# Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of North Dakota

Adopted: September 2025

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the National Federation of the Blind of North Dakota.

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the National Federation of the Blind of North Dakota shall be to advance the general welfare of the blind of North Dakota and the nation; to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind; to serve as a vehicle for collective action by the blind; to operate as a mechanism through which the blind and interested sighted persons can come together in local chapters and state meetings to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life of the blind; to provide a means of collective action for parents of blind children; to forward the interests of blind students and provide them with a means for joint action and expression; to promote the vocational, cultural, and social advancement of the blind; to achieve the integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality with the sighted; and to take any other lawful action that will improve the standard of living and opportunities of the blind.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section One: Active Members.
At least a majority of the active members of this organization must be blind. Active membership may be through local chapters or as members-at-large. Active members have the right to vote, speak on the floor, serve on committees, and hold office.

Section Two: Supporting Members.
Any person may become a supporting member through procedures established by the Board or the convention. Supporting members shall have all the rights and privileges of active members except that they may not vote, hold office, or serve on the Board of Directors. Supporting members may pay dues as set by the Board.

Section Three: Discipline.
Any member may be expelled, and any chapter or division may be expelled, suspended, or reorganized for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming to the Federation. Such action may be taken by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.
A member, chapter, or division so disciplined may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, which may (in its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision. Until or unless reversed by the National Board, the disciplinary action remains in effect.

## ARTICLE IV – LOCAL CHAPTERS

Any organized group desiring to become a chapter shall apply by submitting its constitution and membership list to the state President. Upon approval by the state convention or Board, a certificate of affiliation will be issued.

Chapters must submit an annual membership list, officer list, dues, and a financial report by January 1. A majority of voting members and officers of each chapter must be blind. The state President shall be ex officio a member of each chapter.

Upon dissolution of a chapter, its assets shall revert to the National Federation of the Blind of North Dakota.

## ARTICLE V – DIVISIONS

Divisions may be established with Board approval. Each division shall adopt a constitution consistent with this affiliate and provide annual membership and financial reports. In the event of dissolution, division assets revert to the affiliate.

## ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section One: Officers.
The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President and Vice President must be blind.

Section Two: Duties.
- The President shall preside over meetings, supervise the work of the affiliate, and be the principal spokesperson.
- The Vice President shall assist the President and assume duties in the President’s absence.
- The Secretary shall keep accurate records, maintain files, and handle correspondence.
- The Treasurer shall maintain accounts, receive and disburse funds, and provide regular financial reports. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

Section Three: Terms & Elections.
Officers shall serve two-year terms beginning at the close of the convention at which they are elected. Elections shall be staggered as follows:
- President and Treasurer elected in even-numbered years.
- Vice President and Secretary elected in odd-numbered years.

Nominations from the floor shall always be permitted. Elections shall be by majority vote of active members present and voting.

## ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board shall consist of the four officers and up to two (2) at-large members elected by the convention for one-year terms. A majority of Board members shall be blind. The Board shall meet at the call of the President or by request of three Board members, and shall manage the affairs of the affiliate between conventions.

## ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

This organization shall hold an annual convention, the time and place to be determined by the membership or by the Board.

A quorum for the annual convention shall consist of five (5) active members or one-third of the active members registered, whichever is smaller, but never fewer than three (3).

Special meetings may be called by the President or majority of the Board, with at least ten days’ written notice to chapters and Board members.

## ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES

The President may appoint committees as needed and shall serve ex officio on all committees. A Nominating Committee may be appointed prior to elections, but nominations from the floor must always be allowed.

## ARTICLE X – AFFILIATION

The National Federation of the Blind of North Dakota is an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind and shall comply with the Constitution and policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind.

As a condition of affiliation, this organization agrees that the National Federation of the Blind (by action of the National Convention or National Board) has the authority to expel or discipline an individual member, or to reorganize a state affiliate, local chapter, or division.

Upon reorganization, all assets shall belong to the reorganized affiliate. The names 'National Federation of the Blind,' 'Federation of the Blind,' or any variant thereof are the property of the National Federation of the Blind.

## ARTICLE XI – DELEGATES

This affiliate shall annually elect at least one delegate and one alternate delegate to the National Convention. To the extent resources allow, the affiliate shall pay the expenses of delegates and alternates.

## ARTICLE XII – DUES

Annual dues shall be five dollars ($5.00), payable in advance. A lifetime membership may be secured for one hundred dollars ($100.00). Members delinquent in dues may not vote. Chapters and divisions shall remit dues to the state Treasurer by January 1.

## ARTICLE XIII – FINANCE

Funds shall be deposited in a bank approved by the Board. The Treasurer shall be bonded. All disbursements shall be by check or electronic transfer, issued on order of the President and signed by the Treasurer or a Board-approved assistant Treasurer.

## ARTICLE XIV – DISSOLUTION

If this organization dissolves or ceases affiliation, all assets shall be transferred to the National Federation of the Blind, to be held in trust for any reorganized affiliate in North Dakota. If no affiliate is reorganized within two years, the assets shall become the property of the National Federation of the Blind.

If, at the time of dissolution, the National Federation of the Blind is no longer a tax-exempt organization under federal law, assets shall instead be transferred to an organization with similar purposes and federal tax-exempt status.

## ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at a regular convention by a two-thirds vote of active members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at a prior business session. Amendments must be consistent with the Constitution and policies of the National Federation of the Blind.