



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND

WEST VIRGINIA

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BLIND COMMUNITY UNITY DAY AGENDA

Friday, October 13, 2023
Culture Center
Department of Arts, Culture and History
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Reading Room, Library Section
Charleston, WV 25305

Members of the National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia (NFBWV) and the Mountain State Council of the Blind (MSCB) welcome you to West Virginia's first ever Blind Community Unity Day (BCUD). The planners and organizers of this historic event hope that Blind Community Unity Day will spark a recognition and celebration of the state's blind community and foster a growing spirit of unity, purpose, and commitment within that community.

Blind Community Unity Day is hosted in person and online by the Library Section, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History. Special thanks to Director Donna Calvert and the staff of the Library Section for generously providing meeting accommodations and lunch for in-person attendees as well as Zoom support for those participating virtually.

Blind Community Unity Day is the opening session of the 2023 Annual Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia. All other convention activities take place October 13 and 14 at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, 100 Hodges Road, Charleston, WV.

This preliminary agenda is subject to update and modification.

9:00 am. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME--Marcus Soulsby, President, National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia

- GREETINGS FROM HOSTS--Donna Calvert, Director, Library Section, and Randall Reid-Smith, Curator, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History
- SELF INTRODUCTIONS—BCUD Participants

9:20 am. BLIND UNITY FROM A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE--Ed McDonald, First Vice-President, National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia and BCUD Moderator, Keyser, WV

9:50 am. BLIND UNITY FROM A COUNCIL PERSPECTIVE--Donna Brown, President, Mountain State Council of the Blind (a State Affiliate of the American Council of the Blind), Romney, WV

10:20 am. BREAK

10:30 am. BLIND UNITY FROM A FEDERATION PERSPECTIVE--Marcus Soulsby, President, National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia (a State Affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind), Charleston, WV, and Sheri Koch, Immediate Past President, National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia, Charleston, WV

11:00 am. STATEMENT OF BLIND UNITY ACCORD BETWEEN CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS—Mountain State Council of the Blind and National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia

11:15 am. BLIND UNITY FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE--Ryan Strunk, National Representative to the NFBWV 2023 Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN

11:30 am. BLIND UNITY FROM A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE--Comments, Questions, and Observations from BCUD Participants

12:00 noon. LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP—Boxed Lunches Provided by Library Section, Department of Arts, Culture and History

1:15 pm. PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR BLIND AND LOW-VISION CHILDREN IN WEST VIRGINIA: SERVICES, SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES--Wendy Bailey, Statewide Outreach Specialist, WVDE Technical Assistance Center for Accessibility and Transitions, West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Romney, WV

1:45 pm. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR BLIND AND LOW-VISION WEST VIRGINIANS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS--Kevin Maynus, Rehabilitation Program Specialist, Blind and Visually Impaired Services, West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, Beckley, WV

2:15 pm. ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: LIBRARY SERVICES FOR BLIND AND LOW-VISION WEST VIRGINIANS--Donna Calvert, Director, Library Section, Department of Arts, Culture and History, Charleston, WV

2:45 pm. BREAK

3:00 pm. REPORTS AND UPDATES ON PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FROM ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS IN WEST VIRGINIA'S BLIND COMMUNITY:

- Toni Walls, Director, Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind, Huntington, WV
- Karen Haught, Executive Director, The Seeing Hand Association for the Blind, Wheeling, WV
- Lee Huffman, APH Huntington, Senior Strategist, Accessible Technology and Community Outreach, American Printing House for the Blind, Huntington, WV
- Aaron Preece, AccessWorld Editor-In-Chief, American Foundation for the Blind, Huntington, WV

4:15 pm. WRAP-UP: QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ASSESSMENTS—BCUD Moderator and Participants

4:30 pm. ADJOURN