Resolution concerning Dining in the Dark

Resolution 2012-04

Regarding Dining in the Dark

WHEREAS, the real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight but the widespread public misconception that the blind are not equal to the sighted

in society; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind categorically rejects the myth that the blind are not equal to the sighted; and

WHEREAS, programs of the National Federation of the Blind teach and promote a positive understanding of blindness, that the blind are normal and equal

members of society, and that blindness does not mean inferiority; and

WHEREAS, an activity known as "Dining in the Dark" is being promoted and used to raise funds by having sighted people experience blindness by eating in

the dark; and

WHEREAS, an article published in Time magazine entitled “Dining in the Dark” assures would-be diners that the cook “works in a well-lit kitchen”; and

WHEREAS, the Dining in the Dark website--www.dininginthedark.org--states: “you will pick from a specially prepared menu (designed by a sighted local ‘star’

chef)” and "In darkness everyone becomes equal. Our opinions can't be molded by dress, mannerisms, or makeup as none of it can be seen. You learn that

without sight your other senses become more acute”; and

WHEREAS, these statements lay bare the underlying philosophy of Dining in the Dark, that sight means superior ability, and that, when sight is removed

in the dark, the blind and the sighted are equal: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in Convention assembled this fourth day of July, 2012, in the city of Dallas, Texas, that this organization

condemn and deplore the use of Dining in the Dark in a manner that diminishes the innate normality and equal status of the blind in society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization pursue an active policy of opposition to Dining in the Dark activities and events, including use of media

and public protests, whenever and wherever such activities and events exploit blindness and blind people based on a demeaning philosophy.