# **Dots and Dashes**

# **March 20, 2023**

# **ACB Board of Directors Appoints Dan Spoone as Interim Executive Director**

With the departure of the American Council of the Blind (ACB) Executive Director Eric Bridges, the following plan of action to ensure a smooth transition of leadership was established by ACB’s Board of Directors on Thursday, March 9th. ACB will welcome Dan Spoone, the organization’s current president, as Interim Executive Director starting on Wednesday, March 22. Deb Cook Lewis, current first vice president, will become president. Ray Campbell will become first vice president. To contact Dan, email **dspoone@acb.org**. To contact Deb, email **acbpresident@acb.org**.

# **ACB and Supporters Rally to Demand Accessible & Inclusive Currency**

On March 10, Harriet Tubman Day, the American Council of the Blind (ACB) and supporters rallied in front of the White House and marched to the U.S. Treasury to highlight the ongoing fight for accessible and inclusive currency for all. As a result of this rally, five members of the American Council of the Blind met with representatives of the U.S. Treasury and Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and for the first time, touched the certified tactile feature that will be included as part of the $10 bill redesign in 2026. [**For more information, read our press release**](https://acb.org/currency-rally-release). [**Watch the live stream of the recording of the event**](https://www.youtube.com/live/KUxz0ecBoWY?feature=share).

# **DKM First Timers & ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows**

We’re honoring the legacy of Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) through our 2023 DKM First-Timers and 2023 ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows programs. To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must be age 18 or older, blind or low vision, and current on ACB membership dues. Additionally, DKM First-Timer applicants must never have attended an in-person ACB convention. For full details on the DKM First-Timers program, visit [**https://acb.org/2023-first-timers**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mQ5ZqfpjHtSgXtzKHgVI2JyKcWaopxdu708zXYgdhRTdxnlBfZhrjK6V_WFRSrIWIJ8_WDyhGcBpYLE3tjn6i-Ju9C-t7LT-xKmJCVUVLwwafKD7860TqSIowj3y7ajWOuvvKeva5J2M74slABcilA5Sx0SSj7dT&c=IPkPSviybUt5yvRldpgWo8-lo5xrLeN5G2nnjTikTAjQ72sj6iMzBQ==&ch=gQSJ0ZGNsJlj1hjxwizVmuSPR-rTAkq73eSYy9n5Eev1r9l1PtmlfQ==). To learn more about the ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows program, visit [**https://acb.org/2023-leadership-fellows**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mQ5ZqfpjHtSgXtzKHgVI2JyKcWaopxdu708zXYgdhRTdxnlBfZhrjK6V_WFRSrIW_9hriOBk0CyfrRGZAoBo2C23afWmjE6ba6i0jN4_N2ZV3qDjp4R3mQyrYiNivSutmv-buZooZOTWNumereFdF2RwHvh8ZT92bgW3fX5IQO4=&c=IPkPSviybUt5yvRldpgWo8-lo5xrLeN5G2nnjTikTAjQ72sj6iMzBQ==&ch=gQSJ0ZGNsJlj1hjxwizVmuSPR-rTAkq73eSYy9n5Eev1r9l1PtmlfQ==). Access the 2023 Award Application by visiting [**https://tinyurl.com/DKM2023**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mQ5ZqfpjHtSgXtzKHgVI2JyKcWaopxdu708zXYgdhRTdxnlBfZhrjK6V_WFRSrIWfUZdyv971vurusDV4zOiIB1zbhEEqcVbEDNryBlmTDi6D70lKfFIJvVXG2NoC8k61WdSPXRjaI32dmNtk9HbVg==&c=IPkPSviybUt5yvRldpgWo8-lo5xrLeN5G2nnjTikTAjQ72sj6iMzBQ==&ch=gQSJ0ZGNsJlj1hjxwizVmuSPR-rTAkq73eSYy9n5Eev1r9l1PtmlfQ==). The application deadline is April 3rd!

# **ACB’s BADIE Awards: Lights, Camera, Description!**

The American Council of the Blind’s Audio Description Project (ADP) and the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) are co-sponsoring an essay contest for blind and visually impaired young people (ages 7 to 21). It’s a great chance for students to engage with accessible learning materials, unleash their inner film critic, and compete for fun prizes. There will be first, second, and third place winners in each category, as well as a grand prize winner who will be awarded an iPad Mini and invited to read their essay at the American Council of the Blind's national conference and convention in July 2023. Learn more at [**www.acb.org/2023-BADIE**](https://acb.org/2023-BADIE).  The deadline for contest entries is March 31, 2023.

Want to know more about BADIE? Listen as Emily Coleman, superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, discusses the audio description essay contest with Susan Glass, Tabitha Kenlon, and Jason Stark. [**Listen to the conversation**](https://tsbvi.podbean.com/) (and if you're eligible, [**enter the contest**](https://dcmp.org/learn/657)!).

# **South Carolina Affiliate!**

South Carolina is in the early stages of reviving its affiliate. We are interested in hearing from you if you want to join the Palmetto affiliate. Residence in SC not required. In order to provide accurate and complete information to our national office and follow-up with interest meetings, elections, and developing a constitution and bylaws, please send your full name, address, email, phone, format choice for receiving the Braille Forum, whether you are blind or sighted, gender, and ethnicity to Jennifer Bazer,

**Jennifer.h.bazer@gmail.com**, or text Jennifer at (803) 960-9977.

# **ScripTalk at Wegmans**

ScripTalk Talking Prescription Labels are now offered in some Wegmans locations. This is part of a larger initiative by the grocery chain to ensure all its shopper receive quality customer service, [**according to a Progressive Grocer article**](https://www.progressivegrocer.com/wegmans-enhances-pharmacy-access-sensory-impaired-shoppers?fbclid=IwAR2ZgmQ4QkDxtrvXLDheNtP6edicFYiWG09-xvryNCxVV2GbqNHb_2w1TsM). If you’d like this service added to your Wegmans, or you would like to discover if your location is already offering it, call En-Vision America at 1-800-890-1180. They will work behind the scenes to help get you set up with talking prescription labels to give you peace of mind when it comes to medication independence and safety.

# **Seeking RP Patients**

Ethnographic Research Inc. is looking for participants from across the continental United States to help them better understand the experiences of patients and/or their caregivers and the daily life impacts and challenges of living with retinitis pigmentosa (RP). They are particularly interested in learning more about the experience of males ages 10-17. Their goal is to provide insights that will be used to develop enhanced products and support services for RP patients.

If your child or dependent is interested in potentially participating, please use this link: [**https://www.eristudies.com/surveys/index.php/984643?lang=en**](https://bbox.blackbaudhosting.com/webforms/linkredirect?srcid=46345024&srctid=1&erid=-1661948035&trid=4f13bbc8-cc3f-4ea6-89c4-681d28e95afd&linkid=267502496&isbbox=1&pid=0).

# **Seeking Consumers for Standards Council**

The Security Industry Association (SIA) and The Monitoring Association (TMA) are seeking “user” (consumer) volunteers to participate as a voting member on the Security Industry Standards Council (SISC). SISC is tasked with reviewing and approving industry standards on home security systems. If interested in participating, please contact the SISC secretary at **eshen@securityindustry.org** or Cleo Stamatos at ANSI, **cstamatos@ansi.org**.

# **Be My Eyes Seeks Beta Testers**

Be My Eyes is launching Virtual Volunteer, a state-of-the-art visual recognition product powered by OpenAI’s GPT4 technology.Virtual Volunteer is a digital assistant that can often generate the same level of context and understanding as a human being on many needs. Through this new tool, users in the Be My Eyes app will be able to send images to Virtual Volunteer, which will be able to answer any question about the image and provide visual assistance with a number of tasks. [**Learn more about Virtual Volunteer in this Be My Eyes blog post**](https://www.bemyeyes.com/blog/introducing-be-my-eyes-virtual-volunteer), including how to sign up for the beta testing waitlist.

# **Open Casting Call for ‘Where Can the Dust Alight’**

Actor to play April, a character that is female, 25, Asian, and blind/low vision for a lead role of a promising photographer for Season 3 of Rising Voices. No prior acting experience required! Performers and non-actors who are blind and low vision are encouraged to apply. Please email **wctdafilm@gmail.com** with a photo and short bio if you or someone you know is interested in the role.