



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

IOWA

Live the life you want.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF IOWA
2023 STATE CONVENTION
September 15–September 16, 2023

Holiday Inn and Suites Des Moines Northwest
4800 Merle Hay Road
Urbandale, IA 50322

Scott Van Gorp, President
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If you have questions or need assistance during the convention, contact Convention Coordinator Cindy Ray, (Cell: 515-208-2351)

The members of the planning committee welcome you to the 2023 National Federation of the Blind of Iowa state convention!

Scott Van Gorp, President, NFBI

Cindy Ray, Convention Coordinator, First Vice-President; NFBI

Becky Young, Door Prize Coordinator and President, Des Moines Chapter; NFBI

Chelsea Van Gorp, Registration Chair and President, At Large Chapter, NFBI

Bob Ray, Des Moines Chapter, NFBI

Committee Chairs

Bob Ray, Nominating

Cindy Ray, Resolutions

Karen Clayton, Auditing

Mary McGee, Fund raising

Terri Wilcox and Cindy Ray, Outreach

The National Federation of the blind of Iowa is pleased to welcome Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Inc. as this year's convention sponsor. Thank you Vanda for your support of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa!

2022-2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD ,

Scott Van Gorp, President, Des Moines, svangorp@nfbi.org

Cindy Ray, First Vice-President, Urbandale, cindyray@gmail.com

Kim Brown, Second Vice President, Wapello, kimbeth@mchsi.com

Terri Wilcox, Secretary, Urbandale, trising1943@gmail.com

David Hammel, Treasurer, Urbandale, dhammelia@aol.com

Terry Poldberg, Board Member, Coralville, tpoldberg@gmail.com

Enrique Mejia, Board Member, Des Moines, emejia@nfbi.org

Tom Venesky, Board Member, Sioux City, tomvenesky2@gmail.com

Richard Webb, Board Member, Burlington, NF5B@mediacombb.net

Use the hashtag: #NFBIA2023

Like us on Facebook: National Federation of the Blind of Iowa

Follow us on Twitter: @NFB_Iowa

Sign up for the Tall-Corn mailing list to get our latest information

AGENDA

Friday, September 15, 2023

9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.; Exhibits – Prefunction Foyer between Salons B and C

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Seniors Division Meeting – We are meeting to discuss whether we would like to form a seniors group/division in Iowa and what that might look like. Bob Ray, Des Moines Chapter and Glenn Crosby, President, National Seniors Division of the National Federation of the Blind - Bennigan's Meeting Room

Meetings

1:00-2:30 p.m. At Large Chapter Meeting Chelsea Van Gorp, President –
Bennigan's Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7941099792?pwd=UHRXTEZLamFoNzA1djg1dEdpQVl3UT09>

Meeting ID: 794 109 9792

Passcode: 6324692

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,7941099792# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 794 109 9792

3:30-4:30 p.m. Resolutions Committee Meeting Cindy Ray, Chair
Open to all. Hear the resolutions before they come to the convention floor for a

VOTE. — Bennigan's Meeting Room

3:00 P.M.- 6:45 P.M. In-person registration and online registration packet pickup -
prefunction foyer outside of Salons B and C

5:00-6:45 P.M. Welcome reception and meal hosted by and compliments of the
Des Moines Chapter, NFBI

Mix and mingle with old and new friends and enjoy delicious food as we celebrate
being together over the last year. – Salon C

Friday General Session – Salon C

7:00 P.m. Call to Order: Scott Van Gorp, President, National Federation
of the Blind of Iowa

7:05 P.m. **Opening Ceremonies**

Invocation: Josh Bingaman, Lead Pastor, First
Church of the Open Bible, Des Moines
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem:

Terri Wilcox, Secretary, NFBI
David Hammel, Treasurer, NFBI
Cindy Ray, First Vice-President, NFBI
National Federation of the Blind Pledge
Welcome (TBD)

7:15 P.M. Convention Arrangements: Cindy Ray, Convention Coordinator
and First Vice-President, NFBI

7:25 P.M. Panel discussion on grilling techniques from the blindness
perspective. We'll hear about ways to smoke and grill using
modern grills and smartphones as well as traditional grilling
done the low-tech way – Moderated by Bob Ray, Des Moines
Chapter, NFBI

Panelists:

Cindy Ray, First Vice-President, NFBI
Tom Venesky, President, Siouland Chapter, NFBI
Monica Venesky, Siouland Chapter, NFBI

8:30 P.M. Navigating the immigration system from a blind person's perspective –
Bitrus Gwamna, Vice-President, Southeast Iowa Chapter, NFBI

9:00 P.M. Adjourn

9:05 - 11:00 P.M. Hospitality – Convention planning committee
Join us for a great time for networking and to mix and Mingle in person. You never
know what could happen! There might even be games involved – Salon C
Refreshments will be available.

Saturday, September 16, 2023

7:00-8:00 AM. Plated breakfast – Salon C

7:00-9:00 A.M. Final Registration/packet pickup – Prefunction foyer outside
Salons B and C

7:00 A.M-5:00 P.M. Exhibits – Prefunction Foyer between Salons B and C

8:00-8:45 a.m. Affiliate Board Meeting – Salon C

Scott Van Gorp, President, NFBI

GENERAL SESSION – Salon C

- 9:00 A.M. Call to Order and invocation
- 9:05 A.M. Report on what is happening in the movement - Norma Crosby, National Representative, President of the NFB of Texas and Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind
- 9:30 A.M. Iowa Department for the Blind Report - Emily Wharton, Director, Iowa Department for the Blind
- 10:00 a.m. Presidential Report – Scott Van Gorp, President, NFBI
- 10:30 A.M. Legislative process –what does it take to get our issues heard and how can we make more of an impact going forward after this year’s legislative work? – A discussion led by the NFBI legislative committee, Bob Ray, chair, and Mary McGee, committee member and Des Moines chapter legislative chair

We are pleased the following legislators have agreed to join us for this discussion:

Representative Austin Baeth, (D.) District 36, Polk County

Senator Nate Boulton, (D.) District 20, Polk County

Thank you Representative Baeth and Senator Boulton for joining us!

- 11:30 A.M. Reports and Resolutions
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn
- 12:15-1:45 P.M. Lunch – Come and enjoy food and fellowship with the Federation Family and share stories from the past and dreams for the future – Salon C

Business Session – Salon C

- 2:00 P.M. Call to Order
- 2:05 P.M. Remembering the ones we’ve lost over this last year – Cindy Ray, First Vice-President, NFBI
- 2:10 P.M. Business Meeting
- 2022 Meeting Minutes –Terri Wilcox, Secretary,
 - Treasurer’s Report – David Hammel, Treasurer
 - Auditing Committee Report – Karen Clayton, Chair
 - Resolutions Committee Report –Cindy Ray, Chair
- 3:00 P.M. Report from the Friends of the Library
- 3:10 P.M. Chapter, Division, and Committee Reports
- NFB Newsline Report – Chelsea Van Gorp, NFB Newsline Coordinator for Iowa and President, At Large Chapter, NFBI
- 3:30 P.m. Elections – Bob Ray, Nominating Committee Chair

Election of 2 board members for two-year terms. Election of Delegate and Alternate delegate to the 2024 National Convention in Orlando, Florida

- Old Business
- New Business

4:30 P.m. Final Remarks –Norma Crosby, National Representative, and Scott Van Gorp, President, National Federation of the Blind of Iowa

5:00 P.M. Adjourn

6:00-6:45 P.M. Meet and Greet –Salon C

Refreshments available.

7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet – Salon C

- Master of Ceremonies: Cindy Ray – First Vice-President, NFBI
- Invocation: Cindy Ray, First Vice-President, NFBI
- Banquet Address: Norma Crosby, – National Representative

PAC Plan: Norma Crosby, – National Representative and Chelsea Van Gorp, Pac Chair for Iowa

Final remarks and adjournment – Scott Van Gorp, President, National Federation of the Blind of Iowa

Following Banquet:

Convention Planning Committee host hospitality

After the banquet it's another evening for networking and to mix and mingle! Anything can happen, so come join us. – Salon C

Refreshments available

Sunday, September 17, 2023

7:30 A.M. Iowa Blind Amateur Radio Club breakfast – Restaurant general seating

Convention Notes:

Thank you to our exhibitors for this year's convention, Pat Fisher with NanoPac, and Emily Ehlers with Disability Rights Iowa. Emily will gladly talk with people about our dealings with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and making documents and correspondence with HHS accessible to blind

people. Pat will be here to exhibit blind/low vision products. Please stop by and thank them for being a part of our convention this year!

For those who need it, there is a dog relief area at the hotel. As you exit the west entrance, turn north and go about 50 paces until you are along the fence. Bags and a waste receptacle are available.

MISSION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF IOWA

The National Federation of the Blind of Iowa 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.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND 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.