

# **ACB**

## **Big Dreams, Bold Ideas**



## **64<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference & Convention**

**American Council of the Blind  
and Special-Interest Affiliates**

**June 23 – July 11, 2025**

**Deb Cook Lewis, ACB President**

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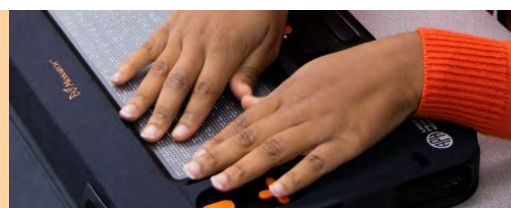
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[Microsoft.com/accessibility](https://Microsoft.com/accessibility)



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# **President's Message**

Welcome to the 64th Annual Conference and Convention of the American Council of the Blind, both online through the ACB Media Network and in-person in Dallas, Texas. Our 2025 theme is “ACB – Big Dreams, Bold Ideas!”

Our mission is to create opportunities and successes for people who are blind or who have low vision. The dedication of our members is evident in the outstanding event we have organized. Expect to hear about ACB's achievements and challenges in what promises to be our most dynamic convention yet.

Heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers and the Convention Committee, chaired by Janet Dickelman, along with the Program Committee, Community Zoom hosts, and the ACB Media Network team. A huge shoutout to our exceptional ACB staff working diligently behind the scenes.

An especially warm welcome to all first-time attendees! This hybrid event offers a fantastic chance to experience our program from home or in Dallas. Enjoy audio-described virtual tours, a bustling vendor exhibit hall,

live tours, informative general sessions, and over 100 breakout sessions. This event will shape ACB's future, and we can't wait to connect with you!

Mark your calendars for next year's convention in St. Louis, Missouri!

Enjoy the convention!

Deb Cook Lewis, ACB President

## **Conference Gems**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our 2025 Conference gems. Their ongoing generosity and support of the American Council of the Blind, as well as our annual conference and convention, are deeply appreciated.

You'll find recognition of our 2025 Conference gems on [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org), in the conference and convention program, the daily newspaper, on ACB Media, the official convention T-shirt, and throughout the week's events.

When you see them, please take a moment to thank them personally for their invaluable support.

## **Diamond Sponsors**

- JPMorgan – ACB Communication Center
- Meta - ACB Videography
- Microsoft - ACB Media Streaming
- Vanda - ACB Conference Banquet
- Waymo - ACB Announcements

## **Emerald Sponsors**

- Amazon – Affiliate/Committee Hybrid Sessions
- Google – ACB Media Afternoon Broadcasts
- Verizon

## **Ruby Sponsors**

- AT&T
- CVS Health - ACB Activities

- Envision - Registration
- Gerard Boucher
- HumanWare - Continuing Education Credits
- Spectrum - Development for future Leaders and professionals
- Vispero - Audio Description Project

## **Onyx Sponsors**

- ACB Families - Convention Banners
- AIRA - Get up and Get Moving
- American Printing House
- Be My Eyes
- Bosma - ACB Auction
- Democracy Live - Guide Dog Relief
- Guiding Eyes for the Blind - ACB Marketplace
- T-Mobile - DKM First Timer Reception
- United Airlines



## **Coral Sponsors**

- ACB Lions – ACB Student Reception
- Council of Citizens with Low Vision - Kids Club
- Edward Jones
- Library Users of America – Talking Book Narrator
- National Industries for the Blind
- Penny Forward – Sponsor a Student, Future ACB leader or Young Professional
- UZURV - Advocacy Session
- Waymap - Affiliate and Chapter Development
- Zoox – Transportation Session

## **Pearl Sponsors**

- AGIGA - Affiliate Presidents Seminar
- Enhanced Voting - Young Professionals Reception



Vanda Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community.

Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting up to 70% of people who are totally blind. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness and nighttime sleeplessness, which leads to impaired social and occupational functioning. This is due to the misalignment between the internal master body clock and the 24-hour day.

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Attend our sessions and learn more at [amazon.com/accessibility](https://amazon.com/accessibility)



# **Calendar**

## **Wednesday, June 11**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Candidates Forum; Virtual

## **Saturday, June 21**

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm: ACB Summer Auction; Virtual

## **Monday, June 23**

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm: ACB Convention Call to Order;  
Virtual

8:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Nominating Room Opens; Virtual

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm: Nominating Committee; Virtual

## **Tuesday, June 24**

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Resolutions; Virtual

## **Wednesday, June 25**

10:00 am – 1:00 pm: Exhibit Hall Overview; Virtual

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Resolutions; Virtual

## **Thursday, June 26**

9:00 am – 10:00 am: How Does Climate Change Affect People with Disabilities; Virtual

10:00 am – 11:15 am: Unleashing Your Inner Slacker; Virtual

10:00 am – 12:45 pm: Guide Dog School Updates; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Making Braille Music Accessible by Touch; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Microsoft Copilot for Work; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Accessible Diagnostic Testing National & International Best Practices Guidelines Update; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Exploring AI Apps on Your iPhone with iBug Today; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: LUA Presents the New DA2 Player and the NLS My Talking Books Smart Speaker Skill; Virtual



1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Audio Description Best Practices in Movie Theaters; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Christian Nationalism 101; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Accessible FT8 Ham Radios; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: LUA Presents the Journey from Print Book to Talking Book; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Writing Audio Description with AI Tools; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Expert Advice on Retirement Planning and Investing for the Future; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ACB Lions Lessons in Leadership; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Update on Legal Advocacy Impacting People with Disabilities; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Using Technology to Help Those Living with a Dual Sensory Loss Live to the Fullest; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Easy Chair Yoga with Leslie  
Spoone; Virtual

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Food for Thought; Virtual

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Low Vision Research with Dr.  
Soltau; Virtual

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: SASI Social; Virtual

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Resolutions; Virtual

## **Friday, June 27**

10:00 am – 11:15 am: Getting Started with WhatsApp on  
Your iPhone; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: ACBF Spotlight - From Student to  
President of the Board; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Audio Description and Sports;  
Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: The World of Windows:  
Microsoft Tools for the Blind Community; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Solving Your Tech Issues When You  
Are Not a Wizard; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: The Coaching Roundtable; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Author Talk by a Survivor of the  
World War II Nazi Atrocities; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: GDUI Prison Pups; Virtual

2:30 pm – 5:15 pm: LUA Business Meeting; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Telephone Film Screening; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Happy Hour Cardio with Leslie  
Spoone; Virtual

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Boomers vs Next Gen Battle of the  
Ages; Virtual

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: All About Requesting an  
Assessment from your Voc Rehab Agency; Virtual

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Constitution and Bylaws; Virtual

## **Saturday, June 28**

10:00 am – 11:15 am: Efficient Messaging Using  
WhatsApp and JAWS with Brian Hartgen; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Leadership Linkup; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: AI in the Workplace and Beyond;  
Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Using Your Phone and Smart  
Glasses to Describe the World Around You; Virtual

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Understanding Trauma During  
Changing Times; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: AAVIA Business Meeting; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Together We Thrive - Families  
Embracing Vision Challenged Members; Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Introducing BlueSky and Mastodon;  
Virtual

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: When the Road Gets Rough; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Using Braille in the Workplace;  
Virtual

2:30 pm – 5:15 pm: CCLVI Business Meeting; Virtual

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Audio Description a Global  
Happening; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Poems of Protest Resistance and Empowerment; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Sister Power Happy Hour; Virtual

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ACB Inspire Mentoring Program Graduation; Virtual

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: ACB Families Goes to Camp; Virtual

### **Monday, June 30**

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Individual Vote for Resolutions, Constitution, and Bylaws; Hybrid

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Affiliate Vote for Resolutions, Constitution, and Bylaws; Hybrid

### **Friday, July 4**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm: ACB Board Meeting; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

5:00 pm – 11:00 pm: Lake Cruise Tour; Onsite

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Leadership Linkup; Onsite; Reverchon



8:00 pm – 11:00 pm: Welcome to Dallas; Onsite;  
Landmark D

## **Saturday, July 5**

4:15 am – 11:30 am: Hot Air Balloon Adventure; Onsite

7:30 am – 9:00 am: AABT Breakfast: From Smart  
Devices to Chatbots, How AI is Helpful for Blind  
Students; Hybrid; Moreno

9:00 am – 11:45 am: Achieving Unity in the Face of  
Disagreement; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

10:00 am – 11:00 am: Jewish Service; Onsite; Moreno

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: City Bus Tour I; Onsite

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm: RSVa and IVIE Lunch; Onsite;  
Moreno

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm: Scholarship Luncheon; Invitation  
Only; Reverchon

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm: City Bus Tour II; Onsite

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Bringing Meaning to Your Business;  
Hybrid; Moreno

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: ACB Affiliate and National Expectations Workshop; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Community Hospitality; Onsite; Shawnee Trail

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Tips for Preventing Identity Theft; Hybrid; Moreno

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Shifting Mental Health Culture Through Storytelling; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: From Setback to Comeback. Essential Tools for a Successful Career Change After a Job Loss; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Next Gen and ACBS Pep Rally; Onsite; Cumberland ABC

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Interdenominational Service; Onsite; Reverchon

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Introduction to Investing; Hybrid; Moreno

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Tailgate; Onsite; Landmark D

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm: Meet Kids Club Leaders

7:00 pm – 10:30 pm: Opening General Session; Hybrid;  
Reunion

10:30 pm – 11:45 pm: Saturday Night Shindig; Onsite;  
Cotton Bowl

## **Sunday, July 6**

7:30 am – 8:45 am: ACB Families Breakfast Talks Tech  
with Tyson; Onsite; Bryan Beeman

7:30 am – 8:45 am: ACB Life Member Breakfast; Onsite  
(invitation only); Cotton Bowl

8:00 am – 4:30 pm: Sports Day; Onsite

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Kids Club: The Museum of  
Illusions Dallas; Onsite

9:00 am – 10:15 am: BVA is Celebrating 80 Years;  
Hybrid; Moreno

9:00 am – 10:15 am: Update on Legislation; Hybrid;  
Bryan Beeman

9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Vispero Training; Onsite; Pryor-Crockett

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: City Bus Tour III; Onsite

10:30 am – 11:45 am: Audio Description People's Choice Awards Final Voting Kickoff; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

10:30 am – 11:45 am: The Color of Resilience - A Talk and Painting Demonstration with John; Hybrid; Moreno

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm: AAVL Lunch - Humorous Senior Moments with Much Fun and Many Laughs; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm: City Bus Tour IV; Onsite

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Are We Meeting the Needs of Seniors with Vision Loss; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Transforming Legal Practice and Beyond with AI Products and Services; Hybrid; Moreno

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Discover the World of  
Entrepreneurship; Onsite; Sanger

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Non-24-Hour Sleep Wake Disorder  
Non 24 & Sleep; Onsite; Landmark D

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Community Hospitality; Onsite;  
Shawnee Trail

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: All About the Texas BEP Program;  
Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Issues in Immigration Today; Hybrid;  
Moreno

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Happenings and Selvas BLV;  
Onsite; Sanger

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Giving Society Reception; Onsite  
(Invitation Only); Landmark D

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: The Five Love Languages; Hybrid;  
Bryan Beeman

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Scholarship Recipients Icebreaker;  
Onsite; Reverchon



6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Exhibitors Reception; Onsite  
(Invitation Only); Landmark D

8:00 pm – 11:00 pm: CCLVI Jamboree Dance; Onsite;  
Landmark D

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Community Meet and Greet;  
Onsite; Cumberland ABC

## **Monday, July 7**

7:00 am – 8:15 am: GDB Breakfast; Onsite;  
Cumberland ABC

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Kids Club; Dallas World Aquarium;  
Onsite

8:30 am – 12:00 pm: General Session; Hybrid; Reunion  
Ballroom

9:00 am – 3:00 pm: ACB and Carter BloodCare; Onsite;  
Cumberland ABC

9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Vispero Training; Onsite; Pryor-  
Crockett

12:15 pm – 3:00 pm: The George W. Bush Presidential Library Museum; Onsite

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: The Supreme Court Term in Review; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: Math Manipulatives for All Learners at All Levels; Onsite; Sanger

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: The ABCs on Advocacy; Onsite; Reverchon

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Accessibility and Safety Features Within the Airplane Cabin: Hybrid; Moreno

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Community Hospitality; Onsite; Shawnee Trail

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Documenting Slavery in the Southwest Even After the Civil War; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Low Vision Tips and Tech with Sandi Owens; Hybrid; Moreno

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ACBs AI and Classroom Assistive Technology; Hybrid; Moreno

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Intertwining Roots - The Story of Dallas from a Multicultural Perspective; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Partnerships Making Visual Interpreting Work for You; Onsite; Sanger

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Prose and Poetry Reading; Hybrid; Moreno

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Brain Teasers Exercise Your Mind and Learn About Famous People from Dallas; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: What's New at HumanWare with a Special Announcement; Onsite; Sanger

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Bridge Walk; Onsite

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Get Your Tech Assistance with BITS; Onsite; Pryor-Crockett

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm: JP Morgan Chase Leadership Fellows Reception; Onsite (Invitation Only); President's Suite

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Scholarship Reception; Onsite;  
Cumberland ABC

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Gospel Sing; Onsite; Reverchon

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Laugh with RSVA; Onsite;  
Landmark D

9:00 pm – 12:00 am: Share your Talent at RSVA  
Karaoke; Onsite; Landmark D

## **Tuesday, July 8**

7:00 am – 8:15 am: BRL Breakfast - What's So Great  
About UEB; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

7:00 am – 8:15 am: AFB Breakfast; Onsite; Landmark D

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Kids Club – Good Surf; Onsite

8:30 am – 12:00 pm: General Session; Hybrid; Reunion  
Ballroom

9:00 am – 3:00 pm: ACB and Carter BloodCare; Onsite;  
Cumberland ABC

12:15 pm – 2:15 pm: Sports Fanatics Luncheon; Onsite;  
Cotton Bowl

12:15 pm – 3:30 pm: The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza; Onsite

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: LUA Presents Up Close and Personal with Talking Book Narrator Gary Tipton; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: A Story of Identity Theft and the Legal Issues Involved; Onsite; Reverchon

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: What's Late and Great in the Diabetes Management Space for 2025; Hybrid; Moreno

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Non-24-Hour Sleep Wake Disorder Non-24 & Sleep; Onsite; Moreno

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm: Museum of African Art; Onsite

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Community Hospitality; Onsite; Shawnee Trail

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Accessibility of Diabetes Tools; Hybrid; Moreno

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: LUA Presents a Q&A with the NLS Director; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Making Amazon Shopping Easier with New Accessibility and AI Features; Onsite; Reunion Ballroom

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Interactive Presentation by T-Mobile; OnSite; Sanger

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: You May be Missing Out on Services for Seniors; Hybrid; Moreno

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Audio Description and Gaming Accessibility; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Come Groove with Get Up and Get Moving; Onsite; Gaston A

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: What's New with Amazon Devices; Onsite; Reunion Ballroom

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ConnectCenter and the Neptune: Out of This World Resources and Products from APH; Onsite; Reverchon

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: GDUI presents Emergency Preparedness for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Hybrid; Moreno

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Laying the Groundwork: Public Transportation Basics for Advocates; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Audio Description and Gaming Accessibility; Onsite; Reverchon

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Advocacy Strategies During Troubled Times; Onsite; Sanger

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Desperados; Onsite

5:45 pm – 6:45 pm: What's New at NLS; Onsite; Cotton Bowl

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Get Your Tech Assistance with BITS; Onsite; Pryor-Crockett

7:30 pm – 10:30 pm: Bingo: It's a Families Tradition; Onsite; Landmark D

## **Wednesday, July 9**

7:00 am – 8:15 am: NIB Breakfast; Onsite; Cumberland ABC

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Kids Club: Perot Museum of Nature and Science; Onsite

8:30 am – 12:00 pm: General Session; Hybrid; Reunion Ballroom

12:15 pm – 4:15 pm: Envision Dallas; Onsite

12:15 pm – 6:00 pm: Rocky Mountain Chocolates; Onsite

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: GDUI Wrap-Up and Awards Ceremony; Hybrid; Moreo

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: IVIE Business Expo; Onsite; Gaston A

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: ACBDA Presents Advocating for Mental Health Techniques in Action; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Mastering AI for Unmatched Accessibility, Productivity, and Affiliate Transformation; Onsite; Reverchon

1:15 pm – 5:15 pm: Museum of Biblical Art; Onsite

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Community Hospitality; Onsite; Shawnee Trail



2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Meal Planning for a Healthy Life  
with Diabetes; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Get Crafty with CCLVI; Onsite;  
Cotton Bowl

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Advocacy Bootcamp; Hybrid;  
Moreno

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Tactile Walking Surface Indicators  
and Raised Sidewalk Applications for Vision Loss;  
Onsite; Reunion Ballroom

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Yes, Braille Can be Fun; Onsite;  
Sanger

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Improving Membership Outcomes  
by Bridging the Gap Between Seniors and Younger  
Members; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Tactile Walking Surface Indicators  
and Raised Sidewalk Applications for Vision Loss;  
Onsite; Reunion Ballroom

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Staying Connected Hearing from  
Major Telecommunication Companies; Onsite;  
Landmark D

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: A Conversation on the International  
Blindness Experience; Hybrid; Moreno

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm: BITS Reception; Onsite;  
Cumberland ABC

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Turn Big Dreams into Great Leaders  
with DKM; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

5:45 pm – 8:30 pm: Mama's Daughters Diner; Onsite

7:30 pm – 10:30 pm: ACB Film Night; Onsite; Reunion  
Ballroom

8:00 pm – 11:00 pm: CCLVI Game Night; Onsite;  
Landmark D

## **Thursday, July 10**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Kids Club: Game Show Battle  
Rooms; Onsite

8:30 am – 1:00 pm: General Session; Hybrid; Reunion  
Ballroom

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Mastering AI for Unmatched  
Accessibility, Productivity, and Affiliate  
Transformation; Onsite; Reverchon

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Affiliate Roll Call, if Necessary,  
Onsite

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Multicultural Affairs Committee  
Mixer Fun and Friends; Onsite; Cotton Bowl

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm: Kids Club Dinner; Onsite

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm: ACB Banquet; Hybrid; Reunion  
Ballroom

## **Friday, July 11**

8:30 am – 1:30 pm: Amon Carter Art Museum; Onsite

9:00 am – 4:30 pm: Mastering AI for Unmatched  
Accessibility, Productivity, and Affiliate  
Transformation; Onsite; Reverchon

4:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Circle R Ranch; Onsite

# **Abbreviations in This Program**

ACB - American Council of the Blind

AABT - American Association of Blind Teachers

AAVL - Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss

AAVIA - American Association of Visually Impaired  
Attorneys

ACBDA - ACB Diabetics in Action

ACBF - ACB Families

ACBGE - ACB Government Employees

ACBNG ACB Next Generation

ACBL - ACB Lions

ACBRA - ACB Radio Amateurs

ACBS - ACB Students

ADP - Audio Description Project

AFB - American Foundation for the Blind

APH - American Printing House for the Blind

BITS - Blind Information Technology Specialists

BOP - Board of Publications

BRL - Braille Revival League

CCLVI - Council of Citizens with Low Vision International

DKM - Durward K. McDaniel First-Timer  
FIA - Friends-in-Art of ACB  
GDUI - Guide Dog Users, Inc.  
IRC - International Relations Committee  
IVIE - Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs  
KEC -- Kids Explorers Club  
LUA - Library Users of America  
MCAC - Multicultural Affairs Committee  
MHWC – Mental Health and Wellness committee  
NIB - National Industries for the Blind  
NLS - National Library Service for the Blind and Print  
Disabled  
RSVA - Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America  
SASI - Sight and Sound Impaired Committee

## **Registration Information**

Registration will be in Pegasus A.

If you are pre-registered, you can pick up your packet anytime during open registration hours. However,

please note that the following times are reserved exclusively for pre-registration pickup:

- Thursday, July 3rd, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Friday and Saturday, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Onsite registration for attendees will be available:

- Friday from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Saturday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
- And during all open registration hours for the remainder of the convention.

These designated times will help keep lines manageable during the busy first days of the event.

Hours are:

Thursday, July 3rd: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm: (pre-reg pick-up only)

Friday, July 4th: 8:00 am to 11:00 am (pre-reg pick-up only) and 11:00 am to 7:00 pm for pre-reg pick-up and onsite registrations

Saturday, July 5th: 8:00 am to 11:00 am (pre-reg pick-up only) and 11:00 am to 6:00 pm for pre-reg pick-up and onsite registrations.

Sunday, July 6th and Monday, July 7th: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday, July 8th and Wednesday, July 9th: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Thursday, July 10: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

When you register, you'll receive your convention ID badge, program, and a swag bag filled with information and fun surprises. Registration is required to purchase event tickets and to be eligible for exciting door prizes. Be sure to always wear your badge. It grants you access to the exhibit hall and helps hotel staff and volunteers provide better service.

If you are pre-registered, your packet will be ready and waiting for you at registration. Please note that you may only pick up your own packet; picking up packets for others is not allowed. For questions about your registration or to purchase additional tickets, visit the Registration area in Pegasus A.

**Day Passes:** One-day passes are available for \$20 (without a program) or \$25 (with a program). These passes are color-coded by day and are valid only on the day of purchase. A one-day pass gives you access to the exhibit hall and other programs and allows you to purchase tickets for that day. To attend additional days, the full administrative fee must be paid.

**Refunds:** ACB does not provide refunds for registration or administrative fees, sponsorship donations, or tickets for events you no longer wish to attend. Refunds are not issued for missed events unless due to extreme illness (see below). Refunds are not given if you did not enjoy the event.

Refunds for meals, events, and tours will be issued only if:

- You pre-registered and submitted a written refund request by June 17, 2025, either by mail (American Council of the Blind, 6200 Shingle Creek Parkway, Suite 155, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430) or by calling (612) 332-3242.
- You did not attend any portion of the convention.

If illness requires you to leave the convention early or be hospitalized, ACB will refund meals, events, and tours that occur after your absence begins. However, if a guarantee has already been given for a meal or tour, that portion is non-refundable. Tour ticket refunds are subject to specific conditions - please refer to the tour instructions for details.

**Lost Tickets:** ACB does not replace tickets lost during the convention. All ticket packets are checked before distribution. If tickets are lost or misplaced, they must be repurchased.



**Sold-Out Events:** ACB is not responsible for notifying you if an event or tour is sold out. If an event is full when you register, your name will be added to a waiting list in case of cancellations or the release of additional tickets.

## **Communication Center Services**

The Marcia Nigro Dresser Communication Center is in Pegasus B. It is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Friday, July 4 through Wednesday, July 9. This is where you can place ads in the paper, make braille or print copies or volunteer to help produce the newspaper.

A huge thank-you to HumanWare for providing the embossers and to American Printing House for the Blind for their donation of braille paper.

## **Convention Newspaper**

This year's newspaper is the "Lone Star Gazette" and is published each day, Friday through Wednesday, in braille and large print. You can pick up a copy at the Information Desk. It is also available on the ACB convention email list.

ACB Students (ACBS) will deliver the newspaper to your hotel room door. For \$10 your paper will be waiting for you each morning when you wake up. After you sign up for newspaper delivery, you need to activate your service by giving your room number and newspaper format preference at the Information Desk.

## **Ads and Announcements**

Ads and other items for publication must be in the Communication Center by 2:00 pm each day. The BOP allows announcements to run for up to three days and must be no longer than 75 words. BOP editorial policy prohibits the production or distribution of campaign materials by the Communication Center.

Cost of advertising in the newspaper is:

Individuals, ACB affiliates and blind representatives of MLM companies - \$15/day or \$40 for 3 days

Exhibitors - \$40/day or \$100 for 3 days

All others - \$50/day or \$125 for 3 days.

You pay for announcements at Registration and show your receipt at the Communication Center when submitting your ad.

## **Braille and Photocopying**

Photocopying is available at the Communication Center for 10 cents per page. Braille services are available as follows:

- Individuals, ACB affiliates, and blind representatives of MLM companies: 10 cents per page
- Small businesses and small nonprofits: 20 cents per page
- All others: 35 cents per page

If your committee or affiliate needs something in braille or large print, bring files early in the day so it can be worked on between other tasks. A test copy will be printed to let you know the number of pages per copy. Be sure to label your computer card or thumb drive and tell us how many of each format you need and by what time. Please make payment at registration.

Please remember that the Communication Center is a working room. While the convention is a great place to meet and greet, loud conversations make it difficult to hear the speech synthesizers on the computers. Help us help you get the information you need.

# Digital Information & Internet

If you have registered for the convention, you will receive Zoom invitations for all sessions. You can join via computer or phone.

Probably the easiest way to access the Zoom links is to log in to your account at [members.acb.org](http://members.acb.org). For screen readers, go to the top of page, arrow down to the navigation region where you will find various links, one of which is labelled “Zoom links.” That link will take you to a page where you select the date of the session(s) you are looking for. You will then access a listing in chronological order of all sessions for that day. For each session there are two buttons. If you are listening with your computer, choose the button labeled “Zoom.” If you are listening on your phone, choose the button labeled “phone.” You don’t need to know any access links or passcodes.

Much of the conference will be streamed on ACB Media using multiple streams. All general sessions, and some of our afternoon and evening programming will be live streamed on ACB Media.

Other sessions will be recorded and replayed on ACB Media. Sessions will be available as podcasts after the convention and archived for later listening on ACB Media.

## **How to Access ACB Media Programming**

There are several ways to connect to ACB Media:

### Amazon Alexa enabled device (Recommended)

Alexa “Ask ACB Media to play Media n”. (n = stream number). For example, to listen to General Session during National Convention; “Alexa, ask ACB Media to play 1”

### PC / browser access (Recommended)

Visit [acbmedia.org](http://www.acbmedia.org) at <http://www.acbmedia.org/n> (n= stream number). The site has a built-in media player; there is no need to install or use a media player on your device. Hit the play button and the stream will begin playing immediately.

### Smart Device Access (Recommended)

Download “ACB Link” from your app store. Find “Radio” along the bottom of the screen, then “Menu” in the top left corner. Select “Streams” and then choose the stream you wish to listen to. Double tap the play button.

### Victor Reader Stream Access

Navigate to “Internet radio library” in the “online bookshelf”. Locate the HumanWare playlist. From the playlist, select ACB Media n (n = stream number) and hit play.

### Dial-In Access for programming originating in Zoom

Dial the Zoom access number provided with the schedule information for the session. When prompted, enter the meeting / webinar ID followed by #. You will hear the exact same program that is being streamed on ACB Media.

## **Accessing Sessions via Zoom Webinar**

All general sessions and most workshops and seminars will be held using the Zoom webinar format. Unlike a standard Zoom meeting, you won’t be able to turn on your camera, and your microphone will remain muted unless the Zoom host gives you permission to speak.

If you're joining from a PC or Mac, you may be asked to enter your name and email address. This information is only used by Zoom to verify that you're not a robot -ACB does not collect or store this information.

When you join a session, you may hear an announcement that the call is being recorded. No action is required on your part - just continue into the session as usual.

In Webinar, use these commands to raise your hand and to unmute, both of which are toggles:

- On the PC - raise hand: alt-Y; Mute and unmute: alt-A when the prompt is given
- On the Mac - Raise hand: option-Y; Mute and unmute: command-shift-A
- From the app - Raise hand: on the main screen; Mute and unmute: from the main screen when the prompt is given
- From a phone keypad - Raise hand: star (\*) 9; Mute and unmute: star (\*) 6

Some affiliate business meetings, smaller workshops, informal sessions, and virtual social events will take place using the standard Zoom platform.

When entering one of these Zoom rooms, you'll need to click the "Got it" button to acknowledge the recording notice. Once you do, you'll be able to unmute and participate in the session.

- From the PC: Tab to the "got it" button and enter (use F6 until it appears if not available on the main screen).
- From the Mac: Once the meeting opens and you hear the call is being recorded, hit enter and it will activate the "got it" button.
- From the app: Swipe to OK to accept the call is being recorded.
- From a phone keypad: No action is needed.

In a regular Zoom room use these commands to raise your hand and unmute, both of which are toggles:

- From a PC - raise hand: alt-Y, mute and unmute: alt-A.
- From the Mac - Raise hand: option-Y, mute and unmute: command-shift-A.
- From the app - Raise hand: under "more" in the lower right corner, mute and unmute: in lower left corner.
- From a phone keypad - Raise hand: star (\*) 9, mute and unmute: star (\*) 6.

Please note: All events are recorded.



## **ACB Photography/Videography**

The official ACB photographer for the 2025 Conference and Convention will be capturing photos and video throughout the event. This includes the exhibit hall, select tours, social events, committee and affiliate meetings, workshops, general sessions, and the banquet.

By attending, you acknowledge that all activities and programs during the convention may be photographed or recorded. All photos and videos are the property of ACB and may be used for official ACB purposes.

## **Medical Information**

For medical emergencies, dial 911. Stay calm and speak distinctly. Give your name, exact location, and a description of the emergency.

## **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:**

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Call or text: 988

Chat: 988lifeline.org

You'll be able to speak with a trained crisis counselor any time of day or night.

## **Medical Facilities:**

Methodist Medical Center

1441 N. Beckley Ave., Dallas, TX 75203

2.0 miles – 5 min. drive

Baylor Scott & White Health

2727 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX 75204

2.8 miles – 10 min. drive

## **Pharmacy:**

CVS

2501 N. Field St., Dallas, TX 75201

(214) 468-8732

1.5 miles – 8 min drive

# Guide Dog User Information

Message from Praline

Greetings and wags! I'm Praline, guide dog for ACB President Deb Cook Lewis, with important information for dogs and their people.

Guide dog relief areas, built and maintained by Scoop Masters, are located near hotel exits. ACB volunteers or hotel staff can help you locate these areas.

The convention can be very stressful for many of us, so consider relieving us more often than usual. And of course, please pick up after your dog; trash receptacles are located near relief areas.

If an accident does happen, immediately call Scoop Masters at (661) 714-0749. Stay there to alert others until help arrives. People don't like stepping in and tracking that stuff throughout the hotel even though I kind of think it's cool. But then, I'm a dog!

Have a wonderful convention and I'll see you all out at the relieving area, I'm sure.

## **Veterinary Care**

Metro Paws Animal Hospital  
1021 Fort Worth Ave., Dallas, TX 75208  
(214) 939-1600  
2.4 miles – 7 min. drive

Victory Bark Vet Clinic  
1900 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207  
(214) 744-2275  
2.8 miles – 9 min. drive

## **Religious Activities**

### **Saturday, July 5**

10:00 am: Jewish service: Rabbi Steve Fisch, (retired)  
Dallas, TX; Onsite; Reverchon

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Interdenominational Service;  
Onsite; Reverchon

# Convention Standing Rules

Adopted by the ACB Board of Directors, May 19, 2025

## Preamble

The ACB Standing Rules are updated annually to ensure fairness and efficiency during debates and voting. Election materials, proposed Resolutions, and Amendments to the ACB Constitution and Bylaws are published in advance. Zoom sessions are scheduled for discussion and questions. Members are encouraged to attend or listen to these sessions to be informed and suggest amendments.

1.

- A. At the outset of debate on any issue before the convention, there shall be a period not to exceed ten (10) minutes devoted exclusively to questions and other points of clarification about the issue being debated. Speakers shall be limited to one minute, with no more than five speakers recognized, and a speaker shall be limited to asking about their point of clarification and shall not discuss the merits of the issue.
- B. Debate on the merits of the issue shall begin at the conclusion of the ten-minute period for points

of clarification. When the initial debate period begins, in the case of a resolution, the maker of that resolution shall be given an opportunity to address the assembly on the merits of the resolution.

- C. Each debatable issue before the convention shall be limited to approximately twenty (20) minutes with a two-minute time limit per speaker, alternating between supporting speakers, including the maker of the resolution if they speak pursuant to subsection (b), and opposing speakers, unless a majority of the members agree to extend debate for an additional period of time. A member who does not seek recognition for purposes of debate at the beginning of a debate period shall not be eligible for debate during that debate period. The chair shall, during any debate period, immediately close debate when an equal number of speakers, have debated each side and no additional speakers have sought the floor.
- D. Speakers shall not be recognized for purposes of seeking points of clarification during a debate period. Each member is respectfully urged to speak directly to the issue before the assembly and avoid unnecessary and time-consuming dialogue. No member will be recognized a

second time to debate until all who wish to debate have been recognized.

- E. Motions to close debate will not be recognized by the chair during the first debate period. After the first debate period, properly moved motions such as “I call for the question” or “I move the previous question” will be handled by the chair and voted on by the assembly.
- F. At the beginning of the first 20-minute debate period, the chair shall define for the body what constitutes a point of order (or other parliamentary inquiry) and shall signify how a member can be recognized for the purpose of making a point of order (or other parliamentary inquiry). Any time in which a point of order is being considered shall not be deducted from the debate period.
- G. With respect to any motion on the floor, other than a motion on the adoption of a constitutional or bylaw amendment, if no one seeks the floor to debate in opposition to the motion, the chair may ask whether there is any objection to declaring a unanimous vote in favor of the motion. If, using the appropriate method for a rising vote, no one objects to such a unanimous vote in favor of the motion, the chair shall declare the motion passed unanimously. If an objection is made to a

unanimous vote, the chair shall proceed to a rising vote on the motion.

2.

- A. Except as provided in subsection (b), an amendment to a resolution or constitution or bylaw amendment may not be offered on the floor unless; 1. in the case of a resolution, the language for the proposed amendment has been provided to the chair of the Resolutions Committee prior to the opening of the session in which that resolution is scheduled to be debated, and 2. In the case of an amendment to a constitution or bylaw amendment, the language for the proposed amendment has been provided to the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee prior to the opening of the session in which that constitution or bylaw amendment is scheduled to be debated.
- B. Notwithstanding subsection (A), if, in the opinion of the convention chair, the amendment being proposed is non-substantive or clarifying in nature, the amendment may be proposed and adopted by unanimous consent.
- C. Voting on an amendment to a proposed Resolution or Constitution or Bylaw Amendment



shall occur by rising vote only. It shall not, therefore, be in order to seek a record vote on such an amendment.

3. The parliamentarian will act as timekeeper.
4. Recognition to speak will be given to those members who properly address the chair either using the “raise hand” feature of the Zoom internet meeting client program or while standing at a microphone in the convention hall and giving their names and affiliation.
5. Nominating and seconding speeches shall be limited to five minutes per candidate with the speaking time allocated according to the candidate's wishes. A person nominated for an office more than once shall be limited to one minute.
6. When no candidate for office receives a majority vote, the election shall be between the top two candidates. Affiliate votes will be reported in whole or half numbers. In all uncontested elections as verified after three calls for additional nominations, the chair may declare the candidate elected by acclamation. “Write in” candidacies are not permitted.

7.

- A. Once a rising vote has been taken on a resolution, the chair will announce the result. If the difference between the winning and losing side of a rising vote is less than 20%, a record vote can be requested if 25% or more of those voting on the losing side request it. Alternatively, the presiding officer may call for a record vote if they believe there is enough uncertainty in the margin.
- B. After debate has ceased on a resolution and it is subsequently determined that a record vote is required, no further amendments may be proposed.

# **General Session Agenda**

## **Saturday, July 5**

7:00 pm: Call to Order – Deb Cook Lewis, ACB

President, Clarkston, WA

Moment of Reflection

Presentation of Colors:

National Anthem – Jan Gray, President, Fort Worth

Chapter, ACB of Texas

Welcome to Convention – Ted Harper, President,

Dallas Area Council of the Blind; Paul L.

Mimms, President, Blinded Veterans

Association, Kansas City, MO

7:30 pm: ACB President's Report – Deb Cook Lewis,  
Clarkston, WA

Executive Director's Report – Scott Thornhill,  
Alexandria, VA

8:00 pm: Life Member Presentations – Deb Cook Lewis,  
Clarkston, WA; Nancy Marks Becker, ACB Chief  
Financial Officer, Brooklyn Center, MN

8:30 pm: ACB First Timers – Zelda Gebhard, Chair;  
Durward K. McDaniel First-Timers Committee,  
Edgeley, ND

8:45 pm: JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows – Scott  
Thornhill, Alexandria, VA

9:00 pm: Affiliate Announcements and Recognitions

9:20 pm: ACB Officer Elections

## **Sunday, July 6**

9:00 am – 10:15 am: BVA is Celebrating 80 Years

Explore the 80-year history and mission of the Blinded Veterans Association, where blinded veterans support one another. Engage with our Board of Directors and staff to learn about our diverse membership, including blind and low vision veterans. Discover eligibility criteria and how we help members access the benefits they've earned. Gain insights into our advocacy efforts for the rights of blind and low vision veterans. Join us to understand the impactful work of BVA and how you can be part of our empowering community by joining the BVA Auxiliary, a group of friends and family who support BVA.

## 9:00 am – 10:15 am: Update on Legislation

Join ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Claire Stanley, as she provides a look at 2025 federal legislation of concern to people with vision loss. She will cover not only those items in which ACB has been involved, but other legislative issues of concern to people with vision loss. Also, we urge attendees who are working on current legislation in their states to report on their progress. Presenter: Claire Stanley, ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Alexandria, VA Facilitator: Jeff Thom, ACB Advocacy Steering Committee, Sacramento, CA

## 10:30 am – 11:45 am: The Color of Resilience - A Talk and Painting Demonstration with John Bramblitt

Join internationally acclaimed blind artist John Bramblitt for an inspiring session where he will share the remarkable story of his career. Hear how he overcame the loss of his sight to become a celebrated muralist, speaker, and author. Through heartfelt storytelling and personal insights, he'll explore themes of creativity, resilience, and inclusion. The session will also feature a live painting demonstration, offering a unique look into

John's innovative techniques. Don't miss the opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A at the end.

### 10:30 am – 11:45 am: Audio Description People's Choice Awards Final Voting Kickoff

The nominations have been counted, and it's time to vote for the best audio description of the last year. Come experience clips of each nominated film and series, and then cast your vote during the convention or when you get home for the two you like most. Learn more about the awards at <https://adawardsgala.org>.

## **Monday, July 7**

8:30 am: Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance – 2025 Scholarship Recipients

8:40 am: ACB Sponsor Recognitions - Corporate Sponsors

8:45 am: Sponsorship Recognition - Individual Sponsors

8:50 am: ACB Angel Presentation - William Reeder, Ellicott City, MD; Tori Zigler, Wales, United Kingdom

9:00 am: Affiliate Roll Call

9:30 am: Nominations and Candidate Speeches -  
Elections

10:00 am: Corporate Sponsor: Waymo  
Presiding Officer: David Trott, First Vice President,  
Talladega, AL

10:15 am: Scholarship Presentations

11:15 am: Resolutions Report

11:30 am: Announcements and Door Prizes

## **Tuesday, July 8**

8:30 am: Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance – All Veterans

ACB Sponsor Recognitions - Corporate Sponsors

8:45 am: Diamond Sponsorship Presentation: Non-  
24/Vanda Pharmaceuticals - Maggie Felton,  
Registered Nurse Educator, Baltimore, MD; Vicki  
Preddy, Registered Nurse Educator, Orlando, FL

9:00 am: Affiliate Roll Call

9:30 am: Nominations and Candidate Speeches -  
Elections

10:00 am: ACB Angel Presentation - Nancy Burgess-  
Hall, Daytona Beach, FL; Dr. Perry Ray Sanders  
Tulsa, OK; Albert Pietrolungo, Pittsburgh, PA

Presiding Officer: Ray Campbell, Second Vice  
President, Springfield, IL

10:15 am: News from the National Library Service for  
the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)

Jason Broughton, Director of National Library  
Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

10:50 am: Talking Book Narrator Gary Tipton, American  
Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, KY

11:25 am: Door Prizes and Announcements

## **Wednesday, July 9**

8:30 am: Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance – DKM Recipients - Ava



Carruth (West), Houston, TX; Courtney Smith  
(East), Talladega, AL  
ACB Sponsor Recognitions - Corporate Sponsors

8:45 am: Diamond Sponsorship Presentation: Meta,  
Maxine Williams, VP Accessibility and Engagement,  
Menlo Park, CA

9:00 am: Affiliate Roll Call

9:30 am: Nominations and Candidate Speeches –  
Elections

Presiding Officer: Denise Colley, Secretary,  
Richmond, TX

10:00 am: Audio Description Awards

11:00 am: Larry Thacker, Author  
A computer programmer for earthly rewards, a  
pastor for heavenly ones, and author of Accessible  
Success, A Book for the Rest of Us.

11:30 am: Announcements and Door Prizes

## **Thursday, July 10**

8:30 am: Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance - JPMorgan Chase Leadership  
Fellows - Alicia Eidson, Winter Springs, FL; Sara  
Freeman Smith, Houston, TX; Jason Miller,  
Philadelphia, PA; Guillermo Robles, Culver City,  
CA; Sabastian Warren, Trenton, NJ

ACB Sponsor Recognitions - Corporate Sponsors

ACB Sponsor Recognition - Individual Sponsors

8:50 am: ACB Angels Presentation - Iva Menning,  
Salem, OR; Carl Jarvis, Quilcene, WA

9:00 am: Affiliate Roll Call

9:30 am: Nominations and Candidate Speeches - ACB  
Elections

Presiding Officer: Michael Garrett, Treasurer,  
Missouri City, TX

10:00 am: Treasurer's Report, Michael Garrett, ACB  
Treasurer, Missouri City, TX

Introduce Chris Sawyer and Thrift Store Managers  
Walk, auction and MMS updates

10:30 am: Convention Report, Janet Dickelman,  
Convention Committee Chair, Saint Paul, MN

10:40 am: John Kalkanli, Chair, Mayor Appointee,  
Commission on Disabilities, City of Dallas, TX

10:50 am: Adjourn

2:00 pm: Affiliate Roll Call

## **Special-Interest Affiliate Meetings**

### **American Association of Blind Teachers**

AABT President: April Martin

Convention Program Chair: Carla Hayes

Affiliate Donation: \$10 (\$15)

### **Saturday, June 28**

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Using Braille in the Workplace;  
Virtual

Hear from a panel of braille users about how they  
are using braille every day as a vital part of their

job. How important is it in improving job productivity? Explore how braille is being used now versus 40 years ago.

Co-sponsored by the Braille Revival League, AABT and ACB Employment Committee

## **Saturday, July 5**

7:30 am – 9:00 am: AABT Breakfast and Program: From Smart Devices to Chatbots - How AI Is Helpful for Blind Students; Hybrid; Moreno; \$35

AI is not here to replace teachers—it's a tool that can support learning in new ways. From reading text aloud to providing descriptions of images.

AI helps blind students access information, work creatively, and engage in the classroom. Learn how AI can make education easier, not harder.

Presenter: Shawn Keen, AI Guru, AI For the Blind, Fort Worth, TX

## **Monday, July 7**

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: Math Manipulatives for All Learners at All Levels; Onsite; Sanger

In this double session, Jim Franklin, Founder of Slide-A-Round Math, Special Education Teacher

and inventor of several math manipulatives, will begin by demonstrating some of his products and speaking about how they are used in the classroom. After his formal presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to examine the manipulatives and ask questions. Some of these products include a number line and other math manipulatives which address fractions, decimals, money, elapsed time, weight and capacity standards. These products are also available for low vision and blind students.

Presenter: Jim Franklin, President, Slide-A-Round Math Manipulatives, Rome, GA

## **Tuesday, July 8**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: LUA Presents Up Close and Personal with Talking Book Narrator Gary Tipton; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Gary Tipton is a long-time narrator at the American Printing House for the Blind and has read an amazing 789 books in all genres, from cookbooks to fantasy.

Presenter: Gary Tipton, Louisville, KY

Facilitator: Ralph Smitherman, LUA Secretary,  
Brandon, MS

Co-sponsored by BRL, AABT and LUA

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: LUA Presents a Q&A with the NLS  
Director; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

NLS Director Jason Broughton will bring us up to  
speed with happenings at NLS and answer our  
questions about this most important service.

Co-sponsored by AABT, BRL and LUA

## **American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys**

President: Chris Prentice

Program Chair: Steve Blow

Affiliate Donation: \$25 (\$25)

### **Thursday, June 26**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Update on Legal Advocacy  
Impacting People with Disabilities; Virtual

Learn about the legal landscape in what many on  
all sides of the political spectrum view as an  
unprecedented period in our history. Experts in

disability advocacy law will cover a spectrum of issues important to our community. Be prepared with your questions about the latest happenings in disability law.

Panelists: Matthew Handley, Partner, Handley Farah & Anderson, Washington, DC; Rachel Weisberg, Supervising Attorney, Disability Rights Advocates, Chicago, IL; Madeleine Reichman, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Advocates, New York, NY

Facilitators: Claire Stanley, ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Alexandria, VA; Jeff Thom, ACB Advocacy Steering Committee Chair, Sacramento, CA

## **Saturday, June 28**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: AAVIA Business Meeting; Virtual

## **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Transforming Legal Practice and Beyond with AI Products and Services; Hybrid; Moreno

Discover with AAVIA how leveraging AI can transform your daily life and professional journey, helping you achieve greater efficiency, productivity, and success in both personal and legal career

pursuits.

Presenter: Adal Ibrar, London, England

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Issues in Immigration Today; Hybrid;  
Moreno

Hear from a lawyer with decades of experience  
about the host of matters affecting immigration into  
the U.S.

Presenter: Oliver J. Langstadt, Miami, Florida

Co-sponsored by AAVIA and IRC

## **Monday, July 7**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: The Supreme Court Term in  
Review; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Find out from St. Mary's University Law School  
professor about the significant decisions of the U.S.  
Supreme Court in its 2024-25 term and its work  
generally.

Presenter: Professor Bill Piatt, San Antonio, Texas

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Documenting Slavery in the  
Southwest Even After the Civil War; Hybrid; Bryan  
Beeman



See a documentary about Bill Piatt's book and hear from the St. Mary's University Law School professor himself.

Presenter: Professor Bill Piatt, St. Mary's Law School, San Antonio, Texas

Co-sponsored by AAVIA and MCAC

## **Tuesday, July 8**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: A Story of Identity Theft and the Legal Issues Involved; Onsite; Reverchon

Hear from a woman victimized by identity theft and find out about the role of a prosecutor's office and that of the police department or sheriff's office.

Presenters: Deborah E. Joyce, Hawaii, and Chris Prentice, Levelland, Texas

## **Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss**

President: Doug Powell

Program chair: Danette Dixon

Affiliate donation: \$15

## **Friday, June 27**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Boomers vs. Next Gen Battle of the Ages; Virtual

These trivia questions will cross generations. Non-members welcome. Prepare to be stumped. Fun is the name of the game!

Co-sponsored by AAVL and ACBNG

## **Sunday, July 6**

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm: AAVL Lunch featuring Humorous Senior Moments with Much Fun and Many Laughs; Onsite; Bryan Beeman; \$35

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Are We Meeting the Needs of Seniors with Vision Loss; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

AAVL examines specialized services for blind or low vision seniors in Texas and look more generally at innovative ways to bridge the enormous level of unmet needs in our nation for these services. What lessons can we learn from the Texas experience and what can we do to enhance services for our community.

Facilitator: Jeff Thom, Immediate Past President,

Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss, Sacramento, CA

Presenters: Juanita Barker, Director of Blind Services, Texas Workforce Commission, Dallas, TX; Stacy Fuller, Vice-President, Rehabilitation Services, Envision Inc., Dallas, TX; Hannah Christenson, Director, Community Services, Envision Inc., Dallas, TX

**Tuesday, July 8**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: You May be Missing Out on Services for Seniors; Hybrid; Moreno

Benefits Counseling, Medicare Enrollment, Home Delivered Meals, Fall Prevention Exercises. These are just a sampling of the programs and services which may be available free in your community from a Senior Center or Area Agency on Aging. Join AAVL and learn how you can find out where they are and if you are eligible.

Facilitator: Doug Powell, AAVL President, Falls Church, VA

Presenters: Fallon Finney, Program Manager, ADRC of Dallas County, Dallas, TX; Oliva Umoren, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, US Aging,

Washington, DC; Donna Alexander, Director Access and Assistance, Dallas AAA, Community Council of Greater Dallas, Dallas, TX; Renae Perry, COO, The Senior Source, Dallas, TX; Jasmine Kelley, the Wellmed Senior Center, Dallas, TX

## **ACB Diabetics in Action**

President: Larry Gassman

Program Chair: Patricia Maddix

Affiliate Donation: \$15

### **Thursday, June 26**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Food for Thought; Virtual

What role does food play in your life? Do you view it as a way to fuel your body, experience pleasure, or manage your blood sugar levels? ACB Next Generation, in collaboration with ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee and ACB Diabetics in Action, presents an opportunity for individuals to gain insight from three unique perspectives on relationships with food. Amanda Selm will discuss how she has adopted healthy habits and continues to reap benefits. Patricia Maddix will share how she successfully manages her relationship with food while living with diabetes. Lastly, Pam Shaw will talk

about her emotionally driven relationship with food. Together, let's nourish our minds and explore the profound connection between food and our thoughts.

Presenters: Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President of ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY; Pam Shaw, Chair of ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Jenkintown, PA; Patricia Maddix, ACB Diabetics in Action Board Member, Vancouver, WA

Facilitators: Debby Green, First Vice President of the Kentucky Council of the Blind and Vice Chair of ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Elizabethtown, KY; Cassie Coyner, Secretary, ACB Oregon, North Bend, OR

Co-sponsored by ACBNG, ACBDA and MHWC

## **Tuesday, July 8**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: An Update: What's Late and Great in the Diabetes Management Space for 2025; Hybrid; Moreno

Discussion of the new standards of care for diabetes for 2025. This session will focus on

updates in diabetes care and management. We will highlight new drugs to market and delve into navigating the ongoing shortages of GLP1 medications. Updates will be provided on continuous glucose monitor technology, including the Stelo Glucose Biosensor system by Dexcom, available over the counter, without a prescription; insulin pumps and automated insulin delivery system advances will also be presented. There will be ample time for open discussion and questions and answers.

Facilitator: Tom Tobin, ACBDA Member; Cleveland, OH

Presenters: Diana Isaacs, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, BC-ADM, CDCES, FADCES, FCCP, Endocrine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Co-Director, Endocrine Disorders in Pregnancy, Cleveland Clinic Endocrinology & Metabolism Institute, Cleveland, OH; James Montgomery, PharmD, BCACP, Primary Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Cleveland Clinic – Solon Family Health Center, Cleveland, OH

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Accessibility of Diabetes Tools;  
Hybrid; Moreno

This session will explore the latest advancements in

diabetes management tools designed with accessibility in mind for individuals who are blind or have low vision. We will discuss the features and benefits of continuous glucose monitors (CGMS) such as the prescription-based Freestyle Libre 3+ and Dexcom 7. We will also talk about the over-the-counter options like the Dexcom Stelo, Abbott Lingo, and Abbott Freestyle Rio as well as InPen and the Prodigy Meter, highlighting their compatibility with various accessibility needs.

Additionally, the session will also cover accessible insulin pumps and how they are transforming diabetes care for individuals who are blind or low vision, focusing on the tools' usability, features, and the support they provide in managing diabetes independently.

### **Wednesday, July 9**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: ACBDA Presents Advocating for Mental Health Techniques in Action; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Join Emily Durfey, MSW, LSW and Stephanie Ash, MSW, LSW, Esq. as they review techniques for how people with diabetes can advocate for their mental

health! We'll review ways to identify and combat stigma and stereotypes; learn techniques to successfully engage in self-advocacy with family, friends, and providers and discuss signs of diabetes distress/burnout and how to seek help.

Participants will have an opportunity to put learned techniques into action through guided role-plays during the last half of the session and will leave feeling empowered to take action to advocate for their mental health!

Facilitator: Randy Knapp, Board Member, ACBDA, Rockville, MD

Presenters: Stephanie L. Ash, MSW, LSW, Social Worker, Endocrinology, Cleveland, OH; Emily Durfey, MSW, LSW, Social Worker, Endocrinology, Cleveland, OH

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Meal Planning for a Healthy Life with Diabetes; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Three dietitians and diabetes educators from Pennsylvania Hospital will join us in sharing ideas for planning tasty, fun, and interesting meals following eating recommendations for health with



diabetes. Deciding what to eat for your meals and snacks every day is certainly a daunting experience and even more, so, when you're stopping to think about carbohydrates, proteins, fats, nutrition labels, etc. come join us to help pick up some new tips to help make everyday meal planning easier and enjoyable. There will be time for attendees to share their own suggestions and ask any questions about diabetes.

Facilitators: Patricia Maddix, ACBDA Board Member, Vancouver, WA; Abigail Chesterson, MPH, RD, LDN, CDCES, Director, Diabetes Education Center, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Carolyn Ramondo, RD, LDN, CDCES, CNSC, Clinical Dietitian Specialist, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Caroline Meehan, RD, LDN, CDCES, Clinical Dietitian Specialist in Diabetes Education, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

# **American Council of Blind Families**

President: Carla Ruschival

Affiliate Donation: \$10

Register for ACB Families and be eligible to win great door prizes. Lots of fun and lots of winners!

## **Friday, June 27**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: ACBF Spotlight - From Student to President of the Board; Virtual

The Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia is one of the oldest schools for the blind in the United States. It is a private school, not operated by the state of Pennsylvania. Lyle Sine entered Overbrook as a preschooler in 1962, and he graduated from high school there in 1977. Lyle was elected to serve as the Alumni representative to the Overbrook Board of Trustees in 2018, and he became the first visually impaired person to serve as President of the Board in 2023. Share his journey from student to president and learn how a private school for the blind provides its many programs in today's world.

## **Saturday, June 28**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: ACB Families Goes to Camp; Virtual

It's summertime - time to sit around the virtual campfire and eat hot dogs and s'mores. Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, camp is a special experience. Stories, songs, games - a convention tradition for the entire family.

## **Sunday, July 6**

7:30 am – 8:45 am: ACB Families Breakfast Talks Tech with Tyson; Onsite; Bryan Beeman; \$30 (\$35)

When we think about technology, we often think about expensive devices that are priced well beyond our ability to pay. Recently, however, less expensive solutions have made the tech world more reachable for everyone. Tyson Ernst, an access technology instructor with the Orientation and Training Center in Seattle, WA, will help us share information about more affordable options for everyday tasks at home, at work and at play.

## **Tuesday, July 8**

7:30 pm – 10:30 pm: Bingo - It's a Families Tradition; Onsite; Landmark D; \$8 (\$10)

Braille cards, large print cards, and lots of great prizes! Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring your family - fun for all ages!

## **ACB Government Employees**

President: Pat Sheehan

Affiliate Donation: \$10

### **Saturday, July 5**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: From Setback to Comeback –  
Essential tools for a successful career change after  
a job loss; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

This Interactive panel will provide practical tools & tips from professionals to help you recharge or reinvent your career from resume and interview tips, career assessment/coaching, job search techniques and self-care & mental health advice.

Moderator: Pat Sheehan, President, ACB  
Government Employees, Silver Spring, MD

Panelists: Pam Shaw, Chair, ACB Mental Health & Wellness Committee, Jenkintown, PA; Cheryl Cumings, Workforce Development Manager, Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc., ACB Employment

Committee, Seattle, WA; Sara Freeman Smith,  
Career Navigator/CEO, U R Gems, LLC., ACB  
Employment Committee, Houston, TX

Co-sponsored by ACBGE and Employment  
Committee

## **American Council of Blind Lions**

President: Debbie Deatherage

Affiliate Donation: \$10

ACB Lions is a proud Coral sponsor of the 64th annual ACB Conference and Convention, helping ACB scholarship winners to attend the convention, connect with others interested in their areas of study, and learn more about ACB. Support our good work; donate to ACB Lions at registration and be eligible to win our special door prizes. Winners will be drawn following the close of the Convention.

### **Thursday, June 26**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ACB Lions Lessons in Leadership;  
Virtual

Participating in a Lions Club or other organization can be very rewarding, but successful participation

and leadership demand time, dedication and hard work. Meet BJ Blahnik as he takes us on his journey from club member to service on multiple committees to zone chair to district governor to his work with Leader Dogs for the Blind. An inspiring presentation that will encourage you to grow in your leadership skills, both in Lions and in other volunteer work.

## **Sunday, July 6**

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm: ACB Lions Happy Hour - A Roaring Good Time; OnSite

Join ACBL at the bar to mix and mingle after a day of meetings, exhibits and other convention events. A great way to relax before the evening activities begin.

## **ACB Next Generation**

President: Kristin Kelling

Program Chair: Amanda Selm

Affiliate Donation: \$10

With your donation, you will be eligible to win door prizes.

## **Thursday, June 26**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Food for Thought; Virtual

What role does food play in your life? Do you view it as a way to fuel your body, experience pleasure, or manage your blood sugar levels? ACB Next Generation, in collaboration with ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee and ACB Diabetics in Action, presents an opportunity for individuals to gain insight from three unique perspectives on relationships with food. Amanda Selm will discuss how she has adopted healthy habits and continues to reap benefits. Patricia Maddix will share how she successfully manages her relationship with food while living with Diabetes. Lastly, Pam Shaw will talk about her emotionally driven relationship with food. Together, let's nourish our minds and explore the profound connection between food and our thoughts.

Presenters: Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President of ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY; Pam Shaw, Chair of ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Jenkintown, PA; Patricia Maddix, ACB Diabetics in Action Board Member, Vancouver, WA

Facilitators: Debby Green, First Vice President of the Kentucky Council of the Blind and Vice Chair of ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Elizabethtown, KY; Cassie Coyner, Secretary, ACB Oregon, North Bend, OR

Co-sponsored by ACBNG, ACBDA and MHWC

## **Friday, June 27**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Boomers vs. Next Gen Battle of the Ages; Virtual

These trivia questions will cross generations. Non-members welcome. Prepare to be stumped. Fun is the name of the game!

Co-sponsored by AAVL and ACBNG

## **Saturday, June 28**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Leadership Linkup; Virtual

Step into the Leadership Arena and network with leaders of the American Council of the Blind. This is your opportunity to connect directly with the heart of ACB leadership. You'll be paired with an emerging leader and move through fast-paced and



meaningful conversations with dynamic ACB leaders all in one Zoom event. This is an invitation only event, and signing up ahead of time is required as space is limited. Zoom details will be shared with confirmed participants prior to the event.

Facilitators: Donna Brown, Romney, WV; Amanda Selm, Louisville, KY

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACB Leadership Committee

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Together We Thrive - Families Embracing Vision Challenged Members; Virtual

Join us for an inspiring and heartfelt program that highlights the power of family resilience, and support in the face of vision-related challenges. This session features the unique journeys of three families who have navigated life with vision loss and emerged stronger together.

The Carpenter Family will share how they rally around their mom and wife, offering steadfast support and love through every challenge. The Nipper Family will explore a mother's role in empowering her daughter's independence,

leadership aspirations, and personal growth. The Allen Family will discuss how they balance life with two daughters, challenging preconceptions, fostering advocacy skills and navigating their community with strength and grace.

Each story reflects a different perspective, but all speak to the importance of family, understanding and perseverance. This event is especially for families of individuals experiencing vision loss and anyone seeking encouragement, connection, and hope.

Speakers: The Carpenter Family - Moe, Robert, and their boys, West Des Moines, Iowa; The Nipper Family - Cecily and her mom; The Allen Family - Lauren, Derek, and their girls, Louisville, KY

Facilitators: Megan Meigs, San Leandro, CA; Amanda Selm, Louisville, KY

## **Friday, July 4**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Leadership Linkup; Onsite; Reverchon

Step into the Leadership Arena and network with leaders of the American Council of the Blind. This is

your opportunity to connect directly with the heart of ACB leadership. You will be paired with an emerging leader and move through fast-paced and meaningful conversations with dynamic ACB leaders all in one room. This is an invitation only event, and signing up ahead is required as space is limited. Please email [acbnextgen@gmail.com](mailto:acbnextgen@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACB's Berl Colley Leadership Institute

## **Saturday, July 5**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Next Gen and ACBS Pep Rally;  
Onsite; Cumberland ABC

Let's get FIRED UP, a little bit rowdy, and see just who has the most spirit during our 5th Annual NextGen/Students Pep Rally. Come relive your high school and college days before you head to the Tailgate Party. We'll have a live DJ in the house, plus special appearances from Coach Kenneth, and our favorite Get Up and Get Moving Girls, Koni and Leslie. Get up on your feet or move from your seat as we get up and get moving to some fun beats. This session is sponsored by ACB Next Generation and ACB Students.

Kristen Kelling, President of ACB Next Generation, Grand Rapids, MI; Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President of ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY; Michael McCarty, DJ, Louisville, KY; Gregg Wandsneider, ACB Students Board Member, Waukesha, WI; Emily Nelson, President of ACB Students, Fishers, IN; Koni Sims, ACB Board Member and Co-Chair of ACB's Get up and Get Moving Committee, Sioux Falls, SD; Leslie Spoone, ACB Auction Committee Chair, and Co-Chair of ACB's Get Up and Get Moving Committee, Orlando, FL; Kenneth Semien Sr., ACB Board Member, and Board Liaison for ACB Next Generation and ACB Students, Beaumont, TX; Matt Selm, ACB Next Generation Membership Committee Chair, Louisville, KY; Moe Carpenter, ACB Next Generation Board Member, West Des Moines, IA

Co-Sponsored by ACBNG and ACBS

10:30 pm – 11:45 pm: Saturday Night Shindig; Onsite; Cotton Bowl

Join ACB Students and Next Gen as we celebrate our return to the annual Convention! Bring your families, friends, foes, and random strangers to

meet and greet new and old acquaintances.

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACBS

## **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Discover the World of  
Entrepreneurship; Onsite; Sanger

Join us as dynamic entrepreneurs share their journeys, including opportunities within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Hear firsthand how they chose the path of entrepreneurship and what drives their success.

Presenters: Kevin Fortune, Owner, The Fortune Agency, CEO, National BVI Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, OH; Hayley Agers, DoTERRA Wellness Advocate, Marysville, WA; Ardis Bazyn, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Linda Allison, President, Tennessee Council of the Blind and Tennessee vendor, Knoxville, TN; Conrad Bennett, Lots of Smiles, Romney, WV

Co-Sponsored by ACBNG, IVIE, RSVA, ACB Employment and ACB Rehab Issues Task Force

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Discovering the Five Love Languages Connecting Through Care; Hybrid;  
Bryan Beeman

Did you know that everyone has a Love Language, the way they best give and receive love? Whether in friendships, family, professional or personal relationships, understanding the Five Love Languages can transform how we connect with those around us. Join us for an engaging and interactive event where we'll explore the Five Love Languages: Affirmation, Acts of Service, Quality Time, Physical Touch, and Gifts. We'll break down what each Love Language means, how they show up in daily life, and how simply learning someone's Love Language can help you build stronger, more meaningful relationships. Plus, hear from individuals who will share how their Love Languages help to shape the way they connect with others.

Presenters: Terrilynn Higashi, Ewa Beach, HI;  
Amanda Selm, Louisville, KY

## **Monday, July 7**

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: The ABCs of Advocacy; Onsite;  
Reverchon

Join us for an interactive session exploring the fundamental principles of advocacy, what it is, why it matters, and how you can make an impact. Whether it's at the local, state, or national level, advocacy is a powerful tool for driving change. Through interactive discussions, small group collaborations, and role-playing exercises, you'll gain practical strategies and confidence to amplify your voice.

Presenters: Jeff Thom, Chair of ACB's Advocacy Steering Committee, Sacramento, CA; Koni Sims, ACB Board Member, Sioux Falls, SD; Claire Stanley, ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Alexandria, VA

Facilitators: Aaron Espinoza, ACB Next Generation Advocacy Committee Chair, Bakersfield, CA; Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President, ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and Advocacy Steering Committee

## **ACB Radio Amateurs**

President: Harvey Heagy

Program Chair: Marcia Moses

Affiliate donation: \$5

### **Thursday, June 26**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Accessible FT8 Ham Radios; Virtual

This session from ACBRA will feature a Podcast followed by time for questions with John Farina (W2QCY) on making radios accessible for blind and low vision hams.

## **American Council of Blind Students**

President: Emily Nelson

Program Chair: Malia Thibado

Affiliate Donation: \$15

### **Saturday, July 5**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Next Gen and ACBS Pep Rally;  
Onsite; Cumberland ABC

Let's get FIRED UP, a little bit rowdy, and see just who has the most spirit during our 5th Annual NextGen/Students Pep Rally. Come relive your high school and college days before you head to the



Tailgate Party. We'll have a live DJ in the house, plus special appearances from Coach Kenneth, and our favorite Get Up and Get Moving Girls Koni and Leslie. Get up on your feet or move from your seat as we get up and get moving to some fun beats.

Kristen Kelling, President of ACB Next Generation, Grand Rapids, MI; Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President of ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY; Michael McCarty, DJ, Louisville, KY; Gregg Wandsneider, ACB Students Board Member, Waukesha, WI; Emily Nelson, President of ACB Students, Fishers, IN; Koni Sims, ACB Board Member and Co-Chair of ACB's Get Up and Get Moving Committee, Sioux Falls, SD; Leslie Spoone, ACB Auction Committee Chair, and Co-Chair of ACB's Get Up and Get Moving Committee, Orlando, FL; Kenneth Semien Sr., ACB Board Member, and Board Liaison for ACB Next Generation and ACB Students, Beaumont, TX; Matt Selm, ACB Next Generation Membership Committee Chair, Louisville, KY; Moe Carpenter, ACB Next Generation Board Member, West Des Moines, IA

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACBS

10:30 pm – 11:45 pm: Saturday Night Shindig; Onsite;  
Cotton Bowl

Join ACB Students and Next Gen as we celebrate our return to the annual convention! Bring your families, friends, foes, and random strangers to meet and greet new and old acquaintances.

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACBS

## **Monday, July 7**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ACBS AI and Classroom Assistive Technology; Hybrid; Moreno

Shawn Keen, expert on integration artificial intelligence with assistive technology for the blind, will give an overview of classroom assistive technology and new innovations in the field perpetuated by AI. In college, every class and every professor is different — join us to learn how to take advantage of new technology and excel in various classrooms and environments.

# **Blind Information Technology Specialists**

President: Jeff Bishop

Program Chair: Brad Snyder

Affiliate Donation: \$10

Those who donate will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, to be awarded at the BITS Annual Meeting in December.

## **Thursday, June 26**

10:00 am - 11:15 am: Unleashing Your Inner Slacker;  
Virtual

Slack is a communication platform designed for teams and workplaces, facilitating collaboration through instant messaging, file sharing, and integration with various productivity tools. Slack provides channels for topic-specific discussions, direct messaging for private conversations, and supports video calls and screen sharing. But how do you get started using Slack? Join BITS and presenter Jack Falejczyk, as he helps us understand and get started using this popular platform. Jack will explain how to download and install the app on your PC, and create an account. Jack will also demonstrate how to begin using the platform, use of keyboard commands for increased

efficiency, and more.

Presenter: Jack Falejczyk, self-employed - Access Technology consultant, Chicago, IL

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Exploring AI Apps on your iPhone with iBug Today; Virtual

AI is taking the world by storm, and there are many apps available for your iPhone that can help you take advantage of this powerful technology. In this session, iBug Today members Sandhya Rao and Brad Snyder take a look at several apps that can help you put this powerful technology to work for you.

Presenters: Sandhya Rao, Vice President and Director of Training, iBugToday, Houston, TX; Brad Snyder, Vice President, Blind Information Technology Specialist and iBugToday, SME, Dallas, TX

## **Friday, June 27**

10:00 am - 11:15 am: Getting Started with WhatsApp on Your iPhone; Virtual

As of January 2025, WhatsApp has approximately 3.14 billion monthly active users worldwide. This

marks a significant increase from previous years, solidifying its position as one of the most widely used messaging platforms globally.

Join BITS members Nicki Keck and Melissa Wolf, along with guest presenter Drew Mochak as they explain how to get started using WhatsApp on your iPhone. Our team will show you how to get the app, set up an account, find and join groups, send your first message, and much more.

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Solving Your Tech Issues When You Are Not a Wizard; Virtual

Do you get frustrated when your devices do not work as expected? Join Basics with BITS presenter Deborah Armstrong as we explore step-by-step methods for solving many common tech issues. Learn how you need not be a geek to solve the most common tech problems.

## **Saturday, June 28**

10:00 am - 11:15 am: Efficient Messaging Using WhatsApp and JAWS with Brian Hartgen; Virtual

When we think of sending and receiving messages with WhatsApp, we perhaps think of doing so using

our smart phones. But a computer-based app exists to carry out the same functionality.

While this is a very accessible application, usage of this app is made far more efficient through the use of JAWS scripts. If you receive many messages each day, you're going to want to process them fast.

In this BITS presentation, Brian from Hartgen Consultancy will show you how to link a WhatsApp account to your computer, describe the application in detail, but above all, will demonstrate how you can be a WhatsApp super user by working with many keyboard shortcuts and abbreviated speech.

Come along to find out how you can send and receive messages and make calls with incredible speed!

Presenter: Brian Hartgen, Owner - Hartgen Consultancy, United Kingdom

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: AI in the Workplace and Beyond;  
Virtual

Are you interested in integrating AI into your

professional life but don't know quite how to start?  
Join the Employment Committee and BITS as  
human presenters encourage and guide us to start  
this journey.

Presenters: Peter Altschul, Employment Committee  
Chair, Coos Bay, OR; Jeff Bishop, BITS President,  
Tucson AZ

Co-sponsored by BITS and Employment Committee

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Introducing BlueSky and Mastodon

Join BITS and presenter Merv Keck as we take look  
at these exciting and popular social media  
platforms. We will begin with an introduction to the  
Skeets app for BlueSky, which will be followed by  
an overview of the Mona app for Mastodon.

Presenter: Mervin Keck, BITS Mentoring  
Technology Specialist, Hamburg, PA

## **Wednesday, July 9**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Mastering AI for Unmatched  
Accessibility, Productivity, and Affiliate  
Transformation; Onsite; Reverchon; \$75 (\$75)

Step into the forefront of digital innovation at the BITS AI & Technology Training! Over three transformative days, you'll experience live AI demonstrations, hands-on sessions with cutting-edge assistive technology, and master the art of effective prompt engineering. Discover how to automate everyday tasks, enhance digital workflows, and boost productivity with the latest AI tools. You will:

1. Master Essential Tools: Learn to harness AI across platforms like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot.
2. Elevate Your Communication: Develop impactful prompting techniques to enhance research, content creation, and affiliate communications.
3. Transform Virtual Meetings: Optimize Zoom interactions to drive effective and engaging meetings.
4. Expand Content Distribution: Generate newsletters, articles, business documents, and meeting minutes in versatile formats including phone-based systems and podcasts.



Transform your affiliate with groundbreaking technologies designed to increase engagement, expand outreach, and drive effectiveness. Our expert-led workshops and interactive exercises deliver actionable insights to revolutionize your operations and create a lasting impact in your community.

Post-convention sessions will further empower you to build personalized, optimized solutions for your professional goals and affiliate interactions.

The BITS team will be in touch with pre-convention workshops to set expectations and tailor the experience to your needs.

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: BITS Reception; Onsite;  
Cumberland A; \$15 (\$15)

Join all your BITS friends at the 2nd Annual BITS Reception at the ACB Convention in Dallas.

There will be a cash bar and live entertainment. Each ticket includes one drink coupon.

## **Thursday, July 10**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Mastering AI for Unmatched  
Accessibility, Productivity, and Affiliate  
Transformation; Onsite; Reverchon

Continuation of previous session held on July 9<sup>th</sup>

## **Friday, July 11**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm: Mastering AI for Unmatched  
Accessibility, Productivity, and Affiliate  
Transformation; Onsite; Reverchon

Continuation of previous sessions held on July 9<sup>th</sup>  
and July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Braille Revival League**

President: Denise Colley

Affiliate Donation: \$10

## **Thursday, June 26**

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Making Braille Music Accessible  
by Touch; Virtual

While blind musicians naturally hear music, reading  
it is also possible - and empowering - through  
Music Braille. This session offers an introduction to

the Music Braille system, including its history, how it differs from literary braille, and the ways modern technology is transforming access to written music. Attendees will explore practical examples, learn strategies for understanding Music Braille signs, and gain insights into how to begin or enhance their own learning journey.

Co-sponsored by BRL and FIA

## **Saturday, June 28**

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Using Braille in the Workplace;  
Virtual

Come hear from a panel of braille users about how they are using braille every day as a vital part of their job. How important is it in improving job productivity? Explore how braille is being used now versus 40 years ago.

Co-sponsored by the Braille Revival League, AABT and ACB Employment Committee

## **Tuesday, July 8**

7:00 am - 8:15 am: BRL Breakfast - What's So Great About UEB; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman; \$35 (\$38)

The Unified English Braille Code (UEB) has met with some controversy and resistance since its adoption in the United States in 2015. Our presenter is a blind NLS Certified UEB Transcriber who will explain the major changes to the braille code introduced by UEB, the reasons for those changes, benefits of UEB, and tips to make learning UEB easier.

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: LUA Presents Up Close and Personal with Talking Book Narrator Gary Tipton; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Gary Tipton is a long-time narrator at the American Printing House for the Blind, and has read an amazing 789 books in all genres, from cookbooks to fantasy.

Presenter: Gary Tipton, Louisville, KY

Facilitator: Ralph Smitherman, LUA Secretary, Brandon, MS

Co-sponsored by BRL, AABT and LUA

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: LUA Presents a Q&A with the NLS Director; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

NLS Director Jason Broughton will bring us up to speed with happenings at NLS and answer our questions about this most important service.

Presenter: Jason Broughton, Director, NLS, Washington, DC

Facilitator: Paul Edwards, Jacksonville, FL

Co-sponsored by AABT, BRL and LUA

## **Wednesday, July 9**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Yes, Braille Can be Fun; Onsite;  
Sanger

Come join your Braille Revival League friends at an in-person convention session to test your trivia knowledge about braille, its history, and the Braille Revival League, as well as see what other fun things we have in store. And by the way, there will be prizes!!

## **Council of Citizens with Low Vision International**

President: Patti Cox

Program Chair: Dianna Leonard

Affiliate Donation: \$15

## **Thursday, June 26**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Low Vision Research with Dr. Soltau; Virtual

Join us in welcoming Dr. Joern Soltau, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Louisville, as he shares the latest findings and insights on low vision research.

## **Saturday, June 28**

2:30 pm – 5:25 pm: CCLVI Business Meeting; Virtual

## **Sunday, July 6**

8:00 pm – 11:00 pm: CCLVI Jamboree Dance; Onsite; Landmark D; \$10 (\$10)

Get down with CCLVI! In addition to all the fun our dance normally brings, we will have games such as a lasso contest, opportunities for line dancing and square dancing, and fun photo ops! Whether you dress like a cowboy or come as you are, you are bound to have a great time at our Dallas jamboree.

## **Monday, July 7**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Low Vision Tips and Tech with Sandi Owens; Hybrid; Moreno

CCLVI is proud to welcome Sandi Owens, Founder of Making It Visible, LLC, Fayetteville, NC, to lead a discussion on tips, technologies, and techniques for people with low vision. Sandi has a wealth of knowledge from her experiences as a Licensed Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist and Consultant.

## **Wednesday, July 9**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Get Crafty with CCLVI; Onsite; Cotton Bowl; \$10 (\$10)

Come learn how to make bracelets and cane keychains with us. We can't wait to see your creativity shine, and who doesn't love getting hands-on and making something that you get to take home? Bracelets are bound to look fashionable, and keychains are versatile on any object! Space is limited, so please be sure to register.

8:00 pm – 11:00 pm: CCLVI Game Night; Onsite; Landmark D; \$10 (\$10)

CCLVI's annual game night is all about Family Feud! Our 2024 event was a resounding success, so we're bringing it back for a second round. If you know a group of people you'd like to team up with, please call or text Patti Cox at 1 (502) 905-0869 as soon as possible to list your team name and members for a smooth game night.

## **Friends-in-Art of ACB**

President: Annie Chiappetta

Program Chair: Peter Altschul

Affiliate Donation: \$20 (\$25)

## **Thursday, June 26**

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Making Braille Music Accessible  
by Touch; Virtual

While blind musicians naturally hear music, reading it is also possible - and empowering - through Music Braille. This session offers an introduction to the Music Braille system, including its history, how it differs from literary braille, and the ways modern technology is transforming access to written music. Attendees will explore practical examples, learn strategies for understanding Music Braille signs, and gain insights into how to begin or enhance their



own learning journey.

Co-sponsored by BRL and FIA

## **Friday, June 27**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Telephone Film Screening; Virtual

A Documentary on Audio Description and Dance  
co-directed by Krishna Washburn and Heather  
Shaw.

Presenter: Following the film screening  
(approximately 45 minutes), co-directors Krishna  
Washburn and Heather Shaw will answer questions  
about audio description and dance and the work  
they do in this space.

Moderator: Kim Charlson

Co-sponsored by FIA and ADP

## **Saturday, June 28**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Poems of Protest Resistance and  
Empowerment; Virtual

Poetry is meant to be read aloud. In this session,

poems written by Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Denise Levertov, Alan Ginsberg, and other powerful talents will be performed and discussed.

Facilitated by Annie Chiappetta

## **Monday, July 7**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Prose and Poetry Reading; Hybrid;  
Moreno

Share some of your original work or just come listen. FAMILY FRIENDLY, PLEASE.

**UZURV provides accessible pre-scheduled and on-demand transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.**

**Our Courteous Drivers:**

- Meet rigorous background check and substance abuse testing standards
- Complete passenger assistance training
- Welcome guide dogs
- Deliver door-to-door service on every ride

We're excited to sponsor this year's ACB Conference and Convention, and we look forward to serving the transportation needs of many ACB members now and in the future.

**Visit [www.uzurv.com/ride](http://www.uzurv.com/ride) to learn more and see where we serve.**

## **Guide Dog Users, Inc.**

President: Sarah Calhoun

Program Chair: Maria Hansen

Affiliate Donation: \$10

With your donation, you will be eligible to win door prizes.

### **Thursday, June 26**

10:00 am - 12:45 pm: Guide Dog School Updates;  
Virtual

The ever-popular North American guide dog school updates.

### **Friday, June 27**

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: GDUI Prison Pups; Virtual

Learn about Puppies Behind Bars programs.

Co-presented by GDUI and BVA

### **Monday, July 7**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Accessibility and Safety Features  
Within the Airplane Cabin; Hybrid; Moreno

GDUI is hosting this hands-on presentation by Julie Rockaway from the American Airlines Inflight Team.

## **Tuesday, July 8**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: GDUI presents Emergency Preparedness for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Hybrid; Moreno

The Dallas Fire-Rescue education team will provide information on dealing with various emergencies. Don't miss this potentially life-saving session.

## **Wednesday, July 9**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: GDUI wrap-up and awards ceremony; Hybrid; Moreno

## **Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs**

President: Ardis Bazyn

Program Chair: Carla Hayes

Affiliate Donation: \$20 (\$25)

Amount includes 2026 IVIE annual dues

## **Friday, June 27**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: The Coaching Roundtable; Virtual

Join ACB Women and IVIE for a conversation with three women coaches. You will learn about their training, their coaching philosophies, and their experience as coaching entrepreneurs. One of them might be the perfect coach for you.

Facilitator: Linda Porelle, Retired Social Worker and Life Coach, Westbrook, ME

Presenters: Ardis Bazyn, CEO, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Dr. Cathy Schmitt Whitaker, Empowerment and Energy Leadership Coach, E3 Coaching and Speaking LLC, Diamond Bar, CA; Darian Slayton Fleming, Certified Happiness Trainer, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Portland, OR.

Co-sponsored by IVIE and ACB Women

## **Saturday, July 5**

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm: RSVVA and IVIE Lunch; Onsite; Moreno; \$60

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Bringing Meaning to Your Business; Hybrid; Moreno

Our speaker will use personal experiences to highlight how using the mission and goals of the business will help it thrive. The main focus is on bringing meaning into their business to ensure the passion for the business continues.

Presenter: Dan Lococo, PhD, Affinity by Design, Inc., Milwaukee, WI

Co-sponsored by IVIE and RSVA

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Tips for Preventing Identity Theft; Hybrid; Moreno

Speakers will give participants ways to prevent identity theft. You will also learn about recent scams and how to identify them so you don't get scammed.

Panelists: Deborah Joyce, Author, Honolulu, HI; Chris Peterson, Founder and CEO, Penny Forward, Richfield, MN.

Co-sponsored by IVIE and RSVA

## **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Discover the World of Entrepreneurship; Onsite; Sanger

Join us as dynamic entrepreneurs share their journeys, including opportunities within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Hear firsthand how they chose the path of entrepreneurship and what drives their success.

Presenters: Kevin Fortune, Owner, The Fortune Agency, CEO, National BVI Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, OH; Hayley Agers, DoTERRA Wellness Advocate, Marysville, WA; Ardis Bazyn, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Linda Allison, President, Tennessee Council of the Blind and Tennessee vendor, Knoxville, TN; Conrad Bennett, Lots of Smiles, Romney, WV

Co-Sponsored by ACBNG, IVIE, RSVA, ACB Employment and ACB Rehab Issues Task Force

## **Wednesday, July 9**

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: IVIE Business Expo; Onsite; Gaston A

Blind and visually impaired business owners will

showcase their products and services and answer your questions.

## **Library Users of America**

President: Carla Ruschival

Program Chair: Jane Carona

Affiliate Donation: \$10

Support the expanding programs and advocacy from the Library Users of America and be eligible to win door prizes.

### **Thursday, June 26**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: LUA Presents the New DA2 Player and the NLS My Talking Books Smart Speaker Skill; Virtual

Don Olson, customer service specialist and Zhe Huang, Patron Education and Training Specialist will familiarize us with the new DA2 talking book player which will shortly be available and will allow an NLS patron to download books directly from BARD. We will also learn about the My Talking Books smart speaker skill which gives a patron hands-free access to BARD through the Amazon Alexa devices.



Presenters: Don Olson, Customer Service Specialist, and Zhe Huang, Patron Education and Training Specialist, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), Washington, DC

Facilitator: Jane Carona, LUA Vice President, Silver Spring, MD

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: LUA Presents the Journey from Print Book to Talking Book; Virtual

Presenters from NLS detail the process a book goes through in its journey to becoming available as an audiobook on BARD.

Presenter: Alice Baker O'Reilly, NLS, Washington, DC

Facilitator: Brian Charlson, Watertown, MA

## **Friday, June 27**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Author Talk by a Survivor of the World War II Nazi Atrocities; Virtual

Simone Arnold-Liebster has been a lifelong advocate to ensure that future generations never forget past religious atrocities. She is active in promoting an environment where peace, tolerance

and human dignity can flourish. The condensed version of Simone's book, "Facing the Lion: Memoirs of a Young Girl in Nazi Europe," is available from Audible, narrated by the author. The full version is available on Bookshare. This promises to be a very moving and meaningful author presentation.

Presenters: Simone Arnold-Liebster, author, Tresserve, France; Greg Milakovich, Arnold-Liebster Foundation, Davenport, IA

Facilitator: Janet Parmerter, Loganville, GA

2:30 pm – 5:15 pm: LUA Business Meeting; Virtual

Updates and reports on LUA programs, consideration of amendments to the LUA Bylaws, and election of officers.

Conducted by Carla Ruschival, LUA President, Louisville, KY

## **Tuesday, July 8**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: LUA Presents Up Close and Personal with Talking Book Narrator Gary Tipton; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Gary Tipton is a long-time narrator at the American Printing House for the Blind, and has read an amazing 789 books in all genres, from cookbooks to fantasy.

Presenter: Gary Tipton, Louisville, KY

Facilitator: Ralph Smitherman, LUA Secretary,  
Brandon, MS

Co-sponsored by BRL, AABT and LUA

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: LUA Presents a Q&A with the NLS  
Director; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

NLS Director Jason Broughton will bring us up to speed with happenings at NLS and answer our questions about this most important service.

Presenter: Jason Broughton, Director, NLS,  
Washington, DC

Facilitator: Paul Edwards, Jacksonville, FL

Co-sponsored by AABT, BRL and LUA

# **Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America (RSVA)**

President: Scott Eggen

Convention Chair: Ardis Bazyn

Affiliate Donation: \$20 (\$25)

Includes 2026 RSVA membership dues and door prize opportunities.

## **Saturday, July 5**

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm: RSVA and IVIE Lunch; Onsite; Moreno; \$60

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Bringing Meaning to Your Business; Hybrid; Moreno

Our speaker will use personal experiences to highlight how using the mission and goals of the business will help it thrive. The main focus is on bringing meaning into their business to ensure the passion for the business continues.

Presenter: Dan Lococo, PhD, Affinity By Design, Inc., Milwaukee, WI

Co-sponsored by IVIE and RSVA

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Tips for Preventing Identity Theft;  
Hybrid; Moreno

Speakers will give participants ways to prevent identity theft. You will also learn about recent scams and how to identify them, so you don't get scammed.

Panelists: Deborah Joyce, Author, Honolulu, HI;  
Chris Peterson, Founder and CEO, Penny Forward,  
Richfield, MN

Co-sponsored by IVIE and RSVA

## **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Discover the World of  
Entrepreneurship; Onsite; Sanger

Join us as dynamic entrepreneurs share their journeys, including opportunities within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Hear firsthand how they chose the path of entrepreneurship and what drives their success.

Presenters: Kevin Fortune, Owner, The Fortune Agency, CEO, National BVI Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, OH; Hayley Agers,

DoTERRA Wellness Advocate, Marysville, WA;  
Ardis Bazyn, Bazyn Communications, Thornton,  
CO; Linda Allison, President, Tennessee Council of  
the Blind and Tennessee vendor, Knoxville, TN;  
Conrad Bennett, Lots of Smiles, Romney, WV

Co-Sponsored by ACBNG, IVIE, RSVa, ACB  
Employment and ACB Rehab Issues Task Force

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: All About the Texas BEP Program;  
Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

This session will highlight the Business Enterprise Program in Texas so participants will learn how they train vendors, the types of facilities they have in the program, and some statistics of relevance: gross sales, number of facilities, number of vendors, etc. They will also learn how blind persons can become a vendor in the state.

Speakers: Karla Martinez, Training and Development Specialist, Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, Austin, TX; Crawford J. Odom, BET Business Consultant – District 2, Business Enterprise of Texas - Texas Workforce Commission, Fort Worth, TX; and others

## **Monday, July 7**

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Laugh with RSVA; Onsite;  
Landmark D; \$20 (\$20)

Enjoy this year's comedian.

9:00 pm - 12:00 am: Share Your Talent at RSVA  
Karaoke; Onsite; Landmark D; \$15 (\$20)

## **ACB Committee Meetings**

### **ACB Women Committee**

Chair: Linda Porelle

## **Thursday, June 26**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Easy Chair Yoga with Leslie  
Spoone; Virtual

Come and enjoy some Easy Chair Yoga with certified aerobics instructor and personal trainer, Leslie Spooner. We will be doing some stretches and poses that will leave your body relaxed and centered after the first day of zoom convention sessions.

## **Friday, June 27**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: The Coaching Roundtable; Virtual

Join ACB Women and IVIE for a conversation with three women coaches. You will learn about their training, their coaching philosophies, and their experience as coaching entrepreneurs. One of them might be the perfect coach for you.

Facilitator: Linda Porelle, Retired Social Worker and Life Coach, Westbrook, ME

Presenters: Ardis Bazyn, CEO, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Dr. Cathy Schmitt Whitaker, Empowerment and Energy Leadership Coach, E3 Coaching and Speaking LLC, Diamond Bar, CA; Darian Slayton Fleming, Certified Happiness Trainer, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Portland, OR.

Co-sponsored by IVIE and ACB Women

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Happy Hour Cardio with Leslie Spoone; Virtual

Join us for an energizing cardio session sprinkled



with some laughs with certified aerobics instructor and personal trainer, Leslie Spoone. You can either dance around for your cardio or you can jump on your treadmill, elliptical or bike. This class will leave you pumped and happy as the convention begins.

## **Saturday, June 28**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Sister Power Happy Hour; Virtual

Always a convention favorite; join ACB Women for another inspiring conversation with two dynamic ACB Women leaders, Regina Brink and Cecily Laney Nipper.

Facilitator: Rachel Schroeder, ACB Board Member, Assistive Technology Specialist, Springfield, IL

Presenters: Regina Marie Brink, Director of Governmental Affairs for CCB, Founding Director of InnerVision Theater, Sacramento, CA; Cecily Laney Nipper, ACB Board Member, Medical Transcriptionist, Assistive Technology Instructor, Covington, GA

## **Advocacy Committee**

Chair: Jeff Thom

### **Sunday, July 6**

9:00 am - 10:15 am: Update on Legislation; Hybrid;  
Bryan Beeman

Join ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Claire Stanley, as she provides a look at 2025 federal legislation of concern to people with vision loss. She will cover not only those items in which ACB has been involved, but other legislative issues of concern to people with vision loss. Also, we urge attendees who are working on current legislation in their states to report on their progress.

Presenter: Claire Stanley, ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Alexandria, VA

Facilitator: Jeff Thom, ACB Advocacy Steering Committee, Sacramento, CA

### **Monday, July 7**

1:00 pm – 3:45 pm: The ABCs of Advocacy; Onsite;  
Reverchon

Join us for an interactive session exploring the fundamental principles of advocacy, what it is, why it matters, and how you can make an impact. Whether it's at the local, state, or national level, advocacy is a powerful tool for driving change. Through interactive discussions, small group collaborations, and role-playing exercises, you'll gain practical strategies and confidence to amplify your voice.

Presenters: Jeff Thom, Chair of ACB's Advocacy Steering Committee, Sacramento, CA; Koni Sims, ACB Board Member, Sioux Falls, SD; Claire Stanley, ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Alexandria, VA

Facilitators: Aaron Espinoza, ACB Next Generation Advocacy Committee Chair, Bakersfield, CA; Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President, ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and Advocacy Steering Committee

## **Tuesday, July 8**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Advocacy Strategies During Troubled Times; Onsite; Sanger

This open discussion will enable attendees to share the lessons they have learned during 2025 and their thoughts on the impact on the issues and strategies that maximize our opportunity for successful advocacy.

Facilitators: Claire Stanley, ACB Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Alexandria, VA; Jeff Thom, ACB Advocacy Steering Committee Chair, Sacramento, CA

## **Wednesday, July 9**

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Advocacy Boot Camp; Hybrid; Moreno

Advocacy can look like a lot of things; there is no right or wrong way to do it. This session will talk through the structure of our government to understand the various platforms in which to advocate through. Then, the discussion will expand further to explore other, out-of-the-box forms of advocacy that do not require engaging with the

government at all. Let's put on our thinking caps to find various ways to advocate and make change for the blind and low vision community.

## **Auction Committee**

Chair: Leslie Spoone

### **Saturday, June 21**

5:00 pm – 10:00 pm: ACB Summer Auction; ACB Summer Auction; Virtual

Enjoy bidding at the 19th annual ACB Summer Auction on Zoom and ACB Media. There will be two days of the appetizer auction Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June 20 starting at noon and will close the next day at noon. We look forward to hearing from everyone and to lots of action! Happy bidding!

## **Audio Description Project Steering Committee**

Co-Chairs: Kim Charlson and Carl Richardson

### **Thursday, June 26**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Audio Description Best Practices in Movie Theaters; Virtual

Did you know that most theatrical releases are audio described? Learn from a blind movie goer, AMC Theaters, the National Alliance of Theater Owners, and others on how to make your visit to the movie theater a successful one by enjoying the magic of cinema with the help of audio description.

Moderator: Carl Richardson, Co-Chair, ACB Audio Description Project, Boston, MA

Presenters: Alex Howard, Enthusiastic Blind Theater-Goer & Co-Creator of The Dark Room Podcast, Burbank, CA; Cinema United (formerly known as National Association of Theater Owners (Invited); AMC Theatres (Invited)

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Writing Audio Description with AI Tools; Virtual

Discussion and demonstrations of audio description AI writing and assessment tools and how they work on their own and with essential human collaboration

Moderator: Renee Arrington-Johnson

Presenters: Joel Snyder, PhD., Author of The Visual

Made Verbal, President, Audio Description Associates, LLC, Takoma Park, MD; Caroline Desrosiers, Founder & CEO, Scribely, Truckee, CA; Brett Oppegaard, Ph.D., Professor, School of Communication and Information, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI; Professor Sri Kurniawan, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA; & Rick Morin, ACB Media and IT Manager, Burlington, MA

## **Friday, June 27**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Audio Description and Sports;  
Virtual

Presenters discuss and explore how audio description for sports events is different than play-by-play on radio. What is being done in other countries with AD for sporting events.

Moderator: Clark Rachfal, Former ACB Director of Advocacy & Governmental Affairs, Beaverton, OR

Presenters: Rhys Lloyd, Studio Head, Descriptive Video Works, Vancouver, BC, Canada; Sonali Rai, Senior Manager, Media, Culture and Immersive Technologies, RNIB, United Kingdom; Jerred Mace,

CEO, OneCourt, Seattle, WA; Stasha Boyd,  
President/Creative Director, Q Media Productions  
Inc., & Founder/Executive Director, Audio  
Description Initiative (ADI Foundation, Inc.),  
Orlando, FL

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: Telephone Film Screening; Virtual

A Documentary on Audio Description and Dance  
co-directed by Krishna Washburn and Heather  
Shaw.

Moderator: Kim Charlson

Presenter: Following the film screening  
(approximately 45 minutes), co-directors Krishna  
Washburn and Heather Shaw will answer questions  
about audio description and dance and the work  
they do in this space.

Co-sponsored by FIA and ADP

## **Saturday, June 28**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Using Your Phone and Smart  
Glasses to Describe the World Around You; Virtual  
Learn from experts how to use smart phone apps to



help describe images, photos, and videos to help you better understand the world around you. Several apps will be demonstrated including Ally, Gemini, PiccyBot, Seeing AI and more.

Moderator: Carl Richardson, Co-Chair, ACB Audio Description Project, Boston, MA

Presenters: Cory Kadlik, Assistive Technology Manager, Perkins Library, Framingham, MA; Michael Babcock, American Council of the Blind Member Services Administrative Assistant, Coos Bay, OR; & Jeff Bishop, BITS President, Tucson, AZ

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Audio Description a Global Happening; Virtual

Several years ago, the Audio Description Project partnered with the World Blind Union to conduct a survey which revealed that audio description exists in over 70 countries. Dr. Joel Snyder was the author of that survey; in this session, he will interview blind consumers of audio description who will offer their perspectives on audio description in their corners of the globe.

Moderator: Dr. Joel Snyder

Presenters: Shakila Maharaj, South Africa; Dr. Francisco Lima, Brazil; Johanna Krins, Germany; and Jonny Marshall, Research Officer Media, Culture and Immersive Technologies Team, RNIB, UK

Co-sponsored by ADP and IRC

## **Sunday, July 6**

10:30 am – 11:45 am: Audio Description People's Choice Awards Final Voting Kickoff; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

The nominations have been counted, and it's time to vote for the best audio description of the last year. Come experience clips of each nominated film and series and then cast your vote during the convention or when you get home for the two you like most. Learn more about the awards at [adawardsgala.org](http://adawardsgala.org).

## **Tuesday, July 8**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Audio Description and Gaming Accessibility; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Learn about the current perspective of accessible gaming with audio description. Learn from

presenters what is out there, what companies are supporting gaming for people who are blind.

Moderator: Aaron Spelker, Chair, ACB Audio Description Project Gaming Sub-Committee, Natick, MA

Presenters: Jenna Jennissary, Producer, Live and Interactive Audio Description, Descriptive Video Works, Southern California; Jesse Anderson, Gaming Access Consultant, St. Paul, MN; Charles Pateman, lead voice designer, Massive Entertainment - a Ubisoft studio, Sweden; Microsoft Corporation Representative (Invited); Sony Entertainment Representative (Invited)

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Audio Description and Gaming Accessibility (hands-on session with accessible gaming hardware); Onsite; Reverchon

This is your opportunity to have hands-on time to check out accessible gaming equipment and specific console-based games firsthand.

Presenters: Aaron Spelker, Co-Chair, ADP Gaming Sub-Committee, Natick, MA; Cory Kadlik, Assistive

Technology Manager, Perkins Library, Watertown,  
MA; & Others

## **Berl Colley Leadership Committee**

Chair: Donna Brown

### **Saturday, June 28**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Leadership Linkup; Virtual

During this interactive networking session, attendees will meet and connect with ACB Leaders in small groups.

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACB Leadership Committee

### **Friday, July 4**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Leadership Linkup; Onsite;  
Reverchon

Step into the Leadership Arena and network with leaders of the American Council of the Blind. This is your opportunity to connect directly with the heart of ACB leadership. You will be paired with an emerging leader and move through fast-paced and meaningful conversations with dynamic ACB

leaders all in one room. This is an invitation only event, and signing up ahead is required as space is limited. Please email [acbnextgen@gmail.com](mailto:acbnextgen@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

Co-sponsored by ACBNG and ACB's Berl Colley Leadership Institute

## **Saturday, July 5**

9:00 am – 11:45 am: Achieving Unity in the Face of Disagreement; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

In recent years, American society has become increasingly polarized around political and other differences in belief. As ACB is a microcosm of society, it is likely our affiliates and local chapters are facing polarization among members. This program will help leaders explore how they can achieve unity in the face of disagreement to help move their organization's programs and activities forward. Through sharing information and role play, we hope you will come away from this activity with tools that will help you be an effective leader in the face of all that is happening around you.

Presenter: Rahel Tesfaye, Graduate Student,  
Southern Methodist University (SMU), Dallas, TX

## **DKM First-Timers Committee**

Chair: Zelda Gebhard

### **Wednesday, July 9**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: Turn Big Dreams into Great Leaders  
with DKM; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman \$15 (\$15)

Come and meet the 2025 DKM First Timers and  
learn how big dreams become reality. Join them  
and past recipients for a time of sharing and fun!

## **Employment Committee**

Chair: Peter Altschul

### **Friday, June 27**

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm: All About Requesting an Assessment  
from your Voc Rehab Agency; Virtual

A comprehensive tool for blind and low vision  
individuals to use to determine strengths, areas for  
improvement, and weaknesses when planning  
education and employment.

Co-sponsored by the Rehab Issues Task Force

## **Saturday, June 28**

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: AI in the Workplace and Beyond;  
Virtual

Are you interested in integrating AI into your professional life but don't know quite how to start? Join the Employment Committee and BITS as human presenters encourage and guide us to start this journey.

Presenters: Peter Altschul, Employment Committee Chair, Coos Bay, OR; Jeff Bishop, BITS president, Tucson AZ

Co-sponsored by BITS and Employment Committee

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Using Braille in the Workplace;  
Virtual

Come hear from a panel of braille users about how they are using braille every day as a vital part of their job. How important is it in improving job productivity? Explore how braille is being used now versus 40 years ago.

Co-sponsored by the Braille Revival League, AABT  
and ACB Employment Committee

## **Saturday, July 5**

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm: From Setback to Comeback.

Essential Tools for a Successful Career Change  
After a Job Loss; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

This Interactive panel will provide practical tools & tips from professionals to help you recharge or reinvent your career from resume and interview tips, career assessment/coaching, job search techniques and self-care & mental health advice.

Moderator: Pat Sheehan, President, ACB  
Government Employees, Silver Spring, MD

Panelists: Pam Shaw, Chair, ACB Mental Health & Wellness Committee, Jenkintown, PA; Cheryl Cumings, Workforce Development Manager, Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc., ACB Employment Committee, Seattle, WA; Sara Freeman Smith, Career Navigator/CEO, U R Gems, LLC., ACB Employment Committee, Houston, TX



Co-sponsored by ACBGE and Employment  
Committee

## **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Discover the World of  
Entrepreneurship; Onsite; Sanger

Join us as dynamic entrepreneurs share their journeys, including opportunities within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Hear firsthand how they chose the path of entrepreneurship and what drives their success.

Presenters: Kevin Fortune, Owner, The Fortune Agency, CEO, National BVI Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, OH; Hayley Agers, DoTERRA Wellness Advocate, Marysville, WA; Ardis Bazyn, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Linda Allison, President, Tennessee Council of the Blind and Tennessee vendor, Knoxville, TN; Conrad Bennett, Lots of Smiles, Romney, WV

Co-Sponsored by ACBNG, IVIE, RSVA, ACB  
Employment and ACB Rehab Issues Task Force

## **Get Up and Get Moving**

Co-chairs: Leslie Spoone and Koni Sims

### **Tuesday, July 8**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Come Groove with Get Up and Get Moving; Onsite; Gaston A

Get your groove on with the Get Up and Get Moving gang, Cecily, Koni, Leslie and Peggy. There will be lots of excitement including doing the electric slide, playing a fitness game and getting some well-deserved massage tips for the week. So, don't miss out on this grooving session!

## **International Relations Committee**

Chair: Maria Kristic

### **Saturday, June 28**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Audio Description, a Global Happening; Virtual

Several years ago, the Audio Description Project partnered with the World Blind Union to conduct a survey which revealed that audio description exists in over 70 countries. Dr. Joel Snyder was the author of that survey; in this session, he will interview blind

consumers of audio description who will offer their perspectives on audio description in their corners of the globe.

Moderator: Dr. Joel Snyder

Presenters: Shakila Maharaj, South Africa; Dr. Francisco Lima, Brazil; Johanna Krins, Germany; and Jonny Marshall, Research Officer Media, Culture and Immersive Technologies Team, RNIB, UK

Co-sponsored by ADP and IRC

## **Sunday, July 6**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Issues in Immigration Today; Hybrid; Moreno

Hear from a lawyer with decades of experience about the host of matters affecting immigration into the U.S.

Presenter: Oliver J. Langstadt, Miami, Florida

Co-sponsored by AAVIA and IRC

## **Wednesday, July 9**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: A Conversation on the International Blindness Experience; Hybrid; Moreno

This is your opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Dave Williams, Chair, Braille Foundation, who is visiting us from England. He will address the ACB banquet on Thursday. This is your chance to talk with him in an informal setting. Topics will include worldwide education of the blind, issues facing blind and visually impaired people in foreign countries, and the global importance of braille. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Co-sponsored by IRC and MCAC

## **Membership Committee**

Chair: Ardis Bazyn

## **Wednesday, July 9**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Improving Membership Outcomes by Bridging the Gap between Seniors and Younger Members; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Join the membership committee for a two-part session. Panel 1 – Fostering Trust between

generations. This panel will give tips for working together with members of all ages. This will provide benefits for using the wisdom of older members and taking advantage of the excitement of new members.

Panel 2 – Providing ACB resources to new members. This session will highlight many ACB Programs and documents that many members may not have heard about or been able to use. Participants can then pass on this information to all of their members. Handouts will be available at the event.

## **Mental Health and Wellness Committee**

Chair: Pam Shaw

### **Thursday, June 26**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Food for Thought; Virtual

What role does food play in your life? Do you view it as a way to fuel your body, experience pleasure, or manage your blood sugar levels? ACB Next Generation, in collaboration with ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee and ACB Diabetics in Action, presents an opportunity for individuals to

gain insight from three unique perspectives on relationships with food. Amanda Selm will discuss how she has adopted healthy habits and continues to reap benefits. Patricia Maddix will share how she successfully manages her relationship with food while living with diabetes. Lastly, Pam Shaw will talk about her emotionally driven relationship with food. Together, let's nourish our minds and explore the profound connection between food and our thoughts.

Presenters: Amanda Selm, Immediate Past President of ACB Next Generation, Louisville, KY; Pam Shaw, Chair of ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Jenkintown, PA; Patricia Maddix, ACB Diabetics in Action Board Member, Vancouver, WA

Facilitators: Debby Green, First Vice President of the Kentucky Council of the Blind and Vice Chair of ACB's Mental Health and Wellness Committee, Elizabethtown, KY; Cassie Coyner, Secretary, ACB Oregon, North Bend, OR

Co-sponsored by ACBNG, ACBDA and MHWC

## **Saturday, June 28**

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Understanding Trauma During Changing Times; Virtual

There are all kinds of trauma. In this session, we will explore some of the types of trauma and suggest ways to cope.

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: When the Road Gets Rough; Virtual

There are often challenges on the road to mental health. This session will feature three presenters who will share their experience, strength and hope.

## **Saturday, July 5**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Shifting Mental Health Culture Through Storytelling; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Mental health affects us all. Yet stigma, shame and fear of judgement are major contributors to the high rate of mental illness among minority populations. This session explores how storytelling can make a difference.

Co-sponsored by MCAC

## **Multicultural Affairs Committee**

Chair: Cheryl Cumings

### **Thursday, June 26**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Christian Nationalism 101; Virtual

Join us for a discussion of Christian Nationalism, what it is and its growing impact on civil, legal and religious life within the United States.

Presenters: Mariko Hirose, Chief Program Officer, Americans United for Separation of Church & State, Washington, DC; Reverend Peter Heide, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and ACB Board Member, Baraboo, WI

### **Monday, July 7**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Documenting Slavery in the Southwest Even After the Civil War; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

See a documentary about Bill Piatt's book and hear from the St. Mary's University Law School professor himself.

Presenter: Professor Bill Piatt, St. Mary's Law



School, San Antonio, Texas

Co-sponsored by AAVIA and MCAC

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Intertwining Roots - The Story of  
Dallas from a Multicultural Perspective; Hybrid;  
Bryan Beeman

Come hear from a Distinguished Panel of  
Historians as we explore the rich cultural history of  
Dallas and how it has grown from a meager  
enclave into the business mecca of the Southwest.  
From its beginning, people of different cultural  
backgrounds have made significant contributions to  
the city called "Big D".

Presenters: Albert Valtierra, Vice President of the  
Dallas Mexican American League, Dallas, TX;  
Deecee Cornish, Oral Historian, writer, GRIOT,  
story teller, educator and Consultant, Fort Worth,  
TX.

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Brain Teasers Exercise Your Mind and Learn About Famous People from Dallas; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

Come and try out your hand at Dallas Texas knowledge! The Multi-Cultural Affairs committee would like to invite you to have some fun with us and see how much you know about the celebrities that are from the Dallas Texas area. This will be a chance to connect with your fellow ACB members and earn some wonderful bragging rights for your celebrity knowledge. Hope to see you there.

## **Tuesday, July 8**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: A Conversation on the International Blindness Experience; Hybrid; Moreno

This is your opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Dave Williams, Chair, Brailists Foundation, who is visiting us from England. He will address the ACB banquet on Thursday. This is your chance to talk with him in an informal setting. Topics will include worldwide education of the blind, issues facing blind and visually impaired people in foreign countries, and the global importance of braille. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Co-sponsored by IRC and MCAC

## **Rehab Issues Task Force Committee**

Co-Chairs: Christine Hunsinger and Doug Powell

### **Thursday, June 26**

5:30 pm – 6:45: All About Requesting an Assessment  
from your Vocational Rehab Agency

A Comprehensive tool for blind and low vision individuals to use to determine strengths, areas for improvement, and weaknesses when planning education and employment.

### **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm: Discover the World of  
Entrepreneurship; Onsite; Sanger

Join us as dynamic entrepreneurs share their journeys, including opportunities within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Hear firsthand how they chose the path of entrepreneurship and what drives their success.

Presenters: Kevin Fortune, Owner, The Fortune Agency, CEO, National BVI Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, OH; Hayley Agers, DoTERRA Wellness Advocate, Marysville, WA;

Ardis Bazyn, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Linda Allison, President Tennessee Council of the Blind and Tennessee vendor, Knoxville, TN; Conrad Bennett, Lots of Smiles, Romney, WV

Co-Sponsored by ACBNG, IVIE, RSVA, ACB Employment and ACB Rehab Issues Task Force

## **Scholarship Committee**

Co-Chairs: Denise Colley and Patty Slaby

### **Saturday, July 5**

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm: Scholarship Winners' Luncheon  
(by invitation only); Onsite; Reverchon

### **Sunday, July 6**

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: Scholarship Recipients Icebreaker  
(by invitation only); Onsite; Reverchon

### **Monday, July 7**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Scholarship Reception; Onsite;  
Cumberland ABC

## **Sight and Sound Impaired Committee**

Chair: Carl Richardson

### **Thursday, June 26**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Using Technology to Help Those Living with a Dual Sensory Loss Live to the Fullest; Virtual

Join Scott Davert, Coordinator of the Technology Research, and Innovations Center for the deaf blind at HKNC, as he explains how we can use technology to live without dual sensory loss to the fullest.

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: SASI Social; Virtual

The title says it all, this is strictly a social where individuals with a dual sensory loss of vision and hearing join together to meet each other, learn and gather inspiration on how to live our lives to the fullest.

## **Walk Committee**

Chair: Donna Brown

### **Saturday, July 5**

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm: ACB Walk: Step by Step Together  
with the American Council of the Blind; Onsite;  
Meet in Landmark D

Help kick off the ACB general sessions by joining ACB members and friends during the live Virtual Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. Lace up your shoes, grab your water bottle, and be a part of one of the kickoff events in the ACB Health and Wellness campaign.

## **Other Meetings and Programs**

### **Advocacy Issues**

#### **Tuesday, July 8**

7:00 am – 8:15 am: AFB Breakfast (\$20) Onsite;  
Landmark D

Join the American Foundation for the Blind at its annual breakfast, where guests will learn what's on

the horizon for AFB and have an opportunity to meet with President & CEO Eric Bridges.

## **Wednesday, July 9**

7:00 am – 8:15 am: NIB Breakfast (\$20) \$25; Onsite;  
Cumberland A

Updates (and a conversation) from NIB on veterans hiring and key initiatives in Congress.

Presenters: Rick Webster, Vice President, Public Policy, and Andy Monday, Program Manager, Veterans and Business Development Support.

## **Art**

## **Sunday, July 6**

10:30 am – 11:45 pm: The Color of Resilience: A Talk and Painting Demonstration with John Bramblitt; Hybrid; Moreno

Join internationally acclaimed blind artist John Bramblitt for an inspiring session where he will share the remarkable story of his career. Hear how he overcame the loss of his sight to become a celebrated muralist, speaker, and author. Through

heartfelt storytelling and personal insights, he'll explore themes of creativity, resilience, and inclusion. The session will also feature a live painting demonstration, offering a unique look into John's innovative techniques. Don't miss the opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A at the end.

## **Blinded Veterans Association**

### **Sunday, July 6**

9:00 am – 10:15 am: BVA is Celebrating 80 Years;  
Hybrid; Moreno

Explore the 80-year history and mission of the Blinded Veterans Association, where blinded veterans support one another. Engage with our Board of Directors and staff to learn about our diverse membership, including blind and low vision veterans. Discover eligibility criteria and how we help members access the benefits they've earned. Gain insights into our advocacy efforts for the rights of blind and low vision veterans. Join us to understand the impactful work of BVA and how you can be part of our empowering community by joining the BVA Auxiliary, a group of friends and family who support BVA.



## **Education**

### **Saturday, July 5**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: ACB Affiliate and National Expectations Workshop; Hybrid; Bryan Beeman

From charters and chapters to autonomy and accountability - These topics and more will be explored with ACB's parliamentarian as we continue our work to strengthen and renew our affiliate and national expectations policy.

Affiliate and chapter leaders are encouraged to attend.

Facilitator: Deb Cook Lewis, ACB President; Julie Palm, PRP, ACB Parliamentarian

### **Sunday, July 6**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) & Sleep; Onsite; Landmark D

Join our Nurse Educators for a sweet treat and light refreshment to cool off and learn more about Non-24, a circadian rhythm disorder that is common in the blind and low vision community.

With Non-24, people experience a constant daily shift in the times when their body expects to be awake and asleep. This conversational session will provide more information on the circadian rhythm, or our internal body clock, and Non-24.

## **Tuesday, July 8**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) & Sleep; Onsite; Landmark D

Join our Nurse Educators for a sweet treat and light refreshment to cool off and learn more about Non-24, a circadian rhythm disorder that is common in the blind and low vision community.

With Non-24, people experience a constant daily shift in the times when their body expects to be awake and asleep. This conversational session will provide more information on the circadian rhythm, or our internal body clock, and Non-24.

## **Financial information**

### **Thursday, June 26**

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm Expert Advice on Retirement Planning and Investing for the Future (Virtual)

Are you worried that you might live longer than your money? How do we plan for an uncertain future? The Royal Bank of Canada investment manager and financial planner has the answers to these questions and many more. Please join the ACB Resource Development team and our ACB investment advisor for this informative session on how to plan for your retirement and make the right choices for your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).  
Presenter: Mike Dickson - RBC Wealth Management Financial Advisor

## **Saturday, July 5**

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Introduction to Investing; Onsite; Moreno

Join us for an engaging and accessible "Introduction to Investing" workshop designed especially for beginners. During this interactive session, Chris Peterson, AFC®, Cody Bair, CPA®, and Kane Brolin, CFP®, will introduce Penny Forward's brand-new online course, *Introduction to Investing*. You'll get a clear overview of investing basics, learn how investing can help you build long-

term financial security, and explore how blind and low vision people can confidently navigate the investing world. There will also be plenty of time for questions, so bring your curiosity - we're here to help you take the first steps toward becoming an informed investor.

Presenters: Chris Peterson, AFC, Richfield, MN;  
Cody Bair, CPA, Denver, CO; Kane Brolin, CFP,  
Mishawaka, IN

## **Guide Dogs**

### **Monday, July 7**

7:00 am - 8:15 am: Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB)  
Breakfast; Onsite; Cumberland A

GDB grads connect with friends and staff; those considering the guide dog lifestyle are welcome. If you'd like to join GDB for breakfast, please email Jane at [jflower@guidedogs.com](mailto:jflower@guidedogs.com).

## **Medical**

### **Thursday, June 26**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Accessible Diagnostic Testing  
National & International Best Practices Guidelines  
Update; Virtual

This session will share information and Best Practices for Designing Accessible At-Home Diagnostic Test Kits. ACB advocacy efforts has collaborated with the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation® (AAMI), a global leader for the development and production of national and international consensus standards. This initiative includes work done by the National Institutes of Health and RADX on accessible COVID-19 home tests and other diagnostic testing. Come and hear from members of the Task Group that championed and developed this accessibility guidance for future production by pharmaceutical companies.

## **Technology**

### **Thursday, June 26**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: Microsoft Copilot for Work; Virtual

Learn how AI enhances skills and productivity for the blind community. Discover Copilot tools that streamline workflows, foster collaboration, and equip the community with digital skills for the modern workplace.

Speaker: Crystal Jones, Microsoft

### **Friday, June 27**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm: The World of Windows: Microsoft Tools for the Blind Community; Virtual

Explore the latest advancements in Windows assistive technologies, including powerful AI-driven features and updates to Narrator and Magnifier. Learn how these tools are transforming digital experiences for blind and low vision users, from improved navigation and task efficiency to rich image descriptions and fundamental enhancements. This session showcases the innovations driving inclusive productivity forward.

Speaker: Nidhi Jain, Microsoft

## **Sunday, July 6**

9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Vispero Training Suite; Onsite;  
Pryor-Crockett

Drop by the JAWS AI Suite anytime between 9 am and 5 pm on July 6 and 7. Get hands-on training with some of our newest AI powered features including FSCompanion, Picture Smart AI, and more. Bring your JAWS/ZoomText/Fusion questions as well and join us in celebrating 30 years of JAWS for Windows! You will also have an exclusive opportunity to try out and give us feedback on a preview of our newest upcoming feature! Whether you are new to JAWS, a seasoned user, or not yet a user, come by and hang out with us as we enjoy ACB together.

2:30 am – 3:45 pm: Happenings and Selvas BLV;  
Onsite; Sanger

Selvas BLV is grateful for the opportunity to once again present at the 2025 convention of the American Council of the Blind.

Please join us as we demonstrate, discuss and disclose some of the newest developments with the BrailleSense 6 tablet, the Braille eMotion smart

Braille display and the SensePlayer handheld book reader and multimedia player/recorder.

While I am not able to mention specific product additions or features in this announcement, I can promise interesting product demonstrations, and informative and meaningful interaction with HIMS or Selvas staff.

Whether you are a long-time HIMS customer, or if you are researching what tech best fits your life, we welcome and look forward to your participation.

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Navigating the Future: What's New with AI-Powered Innovations in JAWS; Onsite; Reverchon

Join Ryan Jones to discuss what has been going on with JAWS and ZoomText over the past year and how AI is helping us continue to break down barriers. You don't want to miss learning about FSCompanion, image labeling, multiline Braille support, and what we are doing next! Let's join together and explore our future.

## **Monday, July 7**

9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Vispero Training Suite; Onsite; Pryor-Crockett



Drop by the JAWS AI Suite anytime between 9 am and 5 pm on July 6 and 7. Get hands-on training with some of our newest AI powered features including FSCompanion, Picture Smart AI, and more. Bring your JAWS/ZoomText/Fusion questions as well and join us in celebrating 30 years of JAWS for Windows! You will also have an exclusive opportunity to try out and give us feedback on a preview of our newest upcoming feature! Whether you are new to JAWS, a seasoned user, or not yet a user, come by and hang out with us as we enjoy ACB together.

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Partnerships Making Visual Interpreting Work for You; Onsite; Sanger

Discover how to leverage Aira's free visual interpreting service, offered by leading businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies. In this interactive workshop, you'll learn practical steps to use Aira and meet some of our key national and local partners like Walmart, Chase, Starbucks, Target, Dallas Love Field, Amazon, the Texas Workforce Commission, and more. Explore how these organizations are actively promoting access as a human right with Jenine Stanley, Director, Customer Success & Engagement, and

the Aira Learning & Development Team. Plus, get hands-on with the latest features of our mobile and web apps.

5:30 pm – 3:45 pm: What's New at HumanWare with a Special Announcement; Onsite; Sanger

Join the HumanWare team as they discuss and demonstrate some exciting updates across the product line, including the exclusive opportunity to test drive multi-line braille support with screen readers on the Monarch Dynamic Tactile Display. During the session, we will demonstrate Prodigy magnification software that runs on a Windows machine, as well as show our hand-held and desktop video magnifiers. We have a range of new features and enhancements on the Brailiant devices, including: reference tools like Wikipedia and Wiktionary, text-to-speech available on the Mantis Q40, and we will preview the upcoming KeySoft update for the BrailleNote which will feature a new math mode and a media player. We have the Odyssey Desktop Reader now with AI enhancements, the StellarTrek with traffic light detection, the VictorReader Stream supporting audio-narrated books from Bookshare, and more. Last but not least, we have a special

announcement regarding the Ray-Ban Meta glasses, so don't miss it!

## **Tuesday, July 8**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Making Amazon Shopping Easier with New Accessibility and AI Features; Onsite; Reunion Ballroom

Explore the latest accessibility features that make navigating and shopping on Amazon faster and more intuitive for everyone. This session demonstrates how new AI-powered tools and improved navigation features help customers find products and information more efficiently while creating a more inclusive shopping experience.

Presenter: Kiran Kaja, Principal Product Manager, Amazon Worldwide Stores Accessibility

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm: Interactive Presentation by T-Mobile; OnSite; Sanger

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: What's New with Amazon Devices; Onsite; Reunion Ballroom

Amazon obsesses about customer delight, and that

includes customers with disabilities. In this session, Amazon accessibility experts will discuss the latest accessibility features for Fire TV, Echo and the new Alexa, and more. We will also discuss the latest and review the suite of award-winning accessibility features that have been delighting Amazon's customers with disabilities for years.

Presenter: Peter Korn, Director of Accessibility,  
Amazon Devices and Services

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: ConnectCenter and the Neptune  
Out of This World Resources and Products from  
APH; Onsite; Reverchon

Join us to explore the APH ConnectCenter, your go-to resource hub designed to empower families, job seekers, adults who are blind or low vision, and professionals. The ConnectCenter offers a wealth of information, including blogs, articles, career success stories, and resources for professionals in the field of blindness or low vision. Whether you're navigating the complexities of job searching, seeking support for family members, or enhancing your professional skills, come and find out how the APH ConnectCenter can empower and assist you in achieving your goals.

Presenters: Katie Frederick, Digital Content Manager, APH ConnectCenter, VisionAware; Lee Huffman, Low Vision Product Manager, Product Development

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm: What's New at NLS; Onsite; Cotton Bowl

Join the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to learn about new Library initiatives, including the soon-to-be-released online Patron Enrollment capability, which will allow potential patrons to apply for NLS service via the web — a first for NLS! During the session, you will be able to test the new enrollment form and provide feedback to NLS staff before the official launch later this year.

## **Wednesday, July 9**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Unlocking Human Potential Stories in AI and Wearables; Onsite; Sanger

Join Meta's product and design teams for an exploration of AI-powered wearable technology to enhance the everyday life for the blind and low vision community. Discover new AI-powered features on Ray Ban Meta smart glasses, discuss emerging trends, and learn how these

advancements can unlock new possibilities for independence and inclusivity.

## **More Convention Entertainment**

You will be ready for a break and a little fun after all those workshops, seminars, and business meetings. Below are some activities and events that take place at the hotel. For more fun ideas, see Convention Tours. Check the agendas of the many affiliates and groups for more mixers, luncheons, and parties.

### **Friday, July 4**

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm: Welcome to Dallas; Onsite; Landmark D; \$15 (\$20)

The Dallas Host Committee will hold the welcome party featuring local musician Blake Cheek, who plays music from many genres, accompanying his vocals with his guitar. Snacks and conversation with old friends and new are on the agenda! A cash bar will be available for your enjoyment.

### **Saturday, July 5**

5:15 pm - 6:45 pm: Tailgate Party; Onsite; Landmark D; \$28 (\$35)

Join the Get Up and Get Moving and the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk committees for some fun, prizes, tasty snacks and a cash bar. The tailgate party starts before the Brenda Dillon Walk and will remain open during the walk and for a time after the walk concludes.

This will be a great time to socialize with members of Get Up and Get Moving and Brenda Dillon Walk organizers and friends.

### **Saturday, July 5 through Wednesday, July 9**

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Community Hospitality; Onsite;  
Shawnee Trail

Here's your opportunity to meet up with those you've only met virtually or to see friends you haven't been with for a few years or more. Drop in for a few minutes or the entire time. You're sure to find some midday convention cheer here.

### **Sunday, July 6**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm: ACB Community Meet and Greet;  
Onsite; Cumberland A; \$15 (\$20)

This is a meet and greet you won't want to miss.

You've heard each other on ACB Media, in Zoom or in Clubhouse; now you can visit with these friends in person over a drink, handshake, or hug. And yes, join in even if you've never taken part in community events previously. All are welcome!

## **Monday, July 7**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Gospel Sing; Onsite; Reverchon

Make a joyful noise, join in or just listen.

## **Tuesday, July 8**

12:15 pm - 2:00 pm: Sports Fanatics Luncheon; Onsite; Cotton Bowl

Come share your favorite sports stories. Enjoy some scrumptious ballpark food. Reminisce with other sports enthusiasts remembering the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat! Meet a sports legend in person and cheer on your favorite team. Stay tuned for a future announcement on the name of our sports legend for 2025. It's time to play ball in Dallas!



## **Wednesday, July 9**

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm: ACB Film Night; Onsite; Reunion Ballroom; \$10 (\$10)

Wicked, the Movie Night film selection, nabbed two Academy Award wins — Best Costume Design and Best Production Design.

Misunderstood because of her green skin, Elphaba forges an unlikely but profound friendship with Glinda, a fellow student with an unflinching desire for popularity. Following an encounter with the Wizard of Oz, their relationship soon reaches a crossroad as their lives begin to take very different paths. Exceptional music and great audio description – you are in for a real treat!

## **2025 Tours**

Important tour information: Please read the following information completely. It will answer many of your tour-related questions and will help you have a more enjoyable tour experience.

1. Tour bus pick up zone - As you walk through the lobby, you will pass the check-in desk and continue

straight ahead. On the left will be a cozy seating area filled with couches and on the right will be Market tables. Keep going straight, and on the left, you will come to several doors leading to a patio. This is where you will meet the tour volunteers.

Note: To reach the bus from the patio, you will need to navigate down a set of stairs or take a ramp.

2. Bus departure times for each tour are listed in this program. Please be at the bus departure area and ready to board the bus 15 minutes prior to the listed departure times. Arrival times back to the hotel are approximate.
3. The first two rows of seats on both sides of the bus are reserved for the tour coordinators, volunteers and people with mobility difficulties. If you sit in those seats, you will be asked to move.
4. All buses are fully ADA-equipped. If you have mobility difficulties or use a wheelchair that requires the lift to access the bus, you **MUST** check the appropriate boxes on the pre-registration form for us to plan for necessary accommodations. If you are able to transfer from a wheelchair into a bus seat, your chair

will be placed under the bus for the duration of the ride.

5. Indoor facilities are air-conditioned unless indicated, but many tours include significant outdoor time. Dress appropriately and bring sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, and a water bottle for your comfort and safety. Please always wear your ACB name badge when attending a tour.
6. Space is limited on all tours. ACB reserves the right to cancel a tour should sales fall below required minimums.
7. All return times are approximate. If you have dietary scheduling concerns, bring a light snack in case we are unavoidably delayed. We ask that you board the bus quickly and safely to avoid delays. We plan 15 minutes to load and unload the bus. Please do not schedule back-to-back events based upon the return time of the tour, as we cannot plan for traffic and road condition delays.
8. A limited number of volunteers will accompany each tour. While they will help as much as possible, ACB volunteers are not personal guides or personal care attendants. If you need individual help, plan to attend

the tour with a friend who can provide the assistance you need. If you use a wheelchair, you must have someone on the tour with you to push your wheelchair!

- 9.** Most tour destinations are ADA-accessible. Some tours that are NOT ADA-accessible may include long walks, steps and steep grades. Some tours may involve strenuous activities. If you have a medical condition that may limit your involvement or participation, please let us know ahead of time and use common sense when making your selections.
- 10.** The tour leader will have a list of all paid attendees and the waiting list for each tour. The leader will be stationed at the door of the bus to record your attendance. Please do not board the bus until the tour leader has completed this task.
- 11.** If registration for a tour exceeds its capacity, a waiting list is created based on the date and time your order was completed. If you are on a waiting list, you will be asked to stand in a designated area to wait for your name to be called. If you are not present when your name is called, the next person on the waiting list will

be called to fill that seat. You may not give your place on the waiting list to another person.

- 12.** If you arrive late and your name has already been called from the waiting list, your ability to secure a seat will be entirely dependent on the number of vacant seats remaining on the bus. No one who has answered the call from the waiting list will be asked to give up their seat.
- 13.** If there is no waiting list, or if the waiting list has been satisfied, any remaining vacant seats will be sold to walk-up traffic. Such vacant seats will be sold for cash only. To purchase, you must have a valid name badge, a day pass for the current day or other proof of registration.
- 14.** If you have paid for and are issued a tour ticket and do not appear at the designated time and place, no refund will be made. If you are on a waiting list and are not able to get on the bus, the tour leader will report this to the registration office, and you will be able to secure a refund the next day after the tour.

Should you not be present at the convention the day after the tour, or if the convention has ended, please

call the Minneapolis office by July 31st to arrange for a refund via check or credit card.

### **Friday, July 4**

5:00 pm – 11:00 pm: Lake Cruise \$205 (\$205)

Enjoy dinner while cruising Lake Ray Hubbard. sit indoors or on the deck. Enjoy 2 complimentary drinks from the bar, additional drinks may be purchased.

Enjoy a sumptuous dinner and hopefully enjoy fireworks over the lake.

Note: after registering for this cruise, you will be contacted to complete a waiver.

### **Saturday, July 5**

4:15 am – 11:30 am: Hot Air Balloon Adventure \$370 (\$370)

Float above the Texas countryside as the sun rises over Texas! When the burner for the balloon is off it is so quiet you can hear dogs barking and people talking below! This tour is subject to weather, although we were told that in July in Dallas there is

almost never a cancellation

Note: Guide dogs cannot accompany you in the balloon. You will be standing for the entire balloon ride, and you need to be able to step high to get over the basket rim. After registering for this tour, you will be contacted to complete a waiver and asked for your weight to ensure all balloons are safely balanced for take-off.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: City Bus Tour I \$22 (\$25)

Ride in comfort while traveling the city of Dallas learning about its history and unique areas. Our tour guide Helen is working to make this a fun and interactive experience.

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm: City Bus Tour II \$22 (\$25)

Ride in comfort while traveling the city of Dallas learning about its history and unique areas. Our tour guide Helen is working to make this a fun and interactive experience.

## **Sunday, July 6**

8:00 am – 4:30 pm: Sports Day \$147 (\$150)

Here is your chance to visit AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, and Globe Life Stadium, where the Texas Rangers play!

Even if you aren't a football fan, AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, is a fabulous venue well worth seeing. Visit the locker rooms for the teams and the cheerleaders. Take a peek into what it would be like to watch a game from a luxury suite.

Visit the press box where so many great interviews have taken place.

Learn about the history of the stadium and the teams and big games that have been played there.

At Globe Life Field you will have similar experiences but also learn about the retractable roof. There are tribute walls for your favorite Rangers players including Nolan Ryan! There will be time for shopping at both stadium gift shops!



Between tours we'll have lunch (NC food choices pending)

Note: you will be asked to provide your ID and go through security on this tour. Also, this tour involves a lot of walking. There are no places to stop and rest; if you cannot do a lot of walking, this tour is not an option for you.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: City Bus Tour III \$22 (\$25)

Ride in comfort while traveling the city of Dallas learning about its history and unique areas. Our tour guide Helen is working to make this a fun and interactive experience.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: City Bus Tour III \$22 (\$25)

Ride in comfort while traveling the city of Dallas learning about its history and unique areas. Our tour guide Helen is working to make this a fun and interactive experience.

### **Monday, July 7**

12:15 pm – 3:00 pm: The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum \$45 (\$48)

This tour will include a customized hands-on white glove experience with artifacts from the museum classroom.

Touch a steel girder from the World Trade Center and feel how misshapen it is.

Pretend you are the president while in the replica of the Oval Office. Learn about the Bush family's time in the White House, and what they have done in the years since. The museum has a fabulous gift shop!

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Bridge Walk \$20

The Trinity Skyline Trail at Ronald Kirk Bridge and Felix H. Lozada, Sr. Gateway is a 1.5-mile pedestrian bridge. Join the Get Up and Get Moving committee by strolling or running along the bridge. There are benches along the bridge for resting. Please note: the return bus will pick you up at the starting point, so plan your walking experience accordingly.

## **Tuesday, July 8**

12:15 am – 3:30 am: The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza \$45 (\$49)

Meet with the Curator for a private presentation in the auditorium, including a screening of an oral history clip compilation. In the museum the Curator will provide the group with an overview of the early 1960s, the corner window, and the subsequent investigations, including the area where the rifle was found. Finally, you will have a chance to visit the gift shop.

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm: Museum of African Art \$28 (\$31)

Immerse yourself in exhibits of African folk art, the sports hall of fame, black educators and so much more. We'll be able to wear white gloves and touch many pieces that are normally behind glass.

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm: Desperados \$45 (\$48)

This family-owned restaurant has been in business for over 40 years. Enjoy great food and fellowship.

## **Wednesday, July 9**

12:15 pm – 4:15 pm: Envision Dallas \$28 (\$31)

This amazing center has something for everyone. From the rooms for birth through five-year-old children, a manufacturing facility, technology center and a store with lots of shopping possibilities.

12:15 pm – 6:00 pm: Rocky Mountain Chocolates \$65 (\$68)

This candy store is known for their caramel apples. Your tour cost will include an apple that you can customize with various toppings. Learn about how to make taffy apples, and buy everything from fudge to peanut brittle! Lunch at Rodeo Goat is included in this tour.

Note: there will be a short outdoor walk between the candy store and restaurant.

1:15 pm – 5:15 pm: Museum of Biblical Art \$40 (\$43)

This is an overwhelming experience. Touch the statue of the Pieta, where Mary is holding Jesus's body, put your finger in a ring made by someone in

Auschwitz, feel a mirrored fabric from a concentration camp. There are many statues and other artifacts depicting biblical scenes such as Moses descending Mount Horeb, and the Pieta (Mary holding Jesus's body).

5:45 pm – 8:30 pm: Mama's Daughters Diner \$55 (\$58)

Mama's Daughters Diner, where they have been serving the best home cooking the old-fashioned way for over 65 years. If you like Southern cooking, this dinner is for you!

### **Friday, July 11**

8:30 am – 1:30 pm: Amon Carter Art Museum \$37 (\$40)

This museum has worked very hard to produce tactile 3D renderings of many of their paintings and sculptures. In small groups you will visit stations throughout the museum and feel the exhibits! There will also be time to visit the gift shop.

4:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Circle R Ranch \$155 (\$158)

End convention week at Circle R Ranch.

Feast on a chuck wagon buffet featuring brisket, sausage, mac and cheese baked beans, homemade rolls and white chocolate bread pudding. Belly up to the bar and purchase a drink, learn how to line dance, take a ride on a wagon pulled by a tractor, sit by the bonfire and enjoy s'mores!

## **Kids Explorers Club**

You will be notified as to what room will be used for kids Explorer Club activities.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided Sunday through Thursday. In addition to field trips, your day may include swimming and crafts.

### **Saturday, July 5**

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm: Meet Kids Club leaders and get to know the other kids. Enjoy games and snacks.

### **Sunday, July 6**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: The Museum of Illusions Dallas \$20  
This is a unique and exciting museum dedicated to providing visitors with a fun, interactive and educational experience that challenges perception

and inspires creativity. Our museum features a variety of exhibits that use optical illusions, visual tricks, and hands-on interactive displays to create a playful environment that engages visitors of all ages.

### **Monday, July 7**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Dallas World Aquarium \$20

Enjoy the cloud forest trek and the canopy level of the Orinoco secrets of the river. Descend through the under-story level into the fresh-water aquatic level. The aquarium presents marine life from around the world.

The outdoor South Africa exhibit features penguins, and don't miss the sharks!

### **Tuesday, July 8**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Good Surf

At Goodsurf Beach Club we rock a CW30 Citywave surf machine, one of only twenty in the world and one of only four in North America.

Citywave is the easiest and safest way to learn a board sport, period. Citywave is made for surfing:

it's a deep flow wave (not to be confused with those cruise ship sheet waves), it's easy to learn, but hard to master. Whether you've never surfed before or have surfed the sickest waves around the world, you'll enjoy the Citywave experience.

Note: children must be 8 years old for this experience. If we have younger children, we will change this outing.

### **Wednesday, July 9**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Perot Museum of Nature and Science \$20

Soar to new heights learning about the avian world, including discovering the astonishing links between prehistoric dinosaurs and modern-day birds.

Travel through the ages studying everything from ancient animal bones and rare fossils to the bodies and behaviors of modern-day animals.

Stand in awe at the beauty of the stars, planets and distant galaxies with an interactive stargazing adventure and out-of-this-world experiences.

Dive into the possibilities of energy and learn how



we harness natural resources like oil, natural gas and alternative energies.

Discover Earth's greatest wonders as you gaze into the eye of the storm, feel the ground shake beneath your feet and marvel at a nearly fully articulated mammoth fossil.

### **Thursday, July 10**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Game Show Battle Rooms \$20

Featuring: The first robot goalie in DFW, can you score against the robot?

Dare to fly with the first paragliding simulator in the U.S.

Experience the thrill of conquering the slopes with the first skiing machine accessible to the public.

Note: athletic attire and appropriate footwear recommended.

<https://gameshowbattlerooms.com/dallas/>

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm: Kids Club Dinner \$20

Have a final dinner with our Kids Club leaders and your new friends.

## **ACB Fundraisers**

You can show your support for ACB in several ways:

### **Convention Sponsorships**

Stop by registration in Pegasus and become an individual or corporate ACB Convention Sponsor.

Individual sponsorships are bronze (\$25), silver (\$50), gold (\$100), platinum (\$250), and titanium (\$500).

Sponsors are recognized both in general session and in the newspaper.

Corporate sponsorships, including pearl, coral, onyx, ruby, emerald, and diamond, are also available.

For information on becoming an individual or corporate sponsor, contact our Minneapolis office at (612) 332-3242.

**Saturday, June 21, 5:00 pm**

**ACB Summer Auction**

Come and enjoy the ACB Summer Auction, where we will be featuring jewelry, homemade baked goodies, technology, vacations, and handmade quilts and crafts. There will be two days of the appetizer auction Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June 20 starting at noon and will close the next day at noon. We look forward to hearing from everyone and to lots of action!

**Saturday, July 5, 6:15 pm**

**ACB Walk: Step by Step Together with the  
American Council of the Blind**

Help kick off the ACB general sessions by joining ACB members and friends during the live Virtual Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. Lace up your shoes, grab your water bottle, and be a part of one of the kickoff events in the ACB Health and Wellness campaign.

Join the Get Up and Get Moving and the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk committees for some fun, prizes, tasty food and a cash bar. The tailgate party starts before the Brenda Dillon Walk.

This will be a great time to socialize with members of Get Up and Get Moving and Brenda Dillon Walk organizers and friends.

## **MMS Program**

Join the MMS Program. Raise funds for ACB and your affiliate all year long. Call 888-999-3190 or email [askacbmms@gmail.com](mailto:askacbmms@gmail.com) for more information. If you're in Dallas, stop by the Marketplace on Wednesday, and Thursday or go to Registration to sign up or increase your monthly donations.

## **2025 ACB Exhibitors**

### **Exhibit Hall Schedule:**

Sunday, July 6: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Exhibitor Reception  
Monday, July 7: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Tuesday, July 8: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday, July 9: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

### **Exhibitors**

ACB Mini Mall

AccessAbility Officer

Achilles International

AGIGA

ai For the Blind

AIRA

American Council of the Blind of Texas

American Printing House

Biped.ai

Blazie Technologies

Blind Girl Designs

Blind Information Technology Specialists (BITS)

Blind Professionals Network

Blind Travel Foundation

Case For Vision

Charles Brady & Kevin LaRose, ITAs

Computers for the Blind

Dan's Woodworking

Dot, Inc.

Dream Vision Group

East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind

EMVI.AI

Envision

En-Vision America

eSight By Gentex Corporation

Genetech

Glidance

Guide Dog Foundation & America's VetDogs

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Guide Dogs of America

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Hadley

HumanWare

iBUG

Irie-AT, Inc.

Islam By Touch

JP Morgan Chase

JW.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind

Maggie Vision

Meta

Midnight Storm

National Braille Press

National Industries for the Blind

New Vision Concepts

NLS National Library Services  
Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24)  
NuEyes Technologies  
Orbit Research  
OrCam  
Oregon State University  
Palmer Vision  
Patriot Vision Industries  
Penny Forward  
Polara  
Q and G Premium Products  
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Selvas BLV  
Solar Grove Solution  
Spectrum  
The Dented Puck Foundation  
The Seeing Eye  
US1 SUPPLY  
ViewPlus Technologies  
Virtual Blind Lions Club  
Vispero

VisualEyes Access

WeWALK

Wisdom 4 the Blind

## **Marketplace**

Abundant Life Alliance

ACBDA

Blind Essentials

Custom Cards and Medallions

Hellen Keller Challenge 2.0

Insightful Visionaries

Keri Bishop

Missouri Council of the Blind

MMS

Nickie's Nook

Sara Freeman-Smith

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Larry Gassman – ACB Media Coordinator

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## **2025 Convention Committees**

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Cachet Wells, Jacksonville, FL

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Ted Harper, TX

Staff Liaison: Scott Thornhill, VA

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Sheila Derrick, Fort Worth, TX

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Neva Fairchild, Dallas, TX

Ted Harper, Dallas, TX

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For further information, please contact Democracy Live:

855-655-VOTE (8683) Toll Free | Email: [info@democracylive.com](mailto:info@democracylive.com) | [www.democracylive.com](http://www.democracylive.com)



Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. We are passionate about connecting exceptional dog with individuals for greater independence.



Guiding Eyes is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with all services provided completely free of charge.

*Stop by our table in the exhibit hall for more information on our services - including our Specialized Training and Running Guide Programs!*

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ACB Families is a special-interest affiliate of the American Council of the Blind. No matter who you are or where you live, you can participate in ACB Families.

ACB Families holds virtual meetings on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9:00 PM Eastern Time on Zoom. The first Sunday is a business meeting; the third Sunday features a speaker, program or discussion topic such as easy meal preparation, dollar-stretching tips, how to avoid scams, shopping ideas, and helpful iPhone apps and Alexa skills.

ACB Families presents exciting programs at the ACB national conference and convention. Experience our virtual campfire, our in-person Bingo with lots of prizes, our hybrid breakfast featuring an outstanding speaker and much much more.

Don't miss any ACB Families events. Join our email list by sending a blank message to [families+subscribe@acblists.org](mailto:families+subscribe@acblists.org).

Become a member of ACB Families now. New life memberships coming soon; annual memberships also available.

Learn more; call us at 502-897-1472.

Welcome to our ACB family.



## Council of Citizens with Low Vision, International

We are an international nonprofit organization and community of individuals who understand low vision needs and experiences. CCLVI is here to provide support, resources, education, and advocacy for those who are impacted by low vision and visual impairment. From publications, to live Zoom calls, online resources, and conferences. Discover what we have to offer you.

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[NIB.org](http://NIB.org)



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ACBL holds monthly calls and ACB convention events that encourage people who are blind or visually impaired to become more involved in local Lions clubs. Happens the first Thursday of the month on Zoom.

Annual membership - \$15  
Life membership - \$150

Find out more; call 502-897-1472 or email [lions.acb@gmail.com](mailto:lions.acb@gmail.com)

The logo consists of two overlapping circles. The front circle is a solid purple color, and the back circle is a lighter, semi-transparent purple. The text "Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc." is centered over the circles in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Macular Degeneration  
Foundation, Inc.**

A photograph of two women. On the left, an older woman with short white hair and glasses is looking down at a document. On the right, a younger woman with dark hair is smiling broadly and looking at the same document. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a bright indoor space.

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