National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky

2013 Annual State Convention

Ramada Plaza Hotel

Louisville, Kentucky

Friday, October 4- Sunday, October 6, 2013

**Friday, October 4, 2013**

The 66th annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky began Friday afternoon with registration and exhibits. The annual symposium and business meeting of the Technology Assistance Division (TAD) kicked off the sessions. Later Friday evening, the Kentucky Association of Blind Students (KABS) and the Merchant’s Division held their annual business meetings and election of officers. Finally, there was time to renew old friendships and make new friends at the evening social, hosted by the NFB of Greater Louisville (NFBGL). During the social, the Merchant’s Division hosted a silent auction. It was a great time to enjoy some good music and relax with friends.

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

Saturday morning began bright and early with the annual scholarship finalist’s breakfast. This was a time for the scholarship committee members to meet the finalists in person and to get to know them better.

**Morning General Session:**

9:05 am – Cathy Jackson, President called the convention to order

Jennifer Hall presented the invocation.

Melanie Peskoe, President of the NFBGL, welcomed convention attendees to Louisville.

Cathy Jackson introduced Patti Chang, President, NFB of Illinois, who is our national representative for this year. Patti brought greetings from the national office.

9:10 am – Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions:

Chapters:

Ashland: Michael K. Freholm, Vice-President

Frankfort: Karen Mayne, President

Louisville: Melanie Peskoe, President

Lexington: Pamela Glisson, President

Divisions:

KABS: Katie Adkins, Vice-President

Merchants: Charlie Allen, President

NAPUB: Michael K. Freholm, President

Parents: Melanie Peskoe

TAD: Sandra Williams, Treasurer

9:35 am – President’s Report: Cathy Jackson, President NFBK

Cathy spoke about growing our affiliate and appointing a committee for fundraising. Pamela Glisson will chair the committee. She spoke about National Convention and getting people to attend and possibly using some funds from the fundraising efforts to send individuals to National Convention.

Cathy spoke next about Washington Seminar and the process of selecting individuals to represent NFBK on Capitol Hill.

Cathy next spoke briefly about the legislation Pamela Glisson and Patti Chang would be discussing that afternoon.

Cathy spoke briefly about finding funding for Newsline.

Cathy discussed the dissolving of the Murray chapter in June.

She explained the cost and attendance at this year’s state convention and the process of securing the hotel for convention, room rates, and food costs.

BANA (Braille Authority of North America) is coming to Louisville for a meeting soon. As soon as Cathy knows the location and date, she will let us all know.

Cathy discussed that West Virginia wants to combine with Kentucky to hold a Bell Program. This will be voted on and discussed in more in detail at this afternoon’s board meeting.

\*President’s report concluded at 9:51 am.

9:53 am – Introduction of Scholarship finalists:

Danielle Burton- Member, NFB of Ashland

Hamid Hamraz- Member, NFB Lexington

10:05 am – Updates from the Kentucky Office for the Blind: Allison Flanagan, Director

* Spoke about diminishing funds due to the government shutdown
* Diminishing funds for independent living program
* Discussed workforce investment

10:38 am – What's new at the American Printing House for the Blind – Tuck Tinsley, APH

* What APH is and what it does for individuals across the United States who are blind.
* STEM-focused products being developed and launched (new funds and efforts being put into technology needs)
* Quick tips are a new release on the APH website. These are short one minute videos in regards to braille.
* This year, APH won the Midsize Manufacturer of the Year award for the state of Kentucky.
* APH is currently working with 14 other organizations worldwide to develop a $300 to $400 full-page, refreshable braille device with tactile graphic display.

11:02 am – Community Outreach: Mike Hudson, Museum Director, APH

* The history of APH.
* Educational programs (APH averages 35 programs a year)
* Community outreach programs are used to teach individuals who are not blind about blindness.

11:20 am – What we have to offer: Chad Stratton, Kentucky Commission for Human Rights

* Works for human rights for all; regardless of disability, race, sex, religion, sexual orientation.
* Discussed how to file a complaint with the KCHR if discrimination is an issue and the process that is involved in doing so.
* Discussed “reasonable accommodations” and what that means.

11:42 am – Making a connection with the Kentucky School for the Blind: Kenny Jones, Outreach Department, KSB

 - Organizational structure of the school:

* Center Based Program

 \* Short session program

 \*Housing

* Operations

 \* Food service

 \*Maintenance

 \* Health services

* Outreach

 \* KIMRC

 \*Braille repair

* Outreach Consultants:

\* Provide services with districts throughout the state

 \* Provide assessments and consultations to districts without a TBVI

 \* Complete assessments for AT

 \* Provide consultations for school districts

\*Provide statewide trainings such as Gateways and others

\*Provide family support to families across the state and within co-ops

* Updates: We are trying to make the school look more like a school and have more pride as an educational provider.

- Student population has increased – up to 70 students

 (19 new students this school year).

-The school is in the process of hiring a new principle and anticipates them to begin within the next few weeks.

-Students are currently residing in one dorm building until funding can be allotted to fix the issues with Howser Hall.

12:02 pm – Morning General Session adjourned and moved to the Open Board Meeting

(See Board Meeting Minutes)

**Afternoon General Session:**

2:04 pm – Call to Order

2:05pm – Report from the National Representative: Patti Chang, President, NFB of Illinois; Member,

NFB Board of Directors

* Discussed the Fair Wages for Individuals with Disabilities Act
* TEACH- Technology, Education, Accessibility in College and Higher Education Act- working to set standards for technology in the classrooms. Association of publishers is with us on this.
* Space available (Defense Authorization Act 1446) Working on getting this law amended to include all disabled veterans from the military
* Updates on Newsline: Weather alerts, the latest victor stream lets you immediately download to the stream from Newsline.
* Jernigan Institute: If you do not already get the newsletter email from the Jernigan Institute, request it.
* Bell Program: 19 states have already done this program
* STEM-X: Students worked on stem subjects-related around the possible impact of a meteor.
* [monster.com](http://monster.com) was the first online job interface to become completely accessible.
* The Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research is an academic journal in the process of being published.
* Cyber Auction
* SUN Fund
* Kenneth Jernigan fund
* PAC Plan

2:35pm – Vehicle Donation Program: Michael K. Freholm, Vice-President, NFB of Ashland; President, NAPUB of Kentucky

* 15 states have had vehicle donations.
* The goal is five from each state.
* NFB is giving out stickers to each chapter to place them around the state to notify people of the vehicle donation program.
* Suggested using this as a part of “Meet the Blind” month and by advertising it on Craig's List

2:57 pm – Cash and Caring: John Glisson, Secretary, NFB of Lexington; Member, Board of Directors NFBK

* Discussed fundraising and ways in which to do it

3:17 pm – Technology and Me: Joseph Boggs, NFB of Lexington

* Joseph gave the speech he presented at the ADA Rally this past July.

3:35 pm – Legislation and Resolutions: Pamela Glisson, President, NFB of Lexington;

First Vice-President NFBK

* Resolution 2013-01: Legislation- seconded and passed unanimously
* Resolution 2013-02: Department of Education’s letter on braille instruction-most blind students are still not receiving braille instruction. NFBK recognizes the Department of Education for taking action to combat the braille literacy crisis. NFBK calls on the Department of Education to provide training to education systems so that they are adequately prepared to give braille instruction. Motion made to accept and seconded; passed unanimously.
* Resolution 2013-03: National Right to Parent- NFBK actively supports the efforts to urge Congress to support, through legislation, that they realize blind parents have the right to be parents. John Glisson made a friendly amendment to the wording of the last portion of the amendment. A motion was made that it be accepted, was seconded and passed unanimously.
* Resolution 2013-04: Literary braille in the workforce- NFBK strongly urges university programs and all blindness organizations involved in the NCLB to use the NCLB test when certifying individuals who work with the visually impaired. The motion was accepted, was seconded and passed unanimously.
* Resolution 2013-05: Ending sub-minimum wage payment to individuals with disabilities- NFBK condemns and deplores the actions of the 49 employers in Kentucky who use special wages certificates. Motion was moved for adoption, seconded and passed unanimously.
* Resolution 2013-06: The NFB of Kentucky recognizes and commends secretary, Lora Felty for her long time dedication and service to the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky.

Legislative Update: Pamela Glisson

* Pamela mentioned that during the current government shutdown is a good time to try and get in touch with legislators since most of their staff have been furloughed.
* Newsline funding – Call Representatives and Senators and ask them to support funding.
* Discussed that whoever is interested in serving on a committee (Resolutions or Legislative), they should contact her for more information

4:30 pm – Business Meeting:

* Treasurer’s Report: J. Mike Freholm, Treasurer, NFBK

 \* General Fund = $7,664.70

\* Murray = $2,679

\* Balance = $5,171.97

 \*Cameron Fund (assistance for convention) = $1,665.70

 \* Allen and NFBK funds = $119,873.25

-Katie Adkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report; seconded and passed unanimously.

* Old Business:

 \*Cathy Jackson opened the floor for old business. None was brought to the floor.

* Election of officers and report from nominating committee:

\*President: The nominating committee put forth Cathy Jackson's name for the office of president. John Glisson moved that nominations cease and she be elected by acclamation, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

\*First Vice-President: Pamela Glisson - elected unanimously by acclamation

 \*Second Vice-President: Charlie Allen - elected unanimously by acclamation

\*Secretary: Lora Felty - elected unanimously by acclamation

\*Treasurer: J. Mike Freholm - elected unanimously by acclamation

 \*Board member #1: Katie Adkins - elected unanimously by acclamation

Katie Adkins

motion made, seconded, passed unanimously to elect Katie by acclamation.

Board Member #2

Denise Franklin

Motion made, seconded, passed unanimously to elect Denise by acclamation.

Board Member #3

John Glisson

Motion made, seconded, passed unanimously to elect John by acclamation.

Board Member #4

Danny Perry

Motion made, seconded, passed unanimously to elect Danny by acclamation.

Board Member # 5

Melanie Peskoe:

Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously to elect Melanie by acclamation.

Board Member #6 George Stokes motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to elect George by acclamation.

New Business:

Cathy opened up the floor for new business. Since there was no new business brought to the floor, the meeting adjourned.

2013 Annual NFBK Banquet:

Melanie Peskoe, President of the NFB of Greater Louisville served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the 2013 banquet. Jennifer Hall, Secretary of TAD gave the invocation.

Presentation of Scholarships:

Jennifer Hall, Member of the Scholarship Committee presented the 2013 NFBK scholarships due to the absence of Lora Felty, Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Two Allen Scholarships were presented. Danielle Burton, a freshman at Morehead State University and Hamid Hamraz, a graduate student at the University of Kentucky each received a scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Keynote Address: Patti Chang, NFB of Illinois, President, Member of the Board of Directors of the NFB.

Annual Pledges and Donations to NFBK: Cathy Jackson, President

Award Presentations: Denise Franklin, Awards Committee Chairperson, Member of the NFBK Board of Directors

Susan B. Rarick Award: Ranelle Mackey

Harold Reagan Award: Lora Felty

Sunday, October 6, 2013

The 2013 annual convention concluded on Sunday morning with the general business meeting of the Kentucky chapter of the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille (NAPUB)- Michael K. Freholm, President.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora J. Felty, Secretary

Special thanks are given to Angela Dehart and Danielle Burton who assisted with taking notes and writing the convention minutes in Lora’s absence due to her illness.