

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio
Greater Akron Chapter
Meeting for Saturday February 21, 2026, 11am
to be held at
The Summit County Akron public Library
60 S. High Street
Akron Ohio 44326
Phone: 330-643-9000
And Zoom

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Legg at 11:00am.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Andra Stover. A quorum was present.

Guests Present were President Richard Payne, Susanne Turner, Iyabo Nadra, Colleen Roth, Chasity Gillium, and Linda Bluford.

The Belief Message was led by Vice President Jessica Stover.

We advance the lives of our members and all blind people in the United States. The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. Our collective power, determination, and diversity achieve the aspirations of all blind people.

February 2026 Presidential Release for Chapters played by Michael Moore.

REPORTS

President's Report was given by Kathy Legg.

She welcomed members and visitors.

Keep chapter members in prayer, as they are focusing on health and recovering, Nichole Schmidt, Robert Legg, and the entire family of NFB.

Vice President's Report was given by Jessica Stover.

She spoke about the member profile. She reached out to someone from the national office and has not heard back yet. The membership committee is working on putting training of some sorts together to learn about the member profile. Stay tuned. Susanne gave extra information regarding the profile. She stated there are three phases, membership, leadership, and individual portal where you update demographics. If you have not received this email to update, contact Susanne Turner. Pat mentioned a lot of people have changed their emails and have not notified the national office. If you have any issues, email Susanne and copy President Payne.

Secretary Report:

Voting on November 15, 2025, and January 17 2026, 26 minutes

A motion was made by Shane Popplestone to accept the meeting minutes for November 2025. The motion was seconded by Dawn Bilpuch. The motion moved and carried.

A motion was made by Jessica to accept the meeting minutes for January. The motion was seconded by Shane Popplestone. The motion moved and carried.

Treasurer Report: Pat McPherson

Voting on January 2026 Treasurer report.

Nfb Ohio Grater Akron

Treasurer report

January 1–31, 2026

Previous Balance **1,757.63**

Checks.00 Debits 100.00

01-08 100.00 Debit Zelle NFB OH (D.C.Seminar)

Deposits and credits +110.00

1/05 40.00 Zelle Credit(Dues)

1/12 10.00 Zelle Credit(Dues)

1/15 30.00 Zelle Credit(Dues)

1/28 20.00 Zelle Credit(Dues)

1/28 10.00 Zelle Credit(Dues)

Current Balance 1,767.63

A motion was made by Dawn Bilpuch to accept the treasurer report for January. The motion was seconded by Jessica Stover.

Shane Popplestone had a question regarding the balance. He wanted clarification of the balance. This was clarified by Pat.

The motion moved and carried.

Birthdays: February 2026

Charles Bartee February 2, Sandra Guttuso and Kathy Legg February 20.

Committee Reports:

Fund Raising reported by Pat McPherson.

Pat mentioned the idea of having a Double Good Popcorn fundraiser in April.

A motion was made by Shane Popplestone that we have a fundraiser in April for Double Good Popcorn. The motion was seconded by Dawn Bilpuch. President Richard Payne informed members it should be the president asking for the motion. A motion was made by Shane Popplestone. The motion was seconded by Dawn Bilpuch. The motion moved and carried.

Newsline Shane Popplestone

Last weekend there was a Newsline outage, this did not affect the phone service. The service is now resolved and is up and running currently.

Events committee reported by Andra Stover.

A discussion was brought up about our annual picnic at Oak Park as we have done for the past several summers. Charles Bartee mentioned the fact that it has not been well attended for the past two years. The idea was brought up to perhaps have a summer gathering at a restaurant. Jessica said it would be nice if the location had outdoor seating weather permitting. If anyone has ideas let Andra Know. We just have to make sure it can be a location everyone can travel to; also, we can hold the event on a weekday if necessary.

Membership Pat McPherson

We lost a few members that did not renew their membership. If you know of anyone interested in joining, let Kathy or Pat know. Kathy updated 211 with her contact information, if you need pamphlets, let Kathy know. Share your story. Dawn informed everyone about an app where you can find programs. The app is called Find Help. We would be able to put our information in the app.

President Payne, spoke to the group. He is always happy to come to this chapter meeting. This is a chapter he helped form. A national convention and state convention is an effective way to get new members to come. We have to find a way to get members to attend these conventions. If you are a first-time attendee, apply for the Kenneth Jernigan scholarship. He also spoke about the importance of receiving email from the national office. This is why it is important to update your membership demographics. If you need anything, let him know.

New Business:

Committees

If you would like to see a certain committee, please reach out.

Let this year be the year that you are on a committee to help your chapter.

Pat McPherson is the chair of Nominating committee.

State convention 2026 bus to Dayton

Cleveland Chapter will charter a bus coach to Dayton.:

The price of a round-trip seat is \$120 per passenger.

You can begin installment payments starting on January 17, 2026

A \$30 deposit is due by March 21, 2026, to secure your seat.

Final payment is due on September 21, 2026.

Deposits are final.

Kathy or Pat needs to know by the first week of March if you need a seat on the bus.

Voting on Chapter paying deposit to hold your seat.

A discussion was held regarding individuals paying the thirty up front and the chapter reimburses them. A motion was made by Robert Legg to have members pay their own thirty dollars. The motion was seconded by Tameka Hurt.

The motion moved and carried.

If you are planning on going, please let Pat or Kathy know.

Voting on Cincinnati pig Marathon. A motion was made by Jessica Stover, whereat the chapter purchased five tickets. The tickets are five dollars each for a total of twenty-five dollars. The motion was seconded by Masquenada Douglas. The motion moved and carried.

Susanne informed everyone that for every five dollars, two dollars goes to the individual chapters.

Voting on Applebee's fundraiser

To have two fundraisers, one in the spring and fall

Thursday May 14 or 21 2026. A motion was made by Dawn Bilpuch that we hold two fundraisers, one in the spring and the other in the fall. The motion was seconded by Jessica Stover. The motion moved and carried.

Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship

Application deadline is April 15, 2026.

National Convention

Austin Texas from July 3rd to July 8th.

The JW Marriott Austin will serve as our headquarters hotel,

Austin Marriott Downtown, just a short walk away, will provide overflow space.

Our 2026 convention hotel rate is \$139 per night for singles and doubles.

Triples and quads are available for \$155 per night.

Sales tax and a tourism fee total a combined 19 percent.

Reservation NO: 800-535-4028

2026 NFB Ohio State 80th Convention will be in Dayton!

November 5-8, 2026.

2026 Theme:

“Reflecting Our Journey, shaping a New Vision: Empowering Members to Inspire the Future.”

The 80th Ohio State convention will be held at

the University of Dayton, Marriott Hotel.

1414 South Patterson Blvd.

Dayton Ohio 45409.

(800) 627-4688.

Individuals must identify themselves as being with the group, (The National Federation of the Blind), at the time the reservation is made.

The discounted room rate is \$129.00, with taxes of 16.5%.

You have a chance to win on Flying Pig Marathon Weekend and the charity you select receives 100% of your donation!

GRAND PRIZE: \$10,000 Cash*

(\$5,000 to the charity and \$5,000 to the winning ticket holder)

SECOND PRIZE: \$5,000 Cash*

(\$2,500 to the charity and \$2,500 to the winning ticket holder)
THIRD PRIZE: Cincinnati Get-Away Experience
(\$1,500 in Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. Vouchers)

The Braille and Technology report by Masquenada Douglas. The report will be reported at next month's meeting as time was running out.

Other Business

Saturday February 28, 2026

NFB Ohio State Board Meeting 10:00 am

NFB Ohio zoom room.

The March meeting will be held at the Cuyahoga Falls Library.

Non-twenty-four will be our speaker.

Important Dates

NFB Ohio State Board Meeting

Saturday February 28, 2026, 10:00 am

NFB Ohio Zoom Room

NFB Ohio Greater Akron Meeting

March 21, 2026, 11/00am-1:00pm

2015 3rd Street

Cuyahoga Falls Ohio 44221

330-928-2117

National Convention July 3-8, 2026

NFV Ohio State Convention November 5-8, 2026

A motion was made by Pat McPherson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jessica Stover. The meeting ended at 12:46pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andra Stover.