



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
GEORGIA

Live the life you want.

2017 State Convention

The National Federation of the Blind of Georgia

Be the Change You Want to See

October 13-15

Holiday Inn Airport North

1380 Virginia Avenue

Atlanta, GA 30344

Welcome to the 2017 State Convention

The board of directors and I want to welcome you to the 44th annual state convention of the NFB of Georgia. Many people have worked hard over the last several months to create a dynamic and engaging agenda with something for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns while you are here, feel free to find a board member and we will help you take care of whatever you need. Marcia Robinson is our convention coordinator and point of contact with the hotel. If there is a problem with our meeting spaces, please contact Marcia first.

The theme the board selected for this year's convention is "Be the change you want to see." This slogan expresses a constructive dissatisfaction with the status quo and our desire for the NFB of Georgia to be a change leader in our community. It also captures the active and aggressive way we want to pursue positive change for the blind in Georgia. With that in mind, enjoy the convention. Let's go build the Federation!

Sincerely,

Greg Aikens

President, NFB of Georgia

NFB Pledge

I pledge to participate actively in the effort 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.

2017 Convention Sponsors

A big thank you to all of our 2017 Convention Sponsors.

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Music for the Blind

Convention Agenda
Friday, October 13, 2017
Seminar Day

10:00 AM -5:00 PM – Jobs Seminar, Piedmont Room

10:00 AM-12:00 PM Employer Session, Piedmont Room 1

Are you an employer interested in hiring blind employees? Come hear from leaders in the blind community, employment specialists, Assistive Technology vendors, and other employers with blind employees to learn about how blind people access the workplace. This session will include a Q & A.

10:00 AM-12:00 PM – Resume Check-up, Piedmont Room 2

Need to dust off that resume to get ready for the Job Fair? Come meet with Employment Specialists from GVRA to get prepared for the afternoon session.

1:00-2:00 PM – Job Seekers Seminar,

Come get fired up for the Job Fair by hearing from national and local speakers addressing the topic of employment.

2:00-4:00 PM – Job Fair

Employers from across Georgia are ready to hire blind employees. Come connect with a variety of employment opportunities. Or, if you don't feel quite ready, there will be

booths where you can practice your interview skills, discuss professional attire, and prepare for employment.

12:00-6:00 PM – Registration, Piedmont Room Foyer

12:00-8:00 PM – Exhibit Hall, Majestic Room II & III

1:00-5:00 PM, Senior Possibilities Fair, Pine Room and Tulip Room

Registration and displays will begin at 1:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person. The fair will include a silent auction, speakers with an array of information, helpful hints along with an interesting mix of nonprofit partners, demonstrations, and displays for ALL seniors and adults to enjoy.

1:00-5:00 PM – Parents and Teachers of Blind Children Seminar, Oak Room

Come meet other parents of blind children to network and learn about advocating for your child's needs. We will also hear from speakers on a variety of topics

1:00-5:00 PM – Student Seminar, Pecan Room

Come join with students from across Georgia to network, learn how to advocate for what you need in high school, college, and beyond. WE will also talk about working while in college, Assistive Technology, getting access to textbooks, and getting involved in sports and recreation.

6:30-8:00 PM – NFB of Georgia Board Meeting, Pecan Room

All are invited to attend this meeting of the NFB of Georgia Board.

8:30-10:30 PM – “Do You Dream in Color”, Piedmont Room

Come see the film, “Do You Dream in Color,” winner of a 2017 Bolotin Award, which portrays the challenges and experiences that many blind students encounter as they seek equal access to education. Learn how to use this film as a Meet the Blind Month and Chapter Building activity. Question and Answer session to follow the film.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

7:30-9:00 AM – Registration, Piedmont Room Foyer

9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Mini BELL Academy, Walden Room 1 and 2

General Session, Piedmont Room

9:00 AM – Call to Order

9:05 AM – Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem- Dorothy Griffin, Secretary, NFB of Georgia and President, Atlanta Metro Chapter
NFB Pledge.

9:15 AM – Welcome from City of College Park – Councilman Tracy Wyatt, College Park City Council, Ward III

9:30 AM – National Report – Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind

10:05 AM – Changes at GVRA and What They Mean for Blind Georgians - , Sean Casey, Executive Director, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Denine Woodson, Director of Blind and Deaf Services, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

10:50 – Affordable Access to Technology – Danny Housley, Assistive Technology Funding and Resource Specialist, Tools for Life

11:00 – NFB Newslines, Dorothy Griffin, Outreach Manager, Georgia AUIAS NFB Newslines Service
Fay Wright, Outreach Manager, Georgia AUIAS NFB Newslines Service

11:15 Am – Instant Access to Information – ARIA – Kevan Worley, ARIA Explorer

11:30 AM – BELL Program Update – Hayley Alli and Erin Willis, 2017 BELL Coordinators

11:45 AM – A Philosophical Difference: NFB Training Centers, ShaQuantaey Mack, Residential Manager, BLIND Inc.
Ben Schuler, Cane Travel Instructor, Louisiana Center for the Blind
Martin Becerra-Miranda, Cane Travel Instructor, Colorado Center for the Blind

Petr Kucheryavy, Senior Outreach Specialist, Colorado
Center for the Blind

12:00 PM – Adjourn

12:00-3:00 PM – Exhibit Hall, Majestic Room II & III

12:00-1:30 PM – Lunch and Division Meetings

All registered participants will pick up their box lunches in the Oak room and then proceed to eat in one of the rooms below or wherever they choose.

Seniors Division, Pine Room

Parents Division, Pecan Room

Students Division, Dogwood Room

Diabetes Action Network, Tulip Room

Merchants Division Interest Meeting, Piedmont Room

1:30-3:00 PM – Breakout Sessions

1:30-2:00 PM: Breakout Session 1

Educational advocate Training, Piedmont Room

If you are a blind adult interested in securing better educational opportunities for blind children in Georgia or a parent wanting to assist other parents, come learn how to become an

educational advocate for blind students. The NFB of GA receives frequent requests from parents of blind children to advocate on their behalf and we want to empower our members to fill that need.

Facilitator: Jackie Anderson, Teacher of Blind Students

The NFB Training Center Difference, Pine Room

Are you interested in learning about what training at an NFB Center is like? What's all the fuss about NFB Training anyway? Come hear from alumni and staff from BLIND Inc., the Colorado Center for the Blind, and the Louisiana Center for the Blind to get all your questions answered about adult and youth programs.

Facilitators: ShaQuanteay Mack, Martin Bacerra-Miranda, Petr Kucheryavyy, and Ben Shuler

A Nutrition Guide to Wellness, Tulip Room

Come learn about nutrition and how it fits into your overall wellness. Hosted by the Diabetes Action Network of Georgia.

Facilitator: Nishiksi Chandler, Progressive Health and Wellness Coach

Career Exploration Part I, Pecan Room

Geared toward students in high school and college, this hour-long workshop will take participants through several career exploration activities.

Facilitator: Nancy Parkin-Bashizi, VRT

2:00-2:30 PM – Breakout Session 2

At Large Chapter Meet-Up, Piedmont Room

Are you At Large and in charge? Come join the chapter that knows no boundaries (at least geographically). If you want to get involved with the NFB of GA but do not live in an area with a local chapter, come find out about joining the At Large chapter.

Facilitator: Nata Watkins, President, At Large Chapter

Q & A with GVRA, Pine Room

Don't miss this opportunity to speak with representatives from the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, face to face.

Facilitators: GVRA Staff

Fun with Movement!, Tulip Room

Come stretch your legs, arms, and everything else after a long day of sitting through meetings. Our facilitator will get you dancing, moving, and ready for the rest of the weekend.

Facilitator: Vanessa Meadows

Career Exploration Part II, Pecan Room

Geared toward students in high school and college, this hour-long workshop will take participants through several career exploration activities.

Facilitator: Nancy Parkin-Bashizi, VRT

2:00-2:30 PM – Breakout Session 3

Affordable Access to Technology, Piedmont room

Come learn about the Credit Able program through Tools for Life which is creating opportunities for Georgians with disabilities to get access to the technology they need.

Facilitator: Danny Housley

The NFB Training Center Difference, Pecan Room

Are you interested in learning about what training at an NFB Center is like? What's all the fuss about NFB Training anyway? Come hear from alumni and staff from BLIND Inc., the Colorado Center for the Blind, and the Louisiana Center for the Blind to get all your questions answered about adult and youth programs.

Facilitators: ShaQuanteay Mack, Martin Bacerra-Miranda, Petr Kucheryavyy, and Ben Shuler

3:00-5:00 PM – Mini BELL Academy, Walden Rooms 1 and 2

3:00-5:00 PM - General Session, Piedmont Room

3:00 PM – Georgia Derby

3:20 PM – State President Report – Greg Aikens, President,
NFB of Georgia

3:40 PM – The Right to Parent: Legislative Updates – Stancil Tootle, 1st Vice President, NFB of Georgia
Jackie Anderson, Board Member, NFB of Georgia
Dawn Alford, Public Policy Director, Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities

4:25 –FAR Vision: Restoring Independence through Technology – David Furukawa, Chief Experience Officer and Co-Founder, Farsight Augmented Reality

4:40 – Updates from Project Independence – Kay McGill, Program Manager, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

4:50 PM – National Student Update – Tarik Williams, Board Member, National Association of Blind Students

5:00 PM – Adjourn

7:00-11:00 PM – NFB of Georgia 2017 State Convention Banquet & Dance, Majestic Rooms 1 and 2

Keynote Speaker: Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind

Sunday, October 15, 2017

8:00-8:45 AM – NFB Communities of Faith, Piedmont Room

9:00 AM-12:00 PM Annual Business Meeting, Piedmont Room

9:00 AM – Call to Order

9:05 AM – Guest Music

9:20 AM – Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions

9:50 AM – Officer Reports

10:10 AM – Nominating Committee Report

10:15 AM – Elections

10:30 AM – Business Session

12:00 PM – ADJOURN

Biography of Mark A. Riccobono President, National Federation of the Blind

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mark Riccobono was diagnosed with glaucoma and aniridia at age five. Nonetheless, Mark attended public schools, graduating with honors. Mark earned a degree in business administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

After graduation, he became the first director of the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Afterward he took a position in Baltimore with the NFB, and earned a Master of Science in Educational Studies.

Mark served as the executive director of the NFB Jernigan Institute, and in 2010-2011, Mark served as an appointed member of the Federal

Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) in Postsecondary Education. And in January 2011 at the Daytona International Speedway, he navigated a car equipped with nonvisual technology, demonstrating the first time a blind individual has driven a street vehicle in public without the assistance of a sighted person.

On July 5, 2014, the National Federation of the Blind elected Mark to serve as its president at its national convention.

Mark and his wife, Melissa, have three children, Austin, Oriana, and Elizabeth.