



Live the life you want.

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey Contact Listing

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 us back. Together with love, hope and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

The NFB is an organization where the blind and interested sighted persons can come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life of the blind.

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey was established in 1976 and has grown to seven chapters and five divisions, including:

Technology, Parents of Blind Children, Students, Seniors, and Sports and Recreation.

For additional information, please visit our state website at www.nfbnj.org

National Federation of the Blind National Center

President

Mark Riccobono 410-659-9314 officeofthepresident@nfb.org

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

State Board

President

Joe Ruffalo 973-743-0075 nfbnj1@verizon.net

First Vice President

Linda Melendez 732-421-7063 lindamelendez220@gmail.com

Second Vice President

Mary Jo Partyka 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com

Secretary

Ellen Sullivan 302-658-2268 ems553@comcast.net

Treasurer

Andrew Rees 732-659-6002 amrees567@gmail.com

Board Members

Annemarie Cooke 609-859-4084 aec732@gmail.com

Linda DeBerardinis 856-735-5559 ljdeber3@comcast.net

Jane Degenshein 973-736-5785 jdegen16@comcast.net

Mary Fernandez 732-857-7004 trillian551@gmail.com

Vee Gaspa 434-989-1868 Veronica.gaspa@student.shu.edu

Zoraida Krell 201-439-0120 krellbz@gmail.com

For the time, location, and date of all chapter, division, and committee meetings please contact the number provided for each.

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey Chapters

At Large Chapter (statewide)

Joe Ruffalo, President 973-743-0075 nfbnj1@verizon.net

Capital Chapter (Mercer & surrounding counties)

Mary Jo Partyka President 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com

Central Jersey Chapter (Middlesex & surrounding counties)

Mac Biggers, President 801-916-9753 macbiggers@yahoo.com

Garden State Chapter (Camden & surrounding counties)

Ryan Stevens, President 856-520-0016 RYSteve@comcast.net

Northeast Chapter (Bergen & surrounding counties)

Dan Facchini, President 201-906-8655 danfb@verizon.net

Northern Chapter (Essex & surrounding counties)

Rick Fox, President 973-743-6107 richardfox1@comcast.net

South Jersey Shore Chapter (Atlantic & surrounding counties)

Phil Harrison, President 609-788-0890 pbharrison39@comcast.net

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey Divisions

Parents of Blind Children-NJ

Carol Castellano, Founder 973-377-0976 blindchildren@verizon.net

NJ Association of Senior Blind

Jane Degenshein, President 973-736-5785 jdegen16@comcast.net

NJ Association of Blind Students

Jonathan Zobek, President 609-216-0181 jrzobek@gmail.com

NFBNJ Sports & Recreation Division

Linda Melendez, President 732-421-7063 lindamelendez220@gmail.com

NJ Association of Blind Technology Users

Jane Degenshein, President 973-736-5785 jdegen16@comcast.net

Projects, Programs, & Committees

Adopt Adaptive Equipment

Joe Ruffalo, Coordinator 973-743-0075 nfbnj1@verizon.net

BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) Academy

Mary Jo Partyka, Coordinator 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com

Blind Children's Resource Center

Carol Castellano, Coordinator 973-377-0976 blindchildren@verizon.net

Blind Merchants/Entrepreneurs Committee

Dan Facchini, Chair 201-906-8655 danfb@verizon.net

Blind Parents Committee

Joanna Mallard, Chair 201-354-0098 joannmallard@gmail.com

Blind Veterans Information Program

Joe Ruffalo, Coordinator 973-743-0075 nfbnj1@verizon.net

Braille Committee

Mary Jo Partyka, Chair 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com

Braille Mentoring Program

Mary Jo Partyka, Coordinator 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com

DeafBlind Committee

Andrew Rees, Chair 732-659-6002 amrees567@gmail.com

Diabetic Committee

Ed Godfrey, Chair 856-628-3657 edgodfrey1957@gmail.com

Fundraiser/Grant Writing Committee

Ellen Sullivan, Chair 302-658-2268 ems553@comcast.net

Green Drop

Linda DeBerardinis, Coordinator 856-735-5559 ljdeber3@comcast.net

Guide Dog Committee

Dan Facchini, Chair 201-906-8655 danfb@verizon.net

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

Ryan Stevens, Liaison 856-520-0016 RYSteve@comcast.net

Anthony Lanzilotti, Co-Liaison 609-361-3038 t777@gmail.com

Andrew Rees, Co-Liaison 732-659-6002 amrees567@gmail.com

KNFB Reader

Rick Fox, Liaison 973-743-6107 richardfox1@comcast.net

Legislative Director

Ryan Stevens 856-520-0016 RYSteve@comcast.net
Anthony Lanzilotti, Assistant 609-361-3038 tti777@gmail.com

Liability Insurance Committee

Phil Harrison, Chair 609-545-8575 pbharrison39@comcast.net

Membership Engagement

Rick Fox, Chair 973-743-6107 richardfox1@comcast.net

NFB-Newsline®

Jane Degenshein, Coordinator 973-736-5785 jdegen16@comcast.net

PAC (Pre-Authorized Contribution) Plan

Mac Biggers, Coordinator 801-916-9753 macbiggers@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian

Ryan Stevens 856-520-0016 rysteve@comcast.net

Public Relations/Press Core Committee

Annemarie Cooke, Chair 609-859-4084 aec732@gmail.com
Mary Jo Partyka, Co-Chair 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com

Resolutions Committee

Ryan Stevens, Chair 856-520-0016 rysteve@comcast.net

Rideshare Testing Program

Trish Ebel, Coordinator 201-456-0091 patriciaebel0302@comcast.net

Scholarship Committee

Mary Fernandez, Chair 732-857-7004 trillian551@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator

Zoraida Krell 201-638-3418 krellbz@gmail.com

Spanish Committee

Rosa Santiago, Chair 201-892-6946 rosa.santiago901@gmail.com

The Sounding Board

Kathy Gabry, Editor 201-998-9427 specialk38@aol.com
Annemarie Cooke, Co-Editor 609-859-4084 aec732@gmail.com
Mary Jo Partyka, Co-Editor 609-888-5459 choirnfb@gmail.com
Barbara Shallit, Advertising Director 201-213-2885 barbart@tullensound.com

Transit Committee

Linda Melendez, Chair 732-421-7063 lindamelendez220@gmail.com

Vehicle Donation Program

Andrew Rees, Coordinator 732-659-6002 amrees567@gmail.com

Webmaster

Brian Mackey

609-680-8488 webmaster@nfbnj.org

White Cane Committee

Jane Degenshein, Chair

973-736-5785 Jdegen16@comcast.net

Ann Marie Harris, Co-Chair

Lovey1160@gmail.com

Each year, the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey awards scholarships at the banquet of each convention to worthy students with vision loss. For additional information pertaining to the national scholarships, please visit www.nfb.org/scholarships or contact the NFB Scholarship Committee at scholarships@nfb.org. For additional information pertaining to state scholarships, please visit www.nfbnj.org/scholarships or contact Mary Fernandez at 732-857-7004 or trillian551@gmail.com, or Joe Ruffalo at 973-743-0075 or nfbnj1@verizon.net.

The National Federation of the Blind uses car donations to improve the education of blind children, distribute free white canes, help veterans, and so much more. We have partnered with Vehicles For Charity to process donated vehicles. Just call toll-free (855) 659-9314, and a representative can make arrangements, or you can donate online by visiting www.nfb.org/vehicledonations. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the NJ Vehicle Donations coordinator Andrew Rees at 732-659-6002 or amrees567@gmail.com.

The National Federation of the Blind has teamed up with GreenDrop to collect donations of clothing, household, and personal items. People living in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, DC, and Virginia can donate unwanted items through drop-off locations or by calling for a pick-up from their home or business. The funds raised from this program go to the National Federation of the Blind general fund to support programs for blind STEM students, veterans, and seniors, as well as the ongoing efforts to improve equality for the blind. Make sure all boxes and bags are marked NFB so that we can get credit for the donated items. Your donations can be taken to specified drop-off locations, or you can arrange for a pickup by calling 888-610-4632 or by going to www.nfbpickup.org. If you have any questions, you can contact the NJ GreenDrop coordinator Linda DeBerardinis at 856-735-5559 or ljdeber3@comcast.net.

by supporting the National Federation of the Blind's Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Plan through pre-approving as little as \$5 a month (\$0.17 a day) to be transferred into the general account of the NFB, you assist the NFB to provide free literature, free white canes, free slate and styluses, and much more. All you need to do is fill out the form found at <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/pac-form-fillout-accessible.pdf> and send to the national center in Baltimore to the attention of their accounting department. If you have any questions, contact NJ PAC Plan coordinator Mac Biggers at 801-916-9753 or macbiggers@yahoo.com.

The National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey celebrated its 42nd state convention from Thursday, November 1st through Sunday, November 4th, 2018. The location was the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, 515 US Highway 1 South, Iselin, NJ 08830. The state convention committee will be preparing convention items, activities during the convention, numerous seminars/presentations, an exhibit room, technology updates, present state scholarships, provide door prizes and offer auction items. For questions for the state convention, please contact Joe Ruffalo at 973-743-0075 or nfbnj1@verizon.net. Please visit www.nfbnj.org/state-convention for additional information regarding the convention.