BREAKING NEWSLETTER

Issue 20 July/August 2019

# President’s note

Greetings Federation Family,

I hope everyone is enjoying summer with family and friends. WE have Meet the Blind Month in October which is an opportunity to introduce others to our organization.

Let’s go build the Federation this fall.

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.

# How to navigate our newsletter with headings: To enable the quick keys on/off with JAWS use the command “insert + z”. By default, the quick keys are off in Microsoft Word. To browse through the headings of the newsletter. Make sure you have quick keys on and then press the letter “h”. This keyboard command will move from heading to heading on the document. When you find the title of the heading you would like to read, you can use the “insert +down arrow” or the “insert +numbpad2”.

# What’s in this Newsletter

**Contents**

[President’s note 1](#_Toc10318154)

[How to navigate our newsletter with headings: . 1](#_Toc10318155)

[What’s in this Newsletter 1](#_Toc10318156)

[Birthdays & Celebrations 2](#_Toc10318157)

[Calendar of Meetings and Events 3](#_Toc10318158)

[Article, Announcements and Comments 5](#_Toc10318159)

[Apple Tips and Tricks 7](#_Toc10318160)

[Link City 8](#_Toc10318161)

[Inspiration Corner 8](#_Toc10318162)

[Legislative Updates from the desk of Camille Tate 8](#_Toc10318163)

[Photo Gallery 9](#_Toc10318164)

[Chapters 10](#_Toc10318165)

[Divisions 11](#_Toc10318166)

[Groups and Committees: 12](#_Toc10318167)

[NFBF Board of Director’s Information 14](#_Toc10318168)

[Editor: Sylvia Young 15](#_Toc10318169)

# Birthdays & Celebrations

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

**Birthdays:**

**July:**

*Rosemary Brunson Treasure Coast*

*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*

*Michelle Curtis - Tampa*

*Carmen Davis – Miami-Dade*

*Angelo Delvilla – Miami-Dade*

*Doreen Franklin – Treasure Coast*

*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*

# Calendar of Meetings and Events

**Groups, Divisions, and Committees for August 2019**

August 1 Seniors Concerns Committee at 8 pm Phone: 712-7757031 Code: 488550 1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,488550

**The conference calls below operate on the same number: 712.775.7031, Code 938047311# 1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,938047311#**

August 7th - Diversity and Inclusion at 8 PM

August 12th - Diabetes Awareness at 7 pm August 13 Deaf Blind Division at 7pm

August 13th - Blind Parents Initiative at 9 pm

August 19th - Communities of Faith at 8 PM August 20 Legislation Committee at 8 pm

August 22nd - NFBF Book Club at 8 PM

August 26th - Technology Q and A at 8 PM

# Article, Announcements and Comments

Time to Prepare for Meet the Blind Month:

The National Federation of the Blind celebrates Meet the Blind Month every October. If you haven’t already, it’s time to start planning for it. Throughout October, members conduct outreach activities across the country. Plan an event in your local community to talk about blindness and the NFB philosophy. Order materials from the Independence Market such as the Braille alphabet cards to distribute at your local event. Here are some ideas: speak at a public library, distribute literature at a festival, visit high schools, get on a local radio station, hold a walk or cookout. Get creative! We also feature your events on nfb.org, so send your activity and event details toweb@nfb.org.

Open-House Gatherings

Many people do not know the National Federation of the Blind, and they are reluctant to attend a local chapter meeting where they may have their questions answered. We will be hosting teleconferences for individuals that are curious about the National Federation of the Blind. The teleconference will present them with an opportunity to receive information from and ask questions of Federationists. We will be able to dispel the myths and misconceptions about the NFB and highlight the benefits of membership. These calls are specifically intended for individuals who are curious about our organization and would benefit from learning about us in an educational environment. Chapters and affiliates should share this invitation on their social media and disseminate it with anyone who may be interested in joining.

The calls will take place on the third Sunday of each even numbered month and the third Wednesday of each odd numbered month. Our first two calls will be Sunday, August 18, at 4:00 p.m. eastern and Wednesday, September 18, at 8:00 p.m. eastern. We would like to keep the list of participants small enough so that it will be impactful. Therefore, in order to participate, individuals will need to RSVP by emailingmembership@nfb.org or calling 410-659-9314, extension 2509, and let us know which call date works best for them. Individuals selected to participate will receive the call-in information.

**NFB-NEWSLINE® Mobile 3.0 Beta with KNFB Reader Basic**

Take advantage of the new features early and help provide feedback to expand the app. The NFB-NEWSLINE mobile app beta version is available to download on your iPhones and iPads. Included in the app is the KNFB Reader Basic, which provides the useful core features at no cost. Within the KNFB Reader section, just point and shoot for access to print on-the-go. This beta version is a pre-released, advanced development of the app. Your participation and feedback expand the amount of testing done, which will help us develop a better product. Note: Installing this beta app will overwrite your existing NFB-NEWSLINE mobile app. Enjoy NFB-NEWSLINE and KNFB Reader Basic, together!

How to get the app:

· First, download the Test Flight app on your device.

· Then, on your device, select NFB-NEWSLINE 3.0 Beta by going to this link:https://testflight.apple.com/join/zuoVUXFv. You’ll need your NFB-NEWSLINE login credentials.

· Share your feedback or request assistance by sending an email tonfbnewsline-ios@nfb.org or by calling 866-504-7300.

We look forward to your participation and feedback.

**NEWS RELEASE**

**National Federation of the Blind Applauds Introduction of**

**Greater Access and Independence through Nonvisual Access Technology (GAIN) Act**

**Urges Swift Passage of Legislation to Preserve Independence of Blind People in their Homes**

Baltimore, Maryland (July 31, 2019): The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest nationwide organization of blind Americans, today applauded the introduction of the Greater Access and Independence through Nonvisual Access Technology (GAIN) Act of 2019 in the House of Representatives. The bill was introduced by Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA). This legislation directs the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (the “Access Board”) to develop a minimum nonvisual access standard for home-use medical devices, exercise equipment, and home appliances, and provide for the enforcement of the standard.

“The inaccessible design of most current appliances, home-use medical devices, and fitness equipment makes their controls difficult, or even impossible, to use by blind people,” said Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind. “Inaccessibility is not a mere inconvenience. Full access to all features of a device are necessary for the privacy, wellbeing, and independence of blind Americans. We therefore commend Representative Schakowsky for introducing this legislation and urge members of Congress to act swiftly to pass it.”

# Apple Tips and Tricks

Apple Tips and Tricks

By Camille Tate

COMING SOON AGAIN NEXT MONTH

# Link City

Here are some important links that may be of interest.

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

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

**Nation's Blind Podcast – July 29, 2019:** <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/podcast/nations-blind/nations_blind_late_july_international_travel_guide_dog.mp3>

**Presidential release - June:** <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/audio/podcast/presidential-releases-en/2019-06-english.mp3>

**Braille Monitor - July:** <https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm19/bm1907/bm1907tc.htm>

# Inspiration Corner

*“We should always be looking for the unity in things instead of the differences.’*

*-* ***Genesis P-Orridge***

# Legislative Updates from the desk of Camille Tate

**Legislative Committee**

**From the desk of Camille Tate**

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida has embarked on our state legislation for 2020. Next year the Florida Legislature will begin the session January 14th. In order to move our legislative priorities forward, we must begin to work now!! Below is a description of those priorities. It is essential we gain support for and introduction of protection and advancement for blind people.

During our 2019 State Convention, folders were handed out for chapters. Inside those packets is information regarding our priorities. Those who picked up the packets are asked to pass them along to their chapter president. The time to strike is now, before our legislators have chosen the bills they will champion in January. We ask our members to call or write their Florida House and Senate members to urge them to help us protect blind Floridians. Additionally, information contained in the packets will be posted to the Florida list. Any member needing assistance (or encouragement), please feel free to contact Camille Tate or Merry Schoch, whose information is listed at the end of this article.

Blind Parents Initiative: The National Federation of the Blind has worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the rights of blind parents. It is a travesty that blind parents’ right to raise their children suffers interference from social service agencies, family courts and family members. It is often misunderstandings, misconceptions and ignorance of the ability of blind parents to safely raise their child(ren). It is up to us, the experts in blindness, to educate those individuals and end the practice of using blindness as a reason to remove their children.

Support for Transformation to Competitive Employment Act: We would like Florida to pass its own version of the TCEA. As of January 2019, Florida businesses are paying 3,827 persons sub-minimum wages. It is unconscionable that in this day and age, people are legally allowed to pay workers less than the minimum wage. Under the 14(C) section of the Fair Labor Standards Act, employers can receive a certificate allowing this practice. We are asking Florida to put an end to this program in the state.

Braille: Our blind children are being left behind in the school system. Literacy is vital to education and employment. While technology is a wonderful tool, it cannot take the place of knowing how to read and write. We are asking Florida to add the following language to the statutes for teaching exceptional students; Braille is the presumed reading medium for blind students

If you are unsure of what House and Senate district you live in, you will find this information by visiting www.myfloridahouse.gov and www.floridasenate.gov. This information is also listed on your voter registration card.

We encourage our members to come to the Legislative Committee meetings . We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. Meeting notices are posted to the Florida list and include the conference call information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the co-chairs of the committee using the information below:

Contact Info:

Merry Schoch. [merrys@verizon.net](mailto:merrys@verizon.net), 813-625-1850

Camille Tate, [Ctate2076@att.net](mailto:Ctate2076@att.net), 321-372-4899

# Photo Gallery



At the 2019 National Covention

Several blind attendees got to experience an autonomous vehicle demonstration and gave feedback regarding accessibility for the future. — with Mark A. Riccobono and Lisamaria Martinez at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

# Chapters

**Greater Broward Chapter:**  Jake McEntyre, President, Phone: (954) 946-4148, Email: [jmac1920@yahoo.com](mailto:jmac1920@yahoo.com). Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Westfield Broward Mall located at 8000W. Broward Blvd. Plantation, Florida 33312 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. meetings take place inside the Plantation Police Outreach Center, just inside the north entrance to the mall.

**Central Florida Chapter:** Toni Moore, President, Phone: (850) 321-6421. Email: [claviet@gmail.com](mailto:claviet@gmail.com) Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month from 11 A.M. to 1 PM at Lighthouse Central Florida, 215 East New Hampshire Street Orlando, Florida 32804. Please like us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/410985858949160.

**Greater Daytona Beach Chapter**: Brian Norton, President, Phone: 386-871-3359 Email: [brian.edward.norton@outlook.com](mailto:brian.edward.norton@outlook.com). Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month from 1:00 till 3:00pm at Houligans Speedway restaurant, 1725 International Speedway Blvd. Daytona Beach, Florida. 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](mailto:gainesville_nfb@earthlink.net). Gainesville Chapter meeting to be announced. Please contact chapter president for August meeting information. Together we can plan and participate to build the Federation in Gainesville.

**Greater Jacksonville Chapter:** Marita Winston, President; Phone: (904) 580-6819, Email: nfbjax@gmail.com. Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month and take place at the Independent Living Resource Center, 2709 Art Museum Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32207 from 10:00 AM until 12 Noon. Please join us if you are in the area.

**Melbourne - Space Coast Chapter:** Camille Tate,President; Phone: 321-372-4899; Email: [ctate20176@att.net](mailto:ctate20176@att.net). Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne](http://www.facebook.com/nfbmelbourne). We meet on the second Saturday at The Fountains, 4451 Stack Blvd., Melbourne, FL, 32901. Will be holding a Vision Resource Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 18th, from 10-2, at the Holiday Inn Viera, 8292 N. Wickham Rd., Viera, FL, 32940. Will also have our 5th Annual Car and Bike Show Saturday, October 12th, from 10-2, at The Fountains of Melbourne. Contact Camille Tate, President for more information.

**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 at Denny's Restaurant located at 5825 N.W. 36 Street Miami, FL 33166 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

**Palm Beach Chapter:** Tekesha Saffold, President; 561-707-4799; Email: [tnsaffold82@gmail.com](mailto:tnsaffold82@gmail.com). Meetings are held the Second Saturday of each month at IHOP at 1503 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, Florida from 10 am until noon.

**Polk Chapter:** Joe King, President: Phone: 863-293-5648; Email: [joenkitty@earthlink.net](mailto:joenkitty@earthlink.net). Our meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at Perkins Pancake House and Bakery located at 6005 Cypress Garden Blvd. Winter Haven, FL 33884 from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon.

**Florida State-Wide Chapter:** Paul Martinez, President; Phone: 813-390-5720; Email: [nfbf.statewide@gmail.com](mailto:nfbf.statewide@gmail.com). Meetings are held the Third Sunday of each month at 8 pm (Eastern Time) via conference call using the following number: (605) 475-4700 using the access code 800550#.

**Tallahassee Chapter:**  Jada Christie, President; Phone: 850-766-9378 Email: [emeraldpink15@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldpink15@gmail.com). We meet the first Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m., at the Lighthouse of the Big Bend located at 3071 Highland Oaks Terrace, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

**Tampa Chapter:** Miranda Kilby, President; Phone: 352-942-0417; Email: [NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com](mailto:NFBF.Tampa@gmail.com). Join us on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 12 Noon to 2:00 PM at Beef O Brady's located at 8810 North Himes Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614. The chapter is busy planning a BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) program. We are looking at holding the program June 17th through the 28th.

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Tamika Butts, President; (772) 708-3749, E-mail: [tamika\_butts@gmail.com](mailto:tamika_butts@gmail.com). We will resume our monthly meetings September 14th. Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am - 12:00 Noon at WQCS Radio Station located @ IRSC, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce.

# Divisions

**Deaf-Blind Division:** The division meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 8 p.m. Please keep an eye on the Florida list for the call-in information. President: Brian Norton.

**Florida Association of Guide Dog Users (FLAGDU):** Merry Schoch, President, Phone: 813-625-1850, Email: flagdu@nfbflorida.org

**Florida Organization of Parents of Blind Children (FOPBC):** Cherice Togun, President; (407) 257-7637; [chericeflemingtogun@hotmail.com](mailto:chericeflemingtogun@hotmail.com). Contact the President for meeting date and time.

# Groups and Committees:

**Blind Parents Connect - NFB of Florida:** Nicole Fincham-Shehan – Coordinator, Phone: (410) 493-4461, Email: [nicoledfincham@yahoo.com](mailto:nicoledfincham@yahoo.com).Meetings are held the Second Tuesday of each month, at 9pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: (712) 775-7031,938047311#.

**F.A.B.S. - Florida Association of Blind Students:** Rafael Fernandez, Phone: (305) 903-6299, Email: [rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com](mailto:rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com). Call Rafael information and details.

**Communication Committee:** We have been busy proofing items for members, sending out a calendar outline to help us all stay organize, and growing slowly on our social media platforms. Dan has sent out an email regarding our 50th anniversary project and hopefully submissions will start rolling in. We encourage everyone to submit something towards this project. We are trying to wrap up our PSA project, so if you have not recorded the 1-minute message, please do so soon.

**Community Service:** Tekesha Saffold – Chair, Phone: (561) 707-4799, Email: [tnsaffold82@gmail.com](mailto:tnsaffold82@gmail.com). Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 8 pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: (712) 775-7031,938047311#.

**Diabetics Group:** Lauren Blum, Telephone: (352) 584-0795, Email: [laurenblum79@gmail.com](mailto:laurenblum79@gmail.com). Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: (712) 775-7031,938047311#.The Diabetic Awareness Group held their meeting on January14th and had a lively discussion on what constitutes as a carbohydrate.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** The committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 8:30 p.m., by calling 712-775-7031, Access Code: 938047311. Chair: Marilyn Baldwin.

**Fundraising Committee:** Paul Martinez – Chair, 11903 Rose Harbor Drive Apt: 113, Tampa, Florida 33625, Phone: (813)390-5720, Email: [fundraising@nfbflorida.org](mailto:fundraising@nfbflorida.org)

**Legislative Committee:** The Committee is working on both State and National priorities. Come join us on the third Tuesday of each month, at 8 p.m., by calling 712-775-7031, Access Code: 938047311. Co-chairs: Camille Tate and Merry Schoch.

**NFBF Book Club:** Come and join our lively discussions! We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 8 p.m., by calling 712-775-7031, Access Code: 938047311. Coordinator: Camille Tate

**NFB411:** Our next NFB411 Call To be announced.

**Newsline:** Russ Davis, Chairperson. 844-827-7371, [newslinesupport@nfbflorida.org](mailto:newslinesupport@nfbflorida.org)

**President and Vice President Committee:** We would like to know what you all would like to discuss next. We are stronger together, when we work together! Call in number: 712-775-7031, access code: 938047311.

**Senior Concerns Committee:** Gloria Mills-Hicks, Chairman; Phone: 813-340-9754; Email: Glorianfb@irescuetax.com. Meetings are held the First Thursday of each month at 8pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: 712-775-7031,938047311#.

**Technology Q and A:** Rafael Fernandez – Chair; Email: [rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com](mailto:rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com). Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 8:00 pm via conference call using the following telephone number and access code: 712-775-7031,938047311#.

**The National Association of Blind Veterans:** "BLIND VETS SERVING BLIND VETS" Dr. Vernon Humphrey, President; The National Association of Blind Veterans, PO Box 784957, Winter Garden, Florida 34778; Email [mr\_president@nabv.org](mailto:mr_president@nabv.org), Phone: (706) 329-7690

# NFBF Board of Director’s Information

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

***Denise Valkema -President***

Phone: 305-972-8529

Email: president@nfbflorida.org

***Paul Martinez - 1st Vice President***

Phone: 813- 390-5720

Email: [paul09ms@gmail.com](mailto:paul09ms@gmail.com)

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

Phone: 352- 942-0417

Email: mbkilby@gmail.com

***Sylvia Young-Secretary***

Phone: 850- 322-5937

Email: [secretary@nfbflorida.org](mailto:secretary@nfbflorida.org" \t "_blank)

***Merry Schoch –Treasurer***

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***Jorge Hernandez***

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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](mailto:secretary@nfbflorida.org) by the 15th of each odd month.