Deaf blind florida constitution

 **DIVISION CONSTITUTION**

 **DEAF-BLIND DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION**

 **OF THE BLIND OF FLORIDA**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

 **The name of this organization shall be Deaf-Blind Division of the National Federation of the Blind of**

**Florida.**

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

 **The purpose of this organization is to serve as a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida; to be a vehicle for collective action by the deaf-blind of the state; to function as a mechanism through which the deaf-blind and interested blind and sighted persons can come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of lfe for the deaf-blind; to promote the vocational, cultural and social advance-ment of the deaf-blind; to achieve the integration of the deaf-blind into society on the basis of equality with the sighted; to focus attention upon the problems faced by deaf-blind people in all walks of life; and to take any other action which will improve the over-all condition and standard of living for children, adolescents, adults and seniors who have a combined hearing and vision loss.**

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section One**

**The members of this organization shall be deaf-blind and others interested in promoting the purpose of this**

**organization. The members of this organization are members of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida and shall have the same rights, privileges and**

**responsibilities as other members of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.**

**Section Two**

**This organization shall be made up primarily of deaf-blind people, and it shall be controlled by the deaf-blind. A majority of its voting members must be deaf-blind.**

**Section Three**

**Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution, for violation of the policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, or for conduct unbecoming to a member of the Federation, by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business session of this organization or by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The State**

**Convention of this organization may reinstate any person who has been expelled. Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the**

**National Federation of the Blind of Florida which may (at its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision. Unless the decision to suspend or expel is reversed by the State Convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, the ruling of suspension or expulsion shall continue in effect.**

**Section Four**

**The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof, is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and if this organization ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida (for whatever reason) it shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.**

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section One**

**The officers of this organization shall be: President,**

**First Vice-President, Second Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer. The duties of those officers shall be those customarily associated with their respective offices.**

**Section Two**

**Two additional persons will be elected to serve on the Board of Directors.**

**Section Three**

**The officers and those elected to the Board will constitute the Board of Directors. The officers and the**

**members of the board shall be elected bi-annually by a**

**majority vote of the members of this organization present and voting at the annual meeting. The President and Vice President must be deaf-blind. There**

**will be no proxy voting.**

**ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

**Section One**

**This organization shall hold it annual meeting at the**

**time and place of the annual convention of the National**

**Federation of the Blind of Florida. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the organization between annual meetings.**

**Section Two**

**The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the Board at any time he/she, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary.**

**ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

**The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.**

**ARTICLE VII: AFFILIATION**

 **The Deaf-Blind Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, and this organization shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida annually, on or before January 31st, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. Further, a complete financial report showing all financial transactions for the previous calendar year shall be furnished to the State President by March 1st for appropriate accounting purposes and to comply with 501(C)3 requirements and for Internal Revenue Service purposes. A copy of the Constitution of the Deaf-Blind Division and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, immediately upon adoption.**

 **The Deaf-Blind Division shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and activity work to promote the economic and social betterment of the deaf-blind. This organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Florida (whether made by the National Convention or the National Board of Directors or the State Convention or 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 National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or the National Board or the State Convention or the State Board) has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate or local chapter. In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization belong to the reorganized chapter, and the former chapter shall dissolve and**

**cease to exist.**

 **The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and this organization, if it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind (for whatever reason) shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.**

**ARTICLE VIII – DUES**

**The dues for members of this organization shall be five dollars ($5.00) per year, payable in advance. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.**

**ARTICLE IX – FUNDS AND FINANCING**

**The 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.**

**ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION**

**In the event of the dissolution of this organization, or**

**(for whatever reason) it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, its assets shall be transferred to the treasury of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.**

**ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS**

**This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote**

**of the members present and voting at any meeting of this organization, but the amendments shall not become effective until they have been presented to the**

**President of the National Federation of the Blind of**

**Florida for review and approved by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of**

**Florida.**