BREAKING NEWS

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida Newsletter

Issue 3 September/October 2016

President’s note:

Greetings Federation Family,

Now that October is here, many chapters are doing **“Meet the blind Month”** events. Please post happenings on NFBF-L list. Share on Facebook and twitter @nfbflorida and include @nfb\_voice. You can text me updates including photos to 305-9728529. Great to see so many events in communities for others to learn about the federation and to see us living the life we want.

I will be attending the Melbourne Space Coast meet the blind month event on October 15, 2016 and the Bell Academy training October 20-24, 2016.

We are having some meetings soon that you might be interested in.

We will be having an open NFBF board meeting on October 30, 2016 at 8pm by teleconference by dialing (712) 775-7031 and entering code 938047311#.

We will need your input and participation at the events committee to plan state convention starting in November.

I hope you have contacted your representatives regarding the legislation listed in this newsletter. We will be planning for Washington seminar soon.

Be considering what you might want to contribute to this newsletter. We would like to see more from chapters, divisions, and committees. Maybe you can write why you are in the NFB or how you live the life you want. Maybe we could have a book list or recipe corner. Send ideas to the editor, Sylvia.

Let's go build the federation together with love, hope, and determination.

Sincerely,

Denise Valkema, President NFB OF Florida

president@nfbflorida.org

Facebook & Twitter @nfbflorida

Announcements and Comments:

**The Daily Winner Calendar Raffle is Here!**

With five weeks left before the fun and excitement begins; with daily drawings, bigger and better prizes, and lots of fun for everyone!!! This year the raffle will run from Tuesday, November 1, 2016 through Wednesday, November 30, 2016. Yes, even through the Thanksgiving Holiday!!! The raffle is as follows: Each day a winner will be drawn. Sunday through Friday the prize is $25.00 and on Saturday's, the prize is $100.00. The chapter that sells the winning ticket on Saturday, will receive $100.00 along with the winner. Moreover, the top two selling chapters will receive a free room at our State Convention. Remember to sell as many tickets during your White Cane Day celebration events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jorge Hernandez, Fundraising Chair at (305) 877-2311 or by electronic correspondence at jeh1065@comcast.net.

**Thanks for stepping up!**

What great and exciting news! Congratulations to Gladys and the Jacksonville Chapter for getting the word out to reach the much needed Spanish community. Gladys came to convention and helped with the translation team right away. Love the federation in motion!

We congratulate Suzette Yvonne Moore Carter of Port Saint Lucie who earned certification in literary transcribing during the month of July 2016, achieving certification under the rules of Unified English Braille.

In memory of

Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Fred Haynes’ family, friends, and the Miami-Dade Chapter. We are saddened to announce the passing of our own Dr. Fred Haynes, president of the Miami-Dade Chapter. He will we deeply missed.

Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Henry Alexander’s family, friends, and the Miami-Dade Chapter. We are saddened to announce the passing of our own Dr. Henry Alexander, board member of the Miami-Dade Chapter. He will we deeply missed.

**Meaningful Access Program**

U.S. Currency Reader Application Form

All U.S. citizens, or persons legally residing in the U.S. who are blind or visually impaired can request a free currency reader from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing by downloading the application at the link below. The application is provided in both English and Spanish. The application must be filled out completely, signed by a competent authority who can certify eligibility, and returned to the mailing address provided on the form. PLEASE NOTE: The applications provided below are "form fillable" PDF files. While most of the fields can be filled out online, the application cannot be submitted electronically and must be mailed to the BEP for processing. Here's the info and a link to the free money identifier that the Bureau of Engraving is offering. http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html

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Start with a smile and shop smile.amazon.com and select NFBF as charity of choice. NFBF will benefit at no additional cost to you. Nothing changes, just use your regular sign on and password and shop as usual. NFBF will reap the rewards by you doing the what you usually do. Happy shopping! AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

**National Federation of the Blind Comments on Foundation Fighting Blindness #HowEyeSeeIt Campaign**

Baltimore, Maryland (September 26, 2016): The National Federation of the Blind commented today on the #HowEyeSeeIt challenge launched in the past month by the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which has garnered considerable recent publicity. The NFB has also delivered a letter to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, and NFB members are using the #HowEyeSeeIt hash tag to counter the campaign via social media.

Mark A. Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said: "The National Federation of the Blind is deeply concerned that the #HowEyeSeeIt challenge, as currently structured, will do lasting harm to the ability of millions of blind Americans to live the lives we want. In encouraging people who are not blind to don blindfolds and make videos of themselves attempting everyday tasks, this campaign perpetuates the fears, misconceptions, and low expectations that society has about blindness by giving those who take the challenge or view the videos an inaccurate understanding of the lived experience of blind people. In particular, suggesting that it is difficult or impossible for blind parents to care for their children is false and irresponsible. As a blind father of three children who also happens to be married to a blind person, I can say unequivocally that, with nonvisual techniques, we can, and do, capably parent thriving children every day. Yet children have been removed from the custody of blind parents solely because of misconceptions about their ability to care for them, without any actual proof of abuse or neglect, and the #HowEyeSeeIt campaign threatens to worsen this already grave problem. This is only one example of how this campaign will harm the chances of blind people, including board members and supporters of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, to live productive and happy lives.

"To be clear, we have no quarrel with the Foundation Fighting Blindness or the medical research that it seeks to fund. However, we believe that this particular method of gathering support will harm the very people whom the Foundation Fighting Blindness and the National Federation of the Blind, in different but complementary ways, seek to help. I and other members of the National Federation of the Blind have told the Foundation Fighting Blindness that the perpetuation of misconceptions about, and by extension discrimination against, the blind is unacceptable, but so far we have been ignored. We therefore demand that the Foundation Fighting Blindness stop filling its coffers by spreading misconceptions and jeopardizing the dreams and aspirations of blind people."

Birthdays & Celebrations:

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

**Birthdays:**

***September:***

Marion DeBusk - Gainesville

Judy Hamilton - Gainesville

***October:***

Monique Bowden - Tallahassee

Lenora McGowan - Gainesville

David Roskos - Gainesville

**Anniversaries:**

Sylvia & James Young - October wedding anniversary

NFBF Calendar:

Presidents & Vice Presidents meeting: October 9, 2016 at 7pm by teleconference

Open State Board Meeting: October 30, 2016 at 8pm by teleconference

Interest Topic: November 19, 2016 at 7pm by teleconference

Empowerment committee meeting: TBA

Newsline Committee meeting: TBA

Senior Committee meeting: TBA

**2017 State Convention: May 26-29, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Orlando**

 Legislative Updates:

**The National Federation of the Blind Applauds Introduction of AIM HE Act:**

**Law Will Promote Equal Access to Higher Education for People with Disabilities**

Washington, DC (September 23, 2016): Today, the National Federation of the Blind commends Congressman Phil Roe (R-TN) and Congressman Joe Courtney (D-CT) for introducing the Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education (AIM HE) Act (H.R. 6122). This act will promote instructional technology and content that are accessible to the blind and other students with print disabilities.

 Mark A. Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said: "The National Federation of the Blind has worked for years toward the introduction of this much-needed legislation, which will give postsecondary institutions guidance to help them meet their legal obligations to students with disabilities, and also bring more accessible instructional materials to the higher education market. Blind students are adversely impacted daily by educational technologies that artificially limit students because they were designed without accessibility in mind. As a past member of the Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials, whose work identified this crucial need, and a father of three, including two daughters who are blind, I am pleased to see this goal come to fruition. We applaud Congressman Roe and Congressman Courtney for their introduction of this legislation and urge their colleagues to join them in supporting its swift passage."

 Congressman Roe said: “No student pursuing their education should be put at a disadvantage because they have a disability, and this bill simply encourages higher education institutions to provide equal access to all instructional materials. With more and more of a student’s coursework requiring digital resources, it makes sense to encourage colleges and universities to make accessible material available to support all their students, including those who have a disability. I thank Rep. Courtney for partnering with me on this important issue and I look forward to moving this bill through the legislative process. I also thank all the stakeholders who have worked so hard to develop a commonsense solution that can be supported on a bipartisan basis.”

 Congressman Courtney said: “As colleges and universities become more high-tech, it is only fitting that they find ways to improve learning opportunities for persons with disabilities. This is why I was pleased to introduce this bipartisan legislation to help make educational materials more accessible to the disabilities community. I want to thank Rep. Roe for taking up this cause with me because there is nothing more important than making sure all Americans, including those with disabilities, have the opportunity to receive a great education.”

 The AIM HE Act will authorize a purpose-based commission comprised of persons with disabilities, developers, and manufacturers, as well as representatives from institutions of higher education. This commission will develop voluntary accessibility guidelines for instructional materials used in postsecondary educational programs. Additionally, the commission will be tasked with developing an annotated list of existing national and international information technology standards as an additional resource for institutions of higher education and companies that service the higher education market.

 Institutions of higher education that only use technology that conforms with the guidelines will be deemed in compliance with the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act that pertain to the use of electronic instructional materials, giving them a safe harbor protection from litigation. Colleges and universities will be permitted to use material that does not conform with the guidelines as long as equal access laws are still honored. Conformity with the AIM HE guidelines is only one path to compliance; schools can pursue a different path, but will forfeit the safe harbor legal protection.

 The AIM HE Act is a collaborative legislative initiative of the National Federation of the Blind, the American Council on Education, the Association of American Publishers, Educause®, and the Software and Information Industry Association.

**Call for Action HR188/ S201**

Please share with members that don't have email. You can call your member of Congress by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to ask to cosponsor HR188/ S201. Bilirakis, Grayson, Hastings, and Webster in Florida have signed on to HR188.

Once connected, Parnell suggests you say something such as: “Hi, my name is….and I am a constituent of Representative/Senator Last Name. I am calling to urge Representative/Senator Last Name to cosponsor H.R. 188/S. 2001, the TIME Act. This bill will help people like me and other people with disabilities compete equally in the workforce.”

Parnell sent a detailed message to nfbnet on calling and emailing, so you can refer to his message for more details.

Technology: Tips & Tricks

The KNFB reader is the latest in reading printed material. If you would like a demonstration or instruction contact Jorge Hernandez at Phone: 305-877-2311 or Email: jeh1065@comcast.net.

Inspiration Conner:

We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate, thereby making the present comfortable and the future promising. **Maya Angelou**

Chapter, Division, and Committee updates:

**Greater Broward Chapter:** Tom Ryan, President; Phone: 954-442-1855, Email Ryantom@bellsouth.net

**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**: Scott Larson, President; Phone: 386-235-0565; Email: Blindscotty@samobile.net. We meet the fourth Saturday of the month 11:30am to 1:30pm at TGI Friday's, 24 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach FL 32176. Follow Us on Facebook: 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. Our meetings are held the second Saturday of each month from 2:00PM to 4:00PM, with meet and greet at 1:00PM. We meet at the Northwest Grille, 5115 Northwest 39TH Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Because the fall brings college football to our town, scheduled meetings sometimes require adjustment. Restaurants get booked and traffic is re-routed during home games at the University of Florida. For additional meeting information/updates, please contact Judy Hamilton, Chapter President.

**Greater Jacksonville Chapter:** Marita Winston, President; Phone: 904-323–8597, Email: marita.winston60@gmail.com. We are also planning a vision expo for January 2017. Look for more information soon.

**Greater Miami Dade Chapter**: Ross LeVine acting president. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Location: Denny's Restaurant, 5825 N. W. 36 Street, Miami, FL.

**Palm Beach Chapter:** Tekesha Saffold, President; 561-707-4799; Email: tnsaffold82@gmail.com. We have monthly meetings on the Second Saturday of every month at 4746 North Congress Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. **Come and be part of our “White Cane Safety Day”,** When: Saturday, October 15, 2016, Time: 11 am to Noon, Where: Intersection of Olive & Clematis, West Palm Beach. We will meet at Duffy’s – 225 Clematis Street

**Pinellas Chapter:** Larry Ball; President; Phone: 727-614-9134; Email: lball42@tampabay.rr.com. Our meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at Applebee’s, 5110 E Bay Drive in Largo. We meet for lunch at noon and the business meeting starts at 1:00pm. We are working hard to change what it means to be blind in Pinellas county.

**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.

**Space Coast Chapter:** Joe Naulty,President; Facebook: www.brevard-nfb.org [www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne](http://www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne).

**FL 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. This chapter was designed for those who do not have a local chapter or for some reason cannot get to their local chapter for any given reason. We would like to thank all those who participated in our “What’s in your wallet raffle.” A huge congratulation goes out to our winner Juany Gomez.

**Suncoast Chapter:**  Lauren Blum, President; Phone: 352-584-0795; Email: nfbf.suncoast@gmail.com. We meet on the third Saturday of each month at IHOP, 363660 Commercial Way (US 19), Spring Hill, FL 34606.

**Tallahassee Chapter:**  Jada Christie, President; Phone: 850-766-9378 Email: emeraldpink15@gmail.com. We meet the 1st Monday of each month and the Lighthouse of the Big Bend, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Having our annual Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast October 15, 2016 and a White cane walk in the park October 8th. Join us, if you are in the area.

**Tampa Chapter:** Miranda Kilby, President; Phone: 352-942-0417; Email: NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com. We encourage anyone in the Tampa area to join us to the fourth Saturday of every month.

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Tim Edwards, President; Phone: 630-432-5090; Email: tred34990@gmail.com. We meet the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm at WQCS Radio Station @ IRSC, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce. (The chapter does not meet in July or August). We serve the following counties: Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River & Okeechobee.

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

**Deaf-Blind Division:** Tracie Inman**,** President; Phone: 904-372-0644; Email: tracieinman@yahoo.com. The FL Deaf-Blind division meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 8:00pm. If you are interested in attending this meeting and learning what the division has to offer, please contact the president.

**Florida Organization of Parents of Blind Children (FOPBC):** TheParents Division is being reorganized by Kimberly Banks, Email: kimberlybanks1984@gmail.com

**Florida Association of Blind Students:** The FABS invites any high school or college student to attend our conference calls on the third Sunday of every month at 6:00pm. For further information, contact the president, Paul Martinez at nfbfabs@gmail.com To call into our meetings use conference number 641-715-324 and access code 401665.

**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:

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

NFBF Board of Director’s Information:

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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.