NFB of Delaware Resolution 2022 – 3 DE

Regarding the employment of blind/low vision people at the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired

WHEREAS, agencies for the blind are established to serve people who are blind; and

WHEREAS, an essential part of the governing structure of an agency for the blind is to include the processes, policies, and procedures that will ensure that the agency for the blind administration comprehends the interests, needs, and aspirations of its constituency; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) has the stated mission of providing educational, vocational, and technical support to empower and foster independence for Delawareans with visual impairments; and

WHEREAS, the best people to determine the efficacy of policies, procedures and programs concerning people who are blind, are people who are blind; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no people who are blind in the administration of the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired; and

WHEREAS, the number of blind employees of DVI make up a small percentage of agency employees; and

WHEREAS, even the technology used by the Delaware Division for the visually Impaired is not fully accessible to people using screen readers which makes it an unnecessarily difficult place for blind people to work: Now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware assembled in virtual convention this twenty second day of October 2022, that this organization strongly urges our Governor to appoint blind people to the leadership roles of Director and Deputy Director of the Delaware Division of the Visually Impaired; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization strongly urges the Department of Health and Social Services to update the systems and technologies used by DVI to make them a model of an accessible workplace for all people, especially people who are blind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization strongly urges DVI to recruit and hire more people who are blind/low vision in the administration, management, and throughout the entire organization. Thereby promoting independence for the blind and ensuring that their input is involved at every level of the division, from policy making to services provided.

This resolution was unanimously approved on October 22, 2022