

**46th Annual State Convention
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
OF TENNESSEE
March 13-15, 2015**

Hilton Garden Inn
Hamilton Place
2343 Shallowford Village Drive
Chattanooga, TN
423-308-4400

Theme:
**75 Years of Security
Equality and Opportunity**

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.

Mark A. Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind



Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, our national representative was diagnosed with glaucoma and aniridia at age five. Nonetheless, Mark attended public schools, graduating with honors while active in debate and track. Mark earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He became a member of its Iron Cross honor society and was the founding president of the Wisconsin Association of Blind Students. During senior year, Mark was elected president of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Wisconsin.

After graduation, Mark joined the Sears executive trainee program, and spent his free time advocating for the blind. Then he was appointed to the Wisconsin State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Council, and made the first director of the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, an agency responsible for statewide services to blind children. Afterward he took a position in Baltimore with the NFB and earned a Master of Science in Educational Studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Professional Studies in Business and Education.

Mark served as the executive director of the NFB Jernigan Institute—the only research and training institute developed and directed by the blind. In January 2011 at the Daytona International Speedway, Mark navigated a car equipped with non-visual technology for 1.5 miles, demonstrating the first time a blind individual has driven a street vehicle in public without the assistance of a sighted person.

On July 5, 2014, the National Federation of the Blind elected Mark to serve as its president. The election took place at the national convention of the National Federation of the Blind held in Orlando, Florida.

Mark is married to Melissa, a former president of the NFB of Maryland. They have three children, Austin, Oriana, and Elizabeth. Please welcome our new president to the great state of Tennessee!

General Information:

Hotel staff asks that you take your guide dogs out anywhere there is a grassy area.

Registration will be held on **Friday, March 13th** outside TN A. from **3:00-5:00 PM** and **Saturday** from **8:00-9:00 AM**.

Please support the Tennessee Association of Blind Students on Friday night from **9:15 to 11:45 PM** for Vegas Night.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, March 13

3:00-6:00 PM: Exhibit Hall
TN B.

5:00-7:00 PM: Tennessee Association of Blind Students
TN A.

Division President: Josh Harper, Stones River Chapter
Murfreesboro, TN

6:00-7:00 PM: Financial Audit Committee
Library

Chair: Natalie Norwood, Volunteer Chapter
Knoxville, TN

6:00-7:00 PM: Resolution Committee
Board Room

Chair: Terry Smith, Scenic City Chapter
Chattanooga, TN

7:00-9:00 PM: Hup Hup Tennessee, Guide Dog Division
TN A.

Division President: James Boehm, Stones River Chapter
Murfreesboro, TN

8:00-11:30 PM: Hospitality
Room 109

9:15-11:45 PM: Vegas Night
TN C.

Saturday, March 14

8:00-9:00 AM: Registration outside TN A.

8:00-9:00 AM: Hospitality
Room 109 - Donuts & More will be Available

7:00-8:45 AM: Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting
TN C.

Chair: James Brown, President, NFB of TN
Nashville, TN

The following General session will be held in TN A and B.

75 Years of Security, Equality and Opportunity

9:00 AM: Call to Order!

James Brown, President, NFB of TN
Nashville, TN

Invocation

Stacey Smith, Member, Scenic City Chapter

National Anthem

James Brown, Member, Nashville Chapter

9:10 AM: A Federation Introduction of Mayor Andy Berke
Terry Smith, First Vice President, NFB of TN
President, Scenic City Chapter
Chattanooga, TN

9:25 AM: National Report: State of the Federation Address!
Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind
Baltimore, MD

9:50 AM: Historic First Scholarship Class in Tennessee
When Opportunities come a Knockin'
John Harris, President, Scholarship Committee,
Member, Stones River Chapter
Murfreesboro TN

10:10 AM: What it's Like to Win a National Scholarship
Show Me the Money
James Boehm, Secretary, NFB of TN
President, Stones River Chapter
Murfreesboro, TN

10:25 AM: Panel of Tennessee Blind Professionals
Climbing the Expanding Ladder of Opportunity

Terry Smith, Vice President, NFB of TN
President, Scenic City Chapter
Chattanooga, TN

10:45 AM: Structured Discovery: Achieving the Dream
Dick Davis, Assistant Director for Employment, Blind Inc.
St. Paul, MN

11:05 AM: Future of Employment for Blind Tennesseans
Show Me the Jobs!
Cherrell Campbell-Street, Assistant Commissioner, Division
of Rehabilitation Services
Nashville, TN

11:30 AM: Bringing a Different Kind of Blind Person to the
Volunteer State
Garrick Scott, President, NFB of GA
Decatur, GA

11:50 AM: The Whole Package
Caleb Paschall, Adaptive Recreation and Exercise
Coordinator, Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN

Noon: Adjourn for Lunch

12:00-1:30 PM: So You Think You're Karate Kid?
Come to the library and smash some boards and low
expectations with the Colorado Center for the Blind by
seeing how many boards you can break at one time. Daniel
son, you'll be amazed and surprised at the true power you
have inside you!

12:00-1:30 PM: Tennessee Association of Blind Merchants
TN C.

President, Sharon Treadway
Nashville, TN

The following General session will be held in TN A and B.

2:00 PM: Show Me the Books!

Ruth Hemphill, Director, Tennessee Library for the Blind
Nashville, TN

2:25 PM: State Presidential Report

Securing More Equality and More Opportunities in
Tennessee

James Brown, President, NFB of TN
Nashville, TN

2:50 PM: Why You Should be a Federationist

Domonique Lawless, Chair, At Large Committee
Mount Juliet, TN

3:05 PM: Ring a BELL for Equality

Christina Clift, Second Vice President, NFB of TN
President, Memphis Federation of the Blind
Memphis, TN

JP Williams, President, Nashville Chapter
Nashville, TN

3:20 PM: Picking Up at TSB Where Dr. Jernigan Left Off

Ralph Brewer

Past Superintendent, Tennessee School for the Blind

Nashville, TN

3:50 PM: Equality for Blind Children Gets It Done

John Harris, Stones River Member

President, Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind

4:05 PM: Tennessee Board of Regents Shines

Champions of Equal Access

Philip Voorhees, TBR Assistive Technology Specialist

Nashville, TN

4:25 PM: University of Tennessee Chattanooga Steps Up
From Equal Access to Opportunity

Dr. Nancy Badger, UTC Assistant Vice Chancellor of
Student Services

Chattanooga, TN

4:40 PM: Nominating Committee Report

Chair, Christina Clift

Memphis, TN

4:45 PM: More Opportunities, Election Time in Tennessee

James Brown, President, NFB of TN

Nashville, TN

5:00 PM: Adjourn

7:00 PM: NFB of TN Banquet

TN A, B, and C

Terry Smith, MC, President, Scenic City Chapter

Chattanooga, TN

Key Note Speaker: Mark Riccobono,
President, National Federation of the Blind
Baltimore, MD

9:00-11:30 PM: Hospitality

Room 109

Sunday, March 15

8:00-9:00 AM: Hospitality

Room 109 - Donuts & More will be Available

The following Session will be held in TN A and B.

9:00 AM: Call to Order

James Brown, President, NFB of TN
Nashville, TN

9:05 AM: Invocation

Russell Jones,
Second Vice President, Memphis Chapter

9:10 AM: Smashing Through Low Expectations

Brent Batron, Director of Youth Services

Colorado Center for the Blind

Littleton, Colorado

9:40 AM: Legislative Committee Report

James Brown, President, NFB of TN
Nashville, TN

9:55 AM: Audit Committee Report
Natalie Norwood, Audit Committee Chair;
President, Volunteer Chapter
Knoxville, TN

10:10 PM: Website Committee Report
Josh Harper, Committee Chair
President, Tennessee Association of Blind Students
Murfreesboro, TN

10:25 AM: Treasurer's Report
Evelyn Hogue, Treasurer, NFB of TN
Memphis, TN

10:40 AM: Chapter and Division Reports

11:15 AM: Resolutions Report
Terry Smith, Chair, Resolutions Committee
Chattanooga, TN

11:45 AM: Customary Motion
Donation for National Convention

11:50 AM: Customary Motion
Nominating an Alternate delegate to National Convention

11:55 AM: State Convention 2016 and Beyond

Noon: Adjourn

***Thank you to all of our members!
We couldn't do this without you.***

President: James Aaron Brown
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Antioch, TN 37013
(615) 412-9632