# National Federation of the Blind of Ohio logo, Live the Life You Want, image of six identical line drawings of blind people facing forward in a circular pattern, each figure holds a white cane starting above the right shoulder extending diagonally downward toward the base of the left leg.National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

## 79th Annual State Convention

## November 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2025

## Wyndham Garden Hotel, Cleveland-Westlake

1100 Crocker Road, Cleveland Westlake, Ohio 44145

(800) 445-8667

Welcome to the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio’s 79th Annual State Convention. Our theme “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now”! We fight to win, breaking down barriers and sustaining our civil rights.

## Richard Payne, Affiliate President

## Suzanne Turner, Convention Arrangements Coordinator

## National Representative

Pamela Allen, Chairperson and Vice President of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind, Director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, and President of the NFB of Louisiana

## Host Chapters

## At large, Lorane, and Greater Akron

## Presidents: Colleen Roth, Sherry Ruth and Kathy Legg respectively.

Welcome to the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio’s 79th Annual State Convention. Our theme “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now! We fight to win, breaking down barriers and sustaining our civil rights.

As a founding affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, we have a strong legacy of working together as a community in order to protect and advocate for our civil rights as blind people from its very beginning.

Through our vast network of blind members and friends, we coordinate programs, services, and resources to defend the rights of blind people, provide information and support to blind children and adults, and build a community that creates unlimited opportunities.

We believe in the ability of blind people to organize and advocate on our own behalf and reflect this belief from our democratically elected leaders to our diverse nationwide membership.

We respect and are inclusive of blind people of all backgrounds and abilities. It is our uniqueness as individuals and our collective dedication to our mission as blind people that is at the core of our strength as an organization.

Working together, we are an unstoppable force in our pursuit of civil rights for the blind in Ohio and beyond.

# The Belief Message

The National Federation of the Blind advances the lives of its members and all blind people in the United States. We know 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. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

# 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 support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

# Code of Conduct

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio State Convention is a family friendly event. We are committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment dedicated to positive experiences for blind people. We hold ourselves and our attendees to strict adherence to the National Federation of the Blind Code of Conduct found at:

<https://nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct/code>

# Privacy Notice

“This is a public event. You may be filmed on video or captured in photos that may be published in media outlets, including Twitter, Facebook, or other social media sites. Some sessions and activities at the 2025 National Federation of the Blind of Ohio State Convention may be photographed or videotaped. By participating in the State Convention, registrants agree that The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio has the right to use their image, likeness and/or voice or sound recording taken in connection to the State Convention in all Media.”

# Convention Arrangements

If you have any questions about convention arrangements, contact Suzanne Turner, Convention Arrangements Coordinator, at (216) 990-6199 or [SMTurner.234@gmail.com](mailto:SMTurner.234@gmail.com).

# Rookie Roundup

All first-time convention attendees are cordially invited to attend a reception from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025 in the Bradley Room. President Payne, National Representative, Pam Allen and other Federation leaders will be on hand to welcome you and preview the convention activities. Division and Chapter Presidents, along with seasoned members should urge all first-timers to attend this special opportunity.

# Reserve Your Room Now!

The Wyndham Garden Westlake Hotel address is 1100 Crocker Road, Cleveland Westlake, Ohio 44145. You can make reservations by calling (800) 445-8667. Individuals must identify themselves as being with the group, The National Federation of the Blind, at the time the reservation is made in order to receive the special group rate. The room rates are only $115.00, plus applicable taxes which includes breakfast for 2 occupants per room. Breakfast is from 6:30 AM to 10:00 AM. In the Sanctuary Restaurant. The last date to reserve a room is Monday, October 06, 2025. The good news is that when you make your reservations, funds are not deducted from your credit card until you arrive at the hotel.

# The Wyndham Garden Westlake Hotel

On behalf of the affiliate President, Richard Payne, and the Ohio Executive Board of Directors, we are honored to have you join the 79th state of Ohio convention here in beautiful Westlake Ohio. As you will experience during your stay, Northeast Ohio has a lot of great attractions, and this city is one.

The Wyndham Garden Westlake Hotel is elegant and simple. It has a clean design and warm hospitality. When you walk through the double doors, you’re immediately in the lobby. As you pivot left of the doors, the Sales Department is straight ahead. However, if you pivot right, that corridor leads to the Canterbury/Dover, and Bradley/Bassett Ballrooms. Various Seminars and the Pre-Function Area are located there as well. Subsequently, back at the front door, if you walk twenty feet forward, to the left is the hotel's Front desk, you will check-in. Directly across from the front desk is the sanctuary restaurant where you can partake of watering appetizers, order a full course meal, or relax at the elegant/sexy bar. But, if you need to wind down for a minute or two, there are cloth chairs and several sofas in the middle of the lobby for just that.

Again, as you check into the hotel at the front desk, the sleeping rooms are just around to the right of the desk, and down the hall. You will also notice as you journey down the opening hallway, the elevator is directly to your left. There are several of our Convention rooms on the second and third floor, which all are accessible! Just turn right after exiting and travel down the hall. Please review the agenda for more details not to miss anything the convention has to offer!

# Online Pre-Registration and Hotel Registration

Online Pre-Registration is open until November 4, 2025 at 11:59 AM. You can go to: NFBOhio.org/Convention and complete the process. Pre-Registration is $25.00, and the Banquet is $55.00. Note: After November 4th at 11:59 AM. In-person Registration is $30.00, and the Banquet is $60.00.

Hotel Pre-Registration packet pick-up and convention registration will take place in the Pre-Function Area outside the ballrooms. Those who have completed their registration prior to convention will form a line at the Pre-Registration Table for a speedy process. Visit the Registration Table to register for convention, or to purchase additional tickets to events. Both tables will be open for two shifts on November 07 from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM and 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM. We look forward to helping you register as quickly as possible so you can be on your way to enjoying a great weekend of events. For more information about registration, please contact Suzanne Turner, Convention Arrangements Coordinator at (216) 990-6199 or [SMTurner.234@gmail.com](mailto:SMTurner.234@gmail.com).

# NFB Literature

NFB literature will be available throughout the convention next to the registration area. Feel free to take as much as you like; and share it with your friends and family.

# Annual Auction

Help our affiliate to continue its legacy of advocacy by and for the blind by bringing your positive energy and generously giving in support of a great cause during our annual auction held at the Banquet on Saturday evening.

It promises to be fun for the entire family with many valuable items up for bid. Our chapters, divisions, and many friends contribute a wide range of items including electronics, gift certificates, food baskets, and more.

Please contact Annette Lutz at (614) 288-4323 to make plans to get auction items to her immediately upon arrival at the hotel. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

# Door Prizes

Door prizes will be drawn periodically throughout convention sessions on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and during our banquet. To be eligible to win a door prize, you must be registered for the convention and present in the meeting space when your name is called. All donated items should be labeled clearly in print and Braille with the donor's name, the amount of the gift, and the type of gift being contributed. Deliver prizes directly to Annette Lutz or leave them with a representative at the Convention Registration table along with its print/Braille label.

# Hospitality

You are invited to the hospitality suites during the hours of 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM on Fri, Nov 07, for snacks and beverages. Ohio affiliate members will be on hand to greet attendees. The location will be on the Conference Level, (Rooms A/B and C/D Rooms), which is located on the third floor! Do not miss delicious treats, great conversations, and mingling with old and new friends.

# Exhibit Hall

Whether you are an information seeker or a new gadget shopper, you will find everything that you need to help you live the life you want at the 2025 Exhibit Hall. Visit Exhibit Hall in the Pre-Function Area outside the ballrooms and the (Hotel Atrium) on Saturday, November 08 from Noon until 4:00 PM. Both are located on the first floor. Explore the latest technology and to get answers to the questions that race through your mind about employment, healthcare, services for the blind, and so much more.

For questions, please reach out to Suzanne Turner, Convention Arrangements Coordinator at (216) 990-6199 or [SMTurner.234@gmail.com](mailto:SMTurner.234@gmail.com).

# Guide Dogs

For your convenience, At the end of the Banquet Hall (closest to the Dover Room) There are two exits that will take you to the parking lot, and off to the left are some grassy areas for any pups that need to take a break. For assistance, with any guide dog issues please contact, Jackie Schieman, OAGDU Division Member at (440) 223-8170 or by email: schiemja@gmail.com

# Dream Makers Circle

You can help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of our Dream Makers Circle (DMC). It is easier than you think. You can visit your bank and convert an account to a P.O.D. (payable on death) bank account, which is payable after your passing to the National Federation of the Blind or one of our affiliates. Your legacy gift to the National Federation of the Blind or the National Federation of the Blind of {insert state} can be made in the form of a will or living trust, an income generating gift, or by naming us as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, pension, or a life insurance policy. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage, or list the NFB as one of several beneficiaries. For additional information, please contact Patti Chang at 410-659-9314, extension 2422 or at [pchang@nfb.org](mailto:pchang@nfb.org).

# Vehicle Donations

The National Federation of the Blind uses car donations to improve the education of blind children, distribute free white canes, help veterans, and so much more. We have partnered with Vehicles for Charity to process donated vehicles. Please call toll-free 855-659-9314, and a representative can make arrangements, or you can donate online by visiting [https://nfb.org/vehicledonations](http://www.nfb.org/vehicledonations).

# Pre-Authorized Contributions

Can you help the National Federation of the Blind on a regular basis? Please consider joining our pre-authorized contribution (PAC) plan. Starting at $5 monthly, you can help us turn dreams into reality and raise expectations. Call 877-632-2722, visit: <https://nfb.org/pac> to fill out the online form, or email [pac@nfb.org](mailto:pac@nfb.org) for additional information.

You can leave a legacy through planned giving. Please consider including us in your estate planning. It is easier than you think. We are so grateful for all you do.

# Meet National Representative, Pamela Allen

Pamela Allen is the Executive Director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind. Pam is Originally from Lancaster, New York, and was blessed to grow up in a loving and supportive family surrounded by high expectations. Blindness was not viewed as a barrier. The loving example and nurturing environment gave her a solid foundation upon which to build.

When she was a senior at Denison University majoring in psychology with a minor in women’s studies, Pam was awarded a national scholarship by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). This opportunity would be transformative in ways she could not have imagined. It allowed her to engage with the NFB community, where she served as vice president of the Ohio Association of Blind Students and secretary of the National Association of Blind Students. Additionally, she gained valuable experience working with the Children’s Program at the Louisiana Center for the Blind during her summer breaks in college.

Pam’s commitment to empowering blind individuals ultimately led her to a leadership role as the executive director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, located in Ruston, Louisiana. In this capacity since 2001, she has been instrumental in developing and overseeing programs that equip blind individuals with essential skills for independent living and success. Her dedication extends to her involvement with the NFB at both state and national levels. Pam serves as the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana, where she advocates for the rights and opportunities of blind individuals across the state and around the country. Her leadership and advocacy efforts have been pivotal in advancing the organization’s mission and initiatives. She serves on the Advisory Council for the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University. She was also appointed by Governor Landry to serve on the Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council.

On a national scale, Pam currently holds the position of first vice president on the NFB’s board of directors. In this role, she collaborates with fellow leaders to shape policies and programs that promote equality and accessibility for blind individuals nationwide. She also serves as vice president for the National Association of Blind Rehabilitation Professionals.

Pam and her husband, Roland, a talented cane travel instructor and dedicated leader at all levels, live in Ruston and have been married since 2001. In addition to traveling, Pam enjoys reading, baking, rock climbing, and shopping. She and Roland are active members of their community and love giving back. Serving as national rep is a blessing and honor that enables her to learn from and share with her Federation family.

# Convention Agenda

## Thursday, November 6, 2025

### Employment Seminar 2025

Networking Discovery, Unlocking Your Next Career Steps

from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, In the Canterbury/Dover Room.

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (NFBO), Employment Committee invites you to participate in an empowering presentation that will provide speakers offering and dialog on the benefits associated with the hiring of Blind individuals. It is our great honor to facilitate this informative and enriching Forum on November 6, 2025 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM located at 1100 Crocker Road, Westlake, Ohio 44145.

This Forum is intended to provide a platform for the exchange of best practices in the hiring of overlooked skilled individuals with Visual/Physical Disabilities. We are confident that this educational experience will be a benefit for all attendees to learn about,

1. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) -** Beth Glas, Executive Director, Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP),

**Topics:** Reasonable Accommodations and Work Discrimination

1. **Accessibility -** Wilbert Turner, Retired, Local Accessibility Coordinator for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

**Topics:** Scripting, Adaptive Equipment, Modifications and AI in the Workplace

1. **The First Impression** - David Ogden, Northeast Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)’s Job Development Supervisor

**Topics:** Sourcing, Networking and the 30 Second Elevator Speech

1. **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities**

**Topics:** Education and Training, Adaptive Equipment, Mobility

1. **The NFB Training Center -** Pam Allen, Executive Director, National Federation of the Blind

**Topic:** Louisiana Center for the Blind

1. **What is Accessible Ohio?** - Briana Seth, Accessible Ohio Specialist

Moreover, this exchange will consist of a dialogue of interviewing skills, self-esteem building, socialization barriers and test taking   that will be a great opportunity for the blind to voice their concerns and receive direct answers and techniques from all presenters. Also, a panel of blind professionals will offer experiences working in various occupational settings. As we move closer to this event, feel free to share with other interested partners of the blind community.

The NFB of Ohio Employment Committee will meet you in the Canterbury/Dover Rooms.

### Pre-Convention Fundraiser Event: BOWL-A-THON!

Support the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio by joining an exciting and meaningful event where *every pin makes a difference!*

How it Works:

* Blind bowlers will take the lanes.
* Sponsors pledge 25 cents or more for each pin knocked down.
* Pledge sheets will be provided so you can make a monetary contribution to the organization. Your support helps strengthen the treasury of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, funding programs, services, and advocacy for blind individuals across the state.

Location: North Olmsted Role house entertainment center located at 24488 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Date & Time: November 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM. EST.

Ways to Participate:

* Come cheer on the bowlers!
* Sponsor a bowler and pledge your support.
* Spread the word and bring your friends for a day of fun and impact!

Together, let’s roll toward greater opportunities and empowerment for the blind community. For more information or to sponsor a bowler contact: Theresa McKenney, Fundraiser Committee, Chair at (216) 990-2582 or Patricia McPherson at [patrinkle@icloud.com](mailto:patrinkle@icloud.com)

## Friday, November 7, 2025

### 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM - Pre-Registration Packet Pick-up and Convention Registration: Pre-Function Area

### 10:30 am to Noon - Ohio Board of Directors Meeting Canterbury/Dover Rooms

### 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM - DeafBlind committee meeting

Join us for a Lunch & Learn with Speakers: Karlee Wascher, M.A. CVRT Employment Specialist; Helen Keller, Dawn Watts, Ohio SSP Coordinator and become informed about resources related to deaf, hard of Hearing, DeafBlind and know the differences between the 3 groups of individuals and their communication needs.

Order your lunch in advance, & each includes chips & cookies for only $25. Select from the following choices and pay by:

* Online at WWW.NFBOhio.ORG/Convention,
* By mail a check to: Attention Kathy Legg, Treasurer, 1916 15th Street SW, Akron Ohio 44314, put Lunch and Learn in the Memo.
* Bacon, lettuce & tomato served on toasted Ciabatta.
* Egg Salad or Tuna Salad
* Vegetable Wrap or Club Wrap or Chicken Caesar Wrap
* Turkey Croissant
* Italian Sub or Roast Beef Sub

The DeafBlind Committee will meet in the Bassett Room

**12:30 PM to 1:45 PM** - Pre-Registration Packet Pick-up and Convention Registration:

### GENERAL SESSION: Canterbury/Dover Rooms

### 2:00 PM - Call to Order Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio

### 2:05 PM - Invocation Rev., Dr. Carolyn Peters, President, Ohio Communities of Faith Division, and Member, Board of Directors, NFB of Ohio

### 2:10 PM - Opening ceremonies:

### 2:25 PM - Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Host Chapters At Large, Lorain County, and Greater Akron Chapters

### 2:35 PM - Welcome Honorable Ohio Legislators

John Brad Deane, Field Representative for Honorable, Congresswoman Chontel Brown, Honorable, Ohio State Senator, Nickie Antonio and Honorable, Ohio State Representative, Darnell T. Brewer

Propelling our initiatives forward, creating opportunities for meaningful change within our lives and communities.

Suzanne Turner, Ohio Legislative Director, and Vice President, NFB of Ohio

### 3:05 PM - Social Security Administration (SSA) The current climate,

Brandon Smith, Public Affairs Specialist, SSA Northeastern Ohio Area

### 3:25 PM - National Report - Pamela Allen, National Representative, and Executive Director of Louisiana Center for the Blind

### 3:50 PM - “Access and Achievement: Navigating Barriers as Blind Students”, Kinshuk Tela, Moderator, MaKenzie Love, Antonio Dobyne and Caitlyn Head

### 4:10 PM - Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)

Bureau Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI)

Berna King, Deputy Director, and Allison Meloy, Vision Services Program Manager

### 4:35 PM - Connecting With the Community

Kenny Foderaro, University Police ambassador and Jeff Ridler, University Circle Police officer

### 4:55 PM - Announcements

### 5:00 PM - Adjourn: General Session resumes at 9:00 AM Saturday.

### 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Hospitality: Join in the fun and fellowship on hospitality night. Visit the Conference Level, (Rooms A/B and C/D Third floor to eat and socialize).

### 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM - Ohio Community Service Division Meeting: Patricia McPherson, President

Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the ADA, with speaker Patrick Thornton from Westlake's City Architect. OCSD will once again sponsor Ohio State school for the blind by collecting hats/mittens/gloves and winter coats/jackets (new, gently used for junior/high school students. Please bring items to meeting.

Bassett Room

### 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM - Resolutions Committee Meeting: Mike Bullis, chair

All are welcome to attend. Resolutions adopted by the convention become the policy of the organization.

Bradley Room

### 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM - Ohio Communities of Faith Division Meeting: Dr. Rev. Carolyn Peters, President

The doors are always open! We are a diverse group of blind members representing various religions. Join our business meeting, elections and learn about resources.

Canterbury/Dover Rooms

### 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM - Ohio At-Large Chapter Meeting: Colleen Roth, President

Bassett Room

### 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM - ROOKIE ROUNDUP

Calling all first-timers! Come and meet President Payne and members from the Ohio Board of Directors who will be present to welcome you and answer questions about the weekend activities. Also, Pam Allen, Director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, President of the NFB of Louisiana, Chairperson and Vice President of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind will be in attendance as well.

Bradley Room

### 8:30 PM - Nominating Committee Meeting: This is a closed meeting.

Bassett Room

### 9:30 PM - Calling all talent If you have a unique skill or creative passion, we encourage you to showcase it and share your artistry with others. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just starting out, this is your opportunity to shine and connect with fellow artists. Please contact Wilbert Turner to sign up. (216) 561-6864.

Canterbury/Dover Rooms

## Saturday, November 08, 2025

### 7:00 AM to 8:45 AM - Scholarship Breakfast Meeting: Invited guests will meet in the Sanctuary Restaurant Entry Area. Kristin Coen, Chair, Scholarship Committee

### GENERAL SESSION:Canterbury/Dover Rooms

### 9:00 AM - Call to Order

Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio

### 9:05 AM - Invocation Christopher Sabine, Community of Faith, Member

### 9:10 AM - Announcements

### 9:15 AM - Tanner Gers, founder of AccessAbility Officer

### 9:35 AM - (beacon of accessibility, learning, and community) Ohio Library for the Blind & Print Disabled

Kenneth Redd, Librarian, Cleveland Public Library

### 9:55 AM - Transportation and more, Office of Transit (ODOT) Crystal Brewer, Special Project Manager, Office of Transit

### 10:15 AM - Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Donna Foster, Program Administrator

### 10:35 AM - Cuyahoga Community College Adult Learning Program

Marjorie Pyles-Hearst, retired instructor serving the blind for 11 years at the Cleveland site center Adult Learning Program.

### 10:55 AM - Protecting our rights and confirming what we do!

Kerstin Sjoberg, President and CEO, Disability Rights Ohio

### 11:20 AM - Mental health and how to manage it.

Arlie Ray, LPCC, CRC, Mental Health Counselor, Clark State College

### 11:35 AM - My journey to success and how being in the Federation has provided me with the outlet to impact so many others, Roland Allen, Mobility Instructor, Louisiana Center for the Blind

### 11:55 AM - Remarks

### Noon - Adjourn: General Session resumes at 9:00 AM Sunday.

### Noon to 4:00 PM - Exhibit Hall:

Pre-Function Area outside the ballrooms and the (Hotel Atrium). Both are located on the first floor.

### 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM -Teck seminar 101, Renee Arrington Johnson and Statsky Bey

Get tips on everyday Apps on Android and Apple Devices.

Bradley Room

### 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM - Ohio Senior Division Meeting: Mariann Denning, President

Canterbury/Dover Rooms

### 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Blind Parent’s Meeting: Masquenada Douglas and Ivery Thomas co-chairs, Blind parents group.

Bassett Room

### 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM - Diabetes Action Network (DAN): Joann Williams, President

Bradley Room

### 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM - CPR Training Conference Level (Rooms, C/D)

### 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM - The Best You! Tameika Hurt, Facilitator

Bassett Room

### 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM - Tech Seminar II, Introduction to Meta Glasses, Shelby Craig, Assistive Tech Trainer, Cleveland Sight Center

Third Floor, Conference Level, (Rooms, A/B)

### 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM - Pre-Banquet Social Hour, Cash Bar Ballroom

### 6:30 PM - NFBOH Banquet (proof of tickets required) ballrooms

#### Event Highlights:

#### **Mistress of Ceremony:** Emily Kiehl, Board Member, NFB of Ohio

#### **Invocation:** Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio

#### **Keynote Speaker:** Pam Allen, National Representative

#### **Awards presentation:** Annette Lutz, Awards Committee Chair

#### Scholarship Awards: Kristin Coen-Mishlan, Chair, Scholarship Committee

#### **Not-So-Silent Auction:** Annette Lutz, Secretary, NFB of Ohio, and President, NFB Capital Chapter

#### **Money for the Movement:** Kathy Legg, Treasurer, NFB of Ohio

### 9:00 PM - After Party: Stick around after the Banquet to socialize and celebrate with your NFB of Ohio community. Enjoy Karaoke and a cash bar.

## Sunday, November 09, 2025

### 7:45 AM to 8:45 AM - Faith meeting Communities of Faith Division, Rev., Dr. Carolyn Peters, President, Amphitheater Room

### GENERAL SESSION: Ballroom

### 9:00 AM - Call to Order Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio

### 9:05 AM - A few minutes of silent remembrance for those federation members that are no longer with us.

### 9:10 AM - Leadership Presentation Panel

Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio, Suzanne Turner, Vice President, NFB of Ohio, Pamela Allen National Representative

### 9:45 AM - Ohio Affiliate report Richard Payne, President, NFB Ohio

### 10:00 AM - Financial Report Kathy Legg, Treasurer, NFB of Ohio

### 10:15 AM - Nominating Committee Report

### 10:20 AM - Affiliate Elections

### 10:50 AM - Highlighting Quietly Effective Members

Among our membership, there are several individuals who may not always be in the spotlight, yet they consistently demonstrate effectiveness through their actions. Their contributions greatly enhance the federation’s success, and it is important to acknowledge and celebrate their efforts.

Billy Gram, Cleveland Chapter, and Mary Weldin, Greater Akron Chapter

### 11:15 AM - Resolutions

Mike Bullis, Chair

### 11:30 AM - The 2025-2026 Kenneth Jernigan Leadership-in-Service Program,

Kinshuk Tella, Recipient

### 11:40 AM - Membership 101

William Turner and Kathy Leg, Co-Chairs, Ohio membership Committee

### 11:55 AM - Closing Remarks

Richard Payne, President, NFB of Ohio, and Pamela Allen, national rep.

### Noon - Adjournment

# National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

## 2025 Board of Directors

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3000 Graham Rd, Apt 111   
Stow, OH 44224

# 78th Annual State Convention Sponsors

We are thankful to the following community partners for their commitment to the transformative work of the blind in Ohio. Their support enables the blindness community to be even stronger.

## Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Dedicated to raising awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community. Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting people who are totally blind. People living with non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness and nighttime sleeplessness, which leads to impaired social and occupational function.

## Disability Rights Ohio

A non-profit corporation with a mission to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio.

## Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

A private, not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive services and job opportunities for people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. Every day we work to ensure full lives and community inclusion for those we serve.

## Clovernook Center for the Blind

For more than a century, Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired has dedicated itself to empowering adults and children by providing employment, opportunities for sports and recreation, vision care and a host of support services.

## Spectrum Accessibility

Accessibility Center of Excellence is an award-winning team that fosters a culture of accessibility and inclusivity for customers and employees alike. We offer access to a variety of devices and services, ranging from closed captioning to voice services to a large selection of On Demand movies and TV shows through your mobile device. The Spectrum Accessibility team builds products that enable people with disabilities to more easily enjoy our innovations. Whether it’s text-to-speech, accessibility features in our mobile products or audio descriptions through the Spectrum Access App, we are committed to innovating for all our customers.

## Norwalk Ohio Lions Club

We would like to thank the Norwalk Ohio Lions Club for continuously supporting our 2025 scholarship program this year.