# National Federation of the Blind of Michigan (NFBMI)

# The Informant 2024

# Vol. 4: Springing Into Federation Programming

# April 15, 2024

## Affiliate Zoom Link:

<<https://zoom.us/j/9612695221?pwd=dHlxZDNwcVVZbUVTYUM5cEU4cDlndz09>>

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## From the President:

Greetings and welcome to a new week Federation family and friends! It is so great to be back in the great state of Michigan. I bring you good tidings after a wonderful visit to the stormy city of New Orleans, where I had the fun of using the structured discovery model the National Federation of the Blind empowers us to employ in orientation and mobility skills when traversing new terrain. Though my short time in New Orleans was during tornado activity, it was a blast, and it was wonderful to be connected and inspired by the Louisiana affiliate while representing Western Michigan University and the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.

The month of April is often associated with the season of Spring and rightfully so, as its ushers in a variety of relative titles within the United States. April is National Wildlife Month, National Poetry Month, National Pickleball Month, National Brunch Month, and many, many more. With these many reasons to celebrate, it is only right to exclaim why the Michigan affiliate has reasons to throw a party right along with the rest of our friends. While you take some time to read our national and state updates; please consider how you can celebrate one of the previously mentioned April celebrations with your local chapter or state division. I would love an invite and look forward to connecting with you soon as we continue to build the Federation.

## Important National Updates

### Hotel reservations for the 2024 NFB National Convention are filling quickly.

The Rosen Center is now completely booked on July 2, 2024. The convention will take place July 3-8 at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, FL. For information about convention and to register online, visit <<http://www.nfb.org/convention>> [www.nfb.org/convention](http://www.nfb.org/convention). The phone number to reserve a room for the hotel is (407) 996-9840.

### The 2024 NFB of Michigan caucus:

The 2024 NFB of Michigan caucus will take place on July 3 at 9pm at

the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando. Room location and additional information will be made available shortly.

### 2024 IEP Advocacy

### Training Program:

The National Federation of the Blind will hold its 2024 IEP Advocacy

Training Program at the Jernigan Institute in Baltimore from May 30- June 2.

The program, aimed at preparing affiliate leaders to advocate for the rights of blind children in the educational space, will collaborate with parents and educators to strengthen advocacy skills that can then be sharpened in both Orlando and home affiliates. Congratulations to Ather Jammoa for representing the Michigan affiliate in Baltimore during this year's training program.

## Important State Updates

### Applying For State Assistance for NFB Events:

Individuals interested in applying for state-funded assistance for

the NFB national convention can do so by visiting nfbmi.org/forms.

Applicants are encouraged to review funding assistance program eligibility requirements prior to applying and to provide their convention registration confirmation after applying. The deadline for applying for state-funded assistance for national convention is May 30, 2024.

### 2024 Raising Expectations Accessing Life:

The 2024 NFBMI Raising Expectations Accessing Life (REAL) program is

a dual-track program for youth interested in learning about growing in STEM-related fields. This year, our NFB STEM2U track is for ages 8-13, intended for families and creates accessible, non-visual astronomy experiments. Our NFB Scholars track, outlined for ages 14+, addresses notable transferrable skills needed in these related fields for vocational success. Interested applicants should visit nfbmi.org/real to apply for the program prior to May 30, 2024. This program offers scholarship opportunities for the STEM2U track and does offer sponsorship opportunities for eligible BSBP customers. For questions about the program, please email Tara Morgan, Youth and Family Committee Chair.

### Voter Access Seminar:

The NFBMI Capital Region Chapter will be partnering with our

affiliate to present a statewide voter access education seminar. The tentative date of this program will be Saturday, August 10, 2024. Topics covered include accessible ballots, electronic voting, and items blind voters face during primary and general elections in our state. If you are interested in joining or supporting this program, contact Jay J. Meddaugh at <mailto:vp@nfbmi.org> vp@nfbmi.org or Mark Eagle at <mailto:treasurer@nfbmi.org> treasurer@nfbmi.org.

### 2024 MAER Conference:

The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan will have a vendor

table April 25-26 at the 2024 MAER Conference at the Park City Hotel in Traverse City. We encourage members or interested guests to join us and learn about the 2024 Raising Expectations Accessing Life (REAL) program, as well as updates to our scholarship program and how you can get a student to apply.

### 2024 Libraries Without Walls, and Visions:

The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan will have vendor

tables at both the 2024 Libraries Without Walls program in Lansing on May 9 and the 2024 Visions Conference in Ann Arbor on June 5. During these opportunities to network with professionals and teachers of the blind, we encourage members to assist in promoting our scholarship program for students, the 2024 voter access program and additional work we do the achieve equality, opportunity, and security for blind people. If you are interested in attending either of these events to represent the Federation, please contact Robert at <mailto:President@nfbmi.org> President@nfbmi.org.

### 2024 NFB of Michigan State Convention:

The 2024 State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of

Michigan will take place October 31-November 3 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center. The address is 100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Convention details, including registration, will come in time. If you are interested in joining the convention planning committee, including coordination or agenda development, please contact Jay J. Meddaugh at <mailto:vp@nfbmi.org> vp@nfbmi.org.

### NFB Fund Raising Committee:

The NFBMI fundraising committee thanks all who participated in the

2024 Kernel Kraze, our Spring Double Good popcorn campaign. We raised a total of $1839 in four days with your efforts over the Easter weekend. These efforts will assist members in their attendance at our 2024 national convention. Please join us for our next meeting via Zoom, which will be announced on the NFBMI Talk list.

## Important State Affiliate Dates

\* 04/18/24 NFBMI Leadership Retreat

\* 04/23/24: NFBMI Youth and Family Program Planning Committee Meeting

(5pm)

\* 04/23/24: NFBMI AT Large Philosophy Discussion (8pm)

\* 04/25/24: NFBMI Legislative Committee Meeting (7pm)

\* 04/26/24: NFBMI Soundboard (8pm)

\* 05/08/24: NFBMI At Large Chapter Meeting

With Love, Hope and Determination,

Robert Parsons, Jr., M. A., CRC, CVRT, LLPC

President, National Federation of the Blind of Michigan

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[www.nfbmi.org](http://www.nfbmi.org) <<http://www.nfbmi.org>>

"Without struggle, there is no progress." - Frederick Douglas