

National Federation of the Blind of Illinois

State Convention 2018

“COMMEMORATING THE PAST, BUILDING THE FUTURE”

AGENDA

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

OF ILLINOIS

Annual Convention

October 26-28, 2018

Sheraton Chicago O’Hare

6501 N. Mannheim Road

Rosemont, IL 60018

847-699-6300

Sheraton.com

**Members of NFBI wish to thank the following donors for their generous gifts:**

Advanced Group

The Aileen S. Andrew Foundation

Jefferson L. Miller, Jr. and Abby Lock Castle

J. Milton Harris/and Alice Chenault

Dr. and Mrs. Neal Hart of the Illinois Prairie Foundation

The Illinois Association of Blind Merchants

Community Foundation Great River Bend - Mildred Crespin-Kroegaert Fund

Mr. Harold W. Knapheide III, in honor of his mother, the late Mary MacDill Knapheide

Elick and Charlotte Lindon Foundation

The Community Foundation of the Quincy Area from the Arthur O. and Lela B. Lindsey Fund

The Naperville Noon Lion's Club

Trinity Fellowship

Richard Lansden, trustee, The Leona Stanford Vollintine Charitable Trust

Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation

Sprint

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Announcements that you wish to be made from the convention floor during sessions MUST be submitted to the information desk in the convention hall. Marilyn Green and Leslie Hamric are coordinating our information desk this year. Patricia Olson is handling the registration table at convention. Mary Grunwald and Marilyn Green are running our door prize table.

If you wish to reach President Denise R. Avant during sessions, please convey your requests to the information desk.

Smoking is not permitted in convention sessions.

National Federation of the Blind of Illinois

Denise R. Avant, President

3410 N. Lake Shore Dr., Apt. 4L-M

Chicago, IL 60657 (773) 991-8050

National Federation of the Blind of Illinois (“NFBI”)

[NFBI Website](http://www.nfbofillinois.org)

[National Federation of the Blind Website](https://nfb.org/free-cane-program)

**2018 Sheraton Chicago O’hare Hotel Information**

Here is some basic information about our convention hotel, the Sheraton Chicago O’Hare.

Address and Phone: The hotel is located at 6501 N. Mannheim Road, Il., 60018. The phone number is (847-699-6300)

Sleeping Rooms: The rooms are suites with a parlor and a sleeping room. The convention room rate is $99 plus applicable taxes. Most of the rooms overlook the atrium. All rooms have hair dryers, coffee makers, and television sets.

Key Cards: The key cards are slid into a small opening just above the door knob.

Check In and Check Out: The check in time is 3:00 pm and the checkout is 11:00 pm.

Wi Fi: There is free Wi Fi in all lobby and common areas. This includes our meeting rooms.

Facilities: There is a workout center and a restaurant/bar. The restaurant is called Myricks, and the hours are from 6:00 am to 10 pm. The hotel bar starts serving at noon, and generally closes at 12:00 am. There is also in-room dining from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm. There is lots of parking.

Shuttle Service: The hotel has a 24-hour shuttle service to and from O’Hare Airport. The blue line stop nearest the hotel is Rosemont.

Meeting Rooms: All meeting rooms are on the first floor.

Dog Relief Area:There is also a dog relief area. There is a grassy area  just outside the ballroom area.  If you are facing the front of the hotel it would be to the right – 75 steps to the grassy area along the front of the building. If you’re in the Grand Ballroom, there are a set of doors out to the grassy area of another set of doors between the ballroom and the atrium area, which will lead out to this area as well.

**Braille is Beautiful -** Sunday

Braille is Beautiful will take place on Sunday. Please feel free to reach out to Debbie Stein if you wish to participate. Her e-mail address is [dkent5817@att.net](mailto:dkent5817@att.net), and her phone is 773-203-1394.

Have a great convention, everyone!

**IABS, INFORMATION, PAC AND SALES TABLES**

The information desk will be in the hotel main lobby on Friday Oct. 26, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m., and in our general session room during general sessions. Registration will be in the hallway outside of the Sheraton 1 on Friday from 4:00 through 7:00 p.m. as well as on Saturday from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The sales table for IABS will be in the back during general sessions. The PAC plan table will also be in the back during general sessions.

**Announcement:**

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois can be made in the form of a will, or living trust, an income generating gift, or by naming us as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. For additional information, please contact Patti Chang at (773) 307-6440 or at pchang@nfb.org.

The PAC Plan allows members, affiliates, chapters, and others to give a regular and automatic donation to the Federation every month. All you need to provide is your checking or savings account identification information.

Because of the costs associated with operating the program, the minimum donation is $5 a month and there is no restriction on how much you donate.

Please sign up at the PAC table during convention to begin a new PAC contribution or to make changes to your current contribution. Your donation will help the blind live the lives they want.

**IABS Raffle**

IABS Raffle- the Illinois Association of Blind Students will hold a raffle with the winner to be drawn at the banquet on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Tickets are $2 or three for $5. All monies will go to help IABS. So please be generous. The coordinator of this event is Emma Meyer, IABS President.

## Free Aira Site Access at National Federation of the Blind State Conventions

The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with Aira to provide free Aira Site Access to NFB members during our 2018 state convention. Aira subscribers who are National Federation of the Blind members can use the service at our convention for free without having minutes deducted from their plans. In addition, those interested in Aira have the unique opportunity to try out the service for free while at our convention. This convention-wide, free site access is available only at NFB state conventions, giving NFB members an exclusive opportunity to test-drive Aira in a convention setting.

Aira allows blind individuals to connect via live video to a trained agent through a mobile app or wearable glasses to get real-time visual information or assistance. Learn more about Aira and special pricing available for NFB members at go.aira.io/NFB.

## How it Works

Before you head to convention or as soon as you get there, download the free Aira app from the App Store, and create a guest account if you are not already an Aira subscriber. Also, make sure your phone’s GPS feature is enabled. When you enter the convention Site Access location, your phone will receive a notification letting you know that the space you are in is part of the Aira Network. When you connect with an agent, he or she will also confirm that you are now covered by the network, and no minutes will be deducted from your account.

When you leave or enter convention areas that are covered by the Site Access network, you will be informed by the Aira agent.

To learn more about Aira and the special plan available exclusively to NFB members, visit go.aira.io/NFB.

Welcome to our 2018 State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois!!!

**Friday, October 26, 2018, Afternoon**

2:00-4:30 Information Table – Marilyn Green and Leslie Hamric, Hotel Lobby

4:00-7:00 Registration, Pat Olson, Registration Coordinator

Hallway Outside of Sheraton 1

3:30-3:45 Access Technology – Ed Vitu, E.M. Vitu

Sheraton 1

3:45-4:00 Getting A Guide Dog – Pamela Berman, Outreach alumni Representative Guide Dogs For the Blind – Sheraton 1

4:00-5:00 pm Resolutions – Steve Hastalis, Chair

Sheraton 1

October 26, 2018, Evening

4:00-7:00 Registration - Pat Olson, Hallway outside of Sheraton 1

5:00-6:00 At Large get-to-know-you Dinner – hosted by Chapter member, Leslie Hamric

Cost $10, room TBA

5:00-7:00 Scholarship Dinner – (Finalists, Committee Members, and Invited Guests)

O'Hare East

7:00-11:00 IABS IDOL - Admission $5, includes your first performance

Emma Meyer, IABS President, Sheraton 1

Join us for the Illinois Association of Blind Students IABS Idol

Based on the popular TV show, American Idol. IABS Idol invites everyone to participate as a soloist or group and perform a song of their choice. Celebrate Halloween if you wish by wearing a costume. Bring an instrument and perform your favorite song. Each performance costs $5 per person. Don't forget our “Battle of the Chapters.” This year's theme is love songs.

**Saturday, October 27, 2018, Morning**

7:00-8:30 Parents Breakfast

Sheraton 1

7:15-7:30 Introductions

7:30-7:40 The 2018 Buddy Program at BLIND, Inc. – Dan Wenzel, Director; Dan Meza, Participant

7:40-7:50 2017-2018 Freedom Link – Elizabeth Sprecher, Aihua Sprecher, and Rudy Houston, students

7:50-8:30 I’m Blind and It’s O’kay – Jeannie Massay, Counselor, Oklahoma City, OK

8:00 - 9:00 Registration

Pat Olson, Registration Coordinator

Outside of Sheraton 1

Later registration see Patti Gregory Chang in General Sessions

**Kids Camp Agenda, October 27, 2018**

8:30-5:30 Kids Camp

O’Hare East

8:45-9:00 Registration ($10/child lunch)

9:00-9:30 Introductions and ice breaker (stretching)

9:30-10:30 Halloween crafts; snack

10:30-11:00 Halloween stories

11:00-11:30 Treasure hunt

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Movie

2:00-3:15 Goal ball

3:30-4:00 free time

4:00-4:45 Sing-a-long and music instruments with Dave, Steve and Cathy

4:45-5:00 Wrap up/clean up; pick up time

**October 27, 2018, Morning Session**

9:00-11:30 General Session

Sheraton 1

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Announcements - Denise R. Avant, President NFBI

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Don Jordan – August 11, 1944-July 7, 2018 - Chicago

Harold Knapheide, III – August 29, 1945-August 28, 2018 NFBI Donor - Quincy Illinois

9:10-9:20 Organizing the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois - Video from Ramona Walhof, NFB of Idaho

9:20-9:25 Award Presentation – Marylou Grunwald, Member of Board of Directors of NFBI

9:25-10:10 National Report – Jeannie Massay, Treasurer National Federation of the Blind and President of the NFB of Oklahoma

10:10-10:25 National Student Report – Kenia Flores, Member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Blind Students, a Division of the NFB

10:25-10:45 My Internship through the NFBI’s Internship Program – Luke Miller, Student

10:45-11:10 Getting the Blindness Skills to Live the Lives We Want – Nadia Montanez and Kaitlyn Ryan, Students At BLIND, Inc.

11:10-11:30 The State of Services for Blind People in Illinois – Ingrid Halvorson, Assistant Bureau Chief and John Gordon, Chief of the Illinois Bureau of Blind Services

12:002:15 Illinois Association of Blind Students, and Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors lunch and program in conjunction with our parents of blind children group

Sheraton 1 and 2

12:00-12:10 pm Opening Ceremonies – Emma Meyer, President of Illinois Association of Blind Students and Edward Birmingham, President of Illinois Association of Blind Merchants

12:10-12:20 50 Years of the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois – Ramona Walhof, NFB of Idaho, Marylou Grunwald, NFBI Board Member, and Leslie Hamric, NFBI member

12:20-12:40 Lunch

12:40-1:00 Teaching Excellence Awards – Emma Meyer, President of IABS

1:00-1:45 Vendor Awards

BEP Special Service Awards – Matt Cunningham, Director of Personnel and Training of BEP and Marco Gianotti, Awards Subcommittee Chair

Marlene Katsion Extraordinary Effort Award Donnie Anderson, Chair of the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors

Homer Steele Advocacy Award – Donnie Anderson, Chair ICBV

Larry Jones Award – Donnie Anderson, ICBV

1:45-2:00 Meet the State Scholarship Class- Emma Meyer, President of IABS

2:00-2:15 Student Luncheon Speech – Kenia Flores, Member of the NABS Board of Directors

2:30-3:30 Parents Breakout

Gateway Room

2:30-2:40 Introductions, Who are We and What Brings Us Here Today? – Nelly Gamino, Parent, Berwyn Illinois

2:40-2:50 Hands-on Science at STEM EQ -Kaitlyn Ryan, Student, Viola Illinois

2:50-3:30 Building A Team, How Parents and Teachers Can Work Together to Help Blind Children in School and Beyond – Amy Lund, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Bloomington Illinois

**October 28, 2018, Afternoon sessions**

3:00-5:00 General Session

Sheraton 1

3:00-3:10 Exploring With Aira – Daniel Fry, AIRA Director of Public Engagement

3:10-3:30 Accessibility of United Airlines Online and Mobile Products – Ray Campbell, Senior Accessibility Analyst

3:30-3:50 Career Success in the Law – Joshua Loevy, Loevy and Loevy

3:50-4:10 2018 BELL program – Amy Lund, Teacher of the Visually Impaired and BELL Participants

4:10-4:20 2018-2019 Nationwide Braille Readers Are Leaders – Debbie Kent Stein, 1st Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Illinois

4:20-4:30 Illinois and National Scholarship Programs – Debbie Kent Stein, 1st Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Illinois

4:30-4:40 Illinois In Action With Federal Legislation and the 2019 Washington Seminar – Marilyn Green, At Large President, and Co-chair of Federal Legislation

4:40-4:50 Accessibility At Sprint – Sarah Garcia, Sprint Corp.

4:50-5:00 Dream Makers Circle and Ways to Donate to the National Federation of the Blind and the Illinois Affiliate – Patti Chang, Outreach Chair of NFB and Treasurer of NFBI

5:00 Adjournment

**October 27, 2018, Evening**

5:30-6:00 State Scholarship Committee Meeting – Room TBA

6:00-7:00 Hospitality

Sheraton Foyer

7:00-10:00 Annual Banquet

Sheraton 1

MC Debbie Stein, 1st Vice President, NFBI

7:05 Welcome and Invocation David Meyer, 2nd Vice President

7:10 Illinois Association of Blind Students Raffle

7:15-7:25 Commemorating the Past Video

7:25-7:35 Recognizing NFBI’s First President, Rami Rabby – Video

Award – Steve Hastalis

7:35 Dinner

8:00 Awards

Annette R. Grove Legislative Award Presenter Marilyn Green

Eileen O’Brien Service Award Presenter Debbie Stein

Gwendolyn Williams Award Presenter Debbie Stein

8:10 A word from NFBI Donors – Christina Kuckie, Invesco, Naperville Noon Lions Club

8:20 Presentation of State Scholarships – Debbie Stein, 1st Vice President NFBI

8:30 Fifteen for Funds – Cathy Randall, Board Member NFBI

8:45 Banquet Keynote – Jeanie Massay, Treasurer, NFB Board of Directors and President of the NFB of Oaklahoma

9:15 The NFBI Song – NFBI Choir

10:00-12:00 Hospitality

Sheraton 1

**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

7:00-8:30 IABS Breakfast and business Meeting Emma Meyer, IABS President

Sheraton 1

Note: All are welcome who are interested in student issues but please note that only those who have paid IABS dues may vote in elections. Please see Glenn Moore or any IABs Board Member to pay dues. We will be collecting money at the registration table and at the IABS table during convention.

President's, Treasurer's, and Secretary's Reports

Committee Reports

Elections

Executive Board

Board Seat 1, currently held by Emma Meyer

Board Seat 2, currently held by Adrienne Falconer

Board Seat 3 Currently held by Amy Bosko

Board Seat 4, Currently held by Dustin Cather

Board Seat 5, Currently held by Glenn Moore

General Board Members

Board Seat 6, Currently Held by Debbie Stein

Board Seat 7, Currently Held by Tori Clark

Old Business

New Business

8:00 Student Panel

Adjournment

**Sunday, October 28, 2018**

9:00-12:00 General Session

Sheraton 1

9:00-9:05 Call to Order

9:05-9:35 Braille Is Beautiful, a Dramatic Reading,

Deborah Stein, Author and 1st Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of Illinois

9:35-9:45 Music Is My Passion – Leslie Hamric, Cellist, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

9:45-9:55 Closing Remarks- Kenia Flores, Board of Directors of NABS

9:55-10:30 State Reports

Treasurers Report – Patti Chang, Treasurer NFBI

Presidents Report – Denise Avant, President, NFBI

10:30-11:00 Chapter Reports

Illinois Merchants Division – Ed Birmingham, President, IABM

IABS – Emma Meyer, IABS

At Large Chapter – Marilyn Green, President at Large Chapter

Chicago Chapter – Steve Hastalis, President, Chicago Chapter

Black Hawk Chapter – Patrick Olson, President, Blackhawk Chapter

Four Rivers Chapter - Brian Sumner, President, Four Rivers

Ferris Wheel Chapter – Bill Reif, President Ferris Wheel

11:00-11:30 Resolutions - Steve Hastalis, Chair

11:30-12:00 Elections

Executive Board

President, Currently Held by Denise R. Avant

1st Vice President, Currently Held by Debbie Stein

2d Vice President, Currently held by David Meyer

Secretary, Currently held by Glenn Moore

Treasurer, Currently held by Patti S. Chang

General Board Seat

Board Seat 1, currently held by Cathy Randall

Board Seat 2, currently held by Patricia Olson

Election of Delegate and Alternates to 2018 National Convention

Final Remarks from National Representative - Jeanie Massay, Treasurer of NFB and President of NFB of Oklahoma

12:00 Adjournment

Thanks to the Special Events Committee, the Sound committee, and all others who have served on committees, worked registration and information tables, secured door prizes, and appeared on the agenda. You have helped make this convention a tremendous success. I want to particularly thank Marylou Grunwald and Steve Hastalis, Chairs of the 50th Anniversary Committee, and all of the members who served on that committee.

NFB of Illinois

President: Denise R. Avant, Esq.

**NFB 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.

**One-Minute Message**

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.



