

**The 44th Annual State Convention
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**

**LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT—
We Care. We Share. We Grow. We make a difference!**

Anywhere and Everywhere
Wednesday, November 18 through Saturday November 21, 2020

Joseph Ruffalo, President
973 743 0075
nfbnj1@verizon.net

Linda Melendez, Chair of State Convention Activities
732 421 7063
lindamelenedez220@gmail.com

www.nfbnj.org
www.blindchildren.org

Who We Are & What We Do

The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of and for the blind in the US, is made up of blind/visually impaired people of all ages, and their families and friends. We help newly blind people adjust to vision loss, assist parents and teachers of blind children, and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities. Our activities include:

- Assisting blind persons in acquiring the skills of independence and developing confidence in themselves
- Supporting parents and teachers of blind children with information, mentoring, role modeling, information, and training
- Preparing blind students for careers and self-sufficiency through mentoring, training, and academic scholarships
- Encouraging blind seniors to continue to live active and meaningful lives
- Advocating for policies that eliminate discrimination, promote civil rights, and guarantee equal access to high quality educational and rehabilitation programs
- Sponsoring information campaigns and legislative action at the state and national levels
- Educating the public through community activities and publications

Spotlight on NFB of New Jersey

Since 1976, the National Federation of the Blind of NJ, an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, has been providing invaluable information and resources to blind/visually impaired people throughout the state. Our members work together for a brighter tomorrow by raising expectations for blind people everywhere so that blind persons can live the life they want. Our seven chapters meet monthly; our five divisions hold events at various times throughout the year. For more information on the affiliate, chapters, divisions, committees, programs, and projects, visit www.nfbnj.org Please join us— we would welcome your participation.

Live the Life You Want

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

The National Federation of the Blind Pledge

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!! You still can register for the 44th State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey. This event, the major gathering of our state's blindness community, will be held virtually via the Zoom platform from Wednesday, November 18 through Saturday, November 21.

Registration is FREE!!

Click here to register

<https://www.nfbnj.org/state-convention/registration>

NFBNJ Rookie Roundup

Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Time: 7:00 P.M. Eastern Time

For all members, non members, first timers and veteran conventioners we will highlight and outline the agenda, Zoom procedures, have the opportunity to answer questions and a practice vote will be conducted.

Zoom participation details

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=Qkw0RGxYdGc5TjVBdVZmUnFYnICQT09>

Meeting ID: 647 766 0103

Passcode: 460 994

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,6477660103# US (New York)

+13017158592,,6477660103# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 647 766 0103

Passcode: 460 994

Instructions for listening on an Echo device

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Just like calling on the phone, you will hear "welcome to Zoom."

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Then say Alexa Press pound to enter the meeting

Integrity and Respect

To allow all attendees the chance to benefit from all aspects of the convention, we are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone. We appreciate your assistance in cultivating an atmosphere in which participants from diverse backgrounds may learn, network, and share with each other in an environment of mutual respect. Thank you for doing your part to contribute to our community and the high expectations we strive to maintain.

Please visit the following link for the code of conduct

www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct

All state convention activities will be held at Eastern Standard Time via the Zoom platform unless otherwise indicated. And **we will be recording the convention.**

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Door Prize Details

Door prize raffles will be drawn and announced throughout the convention. Winners must be present to win. If you hear your name you can claim your prize one of three ways; by emailing nfb.newjersey@gmail.com calling or texting Linda Melendez at 732-

421-7063. Winners must give their convention registration name, best contact number and prize code word or phrase. Code must be in the email subject line.

NFBNJ Eligible Voters

Current 2020 dues paying members who registered and enrolled to vote will receive an email with instructions and the phone number to cast their votes when announced.

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

For divisions and At Large Chapter Meetings see Zoom participation details above
For committee meetings participation instructions are included.

1:00 to 1:50 P.M.–Seniors Division Business Meeting

Jane Degenshein, President

We will review the year, outline 2021 and our guest speaker will be, Ruth Sager, President of the National Association of Senior Blind who discuss the successful virtual senior retreat.

To subscribe to our NFBNJ Senior Division list serve, click on the link below:

https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfbnj-seniors_nfbnet.org

To subscribe to our National division list serve, click on the link below:

https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfb-seniors_nfbnet.org

2:00 to 2:50 P.M.–Technology Division Business Meeting

Jane Degenshein, President,

Join us as we review the successes of 2020 and look ahead to our involvement in 2021. Our guest speaker, Eileen Levin, Accessible Tester for Verizon will share her thoughts on teaching others technology under the Verizon volunteer pilot project.

To subscribe to our NFBNJ tech div list serve, click on the link below:

http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/njtechdiv_nfbnet.org

3:00 to 3:50 P.M.–Sports and Recreation Business Meeting

Linda Melendez, President

Join us as we review past and present activities, challenges and events. Bring your ideas as we plan for 2021. Jessica Beecham, President National Sports and Recreation Division and First Vice President NFB of Colorado will be our guest speaker. Also presenting is 2020 NFBNJ Scholarship winner Veronica Stocker about being a Yoga Instructor and offering a Zoom Yoga class on Friday, November 20 from 5:30 to 6:15 P.M.; all are invited!

To learn about our National Sports and Recreation Division visit

<http://www.nfbsportsandrec.org>

To join our National Sports and Recreation Division Listserv visit

http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/sportsandrec_nfbnet.org

Find our Facebook Group by searching National Sports and Recreation Division

4:00 pm At Large Chapter Meeting

Joseph Ruffalo, President

The meeting will highlight the past year, plans for 2021 and the importance to stay involved and raising expectations.

7:00 P.M.—Braille Committee Business Meeting

Mary Jo Partyka, Chair

Call: 515 604 9570

Code: 612 068 followed by the pound sign

We will discuss Braille mentoring, the Braille Challenge, BELL In-home Edition, and Brailing cards for the 2021 state convention. Our next steps will consist of determining the goals for this committee which we will discuss during our January 2021 meeting. You will also learn about the Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest.

Sandy Halverson, Past President of the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille, will provide additional information to promote Braille literacy. Hear from the winners of the Braille Challenge for 2020 Kaleigh Brendle and Madeline Mau.

Our Braille committee website is

www.nfb.org

Our national website is NFB—Braille-Discussion

7:50 P.M.—Guide Dog Committee Business Meeting

Dan Facchini, Chair

Guide Dog Committee Zoom below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877243174>

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87877243174#

Dial: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 878 7724 3174

An overview of 2020 and plans for 2021. Raul Gallegos, newly elected President of the National Association of Guide Dog Users, NAGDU, will provide an overview of the national prospective and how all are invited to participate. Have you ever wondered how the current pandemic has impacted guide-dog navigation? The National Federation of the Blind's New Jersey Guide-dog committee cordially invites you to join us at the state convention's Zoom segment entitled, Guiding through a Pandemic. Come join current guide-dog handlers as we discuss some of the concerns and challenges that Covid19 has posed to the guide-dog community. Additionally, we will be joined by Glenn Hoagland, President of the Seeing Eye. Glenn will walk us through some of the modifications employed by the organization as it continues to fulfill its crucial mission.

New Jersey Association of Guide Dog Users visit
njagdu@nfbnet.org

National Guide visit
<http://www.nagdu.org/>

8:30 P.M.–Diabetes Committee Business Meeting

Ed Godfrey, Chair
Call: 605 468 8005
Coe: 460 994

An overview of 2020 and future plans for 2021. Jean Brown, First Vice-President Diabetes Action Network, (DAN) will provide info highlighting the overview of the purposes, goals and objectives of the national division. She will be talking about DAN what it is, how to join and various accessibility products like the Abbott FreeStyle Libre and accessible glucose meters.

Jocelyn Santiago, a registered nurse and a member of our committee.

WHAT??? I am at risk of developing Diabetes?? Why? And how is that possible??

About 88 million adult Americans have prediabetes, that is more than 1 in 3, of those with prediabetes, 84% don't know they have it!! Prediabetes is a serious health condition that will put you at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes ,heart disease and other harmful conditions relating to diabetes complications ... so what are you waiting for? Come and join the Diabetes Committee to learn more about Pre-diabetes and how we can avoid from getting this preventable and absolutely reversible condition. She will give you valuable information that will also provide an overview about managing diabetes during this Holliday season.

New Jersey listserv:
https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nj-diabetes-division_nfbnet.org

National Diabetic Action Network (DAN) listserv:
https://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/diabetes-talk_nfbnet.org

Thursday, November 19, 2020
Convention Zoom participation details

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=Qkw0RGxYdGc5TjVBdVZmUnFYnICQT09>

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10:00 A.M.to Noon–Meet the Vendors

Joseph Ruffalo, President NFBNJ Facilitator

Here is an opportunity to learn about the products, services and obtain valuable information to assist with raising expectations to live the life you want.

10:05 am SW Unlimited, Sherlock Washington, President

10:30 am C-Tech, Chuck Cohen, President

10:55 am Independence Science, Jasodhara Bhattacharya, Director of Strategic Global Projects

11:20 am OrCam, Eve Posner, New Jersey OrCam Rep

1:00 P.M.–Technology Changes to Change Our Lives

Jane Degenshein, President New Jersey Association of Blind Technology Users

1:10 to 1:30 P.M.–Take a Virtual Tour with Us

Mac Biggers, Member Technology Division

Learn and discover through the **Bloomberg** Connects App

1:30 to 1:55 P.M.–iOS 14 New and Exciting Changes

Tony Santiago, Vice President Technology Division

Join us as we learn some features of iOS14.

1:55 to 2:15 P.M.—Listserv and Resources for Any Tekkie

Andy Smith, Board Member Technology Division

Learn about important websites, listservs, podcasts and more.

2:15 to 2:50 P.M.–Fusion and We're Not Talking Physics

Rick Fox, Assistive Technology Instructor and owner B & F Teaching & Technology.

Valuable tips and tricks on using Fusion.

2:50 to 3:10 P.M.– Louie the Hands Free App for Androids

Aneesh Karuppur, Student and friend to the Technology Division

Calling for a ride, using What's App all voice activated.

3:10 to 3:45 P.M.–Exploring the Possibilities with an iPad

Matt Vollbrecht, Certified Apple Instructor, Owner of the Tech Juggernaut

Tips and tricks and treats to make you more productive.

3:45 to 4:15 P.M.–Q and A for all

6:10 P.M.–Kustom Cane

James Boehm, Vice President of the Tennessee affiliate and President of the Nashville chapter

James thanks the New Jersey affiliate and updates our Federation family on how your past donations and canes are making a difference worldwide. Boehm will share how you can continue to contribute during these unusual times. As a thank you, Kustom Cane is donating 2 gift certificates: a \$150 gift certificate to Kustom Cane and a second three piece charm gift certificate valued at \$35! In addition, Boehm, a licensed counselor in Tennessee, will discuss the impact, struggles, and importance of mental health, especially during these challenging times. Boehm will finish with a brief mindfulness activity that you will be able to incorporate in your daily life to cope with anxiety and stress.

7:00 P.M.–Resolutions Committee Meeting

Ryan Stevens, Chair

Open to all; take part in witnessing the development of resolutions, which become the policy statements of NFBNJ.

8:00 P.M.–Adulthood 201

Lia Stone and Carley Mullin, Facilitator's

Curious about best methods for finding an apartment? How about buying a home? Maybe you're wondering how to traverse the social landscape of your new job? Or are you just interested in learning about these things from the greatest generations, millennials and genXers? If you answered yes to any of these you won't want to miss this session. We will feature two panels of dynamic young leaders who will share their experiences of the good, the bad and the ugly in workplace social interactions and navigating the rental/housing market.

Friday, November 20, 2020

Convention Zoom participation details

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6477660103?pwd=Qkw0RGxYdGc5TjVBdVZmUnFYnICQT09>

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9:00 A.M.to 5:00 P.M–General Session

9:00 A.M.–Welcome, Call to Order

Joseph Ruffalo, President, National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

9:05 A.M.–Invocation & Opening Ceremonies

Jane Degenshein, President, Senior and Technology Divisions

Pledge of Allegiance

The National Federation of the Blind Pledge

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

Honoring Veterans, God Bless America Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of New Jersey

9:20 A.M.–Introduction of the Scholarship Class of 2020

Lia Stone, Scholarship Committee Chair

9:25 A.M.–Nomination Committee

Ryan Stevens, Chair

9:30 A.M.–Presidential Report

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFBNJ

10:00 A.M.–We Care. We Share. We Grow. We Make a Difference!

The National Representative's Report Julie Deden, Executive Director, Colorado Center for the Blind, Littleton, Colorado

10:35 A.M.–The Rights of Blind Parents: Are They Safe?

Ryan Stevens, Legislative Director, NFBNJ

Working Together for the Rights of the Blind Yvonne Lopez, New Jersey Assemblywoman, 19th Legislative District.

10:55 A.M.–Together We Make a Difference!

Elisa Neira, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Human Services
Dr. Bernice Davis, Executive Director, New Jersey Comm. for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Looking forward to continuing services, programs and interactions in 2021.

11:20 A.M.–The BELL Ringers Braille Enrichment Learning & Literacy

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFBNJ; Mary Jo Partyka, Joanna Benthall NFB BELL Academy Coordinator; Parents, Students, and Volunteers

11:40 A.M.–Pre Authorized Contributions

Mac Biggers, Chair

11:50 A.M.–Announcements

12:00 P.M.–Adjourn

1:00 P.M.–Afternoon Announcements

1:05 P.M.– New Jersey State Library - Talking Book & Braille Center

Adam Szczepaniak, Deputy State Librarian and Director

Adam will highlight this past year and then outline plans for 2021.

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey, Denville

Elsa Zavoda, Program Director

Elsa will share all of the free virtual programs that will raise your expectations to educate, motivate and inspire all to live the life you want!

Fit break

1:40 P.M.–Our First National Convention Experience

Zooming to Houston, Texas Vincent Elorza and Jennifer Uchanow, members.

2:00 P.M.–Learning Skills and Tricks at the Senior Retreat

Jane Degenshein, Board Member, National Association of the Senior Blind

Sharing a week of their experiences; Linda DeBerardinis, Ruth Williams, participants.

2:40 P.M.–September 11 and Beyond: You Never Know Where the World Will Take You”.

Linda Melendez, Former Deloitte & Touche; Information Technology New Hire Specialist, 2 WFC New York City

Michael Hingson, President, The Michael Hingson Group, Inc. and consultant to Independence Science

Meet survivors of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. You will hear some incredible and heroic stories of survival, perseverance and how these Federationists used their life philosophies to move forward from that trying day.

3:10 P.M.–Possibilities/Opportunities

National Overview, as we continue to provide information to all members that they are members in the chapters/divisions, affiliate and the national organization, we encourage all to participate and plan for possibilities/opportunities.

Anil Lewis, Executive Director Blindness Initiatives for the National Federation of the Blind; Overview of the Jernigan Institute

Rachel Kuntz, Blindness Learning In New Dimensions BLIND Inc., Resource Development Coordinator Minnesota

Anny Safier, a state scholarship winner in 2020, will provide her experience as a student at BLIND Inc. She will also provide an overview as a student and how she is implementing her skills at college and in the community

4:00 P.M.–Panel on Careers Come and Learn the Steps to Transform Dreams into Reality

Richard Earle, Paradox Comics and Cards, Entrepreneur North Dakota
Evelyn Valdez, Department of Veterans Affairs, Logistics Management Specialist, Washington D.C.,
Tracy Carcione, IT Tech Specialist, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, New York City
Titus G. Massey Manager, Financial Services Port Department, The Port authority of New York & New Jersey, New York City

5:30 to 6:15 P.M. –Beginners Yoga Class

Veronica Stocker, Certified Yoga Instructor, 2020 State Scholarship Winner & Member
Join Veronica as she offers a beginner’s yoga class for all participants. Bring your chair or towel and a pillow to experience a relaxing way to unwind. This class will offer gentle stretching, as well as meditation and breathing techniques.

7:00 P.M.–Business Meeting of the NFBNJ 2020 Convention

This meeting is the supreme legislative authority of the NFBNJ affiliate.
All are welcome; NFBNJ President, Joseph Ruffalo will provide an overview of the past years activities and plans for the future. Also, elections to the affiliate board will be held.

**Saturday, November 21, 2020
Convention Zoom participation details**

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9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.—General Session and two Break out Opportunities!

9:00 A.M.—Opening Remarks

Joseph Ruffalo, President NFBNJ

9:15 A.M.— Cyber Security

Brian Keene, Member Technology Division

Tips on how to protect yourself in an increasingly dangerous online world.

9:40 P.M.—Was Your Accessible Voting Experience Accessible?

Lou Ann Blake, J.D. Director of Research Programs, Blindness Indicatives, NFB,

Baltimore will provide the path for accessible voting that began with the NFB

Mary Ciccone, Director of Policy Disability Rights of New Jersey will provide the history

of voting in 2020 and the future. Tracy Carcione and Linda Melendez, members will

share their past and current voting experiences.

Fit break

10:20 A.M. Explore Supersense the Android and iOS App

Jane Degenshein, President, NFBNJ Technology Division, Facilitator

Shane Lowe, Mediate, Community Manger

Supersense can be described as the most efficient and effective scanning app on the market for android and iOS. Shane will discuss the development and will demo this app.

10:50 A.M.—Establishing a Path to Independence by Raising Expectations

Highlighting Braille, mobility and technology, the three basic steps to raise expectations to live the life you want.

Debbie Bloomer, Retired Teacher of the Blind

Carley Mullin, Louisiana Tech University, Discovery Method, Orientation and Mobility

Richard Fox, Assistive Technology Instructor and owner B & F Teaching & Technology.

Fit break

11:30 A.M.–Morning Session Adjourns

Special Note: The General Session resumes at 1:00 pm. There is also a concurrent session from 1:00 PM to 2:50 PM for “**Parents of Blind Children Division**”.

Please feel welcome to join the session you will benefit the most from. Thank you!

12:10 P.M.–Open Chat Session

Jane Degenshein, Facilitator

Grab your lunch; get ready to share your experiences in a year that is different than in the past. Discuss how you have journeyed through a year of challenges.

11:00 A.M. to 12:50 P.M.–Student Division Business Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3570118237?pwd=cldMKzNETmtyWGVVeGo1a1lrU09Xdz09>

Meeting ID: 357 011 8237

Passcode: 460994

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Meeting ID: 357 011 8237

Passcode 460 994

Next Generation of Federation Leaders

Jonathan Zobek, President New Jersey Association of Blind Students

To provide an overview of this past years programs and projects and to discuss 2021

Next steps;

Dues and Elections;

Lia Stone, NFBNJ Chair State Scholarship Committee

National and State Scholarship Opportunities will provide the many reasons to apply;

Veronica Gaspa, NFBNJ Board Member and Liaison to the Students Division will

provide the connection of the state affiliate board to the students;
Johna Wright, Liaison National Association of Blind Students;
Johna will provide the National division connection to our New Jersey students.

Opening and Walking Through the Door into the World of Science

Cary Supalo, Chemist; and Michael Hingson, Physicist

Come and learn how to open up doors to the wondrous world of science for blind students. There are many questions scientists ask about natural phenomenon in the world. We as blind people ask similar questions about how I travel from my house to work, or how do I make that awesome new pasta salad. This all relates to problem solving skills. Come and learn how fundamental problem solving can open up doors of possibilities into the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics professions.

1:00 to 2:50 P.M.–Parents of Blind Children Division

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2442502241?pwd=WDZ3Nzh4M2QxNTFDMnA2Z3dpQ2tCUT09>

Meeting ID: 244 250 2241

Passcode: 460994

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Meeting ID: 244 250 2241

Passcode 460 994

Parents of Blind Children,

Carlton Walker, President, National Organization of Blind Children, Attorney

Carol Castellano, Secretary, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children,

Founder, Parents of Blind Children-New Jersey, Author

1:00 to 2:50 pm: Tools for Adapting to New Environments

1:00 to 1:50 P.M.–Individualized Education Plans: What has changed and what hasn't

The world is a very different place than it was last year. The school environment has changed, but our blind/low vision child's educational rights have not.

Join us as we review special education law and explore its purposes so that we may protect our children's rights in every school environment.

2:00 to 2:50 P.M.–Social Skills: From fist bumps to face masks and everything in between

Our "new normal" doesn't change the need for social skills; it just adds more needs to the list. Join us as we explore identifying and meeting our blind/low vision children's social skill needs as we head into the holiday season during a pandemic.

Saturday Afternoon General Session

1:00 to 2:50 P.M.–Technology on the Move

1:00 to 1:50 P.M.–NFB Newsline

Scott White, NFB Director of Sponsored Technology Programs

In this workshop Scott will share how Newsline is accessed and demo the latest NFB Newsline App 3.0.

2:00 to 2:50 P.M.–TTJ The Tech Juggernaut

Matt Vollbrecht, Certified Apple Instructor, Owner of the Tech Juggernaut
A Delicious Apple Demo exploring Apple Maps, Apple Books and more.

3:00 3:50 P.M.–Advocate or Disintegrate!

David DeNotaris, CIO Chief Inspiration Officer Sky's the Limit Communications & Associates

Kaleigh Brendle, Student

Advocate or Disintegrate, you must participate! Participants will learn the importance of showing up, speaking up, then shutting up and being an active listener and notetaker. Many communicate, but few really connect. If you are a student, someone looking for a job, or someone interested in being promoted, advocacy skills are essential for success at home, school, the community and work! Excellent communicators, advocacy, listening and notetaking skills are keys that can unlock doors, opportunities and your potential!

Special Note: Kaleigh has provided one of her international presentations.

Link: <https://youtu.be/Z4L2m7ODKY8>

4:00 to 5:00 P.M.–Why I Am A Federationist:

Joseph Ruffalo, President NFBNJ

Thirty-two years as a Federationist

Joseph will share his experiences, growing the national, state and local organization. What is the secret of a successful Federation; Why are you here? What is a leader?

7:00 P.M.–Banquet

Master of Ceremonies: Nicky Gacos, President National Association of Blind Merchants

Invocation, Fr. Maximilian Buonocore, Monk of Newark Abbey

Keynote Address Julie Deden, Executive Director, Colorado Center for the Blind, Littleton, Colorado

Presentation of Awards

Recognition of sponsors

Recognition of contributors to the state scholarships

Presentation of State Scholarship Awards

Door prizes

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey expresses appreciation to all members and non members who attended the 44th virtual state convention.

Joseph Ruffalo, President
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey
973 743 0075
Nfbnj1@verizon.net
www.nfbnj.org

Linda Melendez, First Vice-President
National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey
Chair of State Convention Activities
732 421 7063
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For the list of affiliate board members, chapter/division, Committees, projects and programs, please visit the state website at
www.nfbnj.org

Special Announcements

Meet our National Rep Julie Deden

I am honored to be the national representative at our New Jersey convention and looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in our new virtual space. I have always been blind but truly did not feel good about being a blind person until I became involved in the National Federation of the blind at age 18. Even when I joined the NFB it took a few years for me to feel proud of being a blind person. The National Federation of the Blind has given me the opportunity to participate in so many activities where I have met positive blind role models who have taken their time to mentor me.

I have lived in Colorado for most of my life. Diane and Ray McGeorge are two of the first people I met through the NFB. They spent so much time with me teaching me about life and the NFB. Today, Diane serves as the chair of the Colorado Center Board of directors and is still teaching me. She is not only a mentor but is like my mom as I feel that I grew up with her influence.

I have a master's degree in counseling psychology from Lesley University and always knew from a young age that I wanted to work with people. I enjoyed working as a rehabilitation counselor for 14 years, because I had an opportunity to provide support and mentor my clients. In 1997 I left the Colorado division of vocational Rehabilitation to work at the Colorado Center for the blind. Once again, Diane mentored me to prepare me to become the director of the center in March of 1999.

I have held countless offices in the NFB. I currently serve as second vice president of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado. I am humbled to be the vice president of the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults.

I am married to Dan burke and have a grown-up son named Robert. Everyday is a gift and I wonder what I may learn from the day! I treasure my involvement in the NFB and know that we can do anything, with love hope and determination.

National Scholarship Program—Call for Applications Started November 1:

Every year, the National Federation of the Blind awards more than \$120,000 to blind scholars across the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in recognition of their achievements and professional aspirations. The scholarship program is our commitment to academic excellence and leadership among blind students, and each winner is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, community service, and leadership. The application process opens November 1. Review the scholarship application checklist and the scholarship program FAQs. Share this opportunity that invests in the future of blind people. To learn about the eligibility and requirements of the 2021 scholarship program visit

<https://www.nfb.org/programs-services/scholarships-and-awards/scholarship-program>

Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest

Join the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults and the National Federation of the Blind in this upcoming contest to promote Braille. K-12 students and adults learning Braille across the U.S. compete to read the most Braille pages, going against other participants in similar contest categories for seven weeks. What books are on your reading list?

Encourage more Braille. Improve reading skills. Win prizes.

Registration is opening on November 1. Learn more about the [Braille Readers Are Leaders contest](#)

NFB T-Shirts for Sale

Maybe some of your chapter members are new, maybe some members haven't yet purchased one for their wardrobe, and maybe some members and non members are looking for a spare.

They are heather red with white print. The top left on the front has our logo and in 2 lines beneath, The National Federation of the Blind. The back in 2 lines says, Live the Life You Want and are available in sizes small, medium, large, and X Large;. Prices are \$18. If interested contact Anne Marie Harris at love1160@gmail.com or 856 589 8747.

PRE-AUTHORIZED CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM (PAC Plan)

We encourage all members and conventioners to join the PAC Plan. This plan raises funds for the National Federation of the Blind by automatically debiting your checking account or charging your credit/debit card the specified monthly amount you designate; as little as \$5 a month. Individuals already enrolled are encouraged to raise their monthly contributions.

To arrange for PAC Plan contributions go to nfb.org/pac and fill out the form. National Center will call you to take payment information. You can also call 877 635 2711 or email pac@nfb.org to enroll.

The National Center will contact individuals for financial and banking information following the convention. For additional assistance contact Mac Biggers, NFBNJ PAC Plan Coordinator at 801 916 9753

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey thanks the following sponsor and vendors for their continued support with raising expectations to live the life we want.

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We are grateful to those that contributed time, effort and suggestions to care, share,
and grow as we continue to make a difference by raising expectations to live the life we
want!