

Our Belief Message

The National Federation of the Blind advances the lives of its members and all blind people in the United States. We know 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. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

State Convention Agenda

October 24-27, 2024

Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown

2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Tara Chavez, President

National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico (NFBNM)

505-328-3349

[NFBNM.President@gmail.com](mailto:NFBNM.President@gmail.com)

DOOR PRIZES:

Door prizes will be drawn during general convention sessions and during the banquet. To win, you must be registered for the convention, and you must be in the room when your name is called, unless you are working the registration table, providing childcare, or are the child in their care.

Code of Conduct  
  
We welcome all attendees to our convention and embrace diversity, inclusion,  
and mutual respect. To that end, please keep the following expectations in  
mind when you join us in Albuquerque.

The National Federation of the Blind provides support to members and  
advocates for our rights to live the lives we want through advocacy, public  
awareness, and mentoring. As a member or guest at our Convention, you not  
only represent yourself but also represent our organization. We want you to  
enjoy your time with us and to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.  
Although we encourage members to socialize and have fun, the convention also  
provides an important opportunity to come together to continue the work of  
our organization, to learn about the important initiatives that we are  
involved with on a local and national level, and to plan our work for the  
future.

Please remember these guidelines

1. Welcome new attendees: Although you will undoubtedly enjoy time with your friends, please reach out to those who have never joined us before and help them to be comfortable. We welcome people from all walks of life and with diverse needs and experiences.
2. Attend and participate in sessions: It is expected that when you commit yourself to come to convention that you are also agreeing to attend sessions.
3. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If your  
   behavior could possibly make anyone uncomfortable, even if you would not be upset by it yourself, do not do or say anything that could be considered  
   inappropriate by anyone.
4. We understand that, for some, enjoying an alcoholic drink is part of the  
   fun at the Convention. However, public drunkenness and the associated  
   behaviors that often accompany it not only reflect badly on you but also do  
   not enhance our standing as an organization.
5. Please do not use heavy colognes or perfumes, as some of our guests have  
   chemical sensitivities.

# Thursday, October 24, 2024

## ***7:30 PM - 9:30 PM***

Board of Directors Meeting (Roxy)

Tara Chavez, President, NFBNM

# Friday, October 25, 2024

## ***8:00 AM - 9:00 AM***

## ***11:00 AM - Noon***

## ***2:00PM - 4:00 PM***

Registration (Registration Counter)

Sarah Villavicencio, Registration Chairperson

Adults $30.00 and Children $15.00

Please stop by to register, pick up your print or Braille agendas and

your meal tickets (if purchased).

## ***8:00 AM - 4:00 PM***

Childcare (Serenade)

Leslie Hernandez, Childcare Chairperson

## ***9:00 AM - Noon***

General Session Part 1 (Regal)

## ***9:00 AM - 9:20 AM***

Call to Order

Tara Chavez, President, NFBNM

Invocation

Frank Maestas, Board Member, NFBNM

Pledge of Allegiance

Luke Whitley, First Grade Student, Zia Elementary School

National Anthem

Alethea Martinez, friend of the Federation

NFB Pledge

Mario Hooee, Board Member, NFBNM

**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.

Announcements and Convention Arrangements

Adelmo Vigil, Convention Coordinator, First Vice President, NFBNM

## ***9:20 AM - 9:25 AM***

Greetings from the City of Albuquerque, the office of the Mayor,

Daniel Manzano, Deputy Director of Public Affairs

## ***9:25 AM - 9:30 AM***

Action Auction

## ***9:30 AM - 10:00 AM***

Life Beyond My Dreams

Adelmo Vigil, First Vice President, NFBNM

## ***10:00 AM - 10:45 AM***

National Report

Dr. Marc Maurer, President Emeritus, National Federation of the Blind

## ***10:45 AM - 11:05 AM***

Developments in Library Services for the Blind

Jennifer McGill, Outreach Librarian, NM Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

## ***11:05 AM - 11:30 AM***

My Blindness, Myself

Tonia Trapp, Secretary, NFBNM

This member of our Federation family will tell her story of blindness and how the Federation has helped her live the life she wants.

## ***11:30 AM - 11:35 AM***

Action Auction

## ***11:35 AM - 11:55 AM***

What Is an ABLE Account and How Can it Help Me?

Jerri Mares, Programs & Outreach Director, Office of the State Treasurer

## ***11:55 AM - Noon***

Announcements

## ***Noon - 1:15 PM***

NFBNM Welcome Luncheon (Roxy)

Mistress of Ceremonies, Tara Chavez, President, NFBNM

Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Dr. Marc Maurer, President emeritus, National Federation of the Blind

Action Auction

***1:30 PM - 3:00 PM***

At Large Chapter Meeting (Wurlitzer)

Janet Montoya, President, At Large Chapter, NFBNM

## ***2:00 PM - 6:00 PM***

Exhibits (Registry)

Juan Haro and Denise Otero, Chairpersons

## ***3:00 PM - 5:00 PM***

Senior Action Group Energy Division SAGE (Wurlitzer)

Veronica Smith, President, SAGE Division, NFBNM

## ***5:00 PM - 6:00 PM***

Orientation Center and STEP Program Alumni Reunion (Wurlitzer)

Jamie Sibson, Director, NM Commission for the Blind Orientation Center

This is an opportunity for alumni to catch up with old friends and staff from their days at the Orientation Center and/or in the STEP Program and network with other past and present students. If you want to know more about the Orientation Center or are thinking of attending STEP, please come meet some of our staff and students to learn how our program can help you achieve your goals of independence.

## ***7:00 PM - 7:30 PM***

Nominating Committee (Uptown Boardroom)

Adelmo Vigil, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

This is a closed meeting open only to chapter and division presidents.

## ***7:30 PM - 10:0******0 PM***

Name That Tune (Roxy)

Friends-Fun-Prizes a fundraising event. Pay-to-play…one must pay to "get in the game". Fun for the whole family. Bring a friend and make new friends, experience a fun evening with us. $10.00 at the door.

# Saturday, October 26, 2024

## ***8:00 AM - 11:00 AM***

## ***1:30 PM - 2:30 PM***

## ***4:00 PM - 5:00 PM***

Registration (Registration Counter)

Sarah Villavicencio, Registration Chairperson

Adults $30.00 and Children $15.00

Please stop by to register, pick up your print or Braille agendas and

your meal tickets (if purchased).

## ***8:00 AM - Noon***

## ***1:30 PM - 4:30 PM***

## ***6:45 PM - 10:00 PM***

Childcare (Serenade)

Leslie Hernandez, Childcare Chairperson

## ***8:00 AM - Noon***

Exhibits (Registry)

Juan Haro and Denise Otero, Chairpersons

## ***8:00 AM - 9:00 AM***

Resolutions Committee (Regal)

Kelly Burma, Chairperson, Resolutions Committee

## ***9:00 AM - 12:00 PM***

Leadership Training for the Officers of NFBNM and its chapters and divisions (Wurlitzer)

Tara Chavez, President, NFBNM

## ***9:00 AM - 11:00 AM***

Empowering your Future with Strategies for Success in Employment (Regal)

Dr. Marc Maurer, President Emeritus, National Federation of the Blind

Adelmo Vigil, First Vice President, NFBNM

Jamie Sibson, Director, NM Commission for the Blind Orientation Center

## ***9:00 AM - 11:00 AM***

Seminar for Parents of Blind Children (Ambassador)

Gail Wagner, Retired Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Member, Albuquerque Chapter, NFBNM

Letita Flores, Mother of a Blind Child

## ***11:00 AM - Noon***

Leveraging the Power of Assistive Technology for Life (Regal)

Michael Kontur, Assistive Technology Instructor, NM Commission for the Blind

## ***11:00 AM - Noon***

Public Meeting of the New Mexico Commission for the Blind

(Ambassador)

Greg Trapp, Executive Director, New Mexico Commission for the Blind

## ***1:30 PM - 4:30 PM***

General Session Part 2 (Ambassador)

***1:30 PM - 2:00 PM***

President's Report

Tara Chavez, President, NFBNM

## ***2:00 PM - 2:10 PM***

Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Plan

Juan Haro, Chairperson, PAC Plan Committee, NFBNM

## ***2:10 PM - 2:45 PM***

Status Report on the New Mexico Commission for the Blind

Greg Trapp, Executive Director, New Mexico Commission for the Blind

***2:45 PM - 3:00 PM***

Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program Update Janet Montoya, Coordinator, BELL Academy 2024

## ***3:00 PM - 3:25 PM***

Status Report on the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)

Heather Miller, Superintendent, NMSBVI

## ***3:25 PM - 3:30 PM***

Action Auction

## ***3:30 PM - 4:00 PM***

Empowering Through Teamwork: Lessons of a Blind Educator

Brian Quintana, Middle School Teacher at St. Pius

## ***4:00 PM - 4:20 PM***

Building Membership, Patricia Maurer, Director of Reference, Jacobus tenBroek Library

***4:20 PM - 4:30 PM***

Convention Announcements

Adelmo Vigil, Convention Coordinator

## ***6:00 PM - 7:00 PM***

No Host Social Hour and Silent Auction Display (Regal)

Proceeds of the Silent Auction will benefit our scholarship program for parents of blind children to support the family to attend the National Federation of the Blind convention.

## ***7:00 PM - 10:00 PM***

State Convention Banquet (Regal)

Master of Ceremonies, Adelmo Vigil, First Vice President, NFBNM

Invocation

Gitana Curtis, Member, San Juan Chapter

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Marc Maurer, President Emeritus, National Federation of the Blind

Presentations, Awards and Drawings

# Sunday, October 27, 2024

## ***9:00 AM - Noon***

Childcare (Serenade)

Leslie Hernandez, Childcare Chairperson

## ***9:00 AM - Noon***

General Session Part 3 (Ambassador)

## ***9:00 AM - 9:20 AM***

Report on the Washington Seminar

Tara Chavez, President, NFBNM

Frank Maestas, Board Member, NFBNM

Lindsay Sloan, Member, Albuquerque Chapter, NFBNM

## ***9:20 AM - 9:45 AM***

Our Experience at National Convention “Together in Orlando 2024”

John and Sandy Dillinger, and Chrishari Chee

## ***9:45 AM - 10:05 AM***

Resolutions

Kelly Burma, Chairperson, Resolutions Committee, NFBNM

## ***10:05 AM - 11:45 AM***

Business Meeting

Minutes of 2023 State Convention

Tonia Trapp, Secretary, NFBNM

Treasurer's Report

German Benitez, Treasurer, NFBNM

Elections

Adelmo Vigil, Chairperson, Nominating Committee, NFBNM

## ***11:45 AM - Noon***

Final Announcements, Closing Remarks, and Adjourn

# NFBNM CHAPTERS AND DIVISIONS

**CHAPTERS**

At Large Chapter (Statewide)

President, Janet Montoya 505-672-9626

[NFBNM.ALC.President@gmail.com](mailto:NFBNM.ALC.President@gmail.com)

Albuquerque Chapter (Albuquerque)

President, German Benitez 505-702-5044

[NFBNM.AbqChapter@gmail.com](mailto:NFBNM.AbqChapter@gmail.com)

San Juan (Farmington)

President, Nathalie Martin 801-574-1268

[NFBSanJuanPresident@gmail.com](mailto:NFBSanJuanPresident@gmail.com)

West Mesa (Albuquerque)

President, Juan Haro 505-382-3345

[NFBNM.WestMesaChapter@gmail.com](mailto:NFBNM.WestMesaChapter@gmail.com)

**DIVISIONS**

Senior Action Group Energy (SAGE)

President, Veronica Smith 505-269-1034

[NFBNM.SAGE@gmail.com](mailto:NFBNM.SAGE@gmail.com)

# NFBNM BOARD MEMBERS

President

Tara Chavez, Albuquerque term expires 2024

First Vice President

Adelmo Vigil, Las Cruces term expires 2024

Second Vice President

Urja Lansing, Albuquerque term expires 2024

Secretary

Tonia Trapp, Albuquerque term expires 2024

Treasurer

German Benitez, Albuquerque term expires 2024

Board Member

Martin Gallegos, Santa Fe term expires 2024

Board Member

Mario Hooee, Zuni term expires 2024

Board Member

Vacant term expires 2024

Board Member

Janet Montoya, White Rock term expires 2025

Board Member

Juan Haro, Albuquerque term expires 2025

Board Member

Frank Maestas, Holman term expires 2025

# Outreach Opportunities

## **Dream Makers Circle**

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle. It is easier than you think. You can visit your bank and convert an account to a POD (payable on death) bank account, which is payable after your passing to the National Federation of the Blind or one of our affiliates. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico can be made in the form of a will or living trust, an income-generating gift, or by naming us as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, pension, or a life insurance policy. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage, or list the NFB as one of several beneficiaries. For additional information, please contact Patti Chang at 410-659-9314, extension 2422, or at [pchang@nfb.org](mailto:pchang@nfb.org).

## **Vehicle Donations**

The National Federation of the Blind uses car donations to improve the education of blind children, distribute free white canes, help veterans, and so much more. We have partnered with Vehicles for Charity to process donated vehicles. Please call toll-free 855-659-9314, and a representative can assist, or you can donate online by visiting [www.nfb.org/vehicledonations](http://www.nfb.org/vehicledonations) .

## **Pre-Authorized Contributions (PAC)**

Can you help the National Federation of the Blind on a regular basis? Please consider joining our pre-Authorized contribution plan. Starting at $5 monthly, you can help us turn dreams into reality and raise expectations for blind people. Visit [nfb.org/pac](https://nfb.org/pac) to fill out the online form or email [pac@nfb.org](mailto:pac@nfb.org) for additional information.

Visit [www.nfbnm.org](http://www.nfbnm.org) for more information.

# Our Hope

We hope that by attending our convention your expectations of yourself are raised, so that blindness is no longer the characteristic that defines you or your future, and that low expectations no longer stand between you and your dreams. We want you to become empowered to live the life you want.

# Our Thanks

Thank you to everyone who appeared on the agenda, and to all who chaired and/or served on committees.

Thank you to the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

for brailling the agendas for us this year.

We wish to thank Dr. Marc Maurer for serving as our national representative. The national perspective you brought to us is so important to our achievement of equality, security, and opportunity.

Thank you to the management and staff of the hotel for all their assistance in planning this weekend and making our stay enjoyable.

We wish you safe travels home, and we hope to see you all next year.

# Our Supporters

We thank you for helping us make this a great convention and your ongoing support: Foundation for Blind Children, Humanware, Icanconnect, JW.org, Nanopac, New Mexico Commission for the Blind, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, New Mexico State Library, Non-24, and Vancro.





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