# **Dots and Dashes**

# **December 19, 2022**

# **Year End Celebrations and Reflections**

As we move through this season of celebration to welcome a new year, we want to reach out to share a moment of reflection and gratitude. It is because of each of you that ACB remains strong. The very bedrock of our existence stands firm through the investments of your time, talent, and treasure. You contributed over 37,000 volunteer hours to supporta multitude ofprograms, services, and critical advocacy efforts, offered wise counsel as board and committee members, and gave generously through individual donations totaling over $280,000 in 2022. Learn more about how your collective support and efforts ensured the success of ACB in 2022 by visiting [www.acb.org/2022-year-end](mailto:kim.charlson@perkins.org).

# **ACB 2023 Leadership Conference**

ACB’s 2023 Leadership Conference will have both a virtual and an in-person component. Registration for the conference opens on Tuesday, January 31st and will cost $25. ACB’s Presidents’ Meeting and Legislative Seminar will take place virtually from March 4-7, and will include a Fireside Chat on Sunday, March 5.

The in-person portion of the Leadership Conference will take place at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town from March 9-12 in Alexandria, Va.

For more details, visit [https://www.acb.org/2023-leadership-announcement](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rideshare-Denial).

# **Elf Pets Christmas Presentation with Audio Description**

The American Council of the Blind and The Lumistella Company are proud to offer a special audio described broadcast of the animated holiday special, “Elf Pets: A Fox Cub’s Christmas Tale,” to make holiday cheer more widely available to all this season. On December 23, this holiday program will also feature an audio described production of Rory Hoffman’s “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” a visit from Santa himself and live phone calls from kids. The event will air at 3 p.m. ET on December 23 on [ACB Media 2](https://www.concept2.com/news/holiday-challenge-2022-starts-november-24) and ACB’s [YouTube](https://www.scribelytribe.com/) and [Facebook](mailto:advocacy@acb.org) pages. For more information, visit [https://acb.org/Elf-Pets-2022](https://tinyurl.com/bdfs8y7k).

# **ACB Media on ACB Advocacy Update**

On the ACB Advocacy Update, Clark and Swatha are joined by ACB Executive Director Eric Bridges, ACB Media & IT Manager Rick Morin, and ACB Media Coordinator Larry Gassman for a deep dive into a key program within the organization, the [ACB Media Network](https://www.acb.org/2023-leadership-announcement). Learn about how Rick and Larry got their start in ACB, how it has evolved from simply being another method of consuming content to the key player and powerhouse it is today, and how you can access and consume its wide array of content at [https://tinyurl.com/4uu7hvm7](http://www.acbmedia.org/2).

# **2023 ADP Audio Description Institute**

ACB’s ADP Audio Description Institute will be held virtually from Monday, February 20 to Friday, February 24, 2023 from 1 to 5 p.m. Eastern each day. The Audio Description Institute provides five afternoons of intensive, interactive training for audio description professionals and enthusiasts. To learn more about the curriculum, scholarships, faculty, and how to register, visit: [https://acb.org/ADP-Institute-Feb-2023](https://www.youtube.com/c/AmericanCounciloftheBlind).

# **Accessible Tests Project**

For the past 9 months, we at ACB have been working with the [RADx](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/radx" \o "https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/radx" \t "_blank) Team on an Accessible Tests project.  Our objective is to make home COVID-19 tests more accessible to test users with no and low-vision users, fine motor impairments, and age-related disabilities. During this work, the team has also been capturing what they’ve learned in a [Best Practices document](https://www.facebook.com/acbnational). While a more comprehensive edition is anticipated next spring, they’ve just published [this early edition](https://acb.org/2022-year-end) with insights so far, at the request of a number of manufacturers.  We wanted to bring this document to your attention for your use and feedback.  While it’s based on COVID test development, we hope it will inform all future home test design. Thanks for being a partner in the growth of universal design.

# **2023 BADIE Contest**

Once again, the American Council of the Blind’s [Audio Description Project](https://tinyurl.com/4ja3k5zu) (ADP) and the [Described and Captioned Media Program](https://tinyurl.com/4uu7hvm7) (DCMP) are co-sponsoring the Benefits of Audio Description In Education (BADIE) contest for blind and visually impaired young people, ages 7 to 21. To participate, students review an audio-described film or video from the more than 6,000 educational titles available through DCMP. To register for the contest, find guidelines and prize information, learn how audio description is created, and get tips for writing a good review, visit [www.badiecontest.org](https://acb.org/ADP-Institute-Feb-2023).

## **Guide Dog Rideshare Denial Survey**

ACB and our affiliate Guide Dog Users, Inc. want to hear from you! We are conducting a survey to collect information from guide dog users who’ve been denied rides by rideshare drivers due to the presence of their guide dog. We will send the survey data to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), per their recommendation, to draw attention to this frustrating civil rights violation and highlight the severity of this ongoing problem. We ask that you fill out the survey every time you are denied a ride from the date of the survey launch on November 2nd until the survey closes on December 31st at 11:59 p.m. ET. If you wish to submit responses over email or phone, contact ACB’s Advocacy team at either [**advocacy@acb.org**](https://acb.org/Elf-Pets-2022) or (202) 467-5081. To access the survey, visit [**www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rideshare-Denial**](http://adp.acb.org/).

# **Like Resolutions? You’ll Love the Updated Resolutions Index!**

Do you enjoy the resolutions process at the ACB national convention? Have you ever wondered about resolutions of yesteryear? Are you looking for a resolution on a particular topic? The answer is near at hand!

ACB’s Resolutions Index, started by Steve Speicher, goes all the way back to resolutions from the organization’s beginnings in the 1960s. Editor Sharon Lovering found it and updated it through the 2022 convention. Main topics go from “Access” to “YouTube” and everything in between. Yes, there’s even a “Q”: QVC. And it will soon be available on acb.org/resolutions!

# **Support ACB by Exercising this Holiday Season**

Each year, ACB’s partner Concept2 conducts a [Holiday Challenge](https://giphy.com/) to raise money for charitable organizations. This year, ACB is one of five organizations selected due to the work of ACB members to make the Concept2 ErgData app more accessible for people who are blind and low vision. To participate, register for a free Concept2 Logbook account and sign up for the Holiday Challenge so you can row, ski or ride on the Concept2 RowErg, SkiErg or BikeErg to earn donations for ACB. For more details, visit [www.tinyurl.com/Concept2-Challenge22](https://www.access-board.gov/tad/radx/).

To learn more about ACB’s work with Concept2, please visit [www.acb.org/ergdata-app](https://www.access-board.gov/tad/radx/).

# **Want to Participate in a Focus Group?**

Kim Charlson is looking for people who viewed the three most recent live events on NBC – the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting Special, and the People’s Choice Awards. If you tuned into any or all of these three programs, and would be willing to provide some feedback or participate in a focus group, please email me directly at [**kim.charlson@perkins.org**](https://www.acbmedia.org/), and let me know your name, email address, cell phone, and which programs you had the opportunity to watch.

# **Report Finds Blind and Disabled Veterans Can’t Access VA Websites**

A new report from the U.S. Senate Aging Committee is taking U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to task for neglecting accessibility issues on its websites. Despite the fact that 27 percent of all veterans have a service-connected disability — and more than 1 million veterans are blind or have low vision — only 8 percent of VA’s public-facing websites and 6 percent of its internal sites are fully compliant with federal accessibility law, according to the report released Wednesday. The issue with VA websites is a sign of a larger problem with accessibility at the federal level that has persisted for years. Read the full Washington Post article at: [https://tinyurl.com/4ja3k5zu](https://dcmp.org/).

# **GIPHY & Scribely Partner to Improve Platform Accessibility**

[GIPHY](https://dcmp.org/learn/657) has partnered with content accessibility solutions provider, [Scribely](https://tinyurl.com/Concept2-Challenge22), to improve GIPHY’s platform accessibility for screen reader users. By partnering with Scribely, GIPHY will be the first GIF provider to have alt text available for their most popular content. Rather than using auto-generated descriptions, Scribely’s team of writers are well-versed in accessibility guidelines and write effective and engaging descriptions that take the message and the meaning in mind. Learn more at: [https://tinyurl.com/bdfs8y7k](http://acb.org/ergdata-app).