

“THE BLIND SPOT”

Oklahoma Council of the Blind

Affiliate of the American Council of the Blind

P.O. Box 1476, Oklahoma City, OK 73101

1-877-578-6212

Website: [www.okcb.org](http://www.okcb.org)

2025 Convention Edition

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote equal opportunities for blind Oklahomans to participate fully in society and achieve a better quality of life.

Debbie Sanders, Editor

Contributors: Vicki Golightly, Frances Poindexter, Joseph Bundy

# 2025 Oklahoma Council of the Blind Convention

## Seizing Possibilities with OCB

By Vicky Golightly and Frances Poindexter

Convention Co-Chairs

This is your personal invitation to join us at the 2025 OCB Conference and Convention in Oklahoma City on September 26-28. Without you, OCB would not be an advocacy influencer for equal disability rights, a vehicle to introduce assistive technology and other products, or the ability to offer opportunities to help people cope with vision loss. Yes, without your individual story and perspective, whether you have been a member for decades, a few years, or are just joining us, OCB is your organization, and all voices are important.

The convention theme is “Seizing Possibilities with OCB.” Let’s seize this time to learn, laugh, reach higher and higher, and make new friends.

## Hotel Information

The hotel is the Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 2101 S. Meridian. Sleeping room reservations must be made by September 8. We seized the great rate of $89 per night plus applicable taxes for one to four occupants. Make your reservations today by calling Stephanie Jackson or Lisa with the Wyndham at (405) 685-4000. Be sure to tell them the code to guarantee our convention rate. The code is 092625ocb. Unfortunately, the hotel cannot make reservations through its website. Be sure to let the hotel staff know if you need special accommodations.

On Friday, in partnership with Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI), a division of the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), there will be a professional/consumer seminar featuring information on client services, how counselors and clients can communicate to seize employment outcomes, updates on pertinent legislation, etc. This is your chance to establish relationships with professionals in the blindness and low vision field and to educate SBVI staff about your needs.

Our keynote speaker throughout the convention will be Koni Sims, member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of the Blind (ACB), which is OCB’s parent, national organization.

After the seminar, the Heartland Council of the Blind (HCB) will host a yummy dinner followed by fun and active games sponsored by OCB’s Next Generation Committee. Prepare to be challenged, entertained, and perhaps win cool prizes.

At this early date, Vendor Chair, Joseph Bundy and his committee already have commitments from 17 vendors to display low- and high-tech products, travel options, personal care items, Tupperware, jewelry, just to name a few. Vendors will be set up on Saturday from 8am to 5pm. We know you want to visit all of our vendors, but to sweeten the pot, your name will be put into a special drawing to win a gift card if you seize the signatures of all our exhibitors. There will be dedicated times during our program for you to browse the exhibit area.

We are still working on the Saturday schedule, but we know we will have the presentation of colors, a welcome by OCB and other officials, blindness agency updates, a product demonstration by ABLE Tech, a cooking panel, and maybe even an exercise session. We will have a silent auction on Saturday, which will close at 6pm. Our banquet will begin with awards, a presentation by Koni Sims, and followed by a live auction. So, bring your wallets and bid on your favorite items (even if your best friend wants it), laugh, and go home with something you just could not resist purchasing, all while supporting the efforts of OCB. There will also be some edible, scrumptious auction selections. Hungry?

After breakfast on Sunday morning, you are invited to a nondenominational church service led by Joseph Bundy with music by Debbie Eagle. The OCB Annual Membership Meeting will follow the church service and include a report from President Elaine Boykin, a reading of the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting minutes, a reading of the treasurer’s report, consideration of important resolutions affecting people who are blind or who have low vision, presentation of proposed Constitution amendments, consideration of proposed bylaws, election of officers for the next year, and consideration of the location of the next OCB Conference and Convention.

## Koni Sims’ Bio

Koni Sims, a proud South Dakotan and longtime advocate, has been a member of the American Council of the Blind (ACB) since 1984. She currently serves on the ACB Board of Directors. Within ACB, she co-chairs the Get Up and Get Moving Campaign, the Awards Committee, and the Transportation Committee. Koni is also deeply involved in the Voting Task Force 5.0 as Communications and Outreach Specialist and supports the Advocacy Steering Committee. She serves as ACB’s representative on both the ANSI A117.1 Committee and the International Building Code Hearings, lending her voice and expertise to improve national accessibility standards.

Koni is the Past President of the South Dakota Association of the Blind (SDAB) and continues to guide her local and state communities through various roles. In 2017, she was honored with the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Citizen with a Disability and received ACB’s JP Morgan Chase Award in 2020. She has also represented ACB as a board liaison to six affiliates, where her peers commend her fair leadership, communication, and ability to bring diverse viewpoints together.

With a background in health and wellness as a retired Medical Massage Practitioner and Certified Lymphedema Technician, Koni brings a practical, compassionate perspective to advocacy—especially for underserved rural communities. She is passionate about inclusive leadership, transparent communication, and ensuring that ACB’s programs reach all members effectively.

## Registration

Registration for the weekend is as follows:

Friday Seminar only, $65;

Convention only, $100; and,

Seminar and Convention, $120.

The registration form is on the OCB website at [www.okcb.org](http://www.okcb.org) under the Convention tab. You may also complete your registration by filling out the registration form at the end of this newsletter. Email your registration form to OCB Treasurer Frances Poindexter at lisspo@aol.com, pay for your registration on our website through Pay Pal, or call Frances at (405) 642-1068 to pay by credit card.

## Awards

OCB has two prestigious awards. They are the Gordon P. Stephens Award and the LeRoy Saunders Award. Go to our website at [www.okcb.org](http://www.okcb.org) to read the awards guidelines and find out how to nominate a deserving person. You may contact Frances Poindexter at (405) 642-1068 or email her at lisspo@aol.com. You may also contact Pam Holloway at (405) 365-9717 or email her at pam8864@gmail.com.

## Nominations

If you would like to serve on the OCB Board of Directors next year, contact Nominating Committee Chair Marilyn Sanders at mksanders1348@gmail.com.

## Convention Scholarships

Ten scholarships are available for the 2025 OCB Conference and Convention in Oklahoma City from September 26-28.

Preference will be given to first-time convention applicants. Then, if there are scholarships left, they will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis to OCB members.

Please read the scholarship guidelines carefully. You must attend all meetings, submit your letter as to why you wish to attend the convention no later than August 15, 2025, and you must provide a summary of your experiences while at the convention by October 15, 2025.

The scholarship will pay for your registration, which includes lunch on Friday, the Heartland Council of the Blind dinner on Friday night, breakfast on Saturday, lunch on Saturday, the banquet on Saturday night, and breakfast on Sunday morning.

Please follow the guidelines by sending an email or postmarked letter to Convention Scholarship Chair Vicky Golightly at 425 N.W. 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73103, or email her at vgolight1@gmail.com. Emails are preferred. If you choose to mail a letter, it must be received by August 15. For more information, contact Scholarship Committee Chair Vicky Golightly at (405) 740-6227 or email her at vgolight1@gmail.com.

## Conference and Convention Scholarship Guidelines

Scholarship applicants must be visually impaired or blind.

No more than two people per household are eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Applicants must write a letter either by email or by postal mail to explain why they wish to attend the OCB Conference and Convention.

Scholarship requests must be submitted by August 15 for that convention year.

Scholarship applicants will be notified if they are selected to receive a scholarship on or before August 15. Scholarships will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis for first-timers and the same for people who have attended the convention before if there are scholarships remaining. When the scholarships have been awarded, a notice will be sent to the remaining applicants not selected, and recipients’ names will be placed on the OCB list serv.

Scholarship recipients must attend all meetings and write a summary report after the convention to be received no later than October 15 of that convention year.

## Individual Sponsorships

If you wish to donate toward the expenses incurred for the convention, such as printing of the convention program, please indicate your wish on the registration form. You may also contact Treasurer Frances Poindexter at (405) 642-1068, or email her at lisspo@aol.com. You may also pay for sponsorships on our website.

## T-Shirts

If you wish to order a t-shirt, you can do so on the convention registration form.

## For More Information

Do you have additional questions? Feel free to contact the convention chairs, Vicky Golightly and Frances Poindexter. Most importantly, get ready to “Seize Possibilities with OCB” throughout the convention. We are looking forward to seeing new and old faces and forging long-term relationships.

## Convention Exhibit Hall

by Joseph Bundy, Vendor Committee Chair

The Oklahoma Council of the Blind is excited to announce an impressive lineup of vendors for the 2025 State Convention, and we are confident you will be pleased with the variety of offerings. This year, we are featuring both familiar vendors and new faces, providing a wide range of products that are perfect for personal use or thoughtful gifts.

Returning vendors include Nanopac, Jeri’s House, and the Library for the Blind. Additionally, we will welcome new exhibitors such as Tupperware, Mary Kay, Wilderness Adventures Ministry, and Dana’s Creations. Zac Lancour from Aflac Insurance will also be present to share information on various insurance options and how to plan for future needs.

We are especially excited to highlight Bubbles and Squeaks, a local pet treat company known for their all-natural, preservative-free treats for both dogs and cats. Another unique exhibitor, Oklahoma Crochet, will showcase handmade crochet items.

Patterson’s Transportation, a new service providing affordable transportation for individuals who are blind or disabled, will be on hand to discuss their offerings, which include assistance with doctor appointments, work, shopping, and other essential needs.

These are just a few of the 18 vendors confirmed to join us at the 2025 OCB State Convention. In addition, we will feature several other exhibitors, such as Dean McGee and the Lawton Council of the Blind, who have contributed with advertisements in the convention program.

We encourage you to take time to visit the vendor hall and connect with both familiar faces and new, exciting exhibitors. Let’s show our support and make them feel welcome so they will be encouraged to return for future events.

**Oklahoma Council of the Blind Convention Registration Form**

**September 26th thru 28th, 2025**

Please complete the form below and mail or email, to Frances Poindexter, 9213 Apple Dr., Midwest City, OK. 73130 emails: lisspo@aol.com make check payable to OCB. Registration deadline is September 8, 2025. You can also go to okcb.org to pay via PayPal.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Home Phone (\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Friday Seminar Only $65

\_\_\_\_ OCB Convention Only $100

\_\_\_\_ OCB Convention and Friday Seminar $120

I need my program in \_\_ Large Print \_\_ Braille \_\_\_\_ Electronic\*

(If electronic make sure we have your Email address above)

Dietary needs, such as vegetarian, diabetic, etc. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need assistive hearing device \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

\_\_I would like a T-Shirt-$20. Please indicate size: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Individual Sponsor amount $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hotel is $89 a night plus tax for up to 1-4 people. Guaranteed room rate if reservation made by September 8, 2025. Wyndham Garden Inn in Oklahoma City, OK For reservations call 1-405-685-4000 and ask for Stephanie Jackson or Lisa. Give the following code 092625OCB

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PO Box 1476

OKC, OK 73101

Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped