**Dots and Dashes**

**March 25, 2024**

# **Now Is the Time to Certify Your Membership**

The AMMS certification report must be submitted by the end of the day on March 31st.

Go to the certification tab in AMMS and verify that the members you want to be certified have a “yes” in the “CY Certified” column. Review your information before submitting your certification report, because the number of members you have certified as of March 31 will determine how many votes your affiliate will receive for elections at the national convention.

Once you’ve verified the members you want to be certified, check the summary report to be sure this number matches your membership list. Then submit your certification report. Make sure you receive confirmation that your certification report has been submitted. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours, contact the Minneapolis office at (612) 332-3242.

Do NOT send your dues payment until your report has been processed by our offices.

# **Awards Deadlines Coming Up**

The Awards Committee is searching for nominees who you feel are deserving of national recognition for their work in ACB or the blindness community. For more information, including the names of the awards and criteria, visit [**https://www.acb.org/call-nominees-2024-acb-awards**](https://www.acb.org/call-nominees-2024-acb-awards).

All nomination letters must be received electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on April 1st, 2024. Letters received after that date will not be accepted. We ask that letters be limited to no more than 750 words. Please be sure to email your nomination letters to **acbawards1@gmail.com**.

# **Board of Publications Awards Deadline**

The deadline for the Board of Publications’ three awards – the Ned E. Freeman Excellence in Writing Award, the Vernon Henley Media Award, and the Hollis Liggett Braille Free Press Award – is also coming up on April 1st. Affiliate newsletter editors are encouraged to send in articles that have appeared in their newsletters between April 2023 and March 2024. For more information, visit [**https://www.acb.org/bop-seeks-award-excellence-writing-media**](https://www.acb.org/bop-seeks-award-excellence-writing-media).

# **ACB Community News**

Congratulations to Patty Fletcher, ACB Community’s Volunteer of the Month for February.

ACB Community recently celebrated its fourth anniversary and its 17,000th event.

# **Member on the Mic**

Member on the Mic is a highlight of the ACB Voices blog, where you can find the members who have had their turn at the mic by clicking [**http://ACBVoices.org**](http://ACBVoices.org). For the last year we have been featuring ACB members who may not be known well by the membership; members who inspire, have interesting stories or are doing the “Good Work.” We feature their projects and a photo along with a transcript of the interview.

We’re looking for more members who inspire, create, motivate, have interesting stories, and/or do good work. Want to nominate someone? Send an email to **slovering@acb.org**. Please include the person’s full name, state or special-interest affiliate, contact email and/or phone number.

# **ACB Leadership Conference Survey**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s D.C. Leadership Conference! If you participated in the conference in-person in Arlington or virtually at home, ACB would appreciate your feedback on this event. Complete the feedback survey online at [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6JDFP86**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6JDFP86). If you are unable to complete this survey online, call Kaitlyn Herrera at (202) 467-8967 to complete the survey over the phone.

# **Calling All Candidates!**

The ACB Board of Publications is pleased to announce the 2024 Candidates Pages. We invite any ACB member who chooses to run for one of the five elected positions on our board of directors or the three elected positions on the Board of Publications to introduce yourself, respond to the four questions provided below, and, if you wish, post links, separately, to related personal, professional, or social media web pages.

Your response to each of the four questions listed below should not exceed 300 words. The ACB Board of Publications will not edit your responses for spelling or grammar.

1. Introduce yourself, and explain why you wish to serve as a director on the ACB Board of Directors or a member of the ACB Board of Publications.
2. What have been your strongest contributions to ACB at the national, state or special-interest affiliate, ACB Community, and/or local chapter levels, and why are these significant?
3. Like many not-for-profit, membership-driven organizations whose missions revolve around advocacy and support, ACB has chosen in recent years to adopt the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). How does ACB’s stated mission of supporting people who are blind intersect with these core organizational values? If elected, what specific actions will you take to increase diversity, promote equity, encourage inclusion, and support accessibility within ACB, and how will you persuade members who are reluctant to embrace these principles to support DEIA as core ACB values?
4. What is the most important challenge facing ACB? How will you work to address it?

Send your Candidates Page, either in the body of an email or as a Word attachment, to **slovering@acb.org**, with the subject line “My Candidates Page.” The deadline for all submissions is 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Monday, May 20, 2024. Visit [**www.acb.org**](http://www.acb.org) for more information.

# **Registration Now Open for the Audio Description Institute**

Registration is now open for the Audio Description Project’s Audio Description Institute, taking place virtually April 8-12, from 1 to 5 p.m. Eastern. There are just a few spots left, so don’t delay! The registration deadline is this Friday, March 29th, at 5 p.m. Eastern.

For more information, visit [**https://adp.acb.org/education.html**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fadp.acb.org%2Feducation.html%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0rn9Qr7eShSR8VRZrdxbPOiHRXV9xaZlNazb6kKUNyB6vks66CL-vY7OI&h=AT0Np7NflhO84551IdMwBnb7eVONxkiX6BvbwF3nWTcwRTSAlDOvVAEb2AleppkgcugsKiKU6TpbmKYl000aZob_H96inLDavVegwUQ0AdeWrFnOqTZGOrjLuHmQT3tKig&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1mTbk7NhwZVx598hGyRV3O8mQq6aoNoy0MENXRxmwHOLuKgQu6eet22_6-iBrwEzQ937G0L3lKeFkPZVC4IyZmHzlbNZ2hRxZE1jvjPVvT0NgJruxaovTQUPX2yOwUp5iHpnwgJBLZqXdG5eG4nVk9bNzw-PWrnqD4gtKOsT3kBuh4-DEbZje4s2M9CNjHHvdj5wE-OjUr)**.** To register, visit [**https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E144393&id=94**](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E144393&id=94).

# **CCLVI Auction**

The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI) invites you to an auction, celebrating 45 years of serving our low vision community.

Join us Friday, April 5, 2024, at 7 p.m. Eastern time on Zoom. There will be many exciting items to bid on, such as mouth-watering goodies, kitchen gadgets, music boxes, large print calendars, gift cards and more.

For more information, contact Patti Cox at (502) 905-0869 or Terry Pacheco at (301) 806-4948.

# **ACB Next Generation Auction**

Come one, come all, and join us for ACB Next Generation’s second annual Spring Into Auction on Sunday, April 7, 2024. The auction will be held virtually on Zoom starting at 7 p.m. Eastern.

There are more than 50 items up for bid this year, including gift cards for places like Starbucks and Apple, apparel from Blind Girl Designs, and private lessons for cooking and technology.

To register for the auction, visit [**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftoG6h1KyIQkXOpOca4drw-1rpdw1bs2-XyHWHDEliYrtDVQ/viewform**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftoG6h1KyIQkXOpOca4drw-1rpdw1bs2-XyHWHDEliYrtDVQ/viewform).

If you have questions, send an email message to **fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org**.

# **BANA Spring Meeting**

The Braille Authority of North America is holding its spring meeting this week at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Ky. Items on their agenda include a review of formal reports from BANA's technical committees, such as Nemeth, Chemistry, and Tactile Graphics, as well as its general committees and task forces, such as the BANA General Committee on UEB and the Outreach Committee. BANA members will act on recommendations and will issue committee charges when appropriate.

Current officers are:

Chair: Jen Goulden (CNIB)

Vice Chair: Mary Nelle McLennan (Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired)

Secretary: Amber Pearcy (National Braille Press)

Treasurer: Danette Johnson (Hadley)

Past Chair: Tamara Rorie (National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled)

# **Casting Call**

The producers of Blindsight are searching for a lead actress with low vision and experiencing vision loss. The lead character is Lucie, who is Latina in her late 20’s. Lucie is an aspiring, talented musician, soft-spoken yet resilient, and struggling with vision loss.

Spanish-speaking preferred. To be considered for the part, email **auditionblindsight@gmail.com** and include a short introductory video about yourself, your interest, and your vision. The deadline for submission is **April 3, 2024.**

# **Career Fair Update**

The 24th Annual Diversity Employment Day Career Fair for Washington, DC/Arlington, Va. will take place Wednesday, April 3, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Doubletree Hotel Hilton Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202**. The event is free, and open to the public.

There will be hundreds of jobs and career positions being hired for, from major employers. These employers are paying premium compensation for experienced candidates, willing to train new candidates and working hard to build a team and workforce that reflects all the communities they serve. Fields include healthcare and diversity, high tech and engineering, law enforcement and veterans, and many more.

For more information, visit [**https://citycareerfair.com/dc/**](https://citycareerfair.com/dc/). To register, go to [**https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dcvirginia-in-person-ip-diversity-employment-day-career-fair-04032024-tickets-737636720287?aff**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dcvirginia-in-person-ip-diversity-employment-day-career-fair-04032024-tickets-737636720287?aff).

# **Device Helps Blind & Visually Impaired People Experience Eclipse**

The next solar eclipse will be on Monday, April 8, 2024. A team of astronomers has created a device that lets people who are blind or have low vision experience a solar eclipse. The LightSound device converts light to sound, changing pitch as the sky darkens. Listen here: [**https://tinyurl.com/ycyt9k8u**](https://tinyurl.com/ycyt9k8u)

To request your own LightSound device, visit [**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHbtNRZ5QSmJBpSeJgGi66SwadY9jXopCce2qYCZt\_agwN1Q/viewform**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHbtNRZ5QSmJBpSeJgGi66SwadY9jXopCce2qYCZt_agwN1Q/viewform).

Lighthouse Guild offers five tips to help protect your eyes while viewing the eclipse:

* One safe way to look directly at the sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or handheld solar viewers. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. They transmit thousands of times too much sunlight.
* If you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on. Put your eclipse glasses on over them or hold your handheld viewer in front of them.
* Stand still and cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking up at the bright sun. After looking at the sun, turn away and remove your filter. Do not remove it while looking at the sun.
* Do not look at the sun through a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewer. The concentrated solar rays could damage the eclipse glasses and allow harmful rays to enter your eyes, causing serious injury.
* Never look at the sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.

# **Chicago Lighthouse Scholarships**

Applications are now being accepted for The Chicago Lighthouse’s Lader Family Scholarship Program for the 2024-25 academic year. The Lader Family Scholarship is open to Illinois residents who are blind, vision impaired or multi-disabled (vision impaired with an additional diagnosis) who are pursuing any type of accredited post-secondary education, including associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, professional certifications, or post-collegiate graduate studies.

Scholarships are between $1,000 and $5,000 and are based on a variety of factors, including need, area of study and overall strength of application. Scholarship recipients will be expected to attend the award ceremony on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at The Chicago Lighthouse.

Applications must be completed before **9 a.m. on April 29th.** You may apply online at [**https://chicagolighthouse.org/program/lighthouse-scholarship/?mc\_cid=a4e3736d9e&mc\_eid=22cf83ca70**](https://chicagolighthouse.org/program/lighthouse-scholarship/?mc_cid=a4e3736d9e&mc_eid=22cf83ca70).

# **Paul Hearne Emerging Leader Award Winners**

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) recently announced the recipients of its 2024 Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Awards, an award given to emerging leaders with disabilities who exemplify leadership, advocacy, and dedication to the broader cross-disability community.

The recipients are Valois Vera and the Medical Students with Disability and Chronic Illness (MSDCI) team, Zainub Dhanani, Nora Newcomb, and Ifeoma Ikedionwu.

For more information, visit [**https://www.aapd.com/paul-g-hearne-emerging-leaders-award/**](https://www.aapd.com/paul-g-hearne-emerging-leaders-award/).