Agenda

Sixty-Third Annual State Convention

April 10 - 13, 2025

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri

7928 NW Milrey Drive

Kansas City, MO 64152

Phone: (816) 679-5258

Stoney Creek Hotel

2601 S Providence Dr.

Columbia, MO 65203

573-442-6400

NFB Pledge

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 promote the policies and programs of the Federation;

And to abide by its constitution.

Welcome

The members of the Columbia Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri warmly welcome our Federation Family and other guests to Columbia for our sixty-Third annual state convention. Our host chapter has been anticipating your arrival for months and has planned hospitality for all our members and guests from across the state.

The Hospitality Room will be open on Friday evening in the Lewis & Clark Room located on the first floor of the hotel. Hospitality will be open from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Our Columbia chapter invites 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 Everette Bacon, Second Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind. Everette is also the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Utah. He is here representing President Riccobono, and he looks forward to meeting you, our members. Please take this opportunity to get to know him. He is eager to talk with you and discuss your ideas and questions 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, welcoming, and respectful to every attendee.

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 Grace Warn or Britany Berk.

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

2025 Convention Sponsors

The National Federation of the Blind of Missouri appreciates our 2025 convention sponsors. Please visit their tables in the exhibit area located in the Columbia room on the second floor, and be sure to thank them personally for their participation in our Sixty-Third annual state convention.

Gold Sponsor

NanoPac

“Thank you to our friends at the 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!”

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Bronze Sponsor

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 10

6:45 – 7:15 pm Registration packet pick-up only – The Pines

7:30 – 9:00 pm NFB of Missouri Board meeting: Shelia Wright, President – The Pines

This meeting is open to all members. Members may participate in discussions; however, only board members may vote.

Friday, April 11

Friday Morning

8:00 – 8:45 am NaviLens: A presentation by Mary’s Braille International - Frank Taylor – Timberland

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8:45 – 9:30 am Ways and Means Committee, Carol Morgan – The Meadows

9:30 – 12:00 Noon - Stop the Bleed and Hands Only CPR, Beth Koster and Kayla Riel, Missouri University Health Care - Lewis & Clark

11:15 am – 11:45 am Preregistration packet pick-up: This will be

the last opportunity to get your Friday lunch ticket – Second Floor Lobby

12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm Planned Lunch: Ticket Required – Salon B

Friday Afternoon

1:00 – 9:00 pm Exhibits – Columbia Room

1:00 – 3:00 pm Let’s talk Federation Philosophy, Sponsored by the Membership Committee, Becky Boyer, Chair – The Pines

3:00 – 4:00 pm Free My Ai Session, a dive into the world of artificial intelligence available on the device you already own to be your on demand visual assistant –

Sponsored by The Technology Committee, Seyoon Choi and Dan Miner, co-chairs - Timberland

4:00 – 5:00 pm Technology Help Forum: Bring your devices, your questions, and get answers to your questions, Technology Committee – The Pines

4:00 – 5:00 pm Show Me Chapter annual meet-up, Dennis Miller, President – The Meadows

Friday Evening

5:00 – 10:00 pm Hospitality Room – Lewis & Clark

5:00 – 6:00 pm Missouri Association of Blind Students: Svetlana Ehlers, President – Timberland

5:30 – 7:00 pm Registration and packet pick-up: Located in the Second Floor Lobby

6:00 – 7:00 pm DeafBlind Group: Jenny Carmack, Chair – Salon A

7:00 pm Resolutions Committee Meeting: Gary Wunder, Chair – The Pines

8:00 - 10:00 pm Frugal Federation Family Friday Fun Folly: Come join the fellowship and activities – The Pines

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

Saturday, April 12

7:00 – 8:00 am Scholarship Breakfast: Scholarship finalists and committee – Tiger’s Den

7:45 – 8:15 am Registration – Salon A Lobby

### Saturday Morning General Session – Salon A

8:30 am Call to Order

8:35 am Opening Ceremonies, Welcome, Gary Wunder, President, Columbia Chapter

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

8:55 am Introduction of our 2025 Scholarship Finalists, Robin House

9:10 am National Report, Everette Bacon, National Representative

9:50 am Presidential Report, Shelia Wright

10:20 am Show Me Royal Ambassadors Contest: Chapter donations to the state affiliate, Carol Morgan

10:30 am Fit Break, Robin House

10:40 am Understanding ABLE Accounts, Yvonne Rydman, MO ABLE Program, Missouri Treasurer’s Office

10:55 am ABLE at work: A Firsthand Account, Daniel Garcia

11:05 am An update from Wolfner, Lori Brown, Wolfner Talking Book, and Braille Library

11:20 am All about SSPs: Who, Why When, Where?, Brett Wilhelm, Sight and Sound Impaired

11:30 am All about work experiences and employment outcomes, Keith Roderick, Deputy Director, Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

11:45 am A message from our National Association of Blind Students, Noah Carver, NABS Representative

11:55 am Announcements, Gene Coulter, Convention Coordinator

12:00 noon Break for Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 pm Planned Lunch: Ticket Required – Salon B

### Afternoon Session

1:30 pm Session reconvenes

1:35 pm One year later, Jenny Carmack, Chair, DeafBlind Group

1:45 pm Our Journey to Employment: Seyoon Choy, Jeff Giffen, and Liam McCoy

2:05 pm The fund that keeps on giving, Gene Coulter, Rittgers Committee

2:15 pm Don’t Wait? Reflections of an NFB Center Graduate, Noah Carver, NABS

2:30 pm Washington Seminar: my first experience with the NFB in DC, Sveta Ehlers

2:40 pm NFB of Missouri Youth Programs: Jenny Carmack, NFB of Missouri Youth Coordinator

2:50 pm Why I Am a Federationist: Gene Coulter, Brittany Berk, and Debbie Wunder

### Breakout Sessions

3:00 – 5:00 pm Journey Through Blindness: Struggles and Solutions, Debbie Wunder – Hearth Room

3:00 – 5:00 pm Advocating to get the services you need: Svetlana Ehlers, President, Missouri Association of Blind Students – Tiger’s Den

3:00 – 5:00 pm A discussion to strengthen our advocacy: Laws and funding the blind depend on, Shelia Wright, moderator - Lewis & Clark

### Saturday Evening

6:30 pm NFB of Missouri Annual Banquet: Gary Wunder, Master of Ceremony – Salon B&C

Invocation by June Homan

Introduction of Head Table

Banquet Address: Everette Bacon, Second Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind and President of the National Federation of the Blind of Utah

Special Awards and Scholarship Presentations

Other Matters at the Discretion of the Master of Ceremonies

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

9:00 pm The Columbia Chapter invites you to enjoy Episode 1 of the Never Wed Game. Contestants will be drawn from the audience.

Sunday, April 13

7:30 am Sunday Morning Reflections: This will be a nondenominational devotion, Willa Patterson and Dan Keller – Lewis & Clark

### Sunday Morning General Session

8:30 am Convention Reconvenes

8:35 am Knowledge is Sweet: Debbie Wunder President, Diabetes Action Network

8:45 am Memorial Service for Charles T Stevens, Carol Coulter

9:00 am Audit Report: Gene Fleeman, Committee Chair

9:10 am Annual Treasurer’s Report: Carol Coulter, Treasurer

9:35 am Ways & Means Report: Carol Morgan, Chair

9:45 am Washington Seminar Report

9:55 am Our State Legislative Priorities, Janice Grisham, Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee

10:10 am Fit Break, Robin House

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

10:40 am NFB of Missouri Election

11:10 am Mission BEAM update, Jenny Carmack, Project Coordinator

11:20 am Chapter and Division Reports

11:40 am Other Matters to Come Before the Convention

12:00 pm Adjourn

## Helpful Notes About the Hotel and Convention Details

The Stoney Creek Hotel room rates are $99 a night (plus 12.975 % tax).

The hotel is pet friendly and has a fitness center, free Wi-Fi, swimming pool, and a mini-fridge and microwaves in every guest room. There is no charge for parking.

The Hotel provides a complimentary breakfast from 6:30 to 9:30 on weekdays and 7:00 to 10 on weekends for attendees staying at the hotel. The antlers lounge in the hotel lobby provides your favorite beverages and a limited menu.

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.

Consult the front desk for the location of the designated guide dog area. There are grassy areas at each entrance to the hotel which guide dogs can use. As of publication the hotel has not determined which exit will have a trash receptacle for your use.

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.

All attendees should refrain from wearing perfume or cologne or using scented lotions during convention sessions because these can trigger health problems for others in attendance including allergies or asthma issues.

Thank you for participating in our sixty-third annual state convention.