



NATIONAL FEDERATION  
**OF THE BLIND**

CONNECTICUT

*Live the life you want.*

**2022 51<sup>st</sup> Annual State Convention  
November 4, 5, and 6, 2022**

**Sheraton Hartford South  
100 Capital Boulevard  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

**Door Prizes: Door prizes will be awarded throughout the convention. To be eligible, you must be registered and in the conference room when your name is drawn.**

**50/50 raffle tickets will be sold throughout the day and the winner will be announced at the end of the Banquet. Basket raffles are back this year! Be prepared to buy tickets to try and win your favorite chapter basket.**

**Guide Dog relief area: As you leave the conference room turn right. At the end of the hall take another right and then a quick left. Continue straight to the exit doors. Walk down the sidewalk until you come to a set of three stairs. At the bottom of the stairs there is grass on both sides for relieving. PLEASE pick up after your dog and deposit the waste in the trash receptacle back at the doors.**

**We would like to thank our generous sponsors:**

**Platinum Sponsor:**



**[www.oakhillct.org](http://www.oakhillct.org)**

**Gold Sponsor: Youthful Images**

**Silver Sponsor: Retina Consultants, PC**

**National Representative: Ron Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, National Federation of the Blind**

**President: Maryanne Melley  
National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

**[www.nfbct.org](http://www.nfbct.org)**

**Facebook: National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

**Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Dinner and entertainment in Salon II starting at 6:00p.m. Please feel free to join in with Judy Potter and Jim Cronin and our National Representative for an evening of entertainment. Also bring your extra cash for Jailhouse Karaoke. For \$1.00 or any amount you want, put someone in “jail”. That person has to either sing a song or pay at least \$1.00 to get out of “jail.” Have fun putting people on the spot! Also, there will be a cash bar available.**

**In Salon I the Vendor Fair will be happening from 7:00p.m. through 11:00p.m. Take your time to visit our vendors.**

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Connecticut Association of Blind Students  
Meeting: 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. Rocky Hill Room**

**Connecticut Association of Guide Dog Users  
Meeting 4:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. Rocky Hill Room**

**7:00a.m.- 9:00a.m. Continental Breakfast,  
Nutmeg Ballroom (This is not the hotel  
breakfast)**

**9:00a.m. - Call to order**

**Invocation – Father Ed Pryzgocki - Holy Apostle  
Church**

**9:05a.m. - Pledge of Allegiance, NFB Pledge**

**9:10a.m. – I would like to thank our donation  
mailers: Charlie Rival, Pam Taylor, Glenn Miller,  
Rich Ireland, George Reed, Cheri Duquette, Carol  
Lemieux, and Karime Pimental. Without their  
hard work we would not be in the strong  
financial position we are in today. Today let us  
have a moment of silence for two members that  
passed away this year, they are Marcia Baran,  
and Jackie Billey. Carolyn Dodd wrote an article**

**for the Braille Monitor regarding Jackie Billey,  
and she would like to read it for us now.**

### **Change to our State Constitution.**

**Current wording.**

#### **Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

**Paragraph two regarding dues now reads “At the same time, each local Treasurer shall forward to the State Treasurer its dues in the amount of \$3.00 for each member of the chapter.”**

**NEW Wording.**

#### **Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

**Paragraph two regarding dues change to “At the same time, each local Treasurer shall forward to the state Treasurer its dues in the amount of \$5.00 for each member of the Chapter.”**

**9:20a.m. – Melissa Thompson - Nominating  
Committee Report**

**9:25a.m. – Ron Brown - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,  
National Federation of the Blind**

**9:55a.m. – Elizabeth Rouse - Treasurer, National Association of Blind Students (NABS) -Update from the National Student Division**

**10:10a.m. - Hear from our Scholarship Finalists:**

**10:20a.m. – Maryanne Melley - Presidents Report**

**10:30a.m. – Fit Break**

**10:45a.m. - Father Ed Przygocki – Holy Apostle Church, Outreach with Blind Children in Peru**

**11:00a.m. – Congressman John B. Larson, representing Connecticut’s 1<sup>st</sup> District**

**11:45p.m. – Matt Geeza – LBPH**

**12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Break for lunch**

**1:00p.m.- Amy Porter - Commissioner Connecticut Department of Aging and Disabilities, DORS**

**1:15p.m. – Justin Salisbury – Explaining Blind Rehabilitation to Health Professionals using their Language**

**1:30p.m. – Marilyn Davidson – VisionCam, Distributor of OrCam**

**1:45 – Diane Weaver Dunne, CRIS Radio**

**2:00p.m.- Fit Break**

**2:15p.m.- Andy Bernstein - Accessible Pharmacy Services for the Blind**

**2:30p.m. – Todd Sweet - Hartford Brailers Hockey Team**

**2:45p.m. - Shonda Rosetta – My Experiences Working for Amazon**

**2:50p.m. – Steve Famiglietti - What’s New with NEAT**

**3:05p.m. Jennifer Harnish - Carroll Center for the Blind**

**3:20p.m. – Noreen Grice - NFBCT BELL Academy**

### **One Minute Message**

**The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind**

**people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back**

**4:00p.m.- 6:00p.m. Break**

**6:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner - Nutmeg Ballroom**

**Invocation: Reverend Harold Williston -  
Crossroads Community Cathedral**

**Master of Ceremonies: Deb Reed**

**Keynote Address - Ron Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President, National Federation of the Blind**

**Thank you to our BELL Academy Volunteers**

**Presentation of 2021 Scholarships:**

**Beth Rival, Mary Silverberg, and Nathanael  
Wales**

**Scholarship Finalists:**

**Lizzy Cappelli**

**Isabel Rosario**

**Yew Siang Cheong**

**Lydia Randall**



**Scholarships:**

**C. Rodney Demarest Memorial Scholarship**

**Doris Higley Memorial Scholarship**

**Zukowski Family Foundation Scholarship**

**Brian Cummins Memorial Scholarship**

**Please join our students in the Rocky Hill Room for card playing and relaxation. The room will be open through midnight.**

**Thank you for being here tonight for our 51<sup>st</sup> annual banquet!**

**Sunday, November 6, 2022**

**7:00a.m.-9:00a.m. Breakfast, Nutmeg Ballroom**

**9:00a.m. Call to order: Business Meeting**

**Roll Call**

**NFB Pledge**

**Recommended changes to Constitution**

**Current wording:**

## **Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

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## **Article IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

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**Vote on Constitution changes**

### **Reports:**

**Reading of 2021 Business Meeting Minutes, Vote on Acceptance: Joe Kolczynski**

**Treasurers Report: Nathanael Wales, vote on report.**

**ABPVI (Advisory Board Persons with Visual Impairments): Beth Rival**

**SRC (State Rehabilitation Council): Deb Reed**

**BCAC (Bureau Consumer Advocacy Committee):  
Korrine Herlth**

**PAC (Pre Authorized Contribution) Plan: Len  
Schlenk**

**Federationist: Brianna Rigsbee**

**New Business:**

**Washington Seminar Appointments:  
Volunteer/Volunteers Needed**

**Washington Seminar: Vote on Subsidy amount**

**Donation Mailings: Two more volunteers needed.  
Should we go to a mail merge format where  
everything is typed or keep requests  
handwritten.**

**Committee for new location for our 2023 State  
Convention needed**

**NFBCT Technology Grant: should we Increase  
amount by adding funds from affiliate? More  
advertising is needed. All members on the  
committee should receive applicant emails.**

**Credit Card Payments: How would we go about receiving this form of payment? Your input is needed**

**Creating a support group for partners of blind members: Richard Ireland**

**January Board meeting, where and when?**

**Chapter News**

**Elections; Ron Brown, Moderator**

**Any member nominated from the floor should have already agreed to serve prior to this convention.**

**Nominees from the committee and from the floor will have one minute to state why they feel the affiliate should vote for them. The one-minute time will be strictly enforced.**

**Elections: Results will be given to our national representative Ron Brown.**

**Each member that has paid dues for 2022 will receive eight index cards, one for each election. If you wish to vote for a person nominated from the floor you will tear off one corner of the card for that person. If you wish to vote for the person nominated by the committee, leave the card**

**whole. If two people are nominated from the floor, you will tear one corner for the first person and two corners for the second person, still leaving your card whole for who was nominated by the committee.**

**This is much more efficient than handing out slate and styluses, pens, different colored cards, Braille and writing down votes, and having them counted by two people. It was suggested to me by John Pare last year.**

**Positions up for election:**

**President**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**2<sup>Nd</sup> Vice President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**Board Member**

**Board Member**

**Board Member – One Year Term**

**Meeting adjourned**