballroom CD**

Students of all ages are warmly invited to the National Association of Blind Students annual meeting! This year think: interactive and engaging presenters, fun door prizes, and special performers that make this event not worth missing!

Kathryn Webster, President

6:15 PM—Registration (\$5)

7:00 PM—Meeting

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)

**Shell Seekers B**

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**—NFB-NEWSLINE®: ALEXA IS IN THE HOUSE!

**Tropics A**

Learn about the NFB’s free, audible information service for the blind, with specific information on how to talk to Amazon Alexa to read over five hundred publications by using your voice. Other 2019 service enhancements will be covered. Plus, share your ideas for new content with NFB-NEWSLINE staff.

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**—DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tropics B**

We are providing an avenue to share experiences, explore strategies, and generate ideas to support NFB diversity efforts. Get involved in this aspect of our movement. Shawn Callaway and Rosy Carranza, Co-Chairs



## **MONDAY, JULY 8, Continued**

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### **7:00 - 10:30 PM—SPORTS AND RECREATION WORKSHOPS**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom B**

Sponsored by the Sports and Recreation Division. Jessica Beecham, President  
7:00-8:30 PM and 9:00-10:30 PM—One Touch Self-Defense: Come learn  
One Touch Self-Defense, a form of self-defense designed with the blind in  
mind.

### **7:00 - 10:00 PM—ACTING WORKSHOP**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom A**

The Performing Arts Division will sponsor our first-ever acting experience class.  
Marilee Talkington, a professional actor, will deliver a training session covering  
performing from script to stage. Spots are first-come, first-served. Please contact  
Julie McGinnity at [jmcginnity@nfb.org](mailto:jmcginnity@nfb.org) if interested.

### **7:30 - 8:30 PM—JUDAISM MEETING**

#### **Coral C**

David Stayer, Chair, NFB in Judaism Group

### **7:30 - 9:00 PM—LIBRARY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **Coral A**

Learn about new developments at the National Library Service and Bookshare,  
discuss the accessibility of public libraries and how can libraries best serve our  
needs. David Hyde and Marci Carpenter, Co-Chairs

### **7:30 - 9:30 PM—BLIND PARENTS GROUP**

#### **Tradewinds D**

Share techniques for traveling with young children, connecting with other parents  
in your community, and resources available to blind parents. Lisamaria Martinez  
and Briley O'Connor, Co-Presenters

### **9:00 - 10:00 PM—SPANISH TRANSLATION COMMITTEE**

#### **Coral C**

Call for interpreters! We provide simultaneous interpreting services at our  
national convention, from English to Spanish, during the open board meeting,  
general sessions, and banquet. Please join us in our committee meeting if you  
would like to help with these efforts. Daniel Martinez, Chair



**TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2018**

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**7:30 - 8:30 AM—PRESIDENTIAL DIVERSITY MORNING MIXER**

**Tradewinds C**

This gathering provides an open opportunity to engage with national leaders to chat about diversity and inclusion topics. Please drop in and share your ideas, suggestions, and thoughts about our continued efforts to broaden the participation and advancement of blind people from diverse backgrounds in our movement. Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind, Facilitator

**8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP**

**Islander Registration Desk**

**8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—REGISTRATION (\$30) AND BANQUET TICKET SALES (\$75)**

**Islander Registration Desk**

**8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—EXHIBIT HALL and INDEPENDENCE MARKET**

**Islander Ballroom**

**9:00 - 11:30 AM—NFB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Open to All)**

**South Pacific Ballroom**

**12:30 - 2:30 PM—SPORTS AND RECREATION DIVISION MEETING**

**Coral B**

Join us for a high-energy meeting where we will discuss the business of the division and provide information, tools, and motivation to help you live the life you want through health and wellness. Stay after and participate in some of our fun workshops! Jessica Beecham, President

**12:30 - 4:00 PM—SENIORS LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT RETREAT AND MORE**

**Tradewinds E**

Please join us for our annual business meeting to learn about Aira and to hear from retreat participants about their experience at our first senior retreat at Rocky Bottom, South Carolina. Meet "The Blind History Lady" in person. Share details of upcoming senior events in your state. Ruth Sager, President

12:30 PM—Registration (\$5)

1:30 PM—Meeting



## **TUESDAY, JULY 9, Continued**

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### **12:30 - 5:00 PM—DIABETES ACTION NETWORK SEMINAR**

#### **Coral C**

Roll call and introductions. Two guest speakers from IRA and Local CDE, (respectively). Discussion followed by a business meeting which will include old and new business and will conclude with elections and final comments.

Bernadette Jacobs, President

12:30-1:15 PM—Registration

### **12:30 - 6:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND LAWYERS DIVISION MEETING AND RECEPTION**

#### **Tropics B**

Examine laws affecting blind people and others with disabilities; address ongoing struggles to gain equal access to websites, employment, legal texts, and exams; share practice tips for blind lawyers. Scott LaBarre, President

12:30 PM—Registration

1:00 PM—Meeting Begins

4:00 PM—Reception

### **12:30 - 5:00 PM—NFB IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

#### **Tradewinds C**

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

12:30 PM—Registration

### **12:45 - 4:30 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND MERCHANTS**

#### **Tradewinds D**

We are growing beyond Randolph Sheppard and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities through our emerging leaders and women's initiatives. We will also address current issues, challenges, and growing our division to grow the Federation. Nicky Gacos, President

### **1:00 - 3:45 PM—NOPBC MEETING**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom A**

Keynote address by the 2019 Distinguished Educator of Blind Children; mix-and-mingle with vendors, blind mentors, and other parents; learn about cutting-edge products and programs for our youth; Parent Power; business meeting; elections; and much more! Carlton Anne Cook Walker, President



## **TUESDAY, JULY 9, Continued**

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**1:00 - 4:30 PM**—NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLIND EDUCATORS

**Tradewinds F**

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

**1:00 - 5:00 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)

**Shell Seekers A**

**1:00 - 5:00 PM**—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS

**South Pacific Ballroom B**

Share resources and strategies for successful blindness training and services. Collaborate together on how we can spread our hope, energy, and love in all blindness rehabilitation programs. Amy Porterfield, President

1:00 PM—Registration and Networking (\$5)

2:00 PM—Call to Order

**1:00 - 5:00 PM**—HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

**Coral A**

We are a diverse group of blind professionals and students who have a passion for working with people. Please join us for our annual meeting that includes a networking session during our last hour. Candice Chapman, President

1:00 PM—Registration (\$5)

2:00-5:00 PM—Division Meeting

**2:30 - 5:00 PM**—PROFESSIONALS IN BLINDNESS EDUCATION

**Tropics A**

All professionals working with 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. Eric Guillory, President

2:30 PM—Registration

3:00 PM—Meeting



## **TUESDAY, JULY 9, Continued**

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### **2:45 - 5:30 PM—SPORTS & RECREATION DIVISION WORKSHOPS**

#### **Coral B**

Sponsored by the Sports and Recreation Division. Jessica Beecham, President

2:45-3:30 PM—Anytime Anywhere Fitness: Learn how to arrange basic body weight fitness moves into a powerful exercise routine that can be done anywhere, any time, and with no equipment.

3:30-4:30 PM—Advanced Yoga: Come practice yoga in an open and judgement-free environment with a blind instructor. While we welcome yogis of all abilities, this session is designed for someone who has practiced yoga in the past, has a basic proficiency, and is ready to move through a challenging class.

5:00-5:30 PM—Meditation: Wind down after a stimulating day at convention with a guided meditation session.

### **5:00 - 6:30 PM—BRAILLE BOOK FAIR: PRESENTING SPONSOR WELLS FARGO**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom CD**

Browse tables of new and used Braille and print/Braille books. There will be fiction, nonfiction, early readers through multi-volume novels, cookbooks, and more. Through a collaboration with our literacy partner, the Wells Fargo Foundation, the books are offered at no cost to the reader. Volunteers will box and prepare them to be shipped to the reader's home via Free Matter for the Blind. Donations are encouraged. Krystal Guillory, Coordinator

### **6:00 - 9:00 PM—NFB IN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH**

#### **Tropics A**

Speakers will discuss how their faith has helped them face and overcome challenges. Also hear representatives from various faith-based libraries and publishing houses describe what their various organizations do. Tom Anderson, President

12:30 PM—Registration



## **TUESDAY, JULY 9, Continued**

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### **6:00 - 9:00 PM—EMPOWERING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE**

#### **Coral C**

Service starts here. We invite you to take the vow to serve others at our annual meeting. Don't hesitate, take a gamble on community service! You are guaranteed to win... so just say I DO! Jeanetta Price, President

### **6:00 - 9:00 PM—PERFORMING ARTS DIVISION**

#### **Tradewinds F**

Join the conversation! Let your voice be heard in our discussion of representation in Hollywood. We will plan for the future of blindness in the entertainment industry and then tackle the stage together with a practical performance experience. Julie McGinnity, President

### **6:00 - 9:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GUIDE DOG USERS**

#### **Tradewinds C**

Inside the life of a puppy raiser. Get current updates from Uber, Lyft, and the airline industry. Elect our leaders! Marion Gwizdala, President

6:00-6:45 PM—Registration (\$5 Membership dues. Affiliate members are members of NAGDU.)

7:00 PM—Call to Order

### **6:30 - 9:00 PM—ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINERS DIVISION**

#### **Tropics B**

Join us for expert panels on person-centered tech assessments and teaching tech through structured discovery, lightning talks on data privacy and G Suite, and networking with your community of practice. Everyone welcome! Chancey Fleet, President

6:30 PM—Registration (\$5)

### **6:00 - 9:30 PM—NFB DEAF-BLIND DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **Tradewinds E**

Get updates on national issues affecting the deaf-blind community, technology, and the division's business matters. Alice Eaddy, President

6:00 PM—Registration (\$5)



## **TUESDAY, JULY 9, Continued**

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### **6:30 - 10:00 PM—SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DIVISION**

#### **Tradewinds D**

6:30 PM—Registration

7:00 PM—Meeting

Learn how to use Excel for handling statistics. Learn how the blind can gain access to graphics and mathematical material. Learn about the project to survey the blindness accessibility of college and graduate school programs. John Miller, President

### **7:00 - 9:00 PM—CENTURY CELEBRATION BRAILLE CARNIVAL**

#### **South Pacific Ballroom AB**

Come one come all to the Braille carnival to celebrate one-hundred years of literacy projects offered by the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults (AAF). Enjoy exploring the history of the Action Fund, interacting with Braille-related activities, sharing your story about the AAF's free Braille books and calendars, and even winning some prizes worthy of this memorable milestone. Sponsored by the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults.

### **7:00 - 9:00 PM—NFB KRAFTERS DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **Coral A**

If you have an interest in crafts or just a curiosity, come join us as we review our eleventh year, plan the twelfth year, and make new friends. Yes, blindness does NOT stop us from creating beautiful crafts. We just work together to learn different ways to be creative. Tammy Freitag, President

### **7:30 - 9:00 PM—DADS' NIGHT OUT**

All dads, sighted and blind, are welcome. Contact Corbb O'Connor at 703-309-4884 for location. Sponsored by NOPBC.

### **8:00 - 9:00 PM—FRIENDS OF RECOVERY MEETING**

#### **Coral B**

All convention attendees interested in getting or remaining clean and sober are welcome to our confidential meeting. A second Friends of Recovery meeting will be Thursday at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call 304-994-5103. Sheri K., Coordinator



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2019**

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**8:00 - 8:45 AM—DEVOTIONS**

**Tradewinds D**

**8:45 - 9:15 AM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP**

**Islander Registration Desk**

**8:45 - 9:15 AM—REGISTRATION (\$30) AND BANQUET TICKET SALES (\$75)**

**Islander Registration Desk**

### **OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

9:30 AM CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

9:35 AM WELCOMING CEREMONIES

2019 National Convention Host Committee: National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, National Federation of the Blind of Nevada

10:05 AM CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM: VETERANS RECOGNIZED

Dwight Sayer, President, National Association of Blind Veterans, a Division of the National Federation of the Blind; Winter Garden, Florida

10:25 AM ROLL CALL OF STATES AND APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

11:55 AM REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

12:00 PM ADJOURN



## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, Continued**

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**Noon - 1:45 PM**—EXHIBIT HALL AND INDEPENDENCE MARKET  
**Islander Ballroom**

**12:15 - 1:45 PM**—LOUISIANA CENTER FOR THE BLIND ALUMNI  
RECEPTION  
**South Pacific Ballroom C**

All Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) alumni and those interested in learning more about our life-changing programs are welcome. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni. Learn how LCB training will help you “live the life you want!” Pam Allen, Executive Director

**12:15 - 1:45 PM**—EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
**Tropics B**

Employment is the first pillar of the NFB strategic plan. What does the future of employment for blind people look like? What should it look like? Learn about new employment resources. Networking between employers and jobseekers. Bring your résumés and jobs. Dick Davis, Chair

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**—THE ORBIT READER 20 BRAILLE DISPLAY  
**Tropics A**

Developed in partnership with the NFB and other members of the Transforming Braille Group, the Orbit Reader 20 Braille display provides the highest quality Braille at the most affordable price. Join the Orbit team to learn about its features, functions, and latest developments.

**1:30 - 2:00 PM**—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP  
**Islander Registration Desk**

**1:30 - 2:00 PM**—REGISTRATION (\$30) AND *FINAL* BANQUET TICKET  
SALES (\$75)  
**Islander Registration Desk**



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, Continued**

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## **GENERAL SESSION**

- 2:00 PM CALL TO ORDER
- 2:05 PM PRESIDENTIAL REPORT  
Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind;  
Baltimore, Maryland
- 3:05 PM DIGITAL EQUALITY AND THE MYTH OF INJUSTICE: EQUAL  
ACCESS FOR THE BLIND MAY NOT BE DELAYED  
Eve Hill, Co-Leader, Inclusivity Strategic Consulting, and Partner,  
Brown, Goldstein, and Levy; Baltimore, Maryland
- 3:25 PM LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, AND THE PURSUIT OF FINANCIAL  
ACCESSIBILITY  
Doug Marshall, Executive Vice President, Chief Digital and Product  
Officer, BECU; Tukwila, Washington
- 3:45 PM ADDING VALUE THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS WITH  
THE ORGANIZED BLIND  
Anil Lewis, Executive Director for Blindness Initiatives, National  
Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland  
Kathy Martinez, SVP: Disability/Accessibility Strategy, Wells Fargo  
Bank; San Francisco, California  
Eve Andersson, Director, Accessibility and ML Fairness, Google;  
Mountain View, California
- 4:10 PM A CENTURY OF ADVANCING LITERACY FOR THE BLIND: A  
LEGACY OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ORGANIZED BLIND  
MOVEMENT  
Barbara Loos, President, American Action Fund for Blind Children  
and Adults; Lincoln, Nebraska  
Marc Maurer, General Counsel, American Action Fund for Blind  
Children and Adults; Baltimore, Maryland
- 4:40 PM REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS
- 5:00 PM ADJOURN



## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, Continued**

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**5:30 - 6:30 PM—NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Tradewinds D**

**5:30 - 6:30 PM—WHAT'S NEW IN WINDOWS NARRATOR**

**Coral A**

Come hear about Narrator's new home, quick-start guide, improved reading, improved responsiveness, along with a sneak peek at what is coming for summer insiders, and more.

**5:30 - 7:30 PM—RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS MEETING**

**Tropics A**

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute's Research Advisory Council invites interested individuals to discuss current research, discuss publication in the *Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research (JBIR)*, and share ideas for increasing the research and academic presence of the NFB. Edward Bell, Arielle Silverman, and Lou Ann Blake, Coordinators

**6:00 - 9:00 PM—UPWARD MOBILITY SEMINAR**

**Tropics B**

Looking to switch careers? Wondering how to achieve balance between your life and work? Come learn about these topics and more at the Upward Mobility Seminar, where we do not shy away from answering the tricky dilemmas we face in today's workplace. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee.

**6:30 - 7:30 PM—WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE TO BE A PLAINTIFF**

**Tradewinds F**

In this session, you'll hear from NFB members who have stood up for the civil rights of the blind in negotiations and litigation, and from the lawyers who represent the NFB. Hear what it's really like to challenge injustice, negotiate, and go to court for our rights. Scott LaBarre and Eve Hill, Facilitators

**6:30 - 8:00 PM—BLIND FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Coral C**

Come learn about issues facing federal employees and applicants. Share your experiences with and your solutions to federal workplace challenges. Ronza Othman, Chair



## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, Continued**

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**6:30 - 9:00 PM—COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND OPEN HOUSE**

**South Pacific Ballroom A**

Meet the staff and students at the CCB to discover what great training will do for you! Learn about new apps for your phone, get some favorite recipes, use a click rule, and learn about stone carving, rock climbing, and more. Training in Colorado will change your life! Julie Deden, Director

**7:00 - 9:00 PM—WHITE CANE AND AFFILIATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Tradewinds C**

Fundraising takes imagination, dedication, and a little bit of ingenuity! This is your opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and become a leader in funding our movement! Every state should send a representative. Everette Bacon, Chair

**7:00 - 9:00 PM—COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: OPEN TO ALL LEADERS**

**Tradewinds D**

Join together with 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 as our greatest tool to build the Federation. Jessica Beecham, Chair

**7:00 - 9:00 PM—NFB LGBT MEETING**

**Tradewinds E**

Building the NFB and giving back with pride! Proposed topics include special concerns related to being blind and coming out, inclusion at Pride events, accessibility and availability of LGBT books, and community resources. Contact Tai Tomasi at 515-329-4908 for location of group social. Tai Tomasi, Chair

**7:00 - 9:00 PM—EXHIBIT HALL**

**Islander Ballroom**

**7:00 - 9:45 PM—NOPBC CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

7:00-9:45 PM—Mini BELL for Parents: Hands on Activities—**Coral A**

7:00-8:15 PM—The Basics of a High Quality IEP—**Coral B**

8:30-9:45 PM—Strategies for IEP Record-Keeping and Beyond—**Coral B**



## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, Continued**

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**7:00 - 10:00 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK ACTIVITY (ages 11-18)  
**Shell Seekers A and B**

**7:30 - 10:00 PM**—HOST COMMITTEE WELCOME CONCERT (\$10)  
**South Pacific Ballroom CD**

Put on your dancing shoes and join your Federation friends and family for an evening of live entertainment, featuring local Las Vegas performers, the Broken Spectacles. This all-blind band has rocked places like the Smith Center of Performing Arts and the House of Blues. Escape the casinos for an intimate performance where the under-21 crew is welcome, too. Tickets can be purchased at the lobby information table, the hospitality suite, or from any member of the Nevada or Idaho delegations. Show your NFB membership coin or convention badge to pay only \$5!

**8:00 - 10:00 PM**—SPORTS AND REC SWIM UP  
**Wave Pool**

Meet by the pool. You will hear one of us marshaling until 8:00 p.m. and after that you can find us in the water!

**8:00 - 10:00 PM**—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
**Tropics A**

Technology is omnipresent in our lives. While it is invaluable in education and employment, the blind are still excluded from many products. Hear about new advances and discuss how to influence developers to include accessibility in their offerings. Brian Buhrow, Chair

**8:00 - 10:00 PM**—MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
**Tradewinds F**

You're invited! If you are interested in finding ways to discover potential members while keeping current members engaged and interested, this is the meeting for you. Sharing our best practices across the Federation will take our chapters, affiliates, and our national organization to the next level. Jeannie Massay and Kathryn Webster, Co-Chairs



## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, Continued**

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**8:30 - 10:00 PM—WEBMASTERS MEETING**

**Coral C**

A meeting for all NFB affiliate and division webmasters to discuss the importance of an informative, accessible, and visually attractive website. Gary Wunder, Chair

**9:00 PM - Midnight—TRIVIA NIGHT (Admission: \$5)**

**South Pacific Ballroom B**

New year, new categories, possibly new champions? Trivia Night is back with a new twist. Bring your chapter, your friends, or make new ones. Leave with bragging rights. Proceeds benefit future programs and activities of the Community Service Division.



**THURSDAY, JULY 11**

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**8:00 - 8:45 AM—DEVOTIONS**

**Tradewinds D**

**8:15 - 8:45 AM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP**

**Islander Registration Desk**

**8:15 - 8:45 AM—REGISTRATION (\$30)**

**Islander Registration Desk**

## **GENERAL SESSION**

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

9:05 AM GLOBAL LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, AND TECHNOLOGY:  
ACCESSIBILITY AS A CORE VALUE AT MICROSOFT  
Brad Smith, President and Chief Legal Officer, Microsoft Corporation;  
Redmond, Washington

9:25 AM A PLATFORM OF INFORMATION AND INNOVATION: INSIGHTS  
INTO THE AIRA ECOSYSTEM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BLIND  
Suman Kanuganti, Founder and President, Aira Tech Corp.; San  
Diego, California

9:40 AM FINANCIAL REPORT AND HONOR ROLL CALL

10:55 AM ELECTIONS

11:25 AM REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

12:00 PM ADJOURN

**Noon - 1:45 PM—EXHIBIT HALL AND INDEPENDENCE MARKET (final  
opportunity to visit the Independence Market and Exhibit Hall)**

**Islander Ballroom**



## **THURSDAY, JULY 11, Continued**

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**12:15 - 1:45 PM**—APPS OF COMPUTER VISION AND G SUITE UPDATES

**Tradewinds C**

Members of the Google Accessibility team will present two computer vision applications: Lookout and Auto-Captioning. We will also present Google G Suite accessibility features and functionalities added over the last year across Calendar, Gmail, Drive, Docs, and more.

**12:15 - 1:45 PM**—NOPBC BRAINSTORMING SESSION

**Tradewinds F**

Please share your ideas with us. What did you like at this convention? What resources would help you stay connected throughout the year? What workshops might you like to see us offer next year? Be a part of this valuable conversation. Carlton Cook-Walker, President

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**—NLS FOCUS GROUP ON TACTILE GRAPHICS

**Coral B**

In its continuing quest to provide the material that patrons want, NLS is seeking patron feedback via a focus group on providing graphics. Please join us so that your voice can be included as we develop collection development and production strategies for the next few years.

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**—ACCESSIBILITY: POWER OF INNOVATION AND CIVILIZATION

**Tradewinds D**

For more than thirty years, Apple has developed new and innovative solutions for persons with disabilities to learn, to be creative, productive, independent, and active, and to live out their dreams. Come learn how Apple continues to break barriers in new arenas, including the entertainment industry, striving to empower the blind community in bold ways. Sarah Herrlinger, Director of Global Accessibility Policy and Initiatives, Apple, and Everette Bacon, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind; President, National Federation of the Blind of Utah, Facilitators

**1:30 - 2:00 PM**—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP

**Islander Registration Desk**

**1:30 - 2:00 PM**—REGISTRATION (\$30)

**Islander Registration Desk**



**THURSDAY, JULY 11, Continued**

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## **GENERAL SESSION**

- 2:00 PM CALL TO ORDER
- 2:05 PM THE CONTINUED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND: EXPANDING BRAILLE AND IMPLEMENTING THE MARRAKESH TREATY  
Karen Keninger, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; Washington, DC
- 2:20 PM ACCELERATING ACCESSIBLE CONTENT: PROGRESS THROUGH THE DAISY CONSORTIUM  
Richard Orme, Chief Executive Officer, DAISY Consortium; Warwick, United Kingdom
- 2:35 PM NEGOTIATION, COLLABORATION, AND HIGH EXPECTATIONS: THE JOURNEY OF THE MARRAKESH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED  
Justin Hughes, Hon. William M. Byrne, Jr. Chair, Professor of Law, Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University; Los Angeles, California
- 2:55 PM EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES, PROTECTING RIGHTS, AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY: A REPORT FROM THE ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEPARTMENT  
John Paré, Jr., Executive Director for Advocacy and Policy, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland
- 3:25 PM REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER BUSINESS
- 5:00 PM ADJOURN



## **THURSDAY, JULY 11, Continued**

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### **5:15 - 6:45 PM—ACCESSIBLE COLLABORATION AND GOOGLE ASSISTANT Tradewinds C**

Learn about new ways Google Docs is improving the accessibility of real-time collaboration so you can meaningfully keep track of live changes in your documents. We will also present the new features in Google Assistant and all the new devices that support it.

### **5:15 - 7:15 PM—AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND RECEPTION Tradewinds F**

AFB President, Kirk Adams, and AFB Board of Trustees Chair, Russell Shaffer, cordially invite you to join AFB for an evening reception to celebrate the work and achievements made by both AFB and the NFB to create a more accessible and inclusive world for people with vision loss.

### **5:30 - 6:30 PM—ADVENTURES WITH MICROSOFT SOUNDSCAPE Tropics B**

Soundscape uses 3D spatial audio to promote a person's mobility and independence. Come along to learn what Soundscape is and how it works. We'll share what we've learned from our first year since release and how people are using Soundscape every day in a variety of ways.

### **5:30 - 8:30 PM—Q&A OPEN HOUSE: SPECTRUM ACCESSIBILITY Coral A**

Come join Petr Kucheryavy from Spectrum's Accessibility Center of Excellence to ask questions, share your experiences, and learn more about Spectrum's accessibility efforts in their products, services, and employment practices.

### **6:00 - 7:00 PM—INTERSECTIONAL MEET-UPS**

Participate in a series of special topic community conversations. Shawn Callaway and Rosy Carranza, Co-Chairs, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

6:00 - 7:00 PM—Masculinity, Blindness, and Latino Culture: Explore these topics and learn how others negotiate these various identities.—**Tropics A**

6:00 - 7:00 PM—Blindness and Interracial Relationships: Share experiences around dating, marriage, family dynamics, and social perceptions.—**Coral B**

6:00 - 7:00 PM—Marriage and Dating as a Blind Person in the Asian/South Asian Community: Discuss cultural practices, social expectations, and their relationship to blindness.—**Shell Seekers A**



## THURSDAY, JULY 11, Continued

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**7:00 - 8:30 PM**—SSI AND SSDI 101: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Tropics B**

Bring your questions regarding SSDI and SSI benefits, eligibility criteria, the application process, reporting obligations, and information about working while receiving benefits. James Gashel, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK (ages 11-18)

**Shell Seekers B**

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**—BRAILLE PROOFREADING SEMINAR

**Tradewinds E**

If you are a parent of a blind child, a teacher of blind and visually-impaired children, a rehabilitation teacher, or if you are interested in learning what's happening in the Braille field, join us to get hands-on experience. Presented by the National Association of Blind Office Professionals Division. Lisa Hall, President

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**—COMMITTEE FOR ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF BRAILLE

**Coral C**

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

**7:00 - 10:00 PM**—WHAT'S NEW AND AMAZON AT THE MOVIES

**Tradewinds D**

Join us to learn about improvements to Amazon Fire TV, Echo, Kindle, and more. Stay for our second annual audio-described movie night. This year's movie, *Love and Friendship*, stars Kate Beckinsale and is an adaptation of Jane Austen's novella, *Lady Susan*. Snacks will be provided.

**7:30 - 8:30 PM**—HOW TO BE A BRAND AMBASSADOR

**Tropics A**

Exchange ideas on how to best represent our brand to the public, potential members, new members, and our community. Karen Anderson, Stephanie Cascone, Chris Danielsen, Suzanne Shaffer, and Alyssa Vetro, Facilitators



## **THURSDAY, JULY 11, Continued**

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**7:30 - 11:00 PM**—NINETEENTH ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF TALENT (\$5)

**South Pacific Ballroom CD**

Join us for a night of great performances. Whether you take the stage or support your friends from the audience, it is an enjoyable evening of entertainment!

Performer cost: \$10. Admission: \$5. We will award cash prizes to three acts.

Presented by the Performing Arts Division. Julie McGinnity, President

**8:00 - 9:00 PM**—FRIENDS OF RECOVERY MEETING

**Coral B**

All convention attendees interested in getting or remaining clean and sober are welcome to our confidential meeting. For more information, call 304-994-5103.

Sheri K., Coordinator



**FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019**

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**8:00 - 8:45 AM—DEVOTIONS**

**Tradewinds D**

**8:15 - 8:45 AM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP**

**Islander Registration Desk**

**8:15 - 8:45 AM—REGISTRATION (\$30)—*Final Opportunity to Register***

**Islander Registration Desk**

## **GENERAL SESSION**

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

9:05 AM BRINGING THE SYNERGY OF THE BLINDNESS MOVEMENT INTO CONCENTRATED PROGRAMS: BLINDNESS INITIATIVES AT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND JERNIGAN INSTITUTE

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

9:25 AM EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND RAISING EXPECTATIONS: EXPLORING SPATIAL ABILITIES AND TRAINING BLIND ENGINEERS

Natalie Shaheen, Project Director, Spatial Ability and Blind Engineering Research, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland

Wade Goodridge, Associate Professor of Engineering Education, Utah State University; Logan, Utah

9:45 AM EXPLORING THE LAYERS: A BLIND RESEARCHER, MOM, AND FEDERATIONIST ENHANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF DISABILITY

Angela Frederick, PhD, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of Texas at El Paso; El Paso, Texas



## **FRIDAY, JULY 12, Continued**

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- 10:05 AM CAMBIANDO VIDAS EN LA FRONTERA DE TEJAS  
Norma Crosby, President, National Federation of the Blind of Texas; National Federation of the Blind Board Member; Alvin, Texas  
Daniel Martinez, Board Member, First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Texas; Brownsville, Texas  
Raul Gallegos, Bilingual Access Technology Trainer; Vice President, National Federation of the Blind Houston Chapter; Houston, Texas  
Hilda Hernandez, Legal and Healthcare Interpreter; Secretary, National Federation of the Blind Rio Grande Valley Chapter; Brownsville, Texas
- 10:30 AM LED BY THE BLIND: BRINGING AUTHENTICITY TO SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND MAKING THEM RELEVANT TO THE LIVES WE WANT TO LIVE  
Bryan Bashin, CEO, San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind; San Francisco, California
- 10:45 AM PERSPECTIVES ON RAISING THE BAR IN THE BLINDNESS FIELD: WHY A NEW ACCREDITATION SYSTEM?  
Emily Coleman, President, Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired; Austin, Texas
- 11:05 AM WE KNOW WHO WE ARE, AND WE WILL NEVER GO BACK: ESTABLISHING THE STANDARD FOR CONSUMER-DRIVEN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
Edward Bell, Secretary/Treasurer, National Blindness Professional Certification Board; Ruston, Louisiana
- 11:25 AM QUESTIONS
- 12:00 PM ADJOURN



## **FRIDAY, JULY 12, Continued**

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**Noon - 1:45 PM**—RAFFLES AND DRAWINGS  
**Tradewinds E**

**Noon - 1:45 PM**—AMATEUR RADIO DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING  
**Coral C**  
David Chan (NC6D), President

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**—MUSLIM FRIDAY PRAYER SERVICES  
**Shell Seekers B**

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**—COMMITTEE ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND  
INNOVATIONS IN TRANSPORTATION  
**Coral A**

This committee collects information about trends in transportation and emerging models of transportation that might not exist today, and which may present opportunities for the blind to move around independently, ensuring the NFB plays a prominent role in the future of transportation. Sachin Dev Pavithran, Chair

### **GENERAL SESSION**

2:00 PM CALL TO ORDER

2:05 PM THE TWELFTH ANNUAL DR. JACOB BOLOTIN AWARDS  
James Gashel, Chair, Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award Committee; Secretary,  
National Federation of the Blind; Honolulu, Hawaii

2:35 PM ELECTRONIC BRAILLE REIMAGINED: THE REVOLUTION OF THE  
CANUTE 360  
Ed Rogers, Founder and Managing Director, Bristol Braille  
Technology; Bristol, United Kingdom

2:50 PM THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATIONS IN ACCESS  
TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BLIND: CUSTOMER-DRIVEN  
PROGRESS AT HUMANWARE  
Bruce Miles, President, HumanWare; Drummondville, Québec,  
Canada



## **FRIDAY, JULY 12, Continued**

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- 3:05 PM THE DRIVERLESS REVOLUTION: SETTING A NEW STANDARD FOR TRANSPORTATION AND TECHNOLOGY  
Kyle Vogt, President and Chief Technology Officer, Cruise Automation; San Francisco, California
- 3:20 PM AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES: ESTABLISHING STRONG POLICY FOR AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION FUTURE  
David Schwietert, Interim President and CEO, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; Washington, DC
- 3:35 PM BLINDNESS ACROSS BORDERS: PERSPECTIVES ON INDEPENDENCE AND EMERGING ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST TO THE BLIND AROUND THE WORLD  
Martine Abel-Williamson, QSM, Treasurer and Lead of Access to the Environment and Transport Work Group, World Blind Union; Auckland, New Zealand
- 3:50 PM NOT WITHOUT QUESTION: THE DIFFERENCE OF THE FEDERATION PHILOSOPHY IN OUR LIVES  
Jean Brown, Blind Parent, Wife, Federationist, and Author; Indianapolis, Indiana
- 4:10 PM COMPETING ON TERMS OF EQUALITY AND BLENDING IN: GOVERNMENT SERVICE WITH FEDERATION STYLE  
Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Utah Governor's Office of Management and Budget; Sandy, Utah
- 4:30 PM REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS
- 5:00 PM ADJOURN



## **FRIDAY, JULY 12, Continued**

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**7:00 PM—BANQUET**

**South Pacific Ballroom**

INVOCATION

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Pam Allen

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

BANQUET ADDRESS: Mark Riccobono

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

## CONVENTION NOTES:

**Note 1:** A Federation information desk is in the registration area from Monday morning through Friday in case you have questions or need assistance.

**Note 2:** Mandalay Bay room rates are: singles, doubles, triples and quads, \$99. In addition to the room rates, there is a 21.63 percent tax. The resort fee, normally \$37 a night, is waived for NFB convention attendees. However, fees for internet access, local and toll-free calls, and fitness center access may apply.

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:** Guide Dog Relief Areas:

There are two guide dog relief areas at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. The one closest to the sleeping room section is located outside the transportation lobby on the Beach Level. Take the hallway between the low floor elevators and high floor elevators to get to the transportation lobby exit. The relief area is to the right. The area closest to the meeting rooms is located at the Bay View Patio. The doors adjacent to the Islander Registration Desk in the North Convention Center lead outside to the patio.

**Note 4:** All requests for announcements by President Riccobono during General Sessions must be submitted in Braille.

**Note 5:** 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 Friday to **Tradewinds D**.

**Note 6:** Child care 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 child care. Child care is organized and supervised by Carla McQuillan, the executive director of Main Street Montessori Association. Please note that child-care services provides 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. Child-care services hours are:

Sunday, July 7	8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30 to 5:30 PM
Monday July 8	Closed
Tuesday, July 9	8:30 AM to noon and 12:45 to 5:30 PM
Wednesday, July 10	9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30 to 5:30 PM
Thursday, July 11	8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30 to 5:30 PM
Friday, July 12	8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30 to 5:30 PM
Banquet, July 12	6:30 PM to 30 minutes after the banquet ends

**Note 7:** Divisions, Committees, and Groups: The Federation carries on its business through the affiliated divisions, committees, and groups listed below:

## **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.

Amateur Radio: *David Chan, President*  
Assistive Technology Trainers: *Chancey Fleet, President*  
Communities of Faith: *Tom Anderson, President*  
Computer Science: *Brian Buhrow, President*  
Community Service: *Jeanetta Price, President*  
Deaf-Blind: *Alice Eaddy, President*  
Diabetes Action Network: *Bernadette Jacobs, President*  
Human Services: *Candice Chapman, President*  
Educators: *Cayte Mendez, President*  
Guide Dog Users: *Marion Gwizdala, President*  
Krafters: *Tammy Freitag, President*  
Lawyers: *Scott LaBarre, President*  
Merchants: *Nicky Gacos, President*  
Office Professionals: *Lisa Hall, President*  
Parents of Blind Children: *Carlton Anne Cook Walker, President*  
Performing Arts: *Julie McGinnity, President*  
Professionals in Blindness Education: *Eric Guillory, President*  
Public Employees: *Ivan Weich, President*  
Rehabilitation Professionals: *Amy Porterfield, President*  
Science and Engineering: *John Miller, President*  
Seniors: *Ruth Sager, President*  
Sports and Recreation: *Jessica Beecham, President*  
Students: *Kathryn Webster, President*  
Veterans: *Dwight Sayer, President*  
Writers: *Eve Sanchez, 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: *Sachin Pavithran, Chair*

Blind Educator of the Year Award: *Edward Bell, Chair*

Blind Federal Employment: *Ronza Othman, Chair*

Communications: *Jessica Beecham, Chair*

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

Diversity and Inclusion: *Shawn Callaway and Rosy Carranza, Co-Chairs*

Employment: *Dick Davis, Chair*

Genetic Education: *Ronit Ovadia Mazzoni, Chair*

Jacobus tenBroek Award: *Marc Maurer, Chair*

Jacobus tenBroek Memorial Fund: *Tracy Soforenko, Chair*

Kenneth Jernigan Fund: *Allen Harris, Chair*

Library Services: *David Hyde and Marci Carpenter, Co-Chairs*

Membership: *Jeannie Massay and Kathryn Webster, Co-Chairs*

PAC Plan: *Scott LaBarre, Chair*

Research and Development: *Brian Buhrow, Chair*

Resolutions: *Sharon Maneki, Chair*

Scholarship: *Cayte Mendez, Chair*

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

Spanish Translation: *Daniel Martinez, Chair*

Technology Evaluation: *Mark Jones, 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.

Blind Cancer Survivors Support: *Isaiah Nelson, Chair*

Blind Musicians: *Linda Mentink and Chris Nusbaum, Co-Chairs*

Blind Parents: *Lisamaria Martinez, Chair*

Blind Professional Journalists: *Elizabeth Campbell and Bryan Bashin, Co-Chairs*

Careers in Automotive Related Specialties: *Marcus Simmons, Chair*

Legislative Initiatives: *Don Burns, Chair*

Living History: *Michael Freholm, Chair*

NFB in Judaism: *David Stayer, Chair*

NFB LGBT Group: *Tai Tomasi, Chair*

NFB Lions: *Ramona Walhof and Milton Ota, Co-Chairs*

Orientation and Mobility: *Edward Bell, Chair*

Piano Technology: *Don Mitchell, Chair*

Travel and Tourism: *Amy Baron, Chair*

Webmasters: *Gary Wunder, Chair*

## NAVIGATING THE HOTEL:

Welcome to the Las Vegas Strip and, specifically, the southernmost hotel on the Strip, the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. As with many of the newer Las Vegas hotels, the Mandalay Bay is enormous, boasting more than 3,200 sleeping rooms, several pools, and its own convention center. While the property is aligned neatly to the cardinal direction grid of South Las Vegas Boulevard, the entrance faces more of a NNE direction. Because this is a bit inconvenient for navigation, I'm going to rely on the age-old metaphor of an analog clock face. In fact, we're really just interested in the afternoon hours for our needs.

Before we get started, it's helpful to know that the middle of the clock face is covered with Mandalay Bay's pools—the wave pool, the lazy river, the lagoon pools, and more. You'll visit the center of the clock when you need to cool off after a long day of convention activities. The hotel and its various parts wrap around the pools nearly encircling them. Traveling through the hotel, our path will slowly arc around the pools counter-clockwise. Our navigation begins at the bottom of your clock face at six o'clock.

When you arrive at the front entrance, you will enter the Mandalay Bay's palatial lobby on the Casino Level. As I said, we are at six o'clock. Take several steps into the lobby. The bell desk is immediately to your left. Continue straight into the lobby and a long registration desk is on your left. At the far end of the lobby in front of you are floor-to-ceiling windows looking out onto the pools. On the right side of the lobby, across from the registration desk, is MB Lifestyle where you can purchase locally logoed clothing, snacks, and other souvenirs. In between the registration desk and MB Lifestyle is a large statue of Michael Jackson. The square base, with benches backed up to all four sides, make for a good lobby rendezvous point.

If you had entered the lobby at the front doors and turned to your right, you would find the mobile check-in counter on the right. As you continue to the right through the lobby, your path splits. To the left are the elevators to the sleeping rooms. To the right, you will begin to hear the sounds of a water feature and find railings that lead you to both an escalator and stairs that take you down to the Beach Level. Head down to the Beach Level and to your left are the doors leading to the transportation lobby and one of the dog relief areas.

Instead of taking the right branch of our lobby split, we travel down the left branch through a short hallway to the guest room elevators. Imagine that the circular elevator lobby is a wheel with six spokes. Three of the spokes contain banks of elevators and three of the spokes are hallways. The two types of spokes alternate. Let's focus on the elevator banks first. Each bank of elevators contains

eight cabs, four on each side, and serves specific floor numbers. The floor ranges are 2-16, 17-30, and 56-69. Entering from the main lobby, the elevators for floors 2-16 are immediately to your left. You will find the floor ranges increase as you move clockwise around the hub of the wheel. One level below, on the Beach Level, the spokes are organized in just the same fashion.

You need your room key not just to get into your room, but to take the elevator to your sleeping room floor. The key is an RFID proximity card, meaning you need only hold it against the lock on your room door for your room lock to open. There is neither a need to slide the card into a reader nor is there a front or back side to the card. Like the sleeping rooms, the elevators also have card readers. When you step inside an available elevator, you must hold your room key up to the reader before pressing the button for your floor. Just above the center column of buttons for selecting your floor is a rectangular-shaped box a little smaller than a three by five index card—this is the card reader. Please note that your room key will take you to YOUR FLOOR ONLY.

When you reach your floor and step out from the elevator bank, you will again be at the hub of a wheel. However, there are now only four spokes to the wheel. One spoke contains the bank of elevators from which you have just disembarked. The other three spokes contain sleeping rooms. Each spoke has signage indicating its range of room numbers. Again, the room number ranges increase as you move clockwise around the hub of the wheel.

Let's head back down to the Casino Level elevator lobby. As mentioned earlier, three spokes of the wheel are hallways. The first comes from the main lobby. The second hallway, between the low-floor and the middle-floor elevators leads out to the casino. The third hallway, between the middle- and high-floor elevators leads to Hazel Coffee & Cocktails. For those of you needing an early morning coffee fix, Hazel opens at 5:00 a.m. to serve premium coffee and a variety of breakfast items. Hazel also stays open late, beyond midnight, to serve those interested in a jolt of a different variety.

Taking the hallway leading into the casino, we are approaching five o'clock on our clock face. There are wide carpeted paths heading off to both our right and left. Take the path to the right and the casino will be on your left while a number of shops are on your right. Among the retail stops are Hazel Coffee & Cocktail (a different entrance) and a number of high-end clothing options. Following this path to the end of the casino, you can head straight to catch the Mandalay Bay Tram to the Luxor and Excalibur properties. Turning left instead of heading to the tram, you can find the House of Blues, the Shoppes at Mandalay Place, and the entrance to the Cirque de Soleil show, *Michael Jackson ONE*.

As we emerge from the guest-room elevator lobby into the casino, though, the carpeted path to the left is of greater interest to meeting attendees. This time, the casino is on the right and, save for a handful of slot machines, food outlets including The Noodle Shop and Seabreeze Café begin to appear on the left. We'll essentially be traveling in a straight line from the five to the four on our clock face. As the carpeting gives way to a faux riverbed stone floor, the casino ends and the restaurant options multiply.

The arc between four and three o'clock on the face of our clock are filled with a broad variety of options, too many to mention them all. The menus for many of these restaurants can be found both on our website and NFB-NEWSLINE®. To the right is Mizuya, while Bayside Buffet and Fleur are on the left. Nearly straight ahead is Citizens Kitchen + Bar, serving American comfort food twenty-four hours a day. To the right of Citizens are a few more restaurants including Lupo, Wolfgang Puck's first Italian restaurant. Continue past Citizens to the left for another half dozen options including Libertine Social and Steakhouse. It's this left path that takes you towards the meeting space. You'll notice a slight incline as you emerge from the gauntlet of dining options. I should point out that on the right side is a Starbucks which will no doubt be an important stop for many.

## MEETING SPACE:

We have now reached nearly two-o'clock on our metaphorical clock face. The Mandalay Bay's convention center begins with a flooring change from riverbed stone to terrazzo. Immediately to the right is a hallway leading to the hotel's Event Center; none of our meetings or activities take place in the Event Center. Straight ahead is a wide hallway. The left side leads to the Border Grill, the food court, and the South Convention Center. The right side of the hallway gives way to a staircase flanked on either side by a down escalator and an up escalator. Continue down the left hallway just beyond the escalators and stairs to find elevators on the right wall. All three (down escalator, stairs, elevator) will take you down to the North Convention Center's lower (ground) level where you will find the entirety of our meeting space for the convention.

After descending the escalator or stairs, the Bay View Patio is to the left, the Islander Registration Desk is straight ahead, and the meeting space is to the right. The elevators are just off to the right between the stairs and the registration desk. The Bay View Patio is straight ahead when you step off the elevator. The doors out to the Bay View Patio will take you to a second guide dog relief area.

If you take a right at the bottom of the stairs or the escalator (or make a U-turn to the left when stepping off one of the elevators), you will enter our convention meeting space. The corridors connecting our meeting space are L-shaped and you are standing at the intersection of the two arms of the 'L.' The short arm of the 'L,' called the Conference Promenade, extends out in front of you to the breakout spaces. Bay View Court, the longer arm of the, 'L' is to your left and leads the way to the Islander and South Pacific Ballrooms. It could be noted that this is one hotel space that conforms cleanly to cardinal directions. The Conference Promenade runs east-west while Bay View Court runs north-south.

Heading straight ahead along the Conference Promenade, you will find on your right a large breakout space called Tradewinds. It is broken into six sections, lettered A through F. Sections E and F are immediately to your right while the remaining sections are further down the promenade on the right. Beyond Tradewinds B is a small hallway to the right providing access to Tradewinds A and breakout rooms Mariners A and B. On the left side of the Conference Promenade are a series of smaller breakout spaces, each of which break into two or three sections. Closest to the intersection of the arms of the 'L,' you will find Shell Seeker B and A followed by Coral C, B, and A. At the end of the promenade on the left are Tropics B and A.

If, from the intersection of the 'L', you instead head left down Bay View Court from north to south, you will first pass Islander Registration Desk on the left

which will be home to consolidated registration activities beginning on Tuesday, July 9. Next on the left you will find men's and women's restrooms. Across Bay View Court from the registration desk and the restrooms is Islander Ballroom, home to the Exhibit Hall and the Independence Market. When you reach the end of the Islander Ballroom, there is an intersection of sorts. The South Pacific Ballroom is ahead on your right. Immediately to the right is a hallway that runs between the Islander and South Pacific Ballrooms. Along the left side of this hallway are four large sections of the South Pacific Ballroom lettered D through A, all of which host meetings throughout the week.

Back at the intersection, opposite the hallway on the left side of Bay View Court are stairs that lead up to the Border Grill, a contemporary Mexican restaurant serving both lunch and dinner. Continuing further south along Bay View Court are additional sections of the South Pacific Ballroom. Sections F and J, both on the right, will be used for meetings on Seminar Day such as Rookie Roundup. For the remainder of the week, the doors to South Pacific Ballroom F and J are the entry doors for Resolutions, the NFB Board Meeting, General Sessions, and eventually the Banquet. Opposite the South Pacific Ballroom F is another set of restrooms. On the wall between the men's and women's restrooms are ten mobile device charging stations.

At the end of Bay View Court, a modest hall turns to the right. Down this hall are a set of elevators and an escalator that will take you up a level to the food court in the South Convention Center. Head straight out of the elevators or turn left off the escalator to cross the foyer to the food court. If you'll remember the transition to terrazzo several paragraphs ago, there was a wide hallway, the left side of which led to the South Convention Center. Had you continued down that hallway, you would have passed the Border Grill and the stairs leading down to the lower level of the North Convention Center. Beyond the stairs, still on the right side of the hallway is BBQ Mexicana, a quick service counter open for lunch. At the end of this long corridor is the same food court I mentioned above. At this stage of the journey, you have reached the twelve on the face of our clock.

The food court is host to a number of reasonably priced food options including Bonanno's New York Pizzeria, Johnny Rockets, Nathan's Hot Dogs, Pan Asian Express, and Subway. The food court is accessed via a gradual incline on its right side or three steps on the left. There is a variety of seating within the food court. Many of the booths and high-top tables offer outlets and USB charging stations.

Beyond the food court are the ticket counter and entrance to Mandalay Bay's Shark Reef Aquarium, host to sharks, giant rays, sea turtles, and more.

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

**Elite:**

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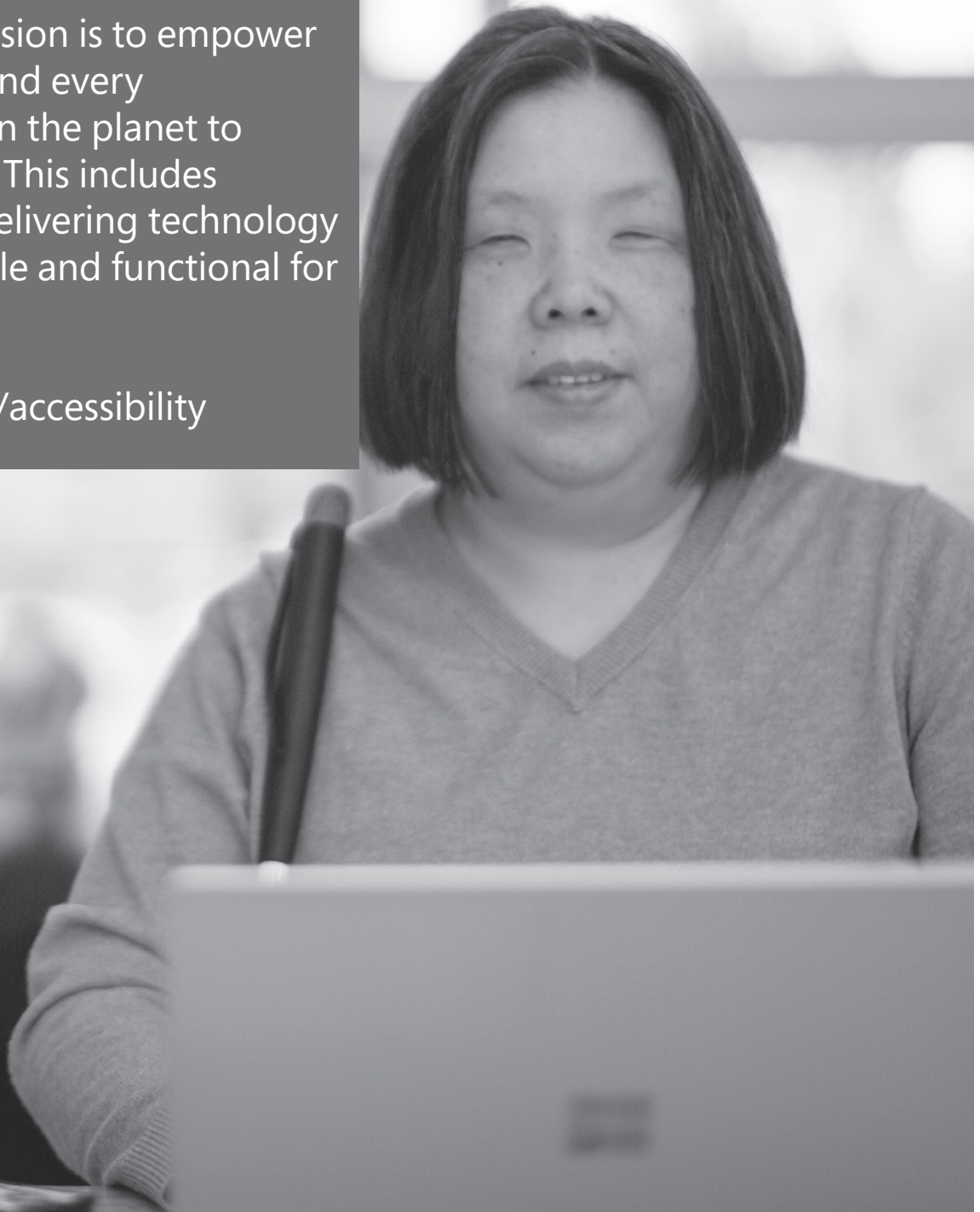
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Safra Catz  
CEO  
Oracle

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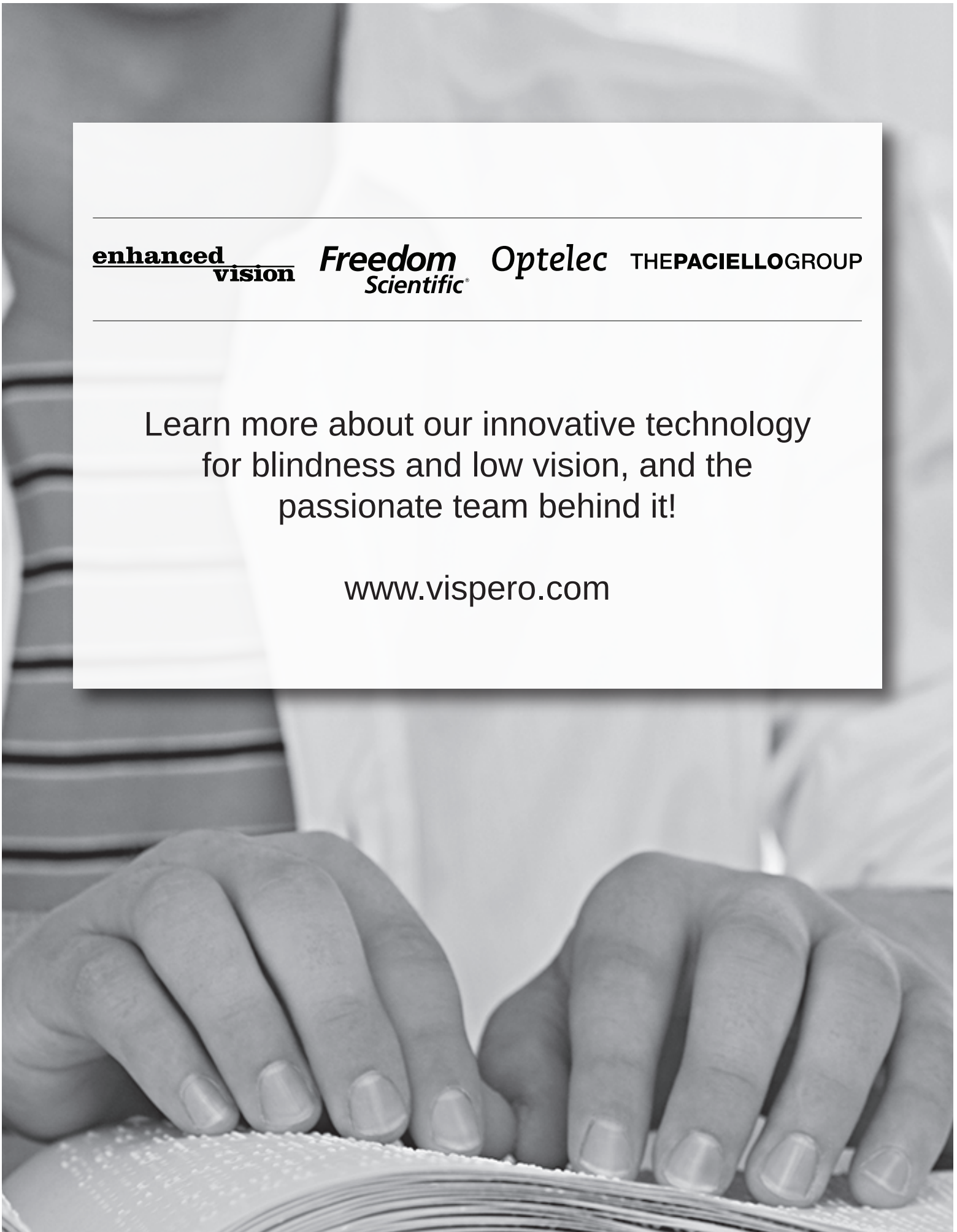
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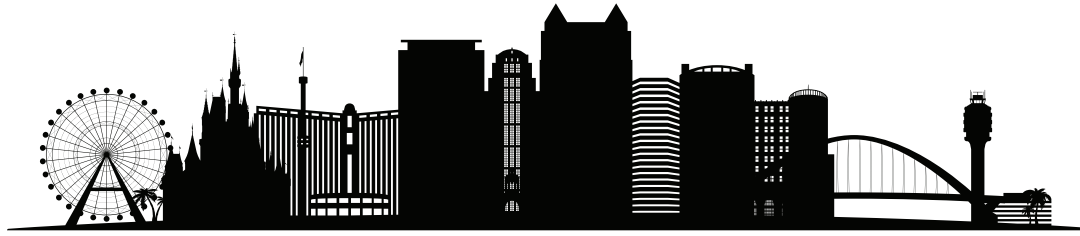
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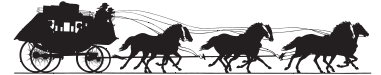
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