



Live the life you want.

**National Federation of the Blind of Georgia
2024 Annual State Convention**

Dates:

October 18-20, 2024

Location:

DoubleTree By Hilton Augusta

2651 Perimeter Parkway

Augusta Georgia 30909

Theme:

**Bigger, Better, Higher,
NFBGA to the Future and Beyond**

Affiliate President:

Ms. Dorothy Griffin

National Representative:

Mr. Donald Porterfield

The National Federation of the Blind 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.

Welcome to the 2024 51st Annual Georgia State Convention

Our Affiliate President Dorothy Griffin, the board of directors, and the convention committee would like to welcome you to the 51st annual state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia. Many people have worked hard over the last several months to create a dynamic and engaging agenda with something for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any board member at georgiablind@nfbga.org and we will help you take care of whatever you need.

The past year has been an exciting time of growth for the NFB of Georgia. We invested in our movement by training our seniors, supporting our students, advocating for higher education and job training services, and working for our right to accessible voting and to do it privately and independently.

We want to celebrate those accomplishments and plan the next phase of sharing free opportunities to help members remove obstacles one opportunity at a time! We strongly believe that many hands make light work, and we ask you to help us aim for the stars.

NFB of Georgia Officers and Board of Directors

2023-2024:

President:

Ms. Dorothy Griffin, Georgia Affiliate

1st Vice President:

Mr. Corey Brooks, Chatham County Chapter

2nd Vice President:

Ms. Patrice Lewis, Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter

Secretary:

Ms. Monica Williams, Garden City Chapter

Treasurer:

Ms. Nata Watkins, At-Large Chapter

Board Seat 1:

Ms. Shikha Desai, Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter

Board Seat 2:

Mr. Anil Lewis, Decatur Area Chapter

Board Seat 3:

Mr. Ronnie Sheppard, Bainbridge Chapter

Board Seat 4:

Ms. Lyn Eberhardt, Augusta Central Savannah River Area Chapter

Board Seat 5:

Mr. Charles Legister, Southside of Atlanta Chapter

Board Seat 6:

Mr. Derrick Tuff, Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter

NFB Pledge:

I pledge to participate actively in the effort 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.

A Huge THANK YOU to All Our Sponsors!

Orbit \$1,000.00:

Nortex Life and Health Solutions, Inc.

Centerwell

Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Launch \$500.00:

Walton Options Center for Independence Living

Center for the Visually Impaired

Sonder Health Plans

Mr. Donald Porterfield Bio:



Donald Porterfield is a husband, uncle, brother, son, prosecutor, and a member of the National Federation of the Blind. Born in 1959 to James and Doris Porterfield, he has three older siblings, including a slightly older twin brother, who has always been his best childhood friend. Though Donald describes himself as a borderline introvert, his school experience was enhanced by his participation in sports, which helped him make friends. His life took a significant turn at 48 when he lost his vision, the same year his father died. Despite these challenges, Donald quickly adjusted, continuing to cook and manage daily living on his own while finding ways to make tasks easier as a blind person.

From an early age, Donald wanted to be a prosecutor, but before achieving this dream, he spent 23 years in the golf resort and hospitality industry, eventually becoming vice president of food and beverage operations. Although naturally introverted, he learned to be outgoing, which proved valuable later in life. During his second year of law school at age 49, he began experiencing serious vision problems due to retinopathy. Faced with the choice to give up or persevere, Donald adapted, discovering that he was an auditory learner. Despite unsuccessful surgeries, he graduated with honors and moved to Arizona, where he learned about the National Federation of the Blind during his blindness training. He was drawn to the organization because of his experiences with discrimination as a blind person, similar to those he faced growing up as a Black child in the 60s.

After completing his training, Donald fulfilled his dream by becoming a deputy county attorney in Pima County, Arizona. His involvement with the National Federation of the Blind began as legislative director for the Arizona affiliate, where he worked on passing laws to protect the rights of blind parents and fought against regulations on guide dogs. Donald values his ability to speak to policymakers about blind equality, understanding the discomfort others might feel in speaking out. He shares his passion for civil rights with his wife, Amy, whom he met during his training. Together, they are passionate about educating the public and advocating for the positive truths about blind people, considering themselves a family in the civil rights business.

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda, Friday, October 18, 2024

9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: Convention Registration

Location: Pre-Function Area

9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.:

Location: Azalea Conference Room

Agenda:

Accessible Voting Machine Exhibit, Richmond County board of elections and staff will be demonstrating voting machines and giving important information on voting procedures in the state of Georgia.

10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.:

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Conference Room

AGENDA:

Senior Division Seminar

“Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.”
Mark Twain

Join Us for a Time of Health, Wellness, and Fun

Mix and Mingle to the Oldies and Registration, 2025 membership dues if you wish to become a member is \$10 payable in cash at the door–Mr. Al Falligan, Treasurer

Welcome, Ms. Jo Ann Johnson, Program Chair, APP Committee

Medication Safety for Seniors, Speaker Mr. W. Taylor Truelove, PharmD,
Healthcare Supervisor

Preventive Health Issues for Seniors, Speaker Dr. Lee Donohue, MD, FACP,
District Health Director-East Central Public Health District 6

Closing Remarks – Ms. Vanessa Meadows, President

10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: Breakout sessions

10:00 A.M.-10:45 A.M.:

Location: Richmond Conference Room

Agenda:

What you need to know about G. V. R. A., Ms. Shirley Robinson and Ms. Jessica Freemans

10:00 A.M.-10:45 A.M.:

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Agenda:

What You Need to Know About Cyber Security, Mr. Charles Black

Your Safety Matters

The Richmond County fire department will discuss alternative methods of safety and preventative measures for fire, etc.

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Friday, October 18, 2024, Continued

Your Safety Matters -Continued

The Richmond County Sheriff Department will be talking about interacting with law enforcement and method of making it better between the blind people's movement and law enforcement.

11:00 A.M.-11:45 A.M.:

Location: Richmond Conference Room

Agenda:

Social Security and You, Mr. Robbie Breshears, Lead CWIC WIPA Program Manager
Walton Options for Independent Living,

11:00 A.M.-11:45 A.M.:

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Agenda:

Learn about Centers for Independent Living

Multiple Choices

Walton Options Center for Independence Living

Center for the Visually Impaired

SILC of Georgia

12:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.: Exhibit Hall Hours

Location: Pre-Function Area

12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.: Lunch Break (on your own)

2:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.: Breakout Sessions

2:00 P.M.-2:45 P.M.:

Location: Grand Ball Room Room–General Session Room

Agenda:

Georgia Tech Robotic Guide Dog Research Team

Design implications--the four-legged robot robotic dog guide

2:00 P.M.-2:45 P.M.:

Location: Richmond Conference Room

Agenda:

Making sure your health plans are in order

Nortex Life and Health Solutions, Mr. Jason Thorn

Center Well Primary Care, Ms. Angela Thornton

Sonder Health Plans, Ms. Carmalitha Gumbs

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Friday, October 18, 2024, Continued

2:00 P.M.-2:45 P.M.:

Location: Azalea Conference Room

Agenda:

It's all about the Training Centers for the Blind

Alabama Freedom Center for the Blind

Colorado Center for the Blind

Louisiana Center for the Blind

2:00 P.M.-2:45 P.M.:

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Agenda:

Let's Get Fit, Angel Eyes Fitness, Ms. Dawn Wells

3:00 P.M.-3:45 P.M.:

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Room

Agenda:

Social Security and You, Robbie Breshears, Lead CWIC WIPA Program Manager
Walton Options for Independent Living

3:00 P.M.-3:45 P.M.:

Location: Richmond Conference Room

Agenda:

What you need to know about G. V. R. A., Ms. Shirley Robinson and Ms. Jessica Freeman

3:00 P.M.-3:45 P.M.:

Location: Azalea Conference Room

Agenda:

Learn about Centers for Independent Living

Multiple Choices

Walton Options Center for Independence Living

Center for the Visually Impaired

SILC of Georgia

3:00 P.M.-3:45 P.M.:

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Agenda:

Non-24, Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Ms. Vicki Preddy

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Friday, October 18, 2024, Continued

4:00 P.M.-4:45 P.M.:

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Room

Agenda:

Seeking Employment, Building Your Toolbox, Mr. Anil Lewis

4:00 P.M.-4:45 P.M.:

Location: Richmond Conference Room

Agenda:

Let's Talk Nutrition, Angel Eyes Fitness, Ms. Dawn Wells

4:00 P.M.-4:45 P.M.:

Location: Azalea Conference Room

Agenda:

Accessible Pharmacy, Mr. Lavell Keeling

4:00 P.M.-4:45 P.M.:

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Agenda:

Georgia Tech Robotic Guide Dog Research Team

Design implications- the four-legged robot robotic dog guide

5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.:

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Room

Agenda:

NFB Philosophy, Mr. Donald Porterfield, National Representative

6:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M.: Dinner break on your own

6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.: Georgia Students Seminar

Location: Richmond Conference Room

Agenda:

Welcome and introductions, Mr. Tim Olukanni, President

Icebreaker

Seminar theme, Mr. Tim Olukanni, President

National Update, Mr. Qualik Ford, NAB Student Representative

Film student, Ms. Naomi Ross, discusses the challenges of having a disability in the industry and how those challenges are navigated as a student.

Fit break

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Friday, October 18, 2024, Continued

Georgia Students Seminar -Continued

Blind actor, Mr. Joshua Olukanni, discusses career journey and his short film will be shown.

Music engineer and spoken word artist, Ms. Jasmin Duffey, will talk about her journey, and she will also be performing a spoken word piece.

Fit Break

Rapper, Mr. Malik Wilson, talks about his journey through the music industry and how his craft was shaped. He will give a freestyle performance.

Blind Comedian, Mr. Noah Brokett, discusses his journey in comedy and he will present a stand-up performance.

Closing Remarks, Adjourn

6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.: Parents Division Family Fall Social

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Games, door prizes, and a costume contest.

8:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.: NFBGA Dance and Variety Hour

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Room

Dancing (Music provided by play list)

Variety hour is open to all talents (Karaoke, Poetry, Dance, etc.)

8:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.: Games, Games and more games

Location: Azalea Conference Room

BINGO, Uno and other board games

NFBGA Horse Race

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda, Saturday, October 19, 2024

8:00 A.M.-9:00 A.M.: Convention Registration

Location: Pre-Function Area

9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.: Exhibit Hall Hours

Location: Pre-Function Area

9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: General Session

Location: Grand Ball Room

9:00 A.M.:

Call to Order: Ms. Dorothy Griffin, Affiliate President

NFB Pledge: Ms. Page Carlisle, Augusta Central Savannah River Area Chapter

Invocation: Dr. Bishop Rutledge, President, Garden City Chapter

Moment of Silence: Ms. Dorothy Griffin, Affiliate President

Welcome: Ms. Lyn Eberhardt, President, Augusta Central Savannah River Area Chapter

National Anthem: Erin Geddis, Garden City Chapter

Celebration of Freedom, Veterans Recognition, Speaker to be announced

Reading of the Proclamation

9:15 A.M.:

National Association of Blind Students Update, Mr. Qualik Ford, Student Representative

9:30 A.M.:

National Report, Mr. Donald Porterfield, National Representative

10:00 A.M.:

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Mr. Chris Wells, Executive Director,
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

10:15 A.M.:

Door Prizes and Fit Break, Ms. Vanessa Meadows

10:20 A.M.:

Project Independence, Ms. Shirley Robinson

Director of Blind Services, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

10:35 A.M.:

REV Up Georgia, Ms. Barbara Bell-Tootle

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Saturday, October 19, 2024, Continued

10:50 A.M.:

Parents of Blind Children, Ms. Shelby Ball, President

11:00 A.M.:

SILC of Georgia, Mr. Victor McRae

11:10 A.M.:

Door Prizes and Fit Break, Ms. Vanessa Meadows

11:20 A.M.:

Non-24, Ms. Vicki Preddy, Vanda Pharmaceuticals

11:30 A.M.:

Nortex Life and Health Solutions, Mr. Jason Thorn

Center Well Primary Care, Ms. Angela Thornton

Sonder Health Plans, Ms. Carmalitha Gumbs

11:45 A.M.:

Closing remarks, Lunch Announcements, and Adjourn

12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.: Lunch and Breakout sessions

Note: Breakout locations to be announced

12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.:

Georgia Organization of Parents of Blind Children 2024 Lunch and Learn

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

Agenda:

Our Children: Their Infinite Flight to Success

Join us for the Georgia Organization of Parents of Blind Children Toy Story themed GOPBC event.

Guest speakers

Interactive presentations

Door prizes

Education

Board meeting and elections

We look forward to having everyone join us, as we follow Buzz Lightyear, "To Infinity and Beyond!"

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Saturday, October 19, 2024, Continued

2:00 P.M.- 4:30 P.M.: General Session

Location: Grand Ball Room

2:00 P.M.:

General Session Called to Order, Ms. Dorothy Griffin, Affiliate President

2:05 P.M.:

President's Report, Ms. Dorothy Griffin, Affiliate President

2:15 P.M.:

Georgia Library Service, Ms. Kristin White, GLS State Director

2:30 P.M.:

Georgia Radio Reading Service, Dr. Brittany McLemore, Executive Director

2:45 P.M.:

NFB-NEWSLINE Service, Ms. Jessica Beecham, NFB-NEWSLINE Manager

3:00 P.M.:

NFB Legislation Update, Mr. Donald Porterfield, National Representative

3:20 P.M.:

Fit Break, Door Prizes

3:30 P.M.

NFBGA Solar System Project

Promoting the Affiliate, Mr. Anil Lewis

An affiliate team building project and discussion

4:30 P.M.:

Door Prizes, Closing remarks, and Adjourn

4:40 P.M.:

Nominating Committee Meeting, Location to be announced

6:00 P.M.-10:30 P.M.: Parents Division Pajama Dinner Party

Location: Magnolia Conference Room

This event will provide games and entertainment for children not attending the banquet.

Dinner will be served at an additional cost of \$20.00 per child.

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda

Saturday, October 19, 2024, Continued

7:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.: NFBGA Banquet

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Room

Agenda:

Dinner

Banquet Speech

Basket Auction

Affiliate Fund Raising Activities

2024 NFBGA State Convention Agenda, Sunday, October 20, 2024

9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.: Business Session

Location: Grand Ball Room–General Session Room

Agenda:

Call to order

Welcome

Presidential Remarks

Reading of the Secretary's Report

Reading of the Treasurer's Report

Chapter and Division Reports

Door Prizes

Elections

Remarks from the National Representative

Closing Remarks

1:00 P.M.: Adjourn