**Dots and Dashes**

**November 20, 2023**

# **ACB Media Holiday Auction: Register Now!**

Now is the time to register to participate in the ACB Media Holiday Auction! If you or someone you know is interested in bidding on this year’s items, sign up on [**members.acb.org**](https://members.acb.org/).

1. You will need to log in. If you haven’t already created an account, click on CREATE AN ACCOUNT, complete the registration form, and when you are finished entering your information, click submit profile and proceed to login; then you will need to log back into the account.
2. At the top of the next screen will be the Holiday Auction Registration link. Click on the link and then click on the Holiday Auction sign up button.
3. After signing up, you will receive an email with detailed Holiday Auction information. If you do not receive this email, check your junk/spam folder. If you still did not receive the email, call (612) 332-3242.

A list of the auction items is posted at [**https://www.acb.org/2023-acb-media-holiday-auction**](https://www.acb.org/2023-acb-media-holiday-auction). If you’d like an email copy, contact Leslie Spoone at [**407-678-4163**](tel:407-678-4163) or (407) 678-0075, or email her at [**lesliespoone@cfl.rr.com**](mailto:lesliespoone@cfl.rr.com).

Appetizer auctions will be held on Friday, November 24th and Saturday, November 25th. Each Sneak a Peek appetizer auction will open at noon Eastern with an email and close at noon Eastern the following day. The Sneak a Peek auction information will be emailed out through ACB’s leadership list. If you aren’t on ACB’s leadership or conversation lists and want to be included in the sneak a peek auction, please contact Leslie Spoone at the email address or phone number above.

# **ACB Now on Mastodon**

The ACB Board of Directors passed a motion at its September 30 meeting to establish a presence on Mastodon as part of our social media communications. This was done in response to concerns expressed by members that the X (Twitter) platform may not be as accessible as it once was due to the discontinuation of support for third-party clients.

We soft-launched on Mastodon a few weeks ago, so if you’ve found us, you’ve already received some posts. Information posted to Mastodon will be the same as that posted to Facebook and X and complements what is posted to email lists and to Dots and Dashes.

Follow the American Council of the Blind on Mastodon, @ACBNational.mastodon.social.

# **Know Someone Who Would Be Good for Member on the Mic?**

The ACB Board of Publications invites you to nominate someone to “Member on the Mic.”

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 take an Associated Press-style approach and hear from them in their own words, feature their projects and a photo, as well as a transcript of the interview.

“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 microphone by clicking [**ACBVoices.org**](http://ACBVoices.org).

If you would like to nominate someone who would be great for “Member on the Mic,” please send an email to [**slovering@acb.org**](mailto:slovering@acb.org). Please send full name of member, state or special-interest affiliate, contact email and/or phone number.

We look forward to the many ACB stories to come.

# **Lights, Camera, Description!**

The American Council of the Blind’s Audio Description Project (ADP) and the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) are now accepting entries for BADIE, or the Benefits of Audio Description in Education, an essay contest for young people (ages 7 to 21) who are blind or have low vision. It’s a great chance for students to engage with accessible learning materials, unleash their inner film critic, and compete for fun prizes.

## **How Students Can Enter:**

1. Browse the free DCMP library at <https://dcmp.org/>[.](http://www.dcmp.org/)
2. Watch any audio-described film (there are more than 6,000 educational titles to choose from!).
3. Write an evaluation of the film’s audio description, commenting on the ways the audio description enhanced or detracted from your experience.
4. Visit [http://badiecontest.org](http://badiecontest.org/) to submit your entry. There you’ll also find guidelines and prize details, tips on writing a good review, and information about how audio description is created.

**Categories:**

* Alternate Assessment – students with non-traditional matriculation records
* Sophomore – ages 7–10
* Junior – ages 11–15
* Senior – ages 16–21

**Deadline and Prizes:**

* The deadline for contest entries is **February 11, 2024.**
* Winners will be notified by the end of March 2024.
* There will be first, second, and third place winners in each category, as well as a grand prize winner who will be awarded an iPad mini and invited to read his/her essay at the American Council of the Blind's National Conference and Convention in July 2024.
* Teachers of first-place winners also receive prizes.

Go to [**http://badiecontest.org**](http://badiecontest.org/) for complete details and to submit your entry!

# **Help Make National Park Brochures Accessible**

Join the 2024 Descriptathon and help make national parks more accessible! ACB, the National Park Service, and UniDescription (UniD) are recruiting volunteers to create audio descriptions for selected national park brochures. Teams are composed of people who are sighted and people on the blindness spectrum, all of whom will collaborate to describe maps, paintings, and visual images within park brochures. All meetings are held remotely, so you might find yourself learning about a park in your state or across the continent.

The Descriptathon will take place February 6 - 8, 2024 (volunteers are expected to attend all three days). Participants will likely spend 10 hours of prep time in the five weeks before the kick-off on February 6 (approximately two hours a week). During this prep time, team members will learn about audio description, how to use the UniD tool to describe their brochure, and get to know their teammates. Four to six hours might be needed to finalize the brochure description after the three-day event. Volunteers should have solid computer skills and be comfortable learning new technology.

For more about UniD and to download the free app, visit [**https://unidescription.org/**](https://unidescription.org/). If you’d like to participate in the tenth Descriptathon in February 2024, contact Tabitha Kenlon at [**tkenlon@acb.org**](mailto:tkenlon@acb.org) and Brett Oppegaard at [**brett.oppegaard@hawaii.edu**](mailto:brett.oppegaard@hawaii.edu).

# **Calling All Veterans!**

Veterans of ACB, previously known as Visually Impaired Veterans of America (VIVA), will be holding its first membership meeting on January 11, 2024. It will be at 8 p.m. Eastern/5 p.m. Pacific.

If you know of someone who is a visually impaired veteran, a sighted veteran, or if you would just like to be a supporting member, please feel free to join us that evening. It won't be a traditional business meeting. I want to gather all of our interested members to discuss what is new with us and what we are looking forward to in 2024.

If you know of anyone interested, feel free to send them my way. Zoom information will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Cassie Trosper

President, Veterans of ACB

Phone: (541) 808-2899 (no texts, please)

[**cassie.trosper@yahoo.com**](mailto:cassie.trosper@yahoo.com)

# **Missouri Council Raffle**

The Missouri Council of the Blind is holding a raffle. First prize is $10,000; second prize, $5,000. If you’d like to order tickets, contact Jeff Creech at (636) 385-2085 or [**jeff.creech1002@gmail.com**](mailto:jeff.creech1002@gmail.com), or contact an MCB affiliate or member, [**www.moblind.org**](http://www.moblind.org). Tickets are $20 each, and will be mailed to you. The drawing will be held January 5, 2024.

**Free Webinar on Medicare Parts A, B and C**

The National Center on Law & Elder Rights is holding a free webinar focusing on Medicare Parts A, B and C on Wednesday, November 29 at 2 p.m. Eastern. Capacity is limited to 3,000 participants. Register at [**https://hhsacl.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/3416989600625/WN\_UTcBuChOREikMFRHWFi5rQ?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c73fe183-496f-4b4c-9edd-1bf2f69dfd4e#/registration**](https://hhsacl.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/3416989600625/WN_UTcBuChOREikMFRHWFi5rQ?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c73fe183-496f-4b4c-9edd-1bf2f69dfd4e#/registration).

Closed captioning will be available. Please be sure to log onto the webinar a few minutes early in order to secure your place for the live presentation on Zoom. If you would like to request ASL interpretation or have other accessibility-related questions, please email [**ncler@acl.hhs.gov**](mailto:ncler@acl.hhs.gov) at least one week in advance.

The webinar will be recorded and available on our website shortly after the presentation. The recording and training materials will also be emailed to all registrants within a few days after the training.

# **APTA Researching Accessibility in Public Transit**

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is conducting research on accessibility in public transit, specifically related to rider experience for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The objectives of this research project are to identify current challenges that may lead to barriers to ride and to promote current agency programs, services, and best practices within the industry. We will present recommendations for future improvements to public transportation systems to enhance the overall rider experience for these individuals who rely on public transportation as a primary means of mobility.

We have created a survey for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to provide insight from our target rider group. To access the individual-focused survey, please click on the link below. The survey period will close on **December 15, 2023:**

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCT2SCQ**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCT2SCQ)

# **Texas Boys’ Goalball Team Plays Florida in Tough Game**

The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired boys’ goalball team blazed through the competition, securing their spot in the semifinals and ultimately reaching the coveted gold medal match.

The electrifying game unfolded with both teams fiercely trading leads. When the final buzzer sounded, the score stood deadlocked at 16-16, setting the stage for a nail-biting sudden-death overtime. It was one of the most epic goalball clashes ever witnessed. With the championship title hanging in the balance, the tension was palpable.  
  
The Texas boys faced an unfortunate bounce, and the title slipped through their fingers as Florida emerged victorious, crowning them the champions.

# **Justice Department Secures Agreement with Arizona Prison System**

The Justice Department announced that the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation, and Reentry (ADCRR) has agreed to adopt systemwide reforms to correct and prevent discrimination against incarcerated people with vision disabilities.

The [agreement](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmp1c3RpY2UuZ292L2Q5LzIwMjMtMTEvYWRjcnJfc2V0dGxlbWVudF9hZ3JlZW1lbnQucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzExMTYuODU3NzM2OTEifQ.gwxoj2_p3r9jFXePGwwy6EOTsmFpc98qSP0l1WySclU/s/524151806/br/231021822960-l) resolves the Justice Department’s [findings](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmp1c3RpY2UuZ292L21lZGlhLzEzMDY1NDYvZGw_aW5saW5lPSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE2Ljg1NzczNjkxIn0.R0w9QuG4oqBBERvJ6eRWQ-t6rkODg39xTPU4CqFmtcM/s/524151806/br/231021822960-l) that ADCRR violated Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by discriminating against incarcerated individuals with vision disabilities, including those who are blind or have low vision. The department found that ADCRR failed to reasonably modify its policies or provide auxiliary aids and services, such as Braille materials and displays, audio recordings and screen reader software, to ensure that people with vision disabilities could communicate effectively while incarcerated. ADCRR failed to provide accessible processes to request accommodations or file disability-related complaints. ADCRR also over-relied on other incarcerated people to help individuals with vision disabilities without properly training or supervising those providing help.

Under the three-year agreement, ADCRR will retain an expert third-party consultant to help revise its policies and practices, train its personnel and provide necessary modifications, aids and services and assistive technology to people with vision disabilities in ADCRR custody. ADCRR will regularly report to the department and adopt robust screening and documentation procedures to ensure people with vision disabilities are provided with any aids and services they need throughout their incarceration. ADCRR will also designate a systemwide ADA Administrator and facility ADA coordinators to ensure consistent implementation of the agreement across all state facilities.

# **DOJ Finds Oklahoma Mobile ID App Is Inaccessible**

The Justice Department announced recently that Service Oklahoma violated Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act by maintaining a mobile application called the Oklahoma Mobile ID Application (OK Mobile ID App) that is inaccessible to individuals with vision disabilities.

To use the OK Mobile ID App, people must scan or take photos of their identification cards and take pictures of themselves by connecting the dots that appear on the screen using only head and eye movements. Both tasks are difficult or impossible for individuals who are blind to do without receiving any verbal feedback. The department found that Service Oklahoma denies people with vision disabilities equal access to the OK Mobile ID App and fails to ensure that communications with them are as effective as communications with others. For more information, read the [press release](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmp1c3RpY2UuZ292L29wYS9wci9qdXN0aWNlLWRlcGFydG1lbnQtZmluZHMtb2tsYWhvbWEtbW9iaWxlLWFwcC1pbmFjY2Vzc2libGUtcGVvcGxlLXZpc2lvbi1kaXNhYmlsaXRpZXMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE2Ljg1NzU4MzcxIn0.5noV6-InVhThWfoaUvH6iTQR_M9ACPhJPejd1vzKgFE/s/973187243/br/230978023192-l) and [letter of findings](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmp1c3RpY2UuZ292L2Q5LzIwMjMtMTEvMTEuMTUuMjAyM19zZXJ2aWNlX29rbGFob21hX2xvZi5wZGYiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTE2Ljg1NzU4MzcxIn0.s66BdIydJ0MgPl5ZUqgvsvH0tZFqCwbM_BRD3MFq9Hk/s/973187243/br/230978023192-l).