National Federation of the Blind

of Missouri

Sixty-First Annual State Convention

April 13-16, 2023

St. Louis Hilton Airport

10330 Natural Bridge Rd.

St. Louis, MO

Contact Information:

President: Shelia Wright, 7928 NW Milrey Dr., Kansas City, MO 64152,

Phone: 816-679-5258

Treasurer: Carol Coulter, 1504 Furlong Dr., Columbia, MO 65202,

Phone 573-474-3226

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri Board Members

Shelia Wright, President Melissa Kane, First Vice President

Jenny Carmack, Second Vice President Becky Boyer, Recording Secretary

Daniel Garcia, Corresponding Secretary Carol Coulter, Treasurer

Eugene Coulter Dennis Miller Janice Grisham

Amy Wilson Randy Carmack Jeff Giffen Svetlana Ehlers President Emeritus, Gary Wunder

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

Thank You To Our 2023 Convention Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

En-Vision America promotes health equity and health literacy by partnering with pharmacies to provide accessible prescription labels. Some of our partners include Walmart, Caremark, Express Scripts, Humana, OptumRx, Hy-Vee, Alps, D&H and many more! We can help you find a participating pharmacy or advocate for accessible labels at your current pharmacy! Stop by our table to experience accessible labels yourself!

NANOPAC: Congratulations on your 61st annual convention! A big thank you to the NFB of Missouri membership for your continued support! Please contact NanoPac for any support or service ... and please consider us for your technology purchases.

Crome Advocacy is here to meet your assistive technology training needs. Missouri has many resources available for blind and low vision individuals. Contact Roger at (573)701-8409 or by email at [roger@cromeadvocacy.com](mailto:roger@cromeadvocacy.com) and let’s find the solution for you.

Bronze Sponsors

Menus4ALL is a subscription-based iPhone / iPad app with 850,000 accessible restaurant menus across the United States and Canada. Supporting Voiceover, Large Text, Braille displays and Voice Control. Download the app and try it for 14 days for free.

Safety Positive Foundation: the organization that focuses on offering guidance and a proactive approach into the world of personal safety and security for the blind.

The Lewis & Clark Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri is pleased to welcome each of you to our Sixty-First Annual State Convention. Our time to come together for the convention is finally here, and we are so glad to be the 2023 host chapter. Our chapter members have been planning for the convention all year, and we believe this will be one of the best conventions ever.

The Hospitality Room will be in St. Charles, Friday evening from 5:00 to 10:00. Stop by, grab a snack, visit with old friends, and make new friends, too.

Our National Representative will be Tracy Soforenko, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, and a member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors. He is with us on behalf of President Riccobono and is interested in getting to know our members.

To allow all attendees the chance to benefit from all aspects of the convention, we are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone. We appreciate your assistance in cultivating an atmosphere in which participants from diverse backgrounds can learn, network, and share with each other in an environment of mutual respect. Thank you for doing your part to contribute to our community and the high expectations we strive to maintain.

# The National Federation of the Blind 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.

Thursday Evening, April 13

6:45 Rittgers Recipients Meet Up – St Charles Room

7:00 Packet Pick-Up For Those Who Preregistered – St. Charles Room

7:30 NFB of Missouri Board of Directors Open Meeting – St. Charles Room

9:00 The Federation Connection – St. Charles Room

Friday, April 14,

Friday Morning

7:00 Yoga With Aly – Salon D - F, Aly Slaughter, Instructor

8:30 – 9:00 Registration Packet Pick Up – Grand Foyer

9:00 Building Blocks For Our Affiliate: Three Breakout Sessions

Seeking Member input.

1: Planning the Convention –Salon A

2: How to Raise $2,500 to Support Our Programs – Salon B

3: Engaging Members and Expanding Our Reach – Salon C

10:30 Technology Focus and Hands On Help With What Challenges You – Salon B

Friday Afternoon

12:00 NFB of Missouri Lunch: Tickets Required - Lambert

1:00 – 9:00 2023 Exhibits – Grand Foyer

1:00 Welcome to the Federation - Salon D - F

1:00 Accessing Developmental Disability Programming With

Blind Support Services – Salon A

3:00 Help! I’m Sighted and Want to Know How and When to Help – Salon B

4:00 Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users – Salon A

Friday Evening

5:00 - 7:00 Registration And Packet Pick-Up – Grand Foyer

5:00 – 10:00 Hospitality Room – St. Charles Room

5:00 Finding Your Path Forward, Missouri Association of Blind Students –

Salon D - F

6:00 NFB of Missouri Parent Seminar – Salon A

7:00 Resolutions – Salon B

8:00 Federation Family Event for All – Salon C

Sponsored by the Membership Committee

10:00 Nominating Committee - Roger Crome, Chair

Saturday, April 15

7:00 Scholarship Finalist Breakfast – Lambert

7:50 – 8:20 Registration – Grand Foyer

General Sessions – Salon D – F

Saturday Morning

8:30 Call to Order

8:35 Opening Ceremonies - Lewis & Clark Chapter

8:50 Introductions and Reports

9:00 National Report - Tracy Soforenko, National Representative

9:30 Presidential Report - Shelia Wright

10:00 Progress Brings a New Way to Spell Bright in Missouri – Gary Wunder, Chairman Braille & Education Committee, and Kevin Hollinger, TVI, COMS,

10:30 Fit Break

10:35 An Overview of Youth Programs Available Through The Lighthouse -

Angie York, St. Louis Lighthouse for the Blind

10:50 Wolfner Library Where You Can Always Find Something New -

Robin Westphal and Lori Brown, Wolfner Talking Book, and Braille Library

11:10 The Museum of the Blind Peoples Movement – Patti Chang

11:30 Learn About the Exciting Work of The NOBBL - Denice Brown, Treasurer-

National Organization of Blind Black Leaders, and President-National

Federation of the Blind Greater Philadelphia Chapter

11:45 Reports And Announcements

12:00 NFB Lunch: Tickets Required – Salon A - C

Saturday Afternoon

1:30 Premier of Our Show-Me Royal Ambassadors Contest – Jeff Giffen, Chair of Ways & Means and Presentations From Our Chapters and Divisions

1:40 Accessibility At The Missouri Historical Society –

Dara Taylor, Managing Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility

1:55 Putting the Puzzle Together Without the Box - Natasha Baebler,

Outreach Department, Missouri School for the Blind

2:20 Don’t Shortchange Yourself: A Panel Moderated by Gary Wunder –

Jeff La Montia, Jenny Asher, and Mendi Dovin, Missouri Rehabilitation

Services for the Blind

2:45 Fit Break

2:50 Passion For Good - Carol Morgan, Amy Wilson, and Roger Crome

3:10 A Message From the National Association of Blind Students - Sara Luna, Second Vice President

3:20 Our Commitment To Blind Missouri Youth – Jenny Carmack,

Youth Coordinator

3:40 The Yellow House Experience – NFBMO Cane Drivers

3:55 BELL, Braille, and My Favorite Adventure - Salome Cummins

4:05 How I Found the Federation and Why I Stayed

4:20 Resolutions, Constitutional Amendments, and Reports

4:30 Adjournment

Saturday Evening

6:30 Annual Banquet– Salon A - C

Judy Redlich, Mistress of Ceremony

Invocation

Introduction of Head Table

Keynote – Tracy Soforenko, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, and Member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors

Scholarships & Affiliate Awards

Other Business at the Discretion of the MC

9:00 The Lewis and Clark Chapter invites you to an evening of fun after the banquet featuring line dancing. Courtney, a professional dance instructor, will lead us through several dances. No need for a partner and no dance experience necessary. Just come and let your mind and body move to the groove and fellowship with our Federation Family. Hear the beat; feel the rhythm; come alive; and be free!

Sunday Morning, April 16

7:00 Prayer Breakfast (Tickets Required) Led by Ray & Judy Redlich – Salon A - C

General Session – Salon D – F

8:30 Call to Order

8:35 2022 Annual Treasurer’s Report - Carol Coulter, Treasurer

8:55 2022 Audit Report - Gene Fleeman, Chair

9:05 Resolutions - Gary Wunder, Chair

9:25 Our 2023 Legislative Work - Roger Crome, Chair Governmental Affairs

9:40 Making A Difference Across Missouri Through Our Local Chapters &

Divisions

10:15 Fit Break

10:20 Ways & means Report - Jeff Giffen, Chair

10:30 Elections

11:10 Other Affiliate Business

11:35 Old Business

11:45 New Business

12:00 Adjournment

Special Note: All General Sessions and the Banquet will be streamed using Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/7148529230?pwd=NDFNcnVTUG9tbnhCL0FNdmFyQStEUT09>

Meeting ID: 714 852 9230 Passcode: 816573314

+13126266799,,7148529230# US (Chicago)