**TIPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS**

By Dick Davis, Chair of the NFB Employment Committee

Blind people do have a harder time getting jobs than sighted people, so don’t shoot yourself in the foot by doing things that could work against you. In the area of social media, which has become such an ordinary, daily method of communication, that sometimes people, especially younger ones, will not think of who all may eventually find access to what you post. So this is just a bit of friendly advice.

EMAIL: I have noticed that a large number of people have their year of birth as part of their e-mail address. This could work against you when applying for a job, because employers will be able to learn your age. That means if you are not in the age range they are looking for, they can screen you out easily without your knowledge. Age is one thing employers cannot ask for, so don’t tempt them by giving them that information for free. Change your e-mail, please.

Some people also use odd or funny names for their e-mail addresses. One of my students was “funky ‘ill monkey”. I told him that wouldn’t go over well and that he needed a more dignified email address if he was going to be looking for jobs.

**FACEBOOK:** Also, please be careful what you put on Facebook. One individual had a picture of himself smoking dope from a bong on his birthday. Imagine how a prospective employer will view that!