National Federation of the Blind of Idaho

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**2018 NFBI State Convention Agenda**

**April 26-28, 2018**

**Red Lion Canyon Springs Hotel on Blue Lakes Blvd, Twin Falls ID**

**Phone (208) 734-5000**

***“Raising Expectations and Creating Opportunities”***

Our NFB National Representative is Joe Ruffalo, President NFB of New Jersey.

**Registration will be in the Convention Center Hallway at**: 6:30 – 7:30 pm, 9:15 – 10 pm Thursday,7:45 – 8:15 am Friday, 7:45 – 8:15 Saturday

**Hospitality will be in Room 117:** Friday 12:00 – 7:00, Saturday 12:00 – 2:00

**Childcare will be in Room 119,** with Angie Bradley.

# Aira Site Access Network

## Free Aira Site Access at National Federation of the Blind of Idaho State Convention

The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with Aira to provide free Aira site access to NFB members during our 2018 state convention. Aira subscribers or Explorers can use the service at our convention for free without having minutes deducted from their plan. It will automatically be set up at our convention hotel.

Aira allows blind individuals to connect to a live agent through a mobile app or wearable glasses to get real-time visual information or assistance. Learn more about Aira and special pricing available for NFB members https://go.aira.io/nfb.

## How It Works

When Aira users enter the convention hotel, referred to as the site-access location by Aira, their phones will receive a notification letting them know that the space is part of the Aira Site Access Network. When they speak with their agent, he or she will inform them that they are then covered by the network and their minutes will not be charged.

GPS must be enabled for users to participate in site access and receive free minutes. When they leave or enter convention areas that are covered by the Site Access Network, they will be informed by the Aira agent. To learn more about Aira and the special plan for NFB members, visit https://go.aira.io/nfb.

**Red Lion Canyon Springs Hotel Directions**

In the front of the hotel, there are two entrances. The one to the right is the door that will take you to where the hotel registration is. The door to the left will take you to the hallway for the convention center. These two doors are aproximately 20 feet apart.

When you step into the lobby and turn to your right the hotel registration desk will be in front of you.

The stair locations are between room 104 and 106, between 117 and the fitness center, between the fitness center and 119, between 128 and 130, down the hallway by 134, between 145 and 147, and between 152 and 154.

To locate your sleeping room, go the left end of the front desk and you will locate a hallway going to the right.

The first rooms on the left are the Willow Room and the Pine Room.

Proceed down the hallway to find your room and at the end you will turn to the right or the left. Most of the rooms will be to the left.

Starting by the front desk with your back to the front desk, you will cross the entrance, you will come to the hallway that turns to your right. With your back to the outside entrance, the meeting rooms will be on your left. The vendor tables will be set up in that hallway.

The Cedar Room is the first one, then the Juniper Room and the Aspen Room.

The restrooms are across the hallway from the Aspen Room.

Diamondfield’s Restaurant will be straight ahead at the end of the hallway.

To get to Diamondfield’s Lounge you take a right and quick left and the lounge is straight ahead of you.

Our Board Dinner and Banquet will be in the Oak Room. To get to the Oak Room, you will walk between the lounge and the back of the restaurant and the Oak Room is straight ahead of you. There are restrooms in the Lounge.

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

6:30-7:30 Registration Convention Center Hallway

7:30-9:00 Reception Hosted by Central Idaho Chapter National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, Treasure Valley Chapter National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, and Hospitality Committee. Meet up with old friends, make new friends, and get to know our National Representative, Joe Ruffalo, President NFB of New Jersey.

**Hospitality Room 117**

9:15-10:00 Registration-Convention Center Hallway

9:15 Resolutions Committee Vickie Bateman, Chair. This is an open meeting. Come and learn how the policies of NFBI are made. **Willow Room**

**Friday March 27, 2018**

**General Session Cedar/Juniper Room**

7:45-8:15 Registration Convention Center Hallway

8:00-8:30 Quick Fit: Join the students in a physical activity to get your body and mind moving and ready for the day. **Aspen Room**

8:30 Call to Order Dana Ard, President, invocation, pledge, welcome Central Idaho Chapter, Mai Nguyen, President

8:45 Why I am a proud Member of the National Federation of the Blind, Garren Aubrey, President, NFBI Portneuf Chapter.

9:00 State Report: Dana Ard, Affiliate President

9:25 The Legislative Process, Rep. Christy Zito District 23 agricultural affairs; judiciary, rules and administration; state affairs.

9:45 Q and A

9:50 AIRA, Another tool in the toolbox, T.J. Squires.

10:10 Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Beth Cunningham, Administrator; Greg Metsker, Director, Assessment and Training Center.

10:40 Q and A

10:45 Talking Book Library Update, Sue Walker. Library Consultant

11:05 Working Effectively with the State Appropriations Committee, Dos and Don’ts Rep. Maxine Bell, District 25, State Appropriations, Chair

11:25 Resolution

11:30 Student Track: Meet the Legislator **Aspen Room**

11:30 Medicare Changes you need to Know about Taenia Hudson, Senior Services Specialist/Insurance Coordinator at CSI Office on Aging

11:50 Resolutions and Reports

12:00 Student Track: Student Division Discussion **Aspen Room**

12:00 Blindness products and Services Expo, Atrium and Hallway

1:00 The new Victor Trek combining the features of the Victor Stream and the Trekker Breeze, Karl Smith **Cedar Room**

1:30 Smart Vision accessible cell phone, Karl Smith. This phone will not work with Verizon or Sprint. **Cedar Room**

2:00 Discussion and formation of a National Federation of the Blind of Idaho Community Service Division, Erin Olsen, facilitator Juniper Room

3:30 Strengthening the Idaho Gems Chapter at large, Discussion with Joe Ruffalo, National Representative **Cedar Room**

3:30 Improving Education for Blind Children Through Legislation and Advocacy Discussion. **Willow Room**

4:00 Quick Fit Walk: Join students for a walk in the hotel neighborhood

5:30 Parents Discussion Group, Ramona Walhof and Becky Sherman facilitators **Willow Room**

5:30 National Federation of the Blind of Idaho affiliate board meeting. This is open to all. (Meal ticket needs to have been purchased in order to have a meal) . **Oak Room**

7:30 Evening activity; Viewing and discussion of the documentary “Do You Dream in Color?” This documentary presents 4 blind teens as they encounter challenges and victories in their education and personal lives as they move toward adulthood. The documentary will be of value to parents, children, teens and adults who care about education and opportunities for blind children now and in the future. Joe Thompson and a student panel will lead the discussion afterward.

9:00 Informal open mic and jam session. Come and play music or listen.

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**General Session Cedar/Juniper Room**

7:45-8:15 Registration Convention Center Hallway

8:00-8:30 Quick Fit: Join our students in a fitness activity to get your body and brain ready for an exciting day. **Aspen Room**

8:30 Call to order, opening ceremonies and announcements

8:40 National Report, Joe Ruffalo, National Representative

9:20 Students in Transition, Alison Steven, Project Coordinator for Student Transition Services

9:40 My Transition Experience, student panel, Alana Leonhardy, Emma Kisner, Tyler Zumwalt

10:10 We’re Blind Parents Raising our Children, Laine Amoureux, Sylvia Bernert

10:30 Student Track: Technology scavenger hunt **Aspen Room**

10:30 Working with the Senate Health and Welfare Committee to achieve results: Senator Lee Heider, District 24 Chair Senate Health and Welfare Committee: resources and Environment

10:50 Birding by Ear; Al Schneider

11:10 Our struggles and triumphs to Obtain Quality Education for Our Blind Children: Pari Edgar, Teri Hill, Lizzie Lawson

11:15 Student Track: Looking Good, Feeling Good **Aspen Room**

11:40 We use NFB Newsline and we Want to Spread the Word: General Discussion

12:00 Student Track: Interpersonal Communication and Relationships

**Aspen Room**

12:15 Senior Division Business Meeting **Cedar/Juniper Room**

12:15 Family Recreation and Discovery Workshop planning session: parents of blind children and NFB members interested in planning this event are welcome

**Willow Room**

1:30 Quick Fit: Join our students in an energizing fitness activity

**Aspen Room**

2:00 Something Up My Sleeve; Joe Ruffalo, NFB National Representative

3:00 IESDB Report, Gretchen Spooner, Director of Education

3:30 Affiliate business meeting including: minutes of 2017 business meeting, treasurer’s summary report, nominating committee report and elections. Election of delegate and alternate delegate to National Convention, reports, resolutions and new business.

4:30 My Journey from Vietnam to Teaching Blind Children in America; Mai Nguyen, President, Central Idaho chapter

4:50 Resolutions and Reports, convention feedback

5:00 Afternoon adjournment

**Saturday Evening**

**6:30 Banquet, Oak Room**

Invocation: Greg Edgar, Central Idaho Chapter

Master of Ceremonies: Mike Gibson, President of the Canyon County Chapter

Banquet Address: Joe Ruffalo, National Federation of the Blind

Auction and door prizes will occur throughout the banquet.

Scholarship Class: Mike Gibson, Russell Smith, Co-Chair

Funding Our Movement through Preauthorized Contribution Plan PAC Jan Gawith

Braille-a-Thon Awards

**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation and to abide by its Constitution.

**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 have the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

**Committees**

**Convention Planning Committee:** Sandy Streeter, chair, Susan Bradley, Joe Thompson, Alison Steven, Leslie Mora, Mike Gibson, Russell Smith, Frank Skogsberg and Mai Nguyen

**Auction Committee:** Ramona Walhof, Chair, Jud Cottrell, Sandy Streeter, Joe Thompson, Vel Slotten, Harry and Jan Gawith, Vickie and Larry Bateman, Becky Sherman.

**Hospitality Committee:** Sue Brooks, Chair, Pari Edgar, Mai Nguyen, Lynn Kneip, Colleen McFadden

**Fundraising Committee:** Ramona Walhof Chair, Vickie Bateman, Sandy Streeter, Justin Bonner, Jud Cottrell, and Erin Olsen

**Door Prize Committee:** Leslie Mora, Elsie Dickerson

**Resolutions Committee:** Vickie Bateman, Chair, Ramona Walhof, Wanda Jolley, Garren Aubrey

**Nominating Committee**: Joe Thompson Chair, Jan Gawith, Frank Skogsberg

**Hotel Matters:** Larry Sebranek, Sue Sebranek

**Scholarship Committee:** Mike Gibson, Russell Smith, co-Chairs, Sandy Streeter, Susan Ford, and Earl Hoover

**Sound System and Streaming**: David Jolley, Kevin Pirnie, and Larry Bateman

**Communications Committee:** Kevin Pirnie, Chair Joe Thompson, Erin Olsen, TJ Squires, Frank Skogsberg, Tyler Zumwalt, Al Schneider, Sean Malone, Colleen McFadden, Harry Gawith.

**The National Federation of the Blind of Idaho** wishes to thank its members and the staff of the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for planning and coordinating the student track.

**Our Sponsors**

Treasure Valley Chapter, Cycle for Independence

Mountain View Hospital $1,000

INL Battelle Alliance donated $500 for the BELL program

Rocky Mountain Artificial Limb & Brace Inc. $100

Searle, Hart Associates, PLLC $100

HK Contractors

Melaleuca Inc.

University of Idaho, Kathy Griffin, $320