



People First of Nebraska, Inc.

Advocacy for and by People with Disabilities

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August 1, 2019

Dear People First Chapters,

You probably know that the hotel in Kearney that hosts our convention every year was seriously damaged in the floods there in early July. Because of the time it takes to make repairs, **the PFN annual convention has been rescheduled to October 25, 26 & 27, 2019.**

However, it's never too early to start getting ready for convention! In this letter and enclosed in this envelope you will find lots of information to help you and your chapter make this the best convention ever!

1. **Break-Out Session Presentations.** We are looking for self-advocates to present break-out sessions at our convention. What do you know or do that you would like to share with others? This could be a job skill, something you do to stay healthy or live independently, a leisure activity like a craft or sport, a leadership or advocacy skill, or maybe you volunteer with a another group or organization that you would like to tell us about. Presentations can be 20 minutes or 45 minutes and you can present by yourself or with another person. Presentation forms are due by September 15.
2. **Convention Registration.** The bad news is that costs have gone up a little bit since last year, and so the registration price has been raised about \$10. The GOOD NEWS is that the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities is giving us scholarships so people can come to the convention! If you do the full registration, including a hotel room and t-shirt, you will receive a **\$60 scholarship**. If you come for the Friday/Saturday/Sunday sessions only (no hotel room), you will **save \$30**. Scholarships are available until they run out, so REGISTER EARLY!
3. **Service Award Nominations.** Now is the time to recognize People First members and advisors and people in your community who help make us a better and stronger organization! Nominate them for a People First of Nebraska service award! You and your chapter can nominate more than one person or group, but you must fill out the form and tell us WHY that person or chapter deserves to win. Nominations are due September 15.
4. **Program Advertisement Sales.** Selling ads for our program helps us keep our registration costs low. Our Board asks that EVERY chapter sell at least two ads for our program. It might sound a little scary at first, but most businesses like supporting groups like People First. You may find out that you are a born sales person! Enclosed are some tips on how to sell ads, a form for you and the advertiser to fill out, and a copy of last year's program. Show the business the program so they can see that we are a professional organization! Ads are due by September 15.
5. **Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!** Just like past years, we ask that each chapter bring a large prize for the big raffle, 10 small prizes for Bingo, and 1 or 2 items for the Sunday morning raffle.

As you can see, YOU are a big part making our convention a success. Talk with your chapter about all these items at your next chapter meetings and remember the deadlines for each. If you have ANY questions or are worried you may not meet a deadline, please call Kellie, state coordinator, at 402-559-4892 or e-mail me at peoplefirstnebraska@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Kellie Ellerbusch, PFN State Coordinator

"Nothing About Us Without Us!"