**Dots and Dashes**

**May 5, 2025**

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# **Registration Is Just Around the Corner**

Registration will open for ACB members on Thursday, May 15, at 7 a.m. Central time. Registration cost will be $55. On May 22, registration will open for non-ACB members; that cost will be $70.

Registration will close on Tuesday, June 17 at 11:59 p.m. Central time. You may also register during the convention; however, the cost will be higher, $75 for ACB members and $90 for non-members.

## **What You Can Do Now to Prepare for Registration**

* Make sure you can log in to your member account at <https://members.acb.org/>. If you do not remember your login and password, you may select “password reset” or call the Minneapolis office at (612) 332-3242.
* If you have not created a member account at <https://members.acb.org/>, select the link labeled “Create an Account” and provide the information requested. After creating an account, you can log in, but it may take up to 24 business hours before you will be able to complete a convention registration, as the Minneapolis office needs to link your member account to our database. Now is a good time to create your account!

When registration opens:

* If you are registering online, log into your member account. Once you have selected the “ACB Convention” link on the members main page, it will open on an introduction page. After reading this information, proceed to preferences to begin your registration.
* Please verify that your contact information is correct. On this page you will also select whether you will be attending the convention virtually or in person. If you choose to be a virtual attendee, you will not be shown sessions that are only available to in-person attendees such as tours, social events, etc.
* If you choose to be an in-person attendee, you will be shown all virtual and in-person sessions.
* If you need assistance in registering, telephone registration will be available by calling Janet Dickelman at (651) 428-5059.

## **Hotel Details**

We will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207. Room rates are $99 per night (single or double occupancy), $124 (triple occupancy) and $149 (quadruple occupancy), plus tax, which is currently 17.2%.

To make reservations online, go to <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DFWRD/G-AMCB>. If you prefer to make reservations by phone, call (214) 651-1234, and use group code G-AMCB.

The cut-off date to make reservations is **Monday, June 9**. Don’t delay — make your reservations today!

## **Assistance at the Airport**

To assist airline personnel and Margarine Beaman and her cadre of airport volunteers, if you would like assistance when you arrive at the airport, please submit the following information. Remember that there are two airports serving the Dallas area.

* Your name
* Whether you will be arriving at DFW or Love Field
* The name of the airline you will be arriving on
* The city you will be traveling from
* Your arrival flight number
* Your cell phone number
* Departure date
* Departure time
* Departure airport
* Departure airline

Send this information to Margarine Beaman via e-mail, **oleo501625@outlook.com**, with "airline information" in the subject line, or call her at (512) 921-1625.

## **Wheelchair Rentals**

If you would like to rent a wheelchair or scooter, call Andrew Fulton, Dallas Mobility Rentals, at (214) 506-0526. Weekly scooter rentals are $139; wheelchairs (any size) are $79. They will be delivered to the hotel on Thursday, July 3 and picked up on Friday, July 11th.  Please call in advance to order your wheelchair or scooter. Once you have placed your order, call or email Janet at (651) 428-5059 or **janet.dickelman@gmail.com**. She will maintain a list to ensure all wheelchairs and scooters have been received.

## **Planning to Take a Tour?**

Please read the tour descriptions very carefully. Many of our tours require a lot of walking and/or standing. If this is difficult for you to do, please consider not taking the tour. Your health and comfort are very important to us. If you can’t keep up with the group, there aren’t options to stop or rest.

If you require the use of a wheelchair to attend a tour, you must bring someone with you who will push your chair. That person must also register for the tour; our volunteers are not able to assist as wheelchair pushers.

If you use a wheelchair or walker, please make sure to indicate that on the registration form. Also, if you are more comfortable having your own guide, consider attending the tour with a friend or family member. We generally have one volunteer to assist 10 to 15 attendees, so cannot offer personal assistance.

## **Using Paratransit Service During The Convention**

To obtain a visitor pass to use paratransit in Dallas, have your provider email or fax your information. This should be done at least two weeks in advance, but not prior to June 1. Email the documentation to Paracert@dart.org, or fax to (214) 828-6642. You should then call (214) 515-7272, option 5, and you will be provided with a temporary ID number. (214) 515-7272 is also the number to call to book your rides. The fare is $3.50 each way, cash only. Rides must be booked 1 or 2 days in advance.

## **Braille or Print Program Requests**

If you are attending virtually and wish to receive the convention program in either braille or large print, it will be sent to your home address. If you are a virtual attendee requesting a print or braille program, you must register **prior to June 1st** in order to receive the program in print or braille.

If you will be joining us in Dallas, you will receive the program when you pick up your registration materials. All registrants will receive Zoom links for the Zoom-only events. If you are attending the convention in person, you can pick up your registration materials starting Thursday evening, July 3.

## **Ordering Dog Food**

Don’t want to weigh down your luggage with food for your guide dog? Keep it simple — order food from Scoop Masters! Scoop Masters will provide and maintain our dog relief areas in Dallas. Locations of the dog relief areas will be shared via email lists and posted in the convention newspaper as soon as they are set up.

If you would like to pre-order dog food to be delivered to your hotel room, call Tim Stone at (661) 714-0749, or order online at [**http://scoopmasters.com/acb**](http://scoopmasters.com/acb). Tim says, “It’s a simple form that asks for your name, phone number, brand and type of food. I will call to get the details within 24 hours, and I will accept payments at the hotel.”

Food must be ordered by **June 20th** to ensure delivery.

## **Donating Door Prizes**

Everyone loves door prizes! The thrill of waiting to hear your name called during the general sessions or the banquet adds some excitement to the day.

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

If you would like to donate a cash prize or money toward 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. Then be sure to send a message to Janet Dickelman, Janet.dickelman@gmail.com, so she can add you to the door prize donation list. If you plan to donate something other than cash or a gift card, email Janet directly.

# **REAL ID Deadline This Week**

There are only two days left until the Department of Homeland Security's new policies go into effect.

Beginning on Wednesday, May 7, travelers won’t be able to board a domestic flight, access certain federal facilities, or enter a nuclear power plant unless their driver’s license or ID has REAL ID’s telltale star marking in the top righthand corner.

Failure to produce a REAL ID-compliant identification at airport security will result in you not being let through to your gate. If you don’t have REAL ID by May 7, 2025, you can still show your U.S. passport or an Enhanced Driver’s License issued by Washington, Michigan, Minnesota, New York or Vermont.

For a full list of alternative ID accepted by TSA, [visit this link](https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification).

You can sign up for REAL ID at your local Department of Motor Vehicles.

# **Volunteer Test Opportunity:**

# **Online Passport Renewal**

The online passport renewal team is looking for accessibility feedback! We'd like to invite you to be a part of a select group to test out the new version of online renewal ahead of a public launch. This is a unique opportunity to provide feedback that'll improve the experience for the American public. These 1-hour individual sessions will be scheduled in the second part of May or early June. In order to participate, you'd need to be [eligible for online passport renewal](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/renew-online.html#Step%20One). Here are the main requirements:

* You are renewing a 10-year passport and you are age 25 or older
* Your passport was issued between May 2010 and May 2016
* Your name, date of birth or place of birth didn't change from your previous passport
* You're comfortable paying online with a Visa or Mastercard (passport renewal fee is $130)
* You are not traveling internationally within May or June

During the feedback session, you'd join a virtual meeting with members of our team and go through the renewal application as you talk out loud, sharing your screen. You're welcome to join on a device you're most comfortable with, using the screen reader technology you prefer. Since this is an actual renewal, your personal information such as your name, passport photo and mailing address will be visible to members of the team. None of this information will be shared outside of the session, unless it's needed to troubleshoot a problem with your application.

At times, we'd ask you to stop screenshare to protect sensitive info, like your Social Security number and credit card number. You'd also be required to [get an acceptable passport photo ahead of time](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/photos.html), pay the fee and sign a consent form stating that you won't share the information you review. We'd provide you with a $75 digital Visa gift card as a thank you for your time.

If you'd like to participate or you have questions, please reach out to Liz at CA-CST-OPR-Research@state.gov as soon as possible and Liz will follow up with next steps. We are happy to have people join us for the first time who've never done this. We learn a lot from these sessions. There's no expectation for professional testers, just regular people who can help us improve digital experiences for the American public!

Thanks very much,
Liz and the online passport renewal team