TAP TRACKS

The Newsletter of the

National Federation of the Blind of Kansas

Spring/Summer 2025

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Associate Editors

Please submit materials for the Autumn/Winter 2025

issue of TAP TRACKS by August 15, 2025 to:

Donna Wood

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From the President,

Tom Page

Federationists and friends,

It has been an action-packed winter for members of the NFB of Kansas. We gathered in Lawrence, KS for our annual convention in November of 2024 and haven’t slowed down since. Whether addressing local issues working with our state legislature or our representatives in Washington D.C. we have had plenty to do. We are continuing to seek a permanent funding source for our NFB-Newsline program. If you aren’t already signed up for Newsline call the Kansas Talking Books Library at: they will help you enroll. You can find mr

In Washington we brought 3 issues as we usually do but transitioned to presenting on programs of importance to blind Americans. These included preserving the protections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Preserving the Office of Civil Rights and the Rehabilitation Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Education as well as the National Library Services programs that serve the blind and others.

The truth is that we are under attack. The heart of the Rehabilitation act is known as section 504. Our state’s Attorney General has joined with other AG’s to file a lawsuit seeking to remove this important protection as unconstitutional. Their claims range from being “surprised” by the 1973 law to an assertion that states should not be subject to anti-discrimination laws when they use federal monies. In this area and many others, the rights that blind and other disabled Americans have enjoyed for a generation.

Many of our own members have benefited from inclusion in federal, and local governments by taking advantage of the civil service protections brought about by this law. The act prohibited discrimination against persons with disabilities by the federal government or other state and local entities with receive federal funds. This allowed a generation of talented employees to work and prosper with the same job protections and opportunities as their sighted peers.

We have not sought this or other fights. We will however, continue to educate, legislate, and litigate as needed to protect our rights to live in the world and to seek equality, security, and opportunity. “We know who we are and we will never go back”.

We have an upcoming National Convention where we will continue organizing to create a world where we experience equity and justice. The convention will take place in New Orleans, LA between July 8 and 13. I am including the link below.

[National Convention | National Federation of the Blind (nfb.org)](https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention)

Even as we gather in NOLA, we are continuing to plan for our annual state convention which will be in Wichita this fall. Although we face significant challenges, we will draw upon all we have learned and are to bring about the changes we feel are necessary. Please join with your local chapter, join us at convention, and be a part of the solution!

Growing Together in The Blind Movement

--Lauren Bush

Hello All,

I am Lauren Bush, you might know me, as the person that graduated culinary school. This is my experience at this year’s Kansas state convention.

This year's convention was a joyous, fun and a good time all around. I enjoyed all the vendors booths and even managed to get myself arrested by our whimsical sheriff, which was a show all in itself. I got to learn a lot from our speakers on Saturday and I am excited to see how we can help the federation all TOGETHER. I was also excited to see the first youth conference and was impressed to see it all come together.

I was invited to speak to the youth about my experience about being a professional Chef which was awesome. I am always so nervous to speak to crowds, but it always works out alright and I am happy to help. All of the hotel staff were fantastic and very helpful. I was able to enjoy a pizza with my friends on Friday night and even though it took a while the staff were still so friendly. The staff also help with the breakfast buffet, which is difficult doing as a blind person. I never know how to carry everything and use my cane at the same time.

The banquet on Saturday night was outstanding. I was so excited to be there. Everybody looked so nice dressed up and I got to relax with all my friends both new and old.

We got to hear from the board and the national representative, Pam Allen, which was awesome. We also got to usher in new members which is always amazing. I always feel renewed at the conventions and hope I can keep finding my place in the federation.

Jayhawk Chapter Update

--Rob Tabor

As with most if not all local chapters here in the beautiful Sunflower State, the new year began with an all online meeting due to exceptionally inclement weather. We decided in this meeting to move both the day and venue of future monthly meetings. Therefore, we now meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Acapulco Mexican Grill located at 1520 Wakarusa Drive on the far west side of Lawrence. However, the live meeting was delayed by yet another bout of snowy weather, so we met via Zoom. We conducted our annual election of officers who are:

President, Susan Tabor; vice president, Cheryl Miller; secretary, Rob Tabor, and treasurer, Luther Fuller.

We heartily and sincerely appreciate Renee Morgan's leadership during the past two years, and we look forward to whatever the newly elected leadership team brings to the table.

As this issue of Tap Tracks goes to print, we are laying the groundwork for a trivia night fundraiser with a targeted range of mid-to-late April. We have enjoyed good success with previous trivia nights, which are popular, a good source of income, and lots of fun. We deeply appreciate the services of Mr. Steve Buckner, in knowledgeable trivia buff, assisted by his score keeper, Mrs. Tammy Buckner, both of whom volunteer their time to help our chapter.

If you live in or near the Lawrence/Douglas County area and are interested in getting involved with the Jayhawk chapter, feel free to contact Susan Tabor via email at souljourner@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (785) 865-9949.

 Memories of Martha Grace Kelly

By Susie Stanzel and Gary Wunder

This article contains Martha's obituary followed by an article written by Jackie Dwyer who was Martha's main care taker. Next you will find just a few memories from Susie Stanzel and Gary Wunder. Susie included a few memories she gleaned from Raymond Peed and Jerry Griggs. We hope you enjoy getting to know Martha.

Martha Grace Kelly, age 90, passed away on November 12, 2024. She was named after her Grandmother Martha Dawes and was born December 8, 1933 in the Dawes family home in Yale, Oklahoma. Her family moved to Kansas at age 4 where she spent the remainder of her life.

She is survived by two daughters and spouses Nancy and Roger Neighbors, Jackie and Mark Dwyer. Her grandchildren Aaron and Lisa Neighbors, Ryan and Ruth Neighbors, Ann Renee Kelly Neighbors, Brenna and Kelly Dwyer. She is also blessed with great-grandchildren Lily, Olive, Rowan, Patrick, Kian and Rosemary Grace. She is also survived by her niece Denise Templeton, nephew Jim Page, many cousins and countless friends.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, Lutie and George Duncan, spouse Lloyd (Jack) Kelly, special friend Revelle Lee, sisters Bernice and Myrtle and niece Ann.

Martha began her education at South Park Elementary School and graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School in 1951. She entered the workforce at an early age, helping her mother with her laundry business, housecleaning, collecting walnuts for 5 cents per bucket, plucking chickens, and babysitting. After the death of her mother, Lutie, in 1949, Martha took on the responsibility of caring for her father and younger sister, Myrtle.

In 1950, Martha met Jack while roller skating. They married in 1951. Martha worked for Sears, where she retrieved orders from the storeroom—though she wasn't quite brave enough to zoom around on roller skates like some of her coworkers. She also worked for Southwestern Bell, Gulf Oil, and finally Missouri National Life Insurance as a claims examiner. But beyond her professional roles, Martha was best known for her selfless devotion to others. She was a tireless caregiver, always putting the needs of those

around her before her own.

Martha's service extended far beyond her family. She was an active member of the Eastern Star for over 50 years, serving as a Star Point Aide. She dedicated more than 70 years to the National Federation of the Blind, earning numerous service awards for her work. She was involved in several community organizations, including Christian Women's Fellowship, the Turner Golden Age Club, Fairbanks Morse Retirees Group, and Shawnee Mission Grief Group.

Her faith was also central to her life. Martha served for decades in

ministry as a teacher, deacon, elder, and Christian Education Chairperson at Budd Park Christian Church, where she was a devoted member for 50 years. For the last 20 years, she volunteered at Hillcrest Christian Church, leading Sunday school classes and the —Keenagers— senior citizen group. Her commitment to serving others extended to her blood donations, achieving there markable milestone of a 5-gallon donor.

Martha—so unwavering love, patience, and compassion left a lasting impact on all who knew her. She is deeply missed by her family and friends, but we take comfort in knowing she has been welcomed with open arms by Christ

A celebration of Martha's life took place on Sunday, November 17 at

Hillcrest Christian Church on Overland Park, Kansas.

If you wish to send a memorial contribution in honor of Martha, you may send one to Hillcrest Christian Church, 11411 Quivira Rd, Overland Park, Kansas 66210 or the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas, c/o Robert Fuller treasurer, 1120 Randall Rd, Lawrence, Kansas 66049.

Martha and her family wish to express appreciation for the wonderful care provided by Senior Care Homes and Kansas City Hospice.

Martha Kelly-Servant Leader and Advocate for the Blind

Throughout her life, Martha Kelly was a devoted volunteer, passionately serving causes that were close to her heart. Her work with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) was central to her life, where she advocated for the rights of people with visual impairments and worked tirelessly to improve their quality of life. Martha's leadership was marked by her commitment to equality, inclusion, and ensuring that the voices of the blind community were heard.

Martha and Jack attended at least 25 national and countless state NFB

conventions over the years, with notable ones in Joplin, Kansas City,

Phoenix, Washington D.C. Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas, and Louisville. Martha was often behind the camera, documenting the success and independence of her blind friends and leading groups on city tours.

Martha loved travel and exploring places she would never have experienced without the opportunities provided at NFB conventions. Martha created many photo albums to commemorate many of the places but there are very few pictures that include Martha because she was always behind the camera, ensuring safety and opportunities for her friends.

At the 1961 NFB convention in Kansas City, Martha organized a tour of Richards-Gebaur Airforce Base, where convention attendees got to learn about and touch aircraft like a Douglas DC-4 and a C-130 Hercules. Martha's daughter Jackie recently discovered a picture of their group sitting inside the C-130 Hercules with white canes and guide dogs. In 1994, at the Detroit convention, Martha captured photos from the 72nd floor of the convention hotel, as well as from a tour of Queen Elizabeth II Gardens in Windsor, Canada. She also documented the 1995 Chicago convention, where she and Jack enjoyed a walking tour of Frank Lloyd Wright homes with friends, Naomi Bowen and Raymond Peed. Her daughter Jackie remembers a Chicago convention with two magical days of museums, restaurants and so much walking. Jackie remembers turning to hear Martha snoring during the show at the planetarium in the afternoon. Touring the White House and Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. were also fond childhood memories. Jackie remembers assisting convention attendees find their hotel rooms, leading groups with Martha through downtowns to find the chosen Chinese restaurant for that trip and walking guide dogs out of hotels on bathroom breaks when owners were busy in meetings.

There are many photos from Kansas State NFB Conventions with many friends in attendance. Walter Long, Garwin and Naomi Bowen, Raymond Peed, Gary Wunder, Cindy Hallenbeck, Dean and Susie Stanzel, Richard Edlund, Ben Blagg, Gerry Griggs, Sonia Carr, Bill Daugherty, Diane and Ray McGeorge, Bill Wisdom just to name a few.

Martha's role in the NFB extended to organizing events at the state and local level in Kansas and Missouri. She worked in many volunteer roles, including State Treasurer of Kansas. Martha's efforts went beyond advocacy. She helped students at the Kansas State School for the Blind celebrate their successes by facilitating scholarships and awards, personally embossing each certificate with the students' names. Her contributions earned her numerous awards, including the Dr. Jacobus tenBroek Award (1975), the G. Rittgers Service Award (2011), and recognition from the NFB of Kansas in 1979 for her outstanding service.

Martha was also involved in fundraising efforts, such as selling wooden golf tee games created by Gerald Griggs and hosting chili suppers at Wyandotte County Park. Through her efforts, Martha helped strengthen the NFB community in Kansas, building lasting relationships and creating memories for all involved.

In 2018, for the 50th Anniversary of the Kansas affiliate, Martha gave a speech recalling her work with Ken Jernigan and her many experiences with blind friends. She shared memories of organizing events like a bowling league for blind friends, recalling a friend to the community, Garwin Bowen carving a beautiful Kansas-shaped plaque with the sunflower logo for long time president, Richard Edlund, and working with Raymond Peed to create certificates for the best Braille and math students at the Kansas State School for the Blind. She recounted helping Ken Jernigan, after his speech at the convention, rush to the airport and manage to be the last person on the plane. She shared that Town Topics Restaurant funded a bowling league so Martha and Jack would pick up —the guys—, set up guide rails weighted down with 2 bowling balls in each to hold them straight to create a fun outing with many blind friends

After the passing of her husband, Jack, Martha continued to help others, notably assisting their blind friend, Revelle Lee, with appointments and tasks. In turn, Revelle taught Martha the art of caning antique furniture, and they worked together in his furniture repair business. Martha's dedication to helping others continued even in her later years, where she supported residents at her memory care facility and baked an award-winning blueberry pie for the Hillcrest Christian church fundraiser.

In 2023, the Kansas affiliate honored Martha with a service award named in her honor. She was thrilled to be in Wichita to present the first annual award to her good friend, Susie Stanzel.

Martha's legacy of selflessness and service extends beyond the awards she received. Her true reward was knowing she made a meaningful difference in the lives of those around her. Her passing leaves a void, but her spirit lives on in the community she served, her family, and the NFB.

Memories

--Susie Stanzel

I really began to know Martha at the 1975 National convention. I had just become a member in August of 1974 so this was my very first convention. I had not known Martha and her husband before then because they attended the Kaw Valley chapter which was located in Wyandotte County. While in Chicago Martha and Jack took me to the Marshall Fields department store where I purchased a SPECIAL pipe for my fiancé Dean Stanzel. To say Jack Kelly was astonished would put it mildly! He couldn't believe I would spend that much good money on a stupid pipe.

Through the years I worked with Martha and Jack on many projects. Jack was on the Kansas board of directors for many years. And Martha was constantly at his side walking with him. I never saw Jack use a cane because he had quite a bit of vision and always had Martha.

In 2007 on Sunday, the day before my husband Dean was taken to the hospice house Jack and Martha came to the hospital. Jack was the last person Dean sat up to shake hands with. Dean died on Thursday of that week. Martha didn’t call to ask what she could do, she came over and started doing my laundry. That is the sign of a real friend. I gave Jack a pair of Dean's shoes.

About ten years ago Martha took me as her guest to the Chestnut theater in Olathe, Kansas. This theater had six musical presentations each year. I bought season tickets and Debby Powell, one of my best friends met Jackie and Martha for lunch before attending each musical. I always went with Jackie and Martha to celebrate Martha's birthday and my birthday. Debby and I visited Martha regularly during the last few years at her care facilities.

I spoke with Raymond Peed who shared that Martha was always willing to do anything for anyone. When attending tours in many cities, Martha would read aloud everything in sight so that her blind friends could have a full experience. I also spoke with Jerry Griggs. He had much more to share about Martha and we talked for about an hour. I will give you a smattering of what he said.

Jerry met Martha in about 1968 at the Kaw Valley chapter. Jerry remembers the 1974 National convention in Chicago. the group went out to dinner and had some Greek soup that made Martha sick. Jerry paid $5.00 for a six pack of 7-up for her. Also, on that trip, Jerry remembers going to the Natural history museum with Jackie. In New Orleans, Martha wanted to go to Lake Pontchartrain so Jerry rode on a public bus with Martha and Jackie. The driver asked if they were sure they wanted to go to Lake Pontchartrain. When they arrived, there were about 50 cops and they decided to stay on the bus.

At one Kansas convention, Jerry won a prize of Martha's zucchini bread and Jack told him not to drop it on his foot or it would break it. Of course, Jack was kidding, but I can just hear him saying such a thing. He was quite a character.

I have enjoyed reliving these many memories as I was compiling my thoughts.

At the Business of Promoting the Blind Movement

--Shauna Zepeda

The North-Central chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas is a small but mighty group of blind Kansans. The chapter is and has been involved in several internal and external events that promote and advance the blind movement in Kansas.

Besides regular monthly meetings chapter members have been involved in the following activities:

March 2024 North-Central chapter members participated in a letter writing campaign in support of the Newsline bill. Then on October 3, 2024 Sharon Luka and Tom Basgall participated in the disability awareness task force meeting on accessibility in Salina Businesses. On October 17, 2024 Tom and Sharon also participated in the white cane awareness day event with Anna Sear. Then in November the following 6 members attended the NFB of Kansas, State convention, Shauna Zepeda, Sharon Luka, Tom Basgall, Lakita Whitesell, Austin Meyer and Jan Meyer. On December 12, 2024 North-Central held a Christmas party at Tucson's restaurant with 8 members present.

The North-Central chapter meeting is held the third Wednesday of the month at 2:30 PM at the Salina Senior Center 245 N. 9th Salina, KS 67401. The North-Central chapter officers are: President: Shauna Zepeda, Vice-President: Austin Meyer, secretary: Sharon Luka and Treasurer: Tom Basgall. For information call President Shauna Zepeda at (785) 304-6326.

Blind Faith

--Donna Wood

Blessings to one and all. The National Federation of the Blind of Kansas Blind Christians Group meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM by zoom. Prior to the meeting a zoom link will be sent out on the state affiliate list serve, home-on-the-range. Please contact Donna Wood at donnajwood@cox.net or 316-640-0650 if you do not have access to home-on-the-range.

In September 2024 the NFBKS in communities of faith voted to officially become a group not a division. Thus, we became the Blind Christians Group. Changing from a division to a group we are no longer required to collect dues or have officers.

Membership is growing in the NFBKS Blind Christians Group. The group is averaging 10-12 attendees, with frequent visitations from NFB members from other states. Each month a member volunteers to lead a devotional for the next month's meeting. Unless it is a series then we will continue with the series until it is finished.

In October 2024 the devotional was taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 on prayer and being thankful in all things. In November, the Blind Christians Group met for breakfast at the state convention. December's devotional was on the advent season taken from Luke 2:1-7. In January 2025 Sharon Luka presented on the "Jesus Code" by O. S Hawkins chapter 7. Based in 2 Samuel 9. In February the devotional was on the hymn "Abide With Me", from Deuteronomy 31:6. In March we will continue the theme of familiar hymns. We will study the song "Amazing Grace".

All are welcome to join the Blind Christians Group

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

NFB South Central Chapter New Year

New Enthusiasm!

--Roshunda Holt

I have so much love for my chapter and its variety of members. We are continuing to grow as the new year has begun. I am excited to see what all we can accomplish. With the recent addition of Ms. Kinnik Wooley, we are diligently working on recruiting more young adults in order to create a stronger connection with the visually impaired youth within our community. Assisted by our First Lady VP Mrs. Ridda Williams-Murphy.

We had a pretty nice turn out at the KS state convention. Donna Wood, Emily Schlenker and Rowan Garel were also Mentoring participants during the designated youth portion of the KS state convention.

It has been a pleasure having Chiropractor, Dr Preston Brown DC and his wife, Kelly join the South-Central chapter family.

Erica Wooten and Christy Roberts are also very enthusiastic new members that will be braving the Washington walk by heading to DC to speak on behalf of the rights we all strive for in the BVI community, along with our political liaison Bruce Roberds, who will guide them through the halls he has frequented many times before.

I am so excited for everyone and what they are accomplishing for themselves. Moving forward with a variety of positive life changes, it is hard to congratulate just one. Ridda is now certified to be an instructor of JAWS and NVDA training, Dianne Hemphill has personally assisted a few of my non NFB friends with learning Braille. Rowan Garel is headed to the Colorado Center for the Blind to sharpen his independent living skills, (I am looking forward to his celebratory graduation meal he's required to prepare)!

Bruce Roberds is thriving as a father of two rambunctious toddlers. Christy Roberts is embracing her new career at the daycare within her local church.

I am always so proud of Lauren Bush and all she has accomplished with her culinary degree. She is continuing to make new dishes and embraces opportunities to put her skills to use.

Our VP Brandon Murphy continues to charm his way through the corporate ladder and was this year's winner of the Milton J Samuelson Indirect Labor Career Achievement Award. He has been recognized as one of the top Contact Center Campaign Representatives for Envision Interface.

Alison Roets is currently assisting in the management and social media platform for her partner Charlie Wilks who continues to thrive with his bluesy vocals and solo guitar career. You can order his shirts and hear his sound on Facebook @CharlieWilksMusic. Tom Page is our other distinguished musician, with his band the Haymakers which travel all over KS bringing their sound to the masses.

Nicole Taylor has a special place in her heart for the children. I applaud her tireless efforts to make the generation of our future the best they can be in the short span she sees each year.

Andrea Travis acknowledges her 5 years at Zywaze as a Relationship Manager for Enquiron. And, her husband Greg has recently acquired a career as an arborist.

I would like to offer a heartfelt condolences to Marvin Bottomley in the loss of his wife in 2024 and appreciate his dedicated continued appearance via zoom during our South Central chapter meetings.

We also would like to welcome David Crane as another official member to the chapter and encourage continued support as Andrew Crane strives to grow his independent company Guiding Paws.

If you would like to know more about the South-Central chapter and join in on the community we are building, we invite you to join us via zoom or in person on the second Wednesday of the month at Spears Restaurant and Pie Shop 4323 W. Maple St. Wichita. The meeting starts at 6:00 PM.

In February the South-Central chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas held its chapter elections. For 2025 the following are the duely elected officers: President, Roshunda Holt; Vice-President, Brandon Murphy; Secretary, Christy Roberts; and Treasurer, Tom Page.

Senior Division Update

-- Dianne Hemphill

The Senior's Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas (NFBKS) continues to be both supportive of each other and actively participate within our organization and the community. So, what is it the we do? Along with a monthly conference call with inspiring and knowledgeable presenters, here is a partial list:

teaching braille over the telephone, gardening, cooking and cleaning their homes, counting and packaging diapers for needy moms and babies. Caring for adopted children.

playing piano for entertainment in nursing homes.

Teaching on-line medical courses for a medical school.

Planning trips with blind friends to such fun events as the Renaissance fall festival and a spring cruise to the Caribbean. Playing and singing with local musicians.

Three of our seniors also were among a group of seven NFB members traveling to Washington D.C. to talk to Kansas Congress members about issues concerning the blind. Another senior did all the behind the scenes planning and follow up testifying to Kansas legislators about local concerns including Newsline and services to blind children.

Talking to others around the country to figure out ways of doing tasks or just have some fun. They are striving "to live the life they want!"

We would love to have you join us. If you are interested, please contact:

Dianne Hemphill: diannehemphill@cox.net.

Johnson-Wyandotte County

--Susan L. Stanzel

I wish to let everyone know I stepped down as chapter President. Michael Nava is now the President and I stand by to assist in any way I can as the Vice-President. I am writing this report since Michael has been ill.

Since hearing from me last fall the chapter has been quite busy. As I

reported at that time it is important to get out into the community. We

believe in being very supportive to the Kansas School for the Blind. Michael Nava, Susie Stanzel, Don and Jody Mulik, and Stephanie Wagnor, her husband and her two boys James and Mathew walked to raise money for the Kansas All Stars (KCBAS) (which will pay for the renovation of the gym!) We were extremely lucky to have fabulous weather. As mentioned in the last edition of this newsletter we donated $100 from the chapter. There were also other donations from the members. Susie Stanzel and Stephanie Wagnor attended the

fall Kansas School for The Blind (KSSB) Advisory meeting.

We were very active participants at our Kansas State convention held

November first through third in Lawrence Kansas. Don and Jody Mulik raffled off a chocolate basket. Susie Stanzel manned both the Johnson-Wyandotte County chapter table and the Senior division table during a portion of Friday afternoon. Michael Nava floated all over the place making sure the exhibit room was working well. Robert and Anya Fuller were in charge of registration. Susie Stanzel stepped down from board position 6.

Anya Fuller and Jody Mulik were in charge of the Christmas party and gift exchange held at O'Neal's Irish restaurant. We put the children: Jacqueline and Lawrence Jensen and James and Mathew Wagnor busy passing out the gifts in the gift exchange. The chapter paid for everyone's desserts. We had attendance of around thirty-five or forty people including a few guests.

We as another attempt to be out in the community sent Michael Nava and Amy Wilson to represent us at the Washington seminar.

Don Mulik ran a Christmas fund raiser selling See's candy. Here is a message from Don who is now handling our Easter fund raiser:

I am happy to announce a Fun Factory Sweet Shoppe Easter 2025 Fudge and Popcorn online fundraiser for the Johnson-Wyandotte County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas. Products can be ordered anytime between March 1 and April 5. Fun Factory

Sweet Shoppe typically waits until the end of the fundraiser to create and ship products because the products are not always in stock. This also

ensures that customers end up receiving the freshest products.

To participate in the Easter 2025 program, click on the following link:

<https://funfactorysweets.com/collections/fundraising-johnson-wyandotte-county-chapter-of-the-national-federation-of-the-blind-of-kansas>.

It is extremely

important to enter coupon code JOWYCO in the checkout process so our chapter will get 50% of the cost of the products that you order.

Johnson-Wyandotte County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas meets on the second Friday of the month. From 6:00 to 8:00 PM. at Bethany Lutheran Church, 9101 Lamar Ave. Overland Park, KS 66207. Chapter officers for 2025 are: President, Michael Nava; Vice-President, Susie Stanzel; Secretary, Jody Mulik; and Treasure, Don Mulik. Please contact Michael Nava at (913(777-8615 or manava@thecanegang.org for further information on the chapter.

Tactile Art Teach-in

--Nicole Taylor

At the beginning of May, I had the privilege of attending the Tactile Art Teach-in at the Colorado School for the Blind in Littleton, Colorado. It was an amazing experience to say the least. A little back-ground information about myself (incase you do not know me), I am a middle school art teacher and have taught for over 20 years. Previously, I have taught very few blind children, and I probably did not do a very good job at giving them equal access to the art education they deserve. Attending this tactile art teach-in gave me several skills that will not only help me relay concepts such as perspective, the layers in landscapes: foreground, middle ground, and background, but also how to teach blind (kids) how to read two dimensional subjects. Anne Cunningham and Chancy Fleet were the main instructors of this teach-in. They were both brilliant in their approaches of learning and teaching. From them, I learned how to better relay two dimensional subjects in a tactile way that might actually translate in a meaningful way to blind people (beyond just being nice feeling bumps on a page). If this teach-in comes around again, I highly recommend that our creative and art-minded members consider attending.

LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT!