**Fifty-Second Annual Convention**

**National Federation of the Blind**

**of Missouri**

**March 28 to March 30, 2014**

**The Holiday Inn Select**

**Columbia, Missouri**

 The Columbia Chapter welcomes everyone to Columbia, Missouri, where our chapter is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. We welcome everyone to our wonderful city, where we have proudly represented the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri for four decades.

 We in Columbia are known not only for the University of Missouri, the oldest land-grant university west of the Mississippi, and the home of the Missouri Tigers (Cotton Bowl Champions) and the undefeated SEC women's volleyball champions. Our city is also known for having several institutions of higher learning: Columbia College, Stephens College, and a branch of Moberly Area Community College. We also are home to major insurance companies, technology companies, and top-notch hospitals that serve people from more than a hundred miles away. There is also Confederate Hill, a prominent site during the Civil War that saw brother fighting brother. The most important thing we have to give is our hospitality, and we will do all we can to make this a memorable and joyous event for all who have come.

 Members of our chapter cordially invite you to drop by hospitality in Room 605, which will be open from 5:30 PM to 11:00 PM Friday evening.

 The hotel has room service that is open from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. The SportsZone restaurant is open from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM and from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM; if business justifies, it will be open for lunch. Food establishments are within walking distance for independent Federationists who like a little time on their feet. The hotel also has a heated whirlpool hot tub, indoor pool, and a fitness center.

 This year's hotel convention room rates are $84.95 per night plus tax for singles, doubles, triples, and quads. Keep in mind that the hotel is not obligated to honor these rates if proof of registration for the convention is not available when you check out.

 The checkout time for the hotel on Sunday is at 11:00 AM. Those who can checkout prior to the morning session are encouraged to do so since the hotel is expecting over two thousand high school students on Sunday.

 Registration will be held Friday evening in the Fountain Lobby from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM and again on Saturday morning from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Registration at the convention will cost $20 per person, and banquet tickets will cost $30. Please register so you will be eligible for door prizes and other convention activities. Even if you have preregistered, you must come to this area to pick up your registration packet. Also remember to check out the exhibits, which will be near the registration table.

 This year's luncheon on Saturday will be at noon in Windsor I. Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at the registration table as long as they last. Special attention is called to the luncheon, since the number of attendees is the figure the hotel will need first.

 A prayer breakfast, led by the Columbia Chapter, will be held on Sunday morning at 7:00 AM in Windsor I.

 Door prizes will be given throughout the convention, and each chapter is encouraged to bring their donations to the registration table in the exhibit area. You must be in the room or must be working on convention business to win.

 The general sessions on Saturday and Sunday will be held in Windsor II. The reception and banquet will be held in Windsor IV. All Federation meetings and convention events are smoke free.

**FRIDAY, March 28**

8:15 AM Seminar for Parents of Blind Children—Rosina Foster, President

 Parliament I

8:15 AM Activities for Blind Youth—Rosina Foster, President,

 Parliament II

9:00 AM Diabetes Action Network—Debbie Wunder, President

 Parliament III

3:15 PM NFB of Missouri Board Meeting

 Parliament I

5:05 PM Scholarship Committee meeting and Mentors—Shelia Wright, Chair, immediately following board meeting

 Parliament I

6:00 PM Missouri Association of Blind Merchants—Gloria Carson, President

 Parliament III

6:00 PM Dog Guide Division—Julie McGinnity, President

 Parliament II

7:00 PM Membership Committee—Debbie Wunder, Chair

 Parliament I

7:00 PM Missouri Association of Blind Students—Bethany Bennington, President

 Parliament II

8:00 PM Resolutions Committee—Jim Moynihan, Chair

 Parliament I

9:00 PM Ways and Means Committee—Carol Morgan, Chair

 Parliament III

10:00 PM Nominating Committee—Rita Lynch, Chair

 Room to be announced by the Chair

**SATURDAY, March 29**

6:30 AM Scholarship Breakfast for Scholarship recipients and committee members—Shelia Wright, Chair

 Bradley Room

**MORNING SESSION**

**Windsor II**

8:15 AM Call to order

Moment of Silence

 Singing of the National Anthem

8:20 AM Welcome from the Columbia Chapter—Dacia Luck, President, National Federation of the Blind of Columbia.

 Presentation of Colors—Tom Stevens

 Boone County Fire District Pipes and Drums

8:30 AM Welcome from the City Council of Columbia—Michael Trapp, Ward 2

8:40 AM Introduction of Scholarship Winners—Shelia Wright

8:45 AM Welcoming Our Visitors from Out of State

8:50 AM Sharing Some Federation Songs—Julie McGinnity

9:00 AM Report of the Nominating Committee—Rita Lynch, Chair

9:05 AM Imagining Life in the Second Decade of the Twenty-First Century in the National Federation of the Blind: a National Report—Mark Riccobono, Executive Director, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute

9:45 AM Questions from the floor

9:50 AM Ten minute break

10:00 AM Rehabilitation Services for the Blind: a Federal/State Program that Helps Change Lives for the Blind—Mark Laird, Deputy Director, Family Support Division; Larry Branson, Business Enterprise Coordinator

10:50 AM Previewing Our Video for Children’s Services Workers—Carol Coulter, Chairman

11:05 AM Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments—Jim Moynihan, Chairman, Resolutions Committee

11:35 AM A Human Reader in the World of Technology: A Panel Discussion—Sarah Pellis, Debbie Eifler, and Gary Wunder

12:00 PM Adjourn

1:30 PM Determining the King and Queen—Carol Morgan, Chairman, Ways and Means Committee

1:40 PM Presidential Report—Gary Wunder, President, National Federation of the Blind of Missouri

2:10 PM The Blind Pension Program and You: Our Challenge to Make It Easier to Know the Requirements and Complete the Paperwork—Kim O'Hara, Unit Manager for the MO Healthnet Program and Policy Unit; Heather Atkins and Vera Brown, Program Development Specialists for the MO Healthnet Program and Policy Unit

2:40 PM Your Library: In Jefferson City, on the Internet through BARD, and on your iPhone—Doctor Richard Smith, Director, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

3:00 PM Questions from the Floor

3:10 PM Ten Minute Break

3:20 PM House Repair, Painting, Car Repair, and I'm the Guy Who Teaches the Blind How to Do It—Chris Kenny, Industrial Arts and Home Maintenance Instructor, Colorado Center for the Blind

3:35 PM I am Blind and I Have a Job: A Panel Discussion—Dan Keller, Chairman, Habilitation Counselor, Southwest Community Services; Rita Lynch, Rehabilitation Teacher, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind; Geoffrey Meister, Tax Examiner, Internal Revenue Service; Julie McGinnity, Student Assistant, Adaptive Computing Technology; Chris Parsons, Online Writing Specialist, Webster University; Alice Hebert, Teleconference Specialist, American Telephone and Telegraph, Minneapolis, Minnesota

4:15 PM Life as a Student in 2014: the Challenges, the Rewards, and the End Goal: A Panel—Bethany Bennington, President, Missouri Association of Blind Students, Missouri Western University; Breck Campbell, Student, Missouri School for the Blind; Halley Korff, Student, University of Central Missouri; Carolyn McGhee, Student, Missouri State University

5:00 PM Adjourn

6:00 PM Cash bar prior to banquet

**Windsor IV**

6:30 PM Banquet of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri—Carol Coulter, Mistress of Ceremonies

**Order of Banquet Events**

 Invocation

 Crowning of the King and Queen

 Introduction of Guests

 Presentation of Awards

 Presentation of Charter

 Other Business at the direction of the Mistress of Ceremonies

 Banquet Address: Mark Riccobono, Executive Director, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute

 Auction by the Ways and Means Committee—Carol Morgan, Chairman

9:00 PM Dance to the Music: the Fender Benders Presented by the Columbia Chapter. If dancing isn't for you, just sit back and enjoy the music, visit with old friends, and get to know someone new.

**Sunday, March 30**

7:00 AM Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Columbia Chapter

 Windsor I

**General Session, Windsor II**

8:30 AM Call to Order

8:35 AM My First Jefferson City Seminar: How It Was and Why It Won't Be My Last—Erin Magoon

8:45 AM Report of the Audit Committee—Dan Flasar, Chair

8:55 AM Reading of the Treasurer's Report—Carol Coulter, Treasurer

9:05 AM Governmental Affairs Report—Shelia Wright, Chairman

9:30 AM A Report from Our Ways and Means Committee—Carol Morgan, Chairman

9:50 AM Membership Recruitment, the BELL Program and Other Reports—Debbie Wunder, Chair, Outreach and Special Projects

10:05 AM Elections—Rita Lynch, Chair

10:30 AM Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments continued—Jim Moynihan, Chair

10:40 AM A Petition to Change What It Means to Be Blind—Gene Fleeman, Board Member, National Federation of the Blind

10:45 AM Division Reports

 Parents Division—Rosina Foster, President

 Dog Guide Division—Julie McGinnity, President

 Student Division—Beth Bennington, President

 Blind Merchants—Gloria Carson, President

 Diabetes Action Network—Debbie Wunder, President

11:30 AM Old Business

11:40 AM New Business: Appropriation of Funds to tenBroek, the national treasury, national convention stipend

 Matters Presented from the Floor

12:00 PM Adjourn

**Pledge of the**

**National Federation of the Blind**

 **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.**