2019 Convention Agenda

Remembering Our Past and Racing Toward Our Future

President Christina Clift

Holiday Inn, West Cedar Bluff
9134 Executive Park Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee
National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee

Board of Directors

Christina Clift, President, Millington
Terry Smith, First Vice President, Chattanooga
James Boehm, Second Vice President, Nashville
Steve Norman, Secretary, Murfreesboro
Melissa Smith, Treasurer, Ooltewah
Craig McFarland, Board Member, Munford
Curtis Tillman, Board Member, Memphis
John Harris, Board Member, Murfreesboro
Greg Self, Board Member, Knoxville
Shannon Hansen, Board Member, Murfreesboro
James Brown, Board Member, Antioch

Our Credo
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!

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.
LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT

(Lyrics copied from October 2015 Presidential Release)

Chorus:

Live the life you want. Nobody can stop you.
Shoot for the sun and break on through.
So you're blind. You'll be fine. We've got good news!
You can live the life you want. Yes, we know the truth.
Grab a cane, get trained, gotta get movin'.
Make a change in the wage, that's what we're doin'.

Come with me, yeah

You and me, NFB, let's dream together.

NFB, you and me, lives on forever.

You will see yeah.

You can live the life you want. You’ll know the truth.
About the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee

Who We Are
The National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee is a 501c(3) nonprofit made up of a diverse community of blind people of all ages, their families and friends. Our strong local chapters and divisions, and well-trained leaders help newly blind people adjust to vision loss and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities. We bring our collective experiences together to effect change at the state and national level.

What We Do

- Assist blind persons to acquire the skills of independence
- Help blind persons to develop confidence in themselves
- Teach blind persons the skills of leadership through active participation in conventions, chapter meetings, and civic activities
- Encourage blind seniors to continue their active and meaningful lifestyles
- Prepare blind students for productive tax-paying careers through academic and training scholarships
- Inform people with diabetes about their options for coping with vision loss
- Support parents and friends of blind children with information about the capabilities of the blind
- Protect and promote the civil rights of blind persons through public education and legislative action
- Advocate for policies that eliminate discrimination and guarantee equal access to educational programs and high-quality rehabilitation
- Educate the public through seminars, community activities and our publications
Registration

Registration and packet pickup for the Convention will be held in the Terrace on Friday 1:00 PM-6:00 PM; on Saturday 7:45 AM-8:45 AM.

- Registration Fee: $15.00 Per Person
- Banquet: $40.00 Per Person
- Showcase of Talent: $15.00 Per Person
- Merchants Lunch: $20.00 Per Person

Door Prizes

Shannon Hansen is the chair of the Door Prize Committee. Many of you have been hard at work gathering fabulous door prizes for this convention. Please turn in your door prizes to Shannon as soon as possible. You must be registered for the Convention and present when your name is called in order to win a door prize. Door prizes will be awarded during the general sessions on Saturday and Sunday and during the convention banquet.

Hospitality

Stop by the Hospitality Suite, Room 403, for refreshments and fellowship Friday evening from 7:00 PM–11:00 PM, Saturday morning from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM, Saturday evening following the banquet, and Sunday morning from 7:00 AM to 8:50 AM.
Stay Connected and Informed:

Please follow the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee on Twitter! Visit https://twitter.com/nfbtn to receive affiliate news and updates.

Friend the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/NationalFederationoftheBlindTennessee/?ref=bookmarks/

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMcv28-4ZcG8pYxgqD3g-6g

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/nfbtnvoice/?hl=en

Visit our website at www.nfbtn.org

If you cannot attended in person you can watch convention live by following this link: https://nfbtn.org/2019livestream
FRIDAY, March 15th

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Rising Stars Parents / Student Seminar (Cedars)

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
NFBTN Board of Directors Meeting. Everyone is invited to attend! (Alcove)

1:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Exhibit Hall. (Terrace) Check out the latest offerings from a variety of companies and organizations that provide technology and services for the blind.

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Convention Registration and Packet Pick Up. (Terrace)

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Tennessee Association of Blind Students (Alcove)

Calling all students! Join us as we discuss issues that impact high school and college students across the state. This informal gathering will provide strategies on how to talk with professors or VR counselor about what accommodations you need to succeed, how to make your campus more accessible, and how to balance school work with your everyday life. Shannon Hansen, President
Are you a prospective guide dog user? Do you have questions about owning a guide dog? Are you an established team? You don't want to miss the TAGDU Hub-up Seminar! We will have a segment called Truth & Tails about Guide Dogs by our own Deanna Moore and Also a segment called Meet the Schools where you will have a chance to meet the reps from several guide dog schools. We will also be giving away door prizes and will have a fun and educational activity. Come join us for the most popular seminar at the NFBTN convention! (Alcove Room)

4:00 At Large Committee Meeting (Executive Board Room)

5:00 Resolutions Committee (Executive Board Room)

6:00 Audit Committee Meeting (Executive Board Room)

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Sports & Recreation Seminar (Cedars)

Have you ever wanted to try social dancing but didn’t know where to start? Take the first step and join us for two short lessons to learn beginning basics for salsa, one of the most popular Latin social dances, as well as a country line dance! No partner or prior dance experience required. All are welcome!

Presented by Katelyn MacIntyre, competitive ballroom dancer and Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind Performing Arts Division.

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Suite Open Room 403

9:00 PM -11:30 PM SHOWCASE OF TALENT (Neyland Ballroom)

Bring your voice, bring your instrument, and bring your friends to this evening of entertainment! Whether you sign up to share your talent or enjoy watching from the audience, come
support braille literacy and our Bell Academy and student division. Your $15 to attend will include a drink, pizza, and great performances by our affiliate members. We encourage all interested performers to sign up ahead of time. Please call 615-412-9632.

**SATURDAY, March 16th**

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM Hospitality Room is open in Room 403.

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM (Terrace) Registration and Packet-Pickup.

**GENERAL SESSION**

*(All General Sessions Will Be Held in the Neyland Ballroom)*

9:00 AM Call to Order

9:05 AM Welcome and Invocation

9:15 AM Opening Ceremony by Greg Self, President, Volunteer Chapter and Joyce Gouge, President, Northeast Chapter

Stephanie Cook, ADA Coordinator, City of Knoxville

9:30 AM Vanda Pharmaceutical by Wendy Osteen

9:45 AM Presidential Report by Christina Clift, President NFB Tennessee, Millington

10:05 AM Remembering Presidents of the Past by Tara Tate, Memphis

10:25 AM From the Starting Blocks to the Finish Line 50 Years at the Tennessee School for the Blind by Judy Denning, Nashville
10:40AM From Records to Digital Media: 50 Years at The Tennessee Library for the Blind by Ruth Hemphill

11:00AM Scholarship for Success, Lee Rogers, World Services for the Blind

11:20 AM Passing the Baton to Our Future Through Scholarships by John Harris, Scholarship Committee Chair, Murfreesboro

11:40 AM BLIND Inc.: Helping Blind People Live the Lives They Want by Dick Davis, Blind Inc. Minnesota

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch and Learn (Cedars)

Members of the Tennessee Association of Blind Merchants Division will meet to discuss important topics related to the Randolph-Sheppard Program both nationally and on the state level. The meeting will feature presentations on specific topics as well as open discussion. This is also an opportunity for merchants to network and discover what’s working and not working across the state. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in being their own boss and starting their own business through the Randolph-Shepard program. Enjoy a burger bar for lunch for $20. Other attendees will have lunch on their own. Melissa Smith, President Tennessee Association of Blind Merchants

2:00 PM National Report, Joe Ruffalo, Member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors and President of the NFB of New Jersey

2:30 PM Katelyn MacIntyre Performing Arts Division

2:50 PM Does Structure Matter? – A Look at Different VR Service Delivery Models
Moderator: Terry Smith, NFBTN 1st Vice President, Chattanooga

Panel Discussion Lucy Mallahan, Dick Davis, and Stephanie Jones

3:30 PM The Future is Now: What’s Going on with VR in Tennessee by Paula Knisley, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

3:50 PM Advocating for People with Disabilities Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, Becky Allan, Client Assistance Advocate, Disability Rights Tennessee

4:10 PM Why I Am A Federationist, James Brown, Antioch

4:30 PM Ringing the BELL for Literacy by Michelle Quinn, Clarksville

4:45 PM Nominating Committee Report and Elections

5:00 PM Adjourn

7:00 PM Banquet in Neyland Ballroom

    Master of Ceremonies: Jason Fox, Knoxville

    Keynote Banquet Address: Joe Ruffalo, Member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors and President, NFB of New Jersey

    2019 Scholarships and Awards

    Special Performances by Steve Norman and Katelyn Macintyre

    Time to Make Those MIC Pledges by Terry Smith, First Vice President, NFBTN, Chattanooga

    SUNDAY, March 17th

    7:00 AM - 8:50 AM Hospitality Room is open in Room 403.

    7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Nondenominational Service, Jana Jackson, Nashville
General Session

9:00 AM  Call to Order and Invocation

9:05 AM  State Financial Report, Melissa Smith, Treasurer, Ooltewah

9:15 AM  Legislative Report, James Brown, Legislative Committee Chair, Antioch

9:35 AM  Website and Media Relations Report, Joshua Harper, Nashville

9:55 AM  Chapter and Division Reports

10:45 AM Resolutions, Terry Smith, Chattanooga

11:15 AM Selection of National Delegates

11:30 AM 2020 State Convention

11:45 AM Wrap Up by Christina Clift, NFBTN President

12:00 PM Adjourn

A CLOSING MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Federationists and friends, past and present, for your generous donations of time, funds, goods, and services over the last 50 years. Thank you for helping us to build the National Federation of the Blind Tennessee.

Christina Clift, President
TAP THAT

By Risky Business and the Cane Tips

I was on NFB dot org yesterday.

They said they would send me a brand new free white cane.

It came in the mail and I opened up the package.

Put it in my hand and I started to tap it

Tap that. Free white cane.

Tap that on the classroom floor.

Tap that when you're walkin' out the door.

Tap that when you're lookin' for some more …

You gotta tap that! … You gotta tap that …

free white cane.

Tap that when you're gettin' on a plane.

Tap that in the pourin' rain.

Tap that. No, there ain't no shame.

You gotta tap that! … You gotta tap that!

Free white cane. Free white cane. Free white cane.

Yeah, you gotta tap that!
Free AIRA Site Access at NFBTN Convention

The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with AIRA to provide free AIRA Site Access to NFB members during our 2019 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.

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.

Sponsors

Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities