2024 NFBK Awards

Our 2024 National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky state convention is on the horizon. We certainly hope you are planning to be a part of this annual event that brings the blind of Kentucky together to take care of the business that affects us all. You can begin your participation by nominate an individual, chapter or division for one of our five prestigious awards: The Susan B. Rarick, Harold L. Reagan, T. V. Cranmer, Bob E. Whitehead, and the Phil Seif award. A description of each award and criteria are given at the end of this article.

I can’t impress upon you enough that these awards should not be given lightly. In order for these awards to maintain their integrity and place of honor in our organization we must give careful consideration to the nominees. There have been years that we have not presented awards, and that’s perfectly fine. There have been times when only one or two have been given, and that’s okay. We want the honorees to be proud that they were chosen and share a place in our history book with other deserving individuals. An award looses it value and intent if given frivolously.

The members of the awards committee are: Crystal Brock, Phil Seif, and I, Cathy Jackson, Chair. To nominate a candidate go to awards@nfbky.org. The deadline for nominations is October 1fst, 2024. This will give us plenty of time to vet our nominees and get the plaques ordered.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Awards Description

SUSAN B. RERICK AWARD

Susan B. Rerick was a first grade teacher at the Kentucky School for the Blind in the early to mid-1900’s. She was a forward thinking individual who expected more from her blind students than did her peers at the school or the public in general. Because of her high expectations of her students she clearly represents the teachings and philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind. The person who receives this award can be a blind or sighted Kentuckian.

HAROLD L. REAGAN AWARD

Harold L. Reagan was the first president of the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky and a member of the National Board of Directors. As such the emphasis for receiving this award should be placed on the recipient’s leadership in the organization. This award can only be given to a blind Kentuckian.

T.V. CRANMER AWARD

The T.V. Cranmer Award is a very special one. Tim, as he was known to all of us, served for many years as an officer of the NFBK. He also held the position as chairman on the Research and Development Committee at the national level. This award is given to a blind person who has served many years in the NFB and will continue to be a driving force in this organization. The Cranmer award is given to a blind person, but is not restricted to individuals living in Kentucky.

ROBERT E. WHITEHEAD AWARD

Robert E. Whitehead was the second sitting president of the Kentucky Affiliate. This award is presented to an affiliate chapter or division that strives to build membership in the organization. The chapter or division is also actively changing the public’s perception about blindness through innovative projects and community outreach.

PHIL SEIF EVERYDAY HERO AWARD

Phil Seif is a long time member of the NFBK who has served in many roles over the years much of which has been behinds the scenes. He is always willing to help in any capacity the affiliate has needed.

This award may be presented to an individual who is blind or sighted and who exemplifies the characteristics of an “every day hero” by going above and beyond to assist the affiliate in achieving its goal to promote security, equality and opportunity for the blind of Kentucky so they may live the lives they want.