**AGENDA**

65th Annual Convention

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

November 4 to November 6, 2011

Wyndham Garden Dayton South Hotel

31 Prestige Plaza Drive

Miamisburg, Ohio 45342

937-434-8030

Convention Theme:

**BLINDNESS: THAT’S HOW IT IS AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS**

Whether we finish the climb up the stairway to freedom and social acceptance (leaving behind the hostility and backlash) will be determined, not by the actions of others, but by our own behavior. This is our challenge and our confrontation. It is also the strongest possible proof of how far we have come. For the first time in history, the choice is ours. As other minorities have discovered, the final steps are the hardest.

There are several reasons why this is so: For one thing, the degradations and deprivations at the bottom of the stairs are (once they are pointed out and clearly delineated) so obvious and unjust that they are easily understood; and large groups of the general public can be touched in their conscience and enlisted to help, still keeping intact their sense of superior worth and special status. The minority is a long way down and poses no apparent threat, even by climbing a few steps up. At the top of the stairs, things are different. The discrimination is more complex and subtle, the prejudice less obvious, the threat to vested interest more real, and the violations of tradition more imminent.

-Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, Miami Beach, Florida 1979

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

The NFB of Ohio would like to thank the following contributers.

Ohio Eye Care Specialists

Dr. Edward R.Thomas, M.D.

Karen Warrner and her very, very good friends.

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**NFB-O CONVENTION**

**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.

**ABOUT THE NFB OF OHIO**

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio is a statewide organization composed primarily of blind Ohioans. It is the state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, Inc., a national-membership organization which holds nonprofit tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. It is not an organization speaking for the blind; it is the blind speaking for themselves.

We know that blind people have very often lived tragic lives, and we know that even now blindness can be defeating. But we also know why. Not blindness, but society's devastating attitude about it constitutes our burden. We, the blind of today, have carried out a revolution and have won our independence. We have written our own philosophy, we have found our own direction, and we have learned to speak with our own voice—the National Federation of the Blind. We have taken our future into our own hands, and we are changing what it means to be blind. We now imagine a future full of opportunity, and as the voice of the nation’s blind we invite you to help us make it a reality.

**Navigating the Wyndham Garden Dayton South Hotel**

by Barbara Pierce

The first thing you need to keep in mind about the Wyndham Garden is that it is a holodome property. That is, its central architectural feature is an atrium with recreational facilities: pool, hot tubs, pool table, and maybe a game room by convention time. The guest rooms on all three floors circle this atrium. The rooms on the inside of the circle have sliding glass doors that overlook the pool and room doors on the opposite wall that give access to the corridors that in turn give access to the outside and lead to the public rooms of the hotel. You cannot lock the glass sliding doors from outside the room, so you should not leave your room that way unless someone can lock the door from the inside after you leave.

The main entrance of the hotel is on its east wall, toward the north end. You pass through two sets of doors to reach the lobby. Just inside the inner doors of this main entrance, on both the left and right side, are small board-type meeting rooms, and the front desk is on the west wall of the lobby, not far in front of you. If you turn right (north) at the desk, you can turn left (west) at the north end of the desk and walk toward the ballroom, which runs north/south along the west side of the hotel. A foyer along the length of the ballroom gives access to the various sections of the ballroom on the west side of the foyer. If, instead of walking south along the ballroom, you turn first right and then left, you will find the restaurant and bar at the northwest corner of the building.

To reach the guest rooms, return to the front desk and turn left so that you are walking south toward the atrium. On the right you will pass an archway that gives access to the ballroom foyer about halfway down its length. Continuing south along the carpeted corridor, you will find sectional seating in the middle of the hall at a point when the space opens into an art gallery. At the south end of this central seating you can angle east or west to find corridors giving access to the wooden room doors, which have raised and Braille room numbers as required by the ADA.

If you choose to go straight south instead of angling, you will reach the northernmost of the two elevators. Turning left or right at the elevator will take you straight east or west to doors giving access to stairwells. The one on the east side is door 1, and the one on the west end is door 4. At the ground-floor level these stairwells, as well as doors 2 and 3 at the far ends of the corridors, each contain a door to the outside, a door to the atrium, the door you just walked through, and a door to the connecting guest-room corridor. The stairs to the upper floors are also in this uncarpeted area. By the way, your room key will open the outside doors, which are kept locked. You will find the box for inserting the key card to the right of the door on the outside. The grassy dog relief area is just outside door 4. A trash receptacle will be available outside that door.

To grasp the guest-room layout, think of the hotel as an arrow with the corridor leading from the front desk to the elevator already mentioned as the shaft of the arrow. The arrowhead is the guest-room area with the pool atrium in the center of the arrowhead. Parallel corridors make a circuit around the arrowhead with a flattened tip, that is, not coming to a point. The south elevator actually faces south and is located at the extreme southern end of the hotel. The innermost of the parallel corridors circles the atrium with a chest-high wall separating the hallway from the drop to the atrium. The outside wall of this corridor contains the glass sliding doors to the rooms. Most of the ground-floor rooms are located only on the outside wall of the hotel, though near the northern elevator the wheelchair-accessible rooms are located on both sides of the outer hallway. If you need an accessible room, be sure to mention that fact when you make your reservation.

If you take the time to study this description, it should give you a place to begin learning the layout of the convention hotel. Remember that we will be at this facility for the next four years, so you will have plenty of time to become familiar with it.

**CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS**

 If you have any questions about convention arrangements, contact Mary Pool or Sheri Albers, co-chairs of the convention committee.

**Registration and Literature**

 NFB literature will be available during registration hours in the Chandelier Area Friday, November 4th, between 1:30 and 4:30 and 5:30 to 6:30 pm and Saturday, November 5th, between 8:30 and 9:00 am and 1:30 and 2:00 pm.

**Attention First-Time Convention Attendees**

 All those attending their first NFB of Ohio convention are invited to stop at the literature table Friday afternoon to pick up a first-timer's ribbon and to have their names entered for a special door prize drawing.

**Door Prizes**

 Door prizes should be labeled clearly in print and Braille with the donor's name and the amount of cash or type of gift. Paul Dressell is in charge of door prizes. They may be brought to him directly or left in Convention Registration with Anna Wiederhold.

**Guide Dogs**

If you have a problem with your dog or need advice or assistance, contact Deanna Lewis (513.328.7976), president of our guide dog division, or Debbie Baker. The relief area is located outside of door 4. A trash receptacle will be outside the door for your convenience.

Friday, November 4

11:00–4:00 PM Exhibits and Technology

Plaza E

12:00–1:00 PM Board Meeting

Gallery

1:30–4:30 PM Convention Registration

Chandelier Area

1:30–3:00 PM Membership Workshop

 Richard Payne, Committee Chair

Plaza D

2:00–5:00 PM Annual Parent Division Seminar

 Carol Akers, President

#  Directors

3:30–5:00 PM Blindness and NFB Philosophy

 A Seminar for Newcomers

 Gallery

5:30-6:30 PM Convention Registration

 Chandelier Area

7:00-8:00PM Members at Large Chapter Meeting

 Colleen Roth, President

 Directors

7:00-8:30 PM Hobby Lobby Demonstrations

Sheri Albers

Main Cafe

8:00-8:30 PM Resolutions Committee Meeting

 Paul Dressell, Chair

Directors

8:00-9:00 PM Ohio Association of Blind Merchants Meeting

 Steve Vincke, President

North Octagon (Two steps to enter room)

8:30 PM Nominating Committee Meeting

 Eric Duffy, Chair

 Directors

9:00-11:00 PM Hospitality

 Hosted by the Miami Valley Chapter and Merchants Division: Everyone Welcome

 Patterson

9:30-10:15 PM Radio Play Performance (NAPUB Fundraiser-$5.00)

 Plaza D

Saturday, November 5

7:00-8:00 AM Diabetes Action Network of Ohio (DAN) Breakfast

 Wanda Sloan, President

Garden Bistro

7:30–8:45 AM National Association to Promote the Use of Braille (NAPUB)

Continental Breakfast Meeting

 Barbara Pierce, President

Plaza D

8:30–9:00 AM Convention Registration

 Chandelier Area

9:00 AM Annual Convention of the NFB of Ohio

 Call to Order by J.W. Smith, President

Plaza C

9:05 AM Welcome to Dayton

 Richard Payne, President, Miami Valley Chapter

9:15 AM Convention Arrangements

 Mary Pool, Co-Chair, Convention Committee

9:20 AM Roll Call of Chapters

 Shelbi Hindel, Secretary

9:25 AM National Report

 Ever Lee Hairston, NFB Board Member

10:20 AM Report from the Talking Book Library

Tracy Grimm, Ohio Library for the

Blind and Physically disabled

10:40 AM Did It Anyway

 Sheri Wells-Jensen, Phd., Associate Professor, Bowling Green State University

11:00AM Report from the Bureau of Services for the

 Visually Impaired

 Dan Connors, Director

11:20 AM Supported Employment: Panelists

Joel Zureick, Director of Career Services, Cleveland Sight Center

Peggie Keating, Senior and Adult Services Coordinator

Suzanne M. Turner, Benefit Counselor

11:45 AM Recess

 (Those who have ordered boxed lunches

 can pick them up in the Chandelier Area.

 Only those with tickets will be served.)

12:00-1:45 PM Exhibits and Technology

 Plaza E

12:00–1:45 PM Parents of Blind Children Division Lunch Meeting, Carol Akers, President

 Plaza D

12:00–1:45 PM Ohio Organization of the Senior Blind

 Barbara Fohl, President

 Gallery

12:30-1:45 PM Student Division Pizza Party

 Beth Debus, President

 Patterson

1:30–2:00 PM Convention Registration

 Chandelier Area

2:00 PM Call to Order of General Session and Announcements

 Plaza C

2:05 PM The Year in Review

 J.W. Smith, President

2:30 PM The Ultimate Mentoring Experience

 Barbara Pierce, President Emerita

2:50 PM Rehabilitation Then and Now

 Dr. Mary-Anne Joseph, Rehabilitation Counselor, Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired

3:10 PM Training at the Louisiana Center

 Everett Gavel

3:30 PM On Inclusion and Diversity

 Katherine H. Betts, Intercultural Specialist, Multicultural Center, Office of Student Life: The Ohio State University

3:50 PM Blindness and Diabetes

 Dr. Sandra Kimball

4:10 PM Wright State Research Institute: New Opportunities For Partnerships by

 Eric Duffy, Research Scientist, and

 Amy Neidhard-Doll, PhD., PE, Director Rehabilitation Engineering and Technology Program Wright State Research Institute Wright State University Research Associate Professor

 Wright State Research Institute

 Research Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical, industrial, and Human Factors Engineering College of Engineering and Computer Science

4:40 PM Reports, Resolutions, and

 Questions from the Audience

4:55 PM Recess

6:00–7:00 PM Social Hour

 Prefunction Hall

7:00 PM Annual Banquet

 Eric Duffy, Master of Ceremonies

 Plaza BC

 Banquet Address

 Ever Lee Hairston, NFB Board Member

Affiliate Awards and

Scholarship Awards

 Honor Roll Call of Chapters

10:00 PM Post-Banquet Party

 Games, Music, and Karaoke

 until 1.

 Rockie’s

Sunday, November 6

7:30-8:30 AM Leadership Continental Breakfast

 Plaza D

9:00 AM Call to Order of the General Session

 Plaza BC

9:05 AM Memorial Service

 J.W. Smith and Paul Dressell

9:20 AM Why I’m a Federationist

 Gus White

9:40 AM The NFB and Community Service

 Lisa Hall

10:00 AM On Leadership and Affiliate History

 Paul Dressell and Barbara Pierce

10:30 AM Report of the Nominating Committee

 Eric Duffy, Chair

10:35 AM Affiliate Elections

10:55 AM Treasurer’s Report

 Sherry Ruth

11:05AM NFB-NEWSLINE® Report

 Cheryl Fischer

11:15 AM Blind Youth and the Education System

 Audience Discussions

11:45 AM Conclusion and Wrap-Up

Noon Adjournment



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