**Dots and Dashes**

**May 19, 2025**

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# **Convention Registration for the General Public Opens Thursday, May 22nd!**

Registration for the 2025 American Council of the Blind Conference and Convention opened for members on Thursday, May 15th. Registration for the general public will open on Thursday, May 22nd at 7 a.m. Central time. Registration will close on Tuesday, June 17th, at 11:59 p.m. Central time.

The discounted registration fee is $55 for ACB members and $70 for non-members. If you are not a member, you can join ACB as a member-at-large for $10. In addition to the discounted registration fee, members are also given priority for tours offered at the convention; so join ACB right away by calling (612) 332-3242. In order to participate in voting during the ACB Conference and Convention, you must join as an ACB member by **Friday, May 23rd.**

There are two ways to register: online at [**https://members.acb.org/**](https://members.acb.org/), or you can register via telephone. If you have not created a member account at that website, select the link labeled “Create an Account” and provide the information requested. After creating an account, ACB needs to link your member account to their database; it may take up to 24 business hours before you will be able to login and complete a convention registration. If you do not know your username and password, or if the password reset does not work, please call (612) 332-3242.

If you would like assistance registering, please call Janet Dickelman at (651) 428-5059 and leave a message with your name, phone number, time zone, and whether you plan to attend the convention in-person or virtually. Calls will be returned as quickly as possible.

# **Convention Sneak Preview**

On Sunday morning, July 6th, ACB will host four hybrid sessions. We are pleased to host a variety of sessions on various topics. Here’s a sneak preview of the Sunday hybrid sessions.

**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**

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/**](https://adawardsgala.org/).

# **ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk**

Come "Step by Step Together" with ACB and participate in the 2025 ACB Walk. The Walk serves as an opportunity for us to raise much-needed funds for ACB and our affiliate at the same time. Our goal is to raise at least $64,000 in honor of ACB's 64th birthday.

You can participate in this year's Walk in any or all of the following ways:

\* Make a general donation to ACB by clicking on the link below. There is also a link to download a paper donation form on that main Walk page.

General donation form link:

[ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk](ACB%20Brenda%20Dillon%20Memorial%20Walk)

\* Create a team for your affiliate or committee.

50% of donations for affiliate teams can be designated to go back to that affiliate. Click on the above link and scroll down to "Create my own fundraising page." In the name field, insert your team name only. In the email field, enter the email address where you want notifications of donations to your team to be received. Upon submission of the form, you will receive an email with the link to your team page, which is used to seek donations. Be sure to share that link with your affiliate members.

\* Make a donation to a specific team.

Go to:

[**ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk**](ACB%20Brenda%20Dillon%20Memorial%20Walk)

Click on top fundraisers. Scroll down to the list of teams. They will be listed in order based on the donations they've received. Click on the link to the page of the desired team, and complete the donation form. If you need assistance, contact the Minnesota office at (612) 332-3242.

The on-site Walk will take place immediately after the Tailgate Party on Saturday, July 5.

For questions about the Walk, contact Donna Brown, Walk Committee Chair, by phone at (304) 940-0292 or by emailing [donnambrown59@gmail.com](mailto:donnambrown59@gmail.com).

# **Community Volunteer of the Month**

Congratulations to Natalie Couch, who was voted Volunteer of the Month for April. Thank you, Natalie, for all you do for our ACB Community!

# **Order Some Community Swag**

It’s time to order yourself some Community swag!

The Community Support Committee has teamed up with Blind Girl Designs to bring us an array of clothing to wear and share our beautiful Community with others.

The Design: This print is 9” by 12”. The outside of the white tactile print is a heart made of two hands touching each other to form the outline of the heart. The center of the heart is three different fonts that read: “Community is Framily.” Beneath the writing, the words are spelled out in tactile braille.

All garments come in the following colors: pink, royal blue, purple, or navy blue, and in the following styles: T-shirt, crewneck sweatshirt, hoodie, and zip hoodie. The print is on the front of each, except for the zip hoodie, where it is on the back.

On the left sleeve of the sweatshirts is a 3” x 9” white tactile print, which says “we are framily” in the same fonts as the front of the print and in braille underneath.

Black, navy, or royal tote: This tote is a 15” by 20”, full zip canvas bag with a folder bottom so it can sit upright. It has a zip pocket on the inside, and a good-sized shoulder strap.

To get some Community swag of your own, and support ACB in the process, visit <https://blindgirldesigns.com/collections/community-of-framily>, or call (862) 448-1011.

# **ACB Next Generation Candidates Forum**

ACB Next Generation invites all ACB members to join us for our second annual Candidates Forum. During this event, we hear from the individuals seeking election to the ACB Board of Directors. Just like last year, our NextGen members will have the opportunity to submit questions for the candidates to answer. This is your chance to hear directly from the future leaders of ACB!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 12 at 9:00 PM Eastern (6:00 PM Pacific).

Candidates: If you’re planning to run for an officer position this summer, please email your name, email address, phone number, and the position you’re seeking to [programs@acbnextgeneration.org](mailto:programs@acbnextgeneration.org) or call us at (202) 524-0909. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out using the same contact information. To ensure the most effective communication, please reach out by June 1.

# **2025 NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship Application Now Open!**

Thanks to a generous contribution from NBCUniversal, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2025 NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship are now open.

The NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship will offer eight scholarships for the fall semester of 2025. Each recipient will receive $5,625 to help cover the cost of education at their college or university.

The scholarship is open to all students who are:

* High school seniors, undergraduate, or graduate students with disabilities, and;
* Will be enrolled in a college or university during the Fall of 2025, and;
* Wish to pursue media, communications, and/or entertainment careers.

For more information, or to apply, visit [**https://www.aapd.com/nbcuniversal-tony-coelho-media-scholarship/**](https://www.aapd.com/nbcuniversal-tony-coelho-media-scholarship/).

**Application Deadline: Friday, May 30, 2025 at 5 p.m. Eastern**