Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be “Missouri Association of Blind Students.”

Article II – Purpose:

The purpose of this organization is to promote the integration of blind students as equal participants in schools, to encourage students who are blind to seek the necessary resources to achieve their professional goals in order to compete on an equal basis with sighted peers, to serve as the vehicle for collective action for blind students for security, equality and opportunity in academia, and to participate as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri in its various activities. This Association is a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri and affiliate of the National Association of Blind Students.

Article III – Membership

Section 1: Active Members:

At least a majority of the active members of this Organization must be students who are blind. All active members shall have the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office. Any student or those interested in the pursuit of studies may become an active member of this association provided that such person meets the above eligibility requirements and for membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. Interested individual may become an active member of this organization upon payment of dues to the treasurer. The sitting president of the parent affiliate shall also be the officiary member of this organization.

Section 2: Associate Members:

Any interested person may apply for and receive Associate membership status at an annual business meeting or through an officer of this Organization. Associate Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active Members, except that they may not vote or hold office. Associate Members do not pay dues.

Section 3: Expulsion or removal of officers and/or of board members:

Any person who has been expelled by the National Federation of the Blind shall cease to be a member of this association or for violation of this constitution. Any member of this organization may be expelled for misconduct or for activity unbecoming to a member of this organization, or as identified as individual who has shirked duties for over a month by a two-thirds vote of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of this association or by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors, subject to ratification of by the general membership. If member that is subject of expulsion is a board member and is found to be expelled from the membership of this association, an election will be held at the next meeting for the position which will terminate regular term, until which another member of the board will take over the expelled member duties. Any officer including the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or board members can be removed from office by two-thirds majority with or without expulsion depending on the majority’s decision. Any individual who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, which may at its discretion consider the matter and make a binding decision.

Section 3 – reinstatement of membership:

An individual may be reinstated to membership in this organization by a two-thirds vote of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of this organization, or by a two-thirds vote of its board of directors, provided that such individual meets the eligibility requirements for membership or for reinstatement to membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri.

Article Iv – Officers and Their Duties

Section 1 – Officers:

There shall be an election held at the regular annual business meeting consisting of a president, vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and two board members. these officers and a board member shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected and qualified, unless replacing a member of expulsion. Officers and board members shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of this Association present and voting. All officers and board member must be students who are blind and planning to attend an educational institution or program in the academic year following the election. There shall be no proxy votes. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the least votes will be removed from the list of nominees and a second ballot and a second ballot recorded. This procedure shall continue until one candidate receives a simple majority votes.

Section 2 – Duties

The duties of each officers shall be those ordinarily associated with such office. At least a majority of the board must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

The duties of the President include but are not limited to; taking over for the Vice president responsibilities of Vice-President in the event of a leave absence due to emergency or questions of expulsion, begin and adjourn meetings, give rules of order at each meetings, is the spokesperson for this association to the NFB of Missouri. The president does not have a vote on any proposal that is given to the association unless a tiebreaker is need on a proposal. The president has an equal in vote, any vote only involving board members. The president can create committees with approval with another board member approval at official meetings. He may request clarification of proposal and will keep the meeting running smoothly and requesting the name of anyone who speaks at meeting for the note taker.

The duties of the Vice president include but are not limited to; taking over the responsibilities of President in the event of a leave of absence due to emergency or questions of expulsion, in charge of the conduct of the committees that are form by the association, and running outreach program in conjunction with the board member.

The duties of the Secretary include but are not limited to; taking over the responsibilities of the Treasurer in the event of a leave of absence due to emergency or questions of expulsion, in charge of taking the minutes of all meetings, sending meeting minutes to all those who were present or those who wish to obtain a copy, and tracking events and plans on all scheduled events or hosted by this association.

The duties of the Treasurer include but are not limited to; taking over the responsibilities of the Secretary in the event of a leave of absence due to emergency or question of expulsion, handles the disturbance of funds in conjunction with the President, giving a bi-quarterly financial report at official meeting, fundraising efforts and reports at each meeting, and garnering sponsorships in conjunction with the Board member.

The duties of the Board members include but are not limited to; garnering sponsorship in conjunction with the Treasurer and running an outreach program in conjunction with the Vice President. In the event of a leave of absence due to emergency or questions of expulsion.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1: annual business meetings:

The annual business meeting shall be held yearly and the time and place of which shall coincide with the time and place of the state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. At least 25% of the active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 2: Special Meetings:

The President of this Organization may call a special meeting any time he/she or a majority of the Board of Directors deems such action necessary. At least

25% of the active members must be present to transact business. Notice must be given to the Board of Directors at least 1 month prior to the date of such

special meeting. The meeting may be held virtually or assemble in person at the specified location within the state of Missouri. In person meeting shall allow virtual attendees and must be accessible to all members.

Section 3: recommended meetings:

The dates and times for the meetings shall be decided based on the feedback received from the members and shall be held virtually. Board members are required to show a reason of absence to a recommended meeting whether extracurricular, personal, or education related.

Article VI – Committees

The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the members of the Association deem necessary with approval of one other board member.

ARTICLE VII – Dues

The dues and payment method of this Organization shall be set at the annual business meeting of the Missouri Association of Blind Students. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of dues.

ARTICLE VIII - Disbursement of Funds

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check issued on order of the President and signed by the Treasurer or the President.

ARTICLE IX – Affiliation

The Missouri Association of Blind Students is an affiliate of the National Association of Blind Students, a division of National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. This association shall furnish a copy of this constitution and any amendments that may be adopted in the future, and the names and addresses of the members and elected officers to the President of the National Association of Blind Students. This organization will comply with the provisions of the constitution of the National Federation of the Blind. In the event of the reorganization of this Association, the assets of this organization belong to the reorganized Association, and the former Association shall dissolve and cease to exist.

Article X – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this Organization or if, for any reason, it ceases to be a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri to be held in trust for a reorganized student organization. In the event that no student group is reorganized within a period of 3 years from the date of dissolution, the assets may be deposited along with the general funds of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri to be used for the purposes of that Organization.

Article XI – Amendments

This constitution may be amended at the annual business meeting of this Organization, and if necessary through order of a special meeting, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, providing that it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation issued by the National Federation of the Blind and the policies of the National

Federation of the Blind. Amendments may also be enacted at special meetings. The committee of the constitution recommend that the constitution be reviewed every 4 years and amended if necessary.

Article XII - RESIGNATION

Upon resignation from an elected position the Officer must submit a signed letter stating reason and the effective date of resignation to the President of the Missouri Association of Blind Students.

This constitution was written June 9, 2020, edited August 28, 2020