



Live the life you want.

## **2025 STATE CONVENTION**

***“55 and Cruising Forward”***

**Friday through Sunday,  
October 3 - 5, 2025**

**Hilton Altamonte Springs  
350 Northlake Blvd  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
407-830-1985**

**Please Note: This agenda is subject to change at any  
time without notice.**

## **NFB 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.

## **BELIEF MESSAGE**

The National Federation of the Blind advances the lives of its members and all blind people in the United States. We know 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. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

## **Important Convention Information**

You must be registered for the Convention to WIN door prizes. Door prizes will be awarded at general sessions and the banquet. You must be PRESENT in the session or on approved National Federation of the Blind of Florida business to receive a door prize.

Please turn in Dolla' auction items and door prizes at the NFB of Florida Registration Desk in the Chambers, Friday, October 3rd from 4:00pm - 7:00pm or contact Peggy Fleischer at 386-931-2132.

## **INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

We are committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and healthy environment for everyone. Thank you for cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect in which participants from diverse backgrounds can learn, network, and share with each other. We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas. These principles have been outlined in our Code of Conduct found at <https://nfb.org/codeofconduct>.

We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Prohibited behaviors include harassment and sexual misconduct. Prohibited behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal

from the convention and/or other consequences. For assistance or to report an incident at the convention, please call 410-659-9314, extension 2475, or email [code@nfb.org](mailto:code@nfb.org). Formal reports can be submitted at <https://www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct/code-conduct-complaint-report-form>. All formal reports will be fully investigated according to the steps in our Code of Conduct. For support or guidance, connect with our survivor-led task force at [survivors@nfb.org](mailto:survivors@nfb.org) or extension 2238. Thank you for your commitment to the safety and support of the blind community.

## **Privacy Notice**

This is a public event. You may be filmed on video or captured in photos that may be published in media outlets, including Mastodon, X, Facebook or other social media sites. Some sessions and activities at the 2025 National Federation of the Blind of Florida State Convention may be photographed or videotaped. By participating in the State Convention, registrants agree that The National Federation of the Blind of Florida has the right to use their image, likeness and/or voice or sound recording taken in connection to the State Convention in all media.

## **Presidential Suite - TBA**

By appointment only – Please make appointments by  
contacting President Tate at 321-372-4899 or  
**President@NFBFlorida.org.**

## **Hospitality Suite – Executive Suite 7th Floor**

Friday, October 3rd 3:00pm - 7:00pm  
Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 7am - 8:45am & 12:00pm - 6:00pm  
Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 7am - 8:45am & 12:00pm - 5:00pm

## **Exhibit Hall – Crystal Salons ABC**

Russ Davis, Exhibit Hall Coordinator  
Friday, October 3rd, 12:00pm – 7:00pm  
Saturday, October 4th, 12:00pm – 6:00pm  
Sunday, October 5th, 12:00pm – 5:00pm

## **Registration – Chambers**

Sylvia Young, Treasurer  
Friday, October 3rd, 4:00pm – 7:00pm  
Saturday, October 4th, 8:00am – 8:45am  
Sunday, October 5th, 8:00am – 8:45am

## **Tactile Art Show and Sale - Crystal Foyer**

Friday, October 3rd, 4:00pm – 6:30pm

## **Schedule of Convention Events**

### **Friday, October 3, 2025**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>12:00pm - 7:00pm</b> | <b>Exhibit Hall - Crystal Salons ABC</b><br>Russ Davis, Coordinator<br>National Federation of the Blind of Florida                                  |
| <b>4:00pm - 6:30pm</b>  | <b>Tactile Art Show and Sale</b><br>Crystal Foyer<br>Vicky Lennon, National Federation of the Blind of Florida, Greater Jacksonville Chapter member |
| <b>4:00pm - 7:00pm</b>  | <b>Convention Registration</b><br>Chambers<br>Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind of Florida                                  |
| <b>5:00pm - 6:00pm</b>  | <b>Ambassadors Meeting</b><br><b>Hotel Lobby</b><br>Andy Rood, Jacksonville Chapter   |
| <b>6:00pm – 7:00pm</b>  | <b>Rookie Round-up</b><br>Crystal Salons DE   |

Camille Tate, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**7:00pm - 7:50pm**

**Resolutions Committee**

Crystal Salons DE

Jorge Hernandez, Chair,  
Resolutions Committee, President  
of Miami-Dade Chapter

**8:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Open Board Meeting**

Crystal Salons DE

Camille Tate, President, National Federation of the Blind of Florida

**9:00pm**

**55 Cruising Forward**

**Mix and Mingle**

Royal Palm Ballroom

Have a taste of the tropics and jam with your fellow members! Don your resort wear and find out about our 2026 Norwegian Cruise fundraiser. We are “55 and cruising forward!”

**10:00pm – Until**

**Students Social - Networking**

Hospitality Suite – Executive Suite  
7th Floor

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida  
Association of Blind Students

Ready to mingle with some of the most fun folks on the ship? Drop your anchor and join the fun! Before the convention sets sail at full speed, swing by our student-led social for a laid-back gathering filled with laughs, games, and good company. We'll have a fun icebreaker, light refreshments (first come, first served), and our National Student Rep from NABS ready to share what we're all about.

Students, this is your moment to connect, chill, and get hyped before the cruise really kicks off. Not a student? No worries! If you're curious or just want to hang out with some great people, you're more than welcome to dock with us and join the fun.

See you on deck!!!!

## **Saturday, October 4, 2025**

**7:15am - 8:45am      Presidents and Vice Presidents  
Breakfast  
Capital 1**

Breakfast with Presidents and Vice Presidents or chapter delegates and alternate delegates



**8:00am - 8:45am**

**Convention Registration**

Chambers

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**General Session I**

9:00am to 12:00pm

Crystal Salons DE

**9:00am**

**Call to Order**

Camille Tate, President, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**9:01am**

**Invocation**

Dr. Joyce Taylor, President,  
Melbourne Chapter  
National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida

**9:05am**

**National Federation of the Blind  
Pledge**

Gathary McKinlay, Florida  
Statewide Chapter

**9:06am**

**Belief Statement**

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida  
Statewide Chapter, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**9:07am**

**Presentation of Colors and  
Celebration of Freedom**

Doug Ingram, Tallahassee Chapter  
National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida

**9:20am**

**Welcome from the City of  
Altamonte Springs**

Pat Bates, Mayor  
City of Altamonte Springs, Florida

**9:40am**

**Convention Planning Committee  
Report**

Peggy Fleischer, Second Vice  
President, National Federation of  
the Blind of Florida

**9:45am**

**National Report**

Kevan Worley, National Rep  
National Federation of the Blind

- 10:25am**                      **Report from the Division of Blind Services**  
Robert Doyle, Director  
Florida Division of Blind Services
- 10:45am**                      **National Association of Blind Students Report**  
Zachary Ledford, Second Vice President, National Association of Blind Students
- 11:00am**                      **Why Am I a Federationist?**  
Z’Leah Liburd, President, Florida Statewide Chapter
- 11:05am**                      **Presentation of 2025 Florida Leadership Seminars**  
Jorge Hernandez, President, Miami-Dade Chapter
- 11:10am**                      **The Access Technology Project**  
Ayse Torres, Ph.D., CRC, LMHC  
Associate Professor  
Florida Atlantic University Professor

<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Lions Vision and Hearing Foundation</b> Dennis Dulniak, Lions Club MD350
<b>11:50am</b>	<b>Why Am I a Federationist?</b> Javier Diaz, Board of Directors National Federation of the Blind of Florida
<b>11:55am</b>	<b>Announcements</b>
<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
<b>12:00pm - 1:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch - On your own</b>
<b>12:00pm - 1:30pm</b>	<b>Secretaries' Luncheon</b> Capital 1 Sherri Brun, Secretary National Federation of the Blind of Florida
<b>12:00pm - 6:00pm</b>	<b>Exhibit Hall</b> <b>Crystal Salons ABC</b>

**12:00pm - 6:00pm      Hospitality Suite  
Executive Suite 7th Floor**

**Saturday Special Interest Meetings and  
Workshops**

**1:30pm to 6:00pm**

**1:30pm - 3:20pm      Deaf-Blind Division Annual  
Meeting**  
Crystal Salons DE  
Marilyn Baldwin, President, Deaf-  
Blind Division of Florida

Are you experiencing hearing loss combined with vision loss? The Deaf Blind Division of Florida welcomes you to our annual business meeting. Come to hear what is available for you and meet others who share combined vision and hearing loss.

**1:30pm - 3:20pm      Independence Fair**  
Dogwood  
Jerilyn Higginss, Florida Statewide  
Chapter

Come to the Independence Fair and visit our information stations. Adjusting to vision loss? Looking for what is available for you? Come to the Fair and experience kitchen gadgets, technology and Braille devices!

**1:30pm - 3:20pm**

**Individualized Education  
Program (IEP) 101**

Waldorf

Camille Tate, President

National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida and Javier Diaz, Board of  
Directors, National Federation of  
the Blind of Florida

Interested in Individualized Education Programs (IEP)?

Are you the parent of a blind child or work with children in  
the K-12 and want to learn what is required for an IEP?

Attend this the IEP 101 workshop as we go back to basics  
to explain the process.

**2:00pm - 2:50pm**

**The Access Technology Project**

Conrad

Ayse Torres, Ph. D., CRC, LMHC  
Associate Professor

Florida Atlantic University

Come and hear about the exciting project underway at  
Florida Atlantic University.

**2:00pm - 3:50pm**

**Florida Association of Blind  
Students Business Meeting**

Capital 2

Z'Leah Liburd, President

## Florida Association of Blind Students

The winds of change are here—and student leadership is reporting for duty! Join us on deck for our annual business meeting, where you'll hear exciting updates from our affiliate president and National Rep, watch a short highlight video showcasing what we've been up to, and help shape our future by voting on a newly amended constitution and electing a fresh board of officers. We'll wrap things up with a quick and fun sports and rec activity to keep the energy high and the vibes fun.

### Important Reminders:

Dues will be collected 10 minutes before the meeting begins. You must be a paid member to vote on any motions or in the elections. To run for a board seat, you must be present at the meeting.

Whether you're a student leader or just curious about what's happening in our world, hop aboard—we'd love to have you with us as we sail into what's next!

**3:00pm - 3:50pm**

### **Seniors**

Conrad

Judy Hamilton, President,  
Gainesville Chapter

After a long hiatus, we invite you to a Senior's Committee Conversation: Looking Ahead After the Convention.

**3:30pm - 5:20pm**

**Florida Association of Guide Dog Users**

Crystal Salons DE

Florida Association of Guide Dog Users

The Florida Association of Guide Dog Users invites you to join their annual business meeting. Learn about all things guide dogs!

**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**Work Incentive**

Waldorf

Javier Diaz, Board of Directors,  
National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida

It Always Pays More to Work. Are you an SSA disability recipient? Are you interested in returning to work? This workshop will provide you with the information you need to use work incentives to help protect your cash and healthcare benefits. An overview of Social Security Work Incentives will help you get on a path to financial stability! Presented by Javier Diaz, MS CFP® RMA® ChSNC®



**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**InnoSearch**

Conrad

Patrick Long, CEO

An exciting business built with accessibility in mind. Patrick Long, CEO and co-founder, is here to share the services of InnoSearch, a company designed for blind shoppers and searchers. Visit to find out the who, what and why of InnoSearch.

**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**Performing Arts while Blind**

Capital 2

Matt Wiemler, Statewide Chapter

Come and meet the Saxman! Matt Wiemler is a blind musician who has taken his love of music into the classroom! Interested in the performing arts? Ever wondered how to create music accessibly? Visit the workshop with your questions.

**5:00pm - 6:00pm**

**Florida Statewide Chapter**

Hospitality, Executive Suite 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida

Statewide Chapter

Ahoy Statewide Members and Supporters. Are you new to the NFB of Florida and looking for a chapter to join? Or maybe you're already part of a chapter and enjoy meeting new people and having great conversations?

Either way, we'd love for you to join us! The Florida Statewide Chapter is hosting a casual meet-and-greet with light refreshments (first come, first served). Come connect with our warm and welcoming board members, fellow chapter members, and others from across the state. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, make new friends, and simply enjoy spending time together. We hope to see you there!

**7:00pm**

**Dolla' Auction**

Royal Palm Ballroom

Bring your dolla' bills! Have some fun while bidding on items at our Dolla' Auction! This is a fun event that fundraises for our affiliate. Each bid is in one-dollar increments. Raise your hand and yell out your name "got a dolla'!" You could win great items. But beware, someone else might have a dolla' to beat you!

## **Sunday, October 5, 2025**

**7:30am - 8:30am**

### **Nominating Committee Delegates only**

Conrad

Jorge Hernandez, Chair,  
Nominating Committee, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**8:00am - 8:45am**

### **Convention Registration**

Final Opportunity!!

Chambers

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

## **General Session II**

9:00am - 12:00pm

Crystal Salon DE

**9:00am**

### **Call to Order**

Camille Tate, President, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**9:01am**

**Invocation**

Bruce Coleman, Vice President,  
Miami-Dade Chapter

**9:05am**

**National Federation of the Blind  
Pledge**

Jada Michael Christie, Board  
Member, National Federation of the  
Blind of Florida

**9:06am**

**Belief Statement**

Javier Diaz, Board Member,  
National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida

**9:07am**

**President's Report**

Camille Tate, President, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**9:25am**

**Treasurer's Report**

Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

**9:35am**

**Resolutions Committee Report**

Jorge Hernandez, Chair,  
Resolutions Committee, National  
Federation of the Blind of Florida

<b>9:50am</b>	<b>Eye Spy Foundation</b> Nick Mendler, President Eye Spy Foundation
<b>10:05am</b>	<b>Ellie Mental Health</b> Dina Hargrave, Ed. S, LMHC
<b>10:20am</b>	<b>InnoSearch</b> Patrick Long, CEO
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Audit Committee Report</b> Javier Diaz, Chair, Audit Committee National Federation of the Blind of Florida
<b>10:40am</b>	<b>Nominating Committee Report</b> Jorge Hernandez, Chair, Nominating Committee, National Federation of the Blind of Florida
<b>10:45am</b>	<b>Elections</b>
<b>11:55am</b>	<b>Announcements</b>
<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>12:00pm - 1:00pm</b> | <b>Lunch - On your own</b>  |
| <b>12:00pm - 1:30pm</b> | <b>Treasurers' Luncheon</b><br>Capital 1<br>Sylvia Young, Treasurer, National<br>Federation of the Blind of Florida |
| <b>12:00pm - 5:00pm</b> | <b>Exhibit Hall – Crystal Salons ABC</b>  |
| <b>12:00pm - 5:00pm</b> | <b>Hospitality Suite Executive Suite</b><br><b>7<sup>th</sup> Floor</b>   |

## **Sunday General Interest Meetings and Workshops**

### **1:30pm to 5:00pm**

**1:30pm - 3:20pm**

#### **Legislation**

Capital 2

Camille Tate, Legislative Director

Russ Davis, Legislative Director

Legislation is a pivotal part of the National Federation of the Blind. As we gear up for state and national legislation, come to find out what we have accomplished this year and what direction we are going to in 2026. How can you be part of our legislative and advocacy plans? Come to our Legislative Committee workshop and find out!

**2:00pm - 2:50pm**

#### **Eye Spy Foundation**

Conrad

Nick Mendler, President

Eye Spy Foundation

Coming together after the election. With voting behind us for the 2025 general election, it's the perfect time to discuss how we can all still work together in a respectful and effective way on the issues we have in common.

**2:00pm - 2:50pm**

#### **The Sleep-Wake Cycle and Non-24**

Waldorf

Vicki Pretti, Registered Nurse

## Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Ever wonder why you have difficulty sleeping at night? Or, cannot stay awake during the day? Ask your questions about Circadian rhythms and the body clock with Vicki Pretti from Vanda Pharmaceuticals.

**3:00pm - 3:50pm**

### **Telling Our Truth: Storytelling for Advocacy and Impact**

Conrad

Adrian Keiv, Board of Directors,  
Jacksonville Chapter

This workshop draws inspiration from How to Tell a Story by The Moth - a guide to crafting personal narratives that resonate. We will explore how storytelling can be a powerful tool for advocacy, education, and connection. Whether you're speaking to legislators, educating the public, or sharing your lived experience, your story can shift perspectives and spark change.

**3:00pm - 3:50pm**

### **Sighted Supporters Meeting**

Waldorf

Sarah Jacobs, Board of Directors,  
Jacksonville Chapter

Do you ever wonder where the supporter gets support. Join us in this open discussion among sighted federation members who support and encourage our blind federation family and friends to live the life they want.



**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**Meet the 2025 Florida Leadership Class**

Conrad

Jorge Hernandez, President, Miami-Dade Chapter

The Florida Leadership Class has spent the last year learning about leadership in the National Federation of the Blind of Florida. This cohort has given their time and energy to expand and grow their leadership within our affiliate. Come and meet the class of 2025 and hear about their experiences and what they have learned.

**4:00pm - 4:50pm**

**The Mental Health Side of Blindness**

Waldorf

Dina Hargrave, Ed. S, LMHC

Ellie Mental Health

Want to learn how to cope with the mental side of blindness? Dina Hargrave from Ellie Mental Health will share some tips for those having difficulty coping as they journey through vision loss.

**4:30pm - 5:20pm**

**Ham Radio (Exhibit Hall)**

Crystal Salons ABC

Russ Davis, Board of Directors

National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida

Interested in Ham radio? Ever wondered what Ham radio operators do on the radio? Would you like to become a Ham radio operator? Visit the Exhibit Hall to ask those questions!

**Convention Banquet**  
**Sunday, October 5, 2025**

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Z'Leah Liburd, Mistress of Ceremonies  
Royal Palm Ballroom

**7:00pm**

**Welcome**

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida  
Statewide Chapter

**7:01pm**

**Invocation**

Donald Christie, President,  
Tallahassee Chapter

**7:05pm**

**Introduction of Head Table**

Z'Leah Liburd, President, Florida  
Statewide Chapter

**7:45pm**

**Keynote Address**

Kevan Whorley  
National Federation of the Blind of  
Colorado

**8:45pm**

**Scholarship Presentation**

Donald Christie & Z'Leah Liburd,  
Scholarship Committee

**9:20pm**

**Awards Presentation**

Nancy Epps, Board of Directors  
National Federation of the Blind of  
Florida

**9:40pm**

**Raffles and Drawings**

**10:00pm**

**Adjournment**

# **Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors**

**Title Sponsor**  
**VANDA PHARMACEUTICALS**

**Independence Sponsor**  
ABLE United

**Equality Sponsor**  
Democracy Live Inc

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Glidance  
Innosearch AI, Inc.  
Patriot Vision Industries  
Unseen Potential  
VisualEyes Access

**Opportunity Sponsor**  
Paul Odham's Opals and Gems

## **Non-Profit Exhibitors**

Dogs Inc  
Greater Jacksonville Chapter  
Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Eye Spy Foundation  
Florida Association of Blind Students  
Florida Statewide Chapter  
JW.ORG  
The Seeing Eye



## **Vanda Pharmaceuticals**

**Vanda pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising the awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community.**

**Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting up to 30% of totally blind individuals. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness, nighttime sleeplessness which leads to impaired social and occupational function due to misalignment of the internal master body clock to the 24-hour day, disrupting the sleep-wake cycle.**

**Come visit us at our booth to learn more about Non-24 and sign up for additional information**

**Call a health educator toll free at 1-855-856-2424, 24 hours a day**

**NON-24**

**A circadian rhythm disorder**

**Visit us online at [www.non-24.com](http://www.non-24.com)**



ABLE United account gives Floridians with a disability a tax-free way to save while protecting public benefits.

*Eligible individuals will have a diagnosis of blindness or visual impairment with onset prior to age 26. The term “blind” means that the individual has central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. An eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees is considered to have a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less.*

**Contact Us or Call 1-888-524-ABLE (2253)**

## DEMOCRACYLIVE

In too many states, voters with disabilities don't have equal access to voting independently and privately from home. Fortunately, there are new accessible at-home voting technologies now available.

The Democracy Live OmniBallot accessible at-home voting system is a fully ADA Section 508, WCAG 2.2AA compliant remote ballot marking solution. The system has been tested to meet the accessibility requirements of over 90 combinations of browsers, operating systems, screen readers and devices. OmniBallot has been deployed as an accessible absentee tool since 2008, in over 5,000 elections, serving more than 2,500 jurisdictions, in 34 states and 96 countries around the world. OmniBallot has been tested and reviewed by members of most every leading disability organization in the nation.

For further information, please contact  
Democracy Live:  
855-655-VOTE (8683) Toll Free  
Email: [info@democracylive.com](mailto:info@democracylive.com)  
[www.democracylive.com](http://www.democracylive.com)



# **Hilton Altamonte Springs**

## **2025 State Convention Hotel Map**

### **Introduction**

Navigating a hotel can be one of the biggest challenges of attending a state convention. This guide is here to make that process easier. We encourage you to take time to explore the hotel and get familiar with its key landmarks. If you need help along the way, don't hesitate to ask the hotel staff for assistance. This guide provides a general overview to help you get started. While it's not a detailed blueprint, it's designed to give you a basic sense of the layout and help you feel more comfortable moving around.

### **Starting at the East Entrance**

It's located on the east side of the building and is likely where rideshares and vehicles will drop you off. If you're walking, it's also the most direct entrance from the road.

Outside the East Entrance you will find yourself in a walkway with a variety of plants and hedges, creating a garden-like atmosphere. If you're facing the sliding glass doors that lead into the building, you'll find a long bench to your right along the wall. On your left, a few sculptures.

## **Entering the Hotel**

Once you step through the east entrance, you'll find yourself in the main lobby. The space is both wide and deep, roughly forming a large square. The entrance is now behind you, and ahead lies an open area filled with seating options: couches, armchairs, ottomans, and standard chairs and tables, surrounded by indoor plants.

To your right is the bar and restaurant area, and on the left side, you'll find a small grab-and-go pantry for snacks or drinks. From this reference point, you have three options: you can walk left, right, or continue straight ahead keeping the carpeting on your right.

For the smoothest walking experience, we recommend sticking to the tiled floor. While the carpeted areas provide the most direct routes to several destinations, they are filled with furniture that can be difficult to navigate around. Unless you're looking to sit, it's best to avoid the small, carpeted areas and stay on the tile.

### **Heading Left from the Entrance**

With the east entrance still behind you, turn left. Now, the entrance is on your left, a cluster of chairs is on your right, the restaurant and bar are behind you, and the front desk is straight ahead.

The first thing you'll notice on the left are the luggage carts. While this hotel does not have bellhops, staff may still be able to assist you with a cart if you're carrying a lot of luggage; just ask.

Continue forward and you'll come to a small seating area with couches on your left. As you pass them, the path begins to curve slightly right. Following the left wall, the next stop is the grab-and-go pantry.

Let's turn into the pantry briefly. This is a carpeted, compact space enclosed on three sides, with shelves lining the wall. A counter can also be found in this space. These shelves hold snacks, and on the left side, there's a fridge stocked with drinks such as soda, iced tea, and water. To purchase something, just take what you want and pay at the front desk. The pantry is open 24 hours a day. Now let's exit the pantry and place it to your left as we continue forward.

Up next is the front desk, where you can check in, ask questions, and pay for items from the pantry. The front desk is made up of three desks. We'll now keep the front desk to the left as we first veer right away from the desk to avoid the line and then veer back slightly left and continue along a wall.

Soon, you'll pass an abstract sculpture with water-like patterns, surrounded by plants and additional seating. Keep following the wall and you'll find yourself approaching the south entrance hallway.

Pass this hallway, keeping to the wall. You'll soon come to an opening on the left; this is a lounge area with tables, chairs, a TV, and an ATM machine.

To reach the ATM, enter the space and follow the left wall. Be mindful of the furniture along the way. The machine is straight ahead. For blind users, please note that using wired earbuds will offer the best experience for accessing the machine's audio features.

Leaving the lounge, return to the main path and keep the lounge to your left. You'll find a set of double glass doors on your left; this is the Board Room, which is hotel employee space. Keep

going and you'll pass Banquet and Convention Services. The Braille sign for this space is labeled oddly as "ffiretffiret"; this is not a typo but how it appears.

Next, you'll reach the Dogwood Meeting Room, and just beyond that is a small hallway on the left that leads to a keycard-only access door. Finally, you'll arrive at a carpeted area; this marks the beginning of the breakout rooms section, which we'll explore later. For now, let's retrace our steps and return to our starting point at the east entrance.

### **To the Right of the East Entrance**

With the east entrance behind you, turn right and follow the right-hand wall. Soon, you'll come to an opening that leads into a hallway.

Inside this hallway, there is seating lined along the wall. In addition, on the right wall, you will find a buffet counter. On the left-hand side, across from the buffet counter, you'll find a set of restrooms. Continue straight ahead and you'll arrive at the Royal Palm Room with double doors; this is where our receptions and banquet will take place. You will know that you are in the Royal

Palm Room when you feel carpeting. Now let's step back out to the main area, returning to the hallway's entrance.

With the Royal Palm Room now behind you, turn right once more and walk forward. You'll soon feel carpeting; this marks an entrance to the U-Lounge and U-Restaurant area.

### **Straight Ahead from the East Entrance**

With the east entrance behind you, walk straight ahead on the tiled floor. On your right, you'll pass a series of small, carpeted seating areas with chairs and coffee tables. These seating areas are spaced out, separated by sections of tile.

As you continue forward, you'll notice a break in the carpet, a wider section of tile that opens to the right. If you turn right here, you'll enter the U-Lounge and U-Restaurant area, located approximately 20 to 30 feet from the main path. This is a large, carpeted space with a bar, restaurant, and scattered tables and chairs. You can also reach this area by continuing right past the hallway that leads to the Royal Palm Room. Be sure to avoid the giant pillars along the path.

Just past the restaurant area and about 20 to 30 feet to your right from the main path is Cool Beans, the hotel's coffee bar. One

way to find the café is by listening for a fridge noise. Unlike the restaurant, this area is not carpeted. It features a counter where you can order Starbucks coffee and a selection of pastries. You'll also find a microwave available for guest use.

As you keep walking forward on the tile, you'll eventually encounter more tables and chairs, which gradually guide you to the left. This gentle curve brings you closer to the elevator area.

### **Getting to the Elevator**

There are two main routes to reach the elevators from the east entrance.

#### *Route 1: Front Desk Route*

With the east entrance behind you, walk toward the front desk. Once you reach the desk, turn around so the desk is behind you and continue walking straight ahead. You'll pass several carpeted seating areas with chairs, as well as some pillars. Keep going, and eventually, you will arrive at the elevators directly in front of you.

#### *Route 2: Banquet Services Route*

Starting again with the east entrance behind you, head towards the front desk. Walk past the desk and then veer left. Along this path, you'll pass the hallway with the south entrance, the lounge, the board room, and then the banquet and convention services room. Remember this room? It has a braille sign with a large typo, but it's likely intentional because there's a fire alarm directly above the sign.

With the door to this banquet and convention services room behind you, continue walking straight ahead for a short distance, and you'll arrive at the elevator hall with the elevators to the left.

### *Elevator Hall*

The elevator hall is a corridor with three elevators lined up along one wall. Nearby, you'll find a trash can and a tactile sculpture of a human figure affectionately called Freddy by the convention planning committee and hotel staff. The best part? Freddy is fully tactile, making it accessible to us.

### **Meeting Rooms**

With the entrance behind you, turn left and follow the left wall. You'll pass the grab-and-go pantry, the front desk, the south



entrance hallway, the lounge, banquet services, and the Dogwood meeting room.

Continue following the wall until you reach the carpeted breakout rooms pre-function area. All the breakout rooms are located on your left. Along this stretch, you'll pass the following rooms in order: Mobley, Conference Host Office, Baron, Conrad, and Waldorf.

Keep walking past these rooms, and soon you'll step onto a tiled floor. Directly ahead, you'll see a wall with doors: the fitness center is the first door straight ahead, the pool entrance is to the right, and restrooms are on the left.

Let's turn around and head back to the carpet. Continue following the carpet until you reach the tile area near the elevators. From here, turn left and walk straight into the Crystal Foyer, another carpeted area. Veer toward the left wall. There, you will find a set of restrooms.

Return to where you entered. The foyer features a large opening between tile and carpet shaped like a lowercase "v." Straight ahead is the Crystal Ballroom, the hotel's largest ballroom, divided into two halves separated by a thick wall divider.

The first half, Crystal A, B, and C, will serve as our exhibit hall. The second half, Crystal D and E, functions as our general session room. Across from Crystal E, you'll find the Chamber Room, where registration and packet pickup will take place. Just beyond the Chamber Room is a glass door; this is another entrance to the pool area.

Returning to Crystal C, put it on your left. Continue straight, and on your right, you'll find Capital 1 and Capital 2, which serve as breakout rooms. These two sections are separated from each other by a large wall divider.

**Nearby Pharmacies:**

Publix Pharmacy  
482 E Altamonte Dr #1005  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
Distance from hotel = 1.3 miles  
(407) 260-9973

**Nearby Veterinary Hospitals:**

Altamonte Veterinary Hospital  
1089 E Altamonte Dr,  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
Distance from hotel = 2.5 miles  
ph. 407-339-1922

## **National Federation of the Blind of Florida Officers**

Camille Tate, President

Kaye Baker, First Vice President

Peggy Fleischer, Second Vice President

Sherri Brun, Secretary

Sylvia Young, Treasurer

### **Board of Directors:**

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Nancy Epps

Javier Diaz

Jada Michael Christie

The National Federation of the Blind of Florida thanks the Statewide and Central Florida Chapters, the Convention Planning Committee, and all who assisted, for their dedication and hard work in organizing the 2025 state convention. We thank all our members for joining and supporting us here in Altamonte Springs, Florida. We acknowledge all our sponsors for their generous donations, as well as everyone who contributed to the development process to make our convention a great success. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you in 2026.

Let's go build the Federation!

Camille Tate, President

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

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