From The President’s Desk

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In this edition, you will find critical information, such as,

1: Pre-registration information for the 77th Annual State of Ohio Convention

2: New Member Profile coming soon

3: Co-sponsors are needed for H.R.1328, H.R3702 and S.1467

4: Submit Blind Equality Achievement Month Activities

5: and more

Ohio members, welcome to Fall! Although, it doesn’t officially start until August 23rd. I want to be the first to encourage you to enjoy the cool weather, football, baseball and soon basketball, which is my favorite sport. It is nice sometimes to take one’s mind off of troubling issues in our family and even across the country. So, please take time out for yourselves to breathe and enjoy nature, a good book or sports.

While the Ohio State Board Members are preparing to have the first in-person meeting for this year, a reflection of the last few months come to mind. As I understand, this Affiliate has been faced with a few complex problems, some you are aware of and several that you do not know about. These critical situations that affect the membership is also that of the Affiliate President. It is important to establish a tone using communication and the skills that will allow the membership to trust and follow him/her, which varies according to a number of things, but nevertheless it has proven to be successful for most. I have never thought that my representation was limited to only those who voted for or against me. However, after the votes have settled it is time to continue the work. The Federation and thousands of blind people across Ohio and the nation are counting on us. If you were able to attend the National Convention, a member of the National Board of Directors, said that this Affiliate is one of the strongest that we have in this organization. It did not start with me, and full disclosure it will not end with me. So, let’s make our part of the people’s movement stronger and larger together.

You will find the google form for state convention assistance and another for pre-registration for the state convention. I also included an                attachment that you may review.  the links are in the body of this message.

This first link should take you to the pre-registration page.

<https://forms.gle/cnWzoCHD4kqmc81U7>

The next link will take you to the state convention assistance form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJDEcdGity71z53goy68Yy_eqpynfVQjIktBgOhjdqmP2c4A/viewform?usp=sharing>

See you at the convention and for any questions or problems with the links contact me off list.

# New Member Profile Coming Next Month

We all received this month a link to the Member Profile! This new, self-service platform is for members of the Federation to update their own contact information and review their memberships, subscriptions, and member benefits. There is also a FAQ section and a place to change username and password. This is the first version of this exciting platform, and we anticipate adding more features soon.

## What to Expect

* All current and recently expired members for whom we have an email address on file will receive an email soon after Labor Day. The email will include a link to activate your Member Profile account and to set your password.
* Next, you will receive another message confirming the activation and providing a link to the Member Profile. Once you receive it, bookmark the link so you can return to it whenever you want to update your contact information or check your memberships, subscriptions, or member benefits. The email address is a unique identifier so can only be linked to a single Member Profile account. For those of you that share email addresses, only one of you have a Member Profile account for now.
* Later this fall, we will announce a process by which members who previously used a shared email address can notify us of a unique email address they want to use, and we will create new Member Profile accounts for those people.

### **Member Profile:**

The self-service Member Profile tool has launched, and we need feedback from you after you have explored it. If there are members within your chapter, division, or around the affiliate who have not received the email invitation to log in to the profile, please collect their names, email addresses, and the group they are a member of and send them to [subscriptions@nfb.org](mailto:subscriptions@nfb.org) so that we can provide the profile invite.

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### **Congress Is Back in Session:**

Following their annual August recess, both the House and the Senate are back in session starting Tuesday, September 12. This is a perfect time to contact your senators and representatives and urge them to cosponsor some of our key pieces of legislation before the end of the year. In the House of Representatives, please ask your representative to cosponsor both the Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act (H.R. 1328) and the Access Technology Affordability Act (H.R. 3702). In the Senate, please ask your senators to cosponsor the Access Technology Affordability Act (S. 1467). If you would like to know whether your representative or senators are already cosponsors on the above legislation, please contact Lindsey Walsh in our Advocacy and Policy Department at [lwalsh@nfb.org](mailto:lwalsh@nfb.org).

### **Submit Blind Equality Achievement Month Activities:**

Throughout October, members of the National Federation of the Blind conduct activities in our local communities such as white cane walks, film screenings, and social events. Please submit your affiliate or chapter-related #BlindMonth activities, including the [white cane proclamations](https://nfb.org/programs-services/blind-equality-achievement-month/white-cane-awareness-day), with a brief description to [web@nfb.org](mailto:web@nfb.org). They will be posted on the Blind Equality Achievement Month page at [nfb.org/blind-month](file:///C:\Users\slamkin\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\WFPF1PBY\nfb.org\blind-month).

Participating affiliates will also receive all needed materials, accessible instructions, and financial support to put on a daylong STEM workshop for youth using the previously mentioned lessons.

Bringing STEM programs to our youth is more critical than ever. If this is something you are interested in, please email Ashleigh Moon, STEM2U program coordinator, at [amoon@nfb.org](mailto:AMOON@nfb.org). We are looking forward to bringing STEM2U!

 Reminders:

### **Outreach Assistance:**

Patti Chang has asked that we send out language that can be included in newsletters, webpages, and/or convention agendas regarding our legacy society, PAC, and our vehicle donation program. It would be extremely helpful if you could incorporate the below language whenever possible in our affiliate publications.

#### Dream Makers Circle

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle. It is easier than you think. You can visit your bank and convert an account to a POD (payable on death) bank account, which is payable after your passing to the National Federation of the Blind or one of our affiliates. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of {insert state} can be made in the form of a will or living trust, an income-generating gift, or by naming us as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, pension, or a life insurance policy. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage, or list the NFB as one of several beneficiaries. For additional information, please contact Patti Chang at 410-659-9314, extension 2422, or at [pchang@nfb.org](mailto:pchang@nfb.org).

#### Vehicle Donations

The National Federation of the Blind uses car donations to improve the education of blind children, distribute free white canes, help veterans, and so much more. We have partnered with Vehicles for Charity to process donated vehicles. Please call toll-free 855-659-9314, and a representative can make arrangements, or you can donate online by visiting [www.nfb.org/vehicledonations](http://www.nfb.org/vehicledonations).

#### Preauthorized Contributions (PAC)

Can you help the National Federation of the Blind on a regular basis? Please consider joining our preauthorized contribution plan. Starting at $5 monthly, you can help us turn dreams into reality and raise expectations for blind people. Visit [nfb.org/pac](https://nfb.org/pac) to fill out the online form or email [pac@nfb.org](mailto:pac@nfb.org) for additional information.