

E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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"MAKING A DIFFERENCE... CHANGING LIVES"

THE 59TH ANNUAL NFB OF COLORADO STATE CONVENTION

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado (NFBCO) will hold its 59th annual state convention October 18-21, 2013, at the Colorado Springs Marriott Hotel at 5580 Tech Center Drive in Colorado Springs. Convention activities will get underway on Thursday afternoon, October 18, at 2:00 p.m. with a self-advocacy and self defense workshop. Exhibits of products and services will open on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. The Friday general session beginning at 11:00 a.m. will have everyone seated together in the convention hall to hear about the NFB in action and enjoy a luncheon. Following lunch, the afternoon will focus on wellness, fitness and nutrition, with emphasis on

sports and recreation activities for blind and visually impaired people. We will re-convene for a general session from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Friday evening will include the resolutions meeting, where the priorities for the actions of the NFBCO in the upcoming year are presented. There will be a social gathering Friday evening with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. The Friday evening event is a Western theme and there will be prizes for the best Western costume.

On Saturday morning a general session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Just after noon participants will pick up their box lunches and make their way to the breakout sessions for various divisions and interest groups. Our Parents of Blind Children group will meet while the children are engaged in a fun afternoon of creativity and exploration. The older kids will be making compasses and using them to navigate on a scavenger hunt in the hotel. The younger kids will work with tactile artist, Ann Cunningham, in creating their own tactile maps.

The Saturday evening banquet is always a highlight of the

Editor's Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.



weekend. The banquet keynote address will be given by the NFB national representative, Carl Jacobsen, NFB of New York president. The convention will conclude on Sunday at noon following a morning of substantive discussions plus a business meeting open to all.

Of course conventions are not all business. There will be some lively entertainment along the way, including a huge auction of hotel packages, restaurant certificates and more. But most of all the NFB State Convention is the place to meet others. You'll meet other parents, your kids will meet other blind and visually impaired kids, and we will all meet blind adults who have regular jobs and families and inspire us to see that life as a blind person can be as fulfilling and "normal" as any American life. That's what it's all about. So, come make some friends, laugh...and learn a thing or two! You'll be so happy you did.

REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!

To register for the convention go to the website, nfbco.org, and [click on state convention](#). Before October 4 (October 3 deadline) registration costs are \$15 for convention registration, \$15 for lunches, and \$30 for the banquet. After October 3 it will cost you \$20 for registration, \$20.00 on each of

the lunches and \$40 for the banquet.



KEEP "B.E.L.L." RINGING IN 2014

"The Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program, or BELL is a two week summer day camp for children ages 4 through 12. BELL provides intensive immersion into Braille, Daily Living Skills and Orientation and Mobility. Most importantly it provides children the opportunity to gain self confidence, have fun and grow in the realization that being blind doesn't have to stop us from reaching our dreams."

The above quote is taken from the YouTube video that recorded some of the highlights of the 2013 program. Watch the video by [clicking here](#). It will help show you why we at the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado want this program to continue summer after summer. Since there is no cost to the families, we must work to raise the funds that will guarantee a BELL program in 2014. Here's how you can help:

Make a donation at the NFB CO website by [clicking here](#)

OR

Buy tickets for the Amazing Vacation Travel Raffle.

Purchase tickets (\$10 each or 3 for \$20) for a chance to win a \$3,500.00 gift card from E-Travel Unlimited that can be used for the vacation or vacations of your choosing. Proceeds from the raffle will go to support the Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) program. You can purchase your tickets online by visiting the following link:

<http://www.nfbco.org/vacation-travel-raffle>

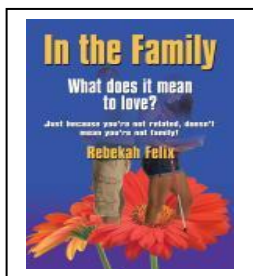
The winning ticket will be drawn on October 19th and the winner could be you!



AUDIO DESCRIBED THEATER

"Sister Act--A Divine Musical Comedy" is coming to the [Buell Theatre](#) and will be audio described on Sunday, October 6 at the 2:00 pm performance. Suggested for ages 9 and up. For tickets call 303-893-4100 or go to www.denvercenter.org

(Braille programs are available when requested in advance.)



AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Rebekah Felix, a young blind woman who has grown up in the NFB and Colorado Parents of Blind Children, is a published author! (Bekah's mother, Lisa, serves as the CO-POBC secretary). Bekah wrote a novel for teens about a blind high school girl, Aliyah, who deals with teasing related to her blindness, friendships, and loyalty as she falls in love for the first time. Bekah says, "Among all the dreams I've ever had, there have always been two that have never changed And those are writing and working with kids." Bekah, who graduated from high school in 2012, aspires to be a pre-school teacher and is working on her bachelor's degree. She worked in the NFB of Colorado BELL Braille enrichment program last summer with young blind children. Bravo, Bekah!

Purchase the book from Amazon.com in hardback, paperback or for the Kindle. You can find Bekah on Facebook, YouTube and more...go to her website, <http://bekahfelix.tripod.com> to learn more.



CCB YOUTH PROGRAMS GEAR UP FOR THE FALL

(From Brent Batron)

CCB MENTORING PROGRAM RESUMES

The Colorado Center for the Blind will once again be offering a mentoring program to connect blind youth and their families with positive blind role models. All mentors will have been background checked and approved to be a mentor. The kids will get to spend one-on-one time with their mentors while family members have the opportunity to discuss aspects of blindness in a group setting. Family members can even participate in some blindness skills training. Please contact Brent Batron, 303-778-1130 ext. 222, for more information and to enroll your child.

FAMILY SEMINAR

November 8 and 9 – We invite your entire family to participate in an overnight seminar with the Colorado Center for the Blind. You will have the chance to interact with other families who have blind children. The

focus of this seminar will be to develop positive perceptions of blindness through several skill development activities such as traveling to and from the Center apartments while using sleep shades. On Friday evening we will meet at the Center at 5 pm. Dinner and entertainment will be provided. Space is limited to 4 families please RSVP by October 15 to Brent Batron, 303-778-1130 ext. 222.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS

Cortney Osolinski came up with some clever ways to make the long white cane a part of her Halloween costume. Here are her suggestions:

- French Maid: Create a feather duster on your cane.
- Cheerleader: Tie a pompom or shaker to your cane.
- Jail Bird: Attach a black painted styrofoam ball and chain to your cane.
- Witch: Make your cane into a broom stick.
- Indian: Your cane can be a totem pole.
- Barber: Turn your cane into a barber's pole.
- Baby: Make it a lollypop.
- Queen or Fairy: Do some magic of your own and make a magic wand.
- Devil: Make a pitchfork.