NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLINDOF ARIZONAPHOENIX CHAPTER CONSTITUTIONRevised: July, 2008Adopted: September 6, 2008Article I: NameThe name of this organization shall be the Phoenix Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona; hereinafter referred to as NFBA.Article II: PurposeThe purpose of this organization shall be to promote the general welfare of the blind of Phoenix, of Arizona and of the Nation. The Phoenix Chapter shall not merely be a social organization, but shall actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the blind through its support of the policies and programs of the NFBA and the National Federation of the Blind; hereinafter referred to as NFB.Article III: MembershipSection 1 - Affiliation.Any person interested in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of this organization is eligible for membership in the Phoenix Chapter. Membership in this organization automatically establishes membership in the NFBA and in the NFB.Section 2 - Active Members.Those wishing to gain or maintain Active Member status in the Phoenix Chapter shall pay dues, annually. At least a majority of the Active Members of this organization must be blind. Any person may initially become an Active Member of the Phoenix chapter by being sponsored by an Active Member of the Chapter, by being approved with a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at any regular business meeting, and upon paying dues to the treasurer. Active Members have the right to vote, to serve on committees, to speak on the floor in favor of or in opposition to any motion being entertained and to hold office.On an annual basis, the Phoenix Chapter Board shall identify “Active Members” and “Supportive Members.” The list of names on the “Active Members” List shall then be presented as a recommendation to the Membership for approval. The “Active Members” list shall then be submitted to the Affiliate Treasurer no later than 30 days prior to the State Convention for the purpose of voting on issues presented during the Convention. This 30 day deadline is required by the terms in the NFBA Constitution.Section 3 - Honorary Life-Time Member.An Honorary Life-Time Membership may be granted to an Active Member of the Phoenix Chapter that exhibits extraordinary dedication and commitment to promoting the policies and programs of the organization. Honorary Life-Time Membership status may be granted upon a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at any regular business meeting. An Honorary Life-Time member shall exercise all the rights of Active Members without being assessed the responsibility of paying annual dues. $1.00 (one dollar) from the Phoenix Chapter treasury shall be forwarded to the treasurer of the NFBA each year on behalf of this member. Any member receiving this distinct recognition shall retain it for Life except in the event their actions meet the criteria for expulsion.Section 4 - Expulsion.Any member may be expelled by a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at any regular business meeting of this organization for any of the following reasons:1. Flagrant violation of this Constitution and/or rules of the organization,2. Unauthorized activity in the name of the Federation, or3. Releasing confidential information to non-members where it adversely affects the interest of the organization.The State Convention of this organization may reinstate any person who has been expelled, unless such expulsion has been confirmed by the National Convention or by the Board of Directors of the NFB; in which event, the person may not be reinstated except by the National Convention or by the National Board. Any person who feels he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the NFB which may (in its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision.Section 5 - Dues.The dues of this organization shall be established by a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at any regular business meeting and are payable to the Phoenix Chapter treasurer, annually. Dues must be paid in advance no later than the conclusion of the regular business meeting each October of an even-numbered election year in order to be eligible to vote and be considered for a Phoenix Chapter office position in November of that year. The treasurer of the Phoenix Chapter shall forward $1.00 (one dollar) per member per year to the NFBA on behalf of each member. No person shall retain Active Member status in the Phoenix Chapter who has not made annual payment of his/her dues. The members of the Phoenix Chapter shall determine by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting what constitutes the beginning and ending of a year to establish the time period during which a dues paying member is eligible for consideration to have their name placed on the “Active Members” list being submitted to the Affiliate Treasurer for proper identification for voting purposes on issues presented during the State Convention.Article IV: ElectionsElections shall be held every two (2) years at the regularly scheduled business meeting in November of the even numbered years. Each member of the Board of Directors shall be elected to serve a term of two (2) years. Their term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the business session at which they are elected. Anyone whose name is placed for nomination for a position on the Board of Directors (whether by the Nominating Committee or from the floor during elections) must agree to serve in advance and must be present during the election process.Each member of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting. There shall be no proxy voting. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees and a second ballot shall be conducted. This procedure shall continue until one of the nominees has received a simple majority vote from the Active Members present and voting. No member of this organization shall hold more than one elective office at a time.Article V: Officers and Their DutiesSection 1 - Officers.Officers of the Phoenix Chapter shall consist of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President and the majority of the Board must be blind.Section 2 - Duties of the President.The President is the principal administrative officer of the organization. As such, his/her duties consist of: carrying out the policies adopted by the membership; conducting the day-to-day management of the affairs of the organization; authorizing expenditures from the treasury in accordance with and implementation of the policies adopted by the membership; establishing all committees of the organization (except the Board of Directors); coordinating all activities, including the work of other officers and committees; and taking all administrative action necessary and proper to put into effect the programs and to accomplish the objectives of the organization.Section 3 - Duties of the First Vice President.The First Vice President shall, in the absence of the President and during such time, as the President may be unable to perform the duties of that office, perform such duties. If the office of the President becomes vacant for any reason, the First Vice President shall succeed to that office.Section 4 - Duties of the Second Vice President.The Second Vice President shall be next in the line of succession.Section 5 - Duties of the Secretary.The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Board and Chapter meetings and shall keep a list of the members of the Phoenix Chapter and of all committees. The Secretary shall furnish to the President of the NFBA, annually, on or before January 1st, a list of the names and addresses of Chapter members and elected officers. A copy of the Constitution of the Phoenix Chapter and of all amendments and By-Laws, thereof, shall be sent to the President of the NFBA without delay.Section 6 - Duties of the Treasurer.The Treasurer shall receive and have custody of all funds of the organization. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accounts of all receipts and disbursements, in addition to presenting written reports to all meetings of the membership and to the Board upon request.Article VI: Board of DirectorsSection 1 - Directors.This organization shall have a Board of Directors consisting of the five (5) constitutional officers and two (2) additional members. The Board shall advise the President and have charge of the affairs of the organization between regular business meetings. Its function is to make policy decisions when necessary in accordance with and implementation of those adopted by the membership. The Board of Directors should not make policy decisions that can reasonably be postponed until the next regularly scheduled business meeting.Section 2 - Vacancies.Vacancies in the offices of the Second Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer or any of the Directorships shall be filled by a special election at the next regular business meeting of the Phoenix Chapter following the meeting at which such vacancies occurred.Article VII: MeetingsSection 1 - Regular Business Meeting.The Phoenix Chapter shall hold a monthly business meeting--the time and place of which shall be fixed by a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at any regular business meeting or by the Board of Directors. At least seven (7) Active Members must be present to constitute a quorum in order to transact business.Section 2 - Board Meeting.The Board of Directors shall hold meetings as called by the President, or on the written request of any three (3) members. There shall be no proxy voting by Board members. The Board of Directors may be polled by telephone or mail ballot on any question. At least four (4) members of the Board of Directors must be present to constitute a quorum in order to transact business.Section 3 - Special Meeting.The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time he/she or a majority of the Board of Directors deems such action to be necessary. At such a special meeting, at least seven (7) Active Members must be present to constitute a quorum in order to transact business. Except in cases of emergency, notice shall be given to the membership at least three (3) days prior to the date of the meeting.Article VIII: AffiliationThe Phoenix Chapter of the NFBA shall function as an integral part of the NFB. The Phoenix Chapter shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the NFBA and the provisions of the contract appearing on the back of the Charter of Affiliation issued to state affiliates by the NFB. Policy decisions of the NFBA and the NFB (whether made by the National Convention, by the National Board of Directors, by the State Convention or by the State Board of Directors) are binding on this organization, and this organization shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions.As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the NFBA and the NFB have the power and authority to expel and discipline any member, to remove officers and to reorganize the Phoenix Chapter. In the event of reorganization, the Phoenix Chapter shall dissolve and cease to exist.It is hereby recognized by this organization that the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind or any variant, thereof, is the property of the NFB; and, the Phoenix Chapter or any of its members that cease to be a part of the NFBA or the NFB (for whatever reason) shall forthwith forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind or any variant, thereof.Article IX: Disbursement of FundsThe 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. Each financial transaction conducted on behalf of the Phoenix Chapter shall be verified by a receipt, invoice or other appropriate document furnished to the treasurer for record-keeping purposes.Article X: DissolutionIn the event of the dissolution of the Phoenix Chapter, or if (for whatever reason) this organization ceases to be an affiliate of the NFBA and the NFB, its assets shall be given to the NFBA to be held in trust for a reorganized chapter in the Phoenix area. In the event that no new chapter is reorganized for a period of two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be an affiliate of the NFBA and the NFB, the assets shall become the property of the NFBA.Article XI: By-lawsAny situation not covered by this Constitution may be considered by the membership in the form of a motion or resolution, and, when adopted, shall become a by-law when so designated by the membership. The adoption or repeal of a by-law shall require a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at any regular business meeting.Article XII: AmendmentsThis Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the Phoenix chapter by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at a previous regular business meeting; and, provided that 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 Federation of the Blind of Arizona and the National Federation of the Blind.BY-LAWSDefinitions:Active Member - An Active Member is one who pays annual dues and acts on his/her pledge to whole-heartedly participate in the efforts 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.Honorary Life-Time Member - An Honorary Life-Time Member is one who believes in and promotes the cause of the National Federation of the Blind and who has been awarded this title by a simple majority vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business meeting. Any member receiving this distinct recognition shall retain it for Life except in the event their actions meet the criteria for expulsion.Flagrant violation of the Constitution - A flagrant violation of the Constitution is an obvious and/or provable action or inaction that is in direct opposition to the strict or implied terms stated in the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).Unauthorized activity - Unauthorized activity is observable and/or provable action and/or communication that directly or indirectly either wrongly affiliates itself or interferes with sanctioned affiliation with the cause, the policies and programs of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), its affiliates and its chapters and divisions.Policies:Active Members Policy - An “Active Member” is one who pays annual dues, and who whole-heartedly participates in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; whose regular participation therein demonstrates support for the policies and programs of the Federation; and who abides by its Constitution. The criteria for Active Member status shall be established and recommended to the chapter membership by the Phoenix Chapter Board for approval. Likewise, in accordance with such criteria, the names on the Active Members list shall then be presented as a recommendation to the Phoenix Chapter membership for approval at the time of the annual review by a simple majority vote of the Active Members present and voting. The approved Active Members list shall then be submitted to the affiliate treasurer no later than thirty (30) days prior to the state convention in compliance with the stated terms in the NFBA Constitution. The reason for submitting the Active Members list to the affiliate treasurer is to identify those in attendance at any affiliate convention as having the right to vote, to serve on committees, to speak on the floor in favor of or in opposition to any motion being entertained, and to hold office.(Committee: 07-27-08; Adopted: 09-06-08)Chapter Functions Alcohol Policy - It is hereby agreed to that no member of this chapter nor any guest thereof shall transport, distribute or consume alcoholic beverages at any business or social gathering of this organization where the use of such beverages is prohibited unless the establishments in question maintain a Liquor License.(Committee: 07-30-07; Adopted: 09-01-07)