BREAKING NEWSLETTER

Issue 18 March/April 2019

# President’s note

Greetings Federation Family, April

**Spring is here and we will be with our federation family soon at our 2019 state convention. We feel the excitement and we are looking forward to fun. Our host chapter and many others are planning to make this a convention you won’t want to miss. Be looking for the agenda in April. See everyone soon in Boca Raton!**

Denise Valkema, President NFB OF Florida

president@nfbflorida.org

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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](#_Toc4699850)

[What’s in this Newsletter 1](#_Toc4699851)

[Birthdays & Celebrations 2](#_Toc4699852)

[Calendar of Meetings and Events 2](#_Toc4699853)

[Article, Announcements and Comments 4](#_Toc4699854)

[Apple Tips and Tricks 9](#_Toc4699855)

[Link City 10](#_Toc4699856)

[Inspiration Corner 10](#_Toc4699857)

[Legislative Updates from the desk of Camille Tate 10](#_Toc4699858)

[Photo Gallery 12](#_Toc4699859)

[Chapters 12](#_Toc4699860)

[Divisions 14](#_Toc4699861)

[Groups and Committees: 15](#_Toc4699862)

[NFBF Board of Director’s Information 18](#_Toc4699863)

[Editor: Sylvia Young 19](#_Toc4699864)

# Birthdays & Celebrations

**The NFBF would like to celebrate:**

**Birthdays:**

**March:**

*Jackie Bowman - Tallahassee*

*Tim Edwards - Treasure Coast*

*Cheryl Lenartiene - Treasure Coast*

*Scott McKinley – State-Wide*

*Christina Moore - Treasure Coast*

*Don Whitehouse - Treasure Coast*

*Debra Whitt – Gainesville*

*Ron Whittum - Treasure Coast*

**April:**

*John Bailey – State-Wide*

*Tamika Butts - Treasure Coast*

*Miranda Kilby – Tampa Bay*

*Paul Lewis – State-Wide*

**Anniversaries:**

*Jeffery and Lisa Davis – Tallahassee, April*

# Calendar of Meetings and Events

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

April 4 Seniors Concerns Committee at 8 pm

Phone: 712-7757031

Code: 488550

1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,488550

April 9 Deaf Blind Division at 7 pm

Phone: 515-604-9853

Code: 997037

1 touch mobile: 515-604-9853,997037

The conference calls below operate on the same number:

712.775.7031,

Code 938047311#

1 touch mobile: 712-775-7031,938047311

April 2 Community Service at 8 pm

April 8 Diabetes Awareness at 7 pm

April 9 Blind Parents Initiative at 9 pm

April 10 Convention Planning at 8 pm

April 11 Diversity and Inclusion at 8 pm

April 14 President’s and Vice President’s at 7 pm

April 16 Legislation Committee at 8 pm

April 22 Technology Q and A at 8 pm

April 25 NFBF Book Club at 8 pm

# Article, Announcements and Comments

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is proud to sponsor the “Women of the Movement” luncheon at our State Convention in Boca Raton, Florida.

The luncheon will take place on Saturday, May 25th, from 12:15 until 1:45 PM. It will be memorable, powerful and beautiful. There will be luncheon favors, awards and a DJ. We will have multiple speakers including a special address from our National Rep, Jeannie Massey.

We need your help to make certain our luncheon lives up to the classy and informative event it should be. We are asking for each chapter and division to please sponsor this amazing cause by sending $25 to Merry Schoch, State Treasurer. If we all work together this event will be successful. Please be sure to indicate “Women’s Luncheon” in the memo line of your check to Merry and copy your return email to Marilyn Baldwin, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chairwoman, so we can stay organized and plan accordingly.

There will be a plated luncheon that you can sign up for when you register for the convention and for the banquet. The cost of the luncheon is $25 per person. The menu choices are as follows: a turkey club sandwich or a fish sandwich with chips and a delicious dessert. A special order for dietary needs is available upon request. Our color theme is purple and white so be sure to deck out in purple attire if possible.

By the way, men are invited too! We won’t be upset if they don’t have purple pants and shirts, but we might ask them to serve as greeters to welcome guests and escort them to their table. We believe every convention attendee will find the luncheon to be fantastic and unforgettable. You must register for our fantastic luncheon by May 5th, the same way you sign up for convention registration and the banquet.

We thank you in advance for your chapter’s and division’s support and making this event successful.

State Convention Auction Baskets

Our 2019 NFBF State Convention is quickly approaching, and I hope you are as excited as I am. This year for our auction, we are asking that each chapter and division donate only 1(one) basket. As we want to showcase all your hard work and dedication that each of our members put into the baskets. Consider these items when preparing your basket:

• There is no theme guidelines this year, so be creative and have fun!

• All items must be submitted by Friday evening, preferable all together, so our members may review them.

• The basket value must be at least $50.

• We will need a description of your basket by May 5th, so we can compile a list to put it on the list serve and on the website.

We appreciate all the hard work that goes into putting the baskets together.

National Convention

It's hard to believe, but the annual National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind is only four months away. We look forward to seeing everyone at the beautiful Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas from July 7 to July 12, 2019!

Preregistration for the convention is now open. You can preregister from March 1 to May 31, 2019 at <https://convention.nfb.org/> After May 31, preregistration will close, and you will need to register on site at the convention.

See you in Las Vegas!

State DOE's Betancourt helps visually impaired overcome challenges, public misperceptions

Name: Alicia Betancourt

Occupation: Senior rehabilitation specialist with the division of blind Services for the Florida Department of Education.

Location: Daytona Beach

Age: 33

First Job: Rehabilitation Instructor

"Life is what you make it and I am committed to demonstrating to others how persons with disabilities can contribute to society. How do I do this? Contributing to the local work force as a professional and volunteering my time at local community partner agencies is what I am all about. I love a challenge and demystifying false beliefs about persons with disabilities. The sky is the limit!"

"I recently joined the United Way's Generation Impact board and

became their secretary. Also, I continue to head the National

Federation of the Blind of Florida Deaf Blind Division and volunteer as a counselor at the Center for the Blind."

"For the past six years, I have worked in the blind rehabilitation field. First as a rehabilitation instructor and then as a counselor.

Currently, I teach assistive technology skills to capable blind job seekers at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Daytona Beach. Last year, I joined the United Way's Generation IMPACT board to

help better my community and make a difference where I live.

Recently, I received a competitive stipend from Mississippi State University in the area of vision specialist and I am currently acquiring knowledge to use for my employment."

Betancourt is a volunteer with the United Way and the National Federation of the Blind of Florida and volunteer counseling services at the Center for the Visually Impaired.

Taylor Duguay, impact and marketing strategist with United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties: "Alicia is someone who flies under the radar in our community but does so much for its members. She is outstanding at her job, teaching students with visual impairment to use technology, and is very actively involved in our community, including as a member of United Way's Generation IMPACT executive board. Alicia is an amazing asset to every organization with which she works and deserves recognition for her dedication."

National Federation of the Blind Applauds the Introduction of the Access Technology Affordability Act

Baltimore, Maryland (March 15, 2019): The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of blind Americans, applauds the introduction of the Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA) of 2019 (S. 815) by Senators John Boozman (R-AR) and Ben Cardin (D-MD). This bipartisan legislation removes an employment barrier commonly experienced by blind Americans who cannot afford the high cost of access technology by creating a refundable tax credit in the amount of $2,000 to offset the cost of these technologies. Additional champions include Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Robert Casey (D-PA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Doug Jones (D-AL), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Jon Tester (D-MT), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

Senator Boozman said: "As an optometrist, I know how essential access technology is for blind Americans to achieve educational and employment goals. The high cost of this technology continues to be a barrier for so many who are ready and willing to work. With almost 71 percent of blind Americans unemployed, I am pleased to work with my colleagues and re-introduce this commonsense bipartisan legislation that will reduce the financial burden associated with these items and ensure that blind Americans can receive the tools they need to succeed in the classroom, the workplace, and within the community."

"Making access technology affordable is critical to ensuring that blind individuals can participate fully in our communities and have equal access to every opportunity," said Senator Ben Cardin. "I am proud we have bipartisan support for this empowering legislation, which gives blind Marylanders, and all blind Americans, flexible economic support to help them lead full and successful lives."

Mark A. Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said: "My wife, my two daughters, and I are all blind, and the children's technology needs are going to increase as they continue their education and start their careers. My family is not unique; blind people across the nation face this challenge, and this legislation will provide critical assistance. We thank and commend our outstanding senate champions for putting forward this legislation, which will help give blind people the technology they need to live the lives they want."

Another Casting Disaster. It's Time to Act!

Dozens of movies and TV shows featuring blind characters, usually offensively or inaccurately, have been produced and not one of them featured a blind actor in the lead role. An upcoming television series, “In the Dark,” that is scheduled to premiere in April tells a story of a blind woman. The actor who plays this leading role is NOT blind.

Blind characters need to be played by blind people. We are launching an ongoing effort to engage with the entertainment industry to work proactively with us to identify and develop the talent of blind actors rather than focusing on casting sighted actors under cover of the spurious claim that blind talent cannot be found.

Join this quest to create change.

Connect with us if you have ever been discouraged from being an actor or performer. Email your story to cdanielsen@nfb.org.

Share the national press release with your local media such as newspapers - https://nfb.org/about-us/press-room/blind-americans-protest-refusal-entertainment-industry-cast-them

Share your thoughts on social media using the hashtag #LetUsPlayUs

The shameful history of Hollywood defining us without our participation ends now. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality by ending this discrimination.

Act today!

Blind Users Innovating and Leading Design (BUILD):

Technologies are being developed every day that affect the way we all live, work, and play. Given the continuing and rapid proliferation of advanced technology, we need your help to ensure that this technology is accessible to blind people. The NFB is growing a database of blind users to test and evaluate the accessibility of websites, home-use medical devices, home appliances, fitness equipment, and other products and services. Testers in our BUILD program will periodically receive requests to evaluate various websites, products, or services for usability and accessibility. In order for us to obtain real-world experiences, we are seeking information from novices to experts. Although most are volunteer opportunities, some of these projects may offer compensation, premiums like gift cards, or product discounts. If you are interested in building the next generation of accessible products and services, please register to become a tester in our BUILD program by visiting the following link and completing an application: <https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/blind-users-innovating-and-leading-design>

Professor Schoch

Our very own Merry Christmas Schoch has been offered an adjunct professorship with the University of South Florida's School of Social Work. Professor Schoch will begin her tenure during the Fall 2019 term. Merry serves the National Federation of the Blind in a number of key roles, including as the treasurer of the NFB of Florida, president of the Florida Association of Guide Dog Users, vice president of the Tampa Bay Chapter, treasurer of the NFB's Human Services Division, co-chair of the NFB of Florida's Legislative Committee, chair of the NFB of Florida's Scholarship Committee, and a member of the NFB's national Scholarship Committee. Please join me in congratulating Professor Schoch as she proactively raises the expectations of the blind and lives the life she wants! Please, let’s give her a big HIP HIP HOORAY for proactively raising the expectations of the blind and living the life she wants!

# Apple Tips and Tricks

Apple Tips and Tricks

By Camille Tate

Gesturing 2.0

In a previous article, we discussed some of the gestures available in IOS to make using your iPhone a little easier. To refresh, there was a two-finger double tap to answer/hang up calls and play media, such as videos and audio. However, there are other things you can do with gestures using some of the same double and triple taps, as well as multiple finger swipes. In the example above, a two finger double tap answers and hangs up a call, plays media and starts/stops dictate. Additionally, a four-finger swipe left or right will toggle between open apps. Since there are many different ways to gesture and many have multiple actions, depending on what you are trying to do, here is a quick way to learn all of them.

The easiest way to learn is to play with voiceover practice. This allows you to try out different finger taps and swipes to hear what function(s) they select, without actually performing the action.

Select Settings from your apps; it is usually on page two on the home screen. Select General Settings, then Accessibility. In this setting, choose Voiceover. Scroll to voiceover practice and select it. Now you can perform the various finger taps or swipes to hear what they do. One interesting function I did not know about was the four-finger swipe, either left or right. This switches forward or backward between each app that is open. It is like the Alt plus Tab key on the computer. For example, if I have messages and mail apps open, I can swipe left or right to move from messages to mail and back. Once you have finished practicing, select the “Done” button to end voiceover practice.

You can play with this setting until you remember what all the various taps and swipes mean. Or, you can work with it as many times as necessary.

# Link City

Here are some important links that may be of interest.

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

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

**Nation's Blind Podcast – February:** <https://nfb.org/sites/default/files/audio/nations-blind-podcast/2019-02-blind-parents-ep3.mp3>

**Presidential release - March:** <https://nfb.org/sites/default/files/audio/presidential-releases/2019-03-english.mp3>

**Braille Monitor - March:** <https://nfb.org/sites/default/files/publications/bm/bm19/bm1903/bm1903tc.htm>

# Inspiration Corner

*“We can do whatever we wish to do provided our wish is strong enough. What do you want most to do? That's what I have to keep asking myself, in the face of difficulties.”*

*-* ***Katherine Mansfield***

# Legislative Updates from the desk of Camille Tate

**Legislative Committee**

**By Camille Tate**

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida Legislative Committee is moving full steam ahead towards building our Federation with state legislation. We are planning several legislative priorities targeted towards protecting and preserving the rights of blind parents and ending sub-minimum wage employment in Florida. Our aim is the 2020 Legislative Session, which begins on January 14, 2020. Each and every one of you are the vehicle to achieve these ends.

While we may focus strongly on a handful of legislative priorities from Washington Seminar, there is much more going on behind the scenes. We still need the support of our entire Federation to make digital classroom materials accessible for students, to end sub-minimum wages across the nation and many others. We urge members of Florida to continue to contact their federal legislators to garner co-sponsorship of all our bills. The fight does not end until our bills pass Congress. Our march towards equal, first-class citizenship does not end when new priorities are introduced from Baltimore.

During Washington Seminar 2019, the National Federation of the Blind brought three bills to Capitol Hill. The Access Technology Affordability Act (2019), Greater Accessibility and Independence Through Non-Visual Access Technology Act (GAIN) and the Disabled Employment Act (DEA) were presented to members of the House and Senate. We are pleased to announce that ATAA has been introduced and we are urging all of you to contact your Representatives and Senators to ask them to jump onboard with these important pieces of legislation. As of the writing of this article, there are no bill numbers, but we, as a Federation, obtained introduction and sponsorship for ATAA. We will keep all of you posted when new information is released regarding any of this year’s priorities or for bills, we have worked on recently.

We are happy to report that a new end to sub-minimum wage bill has been introduced in Congress. The Transform to Competitive Employment Act, H.R.873/S.260 was introduced in January 2019. We urge all of you to contact your Representative and Senator and ask them to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation.

Come an hear about our legislative priorities during the 2019 State Convention in Boca Raton. Each of us can make a difference. Be on the lookout for the release of the 2019 State Convention agenda.

For further information, contact the Legislative Committee Co-Chairs:

ctate2076@att.net Camille Tate, [Ctate2076@att.net](mailto:Ctate2076@att.net), 321 372 4899

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

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is on Tuesday, February 19th, 8 p.m.

**Contacting Your State Legislators**

**By Camille Tate**

We, the National Federation of the Blind of Florida often ask you, the members, to contact your Representatives and Senators when we have legislative priorities from our National Office. As we launch into pursuit of our goals for the state, we will be asking you to contact, either by phone, email or personal visit, your state legislators. Some of us know who that person or persons may be, and some do not. Following the 2018 mid-term elections, that information may have changed.

Florida is one of the largest states in the Union and there are many districts with legislators. In fact, we have 120 Florida House members and 40 Senators, representing 67 counties. Most of the House members represent multiple districts, for example, parts of 3, 4, or 5. The list is so large that it would make this newsletter too big to listen to or read! However, you may visit the Florida House website, www.My FloridaHouse.gov, to locate your district representative. To find your State Senator, visit, www. www.FLSenate.gov.to do the same. On each of these websites, you can view a listing of the legislators in district order or name. Clicking on the name of the person will take you to their individual bio on the website, where you can view information such as Capitol Office, District Office(s), phone numbers, name of Legislative Aides and District Secretaries, as well as any bills currently filed for the legislative session. You can also obtain driving directions using Google Maps directly from this page.

While the two websites contain an enormous amount of information, it is also a valuable tool. On the main page, you can view bills in the current year’s legislative session, past bills that have already become law and where a bill stands during the legislative process. There is an ability to view bill summaries or the entire text of a bill. The search form is a bit tedious, but usable; some of the information you need to perform an efficient search is not always available. However, you can search several years worth of bills, whether they have been passed or died a quiet death in the Florida Congress.

If any of you have come across other methods of searching for government officials, whether state or federal, do not hesitate to let us know. You are often our most rich source of information!

**National Federation of the Blind Celebrates Ratification of Marrakesh Treaty**

Geneva, Switzerland (February 8, 2019): Today, the United States government formalized its ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty by depositing the US instrument of ratification with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This action begins a ninety-day waiting period, after which the treaty will officially be in force as US policy, throwing open the doors to expanded literacy for the blind of America and the world.

"The National Federation of the Blind seeks the removal of all artificial or unnecessary barriers to access to knowledge by the blind," said Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind. "That is why we championed the Marrakesh Treaty and fought for its signing and ratification by the United States. Today's deposit of the US ratification instrument represents the culmination of that effort, but even more importantly, it represents greater access to the world's literature and knowledge for blind people in America and across the world. We are therefore pleased to celebrate this historic moment with our blind brothers and sisters everywhere."

# Photo Gallery

I was excited and honroned to be a part of the 88th National President’s Leadership Seminar in Baltimore Maryland and to meet Dr. and Mrs. Maurer, Mrs. Jernigan and Dr. tenBroek’s son Dutch. See Picture below of our group with honroned guests.



# 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 Saturday, April 13, 2019, 2:15PM to 4:15PM at the Alachua County Downtown Branch Library, 401 East University Avenue, Third Floor, Foundation Room, Gainesville, Florida. 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). Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. until noon at The Fountains of Melbourne located at 4451 Stack Boulevard, Melbourne, Florida, 32901. Call Camille Tate, President, with questions. The Melbourne Chapter will celebrate White Cane Day with its 5th Annual Car and Bike Show on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Fountains of Melbourne.

**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#. In the month of March, we had a guest speaker discussing the product Script Talk. We learned what it is and how it works. In addition, we are looking into different fundraisers to help aid all our upcoming projects. We are excited that we will be represented well with around 20 members attending convention and look forward in seeing all of you soon.

**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. We are excited about the upcoming State Convention. We plan to bring at least 5 members. We have been busy working on fundraising and membership building.

**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. We are preparing for state convention and will be bringing around 18 or so members. We are looking for new ideas to get out into the community. Our first social activity of the year will be April 20th. A group of 15 members and friends will be horseback riding together and then roasting hotdogs and creating smores around a camp fire.

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Tamika Butts, President; (772) 708-3749, E-mail: [tamika\_butts@gmail.com](mailto:tamika_butts@gmail.com). 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. Upcoming Event's: February 7th-Dining in the dark at 2nd St Bistro in Fort Pierce. Promoted by the Ft. Pierce Lions Club. This is not a fund raiser; February 16th yard sale fundraiser. At Lawnwood Stadium Parking lot in Fort Pierce; March 9th-Technology: Barbara Brown and Rachael Trinkowsky; March 21st-Chilies restaurant fundraiser; April 13th-Diabetes Awareness.

# Divisions

**Deaf-Blind Division:** Alicia Betancourt, President, Phone: (386) 589-7324, E-mail: [Licib85@gmail.com](mailto:Licib85@gmail.com). Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 8:00pm by conference call. calling information:(515) 604-9853 and using the access code 997037#.

**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. Jorge has completed a Publix grant for our state convention and will be working on others. He has updated some things on our website as far as state convention and will continue to update as we gather more details. 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. In addition, we are starting to prepare for a fabulous workshop at the state convention. Our next meeting is Monday, February 11th at 7 PM, and all are invited to attend. During this meeting, we will have an overview on complex and simple carbohydrates and working them into your diet. See a healthy recipe in the articles and announcement section above. Have an exciting and healthy month!

**Diversity and Inclusion:** The committee will meet on the second Thursday, April 11th at 8 p.m. Call-in number: (712) 775-7031, Access Code: 938047311#. Chair: Marilyn Baldwin, Phone: (407) 293-0565, Email: [commMDB@aol.com](mailto:commMDB@aol.com). Meetings are held bi-monthly on the second Thursday at 8 pm via conference call.

**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) Tickets for the High Roller raffle were ordered and sent on Monday March 18th to every chapter president. Each ticket will be sold for $5, and the drawling will be on July 12th. Prizes are below:

• 1st prize: $1000

• 2nd Prize: $500

• 3rd Prize: $250

The best part about this fundraiser is the more you sell for your chapter the more the chapter will receive. So, put on your thinking caps and happy selling!

**Legislative Committee:** We meet on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 16th at 8 p.m. Join the conference by calling (712) 775-7031, Access Code: 938047311. Co-Chairs: Merry Schoch and Camille Tate.

**NFBF Book Club:** The Book Club meets each month on the fourth Thursday. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 25, at 8 p.m. Keep a lookout on the list to find out what we will be discussing next! Call-in number: (712) 775-7031, Access Code: 938047311#. Coordinator: Camille Tate

**NFB411:** Our next NFB411 Call is in March. Have an idea on a topic that you would like presented? Please send them to Miranda Kilby at [mbkilby@gmail.com](mailto:mbkilby@gmail.com). The last NFB411 call was how to connect with the NFBF. We outlined the importance of utilizing our list serve, our social media platforms, Newsline, and finding an area that interest you. Missed the call? Dial, 712-775-7029. Then use access code 938047311, reference number 48.

**Newsline:** Russ Davis, Chairperson. Phone: (904) 993-8433, Email: Russell@radiorusty.com

**President and Vice President Committee:** Sunday, February 10th at 7pm we will be holding our Presidents and Vice Presidents’ committee call. On our last call we discussed membership and shared some great ideas. 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#. The next meeting is February 7th at 8pm (If dialing in from a smartphone, use this shortcut: 712-775-7031,488500# Remember that you need not be a senior to take part. We are going to have special guest speakers from Spectrum Cable to discuss accessibility features or the company's services. All are welcome!

**Technology Q and A:** Rafael Fernandez – Chair; Email: [rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com](mailto:rafael.fernandez0617@gmail.com). Meetings are held Bi-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:** Dwight Sayer, President; 321-948-1466; Email: [president@nabv.org](mailto:president@nabv.org); PO Box 784957, Winter Garden, Florida 34778.

# NFBF Board of Director’s Information

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

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

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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.