**The 73rd National Federation of the Blind of Ohio  
Annual Convention: Obstacles are Opportunities**The NFB is an instrument of change

The NFB was founded on the guiding principles that blind people have an inalienable right to independence, that blind people have equal capacity, and that only blind people themselves can legitimately speak for the blind community. These principles have continuously permeated the membership and structure of our ever-growing organization.

November 1 through November 3, 2019

DoubleTree Hotel Columbus/Worthington  
175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235  
(614) 885-3334

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio  
Richard Payne, President

Host: Capital Chapter  
Annette Lutz, President

**About the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio**

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio is a 501(c3), not for profit organization and a founding affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind

The National Federation of the Blind is the oldest and largest nationwide organization of blind Americans. We are the only organization that believes in the full capacity of blind people and has the power to transform our dreams into reality. We believe in blind people because we are blind people—from our democratically elected leaders to our diverse nationwide membership.

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

**NFB Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

**What We Do**

Through our network of blind members, we coordinate many programs, services, and resources to defend the rights of blind Americans, provide information and support to blind children and adults, and build a community that creates a future full of opportunities.

# **Mastering the DoubleTree by Barbara Pierce**

To check into the hotel, you will enter from the north side of the building. There are two entrances about thirty feet apart. The check-in desk is about fifteen feet to the south of these doors. As you step into the hotel, angle toward the other door as you walk forward to the desk, and mind the three pillars that run from east to west halfway across the space between the doors and the desk.

After you finish checking in, you probably want to find your room and drop your suitcase. Turn left (east) at the desk and start along a hall that leads to the sleeping rooms. Just after the check-in desk is a right turn to the hall that leads to our meeting rooms, but ignore this for the moment. Keep traveling east past the work-out room and the pool on your right. You will then pass the outdoor courtyard on your right. There are large windows, so, if it is sunny, you may feel a rise in the temperature. On the left (north) side of this hall is an exit, which leads to a dog relief area. There is a grassy area before the walk to the parking lot. A trash barrel will be located outside this door for your convenience. After the courtyard are the elevators, two on the right (south) side of the hall and one on the left (north). If you hit carpet, you have gone about thirty feet too far. There are six floors of sleeping rooms, including the ground floor. The rooms all have Braille and raised print signs.

Returning to the front door and facing south, you can turn to the right (west) almost immediately. Walk west until you dead end into a wall. This hall leads you to the restrooms as well as the Franklin and Fairfield Rooms, which is where hospitality will be held. Once you hit carpet, turn right (north); the restrooms are to your left (west). To get to the hospitality rooms, turn left (south) and begin looking for an opening on the right into an east/west hall. The entrance to the Franklin Room is just across a hall coming into this hall from the right (north). The entrance to the Fairfield Room is at the north end of this hallway.

Returning to the front door and facing south, if you continue traveling south past the west end of the check-in desk, you will find the Crosswood Bar and Grill on your right. This is the restaurant. It is on the west side of this hallway. The Upper Terrace is on the left (east) side of the hall and up four steps. This is a large seating area that is often used for casual seating or meals, but we will not be using the space. So it is safe to say that you can ignore any short flights of steps that you discover in the lobby area. Past the Upper Terrace you can make a left turn (east) and travel past the two large ballrooms on the south (right) side of the hall. The Alder Room is our general session meeting room. It is the eastern-most of these two rooms. When you have reached carpet, that is where registration will be set up.

You can reach the Alder Room another way. Returning to the front door and facing south, if you continue traveling south past the east end of the check-in desk, you will find a set of restrooms on your left (east) side of the hall. To your right is the Upper Terrace, which was mentioned earlier. Continue walking south along the Upper Terrace, and you will walk directly into the Alder Room. If you turn left (east) just before the Alder Room, you will find the Polaris 1 and 2 Rooms on your left. When you reach the carpet, you have found the registration area. At the east end of this hall on the left is a door out to the courtyard. The break-out rooms that we will be using are all in this area. You can turn right (south) in this carpeted area. You will be walking south toward the end of the hall. On your left in this hall are the German Village, the Arena District, and the Short North Rooms. On the right are the Oak 1, 2, and 3 Rooms. At the south end of this hall is the exit leading to the dog relief area. A trash receptacle will be located outside this door. Exit the building into a parking lot with parking along the building. Cross the driveway and another line of parking places to get to a grassy island suitable for the dogs. Please use this area and clean up after your dog.

**Convention Arrangements**

If you have any questions about Convention Arrangements, contact Sheri Albers, Convention Planning Chair at (513) 886-8697.

**Announcements**

**Free AIRA Site Access at National Federation of the Blind State Convention**

The National Federation of the Blind has partnered with AIRA to provide free AIRA Site Access to NFB members during our 2019 state convention.

AIRA subscribers who are National Federation of the Blind members can use the service at our convention free without having minutes deducted from their plans. In addition those interested in AIRA have the unique opportunity to try out the service free of charge while at our convention. This convention-wide, free site access is available only at NFB state conventions, giving NFB members an exclusive opportunity to test-drive AIRA in a convention setting.

AIRA allows blind people to connect to a trained agent using live video through a mobile app or wearable glasses to get real-time visual information or assistance. Learn more about AIRA and special pricing available for NFB members at go.aira.io/NFB.

**How it Works**

Before you head to convention or as soon as you get there, download the free AIRA app from the App Store, and create a guest account if you are not already an AIRA subscriber. Also make sure your phone's GPS feature is enabled. When you enter the convention Site Access location, your phone will receive a notification letting you know that the space you are in is part of the AIRA Network. When you connect with an agent, he or she will also confirm that you are now covered by the network, and no minutes will be deducted from your account.

When you leave or enter convention areas that are covered by the Site Access network, you will be informed by the AIRA agent.

To learn more about AIRA and the special plan available exclusively to NFB members, visit go.aira.io/NFB.

**Annual Auction**

Throughout the convention we will be holding an Action Auction to raise money for the affiliate. The auction will be great fun with many valuable items up for bid. Our chapters and divisions have submitted numerous items, including electronics, gift certificates, food baskets, and more to raise money for the affiliate. The auction will take place throughout general sessions on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, and at the Banquet. Please call Annette Lutz at (614) 288-4323 and make arrangements to get your items to her when you arrive.

**Registration and Literature**

Pre-Registration packet pick-up and convention registration will take place outside of the Alder Room. Those who have completed their registration prior to convention will form a line at the Pre-Registration Table for a speedy process. Visit the Registration Table to register for convention or to purchase additional tickets to events. Both tables will be open for two shifts on November 1 from 9:00 AM to 10:45 AM and 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM and then again on Saturday, November 02 from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM. NFB literature will be available throughout the convention in the registration area. Feel free to take as much as you like and share it with your friends and family.

**Door Prizes**

Door prizes should be labeled clearly in print and Braille with the donor's name and the amount of cash or type of gift. They may be brought directly to Annette Lutz or left at Convention Registration with instructions.

Door prizes will be drawn periodically throughout convention sessions on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and at the banquet. To be eligible for door prizes, you must be registered for the convention and present in the room when your name is called.

**Guide Dogs**

There are two relief areas for your convenience, one outside the convention room hall, and one near the sleeping room hall. Please read the hotel description for details. For assistance with any guide dog issues please contact Deanna Lewis, President, OAGDU Division at (513) 328-7976.

**Exhibit Hall**

Whether you are an information seeker or a new-gadget shopper, you will find everything that you need to help you live the life you want at the 2019 Exhibit Hall. Visit Exhibit Hall in the Cedar - Buckeye Room on Saturday, November 2, from noon to 4:30 PM to explore the latest technology and to get answers to the questions that race through your mind about employment, healthcare, services for the blind, and much more.

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

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| **Friday, November 1, 2019** | |
| 9:00 to 10:45 AM | Pre-Registration Packet Pick-up and Convention Registration Outside of the Alder Room |
| 11 to Noon | Ohio Board of Directors Meeting Alder Room |
| 12:00 Noon | Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band Alder Room |
| 12:15 to 1:45 PM | Pre-Registration Packet Pick-up and Convention Registration Outside of the Alder Room |
| 12:15 to 1:15 PM | Meet and Greet with light refreshments Buckeye I Room |
| 12:30 to 1:45 PM | Rookie Round-up Dr. **Carolyn Peters** and **Suzanne Turner**, NFB-O Membership Committee Co-Chairs Buckeye II Room |
| 2:00 PM | General Session, Call to Order **Richard Payne**, President, NFB of Ohio Alder Room |
| 2:05 PM | Opening ceremony Invocation Dr. **Carolyn Peters**, Miami Valley Chapter President and Member, NFB of Ohio Board of Directors |
| 2:10 PM | Working Together We Will Protect the Rights of Blind Parents State Representative **Erica Crawley**, Sponsor HB188 |
| 2:30 PM | Opening Remarks and welcome by the host chapter **Annette Lutz**, Capitol Chapter President and Member, NFB of Ohio Board of Directors |
| 2:35 PM | It Begins with You: The Power of Collective Action from a Student’s Perspective **Kenia Flores**, National Association of Blind Students |
| 2:55 PM | National Report **Ever Lee Hairston**, National Representative, Member NFB Board of Directors |
| 3:15 PM | Not Just the Right, but the Responsibility to Be in the World: Seeking Ideas on Outreach and Visibility **Al Elia**, Attorney, Member, NFB of Cleveland |
| 3:30 PM | Building Bridges and Creating More Opportunitiesfor Ohioans with Disabilities to Live the Lives They Want **Kevin L. Miller**, Director, and **Erik Williamson**, Assistant Director, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities |
| 4:05 PM | AIRA, Visual Information on your Terms **Joy Mistovich** and **Eric Duffy**, AIRA Representatives |
| 4:25 PM | Blindness: From Cradle to Career **Carol Castellano**, Founder of Parents of Blind Children of New Jersey and Member, Board of Directors of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children |
| 4:40 PM | If Only Public Education Staff Had a Better Understanding of the Blind **Camryn Gattuso**, Student of the National EQ Program |
| 4:55PM | Convention Arrangements **Sheri Albers**, Convention Arrangements Chair and Vice President, NFB of Ohio |
| 5:00 PM | Recess General Session resumes at 9:00 AM November 2. |
| 5:30 to 6:30 PM | Ohio Association of Blind Merchants Meeting **Annette Lutz**, President Arena District Room |
| 5:30 to 8:30 PM | Hospitality Fairfield Room |
| 7:00 to 8:00 PM | Ohio Association of Guide Dog Users (OAGDU) Meeting **Deanna Lewis**, President Madison Room |
| 7:00 to 8:00 PM | At-Large Chapter Meeting **Colleen Roth**, President Short North Room |
| 7:00 to 8:00 PM | Ohio Association of Blind Students (OABS) Meeting **Jackson Schwoebel** and **Suzanne Turner**, Co - Facilitators German Village Room |

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| 7:30 to 8:15 PM | Resolutions Committee Meeting. All are welcome to attend. Resolutions adopted by the convention become the policy of the organization. **Barbara Pierce**, Chair Alder Room |
| 7:45 to 9:15 PM | One Touch Self-Defense Class ($20 per person) **Wilbert Turner** and Team Arena District Room |
| 8:30 PM | Nominating Committee Meeting. This is a closed meeting. Union Room |
| 9:00 PM | OAPUB Play Alder Room |
| **Saturday, November 2, 2019** | |
| 7:00 to 8:45 AM | Ohio Association to Promote the Use of Braille Breakfast Meeting **Marianne Denning**, President Buckeye I and II Rooms |
| 7:00 to 8:45 AM | Ohio Diabetes Action Network Breakfast Meeting **Susan Day**, President Breakfast in the Crosswoods Bar and Grill and proceed to Arena District Room to conduct the business meeting |
| 7:00 to 8:45 AM | Scholarship Breakfast **Cassandra Jones**, chair Crosswoods Bar and Grill |
| 8:00 to 8:50 AM | Pre-Registration Packet Pick-up and Convention Registration Outside of the Alder Room |
| 9:00 AM | General Session, Call to order **Richard Payne**, President, NFB of Ohio Alder Room |
| 9:05 AM | Invocation **Robert Pierce**, NFB of Lorain County, and United States veteran |
| 9:10 AM | Convention Announcements **Sheri Albers**, Convention Arrangements Chair and Vice President, NFB of Ohio |
| 9:15 AM | A Struggling Reality of Battling the Public Sector for Access to Education for My Child **Ronda Thorpe**, Cleveland, Ohio |
| 9:30 AM | Your Rights and How We Can Help You **Alison McKay,** CAP Coordinator, Disability Rights Ohio |
| 9:55 AM | Update from the State Library of Ohio **Tracy Grimm**, Head of Circulation & Special Services, State Library of Ohio |
| 10:25 AM | Presidential Report **Richard Payne**, President, NFB of Ohio |
| 11:00 AM | The 2019 Braille Enrichment for Learning and Literacy (BELL) Academy Report **Eric Duffy**, BELL Coordinator and Secretary, NFB of Ohio |
| 11:30 AM | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) **Greg Dormer**, Deputy Director, and **Sarah Kelly**, Program Services Manager, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) |
| Noon | Recess General Session resumes at 9:00 AM November 3 |
| Noon | Boxed Lunch Pick-up (tickets required) Outside NFB Registration Area |
| 12:15 to 2:00 PM | Parents of Blind Children meeting (includes light lunch) Fairfield Room |
| 12:15 to 2:00 PM | Activities for children 13 and under (includes light lunch) Franklin Room |
| Noon to 4:30 PM | Exhibit Hall Cedar - Buckeye Rooms |
| 12:15 to 1:45 PM | Community Service Meeting **Cheryl Fields**, Chair, Community Service Committee, and Member, NFB of Ohio Board of Directors Short North Room |
| 12:15 to 1:45 PM | NFB of Ohio Senior Division Meeting **Barbara Pierce**, President Arena District Room |
| 2:00 to 3:30 PM | The Best You: Mental, Emotional, and Physical Health: Resetting our Mindset **Suzanne Turner**, President NFB of Cleveland and Member, NFB of Ohio Board of Directors Alder Room |
| 3:00 to 4:30 PM | Technology Workshop All Things Tech--Join a discussion about all things tech--time at the end for questions and answers **Jim Wise, Ali Benmerzouga, Joanne Williams**, and **Shelley Duffy** Short North Room |
| 3:00 to 4:30 PM | One Touch Self-Defense Class ($20 per person) **Wilbert Turner** and team German Village Room |
| 3:00 to 4:30 PM | Leadership meeting. Topics of discussion include leadership, chapter finances, fundraising, advocacy, and affiliate and national policies. This meeting is for members of the Board of Directors and elected chapter and division leaders only. President **Richard Payne**, Vice President **Sheri Albers**, and National Rep **Ever Lee Hairston** Arena District Room |
| 5:30 to 6:30 PM | Pre-Banquet Social Hour, Cash Bar Upper Terrace |
| 6:30 PM | NFB-O Banquet, (tickets required) Alder Room Event Highlights:   * Master of Ceremonies: **Richard Payne**, President, NFB of Ohio * Keynote Speaker: **Ever Lee Hairston**, National Rep * Awards presentations: **Heather Leiterman**, Awards Committee Chair * Scholarship Awards: **Cassandra Jones**, Scholarship Committee Chair  We would like to thank the Norwalk Ohio Lions for generously supporting our Scholarship Program. * Not So Silent Auction: **Annette Lutz,** Capital Chapter President and Member, NFB of Ohio Board of Directors * Money for the Movement: **Sherry Ruth**, Treasurer, NFB of Ohio |
| 9:00 PM | After Party Alder Room Stick around after the banquet to fellowship and party with your NFB of Ohio family. Enjoy live music and a cash bar. |

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| **Sunday, November 3, 2019** | |
| 7:45 to 8:45 AM | Faith Meeting **Carolyn Peters** Alder Room |
| 9:00 AM | General Session, Call to Order **Richard Payne**, President, NFB of Ohio Alder Room |
| 9:05 AM | Remembering Those Federation Members who are no Longer with Us **Shelley Duffy**, Capital Chapter |
| 9:10 AM | What Are the Odds? **Andra Stover**, Vice President, Greater Akron Chapter |
| 9:25 AM | Common Attributes of Leadership **Dave Burch**, President, Greater Akron Chapter |
| 9:40 AM | Report of the Nominating Committee |
| 9:45 AM | Affiliate Elections |
| 10:15 AM | Financial Report **Sherry Rut**h, Treasurer, NFB of Ohio |
| 10:40 AM | Resolutions |
| 11:35 AM | Update from Voice Corps **David Noble,** Marketing and Development Director, Voice Corps Reading Service |
| 11:50am | Closing remarks and final words from our National Rep |
| Noon | Adjournment |

**National Federation of the Blind of Ohio**

**2019 Board of Directors**

**Officers**

Terms ending 2020

**President**: Richard Payne

937-396-5573

rchpay7@gmail.com

PO Box 20544, Dayton, OH 45420

**Vice** **President**: Sheri Albers

513-886-8697

sheri.albers87@gmail.com

3052 Lischer Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211

**Secretary**: Eric Duffy

614-377-9877

peduffy63@gmail.com

4183 Indianola Avenue, Columbus, OH 43214

**Treasurer**: Sherry Ruth

440-324-4218 (h), 440-281-6959 (c)

Babyruth2@windstream.net

6922 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, OH 44035

**Board Members At Large**

Terms ending 2019

Cheryl Fields

216-566-4317

cherylelaine1957@gmail.com

PO Box 202091, Cleveland, OH 44120

Deanna Lewis

513-328-7976

deannakay03@gmail.com

2526 Meyerhill Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45211

Annette Lutz

614-288-4323

annettelutz@att.net

Dr. Carolyn Peters

937-293-2131

dr.carolyn.peters@gmail.com

Dayton, OH

Barbara Pierce

440-774-8077

barbara.pierce9366@gmail.com

198 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074

William H. Turner

(330) 328-9860

william.h.turner@ssa.gov

PO Box 141077, Cleveland, OH 44114

Term ending 2020

Suzanne Hartfield-Turner

216-990-6199

President.NFB.ClevelandOH@gmail.com

PO Box 141077, Cleveland, OH 44114

**Sponsors**

**Disability Rights Ohio, Columbus, Ohio**

Disability Rights Ohio is a non-profit corporation with a mission to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio.

**Delta Gamma Foundation**

The Delta Gamma Foundation fosters lifetime enrichment for members, promotes Service for Sight and partners with the fraternity to ensure the future of our sisterhood. Our dedicated members and friends make this mission possible through philanthropy, service and generous gifts to the Foundation which support our three signature programs: Service for Sight, Grants to the Fraternity for Leadership and Educational Programming and Grants to Individual Members.

**Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living**

Serving Fairfield and Hocking Counties.

Founded in 2002, SOCIL is managed by a Board of Directors and staff comprised of most persons with various disabilities. The foundation of CIL services is the peer relationship - people with disabilities assisting other people with disabilities as role models and mentors. Each center is unique.