

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

## Saturday March 16, 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.

***8:00 am - 10:00 am California Association of Guide Dog Users Division***

President, Shannon Dillon

Join the California Association of Guide Dog Users to learn about guide dog programs and hear what we have been doing for the last year. Elections will be held.

**Carmel Room**

***8:00 am - 10:00 am Senior Division***

President, Arietta Woods

Join the Senior Division meeting for a super-charged experience, picking up the loose ends of our lives and coming together. Our guest speaker will be Glenn Crosby, National President of the NFB Senior Division.

**California Ballroom**

***9:00 am - 11:00 am Parents of Blind Children Division***

President, Janette Jones

Join us for an inspiring journey as we go “Back To Basics” at this year’s state convention! The Parents of Blind Children Division is thrilled to unite with blind parents in an endeavor to strengthen and support families across our state. We are embarking on a mission to build a division that caters to the unique needs of both blind parents and parents of blind children. We invite you to be a part of the conversation as we return to the drawing board, seeking your valuable input on shaping the future of our division. Whether you’re a blind parent, a parent of a blind child, an educator, or an ally, your presence is invaluable. Come join us!

**San Diego Room**

***9:00 am - 11:00 am Sports and Recreation Division***

President, Joga Singh

If you are a fan of sports, or lover of recreational activities, and want to increase or share your knowledge in these areas, please join the general meeting of our Sports and Recreation Division. We wil hear from guest speakers, discuss future plans, and hold elections. There will also be raffle prizes and other entertaining activities.

**Santa Barbara Room**

***11:00 am - 12:30 pm Resolutions Committee***

Chair, Ever Lee Hairston

All are encouraged to observe the Resolutions Committee meeting which comes together once a year to decide on the policies and direction of the affiliate for the upcoming year. Our 2024 committee members include Bryan Bashin, Ever Lee Hairston, Shannon Dillon, Rachel Grider, Jamie Crane, and Cricket Bidleman.

**California Ballroom**

### 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm General Session II, California Ballroom

President, Tim Elder

### 2:00 pm Ring the BELL—Literacy for the Next Generation

Debbie Worstman, Director of Braille Enrichment, Literacy and Learning Program, National Federation of the Blind of California, reports on the upcoming BELL summer literacy program for 2024.

### 2:10 pm Reach Out and Double tap Someone—Expanding Remote Assistance Apps

### [Mike Buckley](https://www.linkedin.com/in/buckleym/), CEO, [Be My Eyes](https://www.bemyeyes.com/), and [Troy Otillio](https://www.linkedin.com/in/troyo/), CEO, [Aira](https://aira.io/aira-about-us/), give respective presentations from two different companies regarding the range of remote assistance tools that can be had by blind consumers using a mobile device.

### 2:50 pm Sensational Images—Making Tactile pictures for Blind Artists & Designers

[Marco Salsiccia](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcosalsiccia/), Artist and Accessibility Design Consultant and creator of [BlindSVG.com](https://blindsvg.com/), shares his story and shows the innovative ways that blind professionals are using tactile modes to express art and information. Touchable samples will be on display in the room at the PAC table.

### 3:25 pm Remote the Vote 2.0—Building Our Own Virtual Polling system

Brian Buhrow, Board Member for the National Federation of the Blind of California, demonstrates a prototype system that he has designed to enable virtual and in-person convention attendees to simultaneously vote during a convention.

### 3:50 pm Training & Travel—NFB Residential Centers

Julie Deden, Executive Director of the [Colorado Center for the Blind](https://cocenter.org/), discusses the benefits and considerations involved with NFB residential training programs.

### 4:15 pm Autonomous Vehicles—Waymo & NFB of California Partnerships

We observe A special presentation from our National Office and an update from [Waymo](https://waymo.com/) on recent victories and developments to expand autonomous vehicle service to Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Peninsula.

### 4:35 pm Eating It Up—Medi-Cal Funding for Healthy Meals

Dr. A. [Ray Chaudhuri](https://www.linkedin.com/in/araychaudhuri/), President of [Roots Food Group](https://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2021/11/15/9491780.htm), explains how doctors in California can now prescribe healthy pre-made meals for blind individuals that are funded by Medi-Cal. Learn how you might be able to ask your doctor about free healthy meals as a form of preventative care for underlying medical conditions.

**5:00 pm Adjourn**

Members should quickly exit the room to make way for the banquet setup. Please take your conversations to the hotel lobby to enable the support staff to quickly change over the facility space.

### 7:00 pm Formal Banquet (doors open at 6:45 pm)

Mistress of Ceremony – First Vice President, Rachel Grider

Hear an inspiring address from our national representative, meet our scholarship winners, conduct fun auctions with games, and generally be delighted as we celebrate our success as an organization.

**California Ballroom**