**Dots and Dashes**

**September 25, 2023**

# **DOJ Proposes Updates to Title II of the ADA**

The Department of Justice recently released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on the need to update the regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to add more specific requirements about web and mobile application accessibility. Title II applies to state and local governments, and this rule will clarify when and what content needs to be accessible to individuals who are blind, low vision, or otherwise disabled. Once finalized, this rule will impact accessibility of public education, public and paratransit services, employment opportunities, public benefits, and all other services and goods provided by state and local governments via websites and mobile applications.

ACB worked as part of a broad coalition in the drafting of these comments and has signed on in support. We ask all state and special-interest affiliates and local chapters to sign on in support of these comments. **Please note: these comments are for organizations only; please do not sign on as an individual.**

Sign-ons are due by October 2nd. To sign on, visit [**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec1xfRsa2uCtDTj6u4D2U2sGq0WuRF6nm0frepJpFFfnZb6A/viewform**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec1xfRsa2uCtDTj6u4D2U2sGq0WuRF6nm0frepJpFFfnZb6A/viewform).

The Disability Rights Section of the U.S. Department of Justice will be holding a listening session tomorrow afternoon from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern on this NPRM. For more information on the session, or to register, visit [**https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ada-tech/session/?id=111080**](https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ada-tech/session/?id=111080).

### Making Sense of ACB Membership

At the Leadership Conference in March, we held several focus groups to discuss membership, and we’d like to continue the discussion. The purpose in this first round is to learn what is important to our membership, what brought you to ACB, and what keeps you coming back.

If you missed one of the three community events where we shared these questions and responses in person, it’s not too late to take part. The questions are below. You may email your responses to **community@acb.org**, or call 1-800-424-8666 through **September 28.**

* When did you join ACB?
* Why did you join ACB?
* Why do you continue to stay involved?
* What do you value most about ACB? (choose three) Advocacy; ADP; convention and conferences; communications (ACB Media Network and publications); community and peer support; leadership opportunities; volunteerism

# **Aloha with Aira**

The Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) has partnered with AIRA to provide 12 months of free, unlimited call services at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in hopes to support Hawai'i tourism for visitors and Kama’aina alike who are blind or visually impaired.

HAB joins fellow Aira Access partners, Procter & Gamble, Google, McDonald’s, Starbucks and Target, along with 39 colleges and universities, and 48 airports worldwide — and counting.

# **Protecting Your Identity Webinar**

The Financial Resilience Center at National Disability Institute is excited to invite you to its upcoming webinar, **Safe Amidst the Frenzy: Guarding Your Identity**. This virtual event will take place this Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 2 p.m. EST.

You’ll learn about:

* Common ways identity theft occurs and scams to avoid
* How to protect your personal information and stay safe online
* Steps to take if your identity is stolen

To register, visit [**https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_n\_i7l5qHSsGJ-lIFC6NDhA#/registration**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n_i7l5qHSsGJ-lIFC6NDhA#/registration).

# **Blindness and Mental Health Webinar**

Accessible Pharmacy will host a blindness and mental health webinar this Friday, September 29, at noon Eastern. One of the featured speakers is Pam Shaw, chairman of ACB’s Mental Health and Wellness Committee! To learn more, or to register, visit [**https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blindness-and-mental-health-webinar/**](https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blindness-and-mental-health-webinar/).

# **SmartGuide Project at Virginia Tech**

The Virginia Tech Center for New Ventures is seeking individuals with vision impairment who have experience with a variety of navigation technologies to participate in a research study. These technologies may include both low- and high-tech methods such as service dogs, canes, electronic mobility aids, mobile applications, and visual interpreting services. The study will explore what type of information individuals want or need while using assistive technology to navigate and understand the built environment. Participation in this study involves the use of Zoom video conferencing software to connect multiple people electronically from the comfort of their own home or office.

To be eligible, interested individuals must meet the following requirements:

* Be 18 years of age or older
* Seeking participants with visual impairments (e.g. blind or low vision)
* Have a tablet or computer with Internet service and video conferencing capabilities
* Prior experience using Zoom is required
* Prior experience using applications like Aira, Be My Eyes, Envision, TapTapSee, or K-NFB Reader, is preferred but not required

To learn more, please contact Tamia Barnes by phone at (540) 429-8097 or email at **tamiadb@vt.edu**. Please reference the “SmartGuide” project in your message, and RSVP by **September 30th.**

# **Casting Call: Key of Genius**

Key of Genius is a short film seeking **the lead role of DEREK.** DPD Casting is seeking blind or low-vision 6- to 10-year-old boys to play Derek. All experience levels are encouraged to submit. You can be based anywhere in the U.S. The film will shoot in Los Angeles, CA in November 2023. **Submissions are due October 2, 2023.** For more details, send an email to **KeyGenius@dpdcasting.com**.

# **Short Survey on Audio Description**

If you’ve experienced audio description in a movie theater, or wish you could, please complete this short survey and help our friends at the Prospector Theater create a training guide to educate other theaters across the country about AD! Find the survey here: [**https://apps.prospectortheater.org/231414971578059**](https://apps.prospectortheater.org/231414971578059). If you have suggestions, in-depth comments, or additional information you'd like to share, please email **kathleen.eubanks@prospectortheater.org**. Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey.