

**Memphis Federation of the Blind  
CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

**The name of this organization shall be Memphis Federation of The Blind**

**Article II. Purpose**

**The purpose of the Memphis Federation of The Blind shall be to advance the general welfare of the blind of Shelby County in Tennessee; and of the nation; to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the blind of Tennessee and the National Federation of The Blind; to serve as a vehicle for collective action by the blind of the greater Memphis area; 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 provide a means of collective action for parents of blind children; to forward the interests of blind students and provide them with a means of joint action and expression; 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 to take any other action which will improve the overall condition and standard of living of the blind.**

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section One--Active Members**

**The minimum age for active membership in this organization shall be 18 years.**

**At least a majority of the active members of this organization must be blind. Any person may become an active member of this organization by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting. An applicant for membership shall attend two consecutive meetings before being elected to membership. All members so elected shall have the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office.**

**Section Two--Associate Members**

**Any person may be elected to associate membership in this organization by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business meeting.**

**Associate 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, Associate members shall not pay dues.

### **Section Three--Affiliation**

Membership in this organization automatically establishes membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee and the National Federation of the Blind.

### **Section Four--Expulsion**

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming to a member of the Federation by a majority vote of active members present and voting at any regular business meeting of this organization. The state convention of this organization may reinstate any person 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 Convention or by the National Board. Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization 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.

## **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

There shall be elected annually in January a President, a Vice President, (optional) a Second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. A person shall be an active member and present in order to be elected to a position in this organization. The one YEAR term of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected and qualified.

Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members who are present and voting. Voting shall be by voice vote, standing vote, show of hands, or roll call vote unless at least four-fifth of the active members who are present and voting decide that a secret ballot shall be used. 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. The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office. The President, the Vice President(s), and a majority of the Officers must be blind.

## **ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the constitutional officers and two (2) additional lay members. The two (2) lay Board Members shall serve two-year terms. One shall be elected in even numbered years and one shall be elected in odd numbered years. A person shall be an active member and present in order to be elected to a position in this organization. The Board shall meet at the call of the President or on written call signed by any three (3) of the Board Members.

The Board shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between meetings. At least a majority of members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business. The Board may be polled by telephone or mail ballot on any question. A majority of the Board must be blind.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS**

### **Section one--Regular meetings**

This organization shall hold regular monthly meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership. At least two times the number of constitutional officers plus one must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

### **Section two--Special Meetings**

The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the body at any time he/she, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary. At such special meeting at least two times the number of constitutional officers plus one must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

## **ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES**

The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary. The president shall ex officio be a member of all committees.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATION**

**The Memphis Federation of The Blind shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee, and the National Federation of the Blind and shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee annually, on or before January, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. Upon request, the chapter shall send a detailed financial report to the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee, or National Federation of The Blind, without delay. A copy of the Constitution of the Memphis chapter and all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent for review to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee and/or the National Federation of the Blind without delay.**

**The Memphis Chapter 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 shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee and the provisions of the contract appearing on the back of the Charter of Affiliation issued to state affiliates of the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee (whether made by the National Convention or the National Board of Directors or the State Convention or the State Board of Directors) are binding on this organization, and this organization shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions.**

**As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the National Board or the State Convention or State Board) has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate or local chapter. In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization shall belong to the reorganized chapter or if no reorganization occurs for a period of two years, to the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee, and the former chapter 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, if it ceases 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.**

## **ARTICLE IX. DUES**

**The dues of this organization shall be (\$10.00) Ten dollars per year, payable in advance in January. The chapter shall forward five (5) dollars Per year to the Treasurer of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee For each active member. The dues must be sent before March 1 in order to vote during the convention. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues. A life-time membership may be secured for a fee of \$200.00, with \$100.00 being forwarded to the state affiliate.**

#### **ARTICLE X. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

**The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President. If the members so vote, the Treasurer shall be bonded. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check, issued on a vote of the membership or the Board of Directors, and signed by the Treasurer or in lieu thereof, the Secretary. Proper documentation shall be provided to the Treasurer.**

#### **ARTICLE XI. 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 of Tennessee, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee To be held in trust for a reorganized chapter in the area. In the event that no chapter is reorganized in the area for a period of two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee, the assets become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee.**

#### **ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS**

**This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting 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 business**

**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 of Tennessee and the National Federation of the Blind.**

**Date Adopted: January 17, 2015**

**Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Geraldine Parker**

**President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Clift**

**OFFICIAL PLEDGE OF THE  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

**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 support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its Constitution.**