**National Federation of the**

**Blind of Kentucky**

**74th Annual State Convention**

 **November, 5th & 6th 2021**

**Zoom Platform**

**Anywhere and Everywhere**

**We are pleased to welcome so many of you from all across Kentucky and across the nation to our 74th Annual Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky. We have all learned a lot about ourselves and our capacity for resilience over the past year and a half. Join us as we celebrate the resilience in not only ourselves, but in the presenters who will share their stories over the next couple of days.**

**Our National Representative for this year’s National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky’s Convention is Carla McQuillan. Carla is the Oregon Affiliate President, and a member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors. Please see her bio at the end of this document.**

**Executive Officers National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky**

**Jayne Seif, President, Louisville, KY**

**Todd Stephens, First Vice-President, Ashland, KY**

**Karen Mayne, Second Vice-President, Frankfort, KY**

**Lora Felty Stephens, Secretary, Ashland, KY**

**J. Mike Freholm, Treasurer, Russell, KY**

**Board of Directors National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky**

**Danielle Burton, Olive Hill, KY**

**William (Bill) Deatherage, Louisville, KY**

**Angela Henderson, Covington, KY**

**Nickie Pearl, Louisville, KY**

**Lonnie Swafford, Louisville, KY**

**Sandra Williams, Louisville, KY**

**Friday November, 5th 2021**

**9:00 AM -12:00 PM Technology Assistance Division Symposium: Todd Stephens, President, Technology Assistance Division; First Vice-President, NFBK**

**5:30 PM - 6:00 PM Technology Assistance Division Business Meeting: Todd Stephens, President, Technology Assistance Division; First Vice-President, NFBK**

**6:00 PM Resolutions Committee: Lonnie Swafford, President, NFBGL; Board Member, NFBK**

**7:00 PM - 10:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT: Ashley Swafford, Social Committee Chairperson; Member, NFBGL**

 **Invitation Available To Registered Participants via Email**

**Saturday November, 6 2021**

**9:00 AM—Call to Order: Jayne Seif, President, NFBK**

**Invocation: Paula Caldwell, Member, NFBK**

 **Pledge of Allegiance: Makenna Harrod, BELL Participant**

**The Singing of our National Anthem: Sandra Williams, Vice President, NFBGL; Board Member, NFBK**

 **NFB Pledge: Jacob Hack, Member, NFBK**

 **Welcome: Anthony Brettnacher, BELL Participant**

 **Introductions and Housekeeping: Jayne Seif, President, NFBK**

**NFB Pledge**

**I pledge to participate actively in the effort 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.**

**9:20 AM Resilience and Raising Personal Expectations: Blind Adventurers Share Their Personal Stories**

**Reece O’Brien member of the Greater Louisville chapter, shares his skydiving adventures. Joe Burket just completed his first Boston Marathon. Though both became blind as adults, they will not let blindness hold them back from experiencing life’s adventures that they love.**

**9:45 AM Financial Resilience: STABLE Accounts, Questions and Answers: Matthew L Handy**

**10:10 AM Resources for Resilience: APH ConnectCenter:Alan Lavell, Information and Referral Coordinator,**

**APH ConnectCenter**

**10:35 FIT Break: Stephanie Davis, Member, NFBGL**

**10:40 AM Louisiana Center for the Blind, instilling Resilience: This panel of LCB graduates and current students share how appropriate blindness training impacts their everyday lives. Nickie Pearl, Board Member, NFBK; Taryn Seif, Board Member, NFBGL; &, Kathy Grivich, Member, NFBK.**

**11:05 AM Facing the Challenge, Being Deaf-Blind in a Post-COVID World: Danielle Burton, Board Member, NFBK**

**11:20 AM Building Resilience: Brad Holland , Brad, a certified vendor in the Kentucky Business Enterprises Program (KBE) was told by his doctors that he would losehis vision. Brad was a draftsman and welder by trade and upon learning this news, did not let this get him down. Instead, he decided to build his dream home.**

**12:00 Adjourn**

**Saturday Afternoon, November 6, 2021**

**1:00 PM Call to Order: Jayne Seif, President, NFBK**

**1:05 PM Words From Our National Office: Carla McQuillan, Oregon Affiliate President; National Federation of the Blind, Board of Directors**

**1:50 PM State of the NFBK Affiliate Address: Jayne Seif, President, NFBK**

**2:20 PM Fit Break: Mary Harrod, Member, NFBGL**

**2:25 PM Resolutions: Lonnie Swafford: President, NFBGL; Board Member, NFBK**

**2:55 Business Meeting: Jayne Seif , President, NFBK**

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

**Old Business**

**Report from the Nominating Committee: Karen Mayne, president, Frankfort Chapter; 2nd Vice-President, NFBK**

**Election of Board of Directors**

**Additional Old Business**

**New Business**

**4:00PM Adjourn**

**Saturday Evening, November 6 , 2021**

**5:00 PM Annual Banquet of the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky: Mistress of Ceremonies, Jayne Seif, President, NFBK**

**Invocation, Bill Deatherage, Board of Directors, NFBGL; Board of Directors, NFBK**

**Key Note Address, Carla McQuillan, Oregon Affiliate President; Member, National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors**

**Presentation of Awards: Angela Henderson, Board Member, NFBK**

**Announcement of NFB-NEWSLINE $100 Visa Give-away, Todd Stephens, State Coordinator, NFB-NEWSLINE Kentucky**

**Final Reflections and Thoughts**

**Adjournment**

**Access to the convention can be found via zoom at the link provided, or via telephone at the numbers provided below the link. You can also follow us live on YouTube, our channel link is**

**https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs2pYDdRrVxtDOyA6DPDFsw**

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Meeting ID: 921 3494 0846
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acYzKvktxF>

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Carla McQuillan Bio

Carla was born and raised in Southern California in the early 60's, the youngest of 4 children. In the summer before fifth grade, Carla lost a great deal of vision but did not notice it until she started school in the fall and was unable to read the chalkboard from the front row. A few years earlier, her older brother had been diagnosed with a rare genetic eye condition called Stargardt's disease, which resulted in the loss of central vision. It was soon confirmed that Carla had the same condition. She was diagnosed legally blind in 1971.

*The National Federation of the Blind taught me that blindness was only as limiting as I allowed it to be. My friends and colleagues in the movement have been more than ideal role models; they have saved me from a life of regret and underachievement.*

Because of her remaining peripheral vision, Carla did not "look blind", so she was not taught Braille or any other alternative techniques of blindness. She had very little experience with blind people. The only blind person she knew was her brother, and he was forever using his blindness as an excuse for standing on the sidelines. Carla knew that this was not the life she wanted and was determined to do everything in her power to convince the world that she was not blind.

After high school Carla went to Humboldt State University in Northern California. There she met her husband Lucas. They were married in the summer of 1981 and moved to San Diego for Lucas's master's degree program. Though Carla had not completed her bachelor's degree, she was more than happy to put her college career on hold and work to support the couple. Her one year of college had not been very successful. Without the ability to read Braille and eyesight too poor to read print, Carla, who had been an A student in high school, saw her grades drop.

She got a job as a Montessori Preschool teacher in San Diego while Lucas completed his master's degree. Their daughter Alison was born in 1983. In 1985 the family moved to Illinois. Lucas enrolled in a doctoral program at the University of Illinois, and Carla decided to complete her bachelor's degree. With Lucas' encouragement, Carla asked for accessible textbooks and decided to learn Braille. The staff at the university’s disabled student's services office told her how difficult Braille would be to learn and how inefficient it would be. Discouraged and defeated, Carla wondered if there was any hope for her future. Fortunately she learned of a scholarship program through the National Federation of the Blind. She won a scholarship from the organization’s Illinois affiliate in 1988. The state convention changed her life. Her negative attitudes about blindness and about her own potential to be a successful professional were replaced by confidence and self-assurance that remain a hallmark of her character today.

After both graduating with High Distinction from the University of Illinois in 1988, the McQuillans completed their family with the birth of their son Duncan. They moved to Oregon to be near Carla's family. Carla started her own Montessori preschool, which later expanded to include 3 schools and a Montessori Teacher Certification Program. Carla served as President of the [National Federation of the Blind of Oregon](https://nfb.org/about-us/state-affiliates/oregon) from 1992 until 2006, when her business responsibilities became too demanding. She also served on the NFB's national board of directors from 1998 until resigning from that position as well in 2006. She was re-elected president of the Oregon affiliate in 2012 and still serves in that capacity. She is the director of NFB Camp, the program that offers child care during the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Carla was again elected to the national board of directors in 2016.

"I had such horrible misconceptions about blindness for most of my childhood and early adult life," Carla says. "I thought I knew what blindness meant, and I didn't want any part of it. The National Federation of the Blind taught me that blindness was only as limiting as I allowed it to be. My friends and colleagues in the movement have been more than ideal role models; they have saved me from a life of regret and underachievement."

Information Collected From

nfb.org