**Dots and Dashes**

**May 20, 2024**

# **Convention Registration Now Open for All**

Registration is now open for everyone! Registration will close on Monday, June 17th, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

There are two ways to register: online at [https://members.acb.org/](https://4eqo4f5ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001dFnS7b-s-hbp4Z1as0rXWPnAJRuj9bEA308OMjZkV7kdL4soSQaZMxfrUynala4EbAlytBZtOqhZlH3eWyhvOWT4G_KYnjJ-lLVkDOnWZa0HS3ANyO9avDLUNfxMvenx-Ku-3nhOeZSwRO_Co2lm8Q==&c=ZUWGSamN3jLQsGNXd5K3uVtbTIENTAFx91EMZ1wWqhL_47A1ZuNufw==&ch=NyNwU6S5ulHkQ-_-6Z-NaHO8Knvp27m-rLXWvRIJkFQWDEGazsURCw==), or by phone.

To register by phone, or if you need assistance in registering, call (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.

To register online, log into the members site with your username and password. If you have forgotten your password, reset your password by selecting the “Password Reset” button on the members site login page, or call (612) 332-3242.

After logging in, select the link for “Conference and Convention” listed at the top of the page in the main navigation panel. After reading the important introductory information, go to the button that says, “Begin with Preferences.”

Please make sure your contact information is correct. If it is not, update it in the “My Account” section of the member’s site.

Then proceed through the registration form. The only items you need to select on the registration form are items with a cost, such as tours and meal functions. If selecting a tour that has a meal, make sure to also select your meal choice. This also applies to the banquet.

Once you have completed the merchandise screen, you will be shown a waiver. You must acknowledge you have read the waiver before continuing to checkout, where you can view your shopping cart and put in your credit card information.

# **Last Call for Candidates Pages!**

If you’re planning to run for a seat on the ACB board or the board of publications, you have until 11:59 p.m. Eastern today to get your Candidates Page in! See [**https://www.acb.org/2024-acb-candidates-page**](https://www.acb.org/2024-acb-candidates-page) for the questions you’ll answer, and for other important information.

Send your Candidates Page, either in the body of an email or as a Word attachment, to [**slovering@acb.org**](mailto:slovering@acb.org), with the subject line “My Candidates Page.”

Want to learn more about serving on the ACB board? Visit [**https://www.acb.org/board-service-expectations**](https://www.acb.org/board-service-expectations).

# **Advocacy Update Podcast**

On this episode of the ACB Advocacy Update, Claire and Swatha go through the recently released rule from the Department of Justice on accessibility of websites and mobile apps under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act with guests from the American Foundation for the Blind Public Policy and Research Department, Stephanie Enyart and Sarah Malaier. We go over what is in the rule and who it covers, why this rule was necessary, and the organized response from the disability community during the rule’s development.

Listen to the podcast at [**https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/episode/997c54a9/the-new-title-ii-rule-**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/episode/997c54a9/the-new-title-ii-rule-).

For more information about the rule, you can:

* Read the fact sheet at [**https://www.ada.gov/notices/2024/03/08/web-rule/**](https://www.ada.gov/notices/2024/03/08/web-rule/).
* Check out AFB’s blog post at [**https://afb.org/blog/entry/final-rule-website-accessibility**](https://afb.org/blog/entry/final-rule-website-accessibility).

# **Want to Donate a Door Prize?**

All registered attendees, whether in-person or virtual, will be eligible for door prize drawings.  Door prizes will be drawn Tuesday through Thursday during general session and Thursday evening during the banquet.

If you would like to donate a cash prize or money towards the purchase of a gift card, please contact the Brooklyn Center office at (612) 332-3242 with a credit card, and they will handle the cash transaction or gift card purchase for you. And please send me an email at [Janet.dickelman@gmail.com](mailto:Janet.dickelman@gmail.com) so you can be put on the door prize donation list.

If you plan to donate something other than cash or a gift card, email me directly to let me know about the door prize.

# **Concerns Related to Obtaining Accessible Prescription Labels at Walgreens**

ACB has recently heard from some members about concerns related to obtaining accessible prescription labels at Walgreens. To assist ACB’s work concerning these access issues, it would be helpful to get a sense from all of you out there about your recent experiences getting accessible prescription label services from Walgreens. If you have gotten a prescription from Walgreens in the past 12 months, or talked with a Walgreens pharmacist about talking labels, we'd like to talk with you.

Please let us know the location of the Walgreens stores where you have had any experiences in the past 12 months. Be sure to include the best email and phone number to reach you.

Email your information to [**advocacy@acb.org**](mailto:advocacy@acb.org)**,** or call the Alexandria, VA office at (202) 467-5081.

# **Member on the Mic**

Member on the Mic is a highlight of the ACB Voices blog, where you can find the members who have had their turn at the mic by clicking [**http://ACBVoices.org**](http://ACBVoices.org). For the last year we have been featuring ACB members who may not be known well by the membership; members who inspire, have interesting stories or are doing the “Good Work.” We feature their projects and a photo along with a transcript of the interview.

We’re looking for more members who inspire, create, motivate, have interesting stories, and/or do good work. Want to nominate someone? Send an email to [**slovering@acb.org**](mailto:slovering@acb.org). Please include the person’s full name, state or special-interest affiliate, contact email and/or phone number.

# **Announcing the 2024 International Voices Contest**

ACB’s International Relations Committee invites entries to our 2024 International Voices Contest! This opportunity will enable international guests to receive complimentary virtual registration to our 2024 conference and convention, occurring June 27-29 and July 5-12, 2024. The convention will be packed with over 200 sessions on all aspects of living with blindness, including advocacy, technology, employment, transportation, and audio description, and sessions of interest to communities such as guide dog users, students and young professionals, seniors, and more. You will be able to browse all sessions at [**https://acbconvention.org**](https://acbconvention.org)beginning in mid-May. Note that while a select number of tours and sessions are in-person only, the vast majority can be attended virtually.

Being selected as one of our winners would grant you free virtual attendance. Please note that, should you choose to attend in person, this does not include any travel expenses or hotel rooms.

To be eligible, you must reside outside of the United States and its territories. To participate, kindly submit an audio recording of up to 10 minutes in length discussing your blindness-related experiences in your country, your message to the blindness community in the United States, and why you wish to attend the ACB convention. The top three contestants will receive complimentary registration, and the first-place winner will have the opportunity to address a general session of the convention via a pre-recorded video interview with the Committee chair.

Send your audio files to Committee chair Maria Kristic at [**acbinternationalcommittee@gmail.com**](mailto:acbinternationalcommittee@gmail.com) by **June 7**.

# **Volunteer of the Month**

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

# **Be My Eyes Research Study Needs You**

Be My Eyes is currently conducting an important research study and need your valuable input. As we work to improve and grow Be My Eyes, it is vital for us to know our community and its needs. Your participation will help us gather insights so we can contribute to make Be My Eyes an even better product for over 250 million people who are blind or have low vision.   
  
The survey has 14 short questions. We ask that you answer as many of them as you can. Your responses will remain confidential and anonymous.

Survey link: [**Answer our survey**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCaiv75hksg3I-XjXST_IRjeQN017yp76rPCijC_7cS7mWRg/viewform?usp=pp_url&entry.871096411=555506)

If you have any questions, or need further information, contact us at [**info@bemyeyes.com**](mailto:info@bemyeyes.com).

# **CVS Launches Digital Sign-Up for Spoken Rx**

CVS is happy to share a new way patients can register for Spoken Rx. Besides the options of calling your pharmacist or visiting the pharmacy, you can now make your request digitally. From the [**updated Spoken Rx page**](https://www.cvs.com/content/pharmacy/spoken-rx), just follow the link for “Begin Registration,” then complete the form to request registration for Spoken Rx. Additionally, there is an option for someone to request registration on behalf of a patient.

Spoken Rx allows people who are visually impaired to hear critical information about their CVS prescriptions using the CVS Pharmacy mobile app or a stand-alone reader. Spoken Rx is completely free and available to all CVS Pharmacy customers at all CVS Pharmacy retail locations.

# **New Name, Same Products**

Due to recent negative press of a different pharmaceutical company bearing the same HIMS trademark name, we have decided to adopt a new Doing Business As (DBA) name, “Selvas North America,” and also a new homepage URL, “[www.SelvasBLV.com](https://hims-inc.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=576acc031c08524eef2c59e6a&id=0831d2ac6d&e=30ab869171).”

Despite our company conducting business under the HIMS trademark since the late ‘90s, our employees are constantly fielding calls and emails intended for the other company. We will continue manufacturing and distributing high-quality assistive technology products under the well-established and respected HIMS trademark name.

However, we will begin doing business as Selvas North America in alignment with our parent company name, Selvas Healthcare. Please know that HIMS Inc. and/or our parent company are not in any way, shape, or form affiliated with the other HIMS, which is a pharmaceutical company.

Thank you for your attention and understanding as we attempt to mitigate the damage being caused by this matter of mistaken identity.

# **Check Your COVID Tests**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning people not to use COVID-19 tests that were manufactured by a California-based healthcare company.

Cue Health, headquartered in San Diego, received emergency use FDA authorization for two COVID-19 tests early in the pandemic to help people detect if they were infected with the virus.

Last Monday, the FDA told the public, caregivers and health care providers to [dispose of Cue Health’s COVID-19 tests](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/safety-communications/do-not-use-cue-healths-covid-19-tests-due-risk-false-results-fda-safety-communication) due to an increased risk of getting false results. The agency instead recommends retesting using a different brand authorized by the FDA if patients received a negative result on the Cue Health test and still show symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

To read the full article, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/yt2yzsrp**](https://tinyurl.com/yt2yzsrp).