

**TAP TRACKS**

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

**Autumn / Winter 2022**

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Please submit materials for the Spring / Summer 2023 issue of TAP TRACKS by February 15th 2023 to:

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**From the President**

**-- Tom Page**

Greetings Kansas federation family and friends! It is my pleasure to reach out to you today. As I prepared to write this short article, I thought about the struggles of blind Kansans that have been shared with me though out the last year. Blind people are engaging with the mainstream every day. In education, work, at church, and in all areas of commerce and recreation. I must report that many of our family have encountered personal and systemic barriers to success. Why is it that in 2022 (some 82 years after the founding of our organization, the world is not more prepared to meet us as peers? There have certainly been improvements in many areas of access but it seems that where it is most important, we are often still diminished as participants, dismissed as ineffective, or outright discriminated against and barred from certain aspects of societal engagement. I know that the average blind Kansan has much to offer to our greater world. I also feel the energy of those blind persons who refuse to be side-lined and continue our efforts to achieve integration and enfranchisement for all blind persons.

The National Federation of the Blind of Kansas has been actively pursuing our agenda of strengthening security, equality, and opportunity, for the blind of Kansas. To this end we have participated in national lobbying efforts through our Washington Seminar and continuing efforts coordinated by our national governmental affairs office. We had 14 members in attendance at our national convention in New Orleans. Those in attendance enjoyed the food and fun in NOLA and also learned much from the various seminars and presentations at the convention. I look forward to the ways our members will bring home this education. We were honored to have in our midst Ms. Emily Schlenker who was awarded a 2022 national scholarship. Unfortunately, half of our delegates contracted COVID-19, however we have all recovered and I think that the good parts of the convention outweighed the infection.

Here at home we have much to celebrate! Perhaps the most exciting announcement I have is that after years of planning and action we have brought our parents rights bill into law in the state of Kansas. Several of our members who were leaders of this effort were able to be present in Topeka on June 8th to attend a ceremonial signing of the bill by Governor Laura Kelly.



Photo of NFB members (from left to right: \_ Rob Tabor, Sharon Luka, Susie Stanzel, Tom Anderson, Kansas Senator Mary Ware, Tom Page (and front), Gov. Laura Kelly

The passage of the parent’s rights bill is an accomplishment we can all be proud of!

We continue our advocacy on various state and local advisory committees. Through these committees and our direct lobbying, we hope to influence several issues of importance to blind Kansans in the coming time. These include:

Strengthening braille education

Funding NFB-Newsline in Kansas

Bringing accessibility to early balloting in Kansas

Eliminating the use of special wage certificates in our state

We can do these things together if we persevere in our individual commitments to improving our own lives and the lives of other blind Kansans. Please join us in November in Salina where we will gather for our 55th annual convention!

[ed. Read on for more on the event and check the last sheet of this mailing for this year’s registration form].

**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 4, 5, and 6, 2022. 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 17, 2022.

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 $40. 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 4th, at 1:00 PM, with an ABC’s of the NFB 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, Kevan Worley. You will find his bio later in this newsletter. Then 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 and 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.

So, mark your calendars and plan on attending the annual state convention of the NFB of Kansas. See you there!

**The Ties That Bind**

**-- Kevan Worley**

Kevan Worley lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is a past president of the National Association of Blind Merchants and has held many other federation titles. In his story, "The Ties That Bind," Kevan shares with us a vivid picture of the loving family environment in which he grew up. We come to see, however, that something more than the richness of his family's

love was needed. He found that something in the National Federation of the Blind. Here is Kevan's story:

It's funny the things you remember from your childhood. Sitting in my office comparing long-distance rates, I found myself daydreaming about a family trip we took when I was five or six. We were always on some sort of adventure, vacation, outing, or transfer. My father, Sergeant Jim Worley, was transferred every year or two, and no matter where we were, he made sure we saw the sights: Arizona to France, Kansas to Germany. This particular trip was to South Bend, Indiana, to visit my father's parents--loving people, who adopted him from an orphanage when he was five. They were members of the same Protestant denomination as my mother's family, and both sets of parents raised their children with a strong sense of family and church. If there were relatives within three hundred miles, there was no way we would miss seeing them.

My mom and dad met at a church camp when they were in their late teens. They married not long after high school graduation. My dad then joined the army and was sent to Bad Kreuznach, Germany, where I was born in 1956. My mother endured sixteen hours of labor in a hospital far from any family except her husband. When I finally entered the world after a difficult delivery, I was totally blind. But that is the start of another, longer story.

This story is about a daydream and the way memories tie your life together and make you whole. We were traveling from Ft. Hachuca, Arizona, to Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, when Dad decided to detour to South Bend to see his parents. The detour itself

meant little to me. What was important was the new suits my brother and I were wearing and the chance for others to see us in them. My parents had bought them for us to wear to church, but these were no ordinary church suits. These were western outfits, complete with bolo ties. The bolo string ties were the neatest things my little hands had ever seen. I was fascinated by the metal-feeling tips and the way the round turquoise bolo moved up and down like a pulley. Better yet was the way my relatives would ooh and aah over my appearance. I was stylin'. But perhaps the coolest part of all was that I could put the tie on myself. The knots on my father's ties remained a mystery to me despite my best efforts, but the bolo tie was mine to put on or remove as I wished.

It's funny the things you remember--the way memories seem tied to one another, connecting people and events in ways you never quite expect. Years after I had outgrown the western suit, while I was attending fourth grade at the Illinois residential school for the blind, my grandfather on my mother's side passed away. He had been a wonderful man, and I was very sad.

The social worker called me to his office to give me the news. He kindly explained that Mrs. Bishop, my favorite housemother, had packed my suit and would take me to the bus station. I would catch a bus to Lincoln, where my relatives would meet me and take me to the funeral the next day. My ears perked up at the mention of my relatives, because I knew I would get to stay at my Aunt Betty's house. I was very sad, but fourth graders have their priorities, and my Aunt Betty made the best French toast of anyone in the world. The next morning, after ten slices of French toast, I had to put on my suit and prepare for the funeral. Well, somehow Mrs. Bishop had found and packed a regular long men's tie, not a clip-on tie. I was confused. I wanted to look nice for the funeral to make my mom and grandma proud of me, but I didn't know how to tie a tie. I was all mixed up and embarrassed, fumbling with this long tie and thinking of my grandpa and how much I would miss him.

When I was four, he and my grandma had driven me from their home in Ottawa, Illinois, to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. They were hoping the great doctors at that world-famous clinic could restore my sight. I don't think I cared very much about being able to see. What I remember was the trip in my grandpa's Nash, wrestling with him at the motel every night before bedtime, and his buying me a cup of coffee. My grandma said, "Don't you give my Kevie-Dale coffee! It will stunt his growth!"

My grandpa was a union man, a shop steward at Libby Owens Ford. He got up very early to go to work at the factory. When I was visiting them, he would leave me something to find in his lunch pail when he came home from work. Then we would watch "Highway Patrol" or "Wagon Train" together.

When I was very little, about three, he took me by the hand to run around the backyard. While we were running, I stepped on a bee. I've heard family stories that he felt terrible about it. I always figured it was all right to feel a little bad about your grandson stepping on a bee. After all, it was a painful experience. But I learned that he was upset because I was a little blind boy, and he thought he should have been more cautious with me.

Knowing that hurt, because I wouldn't have wanted him to be any more cautious. Roughhousing with Grandpa was when I forgot about caution and lost myself in the fun of being alive. Those were the times I was free to be fearless and unrestrained and full of laughter. Caution was something I experienced from most of the adults in my life, but with Grandpa I could just be a playful little boy.

My Aunt Betty eventually found me a clip-on tie. After she handed it to me, she mumbled, "That school! Why would they send a blind kid home with a regular tie?" I remember thinking that a clip-on tie was good enough for a nine-year-old, and I wanted to mumble back, "Why don't you let me cut my own French toast? They do at school."

It's funny the way one recollection leads to another as I sit here daydreaming. In high school I once got my father to show me how to tie a tie. Now my dad, the gung-ho first sergeant that he was, truly believed that I should be able to do anything and that blindness should not stop me. This time, however, his impatience or mine kept the lesson from going very far. I took the tie he tied, pulled the knot down, and kept it tied all the time. Eventually the

knot became grungy looking and crooked, but it served my purpose.

Teenage sons and their fathers have peculiar relationships, so I never asked him to show me again. I realize now he would gladly have taken the time. I guess I always thought there was a huge gulf between my dad and me--the two-tour Vietnam soldier and his war-moratorium son. It's a funny thing though; Dad flew out to see me wrestle many times.

Once during my freshman year of high school, he was in transit to a new duty station and popped in to visit me at the school for the blind. We went to see Alice's Restaurant, the Arlo Guthrie anti-draft film. He said he liked it and even laughed in a couple of places, but I doubt he really liked it very much. In fact, I'm not sure that I would think much of it now, thirty years later. Maybe I should have spent that time with him learning to tie a tie.

No, that would not have been cool. As a young man I sometimes found myself all tied up inside, masking my deficiencies by acting cool. I had difficulty untangling my high expectations from the lower ones set by family, friends, and teachers. I don't know how much of that confusion was part of growing up blind and how much was normal teenage angst.

Many years later, after I found the National Federation of the Blind and attended one of our great training centers to untangle those insecurities, I had a conversation with Dr. Marc Maurer in his office at the National Center for the Blind in Baltimore. He mentioned that he wore a necktie to school every day when he attended Notre Dame University. By the time of this conversation, I had found some success as a businessman and community activist, but even so I remember thinking, "You wore a tie in

the early seventies, every day at college? What a nerd!" But then I caught myself and thought, "No, what strength of character. What sense of self not to be distracted by a false need to impress, to cover up, to fit in." Maybe that's why Dr. Maurer was the president of the largest, most dynamic organization of blind people in the world. Perhaps that is why he became a successful lawyer and why he is well known as a teacher, advocate, and role model. While some of that strength of character must have come from inside

himself and from his family, I suspect he would give much of the credit to Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, his mentor and teacher. I imagine Dr. Jernigan helped Marc Maurer untangle his doubts about what a blind man could become with brains, drive, pride, and humility. Maybe Dr. Jernigan taught the young Marc Maurer how to tie a tie. I don't know. I've never asked.

I know who finally taught me: Ray McGeorge, a founding member of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado. I met him at the Colorado Center for the Blind, an adjustment-to-blindness training center for adults, founded on Federation philosophy. It was blind people training blind people--the kind of role modeling that has made our NFB training centers so successful at changing lives. Ray's wife Diane, founder of the Colorado Center, reached out and persuaded me to give the center a try. Up until that point I'd bounced around quite a bit--from radio job to rock-and-roll band, from short attempts at college to long stretches of unemployment and occasional part-time telemarketing. It wasn't until I was thirty-two years old that the NFB's Colorado Center gave me the opportunity to confront my failures, my self-doubt, and my lack of understanding about myself as a person who happened to be blind. At the center I learned alternative techniques of living as a blind person. But even more than that, I was made whole by those who, through their example, showed me it was respectable to be blind. They taught me I could have a full, competitive, and happy life if I chose to go after it. Whether I was rock climbing or making a quiche, job shadowing or teaching blind high school students to light a campfire, even cooking a turkey dinner for thirty all by myself, they were there to support me. They built me up when I doubted my ability and got me going again when I faltered. And Ray McGeorge made me tie a tie.

A group of students and I were heading out to the bus stop, talking about the things we wished we had learned as blind children. I casually mentioned wishing I had learned to tie a tie. Ray McGeorge overheard and said, "I can teach you to do that right now." As I hurried away from the center, I told him I would appreciate the lesson. Perhaps we could get together sometime before I graduated. Ray replied slowly, drawing out his words as he always does, "I don't see why we can't get started right now." It was past 4:30 in the afternoon, and I was ready to get back to the apartment. Ray was saying, "I'll see if we can't find a tie around here, and we'll just fix you right up." He's retired now, but at that time he had been a machinist for about thirty-five years. I was sure he must be tired from a hard day at work and certainly he would not be able to find a tie. But as I stepped up to the bus stop on Broadway, I heard Ray's distinct low voice behind me. "Come on, Kevan, this shouldn't take long. Let's get to it."

With busses going by every ten minutes, Ray stood behind me, patiently showing me how to make the knot. He had me do it until I not only got it right but could do it again and again. "We need to do it so you will never forget this time," he said. And then he added, "Maybe someday you will show some other

young man how to tie a tie." It's funny the way the people, events, and lessons of a life fuse to create the person you become. I am now the project manager for M & K Food Service

in Aurora, Colorado. I wear a tie every day. In fact, over the past six or seven years in the food business, I have collected over a hundred food-related ties. I enjoy collecting them, tying them so the knot is just right. It's a matter of pride and self-respect in a simple, very basic way.

It's good to look back and discover that the bonds you've made with others are what tie your life together--bonds like those with my parents and grandparents, and the teachers and house parents at the school for the blind, who did have love and expectations. And I'll never forget Dr. Kenneth Jernigan and Dr. Marc Maurer, who each took a personal interest in me, counseling me and helping me set standards. Of course, there's Diane McGeorge, the dynamic blind lady of my parents' generation who set out to teach us to know and accept ourselves. And then there's Ray McGeorge, who said, "We are going to teach you to tie this tie, no matter how long it takes, and even if you would rather get on the bus."

I find myself thinking of Ray almost every morning as I tie my tie and head out the door for work. Ray reminds me of my grandpa, a man of quiet strength, wit, and patience. Ray was a factory man, too. Not long ago I taught two young boys how to tie a tie before their first job interviews, sharing some of Ray's knowledge and confidence, passing along to others a little of the love, self-esteem, and zest for life the Federation has so generously given to

me.

The NFB, through all of its people, teaches lessons big and small about what blindness is, what it is not, and what it can be. Whether changing society's misconceptions or inspiring a young man through the act of teaching him to tie a tie on a street corner as the next bus rolls by, that's how a family of blind and sighted people work together to share the ties that bind.

**The 2022 Teide Memorial Scholarship**

**-- Tom Page**

Do you know a blind college or trade school student? The National Federation of the Blind of Kansas has awarded scholarships to deserving blind students since the 1980’s. Over the years well over $150,000 have been distributed to scholarship winners!

In 2022 the NFB of Kansas will award up to two $2,500 scholarships to academically meritorious blind college or vocational or technical school students in Kansas! One of these scholarships may be given to a part time student who is employed.

Please distribute this link to anyone you think may be a scholarship candidate.

<https://forms.gle/yHjoMjgvpApQBerG8>

**Johnson-Wyandotte Chapter Update**

**-- Tom Anderson**

At our September, 2021 meeting, we were delighted to have Karly Prinds, the new Director of the Orientation Center at the Iowa Department for The Blind as our guest speaker. A native of Kansas, Karly Prinds is a graduate of the Colorado Center for The Blind. before moving to Iowa, Ms. Prinds taught Daily Living skills at Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. She also taught Daily Living skills at the orientation center in Des Moines before assuming the position as director of the center. This center teaches the structured discovery method instilling a positive attitude in learning by the students at the center. This method of teaching was first implemented by Kenneth Jernigan who was Director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind from 1958 to 1978. Karly is an encourager, eager to motivate her students to excel.

At our October meeting, Tom Anderson spoke about the upcoming State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting which will take place on October 27. the proposed state plan will be reviewed by the council. Don Mulik presented the nominating committee report. Seven members of the chapter participated in the Walk for Independence at Loos Park on October 2.

At our November meeting, Donna Wood spoke with the members about the upcoming state convention in Overland Park. The convention will take place from November 12-14. Our chapter will give $25 as a door prize. Don Mulik, chairman of the nominating committee presented his report. the committee recommended that the following names be placed in nomination: Tom Anderson, President; Randy Phifer, Vice-President; Jody Mulik, Secretary; and Don Mulik, Treasurer. All of the officers were reelected by acclamation.

In December, chapter members gathered at Jack Stacks Barbecue on December 4 to celebrate the birthday of Martha Kelly, a veteran Federationist. Susie Stanzel, Jody Mulik and Don Mulik distributed literature and were present for the magic show at the Masonic lodge as part of the Shea Fundraiser on December 5. Chapter members gathered at O’Neils Pub and Restaurant for the chapter Christmas party on December 10.

At our January meeting Rob Tabor, First Vice-President of our affiliate gave a legislative update. He spoke about the upcoming Washington Seminar which will take place in February. We are working to have four bills addressed by Congress. They are: The Access Technology Affordability Act, The Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act, The transition to Competitive Integrated employment Act and the 21st Century Websites and Applications accessibility Act. He also discussed the Blind Parents Rights Act.

Several chapter members participated in the virtual meetings with congressional staff and members of congress as part of the Washington Seminar. Members of the Johnson-Wyandotte chapter worked diligently to see that the Blind Parents Rights Act passed in the state legislature and participated in the signing ceremony with Governor Laura Kelly. Susie Stanzel and Tom Anderson from our chapter gave verbal testimony at the committee hearings in the state Senate and House. Members of the chapter also wrote to the legislators comprising the committees that addressed this issue. This bill passed unanimously through the committees as well as through the. Legislature as a whole.

Randy Phifer shared his story at our April meeting. Tom Anderson and Susie Stanzel participated in the semiannual Advisory Committee meetings with the State School for the Blind. Tom and Susie also attended the graduation ceremony at the school.

Our chapter participated in the walk-a-thon with the Kansas City Missouri chapter on May 7.

Susie Stanzel, Randy Phifer, and Hazeline Clay, a new member of the chapter attended the National convention in New Orleans. Members of the chapter participated in the Kansas Caucus where the 2022 NFB Resolutions as well as the proposed amendment to the NFB Constitution were discussed. Our chapter contributed to the Jacobus tenBroek Memorial fund, the Jernigan fund, the White cane fund, and the sun fund.

At our August meeting, Tom Anderson read a short story written by a past NFB scholarship winner, Zak Shore entitled A Cup Of Tea. It is our custom to listen to the Presidential releases at each meeting.

We are delighted that Representative Charisse Davis is cosponsoring the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment Act and that Senator Jerry Moran is cosponsoring the Access Technology Affordability Act. Members of the chapter work diligently to urge members of congress to support the proposed bills that the NFB is advancing.

Members of our chapter are looking forward to attending our state convention in Salina Kansas in November.

**Introduction to A Member**

**-- Jody Mulik**

Hello. I am Jody Mulik, current Secretary of the Johnson-Wyandotte County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas.

When I was seven years old, I came down with a very high fever. Doctors performed a number of tests to determine the cause. Eventually, I was diagnosed with optic atrophy (a condition that affects the optic nerve, which carries impulses from the eye to the brain). At that point I was considered legally blind. To this day, there is no effective treatment for optic atrophy.

When I lost my sight, I was attending Blessed Sacrament School in Kansas City, Kansas. The nuns there had no idea how to teach a blind student, so I transferred to the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) in Kansas City, Kansas as a day student. I was a student at the KSSB for four years. When I arrived there, I had fairly good sight. I could read large print, and I even learned how to play the piano. As my sight deteriorated, I needed to learn how to read Braille. But the staff refused to teach me Braille because I had too much sight.

While at the KSSB, mainstreaming came into existence. So, I hoped to return to Blessed Sacrament School to complete my elementary education. However, that school required me to know Braille before it would accept me. My parents found a retired teacher from the KSSB who taught me Braille over a summer. I then re-enrolled at Blessed Sacrament School.

After graduating from Blessed Sacrament School, I attended Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kansas. I graduated from there after four years. Then I attended Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas and received my associate’s degree after two years.

I received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) when I entered the workforce. As a result, my income was limited; so, I never held a full-time job. I worked at the Pizza Hut Call Center in Overland Park, Kansas as a delivery order taker for eight years.

When my mother came down with Alzheimer’s disease, I became her caregiver. Therefore, I didn’t have time for part-time work outside the home. My brother would drive from his home in Kansas City, Kansas and take me to the Alzheimer’s Association office in Prairie Village, Kansas twice each month for support group meetings, and he would stay with Mom while I was at the meetings. It was at those meetings that I met Don Mulik whose wife had a form of dementia. Eventually, Mom required care at St. Luke’s Hospice House in Kansas City, Missouri. I would go there and play her favorite songs on the piano to help brighten her days. After she died, I continued to go to St. Luke’s once a week to play the piano for an hour for the residents and their families. Then I would stay for a bereavement support group meeting. (COVID-19 has eliminated my activities at the hospice house, but I do participate in conference calls with the bereavement support group.)

Don’s wife died in early 2017, and we started dating later that year. As we learned more about each other, we discovered that both of us had attended Blessed Sacrament School and Church. In fact, we knew many of the same people from church. We got married at Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Overland Park, Kansas on October 19, 2018.

There is a group at Queen of the Holy Rosary Church called “iCare” (inclusive Catholic Activities and Religious Experiences) where Don and I volunteer as instructors for mentally challenged children and adults. We also Braille the readings used by other blind people at the iCare Masses.

In closing, I am glad that I joined the Johnson-Wyandotte County Chapter of the NFB of Kansas to help other blind people live the life they want.

**COFFEE COMPANY**

**-- Sharon Luka**

I fretted and stewed while the coffee brewed

As company began to arrive.

How was I to pour for my guests of four

The rich bean which makes table talk thrive?

It was my first party and the talk was hearty

As the coffee concluded its perk.

It was time to pour for my company of four

And I found a way that would work.

The pot was tall and the cups were small

And the company chatted freely.

I lowered the spout to the lip of the cup

And the coffee poured in easily.

I nervously applied a finger guide

While filling each coffee cup.

And throughout the night, to my delight,

No one passed the coffee up!

Some pour by beeper, some pour by sound,

Some pour in cups of light color.

No matter how you pour that cup galore

Relax and enjoy each other!

**News Flash from the North- Central Chapter**

**-- Margaret Finger**

During the spring we continued to meet at the Mckenzie Center across the street from the Salina Public Library. We met in hybrid fashion to make it available to everyone to attend and be comfortable.

During the National Convention, Sharon and Shauna attended portions of the convention via Zoom. Due to a date mix-up, there was a pre-banquet celebration at Martinelli’s and they were there the day before! I was unable to attend due to work, but I heard there was quite the turn out and it was a success!

We usually meet the fourth Wednesday of the month, but as of September, we will be meeting the third Wednesday of the month. The hours of 3 to 4:30 will remain the same. We are continuing to have hybrid participation.

I have been requested to speak at the CWC (Christian Women’s Coalition) at the Salina Country Club. They asked me to speak about National Blindness Awareness Month. I have decided to include a game called Blindness/ Fact or Fiction? They also want me to share what I do as a massage therapist at my job at Blondell’s. I plan to take brochures with some of my business cards, some discount cards, and gifts for those who answer the game questions correctly.

Previous meetings of the CWC have seen our Chapter Members Sharon Luka and Rosa Bonacarre presenting. Rosa was an important part of the group until she moved to Iowa last year.

The North Central Chapter is hosting the NFB State Convention November 4th to 6th at the Hilton Garden Inn here in Salina. On Friday evening, the founding owner of Blondell’s Salon and Day Spa, Shawn McClanahan will join me to provide 15-minute chair massages for $10. Proceeds will go to our chapter fund.

We found a great Band for entertainment after the banquet called the Get Downs. I heard them last year at the Thursday Jam for the Smoky Hill River Festival. They are a real good rock and funk band, and my music teacher, Mary Hendershott, played saxophone with them. They were excited to hear from me.

I am sure that we will have a Christmas party, but where has not been decided as yet.

**NFBKS IN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH DIVISION REPORT**

**-- Tom Anderson**

The NFB of Kansas In Communities Of Faith has been in existence since 2015. At its September 2021 meeting, Tom Anderson, President of the division spoke about how he became a Christian. He also described how he and his wife Linda ministered in churches in the upper Midwest regarding praise and worship. the Andersons appeared on a TV program in Canada entitled It’s A New Day which was aired in the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

In October, we were delighted to hear from Gregory Martin Director of HOPEE Ministries who gave a stirring message about Faith.

Our Division had a breakfast meeting in November at our state convention. Tom Anderson conducted a brief Bible study from Psalm 1. Our division held elections in which all officers were elected by acclamation. The officers are: Tom Anderson, President; Cheryl Miller, Vice-President, and Donna Wood, Secretary/Treasurer.

In February, Nicole Bissett from San Diego spoke about how she came to know the Lord and also spoke about the work of the Holy Spirit. MS. Bissett graduated from the Colorado Center for the Blind in 1993. In March, Long time Federationist Cindy Ray from Iowa shared her testimony and how God was working in her life.

In April, Maureen Pranghoffer from Minnesota shared her testimony. And how God healed her of a severe bone disease through forgiveness.

In may George Gordon from Austin Texas shared his testimony and how he was delivered from the power of darkness by the Lord.

In June, Debra Prost from Virginia spoke about her faith in Christ. She is a member of a Messianic Jewish Congregation.

Our Division has 9 members and we meet on the first Thursday of each Month via conference call.

**SENIOR DIVISION UPDATE**

**-- Dianne Hemphill**

The NFB of Kansas, Senior’s Division continues to focus on meaningful topics at the monthly, 4th Tuesday call in meetings and actively participate in legislative endeavors. This year kicked off with home organization ideas and adjustment to vision loss, as topics.

A number of members actively participated, both in person, in writing and via zoom on legislative matters relevant for blindness independence. There was in-person testimony on the ability of blind parents being able and best caretakers of their children. These “good parents” continue to find their children being taken from them based only on the fact that they are blind or visually impaired.

Many of our senior’s also participated virtually with all Kansas Congressional members on legislation promoting independence for using medical equipment which have only visual access; help with the cost of technology needed by the blind for employment and or education, as well as other critical legislation for fair pay for those working but paid wages below the minimum wage.

Kansas senior’s again, participated in the virtual training opportunity in the fall provided by the NFB national Senior’s Division. Several of our members, once again provide on-going Volunteer instruction to blind seniors wanting to learn Braille.

The NFBKS fall state convention held both in person and virtually, was well attended by seniors. The following members were elected during the annual business luncheon for the NFBKS Senior’s Division: Dianne Hemphill, President; Susie Stansel, Vice President; Tom Anderson, Secretary; Rob Tabor, Treasurer. We hope you will join with us in our support of “living the life we want”. We meet the 4th Tuesday of most months at 7 PM. For dial up numbers, please go to our website at NFBKS.org.

**GETTING OLD**

**-- Pila Mahoney**

I am old.

Some regrets—no obligations,

No need to look young or beautiful.

But yet ... I want people to love me,

For what I am—old.

It's a journey of so-called life,

It is not the end.

But I am old.

I want to be 100 with dignity,

I want to savor every moment of my life,

thank God for the time that He graces me with.

Yes, I am old.

With all my senses and determination

I had time to reflect on my life,

I did all that I was supposed to do,

I think ... yes, I am old.

I am proud of my white hair,

my wrinkled face,

do not want to be an example,

I want to let everyone know that getting old is to be proud of,

It is a trail

The so-called life

it is not the end!

You see, to be born is possibility,

life itself is not guaranteed,

But getting old is a privilege!!

I am not destroying any pages of the book of my life,

Every page was a lesson learned!

No one lived my life,

No one cried my tears!!

Yes, I am old.

**Jayhawk Chapter Report**

**-- Renee Morgan**

I am happy to report that the Jayhawk chapter meets in beautiful Lawrence Kansas. We currently do not have a permanent location for meeting however we are scouting out establishments. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 4pm.

We had a fundraiser at Fuzzy's Taco Shop on August 25th, and we have another fundraiser planned for October 18th at Fuzzy's for Meet the Blind Month.

**South Central Chapter Report**

**-- Emily Schlenker**

The South-Central chapter began 2022 with legislative advocacy with regard to the Blind Parents Bill of Rights which was presented to the Kansas legislature. It ultimately passed and was signed into law thanks to the tireless efforts of Tom Page and many others from around Kansas. We also had several attendees at the National convention in New Orleans including Emily Schlenker who was a national scholarship winner. Best of all, we finally resumed meeting in person at the Envision headquarters at 610 North Main ST on the second Wednesday of the month. Come join us on the second Wednesday at 6PM for snacks, philosophy and fun!

Registration for the NFB of Kansas 54th Annual State Convention

November 4-6, 2022 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):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Luncheon: $0 (sponsored by Nanopac Inc.\_ \_\_\_ Banquet: $40.00 \_\_=\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Meal? #\_\_\_\_\_

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

At3320 S. 9th St., Salina, KS 67401 telephone (785) 309-0440. Room rates are $109 per night. Please come and join our 54th annual convention!

Live The Life You Want!