##

BREAKING NEWSLETTER

Issue 14 July/August 2018

President’s note:

Greetings Federation Family,

Thank you to everyone for helping Florida cohost the 2018 National Convention. We had around 83 at our caucus and were second in attendance. The BELLS rang in Florida right after convention. Thank you to Kimberly Banks for coordinating this academy and for all who volunteered. We shared our love, energy, and love!

Denise Valkema, President NFB OF Florida

president@nfbflorida.org

Facebook & Twitter @nfbflorida

Find us on twitter and FB @nfbflorida

We are filled with hope, energy and love by participating in the National Federation of the Blind. Every day we work together to help blind people live the lives they want.

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Birthdays & Celebrations:

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

**Birthdays:**

**July:**

*Sheila Clayton - Tallahassee*

*Lynette Currier - Treasure Coast*

*Marion Gwizdala – Tampa Bay*

*Danny McGary - State-Wide*

*Drew Merritt - Palm Beach*

*Sherrill O’Brian – Tampa Bay*

*Carmen Poitier – Miami-Dade*

*Cynthia Pool - Treasure Coast*

*Barbara Rogers – Tallahassee*

*Kathy Roskos – Gainesville*

*Tekesha Saffold - Palm Beach*

*Hurick Williams – Miami-Dade*

*Jerimiah Williams – Miami-Dade*

*Ron Whittum - Treasure Coast*

*James Young - Tallahassee*

**August:**

*Alice Augustine – Miami-Dade*

*Carmen Davis – Miami-Dade*

*Angelo Delvilla – Miami-Dade*

*Nellie Haynes – Miami-Dade*

*Vandelon Holland – State-Wide*

*Doug Ingram – Tallahassee*

*Rosie Jackson – Miami-Dade*

*Cecelia Rodriguez – State-Wide*

*Christian Shehan - Palm Beach*

*James P. Shehan - Palm Beach*

*Alesia Smith – Miami-Dade*

*Wendy Wilson – State-Wide*

**Anniversaries:**

*Marion Gwizdala and Merry Schoch – Tampa Bay - July*

*Nicole and James Shehan - Palm Beach - July*

*Monique and Rufus Bowden – Tallahassee - August*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS**

**The Independence Market website will be down until January. However their staff is available to assist you by phone or email; Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.**

**Phone: 410-659-9314, extension 2216**

**Fax: 410-685-2340**

**Email: independencemarket@nfb.org**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION**

If you missed the National convention this year, you missed a treat. We had a great time and look forward to next year’s convention which will be in Las Vegas. You can hear the banquet speech and president’s report by clicking on the link below in the “Link City” section. See you next year! Via Las Vegas!!

**PRESS RELEASE**

Computers for the Blind (CFTB) has access to additional grant funds to again offer computers for $60 off regular price. Here are the details:

Eligible persons include persons on SSI or SSDI due to blindness. Copy of Social Security reward letter required.

Grant also includes parents of legally blind children or youth. Required documentation is an e-mail from the TVI or caseworker stating that the child needs a computer, would benefit from it, and purchasing a new computer with the expensive software would create a hardship on the family. No eye reports or income verification needed.

These are desktop computers w/larger screens, and a home edition license of JAWS, Fusion, or ZoomText of the client’s choice. Price includes JAWS training bundle.

Cost for grant covered desktops is $70. The only persons eligible for a grant covered laptop is a college student that is currently taking classes on campus. Proof required. Cost for laptop under the grant is $125.

See article in AccessWorld for more details: http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pubnew.asp?DocID=aw190703

Customer Service: 214-340-6328

Now offering customer service & tech support in English & Spanish. Computers now ship within 2 weeks.

**Welcome to Vorail,** an application specifically for the blind and visually impaired. A social media experience like no other. It is a question and answer platform designed for community involvement, where people help one another. Also, there are interesting discussions about any and everything. Where you can customize your experience by choosing the type of content you want to hear and by whom. The Vorail app is voice-only; the typing is only for titles or you can dictate your title if you would like. It features several categories of interest and a mute feature for the unwanted content or the unwanted people in the feed. It has easy to use swipes and taps to control all of the tasks and features. Unlike Facebook, where you must find friends, it is an open forum, where everyone are friends. You just have to remove the content or people from your listening experience that you don’t want to hear or be involved with. Like any social media there is some drama and negativity, so you decide your involvement and what part you play in this community. You can remain anonymous or as open as you wish. This app is not monitored or policed, so use at your own risk and with caution as with any social media platform. I have been a user for more than 2 years and I enjoy it very much, and have made many friends both on and off the Vorail app. It also has high quality sound and recording, as well as less than half-second transmission times. You can send a message anywhere in the world quickly. There are many people from all around the world with different cultures, thoughts and ideas. So, if you are looking for a new experience, then maybe Vorail is for you. This app is add-free and at no cost, so take a chance and open up to something different and down load Vorail.

**By Scott Wilson**

**APPLE TIPS AND TRICKS**

**Three Way Calling**

Every once in a while, we want to have a conference call with

wo of our friends without having to create a free conference call account. Or, we want to conduct business for a family member or friend who needs a little help. You aren’t in the same place as they are, s you make a three-way call. I admit it took a while to figure this out for myself, but here is how you do it.

Open the phone app on your iPhone.

Double tap on the keypad” tab. Or, if you want to skip items one and two, then call your first contact.

Once you are on the line with your first call, then you access the “Keypad”.

Slide your finger over the phone until you hear “Hide”. Double tap this button.

Several options will appear. You can mute the call you are on, select other options and add a call. Double tap on “Add Call”.

At this point, the contact list will appear, or you can select the “keypad” tab to enter in a number manually. Either way, choose the second person to add to your call.

Once the line starts to ring, a button becomes available. Double tap the “Merge” button.

Congratulations! You have now just completed your first three-way call. It might seem a little complicated, but the more you do it, the easier it becomes.

Link City: Here are some important links that may be of interest.

**NFB:** <https://nfb.org/>

**NFBF**: <http://nfbflorida.org/>

**2018 National Convention Banquet speech**, “Authenticity, Diversity, and the Synergy of the Organized Blind”: <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/2018_convention_highlights/2018_banquet_speech.mp3>

**2018 National Convention President’s report**: <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/convent/presidential-report-2018-1.html>

**Nation's Blind Podcast :**  <https://t.co/RX2uUdGMA5>

**July Presidential release:** <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/podcast/presidential-releases-en/pr473.mp3>

2018

Legislative Updates from the desk of Camille Tate:

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida Legislative Concerns Committee did not meet in July, because there would be an information packed meeting at National Convention in Orlando. We would like to bring some of the conversation to our Florida Federationists who could not make it to this year’s convention.

Wednesday night, the Legislative Meet-Up took place, consisting of the Legislative Directors and those interested in legislation. We heard from individuals who have stepped forward to achieve our legislative goals, both nationally and statewide. Often, when asked about becoming involved with legislation, many people say, “I’ve never done this before”, or “I don’t know how to do that”. Well, Justin S. (NFB of Hawaii), didn’t let that stop him. He entered the world of legislation with absolutely no experience, but with mentors galore. Now he advocates strongly in his state and our organization. Kenia F., one of this year’s National Scholarship recipients, echoed Justin’s words. Our national agenda for legislation is moving forward. The Marrakesh Treaty, one of our priorities at Washington Seminar is closer to reality. Thanks to the hard work of Scott LaBarre and others at the National Federation of the Blind, the Senate passed s.2559, The Marrakesh Treaty, along with its implementation bill, which is essential to the culmination of years of dedicated work by our organization. We urge you to contact your Congressman/woman and ask them to support the Implementation Bill for S.2559.

We are moving the dial forward with both AIM HI and ATAA. Through the efforts of us all, we can increase Florida’s co-sponsorship of both bills. There are still some Congressional members, in Florida, who have not yet signed on to either of these bills. We can make a difference by adding more to the growing list of co-sponsors on these priorities.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with these two bills, here is a brief summary. Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act (AIM HI), H.R.1772, S.2138 is a bill designed to provide guidelines for institutes of higher education to make their materials for the digital classroom accessible to blind and low vision students. Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA), H.R.1734, S.732 is a bill to provide a refundable tax credit, up to $2500, over a three-year period, so blind and low vision citizens may purchase accessible hardware and software. This tax credit makes no distinction between those who do not file taxes and those who do, so individuals on Social Security, who rarely need to file taxes, may take advantage of this credit. It is designed to allow us, as blind and low vision citizens, to buy the equipment necessary to acquire and then maintain employment. Vocational Rehabilitation is unable to meet our needs with equipment in a timely manner, even when we have found employment; no employer wants to wait months for VR to get the software/hardware necessary for their employee to begin work.

Legislation is an important aspect within the National Federation of the Blind. Each and every member can play a role in attaining the goals of our organization, no part is too small. You do not need to have any special training, be a lawyer, doctor or have special certifications to work in legislation. Come and join the Legislative Concerns Committee. Or, if you have questions about legislation, please come to a committee meeting.

The Legislative Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month, via teleconference call. It is co-chaired by Camille Tate and Merry Schoch. Prior to each committee meeting, there will be a post to the Florida list with the date and time of the call, as well as the access information. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 21, at 8 p.m. The access information to the teleconference call is below:

Call-in number: 712 775 7031; Access Code: 938047311#

**The contact information for the co-chairs is below:**

**Camille Tate:** 321 372 4899, Ctate2076@att.net

**Merry Schoch:** 813 625 1850, merrys@verizon.net

Inspiration Conner:

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” ― **Dr. Seuss**

Chapter, Division, and Committee updates:

**Greater Broward Chapter:**  Jake McEntyre, President, Email: jmac1920@yahoo.com. Our meetings are held the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Westfield Broward Mall, 8000 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation, FL 33312; inside the Plantation Police Outreach Center North side of the Mall.

**Central Florida Chapter:** Sherri Brun, President; Please like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/410985858949160>. We meet the third Saturday of each month from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Lighthouse Central Florida, 215 East New Hampshire Street, Orlando, Florida 32804.

**Greater Daytona Beach Chapter**: Brian Norton, President, Phone: 386-871-3359; Email benorton@samobile.net. We meet the fourth Saturday of the month from 1-3 p. m. unless moved for State Convention or Thanksgiving, when it is the third Saturday at Houligan’s Restaurant, 1725 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Follow Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nfbdaytona](http://www.facebook.com/nfbdaytona).

**Gainesville Chapter:** Judith Hamilton, President; Phone: 352-373-7806, Email: gainesville\_nfb@earthlink.net. The Gainesville Chapter welcomes you to our monthly chapter meetings. Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 2:00PM to 4:15PM the Gainesville Chapter will meet at the Alachua County Library, Headquarters, 401 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601, in the Foundation Room. Please RSVP by Thursday, August 9, 2018 to Judy Hamilton, Chapter President. Wednesday, August 15, 2018 from 2:00PM to 8:00PM our chapter will have a fundraiser at Culver’s of Gainesville, 4036 Southwest 30 Place, Gainesville, Florida. For customers who bring our flyer or download of the flyer to Culver’s that evening, Culver’s will donate 20% of their purchase to the chapter through NFB Florida. We are also in need of volunteers to serve food orders and support our chapter during this event. If you plan to be in our area August 15th, please contact Judy Hamilton, 352-373-7806, or Kathy Roskos, Vice President and Fundraising Chair, 352-372-9187, before August 11, 2018, so you can show your support as a volunteer or get a flyer. We appreciate our Federation family support.

**Greater Jacksonville Chapter:** Marita Winston, President; Phone: 904-323–8597, Email: marita.winston60@gmail.com. Please join us if you are in the area.

**Greater Miami Dade Chapter** Jorge Hernandez – President; Phone: 305-877-2311; Email: jeh1065@comcast.net. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Location: Denny's Restaurant, 5825 N. W. 36 Street, Miami, FL. The Chapter is energized after the National Conventions. The chapter members volunteered at the hospitality suite and the Presidential suite during the National Convention.

Ideas for fundraising and pledges are already in the works. The chapter is looking to sell t-shirts and several options were presented in the July chapter meeting. Monthly pledges from members will continue for the remaining of the year and goals for other fundraising ideas are being discussed. The membership is looking forward to the 2019 State Convention in Boca Raton and our National Convention in Las Vegas.

**Melbourne - Space Coast Chapter:** Camille Tate,President; Phone: 321 372-4899; Email: ctate20176@att.net Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne](http://www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne). second Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m.-noon. We meet at The Fountains of Melbourne, 4451 Stack Blvd., Melbourne, FL, 32901. Please contact President Camille Tate if you have any questions.

**Palm Beach Chapter:** Tekesha Saffold, President; 561-707-4799; Email: tnsaffold82@gmail.com. We have monthly meetings on the second Saturday of the month.

**Polk Chapter:** Joe King, President: Phone: 863-293-5648; Email: joenkitty@earthlink.net. Our meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at: Winter Haven Manor, 140 Avenue A S.W., Winter Haven, Florida, at 10:00am-12:00pm.

**Florida State-Wide Chapter:** Paul Martinez, President; Phone: 813-390-5720; Email: nfbf.statewide@gmail.com. The State-Wide Chapter invites you to join us on our conference call on the third Sunday of every month at 8:00pm. The chapter is excited that we gained a new member at our national convention, and enjoyed helping at the welcome table, hospitality, and the exhibit hall. At our last meeting we discuss chapter and personal goals. One of our chapter goals has already been completed, which was to sign up to the PAC Plan. The chapter will have a guest speaker in August and is planning different guest speakers for future months.

**Suncoast Chapter:**  Lauren Blum, President; Phone: 352-584-0795; Email: laurenblum79@gmail.com. We will be meeting Saturday, August 11th at 1 pm. At IHOP 4736 US 19, New Port Richey, FL 34652. Please note we are moving our meeting location to Pasco County. We will be discussing the future of our chapter and what we will be doing. Please come one, come all!!

**Tallahassee Chapter:**  Jada Christie, President; Phone: 850-766-9378 Email: emeraldpink15@gmail.com. We meet the 1st Monday of each month at the Lighthouse of the Big Bend, Tallahassee, FL 32303. The Chapter was excited to have 5 members present at the National Convention and our own Sylvia Young was the 3rd place winner of the Trio Buddle Raffle. We are planning our biggest fundraiser of the year in September, our Applebee’s Flapjack Breakfast.

**Tampa Chapter:** Miranda Kilby, President; Phone: 352-942-0417; Email: NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com. Join us the fourth Saturday of every month. The Chapter was excited to have 9 members at our national convention, and we brought the NFB fever home with us. Our meeting in July had 32 guests join us and out of those 7 of them became members. In addition, in the month of August we will have a guest speaker regarding transportation, and we are working on a guest speaker for the month of September to discuss the upcoming amendments on this year’s valid.

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Tamika Butts, President; (772) 708-3749, tamika\_butts@aol.com. Come join the Treasure Coast Chapter of National Federation of the Blind for its monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 10 am till noon at WQCS Radio Station @ IRSC, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce.

**Florida Association of Guide Dog Users (FLAGDU):** Sherrill O'Brien, Division President; sherrill.obrien@verizon.net; flagdu@nfbflorida.org

**Deaf-Blind Division:** Alicia Betancourt, Interim President; Phone: 386-589-7324; Email: licib85@gmail.com. The FL Deaf-Blind division meets by teleconference call on the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00pm. Call in number is 515-604-9853, Access code: 997037. People with hearing and vision loss represent a unique segment of Florida’s population and we work to promote greater understanding of this dual disability. If you are interested in actively participating and learning more about this division, please contact Alicia Betancourt.

**Florida Organization of Parents of Blind Children (FOPBC):** Cherice Togun, President; (407) 257-7637; chericeflemingtogun@hotmail.com

**NFB of Florida - Blind Parents Initiative:** We will have our annual conference call on Tuesday August 14, 2018 at 8:30pm. The call-in number is 7127757031 and the code is 938047311 . If anyone has questions, they can contact me directly, Nicole Fincham-Shehan, Vice-President, Coordinator of Blind Parents Initiative at 561-328-8191 and my email is NicoleDfincham@yahoo.com.

**NFBF Book Club:** The Book Club Discussion Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meeting reminders, along with the item for discussion, will be posted to the Florida list. Come and learn our history and philosophy! The call-in number is (712) 775-7031 and the access code is 938047311#. Check the Florida List for the topic of the month.

**Committee to Empower Underserved Populations:** Marilyn Baldwin, Chairman, 8427 Lainie Lane, Orlando, Florida 32818, 407-293-0565, CommMDB@aol.com. Everyone is encouraged to attend or have at least one representative from your chapter or division. Next meeting is Monday, August 20, at 8 p.m. The call-in number is (712) 775-7031 and the access code is 938047311#.

**Communication Committee:** The committee held an open meeting in July and showcased the structure of the committee. We also discussed different ways to spread our brand during Meet the Blind month and on White Cane Safety Day. As a friendly reminder the Independent Market website is down until January, but you can still order by calling our national office at 410-659-9314. Requesting literature is free of charge and is great to have when hosting events. Need help, contact Miranda Kilby, Communications Chair.

**Diabetics Group:** The Diabetic awareness Group will be meeting on Monday, August 13th at 7 pm. This group is open to everyone from Diabetics to everyone that wants to learn. Please come join us for our conference call Please call into 712-775-7031, 938047311# to join us!!

**Fundraising committee:** The Amazing Trio Bundle was a great success and we sold 1080 tickets. A huge thank you goes out to each chapter for increasing their sells. Check out the YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/aZBdQt0Dn3A> In addition, we know that Kay Baker will be joining us at our 2019 state convention, since she was the winner of our 2019 state convention hotel stay. Congratulation Kay! Last, but not least, our fundraising committee met recently and voted to repeat the Holiday Calendar Raffle. However, there have been some modifications that we know you will enjoy. This year the drawling will start on December 1st and go through December 31st. Monday through Friday the winner will receive $25, Saturday’s and Sunday’s the winner will receive $50, and on December 31st the winner and the chapter that sold the ticket will receive $200. Each ticket will be $5, and chapters will receive them soon. Please contact the fundraising chair, Paul Martinez at 813-390-5720 for more information.

**Legislative Committee:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 21, at 8 p.m. The call-in number is (712) 775-7031 and the access code is 938047311#.

**NFB411:** Stay tuned to the list-sever for the next call. Updates will be posted throughout our list serv.

**President and Vice President Committee:** The next call will be on August 12th at 7 PM, and we will be discussing the dos and don’ts of fundraising.

**Senior Concerns Committee:** Gloria Mills-Hicks, Chairman; Phone: 813-340-9754; Email: glorianfbf@gmail.com. The next meeting will take place Thursday, August 2, 2018, at 8:00 PM. Please note that we did not meet in July, because of the NFB National Convention in Orlando. The phone number for the call will be 712-775-7031 The Code is 488500#. (If dialing in from a smartphone, Use this shortcut: 712-775-7031,,488500# Remember that you need not be a senior to take part. All are welcome! Bring your ideas and your open mind.

**The National Association of Blind Veterans:** Dwight Sayer, President; 321-948-1466; Email: president@nabv.org; PO Box 784957, Winter Garden, Florida 34778.

Photo Gallery:

Miami Dade Chapter “Walk in the park event at Greynold Park” Chapter receiving proclamation.



Please contact any of the board with questions, comments, concerns or for general information.

NFBF Board of Director’s Information:

***Denise Valkema -President***

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Email: paul09ms@gmail.com

***Miranda Kilby – 2nd Vice President***

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***Sylvia Young-Secretary***

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***Merry Schoch –Treasurer***

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Editor: Sylvia Young

To have something posted in the NFBF Newsletter please submit it to the editor, Sylvia young at secretary@nfbflorida.org by the 15th of each odd month.