**CONSTITUTION**

**National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Community Service Division**

**Article One: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Community Service Division.

**Article Two: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the positive philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind through community service and advocacy. This division shall work diligently to promote and encourage community service and service learning at the local, state, and national levels of the National Federation of the Blind; it shall be a vehicle for collective action by the blind of the state; it shall function as a mechanism through which blind and interested sighted persons who acknowledge the positive effects that community service and service learning have on self, community, and country may come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quantity and quality of community service opportunities for the blind of the state; and shall use this method to advance the goals of full integration on the basis of equality for the blind of this state; and shall be an integrated part of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio.

**Article Three: MEMBERSHIP**

Section One: Active Members

The members of this organization shall primarily be blind people who participate actively in community service, have an interest in participating in community service, or are sighted and fall under the aforementioned categories; these individuals are (upon payment of dues) considered active members of the organization. The members of this organization are members of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and shall have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as other members of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio.

Section Two: Composition of Membership

The majority of the members of this organization must be blind. Sighted persons may also become members and have equal standing and stake within this organization, except that they may not be elected president or vice president.

Section Four: Suspension or Expulsion

Any member may be suspended or expelled for violation of this Constitution or the National Federation of the Blind code of conduct or for conduct unbecoming of a member of the Federation, by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business meeting of this division.

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote or the state convention of the NFB may reinstate any person who has been expelled unless such expulsion has been confirmed by the National Convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, in which event the person may not be reinstated except by the National Convention or by the National Board.

Any person who believes that he/she has been unjustly expelled by this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, which may (in its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision.

**Article Four: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section One: Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the constitutional officers of this division. The Board shall meet at the call of the president or on written call signed by any two of the elected Board members. The Board shall advise the president and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between meetings. At least a majority of the 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 or by electronic communication on any question. A majority of the Board must be blind.

Section Two: Election of the Board of Directors

The officers shall be elected every other year by a majority vote of the members of this organization present and voting at the even-numbered year meeting. There shall be no proxy voting. The term of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected and qualified. Each officer's term runs for 2 years with no term limit. Failure to meet the requirements as officers set forth can result in removal by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section Three: Vacancies in Office

If a vacancy occurs in the office of president, the vice president shall immediately fill the office of president. If a vacancy occurs in any other office, a special election to fill the vacancy shall be held at the next regular meeting. The president may appoint someone to fill the vacancy until an election can be held.

**Article Five: MEETINGS**

Section One: Annual Meetings

The fiscal year of this organization shall be the calendar year, but this organization shall hold its annual meeting at the time and place of the annual state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the organization between annual meetings.

Section Two: Regular Meetings

This division shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership. At least five (5) active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section Three: 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 to be necessary, provided that such requests to convene are made to the members in writing or by email.

**Article Six: COMMITTEES**

The president may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary. A committee shall meet at the call of its chairperson or a majority of its members and with the knowledge of the president. The president shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and may convene/reappoint any committee as he/she deems necessary.

**Article Seven: DUES**

The dues for membership in this organization shall be established by the membership at any business meeting; they are payable in January or at the time of the annual meeting. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

**Article Eight: FUNDS AND FINANCING**

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the treasurer with the approval of the president. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check, issued on written order of the president and signed by the treasurer.

**Article Nine: AFFILIATION**

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Community Service Division shall be a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and shall be a part of the National Community Service Division. The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Community Service Division shall furnish to the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio annually, on or before January 1, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers.

A copy of the Constitution of this division and all its amendments shall be sent for review to the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and the National Federation of the Blind without delay.

This division shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the blind. This division shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and the provisions of the contract appearing on the back of the Charter of Affiliation issued to it by the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (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 division that the National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or the National Board or the State Convention or State Board) has the power to expel or discipline any individual member and to expel or reorganize the division.

In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization shall belong to the reorganized division or, if no reorganization occurs for a period of two years, to the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, and the former division 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 division, 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 Ten: DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, or (for whatever reason) it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, its assets shall be transferred to the treasury of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio to be held in trust for a reorganized division. In the event that no division is reorganized for a period of two (2) years from the date of dissolution, this organization ceases to be a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, the assets become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, which will use them to engage the members of the Federation in community service activities and projects that are consistent with the purpose and goals of the formerly organized division or for its other charitable purposes.

**Article Eleven: AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of this division by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the active members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been circulated to the members in writing by mail or email at least ten days in advance of the meeting or read at a previous business session and provided that it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation received by the division from the National Federation of the Blind and with the policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio and the National Federation of the Blind.

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