



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
KANSAS

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TAP TRACKS

**The Newsletter of the National Federation
of the Blind of Kansas**

Autumn / Winter 2019

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Associate Editors**

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From the President's Desk

Tom Page

Greetings to all Kansas federationists and friends. I am pleased to write to you today to share my excitement about the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas. It has been an action-packed time since my last communication in our spring newsletter. Thanks to all the members and leaders of the Kansas affiliate for making the last few months so special.

I am proud to report that there were over 30 Kansans in attendance at the National convention in Las Vegas. The learning, mobility challenges, fun, and fantastic keynote speech by President Riccobono, will be remembered by all. The number of Kansans record setting! I think we can muster this or even larger a group for our 2020 National Convention in Houston. Check out www.nfb.org/ for more information.

As our numbers in Las Vegas suggest we are growing! I look forward to meeting our new members at our Kansas convention in November. This year we will present a special coin ceremony welcoming our new members to our work and encouraging their active participation in our affiliate. I don't want to spoil the surprise so....

Two of our members have been elected to important roles on state committees impacting the lives of blind Kansans. Congratulations to Mike Malloy on his election to the Chairperson of the State Vendors Committee and to Tom Anderson on his election to the Vice-Chairperson of the Statewide Rehabilitation Council. The work of these and other committed individuals is slowly changing policies that the blind of Kansas have found to be anywhere from ineffective to discriminatory.

There will be much more about all of the directions we are headed in and areas the NFB of Kansas involved in at the convention in Salina this November. Read on to learn more

about our National Representative John Fritz. A registration form is on the last page of this newsletter. Until then Let's all keep working to build the federation!

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Mark Your Calendars

Donna Wood

The National Federation of the Blind of Kansas would like to invite you to this year's state convention being held in Salina, Kansas. We will assemble in convention November 1, 2, and 3, 2019. The location will be The Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center Salina. The address is 3320 S. 9th St. Salina, KS 67401. The telephone number is (785) 309-0440. Room rates are \$109.00 per night. Room reservations will need to be made by Monday October 11, 2019.

You will find a pre-registration form in this newsletter. Pre-registration is only \$5, but if you wait to pay at the door it will be \$10. Lunch on Saturday is \$15 and banquet is \$30. If you are concerned about not having the finances to attend please speak to your chapter President about the availability of a grant to help cover expenses for the weekend.

We will start Friday, November 1st, at 1:00 PM, with a technology seminar. Registration, Hospitality, Vendors, Resolutions and Nominating Committee takes us through Friday evening.

Saturday we will have a full agenda of speakers.

We will have a catered lunch at noon. At our banquet in the evening we will hear a keynote address from our National Representative, John Fritz. You will find his bio later in this newsletter. On Sunday morning we will hold our business meeting. We adjourn around noon. The weekend is always challenging, fulfilling and inspirational. So, pack your bags and join us in Salina.

Here is just a little about the hotel. The Hilton Garden Inn Salina offers an ideal location just off the I-135, the south side of Salina. The state-of-art hotel is the first of its kind in the city. From electronic locks you can control with your phone, to sensor-controlled thermostats which detect body temperature. The hotel has it covered. Relax and refresh in one of the stylish guest rooms. Every room boasts modern amenities including WIFI access, microwave, mini-fridge and an innovative Garden Sleep system registered bed. Enjoy delicious American favorites at the Great American Grill or stock up on snacks from the 24-hour pavilion pantry. The hotel also has a heated indoor pool and a fitness center. Mark your calendars and plan on attending the annual state convention of the NFB of Kansas. See you there!

John Fritz

John Fritz was born in September of 1966. He was raised on a family dairy farm in southwest Wisconsin. He is the oldest of five children. He was lucky enough to have parents who made him learn the value of hard work early on. "We were a farm family, and I was the oldest son. I was expected to help with the chores and work outside with my dad." He was born legally blind but had some sight. This diminished to light perception by the age of three. He believed at an early age that sight was not a requirement to be successful. John attended the Wisconsin School for the Blind from kindergarten through the seventh grade, primarily because the public school didn't believe a blind child could be served in his hometown. In seventh grade he was able to persuade the school counselor to allow him to transfer back to his local public school. He remembers this being a very difficult adjustment. Having lived at the school for the blind for seven years and being away from his siblings, he found it hard to return and take his place again. Everyone had to get to know

each other again. “I realized how much I was missing out on at home,” he said.

John graduated from Fennimore High School with honors in 1985. Before and after school he was responsible for milking cows and helping with general farm work during high school. He earned his letter in wrestling and played trumpet in pep band, marching band, and concert band. His most significant accomplishments came in Future Farmers of America (FFA). He was involved in an extemporaneous-speaking competition, the Creed Speaking Contest; dairy judging; and parliamentary procedure. He placed fourth in the nation in computers in agriculture and achieved the American Farmer Degree. He also served as president of his FFA chapter for two years.

John attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he graduated with honors in 1989 with a major in animal science, emphasizing dairy management, nutrition, and reproduction. He also earned a minor in computer science. While in college he participated in the academic decathlon in agriculture and in seven academic clubs and organizations.

In these years John got his first dose of the low expectations many professionals have for blind students. When he told his Department for Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) counselor that he wanted to be a veterinarian, his counselor informed him that, if he pursued that career, DVR wouldn't fund him. The counselor announced that a blind person wouldn't be able to be a veterinarian. So, John told the DVR counselor to leave. That day he learned quickly that if he wanted to pursue his goals, he needed to find a way to pay for college himself. He found part-time jobs, work-study assignments, and scholarships to pay his way.

“The most significant event of my life occurred the summer of my sophomore year at a national convention when I won a National Federation of the Blind scholarship in Phoenix, Arizona,” John said. This was his first exposure to the NFB. He

was relieved to find peers doing similar things and blind people with the same philosophy. He realized during that convention that he had finally found the biggest and most reliable source of information any blind college student could ever have—other blind people. While attending college, he continued to work on the farm on weekends. College provided him the opportunity to advocate for himself and become a self-sufficient person.

John started working on the family dairy farm right after graduating from college. By this time, he had decided that the dairy farm was the immediate need, and veterinary school would have to wait. He was responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the farm, where he milked sixty-five registered Brown Swiss cows. In 1991 he started working part-time for a local computer store as a computer technician. His main responsibility was repairing computers. The next year he became store manager, where his responsibilities included the day-to-day operation of the store, sales, and service. He left the farm and moved to town. He continued at this job for six years. In 1995 he married Heather Ross. They met during the 1992 NFB convention in Charlotte and started dating after running into each other again during the Dallas convention in 1993. In 1997 he accepted a job with the Louisiana Center for the Blind as the computer instructor. He describes it as a very rewarding experience because it provided the opportunity for him to fully absorb and live the philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind each day. While in Louisiana, John and Heather Fritz started their family. Lindsey was born in 1998, Christina was born in 1999, Mark was sponsored from Korea in 2001, and Andrew was born in 2002.

In 2003 John made the difficult decision to leave his job and friends at the center and return home to Wisconsin with Heather's parents, who had just retired to Wisconsin from California, to begin his own vending business with the Business Enterprise program. This is what he continues to do today. In

2005 the Fritzes adopted their daughter Katie from China at the age of six. In 2006 John and Heather built their dream home for their growing family on fifteen acres in Kendall, Wisconsin. He also built a warehouse for his business, J&H Vending, Inc. John says that he was honored to be elected president of the NFB of Wisconsin in 2006. He has enjoyed working with the affiliate, divisions, and the blind of Wisconsin. In 2008 he was elected to the National Federation of the Blind board of directors. He remains very busy with the state affiliate, along with being a member of Lions Club, the local Ham Radio Club, and various other clubs and organizations. He also likes to do woodworking, grilling, fishing, and hunting large game with his kids.

As busy as he is, and as many activities as he pursues, nothing is more important to John than spending time watching his children grow—all seven of them! Child number six, a four-year-old boy from India they named Jacob, was adopted in May of 2009. The Fritz family has also been joined by a seventeen-year-old daughter named Anna, who was originally adopted from China by another family when she was nine years old, but became part of the Fritz clan in the summer of 2009.

Reflecting on his life and work, John says, “The National Federation of the Blind doesn't prescribe what a blind person should do or even what he or she can do. It merely invites every blind person to dream and work to achieve those dreams. Its members blaze trails for one another and cheer each other along the way.”

2019 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention

Cheryl Miller

Las Vegas, Nevada was home to the 79th National Federation of the Blind annual convention. The 2019 event, held July 7-12, was the second largest convention in the history of the NFB. Three thousand two hundred and eighty-four attendees

gathered at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. We were a diverse bunch walking similar paths toward common goals.

In his Presidential report, Mark A. Riccobono referred to this shared path as our “march to freedom.” He stressed the importance of unity in the building of the Federation, and he extolled the necessity of unity as we grow the movement and influence the world for the betterment of the blind. President Riccobono continued this theme in his banquet address on Friday evening. It was entitled, Choice, Exploration, and Resistance: The Road to Freedom for the Blind.

As always, the exhibit hall bustled as convention goers familiarized themselves with new products and technologies. As conventioners enjoyed hands-on experiences, the room seemed to resound with possibilities and opportunities.

This year the resolutions committee proposed 21 resolutions. The evening before these resolutions were presented for passage, our 33 Kansas delegates met for caucus. It was a great time as we discussed positions, shared perspectives, laughed and devoured pizza.

When the gavel sounded adjournment, I wearily thought to myself, “Well, that’s it. The convention is over.” But the next morning at the airport, after encountering nice people who held gross misconceptions about blindness, I thought a little deeper about that. In that moment, I knew President Riccobono had nailed it. I am, indeed, in a “march to freedom.” Yes, the convention was over, but now it was time to implement its teachings. In the strength that comes from being a part of something bigger, I draw courage. I am not alone. A whole organization of blind people march with me. Their name? Why, the NFB, of course!

Johnson County Chapter Report

Susie Stanzel

The summer has been very busy for our chapter. At our May meeting, Lisa Womac was our speaker. She is the Regional Mobility Contract Officer for the Kansas City area transportation authority. She spoke about the Micro Trans and the other services the agency provides.

In July the following members attended the National convention in Las Vegas: Tom Anderson, Don Mulik, Jodi Mulik, and Susie Stanzel. Don and Jodi as first timers jumped right in. They attended all the required activities as well as working in the Independence market for over four hours on Monday morning.

The annual Walk for Independence was held on August 10, 2019. Five people represented the Johnson County chapter. It is always fun to join the Kansas City, Missouri chapter in this event. We walked in Loose Park. Naturally it had to be one of the hottest and most humid days. A picnic is always held following the walk. The walkers included Tom Anderson, Don Mulik, Jodi Mulik, Randy Phifer, and Susie Stanzel. At this point over \$400 has already been turned in.

We had four children from the Kansas City, Kansas area attend the Braille Challenge in Los Angeles, California this year. Brooke Petro placed first again this year in her age group. Jude Nickson did not place, but he will be back. There were two other children from the Kansas City area who went to the Braille Challenge. They were Audrey Bethay from Prairie Village and Salomee Cumminse from Blue Springs who both placed first.

Jodi Mulic doesn't let any grass grow under her feet while she is at home either. "iCARE" stands for Inclusive Catholic Activities and Religious Experiences. Masses with prayers adapted for people with developmental disabilities are hosted on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at Queen of the

Holy Rosary Church in Overland Park, and at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Topeka. Since July 13, 2019, Jody Orth Mulik, a member of the Johnson County Chapter of the NFB of Kansas, has been translating the Scripture readings for these Masses into Braille.

Our members have also been very busy on our state affiliate level. Tom Anderson has been elected as Vice Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council in December, 2018. Tom was then elected as Vice Chair of the State Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILK) on August 1, 2019. Tom Anderson and Susie Stanzel also serve on the Advisory Board of the Kansas State School for the Blind. At the May meeting John Harding was saying he wanted to know how he could serve children better. Susie Stanzel offered to create a survey which could be sent out. He wanted it by June 21st. The following people assisted Susie in composing the survey: Tom Anderson, Lyn Petro, Margaret Finger and Sharon Luka. The survey follows this article.

Back on the chapter level, we have had several people who have fallen and had injuries. Martha Kelly was with Revelle Lee, who is a blind friend of hers. He is about 92. He fell on her and fractured her back between L3 and L4. She was in rehab for a week and a half and returned to Lakeview Village on Friday, August 17th.

Ashley Neybert was teaching at a science camp in Michigan. She fell getting out of a van and broke her Radius and Tibia on her left side. She is in rehab. We have a new member, Fabian Siffrin. He is a student at Johnson County Community College.

Kansas School for The Blind Parent Survey

How old is your child? 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-17, 18-21

Does he/she perform at grade level? Yes, no, or unsure

If not, why not: Please check all which apply.

School does not engage my child.

My Child does not read Braille at the appropriate grade level.

My child has been taught print, but cannot read it efficiently or read for an extended time.

My child has additional disabilities which hinder his ability to perform at grade level.

My child is at least one year behind due to health problems.

Services are not available in my area.

What learning mode does your child use? Please check all which apply.

Audio:, yes, no

Braille:, yes, no

Large print: yes, no

Does your VI teacher work with KSSB to achieve the best outcome for your child?

My child does not attend KSSB full time. Has your child been invited to participate in any of the following activities: yes, no

If yes, what activities have you participated in? Please check all which apply.

If no, would you be interested in participating in any of the following activities:

Technology club

Athletic activities

book club

Accessible art

Music

Science fair – STEM activities

Book club

Does your child use his/her white cane throughout the school day? Yes, no

How many hours of training with a white cane does your child receive? Less than 1, 1-3, 4-6, 7-10

Here at KSSB we know we are a state wide school. Please let us know in the space below how we can help your child to become an independent adult.

Young Leawood parishioners take on the Braille Challenge

Posted by Jill Esfeld, JUNE 21, 2019 in Leaven News, Schools, Youth & Young Adult

Jill Ragar Esfeld

LEAWOOD — Brooke Petro is gradually losing her eyesight. A seventh-grader at Church of the Nativity School in Leawood, she understands her future will be filled with challenges. But when asked how she finds the strength to face that future, this beautiful young girl answers with confidence and conviction: “I walk by faith, not by sight.” This verse from the Second Letter to the Corinthians is Brooke’s favorite, and her Catholic faith is her bedrock.

Her mother, Lyn Petro, has learned to type Braille so she can translate Brooke’s schoolbooks, as well as her religious education materials and weekly Mass hymns. “Part of the challenge with [visually impaired] kids is helping them be literate in our faith,” she said. “They should be able to know and love Jesus.” Knowledge is power.

When Brooke was 18 months old, her parents learned she was visually impaired due to a retinal condition and made the decision to have her learn Braille as soon as she started preschool. “We wanted Brooke to be able to choose what she wants to do with her life,” said Lyn. “And the only way she can do that is if she’s literate.”

At this point, Brooke has enough vision to read print. “But it has to be really big and it takes me a very long time,” she said.

“Braille is much faster because I can read it with my hands, and I don’t have to strain my eyes.”

Braille literacy gives the blind a great advantage in life, especially when it comes to education and career opportunities. To promote Braille literacy, the Braille Institute, a nonprofit organization in southern California, developed a national competition for students in first through twelfth grade called the Braille Challenge. Each year, thousands of students compete in preliminary Braille Challenge events throughout the United States and Canada, but only the top 50 are invited to the Braille Challenge in Los Angeles.

Five years ago, Brooke qualified and placed second in the youngest age group. “It was really nerve-racking,” she said. “I remember feeling sick when I was waiting for them to call the names. “But it was a great experience and I knew I wanted to come back.” She did come back, qualifying and placing first in her age group every year since.

Two for the road

This year, another student from the archdiocese will join Brooke at the Braille Challenge. Jude Nickson, a second-grader at Trailwood Elementary in Overland Park and member of Curé of Ars Parish in Leawood, will be competing in his first Braille Challenge. He’ll also be taking his first plane ride. “I’m really actually kind of nervous,” he said. “But I think it’s going to be a good time there.”

Jude is the third of six children. When he was born, the Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired in Kansas City, Missouri, put his parents in touch with the Petro family and they became friends. Like the Petros, the Nicksons wanted their child to learn Braille so he could experience life to the fullest. “So much of what we learn and understand about our world is learned visually,” said Jude’s father, Matt Nickson. “If Jude has the ability to read a book

that paints great pictures through words, he will have a far greater ability to connect with the world around him.”

Braille literacy will also open doors to independence for Jude. “There are some professional paths that are not going to be possible for Jude,” said Matt. “But if he becomes literate through Braille, there are really many routes where he can thrive and be very successful professionally.”

Brooke and Jude, along with two other qualifying students, practice for the Braille Challenge at Alphapointe, a nonprofit in Kansas City, Missouri, that provides rehabilitation services to the visually impaired. At the challenge, both will compete in tests on reading comprehension, spelling and proofreading. Brooke will have additional tests in speed and accuracy and decoding charts and graphs.

Beyond competition, the Braille Challenge is an opportunity for visually impaired children to bond. “We don’t treat each other as competitors,” said Brooke. “We treat each other as friends.”

Strength in faith:

Through the joys and struggles of raising a visually impaired child, both families have found strength in their Catholic faith. “Jude has revealed God’s goodness in a way that’s enlivened our faith and made us ever more trusting in God’s work and in the ways and areas in which God can penetrate your heart,” said Matt. “Curé has been a tremendously compassionate and supportive community,” he added. “We thought this before Jude was born, but have certainly felt the arms of the community since Jude has been a part of our family.”

After Brooke was diagnosed, Lyn naturally questioned why this happened to her child. “But as we’ve gone along on our journey with Brooke,” she said, “it’s made me realize I’m very thankful for my faith. “There are some tough moments when you have a visually impaired child and I can rely on my faith then. And I

also can teach my child there will be rough moments in life, but God is always with you.”

The lesson has been well learned.

“When I’m having a rough time, I’ll go home and pray,” said Brooke. “It helps me get through a lot of challenges.” There is a saying within the blind community that speaks volumes: “Love is a color only the blind can see.” Every day, Brooke and Jude have to trust others to support and include them.

When asked how he wants sighted kids to treat him, Jude said simply, “Just ask me to play with you.” That’s at the core of an important lesson God is allowing Brooke and Jude to teach. “In the areas of compassion and service to others,” said Brooke’s mother, “kids realize that just because this person has a disability doesn’t mean we can’t be friends. “Those are the areas where I think Brooke and Jude are opening the eyes of others.”

In Communities of Faith Division Update

Tom Anderson

Over the last few months, the NFB Of Kansas In Communities of Faith has had several speakers share their faith. In March, Kathy Davis and Marilyn Baldwin, co-leaders of the communities of faith committee of the NFB of Florida spoke with us about themselves and their faith in Christ.

In April, Sharon Luka, Secretary of the NFB of Kansas informed us how she has grown in her faith, overcoming challenges along the way. In May, Joe Triplet, a leader in the NFB of Colorado spoke about his work assisting in church building with a Bible church in the Denver area as well as his work with an organization called Wheels For The World which distributes wheelchairs to disabled persons in developing countries.

In June, Lillia Asadullina, who came to the United States from Russia in order to receive treatments for cancer when she was very young. The cancer caused her blindness. It reoccurred again when she was a teenager and her health was restored through her faith and that of her mother. She lives in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

We did not have a meeting in July. In August, Donna Wood, Second Vice-President of our state affiliate shared about her faith that she received as a child and the challenges she has faced and overcome.

Three members of our Kansas division attended the meeting of the NFB In Communities of Faith at our national convention in Las Vegas. I was re-elected as president of our national division.

First Time at National Convention

Alison Roets

My name is Alison and I attended National Convention for the first time this year. As the person who manages the NFB of Kansas social media, attending NFB2019 was a great opportunity for me. I was lucky to receive funding from the NFB of Kansas to help pay for my hotel and flight.

I tried to attend as many sessions as possible, but Vegas can be a little distracting and disorienting. I was excited about the braille book fair but was unable to attend because I lost track of time exploring. Other than the board meeting and general sessions I attended yoga, one touch self-defense, the crafter's market and the communication committee meeting.

The communication committee gave me tips on how to make social media more accessible, how to practically live stream, and how to cater to every age group in my affiliate. These tips will also help me in my career after I graduate from Wichita State University this coming May.

The techniques I learned in the one touch self-defense session make me feel more confident walking around campus and my neighborhood by myself. At the crafter's market I purchased an essential oil that relieves stress. I was amazed by all the stuff being sold. It was inspiring to me to see all the different things people with sight loss can create. The yoga session gave me the confidence to walk into a yoga class on campus or at the YMCA without having to worry about not knowing if I am doing a pose right or wrong and feeling judged.

Although the general sessions weren't all high energy, I still learned a lot about the different things happening around the country with affiliates other than mine. President Riccobono's speeches were all inspiring and made me feel more passionate about the Federation and what it is doing for blind people.

I was a little overwhelmed by the lights, sounds and crowds of Vegas. The prices were also more than I expected. I am looking forward to attending NFB2020 in Houston, Texas because it should be less hectic and somewhat cheaper. I am sure I will learn just as much if not more than I learned this year as a first timer, but I'm glad my first convention was in fabulous Las Vegas with the more than hospitable Nevada affiliate.

Jayhawk Chapter News

Rob Tabor

I begin this chapter update with some sad news. On January 21, 2019 Jim Canaday passed away at LMH Health, formerly Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The cause of death was an apparent heart attack. Jim was 59. Though Jim was not a member of the Jayhawk chapter at the time of his death, he is recognized as the charter president of the Jayhawk chapter, which was then called the Douglas County Chapter. Lynda Anders is a member who was married to Jim for 24 years but was estranged about a year prior to his passing. Most of the

chapter members attended Jim's funeral on Sunday, January 27, as an expression of support for Lynda.

We lost another member of the Federation family when Pat Slick passed away in late April. Pat had been a member of the Jayhawk chapter for about 5 years and had attended 2 or 3 state conventions. He succumbed to pancreatic cancer at the age of 71, and his illness came as a total shock to our membership.

According to Rumsey Yoast Funeral Home, a memorial service was to take place over the summer. As of this writing I have no knowledge as to whether the service ever took place or if it is in the planning stage.

On a much happier note, we conducted our fifth annual NCAA men's basketball tournament pool fundraiser. Though we did not raise as much money as in some past events, we always have fun tracking points and standings among pool participants. Also, in the fundraising department, we are making preparations for our second trivia night event at Conroy's Pub in Lawrence on the evening of Saturday, October 12. We raised \$400 at our first historic trivia night last year and we hope to do even better this year.

At the 2019 Washington Seminar we were represented very ably by our vice president, Renee Morgan. Renee's report to the chapter demonstrated a marked increase in her self confidence in presenting our legislative priorities to Congress members and staff.

On June 9, Lynda Anders and Tamara Kearney co-hosted a chapter pot luck social gathering in the party room at Wyndham Place Apartments in Lawrence. In addition to most of our chapter members, we were joined by other members of the Lawrence disability community with some 40 in attendance. We were graced with some jazz tunes played by Luther Fuller on acoustic piano, and Lynda sang a couple of arias she had learned in her career as an opera singer.

Finally, among the 33 Kansas delegates to the 2019 NFB national convention in Las Vegas, a record of 6 chapter members and some family members attended the convention including Dustin Disque, Luther Fuller, Brendy Latare, Cheryl and Ron Miller, and Rob Tabor.

The Jayhawk chapter meets on the second Monday of the month from 4pm to 6pm at Conroy's Pub, 3115 West 6th Street, Suite D, in Lawrence. Our leadership team consists of Rob Tabor, president, Renee Morgan, vice president, Tamara Kearney, secretary, and Brendy Latare, treasurer. As of this writing, we plan to conduct our election of officers for 2019-20 this fall before state convention.

News Flashes from the North-Central chapter of Kansas NFB

Rosa Bonnacarrere and Margaret Finger

Our chapter made a showing at the blind children's Easter egg hunt on April 20, 2019. While there was a poor showing of blind children, the weather was nice and we were able to introduce ourselves and the mission of NFB to many people. Some of us even hunted for the beeping eggs just for fun!

Six of our members participated in the Smokey Hill River Musical Festival Fun Run on June 15, 2019. We participated in the 2-mile walk. People at the finish line were cheering us on. While we did not break any records, it was good for us and exposure of NFB. The participants were: Michael Coone, Margaret Finger, Rosa Bonnacarrere, Brian Bonnacarrere, Sharon Luka, and Tom Basgall.

Five of our members attended the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Mandalay Bay resort. Those who attended were: Ruth Hindman, Anna Hindman, Tom Basgall, Michael Coone and Margaret Finger. Anna and Ruth were the "bells of the ball" even seen hob knobbing in the hospitality room. A fun time was had by all. There were many learning,

networking and socialization opportunities. Anil Lewis has learned that Michael and I are his major fans!

Chik-fil-A in Salina is providing our chapter a fund-raising evening on September 9th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They will be donating a percentage of their proceeds of the evening. They are located at: 2245 S. 9th St. If you live near or in Salina, come out and join us. If you happen to be coming through or visiting, come out and join us.

Finally, it will be our chapter hosting the next annual state convention on November 1st to 3rd. This will be our first time to do this, so please be patient and give us guidance!

Seniors Division Update

Dianne Hemphill

The NFB of Kansas Senior's Division looks forward to our upcoming annual state convention. The Division will hold its annual business/election meeting during a luncheon, Saturday, November 2nd, Salina, Kansas.

This immediate past year has been successful in several ways. Monthly conference calls to support and promote independent living by sharing and encouraging the skills used by the successful blind. With this in mind, the NFB Board of Director's approved \$5,000. to be used for short term training opportunities sponsored by the NFB. There is an upcoming opportunity for senior's during the week of September 15-21, 2019, in Rocky Bottom, South Carolina. Applicants will be screened by Ruth Sagar, National Division president. Both Tom and Linda Anderson were among the trainers last year and will do so again this fall. The Anderson's have been long time, active members of the NFB and now live in Kansas after working for the NFB Colorado Center for the Blind located in Littleton, Colorado.

Other important topics of discussion during this past year included, all things training and important for the blind senior. One of last falls Rocky Bottom training participants shared her experience with us; Vice-president of the NFB for Community Services talked to us about how she and others with blindness and/or low vision participate in their community. ; On-line banking and other approaches for money management, was covered by a panel of blind seniors; and, how to avoid on-line and telephone fraud, was a hot topic.

Five of our division senior's traveled to Las Vegas to attend and participate in the many national convention activities. Each of the volunteered in some capacity, including; work in the exhibit room for the Independent Market; volunteering time at the News Line room; and, leading the entire convention in the morning opening convention prayer. Our Kansas seniors are Awesome!

...and, we hope you will join us to "live the life we want".

South Central Chapter

Emily Schlenker

The South Central chapter of the NFB of Kansas had a productive year. We have held our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at the Envision building on South Water street, and the facility has a comfortable board room and attached kitchen, which contributes to a relaxed and homelike atmosphere. It has become a tradition to enjoy food and beverages provided by various chapter members, some of whom are very good cooks treating everyone to such comforting favorites as enchiladas and lasagna.

As a direct result of holding our meetings at Envision, we have gained several new members whose energy and outreach has brought about our highest attendance at a national convention ever. There were 37 Kansans registered in Las

Vegas, and we all enjoyed a pizza party and informative discussion about the resolutions presented at this year's general sessions. It was a joy to share the work of the federation with so many new people, and getting to do it in Las Vegas definitely made the 2019 convention one of the best yet. One of the highlights of this year's convention was the Las Vegas wedding of Andrea Travis, one of our more recent members, to Greg Edgerton. We wish them the best.

Thanks to some of our new members, the chapter has hoisted local leadership in the Teamsters, city officials, and staff from the Independent Living Resource Center, and we have made new connections in our work to improve public transportation and quality of city life for the local blind community.

We have had two successful fund-raising events this year. Last December, we gathered with our friends and family at Longhorn Steakhouse, and in June, we had a meal at Noodles and Company. We have also used social media to raise money with birthday fund-raisers. Supporting the work of the federation does not get much easier than going out to eat or getting on facebook!

Let's have another state convention and another great year of building the South Central Chapter!

**Registration for the NFB of Kansas
51st Annual State Convention**

November 1-3, 2019 Hilton Garden Inn Salina,

Please send registration form and payment to Robert Fuller at 1120 Randall Rd. Lawrence, KS 66049 or PayPal to treasurer@nfbks.org and go to the Friends and Family button. Please make checks payable to the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas.

If you are registering multiple attendees, please include all names of those you are registering.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Pre-registration: \$5.00 ____ = _____ Registration at
the door: \$10.00

Luncheon: \$15.00 ___=_____ Banquet: \$30.00

___=_____ Vegetarian Meal? #_____

The convention will be held at Hilton Garden Inn and
Convention Center Salina

At 3320 S. 9th St., Salina, KS 67401 telephone (785)

309-0440. Room rates are \$109 per night. Please
come and join our 51st annual convention!

Live the Life You Want!