Greetings Ohio, Members and Friends,

What a new year it has been! This year has started out as one for the records. I sit here after attending the President’s Retreat thankful for all of the leaders across the country. Their support and admiration has filled me with an abundance of motivation to continue the work of the Ohio Affiliate by stepping into purpose more than ever before.

Ohio, we can be proud of those who were able to attend the 2023 Washington Seminar activities representing our three fact sheets on the hill. Please take time to thank them all for the work that was done last week meeting with Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senators.

Consequently, the work of this affiliate is not done! Please find the 2023 Ohio Committee Appointments attached to this email. This means that we will start working on a number of items including the state convention, which will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Columbus/Worthington, located at 175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43235. the hotel has made improvements and will make more over the next year. The 77th Ohio State Convention dates are November 17/18/19, 2023. If you would like to take part in the planning, please reach out to me off list and I will be happy to work with you.

One of my greatest joy as an Affiliate President is to work with members who have stepped up to ensure that Ohio’s activities continue efficiently. Delcenia Brown has been appointed to facilitate and will assist with scheduling events for the Ohio Zoom Room. The procedure for requesting the zoom room is:

1: email the Affiliate President your request and CC Delcenia on the email.

2: If it is approved, Delcenia will then let you know if that date is available.

The email to reach her is ([delcenia@prodigy.net](mailto:delcenia@prodigy.net)).

The National Convention will be held in Houston at The Hilton Americas-Houston, 1600 Lamar, Houston, TX 77010. Call: (713) 739-8000 to schedule your room reservation. I remind you to get your room arrangements in very soon. As you are aware, each year the State Board makes convention assistance to the National Convention available. I implore all Chapters and Divisions to assist and for the new members they should apply as a first timer for the Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship Fund. The application was put on Ohio-Talk or visit WWW.NFB.ORG.

Ohio Chapters, Committees, Divisions and Members, I am making a plea for all to start thinking about raising funds dedicating money to the Affiliate. Everyone benefits from activities sponsored by the Affiliate in some way. So, please do your part to give back to this organization.

Here is an opportunity to give back. Please spread the word.

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Offers An opportunity to raise funds for Ohio and win a cash prize.

Just click on:

[**https://piggestraffleever.com/**](https://piggestraffleever.com/)**.**

**And choose, National Federation of the Blind of Ohio as your charity.**

**You could be a winner by going online to purchase tickets !**

**Where you as? The Piggest Raffle Ever: Brought to you by Stock Yards Bank**

**How’s it Work? Easy! Purchase a Raffle Entry for $5 each on behalf of the NFBOH from the drop-down menu. For each Pig purchased, you have a chance to win on Flying Pig Marathon Weekend, and will receive 100% of your donation!**

**GRAND PRIZE: $10,000 Cash\***

**($5,000 to the charity and $5,000 to the winning ticket holder)**

**SECOND PRIZE: $5,000 Cash\***

**($2,500 to the charity and $2,500 to the winning ticket holder**

**THIRD PRIZE: Cincinnati Get-Away Experience**

**($1,500 in Downtown Cincinnati, Inc.**

**Raffle Details: On MAY 7, 2023 during THE FLYING PIG MARATHON Weekend ("Event") lucky winners will be drawn. Deadline to purchase tickets is May 6th. You do not need to be present.**

**All winners will be notified via email or phone and a list of winners will be viewable at** [**http://piggestraffleever.com**](http://piggestraffleever.com) **and** [**www.flyingpigmarathon.com**](http://www.flyingpigmarathon.com)**,**

**Good Luck!**

## News:

### **Contacting NFB’s Legal Team:**

Members are encouraged to use [legal@nfb.org](mailto:legal@nfb.org) when reaching out to the national headquarters regarding legal matters. Please help to share this easy-to-remember email address.

### ***Braille Monitor* in Spanish Now Available:**

The National Federation of the Blind published the January issue of the *Braille Monitor* in Spanish. A Spanish version of our flagship publication will be available moving forward. Please share with Spanish-speakers you know.

* [*Braille Monitor* - Spanish (enero de 2023)](https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm23/bm2301/es/bm2301tc-es.htm)
* [*Braille Monitor* (January 2023)](https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm23/bm2301/bm2301tc.htm)

### **The NFB DEI Calendar:**

To help affiliate leaders plan meetings and events and to increase cultural awareness throughout the Federation, we will soon be issuing our revised NFB Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Calendar. It lists holidays and black-out dates (suggested times where it is recommended that affiliate activities should subside at affiliate leaders’ discretion). The goal for this tool is to bring us all together in the spirit of inclusion and to celebrate our diversity. It is our hope that the messaging and intent of this instrument is received well and used effectively to help grow membership, as well as to allow members to honor their holy days without interruption.

Additionally, we are producing a training. We expect this training to be ready soon and will send more information about the delivery as soon as it is. The training will contain audio links that showcase religious experts within the NFB network sharing information on how to use the DEI Calendar, including the suggested black-out dates, the context of holidays, and how to accommodate worshipers during NFB activities during a holiday.

For more information on NFB DEI efforts, check out the DEI webpage at [www.nfb.org/dei](http://www.nfb.org/dei) or contact Malcolm Greene at [mgreene@nfb.org](mailto:mgreene@nfb.org).

### **NFB BELL® Academy:**

Applications are now open for the 2023 NFB BELL® Academy. We are excited that so many of your affiliates are planning to go back to in-person BELL Academies for the 2023 summer, as the time spent around blind role models and other blind children is invaluable for BELL students. If you are planning an in-person BELL Academy we encourage you to work with your BELL coordinator to finalize your dates and location as soon as possible. Your BELL coordinator will then be able to input them into the NFB BELL Academy dashboard, which will enable families to start registering for the BELL Academy in your state.

This summer we will also be offering one session of the NFB BELL Academy In-Home Edition from July 24 through August 11. Morning and evening classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced Braille students will be offered via Zoom. More information and the application can be found at nfb.org/bell.

### **Introduction to the Organized Blind Movement:**

Share the following opportunity for non-members to attend the upcoming Introduction to the Organized Blind Movement, formerly known as our Open House Gathering calls, scheduled for February 8 at 8:00 p.m., eastern, to learn about what it means to become a member of the National Federation of the Blind. During the one-hour-long open house, hear from active members and leaders on the myths and uncertainties of the Federation. We will discuss membership, philosophy, and purpose. Non-members can contact us at [membership@nfb.org](mailto:membership@nfb.org), or call 410-659-9314, extension 2401. If there is a need for additional support to access the meeting such as Spanish translation or closed captioning, participants should notify us no later than February 1.

## Dates to Keep in Mind:

(all times eastern)

* January 30: Great Gathering-In
* February 8: Introduction to the Organized Blind Movement, 8:00 p.m.
* March 2 and 5: Chapter Presidents Call, 8:00 p.m. (Scholarships)
* March 23: Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium
* May 10: Introduction to the Organized Blind Movement, 8:00 p.m.
* June 1 and 4: Chapter Presidents Call, 8:00 p.m. (Member Engagement and National Convention)
* July 1-6, 2023: National Convention; Houston, Texas
* August 9: Introduction to the Organized Blind Movement, 8:00 p.m.
* September 7 and 10: Chapter Presidents Call, 8:00 p.m. (Blind Equality Achievement Month)
* November 8: Introduction to the Organized Blind Movement, 8:00 p.m.
* December 7 and 10: Chapter Presidents Call, 8:00 p.m. (Planning the Year Ahead)