

E-CONNECTOR



BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



**LIVING THE LIVES WE WANT!
NFB OF COLORADO 61st
ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**
October 29- November 1

The 61st Annual State Convention will kick off Thursday evening, October 29 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The fun will continue all weekend with exhibitors, informative presentations, seminars, and much more! The representative from the national office and keynote speaker will be none other than Mark Riccobono, president of the National Federation of the Blind. Exhibitors will be demonstrating their products on Friday and Saturday.

THE NFB CO CONVENTION
HOTEL: Antlers Hilton Colorado
4 South Cascade
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Pre-registration fees: BEFORE
October 19
\$20 registration
\$20 Friday luncheon
\$20 Saturday luncheon
\$35 Saturday banquet
Total: \$95.00

Registration fees increase by \$5 after October 19. To register in advance go to the website: <http://www.nfbco.org/> or contact Lisa Bonderson at lkb@labarrelaw.com

Child Care will be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information contact the child care coordinator, Michelle Chacon at 303-507-6291. Please let Michele know by October 20 the number of children you might be bringing to child care so the appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc.newsletter@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.

Here's a very brief summary of the convention agenda:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29:

Beginning at 3:00 p.m. there will be a wellness and motivational event sponsored by the Sports and Recreation Division--children and youth included of course! A chapter development social event will be held in the evening.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30:

The Resolutions Committee will meet in the morning. Late Friday morning will mark the opening general session and luncheon. Friday afternoon join with students from CSDB for fun skills and friendship building activities. A tour of the Olympic Training Center will also be offered. There will be a reception and social activities on Friday evening.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31: The second general session opens in the morning with the national and state reports, My Blindness Myself, Colorado Center for the Blind report, and much more. Division meetings will be held Saturday afternoon, including the COLORADO PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN* seminar. The Saturday evening banquet will feature the keynote address by President Riccobono.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1: The Sunday morning business meeting and elections will adjourn by noon.

Complimentary bus transportation will leave from the Colorado Center for the Blind on Thursday afternoon and on Friday morning. You must reserve a place on the bus in advance. Contact Lisa Bonderson at lkb@labarrelaw.com

***COLORADO PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN AT THE CONVENTION...**

Please join us for our seminar:
TRANSITIONING INTO THE FUTURE

Saturday, October 31
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

With the help of experts in the field, we will be looking at what it takes for blind and visually impaired kids to successfully transition at all ages. We will look at the move from pre-school to the mainstream, from middle school to high school, from an IEP to a plan for employment. We'll talk about other transitions as well, such as the move from the school system to vocational rehabilitation services and the move to the new UEB Braille code.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE:
The afternoon will conclude with a business meeting to elect officers and make plans for the future of the organization.



WHY LEARNING TO USE JAWS* IS SO IMPORTANT

(*JAWS is a computer screen reading program for Windows)

Here is a letter from the parent of a blind teen posted on blindkid@nfbnet.org. Read her post and consider...is a technology assessment in order for your child?

"In middle school my daughter had a Braille Note which she did most her work on. She used the Perkins Braille to do math. She did a little computer work with JAWS, but just the very basics. I got excited when the iPad came out with Voice Over and iOS, which she quickly learned on her own. We thought this would be good and sufficient. She was keeping up and moving forward, her teachers and school were happy with what she was doing. However, in the middle of 7th grade, I asked my daughter what the rest of the class was working on, and she said "oh they are all doing a power point presentation, but I can do something else instead." This was a big red light for me. I started questioning "why at this technology age would she not be able to do the same", I got onto a quest and I found our schools curriculum on the schools website and started comparing what others were

doing to what she was able to do. After a technology assessment, which I requested, it was clear she was not up to par with her peers. "

[After research, Heidi connected with Dr. Denise Robinson who convinced her that her daughter needed full training in using JAWS to access the potential of a standard laptop computer. The school approved lessons with Dr. Robinson on using JAWS. The school TVI also received further JAWS training.]

"Fast forward to 10th grade now, she does "ALL" her work on her laptop--math (plots, lines...etc), English, biology, does beautiful power point presentations, inserts pictures, music, gets her homework from the school learning platform "Canvas", sends in her work via email, and receives work from her teachers by email. She does all the same work as her peers, and I mean all the same!

[After becoming competent in using JAWS] the world opened up for her in ways we never imagined. She will go to college and use all the skills she has learned and is still learning, to be completely independent. A Braille Note and an iPad will not make it for our kids' independence in the future. I hope this starts a conversation about the need for more training in the technology age for VI's and our kids. ...Heidi"

To join the conversation subscribe to [the Blind Kid list](#).



BLINDNESS AND LOW VISION EQUIPMENT FAIR

Donate, Sell, and Buy used blindness and low vision equipment at the NFB of Aurora "ABLE FAIR" to be held on Saturday, October 10 at the Colorado Center for the Blind. This is a great opportunity! To sell things yourself you will need to rent a table (\$10 for a full table, \$5 for a shared table). To reserve a table contact Wayne Marshall--wmarshall@cocenter.org or call 303-778-1130. Bring items being donated to the Colorado Center for the Blind before October 5th.

Where: The CCB--2233 W Shepperd Avenue, Littleton, CO
Date: October 10, 2015
Time: 11AM TO 3PM
Food, drinks and baked goods for sale!



PROMOTING ACTIVE READING

GREAT EXPECTATIONS is a program from [National Braille Press](#) designed to encourage parents and teachers of blind children bring picture books to life. The

program is meant for children in pre-school through grade 3 or 4. The newest book in this program is *Pete the Cat Rockin' In My School Shoes*. When you order the book, you will receive a fun tactile activity to get the brain and fingers moving. Then, if you visit

<http://greatexpectations.pub> you will find activities on tactile map making, tactile mazes, a Find Pete Scavenger Hunt, a shoe tying craft, a new technique to help kids learn to tie their shoes, and more.



OCTOBER CALENDAR

******SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**

STAR GAZING

Special Youth Activity: Visit to the Astronomy Observatory at Arapahoe Community College

Meet at the Colorado Center for the Blind at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, then walk to the Observatory to spend several hours learning about the night sky. The activity will conclude about 8:30 or 9:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 ext. 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

SAVE THE DATES: November 13--Shark Dissection; November 14--Cooking for Thanksgiving. Details in the November e-Connector.