Greater Prince George’s County Chapter CONSTITUTION

Adopted September 17, 2025

# ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Greater Prince George’s County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland.

# ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Greater Prince George’s County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland shall be to advance the general welfare of the blind in Prince Georges County and surrounding areas, of the state of Maryland and of 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 of Prince Georges County and surrounding areas; 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

At least a majority of the active members of this organization must be blind. Any person wishing to become an active member must follow the membership process prescribed by the National Federation of the Blind, including receiving mentoring and attending National Federation of the Blind activities. When the person desiring membership has met all prerequisites, that person shall pledge to participate in the National Federation of the Blind and be voted in as a member by a majority of chapter members present and voting at a regular business meeting.

## Section Two- Affiliation

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

## Section Three- Disciplinary Action

Any member may be suspended, expelled, or otherwise disciplined for violation of this constitution, violation of the Code of Conduct, or other misconduct, by a majority of the active members present and voting at any regular business meeting of this organization, by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland, and/or via the procedures applicable to the National Code of Conduct process. The state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland may reinstate any member who has been expelled or suspended unless such discipline has been confirmed by the National Convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind including through the NFB Code of Conduct process, in which case the person may be reinstated only by the National Convention or the National Board. Any person who feels that an unjust disciplinary action has occurred 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 a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The terms of these officers shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members who are present and voting. Election shall be by voice vote, standing vote, show of hands, or roll call vote unless at least four-fifths 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, 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 four (4) constitutional officers and at least two (2), but no more than four (4), additional members. The Board Members shall be elected annually in the same manner as the officers. 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 the members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business. The Board may be polled by telephone, text, email, electronic means, or mail ballot on any questions. A majority of the Board must be blind.

# ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

## Section One -- Regular Meetings

This organization shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership. At least one half of the active members 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 the President, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary. At such special meetings at least one half of the active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

# ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

The President may appoint such committees as the President or the organization deems necessary.

# ARTICLE VIII. AFFILIATION

The Greater Prince George’s County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland, and the National Federation of the Blind and shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland annually, on or before January 1 or a date determined by the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. A copy of the Constitution of the Greater Prince George’s County Chapter and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent for review to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland and the National Federation of the Blind without delay.

The Greater Prince George’s County 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 Maryland and the provisions of the contract appearing on the back of the Charter of Affiliation issued to state affiliates by the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland (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 Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or 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 (2) years, to the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland 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 $12.00 per year, payable in advance. The Chapter shall forward $2.00 per year to the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland and 2.00 to the National Federation of the Blind for each member. A life-time membership may be secured for a fee of $150.00. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of that person’s dues.

# 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 and the state affiliate. If the members so vote, the Treasurer shall be bonded.

All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check, issued on written order of the President, and signed by the Treasurer.

# ARTICLE XI. SUSPENSION AND DISSOLUTION

Should this chapter be suspended, the members of this chapter who paid annual dues will retain membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland and the National Federation of the Blind through the end of the calendar year in which the chapter was suspended. However, lifetime membership will transfer to any reorganized successor chapter should this chapter be suspended. 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 Maryland, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland 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 Maryland, the assets become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland.

# 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 Maryland and the National Federation of the Blind.