

**FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

**OF MISSOURI**

**April 7 to April 9, 2017**

Adam’s Mark Hotel

9103 E. 39th Street, Kansas City, MO 64133

(816) **737-0200**

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**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.**

**If there are images in this attachment, they will not be displayed.**   [Download the original attachment](https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?view=att&th=14ed52631b356e44&attid=0.1&disp=attd&zw)

Welcome to Kansas City, a tremendous city that joins two states, represents the best of the old west, and the progressive ideas of the twenty-first century. From the Symphony to the stockyards, we have it all. The Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs show that we are competitive and we are winners.

By any measure, the Kansas City Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind is the springboard for what we now know as the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. Whether we were the Progressive Blind of Missouri, the National Federation of the Blind in Missouri, the National Blind, or some other variant of our name we were forced to use by the courts, we have always been an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind, and this is clearly demonstrated not only by our past but by our current participation in the organization.

We welcome you to our city, invite you to learn about its rich history and culture, and welcome you to what we hope will be a memorable, unified, and progressive convention of the National Federation of the Blind’s Missouri affiliate.

Members of our chapter cordially invite you to drop by the hospitality room. It is in the Grand Ballroom D and will be open from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM Friday evening.

The hotel includes several fine restaurants, among them **Moore & Moore BBQ, located on the lobby level. They advertise themselves as the king and queen of BBQ and invite you to try them out and decide whether the food is as good as the claims they make. They will be open on Thursday from 11:00 AM until 9:00 PM. On Friday and Saturday they will be open from 11:00 AM until 11:00 PM.**

If BBQ isn’t a palate pleaser for you, consider **Casey’s Bar. Casey’s serves a breakfast buffet, and in the evening they serve as a bar and have light snacks.**

Lastly, don’t overlook the hotel’s Shop which sells sandwiches and drinks.

Check-out time for the hotel is 12:00 PM on Sunday. Since our sessions sometimes run up until noon, we encourage those who can to checkout before the Sunday morning session.

The hotel has a guide dog relief area. Please check with the desk to be directed to it, and be prepared to pick up to keep the area clean for other guide dogs that follow you.

Please remember that all of our events are smoke-free, and the hotel reserves the right to fine anyone who leaves a room that has been used for smoking. If at check-in your room smells like smoke, get someone from the hotel to visit it so you are not charged with committing the abuse.

Registration will be held Friday morning in the Grand Ballroom Foyer from 8:00 to 8:45 AM. It will be held again from 5:00 until 7:00 PM in the same location. On Saturday Registration will be held from 8:00 to 8:30 AM in the same location. Registration at the convention will cost $20 per person, and banquet tickets will cost $35. Please register so you will be eligible for door prizes and other convention activities. Even if you have preregistered, you should come to this area to pick up your registration packet. Also remember to check out the exhibits, which will be in the Grand Ballroom foyer.

This year's lunch on Friday and Saturday will be at noon in Casey’s. If you did not get your tickets through preregistration, please see if they are still available as soon as possible since these are the first counts the hotel will need.

A prayer breakfast led by the Kansas City Chapter will be held on Sunday morning at 7:00 AM. It will be in Grand E, F, and G.

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. Please see that prizes get to Jeff Giffen, this year’s door prize chairman.

The general sessions on Saturday and Sunday will be held in the Grand Ballroom A, B, and C. The banquet will be in Grand E, F, and G.

**THURSDAY, April 6**

**7:00 PM One Touch Self Defense**—Roger Crome, President, NFB of Missouri Mineral Area Chapter; Amy Plumlee, President, NFB of Missouri Old Drum Chapter

The Board Room

**8:00 PM Informal Gathering**—un-hosted, unscripted

Grand Salon D

**FRIDAY, April 7**

**9:00 AM The Strategies We Use to be Competent, Capable and Caring Parents**—Carol Coulter, Coordinator and Facilitator

Grand Salon A

**9:30 AM Business Meeting, Diabetes Action Network**—Debbie Wunder, President

Grand Salon C

**12:00 PM Luncheon, Ballroom E**

**1:15 PM NFB of Missouri board Meeting**

Grand salon A

**2:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting**—Debbie Wunder, Chairman

Grand salon A

**3:45 PM Ways and Means Committee**—Carol Morgan, Chairman

Grand salon B

**6:00 PM Resolutions Committee**—Erin Magoon, Chairman

Grand salon A

**7:00 PM One Touch Self Defense**—Amy Plumlee, president, NFB of Missouri Old Drum Chapter; Roger Crome, president, NFB of Missouri Mineral Area Chapter

Grand Salon C

**7:15 PM Dog Guide Division**—Debbie Wunder, President

Grand salon B

**8:00 PM Missouri Association of Blind Merchants**—Gene Fleeman, President

Grand salon C

**8:30 PM The Missouri Association of Blind Students Seminar**—Holly Carneal, President

Grand Salon A

**10:00 PM Nominating Committee**—Melissa Smith, Chairman

Board Room

**SATURDAY, April 8**

**6:30 AM Scholarship Breakfast** (Scholarship Recipients and committee members), Julie McGinnity, Chairman

Casey’s Private Room

**General Session—****Grand A, B, and C**

**8:15 AM Call to order**

National Anthem, Julie McGinnity

Moment of silence

**8:20 AM Welcome from the Kansas City Chapter**—Ruby Polk, President

**Presentation of the American Flag—**Girl Scouts of NE Kansas, NW Missouri; Troop #1813

**Introduction of Veterans—Dave Hutchins**

**8:30 AM Welcome from the Honorable Mayor Sly James**

**8:35 AM A Welcome from Congressman** Emanuel Cleaver, Fifth District

**8:45 AM Introduction of Scholarship Winners**—Julie McGinnity

**8:55 AM Welcoming Our Visitors from Out of State**

**9:00 AM Report of the Nominating Committee**—Melissa Smith, Chairman

**9:05 AM Happenings Throughout the Nation as We Keep Our Promises to the Blind of America**—Ronald Brown, Second Vice President, National Federation of the Blind

**9:45 AM Questions from the Floor**

**9:50 AM Fit Break—**Robin House, Chairman, Sports and Recreation Committee

**9:55 AM Partnering with Agencies to Improve Outcomes for Blind People—**Keith Roderick, Fiscal and Administrative Manager, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

**10:15 AM Questions from the Floor**

**10:25 AM Insider Threats: Conquering the Weakest Link**—Joe Orozco, Intelligence Analyst, Federal Bureau of Investigation

**10:45 AM Questions from the floor**

**10:55 AM Looking for Tom**—Bryan Schulz, Member, Show Me Chapter

**11:05 AM CCVI: Sixty-five Years in the Blink of an Eye**—Nicola Heskett, Executive Director, Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired

**11:25 AM Questions from the Floor**

**11:30 AM Beyond Barriers: The Future of Higher Education with the AIM HE Act**—Holly Carneal, President, Missouri Association of Blind Students

**11:55 AM Important Announcements About the Afternoon**

**12:00 PM Adjourn**

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

**1:40 PM Missouri Shows Them: The Missouri Assistive Technology Program Puts Missouri at the Top of the List**—David Baker, Director, Missouri Assistive Technology Program

**2:00 PM Questions from the floor**

**2:10 PM The NFB Philosophy in Action: Bringing New Meaning to Training and Rehabilitation**—Pamela Allen, Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind; Christine Parsons, Technology Instructor, Colorado Center for the Blind; Ryan Strunk, Board Member, Blindness, Learning in New Dimensions; Julie McGinnity, Student, Colorado Center for the Blind

**2:35 PM Questions from the Floor**

**2:40 PM Like You, We Are All about Literacy**—Abbey Rimel, Deputy Director, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

**3:00 PM Questions from the Floor**

**3:10 PM Fit Break**—Robin House, Chairman, National Federation of The Blind of Missouri Sports and Recreation Committee

**3:15 PM Presidential Report**—Gary Wunder, President, National Federation of The Blind of Missouri

**3:45 PM Working Together for Bipartisan Solutions: Blindness is Not a Political Ideology**—Representative Brandon Ellington

**4:00 PM Questions from the Floor**

**4:05 PM Advances in Technology: Improving Lives for the Blind**—Gene Fleeman, President, Missouri Association of Blind Merchants

**4:15 PM Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments**—Erin Magoon, Chairman, Resolutions Committee

**4:55 PM Evening Logistics**

**5:00 PM Adjourn**

**6:00 PM Cash Bar Prior to Banquet**

Grand E, F, and G

**6:30 PM Banquet of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri**—Shelia Wright, Mistress of Ceremonies

Invocation, Ruby Polk

Crowning of the King and Queen

Introduction of Guests

Presentation of Awards

Other Business at the discretion of the MC

Banquet Address: Ron Brown, National Representative and Second Vice President, National Federation of the Blind

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

**9:00 PM Spinning the Hits from the 1960s to the Present**

**Sponsored by the Kansas City Chapter**

**SUNDAY, April 9**

**7:00 AM Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Kansas City chapter**—Grand E, F, and G

**General Session—Grand A, B, and C**

**8:30 AM Call to Order**

**8:35 AM Report of the Audit Committee**—Lawrence Luck, Chairman

**8:40 AM Reading of the Treasurer's report**—Carol Coulter, Treasurer

**9:00 AM Governmental Affairs report**—Shelia Wright, Chairman

**9:15 AM A Report From our Ways and Means Committee**—Carol Morgan, Chairman

**9:25 AM Membership report**—Debbie Wunder, Chairman

**9:35 AM It’s All About Transitioning—**Ian Shadrick, Program Manager for Transition and Children Services; Sheila Koenig, Transition Coordinator, Minnesota State Services for the Blind

**9:55 AM The Crooked Path Made Straight: Reflections on an Outstanding Blind Woman, Her Times, and the Influence of the National Federation of the Blind**—Marc Maurer, Immediate Past President, National Federation of the Blind

**10:15 AM Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments continued**—Erin Magoon, Chairman

**10:30 AM Elections**

**11:30 AM Old Business**

**11:35 AM New Business**: Appropriation of Funds to tenBroek, the National Treasury, SUN Fund, National Convention Stipend

Matters Presented From The Floor

**12:00 PM Adjourn**