

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (NFB-O)  
74th Annual Convention  
The Vision Beyond Vision

Join us as we celebrate the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio’s Annual Convention and expand our circle of participation, connecting blind Ohioans from across the state for what we expect to be the largest gathering of blind people in the history of Ohio.

Considering the ongoing impact and wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 State Convention will be held virtually for the first time.

We encourage you to begin preparing to attend this outstanding event during the weekend of November 6th and 7th of 2020. This Convention will be the largest assembly of blind people in the state this year. It will offer blind people vision beyond vision, an opportunity to learn about accessible technology at our Tech Fair, and living with blindness by attending many educational seminars.

**Code of Conduct**

We welcome all attendees to our convention and embrace diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. Although we are meeting using Zoom, these items are still relevant. To that end, please keep the following expectations in mind when you join us:

Through advocacy, public awareness, and mentoring, the National Federation of the Blind provides support to members and advocates for our rights to live the lives we want. As a member or guest at our convention, you represent not only yourself, but also our organization. We want you to enjoy your time with us, make new friends, and renew old acquaintances. Although we encourage members to socialize and have fun, the convention also provides an important opportunity to come together to continue the work of our organization, to learn about the important initiatives that we are involved with on a local and national level, and to plan our work for the future.

Please remember these guidelines:

1. Welcome new attendees: Although you will undoubtedly enjoy time with your friends, please reach out to those who have never joined us before and help them to be comfortable. We welcome people from all walks of life and with diverse needs and experiences.
2. Attend and participate in sessions.
3. Harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If your behavior could possibly make anyone uncomfortable, even if you would not be upset by it yourself, do not do or say anything that could be considered inappropriate by anyone.

**About the NFB-O**

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization and a founding affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. We are proud to be an integral part of the oldest and largest organization of the blind in the United States. We are a diverse group of people dedicated to changing what it means to be blind. Our members work tirelessly to break down the legal, social, and personal barriers to living the lives we want.

The mission of the National Federation of the Blind is to achieve widespread emotional acceptance and intellectual understanding that the real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight but the misconceptions and lack of information which exist. We do this by bringing blind people together to share successes, to support each other in times of failure, and to create imaginative solutions.

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.

**The NFB Pledge**

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.

**Membership**

The NFB-O is Ohio’s oldest organization comprised of blind and sighted people working together to change what it means to be blind. The 2020 Convention will inspire, empower, and celebrate our accomplishments. The NFB of Ohio also provides encouragement, training, and support to families with blind children and to veterans and people who are losing vision or have become blind later in life.

If you would like to join the Ohio affiliate, you may contact William Turner, Membership Coordinator at (330) 328-9860, and he will refer you to a local chapter in your area.

**National Federation of the Blind of Ohio**

**2020 Convention Principles of Voting**

These principles of voting are proposed for consideration by the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Board of Directors for recommendation to the Convention.

Nothing in these principles of voting is intended to change Article III, Section A of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio’s constitution. The Convention remains “the supreme authority of the Federation. It is the legislature of the Federation. As such, it has final authority in all issues of policy, and members in attendance may participate in all convention discussions as a matter of right. Any member of the Federation may make or second motions and propose nominations.” These procedures simply implement the method for following the constitution in an electronic convention.

The below principles and procedures are intended to provide clarity and advanced notice on how the convention will be managed in 2020. This document will be read at the NFB of Ohio board meeting on November 6 and then a second time after the roll call of chapters that afternoon. We will then ask the Convention to vote on the proposed policy. Those eligible to vote on this proposal will be any enrolled voters present and voting at the session on November 6 as described below.

An ad hoc committee shall deal with all questions and concerns related to voting. The ad hoc committee will include Eric Duffy, Springfield chapter; Suzanne Turner, Cleveland chapter, and Cheryl Fields, Cleveland chapter. Eric Duffy shall chair the Ad Hoc committee.

**Voting**

1. All members who are registered for the convention and who have opted into the voter enrollment system by October 18 will constitute the pool of convention voters.
2. All votes will first be conducted by voice. If the president is unable to determine the outcome of any vote, he will then call for an electronic vote. On any vote any individual member who is registered for the convention and who has opted into the voter enrollment system by the specified time may also call for an electronic vote.
3. All electronic voting will be done via SMS (text message) or by phone.
4. Any matter must receive 51 percent support of the votes cast by the convention voters present and voting in order to be affirmed.
5. “Present and voting” will mean the subset of convention voters who actually cast a vote on a given question. Thus voters who are indifferent to a matter cannot block its consideration by the Convention by choosing not to cast a vote.
6. All electronic votes will be allocated three minutes for vote time.
7. If voting indicates 75 percent support for or against a question before three minutes’ having elapsed, the chair may elect to move to the next order of business.
8. An opportunity to practice voting will be offered in the convention on a question that has no impact on the policy of the organization.

**Door Prizes and Registration**

Registration is now open and free.

Pre-registering for the Ohio Convention by October 27, 2020, makes attendees eligible for door prizes. Door prizes will be drawn during Pre-Convention Festivities, General Sessions, and the Banquet. Registration is required, and you must be present to win. When your name is called, please virtually raise your hand or email ohioprize@gmail.com within two minutes; which is the designated window of time to claim your prize. Also, if you would like to donate a door prize, please alert Ohio’s Door Prize Facilitator, Annette Lutz, at the email address above.

**Resolutions**

All resolutions must be submitted to the resolutions Committee Chair, Barbara Pierce, no later than October 23. Resolutions will be considered at the General Session on Saturday, November 7, 2020. For questions, email Barbara Pierce at [BarbaraPierce9366@gmail.com](mailto:BarbaraPierce9366@gmail.com).

**National Representative**

The Ohio Affiliate is delighted to have the PAC Man as our National Representative for 2020. We are extending a warm welcome to Scott C. LaBarre, Esq., who is a leader in the National Federation of the Blind.

Scott C. LaBarre owns and operates LaBarre Law Offices (LLO). LLO specializes in employment law, disability rights, Social Security appeals, estate planning, Randolph-Sheppard Act cases, and business law. Mr. LaBarre has appeared in federal and state courts throughout the United States, securing many important victories for his clients. He is permanently admitted before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Courts of Appeal for the Seventh and Tenth Circuits, the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, and the Supreme Court of Colorado.

Mr. LaBarre shares office space and often co-counsels with the firm of Scobie and Morlang, who specialize in estate planning, tax planning, business law, and other civil litigation.

Before launching his own firm in July 1998, Mr. LaBarre acted as general counsel for the <<http://nfb.org/>> National Federation of the Blind of Colorado, where he specialized in laws affecting the blind and disabled. He served in that capacity for five years. Even after establishing LLO, he remains very active in the NFB through his volunteer service in many leadership roles. In October 2005 he became President of the Colorado affiliate. He also serves as Chairman of the national PAC Committee.

He is President of the National Association of Blind Lawyers and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Center for the Blind. From 1996 until June of 2002 he was President of the NFB of Denver.

He is active in national, state, and local bar associations. Currently. he serves as Chair of the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law. Mr. LaBarre is also active in the ABA's General Practice Solo and Small Firm Division through his service on the governing council and as Vice Director of the Division's Internal Affairs Group. He has also served. as a Director in the ABA's Young Lawyers Division, Vice Chairman of the ABA-YLD Bar Leadership Team, YLD Liaison to the ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law, a member of the Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors, and Treasurer of the Executive Council of the Denver Bar Association's Young Lawyers.

Mr. LaBarre received his Bachelor of Arts from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, in 1990 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota in 1993. He left Minnesota in 1993 to work at the National Headquarters of the National Federation of the Blind. He moved to Colorado in June 1994. His wife, Anahit Galechyan, hales from Armenia. They have two children, Alexander (born October, 2002) and Emily (born December, 2004).

**General Zoom Information**

All events will be held on the Zoom platform, and all times are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**Helpful Zoom Commands**

Phone command to mute and unmute: \*6

Phone command to raise and lower hand: \*9

Computer shortcut to mute and unmute: Alt a

Computer shortcut to raise and lower hand: Alt Y

**Zoom Meeting Etiquette**

Keep in mind that upon joining convention one will be placed on mute. If you wish to speak and are not on the agenda, you may raise your hand. A host will get to you as soon as possible; do not unmute yourself until you are prompted to do so. If you are on the agenda, the host will unmute you as we approach your presentation. Stay on mute if you are not speaking to the group. If on video, please do not eat or move about in any way that could be a distraction to others watching. We recommend that you don’t activate your video unless you are speaking.

**Zoom Meeting Connection Information**

One meeting link will be used for the Board Meeting, General Sessions, and the Banquet. Closed Captioning will be available in these sessions.

<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>

Meeting ID: 408 185 0851

One tap mobile +1-646-876-9923, 4081850851# US (New York)

Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/abdqTMSdcy

**Convention Agenda**

**Wednesday, November 4**

6:30 pm EST **Rookie Roundup:** Introducing the Ohio affiliate, door prizes, and more <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

**Thursday, November 5**

3:00 p.m. EST **Exhibit Seminar:** HIMS, Universal Vision Technology, Vispero, Vanda Pharmaceuticals, and more<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

7:00 p.m., EST **Happy Hour:** Music, BYOB, Door Prizes, and More<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

**Friday, November 6, 2020**

9:00 to 10:15 am Hospitality Room will be open for an opportunity to mix and mingle<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

10:30 to Noon Board of Directors Meeting (open to all) <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

12:30 to 1:30 pm Meet and Greet: Come fellowship and network with Federationists and organizational leaders. <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

2:00 - 5:00 pm **GENERAL SESSION** <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

2:00 pm: Opening Ceremonies: Call to Order, Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio

2:05 pm: Invocation: Robert Pierce, U.S. veteran and member, NFB of Lorain County

2:10 pm: Welcome to Dayton: Honorable, Mayor Nan Whaley, Office of the Mayor, City of Dayton, Ohio

2:25 pm: Welcome from the Host Chapter, Dr. Carolyn Peters, President, NFB of the Miami Valley

2:35 pm: NFB Pledge: Kinshuk Tella, President, Ohio Association of Blind Students

2:40 pm: National Anthem**:** MaKenzie Love, BELL Student

2:45 pm: National Report, Scott C. LaBarre

National Representative, President, NFB of Colorado

3:15 pm: Never Fear, NFB is Here: A Mom’s Perspective on Learning and Growing with the NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program, Anne Casey, Member, Capital Chapter

3:30 pm: What Parents and Advocates Need to Know: Making the Most of Educational Opportunities for Blind Children, Sarah Buoni**,** M. Ed.Education Program Specialist, Low Incidence Disabilities, Office for Exceptional Children

3:55 pm: Report from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI), Kevin Miller, OOD Director, Greg Dormer, Deputy Director, BSVI, and Berna King, Acting Program Manager, BSVI. Their mission is to empower Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations, and independence.

4:25 pm: Finding a New Job in the Storm with Patients in the Time of a Pandemic, Suzanne Turner, Member, National Employment Committee, National Federation of the Blind

4:45 pm: Roll Call of Chapters and Principles for Voting, Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio Affiliate and Eric Duffy, Secretary, NFB Ohio Board

5:00 pm Recess

5:30 to 6:30 pm Ohio Association of Blind Merchants Meeting Annette Lutz, President <https://zoom.us/j/99767866800?pwd=UVpNc1hHNkpDcUtKakhsVjMxdTRKdz09>; Meeting ID: 997 6786 6800; Passcode: 646765

5:30 to 6:30 pm Community Service Seminar, Cheryl Fields, Chair <https://zoom.us/j/96577992664?pwd=OHVOVXJlSmhBTTdtNzZNWHFwNGIydz09>; Meeting ID: 965 7799 2664; Passcode: 675450

6:30 to 7:30 pm At-Large Chapter Meeting Colleen Roth, President <https://zoom.us/j/94199082969?pwd=OXRPK1V0c2hEVVN3VGtJUTRiQTFsUT09>; Meeting ID: 941 9908 2969; Passcode: 239980

7:00 to8:30 pm Ohio Association of Blind Students Meeting, OABS invites you to a panel discussion. Several students will speak about their life goals, college journey, and college major. Each student is studying something different, so you can get to know about your younger piers. Come and listen to this panel event and ask questions. Kinshuk Tella, President <https://zoom.us/j/94817154341?pwd=VVozSkQ2L0hOczNNejFDYit0WWM4Zz09>; Meeting ID: 948 1715 4341; Passcode: 019607

7:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting. Eric Duffy Chair This is a closed meeting

7:30 to 8:30 pm Resolutions Committee Meeting, Barbra Pierce, chair. We encourage the participation of all members. Come help shape and set policies of the NFB of Ohio to advocate for positive change <https://zoom.us/j/94074072817?pwd=NnZyVm12WmFpM2JjRHRjM2llRUZ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 940 7407 2817

Passcode: 430222

**Saturday, November 7, 2020**

7:30 to 8:45 am Ohio Association to Promote the Use of Braille Meeting, MaryAnne Denning, President <https://zoom.us/j/94033702280?pwd=ZDQrLzJtYzZ5RUZkSk4vTGFhR01idz09>; Meeting ID: 940 3370 2280; Passcode: 733723

7:30 to 8:45 am Ohio Diabetes Action Network (DAN) meeting, Susan Day, President <https://zoom.us/j/97974953313?pwd=NkVpSWpKOTR1TUdFaC9DbWt0SWhzQT09>; Meeting ID: 979 7495 3313; Passcode: 095571

9:00 - Noon GENERAL SESSION <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

9:00 am Call to order, Suzanne Turner, Vice President, NFB of Ohio

9:05 am Invocation: Joanne Williams, Member, Cleveland chapter

9:10 am Diversity, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect, Delcenia Brown, Jim Weiss, and Wilbert Turner

9:40 am What’s happening with Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) Kerstin Sjoberg, Executive Director, Disability Rights Ohio

10:00 am Creating Meaningful Career Opportunities for the Blind at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Thomas D. Robinson, former Director of Contracting, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, former Chairman of the Ability One Commission

10:30 am: Why I’m a Federationist, William Turner, Member, NFB Ohio Board of Directors

10:50 Presidential Report: The Vision beyond Vision, Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio

11:10 am Living the Life You Want with Dual Disabilities. Todd Elzey, blindness and hearing loss; Eric Duffy, blindness and cerebral palsy; Maggie Stringer, blindness and hearing loss; Debbie Baker, blindness and cerebral palsy

11:50 am Announcements

Noon Recess

Noon to 1:45 pm Hospitality Room will be open for an opportunity to mix and mingle <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

12:30 to 1:45 pm Ohio Parents of Blind Children Meeting with special guest Carlton Anne Cook Walker, President of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) <https://zoom.us/j/92563561932?pwd=VUNScTgxNkRxRDczQTJmdEIvNFZ1dz09>; Meeting ID: 925 6356 1932; Passcode: 889316

12:30 to 1:45 pm NFB of Ohio Senior Division Meeting, Barbara Pierce, President <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81326178270?pwd=bW5reTJML0swL0o4cmF2R1diRWJPUT09>; Meeting ID: 813 2617 8270; Passcode: 845630

12:30 to 1:45 pm Ohio Association of Guide Dog Users (OAGDU) Meeting, Deanna Lewis, President <https://zoom.us/j/96933531904?pwd=bVZuY1RjRW9qc1FTMWRGY1BJNXlYQT09>; Meeting ID: 969 3353 1904; Passcode: 820219

2:00 to 3:50 pm Meet our NFB Training Centers, Andra Stover, Moderator; BLIND, Inc.: It’s Your Future, We Can Help You Build It!, Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director, and Rachel Kuntz, Resource Development Coordinator; Colorado Center, Julie Deden, Executive Director; and Louisiana Center for the Blind, Pam Allen, Executive Director. Join us to learn more about how training can help you live the life you want. Come learn and ask questions about the possibilities. <https://zoom.us/j/93672590200?pwd=eXFwWUdaUFJ3eHhxTHl3Y0VUWGJLUT09>; Meeting ID: 936 7259 0200; Passcode: 846846

2:00 to 3:50 pm Workshop: Innovation in STEM Access for Blind Students and Science Lovers, Moderator, Caroline Karbowski, Founder and CEO of See3D, Inc. 3rd year biology and chemistry major, Ohio State <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83666653490?pwd=Y090RUdtTGZ5RnQ3ZUVIRkxyRmRmZz09>; Meeting ID: 836 6665 3490; Passcode: 007918

WORKSHOP AGENDA

2:00 to 2:05pm Setup, introductions, and sending out speaker notes

2:05 to 2:20 pm SciAccess: Making Space for Everyone, Anna Voelker, Accessible Astronomy Specialist, Coordinator of Outreach, Ohio State University Department of Astronomy; Co-presenters, Michaela Deming and Caitlin O'Brien, SciAccess Program Assistants and Astronomy and Astrophysics students at OSU

2:20 to 2:35 pm Accessibility Options for Informal STEAM Education, Adrienne Provenzano, NASA/JPL-CalTech Solar System Ambassador and CASIS Space Station Explorers Ambassador

2:35 to 2:50 pm STEM Education and Students with Sight Loss in a Post-COVID World, Dr. Mahadeo A. Sukhai, Head of Research and Chief Accessibility Officer, CNIB, and co-principal, IDEA-STEM

2:50 to3:05 pm Hand-Catching Science: Tactile Graphics and Models Bring STEM Concepts to Life in Museums and at Home, Lindsay Yazzolino, Tactile Design Specialist, TouchGraphics, Inc., tactile technology consultant and nonvisual designer, former cognitive neuroscience researcher

3:05 to 3:20 pm Inclusive STEM Education with the Graphiti Dynamic Tactile Graphic Display, Venkatesh Chari, President, Orbit Research

3:20 to 3:30 pm See3D Summer 2020: Growing and Adapting our 3D Printing Distribution, See3D Team, Kara Herzog, Social Media Manager (OSU), Annika Srivastava, Learning Plans Creator (Oswego East High School), Emily Kiehl, Team Coordinator (UC), Garrett Carder, CTO (OSU)

3:30 to 3:40 pm My Work and Research on Promoting Equitable Access to Science Education for Students with Visual Impairments, Ying-Ting Chiu, Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, Ohio State University

3:40 to 3:50 pm NFB Engineering Quotient, Dr. Natalie L. Shaheen, Assistant Professor of Low Vision and Blindness, Department of Special Education, Illinois State University

4:00 **GENERAL SESSION** <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

4:00 pm Call to Order, Richard Payne, President

4:05 pm Nominating Committee Report, Eric Duffy, Nominating committee Chair and Member, NFB Ohio Board

4:10 pm Affiliate Elections

4:40 pm Resolutions: Barbra Pierce, Resolutions Committee Chair and Member, NFB Ohio Board

5:30 pm Recess

7:00 -9:00 pm **NFB OF OHIO BANQUET**

<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

Event Highlights:

* Master of Ceremonies, Richard Payne, President, NFB-O
* Invocation
* Keynote Speaker, National Rep. Scott C. LaBarre
* Awards Presentations, Anette Lutz ,Chair, Awards Committee, and member, NFB-O Board
* Scholarship Awards, Cassandra Jones, Chair, Scholarship Committee
* Money for the Movement, Sherry Ruth, NFB-O Treasurer, and President, NFB of Lorain County

9:00 pm Adjournment

Ohio would like to extend our gratitude and thank the Norwalk Ohio Lions for generously supporting our 2020 Scholarship Program.

9:00 pm After-Party, stick around after the banquet to fellowship with your NFB-O family. <https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>; Phone: 669 900 6833, ID: 4081850851

# **Ohio Board of Directors**

**Officers**

Terms ending 2020

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**Convention Sponsors**

**Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living, Jordy D. Stringer, Executive Director**

Serving Fairfield and Hocking Counties, founded in 2002, SOCIL is managed by a Board of Directors and staff comprised mostly of persons with various disabilities. The foundation of CIL services is the peer relationship--people with disabilities assisting other people with disabilities as role models and mentors. Each center is unique.

**Disability Rights Ohio, Kerstin Sjoberg, Executive Director**

Disability Rights Ohio is a non-profit corporation with a mission to advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio. We envision a society in which people with disabilities are full and equal members, enjoy the rights and opportunities of all people, are self-directed, make decisions about where, how and with whom they will live, learn, work and play, have access to needed services and supports, and are free from abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.