

Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, Greater Akron Chapter



Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio--Greater Akron Chapter.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, Greater Akron Chapter, shall be:

- to advance the general welfare of the blind of the Greater Akron area, of the state of Ohio, and of the nation;
- to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and of the National Federation of the Blind;
- to serve as a vehicle for collective action, for and by the blind of the Greater Akron area;
- to work with the blind and the sighted, to facilitate programs that support the rights of the blind;
- to provide a means of collective action for parents of blind children;
- to forward the interests of blind students and provide them with a means of joint action and expression;
- to promote the vocational, cultural and social advancement of the blind;
- to achieve the integration of the blind into society, on a basis of equality with the sighted; and
- to take any action which will improve the standard of living, the quality of life and overall condition of the blind.

Article III: Membership

Section One: Active Members

At least a majority of the members of this organization must be blind. Any person by payment of dues and his or her agreement with this Constitution may become an active member of this Chapter by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the Chapter, and shall have the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office.

Section Two: Affiliation

Membership in the Greater Akron Chapter automatically establishes a person's membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and in the National Federation of the Blind.

Section Three: Expulsion

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or the Code of Conduct of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, by a majority vote of active members present and voting at any regular meeting of the Chapter. Any person who feels that he or she was unjustly expelled from the Chapter may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, which may consider the matter and make a binding decision at the next State Convention.

Article IV: Officers

There shall be elected in even-numbered years (following the first odd-numbered year after Chapter formation), a President and Vice President. There shall be elected in odd-numbered years a Treasurer and a Secretary.

The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office and those requested and assigned by the President and/or the Board. The President and the Vice President must be blind.

Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members who are present and voting at the December meeting of the Chapter. Elections shall be by voice vote, standing vote, show of hands, or roll call vote unless at least four-fifths of active members who are present and voting decide that a secret ballot shall be used. The terms of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting in which they are elected and qualified. There shall be no proxy voting. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees, and a second ballot shall be taken. This procedure shall continue until one of the nominees has received a majority vote.

Article V: Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the four (4) constitutional officers, and one (1) additional “at-large” Board Member. The at-large Board Member shall be elected in odd-numbered years at the same time and in the same manner as prescribed for the election of officers.

The Board shall meet at the call of the President or on written call signed or emailed by any three Board Members. The Board shall advise the President and shall have collective charge of the affairs of the Chapter between meetings. A majority of the members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact any business. A majority of the Board must be blind.

Article VI: Meetings

Section One: Regular Meetings

The Chapter shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership. At least one-third of active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact any business requiring a vote.

Section Two: Special Meetings

The Chapter President or a majority of the Board, may call a special meeting of the membership or of the Board, at any time such action is deemed to be necessary. At such special meetings at least one-third of active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact any business requiring a vote.

Article VII: Committees

The Chapter President may appoint such committees as he or she or the organization deems necessary to conduct business or to achieve the goals and purpose of the Chapter.

Article VIII: Affiliation

The Greater Akron Chapter shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, and of the National Federation of the Blind, and shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio annually on or before January 1, the names and addresses of all members and officers elected in the December meeting of the Chapter. A copy of the Constitution of the Chapter and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent for review to the President of the State Affiliate without delay.

This organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation issued to State Affiliates by the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio are binding on this Chapter, and this Chapter shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions.

As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this Chapter that the National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or National Board, or the State Convention or State Board) has the power to expel or discipline a member, and to expel or reorganize a State Affiliate or Chapter of the Affiliate.

Article IX: Dues

Section One: Member Dues

The amount of the dues paid by members to this organization shall be established and set by a vote of active members at a regular meeting of the Chapter. Annual dues shall be paid to the Treasurer by July 1 of each calendar year. There is no pro-rating of dues. No person who is delinquent in the payment of his or her dues may vote nor enjoy the benefits of active membership.

Section Two: Chapter Dues

Each year and at least seven calendar days prior to the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, this Chapter shall pay its and its members' State dues, currently \$10 for the Chapter plus \$1 per active member, to the State Affiliate for the following year, as stipulated in the policies and constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio.

Article X: Disbursement of Funds

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the President and Treasurer. If the members so vote, the Treasurer shall be bonded. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check, issued on written order of the President, and signed by the Treasurer. Pre-authorized expenses related to the business of the Chapter which are incurred by a member, may be reimbursed by the Chapter with a check upon approval by the Board and/or a majority vote of the members upon submission of voucher with receipt or other documentation as requested.

Article XI: Dissolution

In the event of reorganization or dissolution of this organization, or if (for any reason) it ceases to be a Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio to be held for a re-organized chapter in the same geographic area. In the event that no Chapter is organized in the area for two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be a Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, all assets including those relating to its name and affiliation, become the sole property of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio.

Article XII: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of this organization with an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, provided more than one-third the active members are present and the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing or by email to all active members at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of voting, and provided it is in compliance with the provisions and policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and the National Federation of the Blind.