**WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF THE BLIND**

**Convention 2019**

**WCB, WE ARE COMMUNITY**

**Hosted by**

**Pierce County Association of the Blind**

**PROGRAM**

**October 24, 25, and 26, 2019**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport**

**SeaTac, Washington**

**Welcome to the 2019 annual convention of Washington Council of the Blind!**

**All WCB meetings are open to members and non-members who are registered with this convention.**

**WCB is pleased to offer this program to assist you in locating all activities of this convention along with times and room assignments.**

**The Grand Ballroom which will hold general sessions and selected breakout sessions, main meals, exhibits, Silent Auction and Raffle Fundraiser, Showcase of Talent, and banquet are on the main floor and in the conferencing area.**

**Registration and volunteer table will be in the foyer of the conferencing area. The Cascade rooms are on the second floor, accessed by the tower elevators and will hold smaller meal functions, breakout sessions, GDUWS activities, youth program, Scholarship Reception, and hospitality.**

**For the security of this event, conventioneers are required to wear their convention name tag at all convention functions, including hospitality.**

**Throughout the general sessions, the Friday luncheon, business meeting and banquet, door prizes will be given out to those registered for the convention and in attendance at the time their name is drawn.**

**The majority of this weekend’s events will be streamed live on ACB Radio** [**www.acbradio.org**](http://www.acbradio.org) **or accessed by phone at 605-475-8130 and recorded for future enjoyment on** [**www.wcbinfo.org**](http://www.wcbinfo.org)**.**

**Aira is a proud sponsor of the WCB State Convention. With Aira Access Network, conventioneers can experience the service as part of the WCB state convention weekend within the DoubleTree, and as always is available at the SeaTac Airport.**

**To download the Aira app, visit:** [**www.aira.io/app**](http://www.aira.io/app)**.**

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019**

**2:00 PM to 5:00 PM GRAND FOYER**

**Registration/Information desk open**

Pre-registered conventioneers only.

**3:00 PM to 4:30 PM CASCADE 9 and 10**

**WCB Welcome Lounge**

**Drop by to meet old and new friends, find a partner for dinner, or peruse the program with someone and ask questions about the convention.**

**Hosted by the WCB Membership Committee**

**7:00 PM GRAND 1**

**Preconvention Board meeting**

**9:30 PM CASCADE 5**

**Resolutions Committee meeting**

**9:30 PM GRAND 1**

**Constitution & Bylaws Committee meeting**

**9:30 PM CASCADE 9 and 10**

**Hospitality**

**Mingle with old and new friends over snacks and beverages. Bar provided by the DoubleTree with set $5 drink pricing. Complimentary soft drinks and snacks provided by our host chapter, PCAB.**

**Registered conventioneers only.**

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019**

**7:00 AM to noon GRAND FOYER**

**Registration/Information Desk open**

**BREAKFASTS**

**7:30 AM GRAND 2**

**General Breakfast**

**7:30 AM CASCADE 1 and 2**

**First-Timer Breakfast for first-time WCB convention attendees. Hosted by the WCB Awards Committee.**

**7:30 AM CASCADE 5**

**Presidents Breakfast for Chapter Presidents or their designees. Facilitated by Denise Colley, WCB President.**

**EXHIBITS GRAND 3**

**The Exhibit Hall will be open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, closed during the noon hour for lunch. Here’s your opportunity to peruse products and services intended for people who are blind or have low vision.**

**Free to conventioneers; $5 at the door for those not registered with the convention.**

**EXHIBITOR SCHEDULE**

**9:00 AM Vendor Setup**

**10:00 AM to noon Exhibits open**

**1:00 to 5:00 PM Exhibits open**

**5:00 PM Tear down**

**Exhibits Coordinator: Cathy Wilson**

**TRAINING**

**9:00 AM to 5:00 PM PRESIDENT’S SUITE**

**One-On-One Technology Training**

**By Appointment Only with Al Yardley, Assistive Technology Specialist**

**Email:** [**accesstechnology@q.com**](mailto:accesstechnology@q.com) **/ Call: 253-223-2069**

**FUNDRAISER GRAND 2**

**3:00 to 5:00 PM**

**WCB’s Annual Convention Fundraiser**

**This year it’s a Multi-Raffle AND a Silent Auction!**

**Come bid on some incredible items and purchase chances to win some fantastic packages.**

**Fundraising Coordinator: Lisa George**

## **GENERAL SESSIONS GRAND 1**

**Breakout sessions are held in locations as noted**

**Awards Luncheon will be in GRAND 2**

**8:45 AM Opening Ceremonies**

**Leading in the flag salute**

**Sydney Agers, 6th grade**

**10th Street Middle School**

**Invocation**

**Antonette Jackson, Minister**

**Welcome to SeaTac**

**Erin Sitterley, Mayor, SeaTac**

**Welcome by the host chapter**

**Cathy Wilson, President**

**Pierce County Association of the Blind**

**9:05 AM President’s Report**

**Denise Colley, President**

**Washington Council of the Blind**

**9:25 AM Report of the Nominating Committee**

**Frank Cuta, Chair**

**WCB Nominating Committee**

**9:35 AM Reading of proposed amendments to the WCB Constitution and Bylaws**

**Frank Cuta, Chair**

**WCB Constitution and Bylaws Committee**

**9:50 AM We Are Community**

**“You count. Be counted.”**

**Learn what is being done to ensure all are counted in the 2020 census!**

**Sue Meldazy**

**2020 Census Coordinator**

**Office of Financial Management**

**10:20 AM Break**

**10:30 AM An Enhanced View of current Low Vision Legislation**

**Clark Rachval**

**Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs**

**American Council of the Blind**

**10:55 AM Transition to Breakouts**

**11:00 AM 3 Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**Technology Forum 2019**

**GRAND 1**

**Don't be Left Behind! Future-proof yourself as you get all your questions answered in one place by the best trainers and technology experts in Washington State. Is it time to replace Windows 7? Can Fusion 2019 change your life? What accessibility improvements are to be had with the newest iPhone operating system? How do I use my phone’s camera? Is Office 2019 better than Office 2016, or Office 365? Can you read email with your Alexa or Google Home device? What are some of our favorite new apps? If I get in trouble, where can I find help? All of these topics and more are up for demonstration and discussion, and a resource sheet will be provided.**

**Facilitator**

**Heather Meares, President**

**United Blind of Walla Walla**

**Panelists**

**Reginald George**

**Deb Lewis**

**Naomi Namekata**

**Al Yardley**

**The Essentials About Essential Oils**

**CASCADE 5 and 6**

**What are essential oils and what are their benefits? Why and how can we use them? Educate yourself and leave with a “make and take.**

**Presenter**

**Allison Hayes**

**Doterra Diamond Wellness Advocate**

**Around the House**

**CASCADE 3 and 4**

**Learn some tips and tricks from others who are blind for cleaning, organizing, repairing, and living safely and comfortably in and around your home.**

**Facilitator**

**Carol Brame, Secretary**

**South Kitsap Council of the Blind**

**Panelists (and WCB members)**

**Julie Brannon**

**Jackie Cabrera**

**Frank Cuta**

**12:00 PM GRAND 2**

**Awards Luncheon Hosted by Cindy Van Winkle Convention Coordinator**

**It’s time for special awards to be presented, chapter round up so we can hear highlights from our chapters, meet some of this year’s first-time attendees, and learn firsthand about the new Orientation and Training Center Program Manager, Deja Powell.**

**1:15 PM Start Spreading the News**

**Real ways your chapter can utilize PR and Social Media**

**Katie Frederick**

**Board Director**

**American Council of the Blind**

**1:50 PM Aira vs. Be My Eyes**

**Two popular apps bringing real-time assistance to those who are blind**

**Instead of someone telling you about how great these apps are, come experience the real thing as they are demonstrated live.**

**Denise Colley and Cindy Van Winkle**

**2:10 PM Transition to breakouts**

**2:15 PM 3 Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**Gaming Accessibility: Where Are We Now? GRAND 1**

**There has never been a better time to be a member of the Gaming and Disability Community. In the last two years, the video game industry has seen marked improvement in the accessibility of their products. In this talk, we’ll discuss how and why the industry has begun to tackle inclusive design of their products, recent successes, and the challenges and opportunities that still lie ahead.**

**Presenter**

**Brannon Zahand, Senior Gaming Accessibility Program Manager**

**Microsoft**

**On a Bicycle Built for Two:**

**Tandem riding is for everyone**

**CASCADE 5 and 6**

**Come learn how you can ride a bike without sight, what it means to be a captain or stoker, how you can get involved, and the many styles of tandem bikes available.**

**Presenter**

**Mike Magures, Secretary**

**Peninsula Council of the Blind**

**A Closer Look: an in-depth exploration of assistive technology (Limit 20 participants)**

**CASCADE 7 and 8**

**This is your opportunity for an in-depth exploration of assistive technology, including smart speakers, speech and braille, and low vision, in up to three 20-minute small group curated hands-on sessions.  Take the time you need to discover the latest devices in detail and have your questions answered by top AT specialists.**

**Facilitator**

**Heather Meares, President**

**United Blind of Walla Walla**

**Panelists**

**Reginald George**

**Deb Lewis**

**Naomi Namekata**

**Al Yardley**

**3:30 PM 4 Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**HAM Radio: It’s not your daddy’s hobby**

**GRAND 1**

**Particularly in the northwest, HAM Radio is still a vibrant and interesting pastime. The digital age has come to this hobby, too. There is a myriad of differing ways to communicate. In this session, you will learn about many of these.**

**Presented by WCB members**

**Jim Turri**

**Debby and Craig Phillips**

**Become a Knifty Knitter: Knitting using a loom (PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED; MAXIMUM 10 PARTICIPANTS)**

**CASCADE 3 and 4**

**This event is scheduled for 90 minutes and is a hands-on learning event. Cost $10 to cover the cost of supplies.**

**Instructor Jean Colley**

**The Ten Must-Haves in a Lady’s Wardrobe**

**CASCADE 5 and 6**

**A hands-on fashion show, honest girl talk, and empowering tips and tricks to help you make the best choices for you on what to wear for real life occasions.**

**Facilitator Hayley Agers**

**Gaming Accessibility: Open Discussion and Demos**

**CASCADE 7 and 8**

**In this session we’ll have an open, free-form discussion to address questions related to gaming, disability, inclusive design, and assistive technology in the interactive entertainment industry. Additionally, demo stations will be available to try out Microsoft gaming products such as Ear Hockey and Forza Motorsport.**

**Facilitated by Microsoft experts**

**4:30 PM End of General Sessions**

## **FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES**

**5:00 PM SEAPORT RESTAURANT**

**GDUWS Dinner/Social**

**5:00 PM CASCADE 1 and 2**

**Youth Program**

**For registered teens and their families only. Sponsored by Department of Services for the Blind and WCB Families Committee.**

**7:30 PM GRAND 1**

**Showcase of Talent**

**Hosted by Meka White, Vice President**

**South King Council of the Blind**

**Come enjoy entertainment provided by some of our talented conventioneers! Free to conventioneers;**

**$5 at the door for those not registered with the convention.**

**9:00 PM GRAND 2**

**WCB Life Members Reception**

**Hosted by WCB President Denise Colley**

**Come socialize, enjoy special refreshments, and get a VIP look at all the silent auction and raffle items.**

**WCB life members only.**

**9:00 PM CASCADE 9 and 10**

**Hospitality**

**Mingle with old and new friends over snacks and beverages. Bar provided by the DoubleTree with set $5 drink pricing. Complimentary soft drinks and snacks provided by our host chapter, PCAB.**

**Registered conventioneers only.**

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019**

**7:00 AM to 12:00 PM GRAND FOYER**

**Registration/Information desk open**

**BREAKFASTS**

**7:00 AM CASCADE 5 and 6**

**GDUWS Breakfast and Business Meeting**

**7:30 AM GRAND 3**

**General Breakfast**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM CASCADE 1 and 2**

**Youth Program for registered teens only.**

**Sponsored by Department of Services for the Blind and WCB Families Committee.**

## **GENERAL SESSIONS GRAND 1**

**8:45 AM Announcements**

**8:50 AM We Are ACB**

**It’s time to be in the know concerning blindness issues on a national level.**

**Katie Frederick, Board Director**

**American Council of the Blind**

**9:20 AM The Journey to the Job**

**Three people who are blind share their journey to employment.**

**Facilitator**

**Cindy Van Winkle, WCB Past President**

**Panelists**

**Bradford Manning**

**Co-Founder, Two Blind Brothers**

**Christel Hustad**

**Loan Program Associate**

**Northwest Access Fund**

**Roberto Cordero**

**Assistive Technology Specialist**

**Department of Services for the Blind**

**10:10 AM Break**

**10:25 AM Knowledge is Power**

**With the advent of alternatives and additions to Library of Congress materials, there are many sources where we can obtain books and magazines which we will explore together.**

**Panelists (and WCB members)**

**Meka White, Jim Turri, and Alan Bentson**

**10:55 AM State of the State**

**Together let’s learn what’s happening with our three state agencies serving the blind.**

**Panelists**

**Danielle Miller**

**Program Manager/Librarian, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL)**

**Lou Oma Durand**

**Executive Director, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)**

**Scott McCallum**

**Superintendent, Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB)**

**12:00 PM GRAND 3**

**General Lunch**

**12:00 PM CASCADE 5 and 6**

**GDUWS Lunch and Program**

**1:30 PM GRAND 1**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Agenda items include In Memoriam, elections, budget, constitution and bylaw amendments, resolutions, old business, new business.**

**4:30 PM Adjourn**

## **EVENING ACTIVITIES**

**5:00 PM CASCADE 9 and 10**

**Scholarship Reception**

**Come learn about, hear from, and meet our scholarship winners. Hosted by the WCB Scholarship Committee.**

**5:00 PM to 7:00 PM GRAND 2**

**WCB’s Annual Convention Fundraiser**

**This is your last chance to bid on Silent Auction items and purchase multi-raffle tickets!**

**Winners will be announced at the end of the banquet and need not be present to win.**

**Fundraising Coordinator: Lisa George**

**6:00 PM GRAND 3**

**Pre-Banquet Hour**

**Come socialize, grab a drink, check out the Silent Auction and Raffle next door, and secure your seat.**

**7:00 PM GRAND 3**

**Banquet**

**Master of Ceremonies**

**James Turri,**

**WCB Board Director**

**Invocation**

**Sarah Edick Howe, member**

**Pierce County Association of the Blind**

**Presentation of scholarships**

**Kim Moberg, Chair**

**Scholarship Committee**

**Presentation of awards**

**Danette Dixon, Chair**

**Awards Committee**

**Banquet address**

**Katie Frederick**

**Board Director**

**American Council of the Blind**

**9:30 PM CASCADE 9 and 10**

**Hospitality and Karaoke**

**Help us bring our 2019 convention to a close with socializing, singing, and refreshments. Bar provided by the DoubleTree with set $5 drink pricing. Complimentary soft drinks and snacks provided by our host chapter, PCAB. Karaoke provided by David Edick. Registered conventioneers only.**

**2019 CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

**Cindy Van Winkle, Chair, Minneapolis**

**Lori Allison, Registration Coordinator, Puyallup**

**Carol Brame, program, Port Orchard**

**Denise Colley, program, Olympia**

**Kevin Daniel, program, Burien**

**Mike Magures, program, Bremerton**

**Heather Meares, program, Walla Walla**

**Holly Turri, Volunteer Coordinator, Bellingham**

**Cathy Wilson, Exhibits Coordinator, Tacoma**

**2019 WCB OFFICERS**

**AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Denise Colley, President, Olympia**

**Julie Brannon, First Vice President, Seattle**

**Jeff Bishop, Second Vice President, Redmond**

**Frank Cuta, Secretary, Benton City**

**Deb Cook Lewis, Treasurer, Clarkston**

**Steve Fiksdal, Immediate Past President, Federal Way**

**Reg George, Board Director, Yakima**

**Holly Kaczmarski, Board Director, Dayton**

**James “J.R.” Kinnison, Board Director, Bremerton**

**Heather Meares, Board Director, Walla Walla**

**James “Jim” Turri, Board Director, Bellingham**

**Hotel Description**

**Welcome to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport!**

**The main entrance of the hotel is at the West end of the building. Upon entering, the Coffee Garden restaurant will be to your right. Turn left, heading North and soon after you walk on carpeting, the front desk will be to your right with the concierge desk directly across to your left.**

**By continuing North on the carpeting, you will come to the gift shop in front of you. Making a right and heading East here, you will find yourself on tile, at the beginning of which is the entrance to the Seaport Dining Room to your right, followed by the coffee bar and then the entrance to the Seaport Lounge. Just before reaching the end of the tile, accessible public restrooms will be to the right.**

**Continuing East, you will now be on carpeting. The Grand Foyer will be to your right. This is a large, very open area where registration and volunteer tables will be set up. There are two hallways beyond this foyer leading to two ballrooms. We will be using the one along the left when facing the foyer, or East hallway, which is the Grand Ballroom.**

**Heading back to the main walkway and continuing East, with the Grand foyer to your right, there is a staircase directly across from the foyer and just before you reach tile. These stairs lead to the second floor where the Cascade meeting rooms are located. About five feet before the tile, you can turn left to go to those stairs, or right to head toward the Grand hallway.**

**Continuing onto the tiled area, there will be an opening to the left which houses a bank of elevators leading to the Tower; these are the Tower elevators. As mentioned, the Cascade meeting rooms can be found on the second floor and most of our group sleeping rooms will also be in this Tower.**

**Continuing past the elevators, still heading East, you will find automatic doors out the East entrance. This will lead to the relieving area.**

**Directions to our meeting space**

**From here, I will give directions from the Tower elevators, which are four elevators set in an octagon shaped area. The buttons can be found straight in, between the middle elevators.**

**Once on the main floor, and going to the right when leaving the Tower elevators, you will be on tile. Once you step on carpet, the stairs heading to the 2nd floor will be to your right. Just past the stairs you can turn left to head toward the Grand Hallway.**

**Turning left, you will be facing South and keeping a wall along your left there will be the Grand Foyer to your right. Once you’re in the hallway, you will pass Grand 1, then Grand 2 and 3. The registration and volunteer tables will be along the right in the center of the foyer.**

**Grand Ballroom 1 is where the pre-convention board meeting, all general sessions, the business meeting and Showcase of Talent will be held.**

**Grand Ballroom 2 will hold general meal functions and Life Members Reception on Friday and the Multi Raffle and Silent Auction fundraisers on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening.**

**Grand Ballroom 3 will hold exhibits on Friday, general meals on Saturday, and the banquet Saturday night.**

**Past the second entrance to Grand Ballroom 2, and just before Grand Ballroom 3, there’s an adjoining hallway that runs West toward the Northwest Ballrooms. It is along this connecting hallway where you find the public restrooms. As you walk West, you will find public restrooms to your left, men’s and then women’s. To your right is an outside courtyard which separates the 2 long hallways. The restrooms in this connecting hallway are not wheelchair accessible.**

**To locate the accessible restrooms, make a right at the Northwest hallway, which will have you facing North and lead you back to the foyer. Upon exiting the Northwest hallway, make a left and you will soon be on tile, which alerts you that the restrooms are to your left. If you are locating these restrooms from the main walkway, with the Grand Foyer to your left, heading West, upon reaching the tile, turn left.**

**If you desire to go to the coffee bar, gift shop, restaurants, front desk, etc. while in meetings, head to the right when leaving the Grand Ballroom, through the foyer which will be on the left and a wall will be along your right, and once the wall ends, turn left. Or, you may find it easiest to take the Northwest hallway back out to the foyer and make a left to head toward those locations, bypassing the Grand Foyer.**

**The Cascade rooms are on the 2nd floor. Making a right when leaving the elevator bank, go about 3 feet (you may find it helpful to trail the wall to your right) and then turn left to head South down a long hallway. Please be aware that if you do not make the turn as planned, a set of stairs are about 20 feet West of the elevators which lead down to the main floor. Cascade 1-10 are along the right (West) side of the hallway and are the rooms we will be using for our event. Accessible public restrooms are just around the corner from Cascade 1. If coming from the elevators, you would turn right, just before the wall begins on the right to the long hallway, and if heading North from one of the Cascade rooms, you would turn left once the wall ends along your left. You will then turn to the left to enter the entryway of the restrooms.**

**Relieving Area**

**Exiting the elevator bank on the main floor but going to your left will lead you out the automatic doors. You will then turn left to get outside. Turn right, keeping the building on your right and walk about 10 feet. Turn left and walk another 20 feet or so to get to the relieving area. There will be 3 choices of surfaces to use and receptacles placed nearby.**

**Other information**

**All 3 public restrooms are set with Men’s being to the left and Women’s to the right.**

**There are ice machines and pop vending machines on all sleeping floors in the Tower which can be found at the beginning of the hallway to the right.**

**In the Tower, odd numbered sleeping rooms are along the left side of the hall and even numbered rooms are along the right.**

**Braille and large print menus are available upon request.**