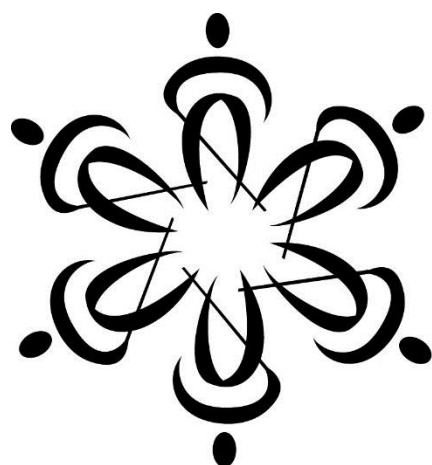




NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
KANSAS

TAP TRACKS

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

Autumn/Winter 2026

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From the President's Desk

- Tom Page

Greetings Kansas Federationists and friends, I hope that this newsletter finds you well! This year has been an eventful one so far both in Kansas and across the nation. We began with a near snow-out of our annual Washington Seminar. Our delegation was cut in half but the intrepid delegates who were able to get ahead of the travel problems represented Kansas in true NFB form. Although, many of the representatives were unavailable for direct meetings, and despite heavy snow totals in DC, our group managed to meet with staff from all 6 of the congressional offices. I want to thank Michael Nava, Christie Roberts, and Bruce Roberds for their work.

Simultaneously we were hard at work in the Kansas state house. We held our first lobby day in collaboration with the Kansas State School for the Blind. We were able to get our Newsline bill through the house utilities committee with a unanimous vote. Thanks to our legislative team headed by 1st VP Rob Tabor and our supporters in the House especially Representatives KC Ohaebosim and Leo Delperdang. We intend to continue this work in the coming session.

Since returning from the National convention in Austin our convention committee has been working hard to put together our state convention coming up in just a month in Overland Park KS the 13-15th of November. In addition, our chapters have worked to promote events during the month of October in recognition of Blindness Equality Achievement month. Our assistant legislative director Bruce Roberts led the way to a proclamation of White Cane Awareness Day on October 15th. 10 members from around the state were present at the signing of the proclamation.

We have done these things and others despite a challenging national and local climate. The fact is we are under attack as blind persons at all levels. We continue to push back against these attacks and have had some successes. Our advocacy has led to all of the states involved in the Texas vs. Kennedy lawsuit except 3 to drop off. We were able to intervene on behalf of blind Randolph Sheppard vendors across the nation. Settlements have been reached on behalf of students in Oregon and Los Angeles. However, our work continues. The DOJ's cessation of civil rights investigations and their recent opinion against community-based services present current obstacles to our fight for social integration and economic enfranchisement.

These difficult times have brought to mind an inspirational experience I had as a young Federationist. In 2009, we gathered for our national convention in Atlanta and held a "March for Independence" which culminated at the Olympic Centennial Park where we were addressed by the legendary civil rights activist and congressman John Lewis. He recounted a personal story turned parable of how, when hurricanes came, every one in his family had a job to do. To allay the fears that their shotgun house might blow away all the family members were stationed at a corner or in the middle of the house to hold it down.

Here in Kansas today the conditions are similar. Storms are bearing down on our house that we have built of civil rights. Strong winds whip around us. No matter what happens the truth is that our Kansas federation family is strong and we are all doing our part to hold down the house.

I look forward to our coming work and hope that you will join us in November to celebrate our victories and planning for 2027.

For more information please consult:

www.nfb.org or www.nfbks.org

Live the life you want

Come One, Come All, You Will Have A Ball!

-Donna Wood

Hello Federation family and friends. This year is flying by. Yes, it is coming up on state convention time. The National Federation of the Blind of Kansas will hold its 58th annual state convention. It will be the weekend of November 13-15, 2026 in Overland Park Kansas. At the Holiday Inn and Suites Overland Park West, 8787 Reeder St. Overland Park, KS 66214. Hotel telephone number is 913-888-8440. Reservation rates are \$115.00 per night. Rate includes breakfast. Breakfast will be held in a room separate from the restaurant. The breakfast room will be announced at a later date. Breakfast hours will be 6:00 to 8:30 AM. Doors will close and service will stop at 8:30 AM.

To register for convention, go to [www.https://nfbks.org](https://nfbks.org). On the registration form you will find a booking link for the hotel. If you wish to make your reservations by phone you can call 913-888-8440. Please send registration 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 and indicate in notes what your payment is for. Please make checks payable to the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas. There is also a link to PayPal on the registration form. If you need assistance with getting registered, you can contact your chapter president and they can assist you. Preregistration is \$10.00 registration at the door is \$15.00, lunch is \$25.00 and Banquet is \$40.00.

State convention will start Friday, November 13, 2026 at noon. The vendors hall will open at 1:00 PM. The first division meeting will be the Blind Christians Group at 1:00 PM. The Seniors division will meet at 3:00 PM. Hospitality will begin at 5:00 PM. Following hospitality, the Sports and Rec division will hold a game night. It will be fun for all!

The theme of this year's convention is "Smarter Technology for Stronger Futures". We will have presentations from familiar community partners, such as, Kansas talking books, Kansas School for the Blind, and the Disability Rights Center. We are planning to focus on such subjects as Artificial Intelligence, dual sensory loss, diabetes, careers and blindness skills training and so much more.

Our national rep. will be Ever Lee Hairston. Please read on in this newsletter to find Ms. Hairston's biography. We are looking forward to welcoming Ever Lee to Kansas and the NFBKS family.

We will have a lunch of Andouille sausage and chicken alfredo. The banquet will be London broil with mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, dinner roll and carrot and cheese cake. There are alternative meal options for those with food restrictions. Please make note on your registration form of the type of alternative meal you will need. The registration deadline for meals and hotel room rental is October 30, 2026. Following Ever Lee Hairston's keynote address at banquet we will award scholarships and draw for raffles.

Sunday morning will be our business meeting. We will have elections and vote on resolutions and deal with business for the good of the organization.

Make your plans to come and join us at this year's Kansas state convention. We are looking forward to greeting our first-time attendees and catching up with members and friends.

Meet our National Representative Ever Lee Hairston

Ever Lee Hairston was unanimously elected to the Board of Directors at the 2010 National Federation of the Blind (NFB) convention on July 6, 2010, in Dallas, Texas. She brings considerable experience to this position, having served in various capacities with the NFB over the years—including nineteen consecutive years of service on the NFB Scholarship Committee and a fourteen-year stint as first vice president of the NFB of New Jersey. Ever Lee founded and served as the president of the Garden State Chapter of the NFB of New Jersey from 1991 until 2005, and for many years she was the coordinator of the LEAD Program, a mentoring program for blind and visually impaired teenagers. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Louisiana Center for the Blind.



Born to Arizona and Clarence Hairston on the Coolemee plantation in Mocksville, North Carolina, Ever Lee is the third of seven children. She grew up and attended schools in the segregated South. “I felt like a second-class citizen, using hand-me-down books in school; and, due to unexplained vision problems, I had to struggle to read from the bulletin board,” Ever Lee noted. In spite of the challenges of growing up in the segregated South and continuing visual problems, Ever Lee had a strong desire to become a nurse. Ever Lee’s parents simply could not afford to send her to college; so, after high school, Ever Lee went to New York City to earn money for college by working as a live-in maid. She returned to North Carolina at the end of the summer anxious to pursue a nursing career. However, she failed the required eye examination and was told that she would not be suitable for admission to Duke University Nursing School. “I was heartbroken but refused to be defeated,” she said. She was accepted at North Carolina Central University, where she earned a teaching degree.

After graduating from North Carolina Central, Ever Lee taught high school business courses in New Jersey. While working as a high school teacher in New Jersey, Ever Lee's eyesight continued to deteriorate. She finally sought answers and medical care. Ever Lee, along with three siblings, were diagnosed with a genetic eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa (RP). And, four years after starting a challenging teaching career, Ever Lee was forced to resign from her position because of her impending blindness.

At the age of twenty-nine, facing total blindness, with a failed marriage, a child to raise alone, and uncertainty about future employment, Ever Lee admitted to being devastated and feeling sorry for herself. However, she held on to the hope that a better way of life was in store for her. Ever Lee admits to believing in the old adage that "When God closes a door, He opens a window." She began looking for the window.

After inventorying her strengths, she stepped through a window of opportunity at New Jersey's Rutgers University, where she took graduate courses in counseling. In 1983 she landed a Counselor Trainee position with the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services. But, as Ever Lee explains it, "With no blindness skills, I was faking my way through." She notes that she relied heavily on sighted people to read to her and to act as guides.

In 1987 Ever Lee received a call from Jackie Billie inviting her to an NFB convention in Phoenix, Arizona. At first, she made excuses because she was afraid of requesting the time off from her job. Jackie was persistent, and Ever Lee finally agreed to attend the convention.

Ever Lee describes arriving at the hotel in Phoenix, Arizona, to the unfamiliar sound of canes tapping and the unsettling feeling of dogs licking her legs. The most profound experience, as Ever Lee explains it, came when she started through the registration line. She remembers being asked, "Would you like a Braille or print agenda?" She could no longer read print and did not know Braille. It was then, according to Ever Lee, that a light bulb went off.

"I am illiterate," she thought. She talked to as many people as she could at that convention in Phoenix, Arizona, and learned about the NFB centers. From then until 1990 she continued to function without blindness skills but worked on a plan with Joanne Wilson to get to Louisiana where she could be trained.

Ever Lee attended the Louisiana Center for the Blind from October 1990 until April 1991. She learned to read Braille, mastered cane travel and independent living skills, and learned to utilize adaptive technology. She returned to New Jersey, after the Freedom Bell rang for her at the Louisiana Center, with a confidence she never had before, integrating blindness skills into her everyday life.

Ever Lee credits her training at the Louisiana Center for the Blind with enabling her to succeed at her chosen career. After twenty-six years holding many successive positions with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program in New Jersey, Ever Lee retired from the position of program director in 2006.

In July of 2006 she moved to California. She continues to devote tireless hours mentoring and advocating for the blind, as well as delivering inspiring speeches to blind and visually impaired

audiences and educating the sighted public about blindness. Ever Lee is blessed with one son, Victor; a wonderful daughter-in-law, Brenda; and three energetic grandchildren: Briana, Kendall, and Jasmine. She enjoys traveling, reading a good novel, and spending time with family and friends.

The White Cane, on Display

- Bruce Roberds

On October 15, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first White Cane Safety Day proclamation, declaring the white cane the symbol of “the ability to achieve a full and independent life.” Sixty-two years later, that same cane is still the symbol. But this year, something new happened in Kansas: our members made sure the proclamation itself was available in braille, and that both versions carried the weight of government behind them.

Topeka, September 29

Ten members of our affiliate traveled to the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka for a ceremonial signing with Governor Laura Kelly. As the group filed in, each member had a chance to meet the Governor and speak with her briefly. She signed both the printed and the braille copies of the proclamation at her desk, and afterward a printed copy and the braille copy were handed to our coordinator along with the signing pen.

The braille copies had already been signed by Secretary of State Scott Schwab and sealed with the Great Seal of the State of Kansas. This was the first time during Governor Kelly’s tenure that a group representing White Cane Safety Day was received at the Statehouse for a ceremonial signing, and the first time the proclamation was issued in braille alongside the printed version.

The Governor’s office also provided a correctly structured electronic version of the state proclamation, prepared for use with screen-reading software. Every paragraph is available to a screen reader, and the Great Seal and all three signatures are labeled.

The state’s proclamation carries the statutory title “White Cane Safety Day.” Both names are in use, and both point to the same truth.

Wichita, October 6

On October 6, the Wichita City Council presented the city’s proclamation at its regular 9:00 a.m. meeting. Ours was the first of four proclamations on the agenda, coming right after the opening invocation. Our members sat in the audience with the public, but when our item came up, the city called the whole group down front to stand with Mayor Wu as she read the proclamation and presented it.

Roughly ten members attended. State President Tom Page gave brief remarks thanking the Mayor and Council, and offered some history: the 1964 Johnson proclamation, and the fact that in the 1950s a blind person who left home without a caretaker and was involved in an accident — whether or not the fault was theirs — was routinely presumed negligent. He observed how far we have come, and that this proclamation is proof of it.

Tom also spoke about the work still ahead on accessible pedestrian infrastructure in our city — a subject we will take up separately in a future issue.

The city's presentation folder is blue with the Wichita logo. Inside, the printed proclamation is on the left and the braille version on the right. Mayor Wu did not sign the braille copies — they have no signature line — but the printed copy carries a gold city seal to the left of her signature, and the braille copies carry a tactile seal the reader can feel.

The city's proclamation is titled “White Cane Awareness Day.”

The Walk, October 3

On October 3, Envision sponsored a white cane walk at the Great Plains Nature Center. Mayor Wu attended, gave a brief talk, told everyone about the upcoming proclamation presentation, and read the proclamation there as well.

The Braille Copies

Both the state and city proclamations were produced in braille by the Kansas Braille Transcription Institute of Wichita, at no charge to our organization or to the State of Kansas. The work was completed on a compressed schedule. We are grateful for the Institute's service and for the donation of their time and skill.

Thanks to Staff

State employees do the work that makes these moments possible, and they deserve to be named. In the Office of Governor Laura Kelly, we thank Libby Keogh, Director of Constituent Services, and Addison Hurtig, Constituent Services Coordinator. For the City of Wichita, we thank Jessica Iglesias in the Mayor & City Council Office, Shana Warkentine in the City Manager's Office — who thought of borrowing the embossing stamp — and Shinita Rice, City Clerk, who lent her embossing stamp so the braille copies could carry a tactile seal.

If you have not yet read a proclamation in braille, ask someone in the chapter about it. The white cane represents independence — and so does the right to read the words that declare it.

Asking Is How Access Gets Built

This work began with an ordinary request to two government offices. Both offices treated it as worth their best effort. That is worth remembering: access is not handed down from on high. It is built, one request at a time, by people who show up and ask for what they are owed.

A poem

- Lauren Bush

The NFB is our home, though not all can see,

Across Kansas and our nation, we fight for liberty.

Rainbows and sunshine, tornadoes and rain, Sunflowers and prairies across the plains.

With independence in our stride, We walk with courage, side by side. Rainbows bright and prairies wide, Tornadoes rage we stand with pride.

We do not get discouraged, we are encouraged each day, to tip tap our way downtown, lighting the way.

As Kansans we fly across the state, Tip tapping our canes our way, our rhythm is great.

Fighting for justice, for independence we say, We keep tip tapping our way.

We live the life you want to live, The NFB is strength it gives.

So tap your cane and join

the call, Stand tall, be strong, give your all.

With tapping canes, a joyful sound, In Kansas strong independence found.

Join us, friends, let voices blend, A Kansas chorus without end.

With laughter shared and voices raised high, Important work praised to the sky.

Our canes keep time, a steady beat, Join us, Kansas, make our lives complete!

Topeka Visit — January 2026

by Bruce Roberds

On January 15, 2026, I had the honor of visiting our state capitol alongside students from the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB). So much gratitude to the Kansas affiliate of the of National Federation of the of Blind of Kansas, for facilitating this opportunity and to the faculty and staff of the of KSSB, for their invaluable partnership with the NFB of Kansas, for this event. I hope this marks the beginning of many such collaborative initiatives.

Prior to our visit to the capitol, the students participated in several preparatory meetings via Zoom, engaging with members of the NFB of Kansas. They selected the Blind Students' Right to Independence Training and Education (BRITE) bill as the primary topic they wished to discuss with members of Congress. This choice aligns with our resolution 2025-04, "Inaccessible Standardized Testing for Blind Students" which was passed at our state convention in November 2025.

During our visit, the students were divided into five groups, accompanied by faculty, staff, and eight members of the NFB of Kansas. We aimed to meet with as many representatives and senators as possible to advocate for the BRITE bill. The students shared their personal educational experiences, highlighting the challenges they face due to a lack of accessible materials. While the Kansas School for the Blind provides accessible daily learning materials, issues arise with state assessment testing materials and standardized tests, such as the ACT and SAT. Blind students across Kansas frequently encounter similar difficulties with even basic learning resources.

During a working session in the House of Representatives, the students received recognition for their presence and contributions, which was a significant moment for our group.

In addition to the students' activities, I arranged a meeting with my representative, K.C. Ohaebosim. Joined by President Page and First Vice President Tabor, we discussed funding for Newsline and the importance of supporting the BRITE bill. Representative Ohaebosim serves as the ranking member of the Energy Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, where the Newsline bill currently awaits action. Later in the day, President Page and I had the opportunity to meet with Chairman Delperdang, urging him to prioritize the Newsline bill.

We concluded our day by attending the House K-12 Budget Committee hearing as guests of the school's superintendent, Jon Harding, during which he and three outstanding students provided testimony. The school is seeking funding for essential capital improvements, including repairs to the Carriage House building and the Edlund building, named in honor of former NFB of Kansas President Richard J. Edlund.

SHOP WAY

-Sharon Luka

On a hot day of August
in the warm school office
At the Kansas School for the Blind
I wondered with awakening wist
What classes I would find.

There was English, History and PE
shining on full display,
And a class that called out loud to me
In a most unusual way.

There was Track and Field
To which I could yield
Skill and energy;
But the class with appeal
that invited my zeal
Was Wood Shop with adventures free.

The teacher that fall was Mr. Hall;
There were rules for one and all.
Goggles were worn and to safety we were sworn
With hammer, nails and saw.

I built a box and a magazine rack
and other projects galore.
As the jigsaw's motor ran its course,
Confidence began to soar.

So if you enroll in art or shop
In law or music great;
Check all your options and never stop
As you grow your learning slate.

So take this pen as from a friend
To add to your toolkit stash;
When you write or turn a screw to tight
Expand your learning bash!

Advocacy at the Washington Seminar: A Unique Experience
- Bruce Roberds

I would like to express my gratitude to the Kansas NFB affiliate for once again sending me to the Washington Seminar this year. Advocating for our community is one of my passions, and this years' experience presented both unique challenges and benefits.

We faced significant hurdles, including having to rebook our flights three times due to inclement weather, which prevented at least half of our planned participants from attending. Once we arrived in Washington, navigating through large snowbanks that blocked our path from the car drop-off to the building entrances added to the adventure. Despite the city being largely shut down and the House of Representatives not in session, we found that these challenges allowed us to have longer, more relaxed meetings with staff members.

During our discussions, we focused on three key issues:

- Protecting Essential Programs for Blind Americans: We urged Congress to safeguard vital programs, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These initiatives have historically provided essential education, vocational training, and independent living skills, significantly improving the quality of life for individuals with visual impairments. Beneficiaries' testimonies highlighted the importance of these programs in fostering educational success, entrepreneurship, and autonomy. Without adequate funding and support, we risk losing the progress made over the years.
- Access Technology Affordability Act (H.R. 1529/S. 1918): This legislation addresses the issue of access technology costs, which can range from \$1,000 to \$6,000. Many blind individuals face financial barriers that contribute to a staggering unemployment rate of

61.9%. The Act proposes a refundable tax credit of \$2,000 over three years to help cover these costs, promoting access to necessary tools and ultimately benefiting the government with increased tax revenues as more blind Americans enter the workforce.

- Blind Americans Return to Work Act (H.R. 1175): This bill aims to reform the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, which currently disincentivizes blind individuals from working due to strict earnings limits. In 2026, earning just one dollar over the threshold of \$2,830 results in the loss of all SSDI benefits, forcing many to limit their work hours or decline promotions. The proposed legislation seeks to introduce a gradual two-for-one phase-out of SSDI benefits over ten years, encouraging blind Americans to maximize their earnings while still receiving partial support. This initiative will simplify the SSDI system and align it more closely with the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, ultimately promoting greater independence and financial stability for blind workers.

In conclusion, our advocacy efforts at the Washington Seminar highlighted crucial issues that impact the lives of blind Americans. By continuing to push for these essential programs and reforms, we can work towards a future where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive.

A Quick 2025 State Convention Overview

by Christy Roberts

I enjoyed being a part of the 2025 State Convention in Wichita. Where I was on the welcoming committee on Friday. I was also able to contribute 2 gift baskets to door prizes.

I attended the division meetings and vendors hall on Friday and the general sessions on Saturday and the business meeting on Sunday. I found them informative. I ended up joining senior's division.

I very much enjoyed the opening program on Saturday morning. With the presenting of the flags and the singing of the National Anthem. I look forward to being even more involved next year.

NFB of Kansas Annual Convention Resolutions Summary

by Bruce Roberds

On November 2, 2025, during our annual convention in Wichita, Kansas, the membership of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas exercised its supreme authority to pass four

significant resolutions. Each resolution reflects our commitment to advocating for the rights and accessibility of blind individuals and those with low vision in our state. Below is a brief overview of each resolution approved by our members.

1. Resolution 2025-01: Immediate Withdrawal from Texas v. Kennedy Lawsuit

This resolution calls for the immediate withdrawal of Kansas from the Texas v. Kennedy lawsuit, which challenges the constitutionality of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This landmark legislation protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination in various areas, including education and employment. The resolution emphasizes that the lawsuit could severely impact the rights of blind Americans and urges Kansas Attorney General Chris Kobach to take action to protect these essential rights.

2. Resolution 2025-02: Adoption and Enforcement of Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

Recognizing the need for accessible public spaces, this resolution urges the Kansas Legislature to adopt the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) as the minimum standard for pedestrian infrastructure. With Kansas facing a rising number of pedestrian fatalities, implementing these guidelines is crucial for ensuring safety and accessibility for all pedestrians, including those with disabilities. The resolution calls for comprehensive training and technical assistance for municipal planners to ensure effective implementation.

3. Resolution 2025-03: Consolidation of Blindness Services Under a General Disability Services Agency

This resolution advocates for the establishment and maintenance of a separate agency for blindness services, independent from general disability service agencies. The data shows that blind individuals served by specialized agencies achieve better employment outcomes and receive more tailored support. The resolution encourages collaboration between the Kansas state legislature and agencies to ensure that blind Americans receive the specialized services they need for independent living and success.

4. Resolution 2025-04: Inaccessible Standardized Testing for Blind Students

Addressing the systemic barriers faced by blind and low-vision students in accessing standardized testing, this resolution calls for immediate action from the Kansas Department of Education. It urges collaboration with the Kansas State School for the Blind to ensure that state assessments are accessible and accurately reflect the skills and knowledge of all students. The resolution emphasizes the importance of equitable educational opportunities for blind students.

These resolutions represent our collective commitment to advancing the rights and accessibility of blind individuals in Kansas. Thank you to all members who participated in the convention and contributed to these vital discussions and decisions. Together, we can make a significant difference in our communities.

South-central Chapter Update

-Roshunda Holt-Banuelos

Hello everyone!

The South-Central chapter has expanded its wings once again and has decided to move to a new location, day, and time! Since April, we have been meeting on Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm at Christy's Condo Clubhouse on 6500 E 21st St in the Country Lakes Estates Community. We appreciate Christy reserving this space for us on Saturdays during the lunch hour. We have been enjoying the abundance of delicious snacks provided by our chapter members.

Christy and Bruce made it to Washington, D.C., and Jayme found herself settling into the Colorado School for the Blind, just as our very own Rowan made it back. Emily has finally broken that glass ceiling towards her pharmaceutical degree and is currently studying and planning to take the test to get her pharmaceutical license. We have added a few new members to the chapter, and it has been fun to hear their voices at our new location. So exciting!

We had a successful fundraiser at the Chicken and Pickle in April, coordinated by Christy. In other news, you can catch South-Central's very own Charlie Wilks singing and playing his guitar at some of the local dining establishments around town. Follow Charlie Wilks and Haymakers on social media to keep up with their performance day and times.

Our chapter is growing with new members every year, and we truly do appreciate your presence. I am not me without you! We are more than just a chapter; we are a community of closeness and upliftment. Thank you all for your voices and your kindness as we venture into this new year with excitement and opportunities galore!

Are You Making Room for Jesus?

-Donna Wood

The National Federation of the Blind of Kansas Blind Christians Group continues to meet on zoom the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. A link to the meeting goes out each month over home-on-the-range. We have an attendance of 12-15 members a month. We welcome you to join us.

In the fall we began reading the book My Heart Christ's Home by Robert Boyd Munger. We finished the book in our January 2026 meeting. When then decided for the 2026 year we would have a member prepare a devotional, on favorite scriptures, each month.

In February Sandy Carpenter read from Acts 9. The devotion was about being chosen by God.

In April Linda Anderson brought us a very personal devotional to her. She read from Psalms 37:1-4. Linda has been in a rehabilitation hospital for almost a year now. She has been away from her family and her home and unable to attend her church. She was in prayer about being able to attend her home church for a special service, and she recalled Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. She was able to attend the church service.

In May the devotional was in John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. We had a very inspiring discussion on Heaven.

In June we decided to begin a study of the book

In Light of Eternity by Randy Alcorn

We read the Introduction and chapter 1.

We held discussion on heaven and other books this author has written. We continued with the study in August and will finish the book study at the end of the year.

If you are interested in participating in the Blind Christians Group or have questions you can contact Donna Wood at 316-640-0650 or e-mail donnajwoodcox.net.

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

JAYHAWK CHAPTER UPDATE

-Rob Tabor

On Saturday, December 13, 2025 the Jayhawk chapter held its December holiday social gathering at La Tropicana Mexican Restaurant in beautiful North Lawrence. The head waitress named Catalina gave us awesome service and has been a real friend to us over the years.

We finally got back to business after the November-December holiday break with our first meeting of 2026 on January 12. During this meeting we decided to move the meeting start time from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to accommodate work schedules for some of our members.

We also heard an enjoyable and informative presentation from Luther Fuller about his internship experience at the Blind Industries and Services (BISM) in Baltimore. Luther got to assist in some recruitment activities, providing some blindness technology training, and participated in planning a new podcast series.

Then, at our February meeting yours truly gave a presentation on the wildly popular Ray-Ban Meta glasses.

The Jayhawk chapter meets both in person and via Zoom on the second Monday of the month at 4:30 PM. although a fixed venue is yet to be determined as of this writing.

If you want to know more about the Jayhawk chapter, you may contact chapter president Susan Tabor by email at souljourner@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (785) 865-9949.

Senior Division Update

- Dianne Hemphill

This last year has been especially busy and meaningful to the NFBKS Senior Division members. Many of us attended the annual NFB convention held this year in New Orleans in addition we were having a great time in the fall actively participating in the annual NFBKS state convention, held in Wichita. We provided a pre-convention chair yoga class focused on seated stretches and beginner's yoga breathing and several toning exercises. The Senior's Division invited everyone with no charge. Our instructor was highly experienced in providing clear descriptions to follow. She brought a microphone and speakers in order to ensure those with hearing loss could successfully hear the instructions. The Senior Division also held a fund-raising raffle that was very successful. The prizes included a pair of Meta glasses; these are very high tech and coveted and exciting way for the blind and/visually impaired to hear a comprehensive description of what their surroundings look like; Tupperware, Mary Kay products, a beautiful hand knitted scarf donated by Sandy Halverson who lives in Virginia, delicious pumpkin bread made by Sharon Luka, and much, much more! This went great! To top off the convention weekend, the Senior's Division co-hosted a dance following the Saturday night banquet. We taught several beginner social dance steps, including, the Rumba box step, the basic cha-cha and basic Texas 2 step. This instruction was provided in both typical verbal instruction but also provided using the Braille cell. This allowed those knowledgeable with or without sight to effectively understand where to move their feet — great fun!

The NFBKS Senior's Division holds a monthly conference call on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. We strive to host great speakers on topics of interest for the aging person experiencing blindness, vision loss plus topics that impact our lives. This included updates on the new library services high tech book player; rehab services for seniors; technology we might find helpful and useful and inspiring blind seniors. If you are interested in knowing more about who we are and what we do, please send me an e-mail at-

diannehemphill@cox.net <mailto:diannehemphill@cox.net>

In Memory of Erica Johnson Wootson

With heavy hearts, the South-Central Chapter announces the passing of Erica Johnson Wootson. Erica became an active member of the National Federation of the Blind in 2023, attending local chapter meetings, state conventions and National Conventions. She was a Jernigan Scholarship winner in 2024. She represented our affiliate in the NFB rideshare rally in San Francisco in 2024, advocating for the rights of blind people to fairly access Uber and Lyft services. With her contagious smile and warm presence, Erica was loved by everyone. She will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life for Erica will be held at the Envision Arts Center, 535 W. Douglas Ave. #160, Wichita, KS 67213 on Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 5:30-7:00. Flowers, cards, or condolences can be sent to Erica's mother Donnelly Johnson, 328 W. 2nd St., Andover, KS 67002.

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