Constitution

Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users, a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of the Division shall be:

To educate the community about issues facing Guide Dog users.

To act as advocates for guide dog users.

To educate the community about the capabilities and needs of the blind.

To promote the general well-being of the blind in the state of Missouri and of the Nation.

And to function as an integral part of the NFB.

Article III

Section 1

Membership

Persons eligible for membership are Guide Dog users and other individuals who are interested in the work of this Division. Membership in the Division will constitute membership in the National Federation of the Blind.

Section 2

Active Members

At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the active members of the organization Must be legally blind and be guide dog users. Active members shall have the right to vote and serve on committees.

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Section 3

Expulsion

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming of a member of the National Federation of the Blind by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active membership present and voting at any regular business meeting of the division.

Article IV

Section 1

Officers

There shall be elected bi-annually at the regular meetings to be held at the state convention in even numbered years a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Two (2) Board Members shall be elected in odd numbered years. All positions will be for Two Year Terms. The terms of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected and qualified. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the active members who are present and voting.

Section 2

Duties

The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office. The President, and Vice President Must Be Blind and either a current Guide Dog user or between Guide Dogs to qualify for the office. Either the President or Vice President shall preside over all meetings of this organization and shall be required to represent the division annually at the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri State Convention.

Section 3

Replacement Of Officers

Should an office become vacant during the course of a term

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due to removal or ,resignation, or any other reason, the President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors of this organization, appoint a qualified member to occupy the office until the next annual meeting and elections are conducted. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or on written call signed by any three members;

Article V

Meetings

This organization shall hold regular meetings at the State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. During the year other meetings may be scheduled as needed. At least a majority of the members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business.

Article VI

Committees

The President may appoint such committees deemed necessary by the president or the Board of Directors.

Article VII

Section 1

Affiliation

The Missouri Association of Guide Dog users shall be a Division of the National Association of Guide Dog users and the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri.

Section 2

Records

This Organization shall furnish to the President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri on or before February 1 a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. Furthermore; a complete financial report showing all financial transactions for the previous calendar year shall be furnished to the State Treasurer and to all members of the division on or before February 1st. For appropriate accounting purposes and to comply with all 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service requirements. A copy of the Constitution of the Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users and of all amendments to this Constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. Immediately upon their adoption, the Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the Blind.

Article VIII

Dues

The dues of the Association shall be an amount determined by the membership at the division’s annual meeting for the following calendar year and in accordance with the constitution and policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

Article IX

General Expenditures/Disbursement Of Funds

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check issued on written order of the President and signed by the Treasurer, or in the absence or incapacity of the treasurer such check may be signed by the President.

Article X

Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this organization or for whatever reason it ceases to be a Division of the National

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Association of Guide Dog Users or 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 Division. In the event that no Division is reorganized for a period of two years from the date this organization ceases to be a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, the assets shall be divided equally between and become the property of the National Association of Guide Dog users, and the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri.

Article XI

Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members present and voting, Provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at the regular business meeting, and provided it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation received from the National Federation of the Blind and with the policies of the National Association of Guide Dog Users, and the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri.

ARTICLE XII

Code Of Conduct

The Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri shall abide by the National Federation of the Blind Code of Conduct. All individuals within the organization, including all attendees at NFB-sponsored events, are expected to refrain from the unwelcome and harmful misconduct outlined in the Code, including but not limited to discrimination, abuse, misuse of power, sexual misconduct, conflict of interest, fraud, and other forms of misconduct.

Ratified on September 21, 2022