`Description and Instructions for 2025 NFB Ohio Gavel Awards

The Chapter Gavel Award will go to the outstanding chapter Of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio in 2025 and the Division Gavel Award will go to the most effective division. The division and chapter Gavel Award recipients will receive $50 along with a certificate. The chapter or division that wins the Gavel Award three times consecutively will receive a plaque and a gavel. If the Awards Committee decides that a chapter or division has conducted an outstanding activity, that chapter or division will receive a $25prize plus an opportunity to make a presentation describing the activity during the convention. In order for members of any chapter or division to vote at the Convention this year, all reports must be submitted by October 1, 2025, even if you choose not to compete

If you are not competing, please send your report to President Richard Payne by email: [rchpay7@gmail.com](mailto:rchpay7@gmail.com).

2. The Chapter on the Move Award is presented to a chapter that demonstrates significant growth in philosophy and fundamental Federation activities.

3. The Alfonso Smith Award is presented to the outstanding blind Federationist for service to the blind of Ohio. Please note that this is a statewide award, and service should be statewide to be considered. A letter describing the accomplishments of your nominee for this award must be sent to the awards committee By October 1, 2025 for consideration.

4. The Ruth Garwood Award is presented to an outstanding sighted Person for service to blind people across the state. This person need not be a Federationist. A letter describing your Candidate’s work with the blind must be sent to the awards committee By October 1, 2025 for consideration.

5. The Knall-Garwood Award is presented to a Federationist for long and loyal service to the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio. This does mean long and loyal service to the state affiliate and not to an individual or local chapter. A letter describing your candidate's work with the organization must be sent By October 1, 2025 to the awards committee in order to be considered.

The awards committee makes the following requests to those preparing materials.

\* Type Nomination letters and reports.

\* Outline in the form of sentences in nomination letters and reports. Only one Question requires that the answers be in paragraph form.

* Make sure to check your spelling and grammar so that your chapter or division will receive the maximum number of points available for each question.
* It is recommended that you appoint a small committee to complete the form; a group effort often has an advantage.
* Once all applications and nomination letters are carefully proofread and completed, send by email to Annette Lutz at annettelutz@icloud.com by the deadline Wednesday October 1, 2025.

Unfortunately, applications and nomination letters received after the October 1, 2025 deadline cannot be considered by the Awards Committee.

The awards committee is available untilMonday September 29, 2025 to proofread your documents with you prior to the Wednesday October 1 deadline. This step is not a requirement but, is available for your convenience. All awards committee members are available to answer questions until the Wednesday October 1, 2025 deadline.

Should you need additional information please contact Annette Lutz at annettelutz@icloud.com

 ph. (614) 288-4323.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Now, let's begin working toward celebrating our accomplishments and securing a stronger Ohio affiliate!

Sincerely,

The NFB of Ohio 2025 Awards Committee

Annette Lutz Chair   
Jerry Purcell

Dave Perry

Luann Bowers

Sabrina Brashers