

Date: 17 January 2024

Location: [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848943667?pwd=a0hCYmZSTkNGWG40UGp4YjlKeEdYdz09)

Present:

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| --- | --- |
| Board Members | Cody Bair, President  Andrea Fowler, Vice-President  Shane Clark, Treasurer  Gary Van Dorn, Secretary  Nate Hecker, Board Member  Susie D’Mello, Board Member  Ileen Gallegos, Board Member, Absence Excused |
| Members | Dishon Spears  Eliza Portugal  Lisa Bonderson  Monique Melton  Delfina Rodriguez  Matt Gesualdi  Audrey Marquez  David Dunphy |
| Guests |  |

1. Introductions
   1. President Cody Bair called the 17 January 2024 meeting of the Mile High Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado (NFBCO) to order at 18:06 MT.
   2. Cody asked people to introduce themselves.
2. Minutes from 15 November 2023, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
   1. The minutes of 15 November 2023 were sent to Colorado Talk on 14 January 2024.
   2. Quorum.
      1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn announced we do not have a majority at the beginning of the meeting. The Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO has 23 members; there are 11 individuals present at the beginning of the meeting. A simple majority is required for a quorum according to the Mile High Constitution. The quorum would be 13.
      2. A discussion occurred concerning if the majority of the Board needs to be present. We discussed our past practices based upon a lost constitutional amendment. We operated under a 2017 amendment to the Mile High NFBCO Constitution that stated a third of the membership had to be present. The amendment from 2017 is not available; past research shows neither Gary nor Monique Melton – who was President at the time – could locate a copy. Furthermore, there is no approval from the NFBCO Board.
      3. Those present felt we should operate under the established notion we thought the Mile High NFBCO Constitution was amended in. See Article XI of the Constitution of the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO approved on 22 June 2011 in Appendix I.
      4. We reached a quorum as the progressed so we can conduct business.
   3. Gary asked if there any corrections to the minutes of 15 November 2023. The Chapter has no corrections.
   4. Vice-President Andrea Fowler moved to approve the meeting minutes of 15 November 2023 and Treasurer Shane Clark second the motion. The minutes of the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO of 15 November 2023 are approved.
      1. **Note**: Gary sent the minutes of 18 October 2023 and 15 November 2023 to NFBCO President Jessica Beecham and the NFBCO Historian Peggy Chong via email on 16 February 2024.
   5. Gary reached out to Jessica Diez concerning how to pay membership dues. The dues have not been paid as of this meeting.
   6. Gary sent a membership list to Vice-President Andrea Fowler from 2019 to 2023. Andrea and the Membership Committee can reach out to individuals in the past.
   7. Board Member Ileen Gallegos provided Gary with David Abraham’s contact information after the 15 November 2023 meeting. Gary contacted David and he paid dues today.
   8. Gary welcomed David Dunphy to the Mile High Chapter. Gary asked David if he was a member of another NFB Affiliate. David responded he was a member of the Performing Arts Division. Gary will update the National Database.
   9. The Mile High Constatation NFBCO dated 22 June 2011 was discussed.
      1. The Constitution was adopted on 22 June 2011 when the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO was formed. We use the NFB Model Constitution.
      2. This is our living and breathing document. We amended the Constitution in 2017 when Monique Melton was President, Gary was Vice-President and the Karen Samuelson was Secretary. An amendment was made to change the quorum from a majority in Article VI to a third.
      3. Concerns were recently brough out concerning our Constitution. We hit on one of them earlier in this meeting concerning the quorum. There is a discussion above concerning the quorum.
      4. It was thought the Mile High Chapter was in violation of our Constitution paying our bills since we rarely write checks to pay bills. We are not in violation of our Constitution. Article X discusses the disbursement of funds and it reads in part, “All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by an appropriate financial instrument with supporting documentation, issued on written order of the President, and signed by the Treasurer or their authorized designees.” The current system of the Mile High Chapter does this. See below in the Treasurer’s Report how reimbursements occur in the Mile High Chapter.
      5. Gary would like to review the Constitution, other than membership. Gary asked Cody to form a committee and Gary is willing to be chair that committee to make proposed amendments to the Chapter. We must have two meetings to amend the Constitution. We can then submit any amendments to the NFBCO Board for their final approval.
      6. President Cody Bair asked if there are questions; there are no questions.
      7. The members of the Constitution Amendment Committee are:
         1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn, Chair
         2. Treasurer Shane Clark
         3. President Cody Bair
         4. Board member Nate Hecker
      8. We also amended the Constitution to expand the Board to three members. The original document has a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Board Members. We expanded to three which is our current practice. The Mile High Chapter will continue with this practice of three board members.
      9. The Constitution has no official date to collect dues. The Mile High Chapter traditionally collected dues by the June meeting. The National Office is asking all Chapters to collect dues in January. See the Treasurer’s report for the motion on dues.
   10. The members of the mile High Chapter of the NFBCO as of 17 January 2024 are:

Dave Abraham

Pipi Adams

Cody Bair

Vaughn Beck

Lisa Bonderson

Shane Clark

Susie D'Mello

David Dunphy

Bishoy Fargalla

Andrea Fowler

Ileen Gallegos

Matt Gesualdi

Nate Hecker

Shane Howard

Audrey Marquez

Monique Melton

Zach Parks

Eliza Portugal

Delfina Rodriguez

Karen Samuelson (Deceased)

Dishon Speers

Elizabeth Sprecher

Gary Van Dorn

1. Treasurers Report, Treasurer Shane Clark
   1. Treasurer Shane Clark gave the Treasurer’s Report for 17 January 2024.
      1. $1,170.27 in checking as of 15 November 2023.
         1. The PAC pledge for November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024 was the only activity in the checking account. The PAC Pledge is $25.00 per month for a total of $75.00.
      2. The balance as of today is $1,010.27 in checking; there is $85 cash.
   2. Secretary Gary Van Dorn moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for 17 January 2024 and Vice-President Andrea Fowler seconded the motion. The Chapter approved the Treasurer’s Report for 17 January 2024.
   3. **Motion**: Gary moves continue dues paid from June 2023 forward to January 2025. David Dunphy seconded the motion. The chapter adopted the motion. President Cody Bair said new members can continue paying dues that will count until January 2025.
   4. Disbursement of funds occurs in the following manner in the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO pursuant to Article X of our Constitution:
      1. Treasurer Shane Clark receives a request, normally via email, from someone who needs reimbursed for an expense. The individual requiring reimbursement must provide Shane with appropriate documentation.
      2. There MUST BE DOCUMENTATION or Shane will not request approval from President Cody Bair.
      3. The email advises Shane how the requester would like reimbursed from our funds at Wells Fargo Bank (i.e., Zelle, check, etc.). We can accept money via Square but do not use Square to reimburse people.
      4. Cody then approves the request and Shane disburses the funds.
2. Fund Raising, Board Member Nate Hecker
   1. Chili Cook Off.
      1. Vice-President Andrea Fowler said we need to begin figuring out the size of cups to use to taste the chili.
      2. We are charging $15.00 to taste and $25.00 to enter chili. Looking at prizes for first, second and third place.
      3. First place receives $100.00, second prize receives $75.00 and third place receives $50.00. The first place may win an apron. Also considering ribbons for the placeholders. Thinking of asking Board Member Susie D’Mello to make ribbons. Andrea is unsure if Board Member Ileen Gallegos contacted Susie concerning the making of ribbons.
      4. President Cody Bair says the 2024 Chili Cookoff is being held at the Broadway Shot Sport, 4011 S Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113. The event is from 1700 to 2000 MT. The date is 24 February 2024.
      5. The committee is considering conducting another auction. Items are needed to auction. Cody will send an email for members of Mile High to look for items to auction. Please consider donating an experience, such as Shooting with Alex, asking a local business to donate items, or donate items yourself. Reach out to Cody if you need ideas.
      6. Andrea reports the committee is considering doing Jell-O shots again. The Mile High Chapter made almost $100.00 last year from the Jell-O shots.
      7. The committee will work with the Broadway Shot Spot to determine if they can have a specialty drink for us that goes with chili.
      8. Voting for the best chili will occur with a “pepper” ticket placed into a Ziplock bag with the corresponding number for the chili entry. Rethinking of how to handle the voting stations this year. They may be up front this year rather than with those who have chili.
3. Membership, Vice-President Andrea Fowler and Board Member Ileen Gallegos
   1. We discussed voting in David Dunphy. David paid his dues during the State Convention. Vice-President Andrea Fowler asked if anyone reached out to David asking him to attend. Yes. Someone reached out to David. See New Business below for the acceptance of David’s membership.
4. White Cane and Slate and Stylus List Phone Calls, Audrey Marquez
   1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn is also the NFBCO Secretary. He has access to the NFB Membership Database for the State of Colorado. He reviewed the NFBCO Mile High membership. Gary says the following are not the NFBCO list and could be with other state affiliates and he will reach out to them individually:
      1. Vaughn Beck
      2. David Dunphy
      3. Bishoy Fargalla
      4. Andrea Fowler
      5. Shane Howard
      6. Audrey Marquez
      7. Zack Parks
      8. Elizabeth Sprecher
   2. Andrey Marquez made calls on the White Cane and Slate and Stylus Lists. Audrey left messages and will continue working the lists. She removed a couple individuals off the list since the numbers are incorrect. President Cody Bair believes he sent Audrey another list; Audrey will check since she does not recall receiving an updated list. Cody said there is a list from last week he will send after the meeting.
5. Potential Future Meet Ups
   1. The Mile High Chapter discussed having a meetup. This did not work out in November and December due to the Holidays. The feeling of President Cody Bair is to wait until after the Chili Cook and hold a meetup in March and April 2024. Everyone agrees with waiting for a meetup.
6. Recap of Holiday Party
   1. President Cody Bair asked if people had any comments concerning the Holiday Party.
   2. Secretary Gary Van Dorn feels the Holiday Party was very successful. The only disadvantage he thinks was the inability to visit with people due to the way the restaurant was setup. We were at one long table rather than a separate room or tables. Cody agrees since it would have been fun to visit. Nobody knew who was there. There is a suggestion to have more smaller tables than one long table. It was difficult getting out if you sat along the wall.
   3. A private space is suggested for next year and begin working on this earlier rather than later.
   4. The Wild West Chapter and Merchants Division began planning their Holiday event after National Convention.
   5. Other than that, everything went well. It did not take much to plan. People showed up and the Holiday Party was on a weeknight.
   6. Treasurer Shane Clark noted it was fantastic NFBCO President Jessica Beecham came to the event.
7. 2024 Goals
   1. Board Member Susie D’Mello asked who won the proposals at the NFBCO State Convention. WE DID!!! The truth is the Convention accepted the proposals of the Mile High, Wild West and Denver Chapters.
   2. Secretary Gary Van Dorn said the NFBCO Board met unofficially at Convention since the three proposals were so good.
   3. President Cody Bair and Gary have the concept that the Chapters will work on our individual concepts. The ideas are in the NFBCO Convention Minutes for the Board Meeting.
   4. Reports will be given during NFBCO Board Meetings.
   5. The Mile High Chapter decided to reach out to our Veterans at the VA.
      1. Cody asked the Chapter for our timing. Treasurer Shane Clark feels summer would be good and Susie echoed Shane. Vice-President Andrea Fowler feels summer is also best since more individuals are at the VA.
      2. We need to request a space to set up a table. Andrea saw several nonprofits at the VA selling their wares and speaking with Veterans. Andrea does not feel it is too difficult to have a space for a table. We can have a table with our banner, give our Veterans something to eat and drink and talk about the NFB.
      3. Cody suggests having the Braille alphabet cards and Brailling their names.
      4. Board Member Nate Hecker asked if we are also having a seminar. Andrea feels we should have a table first to obtain a list of those interested. Cody feels there are two pieces to this idea. The table first and the seminar second. Talk to people about the seminar as they come up to the table.
      5. Nate asked if we can have a meetup at a VFW. Gary feels this is a good idea and others feel the same. Audrea reminded us that the event needs to be open to all since not all veterans served in foreign wars. The VFW needs to accept nonmembers.
      6. People coming to the VA come from surrounding states. Andrea will be there Friday and determine how to schedule a table. She will also locate the ophiology department and talk to them.
      7. Shane asked if the table and seminar would be done the same day. No. Andrea feels we should have the table one day and the seminar a separate day.
      8. Andrea reports the VA has an auditorium. We would need to recruit and write flyers to advertise the seminar.
      9. Nate asked if there is a low vision or rehabilitation department. Andrea will ask her father since he is aware of what is happening there.
      10. Nate says we would need to market this for a while before holding the seminar. It would not take much effort to run a table.
      11. Cody has a list of seminar topics he would like to cover although he feels others may have other ideas. Shane suggests cane skills and Braille. Cody feels having a committee would be a good idea to spearhead this idea. Gary said we already have a committee; Cody said the committee was mostly for the proposal. Cody is fine if those individuals which would like to remain. The committee is comprised of:
          1. Vice-President Andrea Fowler, Chair
          2. Board Member Susie D’Mello
          3. Monique Melton
          4. Delfina Rodriguez
          5. Board Member Ileen Gallegos
          6. Kevan Worley
8. State Report
   1. Lisa Bonderson has no recent updates from the NFBCO.
   2. President Cody Bair mentioned that the State Leadership Team met at CCB to lay out the priorities of the NFBCO. The meeting occurred from 5 to 6 January 2024.
      1. A significant topic for discussion is fundraising. The Six Dot Dash was being planned for 8 June 2024; however, the committee ran into some issues with the City of Littleton to close the streets that day. The plan is to move the S/ix Dot Dash a week earlier to 1 June 2024. The NFBCO received written approval from the South Suburban and verbal approval from the City of Littleton for 1 June 2024.
      2. Other ideas for fundraising are on the table. The NFBCO is working to obtain the appropriate permissions from the State of Colorado to hold the Colorado Springs Raffle. The NFBCO is planning to sell 300 tickets for $50.00 each. The winner includes a weekend package valued between $2,500.00 and $3,000.00.
      3. Other fundraising ideas are welcome.
   3. A few members from the NFBCO are traveling to Washington, DC to attend the Washington Seminar the last week in January. Cody does not have the list of items being covered on Capitol Hill.
   4. 12 February 2024 is scheduled as the NFBCO Day at the Colorado State Capitol.
      1. Board Member Nate Hecker said no time is official. A “save the date” email was sent.
      2. Cody said we go through the Capitol and visit members of the House and Senate educating them on the legislative priorities for 2024.
      3. Visit Nate Hecker’s vending site in the basement of the State Capitol Building.
      4. Our State Capitol Building is at 200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203.
      5. Delfina Rodriguez mentioned she hears that the NFBCO Day at the Capitol is scheduled for the afternoon.
      6. Nate said they are working to schedule a Zoom call before the event to discuss the material. Nate says the issues we are discussing are;
         1. Accessible prescription (large-print or Braille)
         2. Additional funding for NewsLine®
         3. Additional funding for the deaf-blind SSP so they do not run out of funding again
         4. An interim study group for guide dogs.
      7. Cody said the NewsLine® funding we are requesting is going up from $120,000.00 to $250.000.00 per year. The increased funding would allow the NFBCO to branch out and conduct training on NewsLine® and the products it can be used on such as Braille Displays; the Colorado Talking Book Library does offer Braille Displays through NLS. NewsLine® offers an excellent way to increase membership.
      8. Cody asked if there are question.
      9. David Dunphy asked if one has to register or show up at the Capitol. Cody said they would like to have everyone planning on attending the NFBCO Day at the Capitol to be on the Zoom meeting. Group assignments will be made during the call.
      10. Nate says there are eight teams with two coaches per team. Some individuals will be at the Capitol while other teams will be in the various State office buildings housing the remaining members of the General Assembly.
9. CCB Report
   1. President Cody Bair asked Delfina Rodriguez or Dishon Speers for any updates they wished to share.
   2. Delfina says a great deal has been occurring at the beginning of the year. Several graduations are upcoming and new students are arriving from California, Indiana, and other locations. A scholarship student is arriving from Saudi Arabia. The students are going skiing this Friday.
   3. Dishon reports the Seniors Program is conducting a pilot program called Master Classes. There is a wait list of 30 individuals who wish to join the Seniors Program and the pilot is geared towards helping while they wait. Classes are held Thursdays from 0900 to 1200 on home management, travel, technology, and other subjects. The instructors are Stephanie Paris, Chris Parsons and Dishon. Tomorrow is the second day of these classes. Dishon says Seniors have iPhones and Android phones and they are working with the Seniors to better assist with using them. Mary Mann and Robert Dyson call the Seniors on Friday after the classes to conduct a survey to ascertain how the day went. There are no questions.
10. Transportation Report, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
    1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn gave the transit update after President Cody Bair unexpectantly dropped from Zoom during the above State Report. Gary said fares dropped on RTD from $3.00 for local fares to $2.75 and $10.50 to $10.00 for airport; all zones except for airport were dropped. The RTD MyRide app reflected the decrease.
    2. Kate Williams from RTD District A can no longer fulfill the duties for the remainder of her term due to terminal cancer. Jamie Lewis with CCBC is asking Mayor Johnston to appoint him to complete her term. There are two viable candidates who will run in November for District A. Gary asked if anyone has any issues or question. There are none.
11. Voting Registration, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
    1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn addressed voter registration. The NFBCO does not endorse any candidate for office since the NFBCO has an IRC 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) designation. We encourage our members to register to vote for the party of their choice.
    2. Colorado is lucky that we can electronically caste our ballots. The process allows Coloradians to vote independently from our homes. Denver County is the most experienced entity with electronic voting. One may also vote in Colorado’s sixty-three other counties electronically as well.
    3. The General Election is Tuesday, 4 November 2024. The Primary is Tuesday, 5 March 2024. 25 June 2024 is another primary in which Colordians pick the officers, other than President, for the 4 November 2024 ballot.
    4. Julia Zanon sent an email on 7 January 2024 on Colorado Talk with a link to register to vote. That link is <https://www.coloradosos.gov/voter/pages/pub/home.xhtml>. You may also change your party affiliation and address with this link.
    5. Colorado is one of the few states who electronically votes. We learned our veterans overseas vote electronically. The NFBCO was able to work with the Colorado General Assembly to amend the statute allowing individuals with print disabilities to electronically vote. Gary asked if anyone had questions about voting. The email is an addendum to the minutes. (See Addendum II.) Cody will forward Julia’s email to the Mile High contact List. He also believes the Aurora Chapter of the NFBCO has done something surrounding voter registration.
    6. The Mile High Chapter invited the League of Women Voters in the past to meetings to discuss the ballot.
       1. Gary said the League of Women Voters opposed electronic voting. The issue of electronic voting became partisan recently.
       2. Gary has mixed emotions if they are invited again to speak at Chapter meetings. He said it would not hurt to have the League of Women Voters to attend a Chapter meeting in the future.
       3. Cody feels we should do something around voting. The League of Women Voters presented the ballot issues to us in the past. Members can research online for ourselves.
       4. Mo echoed what the League of Women voters did was to go over the *Blue Book*.
    7. Cody feels we should look at issues highlighting accessible voting such as someone from Denver County. Gary suggests we invite the Denver County Clerk to one of our Chapter meetings. Cody feels inviting the Denver County Clerk since the process is pretty much the same in the remaining Colorado Counties.
       1. Board Member Nate Hecker asked if we could have one of our members show us how to vote online. Gary says getting officials to attend a meeting makes them aware of us; David Dunphy agrees with this.
    8. Vice-President Andrea Fowler asked if there is accessible voting in person. Cody said there is and he had a good experience in the past. Cody mentioned there are individuals who experienced problems in other precincts.
       1. Andrea asked if it would be a good thing to get people in person to vote and make the process stronger. Gary answered how we vote is a personal choice on how people wish to vote either in person or electronically.
       2. Gary mentioned some of the machines are out in the open and the screens are difficult to shut off thus making the voting less private.
    9. Gary said we could ask the Denver County Clerk to attend a meeting to discuss both options. The Chapter agreed.
    10. Cody mentioned that there was a barrier in the beginning with electronic voting since one had to physically print the ballot; this is no longer true.
    11. One can track their ballot through the voter tracking system.
    12. Dishon Spears mentioned the *Blue Book*. He said they talked to the Seniors Group on what issues are on the ballot. Dishon mentioned he noticed one can vote for judges. He researched the judges to determine their views.
    13. There are other resources than the *Blue Book*. Mo mentioned the *Blue Book* is on NewsLine®.
    14. Gary mentioned one of the beauties of the NFB is we have members of divergent political views; we are friends and are able to discuss the issue. Gary does not feel this would occur if we were not blind.
    15. The NFB has long fought for the right of blind people to independently vote since our founding.
    16. Cody feels we can have a guest speaker in September or October where we can secure a guest speaker. We have time to plan out the meeting and perhaps make it an entire meeting. Cody asked if we should do this earlier. We are unsure if Colorado is a primary or a caucus state. Gary said he will reach out prior to our February meeting. David suggested having demonstrations in February from members of the NFBCO so we are ready for the Primary.
12. Meeting Location for 2024.
    1. President Cody Bair asked how people feel about of our meeting structure. He also asked if people wished to meet in person and/or have a hybrid meeting.
       1. Vice-President Andrea Fowler feels in person is best. Secretary Gary Van Dorn feels we should have in person meetings with a hybrid option. Hybrid is meeting in person with Zoom available; the Chapter agrees.
       2. We would need to locate a place with Internet Connection.
       3. Gary feels we should avoid using CCB as a meeting location. Gary feels the nighttime aspect of meeting is appealing.
       4. Unfortunately, meeting in Denver is difficult since locating a free location has proven difficult. We cannot afford $50.00 per meeting.
       5. Dishon feels the hybrid option is best. He likes having the meetings in the evenings so he has the option to tune in to meet his lifestyle.
       6. Delfina Rodriguez feels we should have Zoom or a hybrid option.
       7. Eliza Portugal likes the hybrid option.
       8. Gary says there is a Recreation Room in his condominium. Gary resides at North Pennsylvania Street and East Sixth Avenue. The Recreation Room use to cost $20.00 per event and there was a damage deposit. Gary’s building is on the east bound 6. There could be travel challenges from the 0 due to Speer Boulevard, although many people use Über now days. Cody feels we could do $20.00 per meeting if that is still the rate. WiFi is available from Gary’s home.
       9. Gary’s neighborhood also has abundant restaurants such as Qdoba’s Number 1, Little India, Brother’s BBQ, etc. The restaurants would allow us to meet afterwards as we did when we met at the Commons or Brooks Towers.
       10. Those present came to the consensus to have a hybrid meeting. Cody will also re-contact the Commons on Champa Street across from the Colorado Convention Center LightRail Station.
13. Other Business
    1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn moved to accept the membership of David Dunphy and Treasurer Shane Clark seconded the motion. The Mile High Chapter approved the membership of David Dunphy.
    2. President Cody Bair reminded the Chapter that the NFBCO Scholarship Program for 2024 is about to open. The convention voted to rebrand the NFBCO Scholarship Program as the Scott C. LaBarre Scholarship Program. The Convention further approved extending scholarships to residents of Wyoming. Cody encouraged the students in the Chapter to apply and inform students to apply. We had ten applications last year. The Scott C. LaBarre Scholarship Committee is working with CABS to host a scholarship seminar at CCB on 10 February 2024. The event is from Noon to 1500 where they will have food and presentations on the State and National Scholarship program. The National Scholarship is due 31 March 2024 while the Scott C. LaBarre Scholarship Program application is due 15 April 2024. Other resources will be discussed such as VR and other resources.
    3. David Dunphy has interest in being involved with the Membership Committee. Vice-President Andrea Fowler says David can reach out to her. Andrea says that Audrey Marquez and Board Member Ileen Gallegos are also on the Membership Committee. Gary said that he can provide David’s contact to Andrea.
14. Presidential Release
    1. The Presidential Release was not played.
15. Adjourn
    1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn moved to adjourn the 17 January 2024 meeting of the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO and Treasurer Shane Clark seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1935 MT after approval of the Chapter.
    2. The next meeting of the Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO is scheduled via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848943667?pwd=a0hCYmZSTkNGWG40UGp4YjlKeEdYdz09) on 21 February 2024 from 1800 to 1930 MT.



**Appendix I**

**Mile High Chapter of the NFBCO Constitution**

**Adopted 21 June 2011**

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Mile High Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mile High Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado shall be to advance the general welfare of the blind of the Denver Metro area, of the state of Colorado and of the nation; to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind; to serve as a vehicle for collective action by the blind of the Denver Metro area; to operate as a mechanism through which the blind and interested sighted persons can come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life 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 other action which will improve the overall condition and standard of living of the blind.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section One - Active Members

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

Section Two - Affiliation

Membership in this organization automatically establishes membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado and the National Federation of the Blind.

Section Three - Expulsion

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming to a member of the Federation by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business meeting of this organization. The state convention of this organization may reinstate any person who has been expelled unless such expulsion has been confirmed by the National Convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, in which event the person may not be reinstated except by the National Convention or by the National Board. Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, which may (in its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision.

(NOTE: Articles IV and V deal with the numbers and terms of Officers and Board Members. The number recommended in this document is suggested for an average size chapter. The larger chapters, such as those with more than 100 members, may choose to add a Second Vice President and two additional Board members. On the other hand, small chapters, with 20 members or fewer, may elect to have only a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. One-year terms for Officers and Board Members have been recommended because most chapters follow that practice. There are some chapters which use two-year terms.)

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

There shall be elected annually a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The terms of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected and qualified. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members who are present and voting. Election shall be by voice vote, standing vote, show of hands, or roll call vote unless at least four-fifths of the active members who are present and voting decide that a secret ballot shall be used. 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 from the active members present and voting. The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office. The President, the Vice President, and a majority of the Officers must be blind.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the four (4) constitutional officers and two (2) additional members. The two (2) Board Members shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as that prescribed for the election of officers. The Board shall meet at the call of the President or on written call signed by any three (3) of the Board Members. The Board shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between meetings. At least a majority of the members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business. The Board may be polled by telephone or mail ballot on any questions. A majority of the Board must be blind.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section One - Regular Meetings

This organization shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership. At least a majority of active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section Two - Special Meetings

The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time he/she, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary. At such special meeting at least a majority of active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary.

ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATION

The Mile High Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado, and the National Federation of the Blind and shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado annually, on or before January 1, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. A copy of the Constitution of the Mile High Chapter and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent for review to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado and the National Federation of the Blind without delay.

The Mile High Chapter shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the blind. This organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado and the provisions of the contract appearing on the back 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 Colorado (whether made by the National Convention or the National Board of Directors or the State Convention or the State Board of Directors) are binding on this organization, and this organization shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions. As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or the National Board or the State Convention or State Board) has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate or local chapter. In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization shall belong to the reorganized chapter or if no reorganization occurs for a period of two years, to the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado and the former chapter shall dissolve and cease to exist. The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and this organization, if it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind, (for whatever reason) shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.

ARTICLE IX. DUES

The dues of this organization shall be $5 per year, payable in advance. A life-time membership may be secured for a fee of $100.00. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

ARTICLE X. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President. If the members so vote, the Treasurer shall be bonded. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by an appropriate financial instrument with supporting documentation, issued on written order of the President, and signed by the Treasurer or their authorized designees.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, or if (for whatever reason) it ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado to be held in trust for a reorganized chapter in the area. In the event that no chapter is reorganized in the area for a period of two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado the assets become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of this organization by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at a previous business session and provided it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation received by the state affiliate from the National Federation of the Blind and with the policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado and the National Federation of the Blind.

OFFICIAL PLEDGE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

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.



**Appendix II**

Julia Zanon via Colorado-Talk <colorado-talk@nfbnet.org>[Colorado-Talk] Colorado Voter Registration Info

Greetings all!

This is one of several informational email messages hosted by the Aurora Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado to help you prepare for the 2024 elections. This email covers Colorado election dates and voter registration. Most of this information has been obtained directly from the Colorado Secretary of State website at <https://www.coloradosos.gov/voter/pages/pub/home.xhtml>

This website is screen reader accessible.

The Aurora Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado is offering this information to encourage blind citizens of Colorado to fully participate in our democratic process and choose the leaders who represent us and our ideas.

Election Dates

2024 is a Presidential election year. The General Election will be on Tuesday, November 5. Before then, there will be two primary elections in which Colorado voters pick the candidates who will appear on the November 5 ballot. In Colorado, the Presidential Primary Election is on Tuesday, March 5. This is when Colorado voters will pick which Presidential candidates will be on the November ballot. There will be another primary election on June 25, in which Colorado voters will pick the candidates for offices other than President that will appear on the November 5 ballot.

For all registered voters, Colorado has universal mail in voting, and paper ballots are mailed to registered voters within 22 days of an election. Since paper ballots are not accessible to blind and print-disabled voters, Colorado allows eligible voters to use an accessible electronic ballot. We will cover electronic voting in a follow up email.

Registering to Vote

If you already are a registered voter in Colorado, you can check your status, sign up for ballot trax,find ballot information (Blue Book) and verify information such as your mailing address and party affiliation. This website is accessible for blind people using screen reading technology. The web address is <https://www.coloradosos.gov/voter/pages/pub/olvr/findVoterReg.xhtml>

If you are not yet registered to vote in Colorado, here is what you need to know:

Q: Am I eligible to register to vote?

A: You are eligible to register to vote if you:

* Are a United States citizen
* Are 16 years old, but you must be at least 18 to vote in an election
* Are a Colorado resident for at least 22 days immediately before the election you intend to vote in
* Are not currently serving a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction

Q: How do I register to vote?

A: You may register online at

[www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov)

This website is accessible using screen reading technology. The on-line registration portal requires either a valid Social Security number, a Colorado state issued identification card number or a valid Colorado Driver’s License number. People should not be put off by the CAPTCHA protection which appears on these pages. There is a checkbox which you have to mark indicating you are not a robot. You will not have to listen to an audio CAPTCHA.

Q: What if I have an acceptable alternative form of identification or want to register with a paper application?

A: Printable PDF voter registration forms are available on the Secretary of State's website. These forms are mostly accessible using screen reading technology. Paper forms are also available from the county clerk and recorder's office and any federal post office that provides voter registration applications. You may then mail, fax, or scan and email your complete and signed form to your county clerk and recorder's office.

You can also register to vote in-person. Registering to vote in-person may be done at a physical office, which includes:

* A Colorado Department of Motor Vehicle office when you apply for a driver's license or state ID card;
* Offices that provide public assistance, including offices that provide state funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities. If you are a Colorado DVR participant, your rehabilitation counselor will have voter registration applications and can help you register;
* Any federal, state, or local government office or any nongovernment office that chooses to provide voter registration service or applications; or
* A voter service and polling center.

Q: If I don't have a Colorado driver's license, Colorado ID card, or social security number, may I still register to vote?

A: Yes. An applicant who is qualified to vote in this state but does not have a driver's license, state-issued identification card, or social security number may still register to vote. In such cases, the person may be required to provide an acceptable form of identification. A list of acceptable forms of identification can be found at www.govotecolorado.gov.

Q: How will I know if my registration was processed?

A: If you are registering to vote for the first time in the state of Colorado, your application will be processed within 2 weeks. Approximately 20 days after your county clerk and recorder receives your registration form, you will receive an official information card by mail.

Q: What information will I receive by email?

A: By choosing to receive election information by email, you may receive information about upcoming election activities and other election correspondence by email from your county clerk and recorder. But ballots and some mailings will still be sent by regular mail. Under Colorado law, your email address is protected. It will not be shared with anyone.

Q: Will my information be publicly available?

A: Some of the information you provide on this form is public information as required by law. Your social security number, state identification number, month and day of birth, signature, and email are confidential. You may be eligible to keep more of your voter information private. For details contact your county clerk and recorder.

Q: What if I have more questions? How do I find the location and contact info for my county election office and county clerk/recorder?

A: A list of county election offices and a list of contact information for your county clerk (pdf document) is found at this link:

https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Resources/CountyElectionOffices.html.

You can also find a list with contact information at www.govotecolorado.gov.

You may also contact the Secretary of State's office

Phone: 303-894-2200

Email: [State.ElectionDivision@coloradosos.gov](mailto:State.ElectionDivision@coloradosos.gov)

Go Vote Colorado!

Julia Zanon