**2017 Washington Seminar Application**

Must be submitted to the NFB of Florida’s Scholarship Chair by December 1,, 2016.

**INTRODUCTION AND RULES**

This form applies to members of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, who wish to be delegates at the 2017 Washington Seminar whether or not assistance is sought from NFB of Florida. It must be returned to our Scholarship Chair via e-mail by December 1, 2016 to nfb.fl.scholarship@gmail.com completely type. The Scholarship Chair will screen the applications before submitting them to the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee will then make a recommendation to the Affiliate President.

Washington Seminar begins Monday, January 30, 2017. All delegates are expected to arrive by Monday, January 30, 2017 by 4 PM. Delegates are expected to make their own flight and shuttle arrangements to and from the hotel. The specific confirmed travel itinerary for arrival and departure must be provided to the Scholarship Chair, at nfb.fl.scholarship@gmail.com no later than January 1, 2017. The affiliate will pay for shared rooms only with members of the same gender in each room. Travel reimbursements will be processed after the seminar and reimbursements will be distributed thereafter.

Those who are selected as delegates must attend a mandatory two hour teleconference, which will take place in late December and/or early January. This training will cover protocols such as the need for participants to attend assigned appointments and fulfill specific roles at the meetings. Participants are also expected to attend an evening training session in Washington, D.C. on Monday. They will meet with their fellow delegates and Affiliate President to practice their presentations unless assigned to another commitment at that time.

Following the seminar, delegates are expected to send at least one follow-up email to a staff member who attended the meeting in the federal legislature’s office and must attend at least one follow-up meeting in the district office in order to garner or confirm support for our initiatives. The Team Leaders will arrange all meetings for the Washington Seminar.

All applications will be considered. NFB of Florida wishes to schedule appointments for no more than 8 attendees to Washington Seminar and will give preference to veterans, first time attendees, students, and members from under represented geographic areas in the state. Those who have actively contacted and/or visited their legislators shall be given priority over those who have not done so. The Scholarship Committee shall consider whether an applicant listed the correct congressman below in weighing the applicant’s ability to follow up, participate in Washington Seminar activities and legislative initiatives. The same person may be counted in more than one category, e.g. a student may also be a new attendee.

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**APPLICATION**

Fill in your information in the areas marked (type here).

Name: (type here)

Date: (type here)

Address: (type here)

City, State, Zip: (type here)

Phone (Cell): (type here)

The cell phone number above should be the one you will have with you in D.C.

Email: (type here)

My Congressional Representative is: (type here)

Make every effort to list your congressperson correctly. No listing, or an incorrect listing, may negatively influence your application.

Please explain any relationships that you or members of your family may have with other federal legislators, even if you do not live or vote in their districts: (type here)

Please check all of the following that apply by placing a letter “X” in between the brackets.

[] I am a member of a chapter. If yes, which one? (Type here)

[] I am a student.

[] I would like to also attend the Student Seminar.

[] I am a veteran.

[] I am a senior citizen.

[] I am a blind merchant.

[] I am the parent of a blind child.

[] I have attended Washington Seminar on (type here) occasions.

[] I have never attended Washington Seminar before.

[] I have followed up or called with my federal legislatures’ district offices to discuss the issues since the 2016 Washington Seminar.

**ESSAY**

NFB of Florida would like to know why you should be appointed as a delegate to Washington Seminar 2017. Please discuss three reasons why you should be selected: (type here)

NFB of Florida would like to know how well you understand our legislative initiatives. Please explain your knowledge about the TIME Act: (type here)

NFB of Florida would like to know if you have had any of the following experiences, check all of the following that apply by placing a letter “X” in between the brackets:

[] Have written a bill

[] Sent a letter to the congressman.

Please provide a copy or response from the office

[] Have received a sponsor or co-sponsor on a bill at the state or federal level

[] Participated in a boycott or strike

[] Visited with your legislature’s office.

If so which one and which office? (Type here)

[] Testified before the legislature at the state or federal level.

Please provide a copy of the testimony

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

By signing below, you understand and agree to the following:

1. Failure to comply with any requirements of the program, will lead to ineligibility in 2018.
2. Delegates are expected to arrive by Monday, January 30, 2017 by 4 PM.
3. Delegates are required to make their own flight and shuttle arrangements to and from the hotel.
4. Delegates must attend the mandatory two hour teleconference to prepare for the seminar.
5. Delegates must attend the Monday evening training session in Washington, D.C. unless assigned to another commitment at that time.
6. Following the seminar, delegates will send at least one follow-up email to at least one of the staff members who attended the meeting on behalf of the federal legislature in Washington, D.C.
7. Following the seminar, delegates will attend at least one follow up meeting in the district of the federal legislature.

Signature of applicant: type your name here

Date: type the date here

All active members of local chapters or divisions shall automatically become active members of this organization, with the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office.