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National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia 2024 State Convention  
Holiday Inn-University Area, 1188 Pineview Dr.  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
  
AGENDA**

**Thursday, October 31, 2024**3:00 PM Hotel Check-in  
3:30 PM Drop off auction items and door   
 prizes presidential suite #215  
  
5:00 PM Dinner on your own (Bourbon   
 Room)  
  
7:30 PM NFBWV Board of Directors Meeting  
 (Bourbon Room): Sheri Koch,   
 Chair  
  
 **Friday, November 1, 2024**BLIND COMMUNITY UNITY DAY:  
8:00 AM Vendor Booths Setup (Liberi   
 Section)  
  
8:30 AM Welcome (Montani Semper   
 Section): Sheri Koch, NFBWV   
 President  
   
 A Moment of Silence for Those   
 We’ve Lost  
  
 Vendor Mini Presentations: 10   
 Minutes Each   
  
 VISIONS: Amanda Udell   
  
 WV Assistive Technology System   
 (WVATS): Doug Cumpston  
  
 Jehovah’s Witness (JW.org) Robert   
 & Geraldine Johnson, Ron & Diane   
 Barnett  
  
 WV Library Commission: Susan  
 Ward  
  
 American Printing House for the   
 Blind (APH): Lee Huffman &   
 Jim Sullivan Monarch)  
  
 LiveAbility Center for Independent   
 Living: Annetta Johnson   
   
 This & That Gadgets Table:   
 Demonstrations Provided by Blind   
 Equipment owners: NFBWV   
 Members, Other Interested Gadget   
 Users   
  
10:00 AM BREAK  
  
10:15 AM Explore the Vendor booths (Liberi   
 Section)

11:30 PM BOX LUNCH: (Montani Semper   
 Section)

12:30 PM GENERAL SESSION   
 Organization & Agency Reports:  
 (Montani Semper Section)  
   
 National Federation of the Blind, A   
 National Review of our Mission and  
 Impact: Jesse Sherik, National   
 Representative   
  
  
12:50 PM National Federation of the Blind of   
 West Virginia, A State and   
 Grassroots Perspective on our   
 Mission and Impact: Sheri Koch,   
 NFBWV President  
  
1:00 PM WV School for the Deaf and the  
 Blind: Melanie Hesse, WVSDB Dean  
 of Students & Wendy Bailey,   
 Statewide Outreach Specialist for   
 WVDE  
   
1:20 PM Cabell-Wayne Association of the   
 Blind: Toni Walls, Executive   
 Director  
  
1:40 PM Seeing Hand Association for the  
 Blind: Karen Haught, Executive   
 Director   
   
2:00 PM LiveAbility Center for Independent   
   
 Living, Morgantown: Annetta   
 Johnson, Administrative Director   
  
2:20 PM American Foundation for the Blind,   
 Huntington: Aaron Preece,   
 AccessWorld Editor  
 in Chief  
  
2:40 PM American Printing House for the   
 Blind, (APH) Huntington: Lee   
 Huffman, Low Vision Product   
 Manager, Product Development   
  
 Jim Sullivan, (APH) Director, Social   
 Enterprise  
  
3:00 PM BREAK  
  
3:15 PM LET’S TALK: West Virginia Division  
 of Rehabilitation Services   
 (WVDRS); A Pannel   
 b Discussion on Services and   
 Policies: Pisnu Bua-Iam, WVDRS  
 Director; (Blind Services Staff)   
 Candice Ward, Assistant Director,   
 Rachel Hatfield, Rehabilitation   
 Services Manager 1, Gentry Klein,  
 Deputy Director, Kevin Maynus,

Rehabilitation Specialist for the   
 Blind, Tammy Murdock, VISIONS   
 Manager, NFBWV members, Jesse   
 Sherik, NFB National  
 Representative, and other   
 interested blind stakeholders  
  
5:00 PM Wrap-up and Adjourn  
  
6:15 PM DINNER (Montani Semper Section)  
  
8:00 PM AUCTION: All Things West  
 Virginia: Marcus Soulsby,   
 Auctioneer   
   
 **Saturday, November 2, 2024**8:30 AM GENERAL SESSION: (Montani   
 Semper Section)  
  
 Call to Order, remarks, &   
 Announcements: Sheri Koch,   
 NFBWV President   
  
 Pledge of Allegiance, Led by   
 Harold Thomas Rogers, Member at   
 LargeHH   
  
 NFB Pledge: Led by Karen   
 McDonald  
 “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.”  
  
8:35 AM WHAT’S GOING ON AT THE   
 NATIONAL LEVEL: NFB Report:   
 Jesse Sherik, National   
 Representative   
  
9:00 AM WHAT’S GOING ON AT THE LOCAL

LEVEL, NFBWV Report: Sheri   
 Koch, NFBWV President  
  
9:15 AM FUNDAMENTALS OF SELF-  
 ADVOCACY: Jesse Sherik,   
 National Representative  
  
10:15 AM BREAK  
  
10:30 AM TRAINING FOR LIFE AT AN NFB  
 CENTER: My Experience at the   
  
  
 Louisiana Center for the Blind:  
 Ahmad Shafi, NFBWV Member at   
 Large

11:00 AM CHALLENGING INACCESSIBILITY  
 AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL:  
 Miranda Lacy & Harold Rogers,  
 WVU MSW Students and NFBWV   
 Members at Large, & Sheri Koch   
 facilitating  
  
11:30 AM MY EXPERIENCE AS A TEACHER   
 OF MORROW: Wendy Bailey  
   
12:00 PM LUNCH   
  
1:30 PM GENERAL SESSION;   
 Convention Business (Montani   
 Semper Section)  
  
 BUILDING OUR AFFILIATE:   
 A ROADMAP FOR TODAY AND   
 TOMORROW; Final Report of the   
 Committee of the Whole on   
 Membership Building: Review &  
 Progress Report: Ed McDonald,   
 1st Vice-president and President   
 Members at Large Chapter  
  
      RESOLUTIONS: Ed McDonald, Mr.  
 Whereas  
  
 FINANCIAL MATTERS: Garrett   
 Harris, interim Treasurer   
   
 ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
   
 CHAPTER REPORTS:

Sightless Workers Guild Chapter   
 President, Jack Yahnke & Members   
 at Large Chapter President, Ed   
 McDonald   
  
 OPEN DISCUSSION: Review of Blind   
 Community Unity Day; Initiatives &   
 Priorities for the Coming Year:   
 Ed McDonald. Facilitator   
  
4:30 PM WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN  
  
6:30 PM BANQUET  
 Master of Ceremonies: Ed   
 McDonald  
 Keynote Speaker: Jesse Sherik

**Sunday, November 3, 2024**9:00 AM IN MEMORIUM, Remembering  
 Those We’ve Loved and Lost:   
 Marla Sewell, Members at Large   
 (Montani Semper Section)  
  
10:00 AM WRAP-UP, ADJOURN, & CHECK-  
 OUT  
  
  
  
**THANKS YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME, SPIRIT, AND GREAT IDEA! THE FELLOWSHIP WAS WONDERFUL! BE SAFE GOING HOME**.