Agenda

Sixty-Second Annual State Convention

April 11-14, 2024

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri

7928 NW Milrey Drive

Kansas City, MO 64152

Phone: (816) 679-5258

Hilton Kansas City Airport

8801 NW 112 St.

Kansas City, MO 64153

816-891-8900

NFB Pledge

I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind

To achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the Blind;

To promote the policies and programs of the Federation;

And to abide by its constitution.

Welcome

The members of the Kansas City and Ivanhoe Chapters of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri cordially welcome our Federation Family and other guests to Kansas City for our sixty-second consecutive annual state convention. Our two host chapters have been anticipating your arrival for months and have planned hospitality throughout the entire weekend for all our members and guests from across the state.

The Hospitality Room will be open on Friday evening in Shawnee A from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Our host chapters invite you to drop by for fellowship where you can enjoy snacks while you greet old friends and make new ones!

Our National Representative this year is Thomas (Tom) Page. President Mark Riccobono has selected Tom to serve on his behalf. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind and President of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas. Tom lives in Wichita, Kansas. Please welcome Tom and his partner Nicole Taylor. He is interested in meeting each of you and will be available throughout the convention to talk with you about your interests, concerns, and answer questions you may have about the Federation.

The National Federation of the Blind is committed to maintaining a welcoming and safe place for everyone. All attendees must abide by our organization’s Code of Conduct, which can be found online at NFBMO.ORG. The essence is: be kind and respectful to every attendee.

The NFB of Missouri Sports & Recreation Group introduces the first NFBMO National Parks Challenge. We are visiting all six national parks in the state of Missouri in 2024 and you can join us. The first National Park we are visiting is Truman National Park on April 11th to kick off our state convention! Tours will be available from 2 pm to 5 pm. For more information contact Amy Wilson, Sports & Recreation Chair, at 660-441-1907 to obtain more details.

Door prizes will be given throughout the general sessions and the banquet. To win, you must be in the room. If you bring door prizes, please take them to the registration table or give them directly to Linda Coccovizzo.

\*\*\* Notes About the Convention and hotel can be found at the end of this agenda.

2024 Convention Sponsors

The National Federation of the Blind of Missouri appreciates our 2024 convention sponsors. Please visit each of their tables in the exhibit area located in the Shawnee Foyer and be sure to thank them personally for their participation in our sixty-second annual state convention.

Gold Sponsor

NanoPac

“Thank you to our friends at National Federation of the Blind of Missouri for your continued support. Please consider us for any of your access software, Braille, accessible electronics, and video magnification needs. We are available for product sales, support, training, and all questions along the way. Thanks again NFB Missouri!”

[www.nanopac.com](http://www.nanopac.com)

[info@nanopac.com](mailto:info@nanopac.com),

918-665-0329

Silver Sponsors

Crome Advocacy

At Crome Advocacy, your success is our primary focus. Our team of caring and competent trainers do everything we can to help you achieve your vocational or independence goals. Visit us at Table 3 and enter to win an Echo Show. We look forward to seeing you and finding out how we can help you meet your goals.

Vanda Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Are you still struggling to stay asleep at night, and fighting to stay awake during the day? It could be Non-24. I am a dedicated Non-24 nurse educator available to answer questions, explain the symptoms and how Non-24 differs from some common sleep disorders such as apnea. Stop by my table or contact me directly at 202-875-4714 or email jennifer.lyman@vandapharma.com.

Bronze Sponsor

Friends of Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

The Friends of Wolfner invite you to come by our table to learn all about the Friends and become a member.

Audio-Reader

Audio-Reader supports independence for people who have difficulty reading standard print by providing access to information, resources, and the arts in an audio format.

Thursday, April 11

2:00 – 5:00 pm National Park Challenge: The Harry S. Truman National Historic Site

7:30 – 8:00 pm Registration packet pick-Up only – Kansa B

8:00 – 10:00 pm NFB of Missouri Board meeting: Shelia Wright - Kansa B This meeting is open to all members. Members may participate in discussions; however, only board members may vote.

Friday, April 12

8:00 – 10:00 am The Show Me Sports and Recreation Experience: During this breakout event, you will be able to try out different sports and recreation activities you can adapt and flex the life you want. We will have different stations for you to experience and learn how you can adapt these activities to have fun year-round. There is something for everyone. Who is ready for this new Show Me Experience? – Kansa D/E

8:00 – 9:00 am Chapter Finance: A session for Treasurers and Presidents, Carol Coulter – Kansa B, training

9:00 – 10:00 am An introduction to writing scripts for JAWS: Roger Crome – Kansa C

10:00 - 11:00 am An Introduction to Google apps: Sponsored by the Technology Empowerment Committee, Seyoon Choi, Chair – Kansa C

11:00 am – 12:00 pm The NFB of Missouri Technology Help Desk: Bring your devices and questions and get the help you need, Seyoon Choi, Chair – Kansa C

11:00 am - 12:00 pm The Show Me Chapter: Our First In-person Meeting, Dennis Miller, President – Kansa D/E

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Preregistration packet pick-up: This will be the last opportunity to get your Friday lunch ticket, Location - Elevator Foyer

12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm Planned Lunch: Ticket Required – Shawnee A

Friday Afternoon

1:00 – 9:00 pm Exhibits, Shawnee Foyer

1:00 – 3:00 pm Pick the path you want in the NFB: sponsored by the Membership Committee, Becky Boyer, Chair – Kansa C

3:00 – 4:00 pm Be aware, Red Flags, and the Bermuda Triangle: Robin House and Gary Wunder – Kansa C

4:00 pm Do you have a combination of vision and hearing loss: Jenny Carmack, Dennis Miller, and Beth Jordan, Helen Keller National Center - Shawnee B

4:00 – 5:00 pm Missouri Association of Guide Dog Users: Stephanie McDowell, President – Kansa D/E

Friday Evening

5:00 – 9:00 pm Hospitality Room, Kansa B

5:30 – 7:00 pm Registration and packet pick-up: Located in the Elevator Foyer

6:00 pm The Country of the Blind: A Memoir at the End of Sight, a book discussion sponsored by the NFB of Missouri Springfield Chapter Book Club, Becky Boyer & Nella Foster – Kansa C

6:00 – 7:00 pm Missouri Association of Blind Students: Svetlana Ehlers, Vice President – Kansa D/E

7:00 pm Resolutions Committee Meeting: Gary Wunder, Chair - Shawnee B

8:00 - 10:00 pm The event for Everyone: Come join the fellowship and activities for the Federation Family – Becky Boyer – Kansa C

10:00 pm Nominating Committee: Closed meeting, Debbie Wunder, Chair

Saturday, April 13

7:00 – 8:00 am Scholarship Breakfast: Scholarship finalist and committee– Board Room

7:45 – 8:15 am Registration: Elevator Foyer

Saturday Morning General Session – Shawnee B

8:30 am Call to Order

8:35 am Opening Ceremonies:

Presentation of the Colors: Civil Air Patrol, Platte Valley Squadron

National Anthem: NFB of Missouri Cane Drivers

Welcome: Linda Black White, President, Ivanhoe Chapter

8:50 am Nominating Committee Report, Debbie Wunder, Chair

8:55 am Introduction of our 2024 Scholarship Finalists, Robin House

9:05 am National Report: Tom Page, National Representative

9:35 am Presidential Report: Shelia Wright

9:55 am Private Voting is a Right; it Does Not Require Sight

10:25 am A Congressman Who Listens: Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, Missouri Fifth Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives

10:35 am Fit Break

10:40 am Coach, Teacher, and Podcaster: Gary Carl

10:55 am Keeping Gwen’s Dream Alive: Gene Coulter

11:05 am Wolfner Library News: Lori Brown, Wolfner Talking Book, and Braille Library

11:20 am Persistence: How to Achieve Your Goals When the Obstacles Seem insurmountable, Dennis Miller

11:35 am Trending Now: Applying for Jobs Online, Jeff La Montia, Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

11:50 am Show Me Royal Ambassadors Reveal: An Affiliate Contest Between Chapters

12:00 pm Break for Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 pm Planned Lunch: Ticket Required – Shawnee A

Afternoon Session Shawnee B

1:30 pm One-Half Century in Central Missouri: Gary Wunder, Moderator

1:45 pm Make48: Innovate and Overcome, Svetlana Ehlers and Isaac McBurney

2:00 pm Meeting Seniors Where They Are and Providing the Support They Need: Sandy Halverson

2:15 pm Employment: A Journey Not a Destination, Gary Wunder and Judy Redlich

2:35 pm The Many Faces of Our Youth Programs: Jenny Carmack, NFB of Missouri Youth Coordinator

2:50 pm Why I Am a Federationist: Seyoon Choi, Laurice Cason, Randy Carmack

Breakout Sessions

3:00 – 4:00 pm Journey Through Blindness: Struggles and Solutions, Debbie Wunder - Shawnee B

3:00 – 5:00 pm Missouri Association of Blind Students, Svetlana Ehlers, Vice President – Kansa D/E

3:00 – 5:00 pm Missouri Parents of Blind Children: Linda Coccovizzo, Chair - Kansa C

Saturday Evening – Shawnee A

6:30 pm NFB of Missouri Annual Banquet: Daniel Garcia, Master of Ceremony

Invocation

Introduction of Head Table

Banquet Address: Tom Page, National Representative and Member of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors

Special Awards and Scholarship Presentations

National Convention Fund Drive

Other Matters at the Discretion of the Master of Ceremonies

8:30 pm NFB of Missouri Annual Auction: Phil Harris, Auctioneer, sponsored by the Ways & Means Committee

9:00 pm Our host chapters invite you to enjoy the fellowship, the music and dance. The DJ is Kansas City’s own Patrick Wilson Jr.

Sunday, April 14

7:00 am Prayer Breakfast: This event includes a nondenominational

program led by April Brown - Shawnee A

Sunday Morning General Session – Shawnee B

8:30 am Convention Reconvenes

8:35 am What Does Civic Engagement Look Like in Your Community: Tony Waterhouse-Leal, Janice Grisham, and Jenny Carmack

8:55 am Knowledge is Sweet: Debbie Wunder President, Diabetes Action Network

9:05 am Audit Report: Gene Fleeman, Committee Chair

9:15 am Annual Treasurer’s Report: Carol Coulter, Treasurer

9:40 am Ways & Means Report: Jeff Giffen, Chair

9:50 am Washington Seminar Report and How Each of You Can Help: Dennis Miller, Missouri Legislative Director

10:00 am Legislative and Governmental Challenges in Missouri: Roger Crome, Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee

10:10 am Fit Break: Sports & Recreation Group

10:20 am Resolutions and Amendments: Gary Wunder, Chair

10:40 am NFB of Missouri Election

11:10 am BEAM Report: Our Progress to Date and What’s Next, Jenny Carmack, Project Coordinator

11:20 am Our Chapters, Divisions, and Groups Report In

11:40 Other Matters to Come Before the Convention

12:00 pm Adjourn

Helpful Notes About the hotel and Convention Details:

The Hilton Airport Hotel room rates are $109 a night (plus 16.6% tax and $1.76 KC development fee).

The hotel is pet friendly and has a fitness center, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary airport transportation.

Hotel dining options include Asado Urban Grill, Asado Lobby Bar, and Starbucks.

There should not be any charges for parking in the hotel lot for persons attending the NFB of Missouri Convention.

There will be opportunities to register and pick up packets on Friday and early on Saturday morning. The cost for registration and all meals purchased after April 1st will increase by $5 each.

You can access the guide dog relief area by using the exit which is by the Elevator Foyer. There is a large grassy area. There will be a trash can to the right of the door, as you come back into the hotel.

Those who smoke are asked to move away from the door and/or the walkways when you go outside to smoke. Thank you for not congregating near the door.