

Welcome to the 2024 National Federation of the Blind of California State Convention

## Friday March 15, 2024

**Impact: Touching Our World with Hope and Determination**

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. Together with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

### 7:00 am - 8:30 am DeafBlind Division

President, Angela Fowler

Are you experiencing the unique dual challenge of vision and hearing loss? Then come join us. Learn tips and tricks from other Deafblind Californians, hear from our National division, and find out about an exciting program offered by the San Francisco lighthouse.

**San Diego Room**

***7:30 am - 8:30 am Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB Alumni)***

President, David Chan

OCB alumni reconnect with old friends, learn what is going on at the center, and discuss division business.

**Santa Barbara Room**

### 8:30 am - 9:30 am Vendor Showcase

Coordinator, Cheryl Thurston

Listen to a brief description of products and services from each exhibitor. This is a wonderful way to survey everything in the hall at one time and then follow up with each exhibitor at their virtual tables immediately after the presentations. The Zoom link will stay open until 10:30 am for virtual attendees to ask questions and experience a virtual walk-through of the Exhibit Hall.

**California Ballroom**

### 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Exhibit Hall

Check out the latest technology, services and information from organizations offering useful resources to blind people.

**Tahoe Room and Trellis**

### 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm General Session I, California Ballroom

President, Tim Elder

### 2:00 pm We’re Back! Call to Order

Opening ceremony with national anthem—Rachel Grider; Pledge of Allegiance and NFB Pledge — Connor Clark (age 11); Invocation—Arietta Woods.

#### **2:15 pm Career Connections—Vocational Rehabilitation and Training**

[Joe Xavier](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/WhoWeAre), Director, and [Susan Pelbath](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/06/22/governor-newsom-announces-appointments-6-22-22/), Deputy Director, of the California Department of Rehabilitation, report on the Specialized Services Division and the future of vocational rehabilitation services in California.

### 2:40 pm National Report—Grasping the Movement

[Norma Crosby](https://nfb.org/about-us/leadership/board-directors/norma-crosby), Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind, reports on what the organization is accomplishing around the nation and the globe to advance the rights of blind people.

#### **3:20 pm Crafting a Future—Improving Educational Guidelines for Blind Children**

[Gina Ouellette](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gina-ouellette-6a35231b4/), Superintendent, [Adrian Amandi](https://www.linkedin.com/in/adrian-amandi-12b659a9/), Director, and [Chris Fendrick](https://www.csb-cde.ca.gov/about/staff/admindirectory.aspx), Principal, California School for the Blind, share opportunities for members of the organized blind to inform the next version of regulatory guidance from the Department of Education. These standards will inform the expectations that parents, school administrators, teachers and students have when public schools educate a blind child. Learn how we can insert the lived experiences and wisdom of blind people into these standards for the upcoming generation.

**3:45 pm Lending a Hand—Volunteers for the DeafBlind at National Convention**

[Maurice Mines](https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm23/bm2311/bm231115.htm), President, National DeafBlind Division, describes how Federationists can volunteer to be special service support providers for DeafBlind individuals who need such assistance to participate in our National Convention. Could such service providers be contracted by the Department of Rehabilitation or other sources in the future?

#### **4:00 pm Up Up Down Down Left Right Left Right BA—Video Game Accessibility**

[James Gump](https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-gump-ab93865a/), Youth Services Coordinator at the [San Francisco LightHouse for the Blind](https://lighthouse-sf.org/), shares some of the latest advancements in accessibility for video games including Sony PlayStation, Microsoft Xbox and independent iOS apps. What do these developments mean for the future of non-visual user interfaces and virtual reality?

#### **4:35 pm Legislative Links—Common Community Priorities**

[Jeff Thom](https://www.ccbnet.org/leginfo/index.htm), Chair of Governmental Affairs, California Council of the Blind , and [Tim Elder](https://trelegal.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-04-11-1-P-Opposition-to-Conduent-MSJ.pdf), President of the National Federation of the Blind of California, discuss our common effort to pass A.B. 1902, a law requiring accessible prescription drug labels in California, and A.B. 3193, a law that will speed up procurement by the Department of Rehabilitation for purchases of less than $25,000.

#### **4:45 pm Report of the Nominating Committee**

[Ever Lee Hairston](https://nfb.org/about-us/leadership/board-directors/ever-lee-hairston), Nominations Committee Chair, announces the slate of proposed candidate’s and comments on the election process that will follow on Sunday morning.

#### **5:00 pm Adjourn**

The convention will adjourn until General Session II on Saturday afternoon and members will be directed to the shuttles for our Sacramento History Museum event.

***5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Sacramento History Museum Tour***

We have a special private event with group tours, food and survey opportunities at the Sacramento History Museum in classic Old Sacramento. A 15-passenger shuttle will be taking groups of people back and forth from the museum while small group tours are happening. The first shuttle will leave the hotel shortly after we adjourn at 5:00 pm and the last shuttle back to the hotel will leave the museum at 8:00 pm. Members who do not wish to wait in line for the shuttle and the appetizers are encouraged to share taxis or rideshare services to the museum in order to enjoy refreshments and earlier group tour departures. The museum is about 20 minutes’ drive from the hotel.

**(Offsite) 101 I Street, Old Sacramento, CA 95814**

***9:00 pm - 11:00 pm California Association of Blind Students***

President, Shelbi Felter

Students and supporters, come join our student division for networking and our state convention meeting.

**California Ballroom**