National Federation of the Blind of Washington

Washington Seminar Application

Must be submitted to the NFB of Washington President by December 5, 2022

INTRODUCTION AND RULES

The NFB Washington Seminar is one of the most important activities of the National Federation of the Blind. It is a great experience for anyone in the NFBW! Every year 500 to 600 blind people from across the country gather for this event. We invite new members and those who have attended before to join us in Washington DC in 2023. We hope to have members attending from all of our congressional districts. We meet with our senators and representatives and discuss our national legislative agenda and do follow up work with them after the seminar. Fact sheets on our legislative agenda (the bills we will discuss) are provided to us by our national legislative coordinators. This form was developed to help all attendees understand the expectations we have before, during and after Washington Seminar. We want everyone to have a good experience. This form applies to members of the National Federation of the Blind of Washington who wish to be delegates at the 2023 Washington Seminar whether or not assistance is sought from NFB of Washington. It must be returned to our President Marci Carpenter via email by December 5, 2022 to mjc59@comcast.net. A committee of Federationists will review applications for financial assistance. We will notify everyone by December 12, 2022. If you have any questions about the form or Washington Seminar you can send me an email or call or text me at 206-604-5507.

Washington Seminar begins Monday, January 30, 2023. All delegates are expected to arrive by Sunday, January 29, 2023 and make plane reservations home no earlier than 5:00 PM Eastern Thursday, February 2. Delegates are expected to make their own flight and shuttle arrangements to and from the hotel unless they are asking for financial assistance for travel. The specific confirmed travel itinerary for arrival and departure must be provided to me no later than January 1, 2023. The affiliate will pay for shared rooms only with members of the same gender/gender identity (or married or partnered couples) in each room. A delegate may choose to stay in a room by themselves and the NFB of washington will pay half the room cost.

Those who are selected as delegates must attend a mandatory Zoom training, which will take place in late December and a Zoom call for all delegates from Washington state in January.. These trainings will cover protocols such as the need for participants to attend assigned appointments and fulfill specific roles at the meetings. First time attendees will have the opportunity to listen at the first appointment and then speak at a future appointment. Participants must also attend an afternoon training session at the Holiday Inn in Washington, D.C. from 2 to 4 PM on Monday, January 30 and the Great Gathering In that same day from 5 to 7 PM. Everyone from Washington state will meet before our first congressional appointment to review our schedule of appointments and the issues, practice our presentations, review protocol, assign roles and discuss any further questions

Following the seminar, delegates are expected to send at least one follow-up email to a staff member who attended the meeting with us in the federal legislator’s office and must attend at least one follow-up meeting in the district office in order to garner or confirm support for our initiatives. The Affiliate President will arrange all meetings for the Washington Seminar and all follow up meetings in the districts.

All applications will be considered. The NFB of Washington will give preference to Washington Seminar veterans, first time attendees, students, and members from under represented geographic areas in the state. The Selection Committee will consider whether an applicant listed the correct congressperson below in weighing the applicant’s ability to follow up and participate in

Washington Seminar activities and legislative initiatives. The same person may be counted in more than one category, e.g. a student may also be a new attendee.

All Washington Seminar attendees will wear professional clothing to all appointments; suits or slacks, dress shirts or polos, dresses or skirts, blouses or tops; no jeans, t-shirts with writing or graphics, no tennis shoes.

Must be submitted to Marci Carpenter at mjc59@comcast.net by December 5.

APPLICATION

Name:

Date:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (Cell):

The cell phone number above should be the one you will have with you in D.C.

Email:

I am asking for financial assistance for:

Please check all of the following that apply by placing a letter “X” in between the brackets.

[] airfare

[] hotel

[] meals

[] I am not asking for financial assistance

My Congressional Representative is:

Make every effort to list your Congressperson correctly. No listing, or an incorrect listing, may negatively influence your application.

My NFB of Washington chapter is:

Please explain any relationships that you or members of your family may have with our federal legislators, even if you do not live or vote in their districts:

Please check all of the following that apply by placing a letter “X” in between the brackets.

[] I am a student.

[] I would also like to attend the Student Seminar.

[] I am a military veteran.

[] I am a senior citizen.

[] I am a blind merchant.

[] I am the parent of a blind child.

[] I am a blind parent

[] I have attended Washington Seminar before.

[] I have never attended Washington Seminar before.

ESSAY

We would like to know why you should be selected as a delegate to Washington Seminar 2023:

We would like to know how well you understand our legislative initiatives. Please explain your knowledge about the Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act:

We would like to know if you have had any of the following experiences, check all that apply by placing a letter “X” in between the brackets:

[] Have written a bill

[] Sent a letter to a congressperson

Please provide a copy or response from the office if you have it.

[] Have received a sponsor or co-sponsor on a bill at the state or federal level

[] Visited with your state or national legislator’s office.

If so which one and which office?

[] Testified before the legislature at the state or federal level.

Please provide a copy of the testimony if you have it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, you understand and agree to the following:

1. Delegates are expected to arrive by Sunday, January 29, 2020 by nighttime and make plane reservations home no earlier than 5:00 PM Eastern Thursday, February 2

2. Delegates are required to make their own flight and shuttle arrangements to and from the hotel or meet with Corey Grandstaff by December 16 if advance financial assistance is required for travel or hotel stay

3. Delegates must attend the mandatory Zoom trainings to prepare for the seminar

4. Delegates must attend the Monday afternoon training session in Washington, DC, unless assigned to another commitment at that time, and must also attend the Great Gathering In at 5 PM that day

5. Following the seminar, delegates will send at least one follow-up email to at least one of the Congressional staff members who attended the meeting on behalf of the federal legislator in Washington, D.C.

6. Unless requesting advance assistance for the hotel stay, delegates are expected to make their own hotel reservations. Hotel information can be found at https://nfb.org/programs-services/advocacy/washington-seminar

7. Following the seminar, delegates will attend at least one follow up meeting in the district of the federal legislator.

8. I have read and agree to follow the National Federation of the Blind Code of Conduct https://nfb.org/index.php/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct

9. Failure to comply with any requirements will result in denial of future funding

Signature of applicant (Typed):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email completed forms to Marci Carpenter at mjc59@comcast.net. If you have questions about the form, call or text me at 206-604-5507.