# CONSTITUTION

# OF THE

# At-Large Chapter

# OF THE

# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the At-Large Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide Blind South Carolinians who are unable to participate in the activities of a local chapter to play a role in the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, to promote the general welfare of the blind of the state and of the nation, and to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

### Section One

Though this organization exists to promote the economic, social and spiritual well-being of blind South Carolinians, active membership shall be comprised of both blind and sighted members. At least a majority of the active members of this organization must be blind.  All members of this organization shall have the right to vote and hold office, except that only blind members shall be eligible to serve in the office of President or Vice President.

All voting members of this organization automatically become voting members of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina with the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office.

### Section Two - Affiliation

Membership in this organization automatically establishes membership in the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and the National Federation of the Blind.

### Section Three - Expulsion

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming to a member of the Federation by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business session of this organization.  Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

## ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

### Section One—Officers

              There shall be elected annually, a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.  The terms of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected and qualified.  Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members who are present and voting.  There shall be no proxy voting.  If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees; and a second ballot shall be taken.  This procedure shall continue until one of the nominees has received a majority vote from the active members present and voting.

### Section Two—Duties

The President shall preside at all meetings of this organization and serve as its representative in any setting in which such representation may be appropriate. In addition, s/he shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization, appoint all appropriate committees and perform all other duties normally associated with the office of president and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

The Vice President shall act in the place of the President in the event that s/he is unable to fulfil his/her duties. S/he shall serve as chair of the Membership Committee and perform such other duties, as the President shall see fit to assign him/her and to perform all other duties normally associated with the office of Vice President.

The Secretary shall maintain a record of all meetings of this organization, to include a list of participants, any actions taken, and any other pertinent information. S/he shall also maintain the membership role and perform any other duties normally associated with the office of Secretary.

The Treasure will act as Chief Financial Officer of this organization, managing all collection and dispersement of funds, maintaining detailed and accurate records of all financial transactions, and performing all other duties normally associated with the office of Treasurer.

## ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

              The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the four (4) constitutional officers.  The Board shall meet monthly.  Special meetings may be held at the call of the President or on written call signed by any three (3) of the Board Members.  The Board shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between meetings.  At least three (3) members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business.  The Board may be polled by telephone or mail ballot on any question.

## ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

### Section One - Regular Meetings

This organization shall hold regular monthly meetings Via a designated remote platform at a time to be determined by the membership. In addition, this organization shall meet in person each year at the convention of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

### Section Two - Special Meetings

              The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time he/she, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action necessary.  At such special meeting at least thirty-three or one-third (33-1/3) percent of the voting members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

## ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

              The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary.

## ARTICLE VIII - AFFILIATION

The At-Large Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, and this organization shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina annually, during the month of January, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers.  Further, a complete financial report showing all financial transactions for the previous calendar year shall be furnished to the State President by March 1 for appropriate accounting purposes and to comply with 501(c)(3) requirements and for Internal Revenue Service purposes.  A copy of the Constitution of the At-Large Chapter and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina immediately upon adoption.

The At-Large Chapter shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic, social, and spiritual betterment of the blind.  This organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind.  Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina (whether made by the National Convention or the National Board of Directors or the State Convention or the State Board of Directors) are binding on this organization and this organization shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions.  As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or the National Board or the State Convention or the State Board) has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate or local chapter.  In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization belong to the reorganized chapter; and the former chapter shall dissolve and cease to exist.

              The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and this organization, if it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind (for whatever reason), shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.

## ARTICLE IX - DUES

              The dues of this organization shall be $15.00 per year payable in advance.  The chapter shall promptly forward $10.00 per year to the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina for each member.  No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

## ARTICLE X - DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

              The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President.  The Treasurer shall be bonded.  All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check, issued on written order by the President and signed by the Treasurer, or in his/her absence or incapacity, such check may be signed by the President.  Written detailed financial reports shall be given at the regular monthly meeting of this organization by the Treasurer.

## ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

              In the event of the dissolution of this organization, or if (for whatever reason) it ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina to be held in trust for a reorganized chapter in the area.  In the event that no chapter is reorganized in the area for a period of two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, the assets become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.

## ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

              This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of this organization by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at a previous regular business session, and provided it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation received from the National Federation of the Blind and with the policies of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina.