

**FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

**OF MISSOURI**

**March 21 to 24, 2019**

**Holiday Inn Executive Center**

**2200 I-70 Drive Southwest, Columbia, MO 65203**

**(573) 445-8531**

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**PLEDGE OF THE**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

**I pledge to participate actively in the efforts 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.**

If there are images in this attachment, they will not be displayed.   [Download the original attachment](https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?view=att&th=14ed52631b356e44&attid=0.1&disp=attd&zw)

Welcome to Columbia,

Members of the Columbia Chapter are proud to host this year’s National Federation of the Blind of Missouri’s State Convention and hope this convention will be one of the finest you’ve ever attended. They extend a warm welcome to each of you. Our

Columbia Chapter invites you to join them for Hospitality in suite 605 on Friday evening. Hospitality will run from 5:30 to 11:00.

We are pleased to have Norma Crosby as this year’s National Representative. Norma is the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas and serves on our National Board of Directors. Please feel free to reach out to her and welcome both Norma and her husband Glen.

Registration and packet pick up will take place in the Hotel Atrium Friday morning from 9:15 to 9:45 and Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. If you have pre-registered, please come to this area to pick up your packet as soon as possible. Final registration will be open Saturday morning from 8:00 to 8:30.

Registration at the convention will cost $20.00 per person and $40.00 for a banquet ticket. Please register so you will be eligible for door prizes and other convention activities. The hotel is not obligated to honor convention rates if proof of registration for the convention is not available when you check-out.

There will be planned lunches on Friday and Saturday and a prayer breakfast on Sunday in Parliament I. If you did not purchase your tickets during preregistration and you still would like to obtain one, please check at registration to see if they are still available. These are the first counts the hotel will need, so if you do not obtain them when you first arrive, sales may be closed.

Exhibits will be in the Hotel Atrium Friday from 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM. Please visit each of them and learn about their services and/or products.

Conveniently located off Interstate 70 at exit 124 the hotel features the ESPN Sports Zone restaurant for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The Atrium lounge is open nightly until 10:00 in the heart of the hotel. There is a hot tub, indoor pool, beauty salon, and a 3,000 square foot fitness center. Also included is free Wi-Fi internet, a business center, and free parking.

Room rates are $93.00 a night plus 12.96% tax for up to four in a room.

Check-out time for the hotel is 11:00 AM on Sunday. Please check out before the Sunday morning session begins.

The hotel has a guide dog relief area. Please check with the desk to be directed to it, and be prepared to pick up to keep the area clean for other guide dogs that follow you.

Please remember that all of our events are smoke-free, and the hotel reserves the right to fine anyone who leaves a room that has been used for smoking.

The general sessions on Saturday and Sunday will be held in the Piccadilly Room, and the banquet will be held in Parliament I.

Door prizes will be given throughout the convention, and each chapter is encouraged to bring their donations to the registration table in the exhibit area. You must be in the room or must be working on convention business to win. Please see that prizes get to Carol Coulter, our door prize chair.

New: In conjunction with our participation in the 2018-2019 Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield/USABA National Fitness Challenge, our Sports and Recreation Committee is sponsoring a Functional Fitness Class on Friday morning at 8:00 AM in the Polo Room. Come join our NFB of Missouri Team for our Try It Event, and get your day off to a great start!

Functional Fitness is what we all need to be stronger, more balanced, and mobile in life.  A series of simple muscle activation and lengthening techniques will improve immobile joints and create true core strength that enables strong, coordinated movements.

Kay Spradling/Benward – Supervisor of the Sam B. Cook Healthplex in Jefferson City will be leading the class.   She has years of experience working with all levels of clients after therapy and cardiac rehab; She also works with the general public.

**THURSDAY, March 21**

**8:00 PM - The Federation Meet-Up Spot - Come get acquainted and have lots of fun – Parliament I**

**FRIDAY, March 22**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM - Try It Event – Functional Fitness Class –** Kay Spradling/Benward, Supervisor of the Sam B. Cook Healthplex, Jefferson City, MO

**10:00 AM – 12:00 AM - National Federation of the Blind of Missouri Board of Directors Meeting - Parliament II**

**12:00 PM - Luncheon - Parliament I**

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

**1:00 PM – 4:30 PM - Parents of Blind Children Seminar – Parliament III**

**2:00 PM – 10:00 PM - Exhibits – Lobby Atrium**

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM - First Timer’s Welcome - sponsored by the Membership Committee, J**ulie McGinnity, Chair – Parliament II

**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM - Registration and Packet Pick-Up– Lobby Atrium**

**5:30 PM - 11:00 PM - Hospitality – Room #605 Hosted by the Columbia Chapter**

**FRIDAY EVENING**

**6:00 PM - Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users** – Debbie Wunder, President – Polo

**7:00 PM - Missouri Association of Blind Merchants,** Gene Fleeman, President – Parliament III

**8:00 PM - Resolutions Committee,** Gary Wunder, Chair - Parliament II

**8:30 PM - Missouri Association of Blind Students Seminar** —Jenny Carmack, President – Parliament III

**9:30 PM - Nominating Committee** – Rita Lynch, - Location to Be Announced

**SATURDAY, March 23**

**6:30 AM - Scholarship Breakfast** (Scholarship Finalists and committee members), Julie McGinnity, Chair – Bradley Room

**Saturday Morning Session - Piccadilly**

**8:30 AM - Call to order**

**8:35 AM - Opening Ceremonies**

**8:45 AM - Welcome from Our Host Chapter –** Eugene Coulter, President, Columbia Chapter

**8:50 AM - Welcome from the City of Columbia**

**9:00 AM - Meet the 2019 Scholarship Finalists -** Julie McGinnity

**9:10 AM - Report of the Nominating Committee -** Rita Lynch, Chairman

**9:20 AM - National Report -** NormaCrosby, National Representative and Member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors

**10:00 AM - Fit Break —** Amy Wilson

**10:05 AM - Update On Rehabilitation Services for the Blind -** KeithRoderick, Deputy Director, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Family Support Division

**10:25 AM - Getting To Your Destination** — Dan Wenzel, Executive Director, Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions, Incorporated

**10:40 AM - My Federation Story -** Julie McGinnity

**10:55 AM - Not If, But How: More Than One Alternative In Our Bag Of Techniques -** Becky Boyer, Gary Wunder, Shelia Wright, and Glen Crosby

**11:20 AM - Running the Distance** – Chaz Davis, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield/USABA National Fitness Challenge Representative and Paralympian

**12:00 PM - Adjourn For Lunch**

**Saturday Afternoon Session**

**1:30 PM - The Challenge for the Crown: Presentations From Our King and Queen Candidates** - Carol Morgan, Chair, Ways and Means Committee

**1:40 PM - Presidential Report** – Shelia Wright, President, National Federation of the Blind of Missouri

**2:00 PM - Sharing Our Convention With Our New Family –** EugeneCoulter, Chairman, Rittgers Committee

**2:10 PM - ABLE Accounts: Pros and Cons** – Deborah Niemann, MBA, Northwestern Mutual

**2:40 PM - Taking What I Learned Through My Work and Applying it to the NFB** - Stephanie McDowell

**2:55 PM - Big Opportunities In A Small Town: Thinking Outside the Box -** Dennis Miller

**3:10 PM - Fit Break** - Amy Wilson

**3:15 PM - Continuing Our Commitment to Braille Literacy Through Our BELL Academy -** Debbie Wunder and Jenny Carmack, BELL Coordinators

**3:30 PM - My First Washington Seminar** - Christopher Tisdal

**3:40 PM - I Won’t Be Boxed In By Out of the Box Solutions -** Gary Wunder

**4:00 PM - Beyond Skills: Strategies We Use In Public Places to Gain Acceptance of Our Abilities** – Tom Anderson, President of Communities of Faith Division

**4:30 PM - Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments** – Gary Wunder, Chairman, Resolutions Committee

**5:00 PM - Adjourn**

**Saturday Evening**

**6:00 PM - Doors Open for Banquet**

**6:30 PM Banquet of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri** —Eugene Coulter, Master of Ceremonies

* Invocation
* Crowning of the King and Queen
* Introduction of Guests
* Banquet Address: Norma Crosby, National Representative and President of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas
* Presentation of Scholarships and Special Awards
* **State Affiliate Auction** – Carol Morgan, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee
* **The Columbia Chapter invites you to join them for music, dance, and a time to enjoy the entertainment they have planned for everyone.**

**SUNDAY, March 24**

**7:00 AM - Prayer Breakfast led by Tom Stevens – Parliament I**

**General Session — Piccadilly**

**8:30 AM - Call to Order**

**8:35 AM - When You Find Something You Like, You Just Got to Share It! –** Christopher Tisdal

**8:45 AM - Report of the Audit Committee** — Gene Fleeman, Chairman

**8:55 AM - Treasurer's Report** — Carol Coulter, Treasurer

**9:15 AM - Serving the People of Missouri**— Robin Westphal, Missouri State Librarian, and Amanda McConnell, Public Services Manager, Wolfner Braille and Talking Book Library

**9:45 AM - Governmental Affairs Report - Roger** Crome, Chairman, Governmental Affairs Committee

**10:10 AM - A Place Where Every Member Can Serve -** Julie McGinnity, Chair, Membership Committee

**10:20 AM - Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments continued** — Gary Wunder, Chairman

**10:40 AM - Elections**

**11:20 AM - Making Our Work Possible –** Carol Morgan, Chair, Ways & Means Committee

**11:35 AM - Old Business**

**11:45 AM - New Business**: Appropriation of Funds to tenBroek, the National Treasury, National Convention Stipend, 2019 Scholarship Program

* Matters presented from the Floor

**12:00 PM - Adjourn**

**The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.**