



CONSTITUTION

National Federation of the Blind of Alaska

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be The National Federation of the Blind of Alaska.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska shall be to advance the general welfare of the blind of Alaska and the nation; to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind; to serve as a vehicle for collective action by the blind and the parents of blind children; to operate as a mechanism through which the blind and interested sighted persons can come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life of the blind; to promote the vocational, cultural, and social advancement of the blind; to achieve the integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality with the sighted; and through collaborative advocacy and joint expression take any other action which will improve the overall condition and, standard of living of the blind.

Article III. Membership

Section One—Active Members.

At least a majority of the active members of this organization must be blind. Active membership shall be of two (2) classifications: active members who are affiliated with local chapters or divisions and active members who are not affiliated with local chapters or divisions.

1. Active members whose dues are paid and of good conduct are herein considered Active members in good standing and qualify to hold office. Blind

active members of good standing qualify to hold the office of President, Vice President(s).

2. All active members of local chapters or divisions shall automatically become active members of this organization, with the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office.

3. Any person who is not affiliated with a local chapter or division may become an active member of this organization by payment of dues and by receiving a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a convention or by complying with requirements established by the Board of Directors.

Section Two—Supporting Members.

Any person may become a supporting member of this organization through procedures established by the convention or the Board of Directors. Supporting members shall have all the rights and privileges of active members, except that they may not vote, hold office, or serve on the Board of Directors. Supporting members shall not pay dues.

Section Three—Disciplinary Action.

Any member, chapter or division may be suspended, expelled, or reorganized for violation of this constitution or for conduct unbecoming to a member, chapter, or division of this organization by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business session of this organization, or by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. If the action is to be taken by the Board of Directors, there must be good cause, and a good faith effort must have been made to try to resolve the problem by discussion and negotiation. If the action is to be taken by the state convention, notice must be given on the preceding day at an open Board of Directors meeting or a session of the state convention. The state convention of this organization may reinstate any person, chapter or division who has been expelled unless such expulsion has been confirmed by the National convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, in which event the person may not be reinstated except by the National.

Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly disciplined or expelled from this organization, or any chapter or division which feels that it has been unjustly disciplined, reorganized or expelled may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, which may (in its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision concerning the matter; but until or unless the action of discipline, reorganization, or expulsion is reversed by the National Board, it shall continue in effect.

Article IV. Local Chapters

Any organized group of which the blind are in majority, desiring to become a local chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska shall apply for affiliation by submitting to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska a copy of its constitution and a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. When the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska, either in convention assembled or by action of the Board of Directors, shall have approved the application, it shall issue to the local chapter a Certificate of Acceptance. Annually, on or before Jan. 1, each local chapter shall provide to the Treasurer of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska, a current list of its members, their names and addresses, and their state dues. Upon request, a local chapter shall also provide the state President with a list of the names and addresses of the chapter members and with a detailed financial report of the chapter for the past year. The fiscal year of this organization shall be the calendar year. As new members enter local chapters, their names, addresses, and state dues shall be sent without delay to the Treasurer of the State organization. No group shall be accepted as a chapter and no group shall remain a chapter unless a majority of its voting members are blind. The President, the Vice President (or Vice Presidents) and at least a majority of the Executive Committee of the local chapter must be blind. The President of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska shall be an ex officio a member of each local chapter. In the event of the dissolution of a local chapter, or if (for whatever reason) the local chapter ceases to be a part of this organization, its assets shall become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska and it shall forthwith cease to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.

Article V. Divisions

The Board of Directors shall establish procedures of admission of divisions and shall determine the structure of divisions. The divisions shall, with the approval of the Board, adopt constitutions and determine their membership policies. Any organized group of special interests involving blindness wishing to become a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska shall apply in accordance to policies of the Board of Directors or by directive put forth at convention general session of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska.

Article VI. Officers and their Duties

Section A, Officers

There shall be elected at the regular annual convention general session during each even numbered year, (1) President, (2) First Vice President, (3) Second Vice President, (4) Secretary, and (5) Treasurer. The terms of these offices shall begin at the close of the convention at which they are elected and qualified.

Section B, Election

Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members who are present and voting. There shall be no proxy voting. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees, and a second ballot shall be taken. This procedure shall continue until one of the nominees has received a majority vote from the active members present and voting.

Section C, Duties

The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office. The President and the Vice Presidents must be blind. In the absence of the Secretary from any board meeting, the presiding officer shall assign the duty to an officer or active member present to take the minutes and attendance for that meeting. If the President and Vice Presidents are absent, the Secretary will preside.

Vice Presidents:

- Serve in the absence of the President and automatically succeed to the office of President in case of that office becomes vacant (for whatever reason);
- Serve in other duties as assigned by the President or the Board of Directors;
- Succession to the Presidency is in order of Vice Presidents, with the Second vice President's position being the one vacated as he/she moves up;
- In the absence of the Treasurer, the First Vice President shall be the acting Treasurer. The Vice President, acting as Treasurer shall not pay any obligations without the approval of the President.

Secretary:

- Take minutes and record attendance at all meetings and submit them for approval to the membership at the following meeting. Minutes are a record of what is done at a meeting, not what is said;
- Serve as custodian of the organization's records (except those specifically assigned to other officers), including meeting minutes, reports of officers, boards, and committees; and official correspondence;
- Make sure the constitution and current minute record is available for reference at all meetings;
- Keep and maintain the official membership roll;
- Ensure that officers, committee members, and delegates are notified when elected or appointed, and are given any necessary documents;
- Issue the notice of meetings, and serve as a correspondence secretary;
- Prepare the order of business for the presiding officer, showing everything known to be up for consideration at the meeting.

Treasurer:

- Serve as custodian of the funds of the organization, keeping careful records of all receipts and making no disbursements without proper authority;
- Prepare financial statements and reports to the Board and membership.

Article VII. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the five (5) constitutional offices and 2 At-Large members. Both officers and At-Large positions shall serve a two-year term and be elected during even numbered years. One additional member may be appointed (at the discretion of the State President) from each Local Chapter and Division to the Board of Directors at the annual state convention. These appointed positions are one-year term.

All elected and appointed officer's terms shall commence at the close of the annual state election.

The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or on written call signed by any 3 of the Board Members. The Board shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between conventions. At least 4 members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business. The Board may be polled by telephone, mail or electronic mail ballot on any question. A majority of the Board must be blind.

Article VIII. Meetings

Section One — Annual Convention.

This organization shall hold an annual Convention, the time and place of which shall be fixed by the State President. At least fifteen (15) active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business at any annual Convention.

Section Two — Board of Directors Meetings.

The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the Board or the President. Board members may meet in person, by telephone, or by other electronic means. Board members may be polled on any question in person, or by mail ballot, telephone, or other electronic means.

Section Three — Special Meetings.

The State President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time he/she, or a majority of the State Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary. At such special meeting at least fifteen (15) active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business, and written notice must have been sent to the President of each local Chapter and Division and to the members of the State Board of Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Article IX. Committees

The President may appoint such committees, except the Nomination Committee, as he/she or the organization deems necessary. The President shall be ex officio of all committees.

There shall be a Nomination Committee that has as its sole responsibility to present to the state convention a slate of nominees, for consideration by the membership, for each office open for election. The responsibility of the Nomination Committee in no way prohibits active members, present and voting, from nominating qualified individuals from the floor.

The Nomination Committee shall consist of one member from each Local Chapter and Division represented at the annual state convention. Each Local Chapter and Division shall appoint one from its active membership to the Nomination Committee. Active members at the convention not affiliated with a Local Chapter or Division shall choose one member to the Board of Directors. The name of the voting delegate shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors prior to the annual convention. A delegate must be an active member

of the chapter he/she is representing. From among the list of active members of the Nomination Committee submitted the President shall appoint a chairperson.

Article X. Affiliation

The National Federation of the Blind of Alaska shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind and shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind annually, on or before January 1, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. A copy of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Alaska and of all amendments to the constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind without delay.

The National Federation of the Blind of Alaska shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the blind. This organization, its chapters and divisions, shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions made by the National Federation of the Blind (whether made by the National Convention or the National Board of Directors) are binding on this organization, its chapters, divisions, and members; and this organization, its chapters, divisions and members shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions. As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or the National Board) has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate, local chapter, or division. In the event of reorganization, the assets of the affiliate and its local chapters and divisions belong to the reorganized affiliate; and the former affiliate, its chapters and divisions shall dissolve and cease to exist. The name "National Federation of the Blind", "Federation of the Blind" or any variant thereof, is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and this organization or any of its chapters which cease to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind (for whatever reason) shall forfeit the right to use the name "National Federation of the Blind", "Federation of the Blind" or any variant thereof. The President of the National Federation of the Blind shall be an ex officio member of this organization and each of its local chapters and divisions.

Article XI. Delegates to the Convention of the National Federation of the Blind

This organization shall elect each year at least one (1) delegate and at least one (1) alternate delegate to attend the convention of the National Federation of the Blind. No person shall be elected as a delegate or alternate delegate, unless he/she is an active member of this organization in good

standing. To the extent of the resources of this organization, the expenses of delegates and alternate delegates to the Convention of the National Federation of the Blind shall be paid.

Article XII. Dues

Section A: Dues Amount

The dues of this organization shall be five (\$5) per year, payable in advance. The board of directors shall determine membership dues of this organization.

Section B: Dues Payment

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution, local chapters shall pay the state dues of their members. Members who are not affiliated with Local Chapters or Divisions shall pay their dues before or during the annual convention. A lifetime membership may be secured for a fee of \$100.00. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

Article XIII. Disbursement of Funds

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the State Treasurer with the approval of the State President. If the Board of Directors so votes, the Treasurer shall be bonded and/or an outside audit shall be conducted. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check, issued on order of the State President only, and signed by the State Treasurer or by an Assistant Treasurer approved by the membership or the State Board of Directors.

Article XIV. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, or if (for whatever reason) it ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind, to be held in trust for a reorganized affiliate in the state. In the event that no affiliate is organized in the state for a period of two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, the assets become the property of the National Federation of the Blind.

If the dissolution of this organization should occur and at that time the National Federation of the Blind is no longer a tax-exempt organization under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code or if the National Federation of the Blind has been dissolved, all assets of this organization shall be given to an

organization with similar purposes which has received tax-exempt certification from the Federal Internal Revenue Service.

Article XV. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any general session of a state convention of this organization by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at a previous general session and provided it is in compliance with the provisions of the "Charter of Affiliation" received by the state affiliate from the National Federation of the Blind and with the policies of the National Federation of the Blind.

Signed:

Dated:

October 8, 2011

William R. Packee
National Federation of the Blind of Alaska
State President