**President’s Update**

**June 2019**

It has been several months since I have sent out a President’s Update. However you should have gotten the Winter/Spring edition of the Kentucky Cardinal in April. If for whatever reason you have not read this issue, you owe it to yourself to do so. It is absolutely one of the best ever published, thanks to our editors, Lora and Todd Stephens along with our proofreading staff.

In just a couple of weeks, 25 of us from Kentucky will be making our way to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind. We will be staying at none other than the popular Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. The convention dates run from July 7th through July 12th. The gang from NFB of Kentucky will be a busy bunch, that’s for sure. You will find us working in many areas to keep the convention running smoothly. These include: Independence Market, the NFB-NEWSLINE training room, the Braille Book Fair, the Presidential Suite and marshaling, just to mention a few. Our members are also active participants in many of our national divisions. We will attend: the Merchant’s Division, Student Division, Blind Educator’s Division, Sports and Recreation Division, DeafBlind Division and Blind Rehabilitation Worker’s Division.

I am happy to serve on committees appointed by President Riccobono. I am a member of the scholarship committee which means I will have the pleasure of mentoring our 30 2019 scholarship finalists. I will also serve on the resolutions and nominating committees.

After all of our hard work I know we will find time to have a little fun and relaxation. There are plenty of activities being planned by the NFB of Nevada and Idaho, our host Affiliates. You can access the convention agenda at <https://www.nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention>. I am planning our annual Kentucky Night at national convention so that our folks can come together to meet new members as well as celebrate the friendships that we have already made. It will be a toast to Kentucky. Las Vegas is going to be a new experience for many of us. I am overwhelmed just thinking about all there is to do. I know this group pretty well so I am quite confident there will be many meals shared in the more than two dozen restaurants located in the hotel, not to mention those in Mandalay Plaza. The aquatic playground known as Mandalay Beach sounds amazing. There is a real sand beach and a wave pool. Now, that’s my kind of enjoyment! The aquarium features over 2,000 animals including sharks. For those who are interested in a Vegas show, you won’t want to miss Michael Jackson One performed by Cirque du Soleil. The odds are that we may even play a slot machine or two along the way. The 2019 NFB National Convention should be one for the memories!

In addition, we are in high gear planning our NFB of Kentucky State convention. The dates for the 2019 convention will be the weekend of September 20th through the 22nd. I am pleased to tell you we will once again be in Louisville at the Hilton Garden Inn Northeast, 9850 Park Plaza Ave., Louisville 40241. The contract has been signed sealed and delivered, so you are free to start making reservations. Just call, 502-4230018. Room rates are $135 per night, per room, plus tax. But, don’t let the cost of a room scare you away. I have it on good authority that our board of directors plans to appropriate funds to help alleviate the cost of attending state convention for our members. There will be more details to come in the next NFBK Presidential Update, so stay tuned!

If you aren’t going to make it to Las Vegas this summer, you are invited to get involved in your local chapter. You can promote the National Federation of the Blind by growing our membership. If you or someone you know would like to become an active participant in the nation’s largest organization of the blind, we would like to invite you to attend your nearest local chapter meeting. For your convenience, you will find listed below the names and contact information for our chapter presidents.

* NFB of Ashland: Lora Stephens, 606-324-3394, lora@nfbofky.org
* NFB of Frankfort: Karen Mayne, 502-545-1062, Karen@nfbofky.org
* NFB of Greater Louisville: Nickie Pearl, 502-489-4457, Nickie@nfbky.org
* NFB of Jackson Purchase: Danny Perry, 270-293-4476
* NFB of Western Kentucky: Scott Heads, 270-925-0183

If you do not live in the vicinity of one of these chapters, the information on our At Large Chapter could be an option for you. We are presently trying to revitalize our at large chapter. This group meets the first Monday of each month at 8:00 PM Eastern time via telephone conference call. We structure these meetings just like a local chapter meeting. We discuss NFB philosophy, legislation, and the many projects and programs of the organization. If you are interested in joining us, the number to call is: 605-468-8010. You will then be prompted to put in the access code which is, 1021099.

No matter which of these meeting options you choose, we welcome you to the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky.

**Our NFB PLEDGE**

I pledge to participate actively 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.

Respectfully Yours,

Cathy Jackson, President

NFB of Kentucky