# National Federation of the Blind of Michigan (NFBMI)

**The Informant 2024**

**Vol. 5: Representing the Federation, Michigan Style…**

**May 15, 2024**

## Affiliate Zoom Link:

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

## From the President

Hello and welcome to a new edition of our monthly newsletter Federation Family! This month’s version of “The Informant,” is so important, as it follows such an important national holiday. We cannot start without acknowledging the wonderful and effective blind mothers and mothers of blind youth that are a part of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan. The actions, efforts and opinions of these members are the cornerstone of our movement and continue to help us build our programs, fundraisers, conventions and so much more. As we move through Spring and into Summer, our affiliate will continue to approach and take on new projects, with these phenomenal women standing at the heart of these endeavors. You are all appreciated. To speak candidly in my native tongue: “Nous apprécions le travaille que vous faites pour la Fédération. Vous **êtes irremplaçable.”**

The month of May can also be associated with other important days to commemorate. Some of these include Star Wars Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Cinco de Mayo. With such a diverse affiliate, we welcome all of our members to be open to embrace all of the reasons to enjoy and acknowledge these important moments throughout the month. Whether you are a blind veteran or a person that is inherently tied to the Force, know that the Federation supports you in living the life you want. In this month’s issue, our readers will be treated to learn of the exciting advocacy efforts our members have been engaging in to promote our upcoming programming, how our members have been preparing for national convention and some of the exciting news our affiliate received after advocacy efforts at the local and state level. Join us to learn more and May you all enjoy the content.

## Important National Updates

* Hotel reservations for the 2024 NFB National Convention are filling quickly. Though the Rosen Center is now booked, there are overflow hotels available . These overflow hotels can be accessed via shuttle from the Rosen Center. The convention will take place July 3-8 in Orlando, FL. For information about convention and to register online, visit [www.nfb.org/convention](http://www.nfb.org/convention).
* 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.

## Important State Updates

* Visitors and members of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan can now view this issue and past issues of “The Informant” on the NFBMI Webpage. You can access these issues by visiting [www.nfbmi.org/informant](http://www.nfbmi.org/informant).
* The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan congratulates its 2024 Kenneth Jernigan Award winners. These six individuals were selected from our national office in a pool of applicants as first-time awardees for this distinguished financial recognition in orlando: Beatrice Luckett (Detroit Chapter), Sharon Sanders (Detroit Chapter), Damontae Scott (Flint Genesee Chapter), Annette Holt (Detroit Chapter), Dalanie Holt (Detroit Chapter), and Gina Rowell (Detroit Chapter).
* The 2024 NFB of Michigan state scholarship program will launch on June 1, 2024. If you are a blind student in the state of Michigan that is a high school senior or are attending a college/university, please email scholarships@nfbmi.org for more information after the launch date. The state scholarship program is awarded at our state convention each year and the application will be available on our webpage after the launch date.
* 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.
* 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 President@nfbmi.org.
* The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan represented and promoted the Raising Expectation Accessing Life program at the 2024 Libraries Without Walls Conference in Lansing on May 9, 2024. It was a refreshing experience where our membership connected with professionals and potential instructors that had the ability to connect with students to promote the program to increase applicant numbers.
* The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan will have a vendor table at the 2024 Visions Conference at the Ann Arbor District Library on June 5, 2024. At this conference, the members will be promoting the REAL program and our state scholarship program. The Vendor table will be cohosted by volunteers from our New Wayne County, Detroit, and Flint-Genesee chapters. Interested volunteers can sign up for shifts by contacting their chapter presidents.

## Chapter/Division Updates

* **Detroit Chapter: The members of the Detroit chapter** launched the promotion of a new multi-county Paratransit/ride-Share Proposal under the leadership of Ather Jammoa,made preparations for a coming meeting/program with the Offices of Detroit's City Clerk Janice Winfrey and Wayne County's Clerk Cathy Garrett to address accessible voting and ongoing election problems, advocated successfully on the behalf of blind renters in Detroit and helped get Detroit City Council to pass a historic ordinance on May 7th creating the city's first ever Tenants Rights' Commission which will promote and protect the rights of renters, and work to resolve landlord/tenant disputes outside of the courts, and, engaged in discussions with new executives at the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind regarding efforts to turn the agency around and improve relations with the NFB.
* **New Wayne County Chapter:** The New Wayne County chapter added an exercise component to our last meeting, which was held at the  Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan Dearborn. Our next meeting will be on June 1, 2024, from 12-3pm at the Red Apple Restaurant, 32711 Michigan avenue. We invite all members and those who are interested to join us for the meeting.
* **Michigan Blind Seniors Advocating for Seniors (MBSAS):** Attention Michigan Seniors! Our May meeting happens to fall on Memorial Day. Please plan to attend at 8:00  PM, May 27th.

## Important State Affiliate Dates

* 05/18/24 NFBMI Detroit Chapter Meeting (12pm)
* 05/20/24: NFBMI Capital Region Chapter Meeting (7pm)
* 05/21/24: NFBMI AT Large Philosophy Discussion (8pm)
* 05/22/24: NFBMI Youth and Family Planning Committee Meeting (8pm)
* 05/27/24: Michigan Blind Seniors Meeting (8pm)
* 05/31/24: NFBMI Soundboard (8pm)
* 06/01/24: New Wayne County Chapter Meeting (12pm)
* 06/04/24: NFBMI At Large Chapter Meeting (8pm)
* 06/06/24: NFBMI Legislative Committee Meeting (7pm)
* 06/08/24: NFBMI Quarterly Board Meeting (12pm)

With Love, Hope and Determination