**Dots and Dashes**

**April 21, 2025**

In this issue, you will find the following articles:

[Last Few Days to Make Your Nominations for the 2025 Audio Description People’s Choice Awards](#ADPPeoplesChoiceAwardNominations)

[ACB Angels Tributes Due by May 1](#AngelsTributesDueMay1)

[Complete Your Hill Feedback Forms by May 5th](#HillFeedbackForms)

[ACB’s Secretary Needs Your Delegate Information](#SecretaryNeedsDelegateInfo)

[Flying to Dallas for Convention?](#FlyingtoDallasforConvention)

[Seeking Articles for ACB Voices Blog](#SeekingArticlesforBlog)

[March’s Volunteer of the Month](#MarchVolunteeroftheMonth)

[BRL Needs You!](#BRLNeedsYou)

[Change in How People Receive Money from the Government](#ChangeinHowPplRcvMoneyfromtheGovt)

[EMPOWER VI Seeks Students, Families & Professionals](#EmpowerVISeeksStudentsParentsPros)

# **Last Few Days to Make Your Nominations for the 2025 Audio Description People’s Choice Awards**

The Audio Description Project’s (ADP) People’s Choice Awards is open for nominations, and closes on April 27. The winners will be revealed during the 2025 ACB Audio Description Awards Gala, which will take place virtually on Thursday, November 13th, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern.

The selection process for the Audio Description People’s Choice Awards takes place in two phases. First, the ADP will accept nominations in two categories, film and series, from April 12 through April 27. Second, the top titles in each category will compete for the grand prize during a two-week voting period in July.

Be sure to review the [nomination criteria](https://adawardsgala.org/peoples-choice/) before submitting your nominations. Remember that the focus is on the quality of the audio description, not the show itself, and you may nominate a film or series only once. The Audio Description People’s Choice Awards nomination form can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AD-Awards-Nominations-2025>. To make your nominations by phone, call (202) 467-5081.

Learn more at [www.ADAwardsGala.org](http://www.adawardsgala.org), and submit your nominations by **April 27** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AD-Awards-Nominations-2025>.

# **ACB Angels Tributes Due by May 1**

Just a gentle reminder that contributions and supporting materials toward ACB Angels tributes are due by May 1 in order for your loved one to be recognized as an Angel at our 2025 Convention.

The ACB Angels Memorial Tribute Program is a personal way to honor departed loved ones or their guide dog(s) while supporting ACB. With a minimum donation of $500, you can ensure that your loved one's legacy lives on through the Angels page of the ACB website. Donations can also be made in remembrance of guide dogs.

Pre-recorded video presentations are played each year during ACB’s National Conference and Convention. A bound companion book shares names and memories of each angel in braille and large print for those attending the convention in person to enjoy.

Your ACB Angel's name will become the title of a dedicated tribute webpage, easily identified through search engines like Google and Bing. Each page will feature a photo and a written, personalized testimony, ensuring that your Angel’s memory lives on within the ACB family. You will also receive the private link to your Angel’s recorded video presentation, which can be shared with whomever you wish.

Contributions in any amount can be made by individuals or a group toward the $500 minimum donation.

* Your Angel’s full name as you want it to appear.
* A photo, if desired.
* A written testimonial of your Angel’s life and impact.
* Your Angel’s date of birth.
* Your Angel’s date of death.
* Contact information for the person (or people) who will record the video presentation to be played during ACB’s annual National Convention.

Initial donations for the following individuals have been made but additional contributions are needed to reach the $500 threshold in order to be recognized in 2025:

* Mary Katherine Jones
* Richard Belcher
* Bob O'Shaughnessy
* Alberta O'Shaughnessy
* Jim Kinkema
* Joan Cox
* Millard Ronald "Ron" Eller

There are two ways to make a donation toward your ACB Angel:

* Call Chris Sawyer at (612) 332-3242 and he will process your donation. Just let him know who you are wishing to make an ACB Angel.
* Or go to <https://www.acb.org/support-acb-making-donation-now>. There you can make an “in memory” donation and in the note be sure to write the name for whom you are wishing to make an ACB Angel.

For more information, contact resourcedevelopment@acb.org.

# **Complete Your Hill Feedback Forms by May 5th**

Thank you all who participated on Hill Day on March 18, as well as those who met on different days or met virtually.

I am going through the information to plan our next steps. However, it is apparent that not all states have completed the survey forms.

We have extended the due date to May 5th. Please fill them out ASAP. The information is so helpful for what we do in the national office as we continue to advocate for the imperatives and other issues concerning our community.

Survey link:[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025HillVisit**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025HillVisit)

# **ACB’s Secretary Needs Your Delegate Information**

Now is the time to send in the name of your affiliate delegate, alternate delegate, and representative to the nominating committee.

Please send me the name, email address, and contact phone number of your affiliate delegate and alternate delegate. I also need to know if they will be attending the hybrid portion of the convention in person or virtually.

Oh yes, also remember to send the name, email address and contact phone number for the person who will be representing your affiliate on the nominating committee.

The deadline is May 11, 2025. Please email your delegate information to **colleyd1952@gmail.com**. If you have any questions, contact me via email, or call me at (360) 280-0077.

# **Flying to Dallas for Convention?**

If you are flying to Dallas for the convention, please read on to learn about obtaining 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 (Note: If you have connecting flights, provide the information for **both** flights.)

Your cell phone number

Departure date

Departure time

Departure airport

Departure airline

You can send Margarine Beaman an e-mail with "airline information" in the subject line at

oleo501625@outlook.com, or call her at (512) 921-1625.

# **Seeking Articles for ACB Voices Blog**

Have something you want to share on the ACB Voices Blog? Email it to voices@acb.org. If you, or someone you know, wants to be featured on the Member on the Mic piece, or are interested in helping with the Member on the Mic process, please email Sharon Lovering slovering@acb.org.

# **March’s Volunteer of the Month**

The Community Support Committee would like to congratulate Brad Snyder, who was voted Volunteer of the Month for March. Thank you, Brad, for all you do for our ACB Community!

# **BRL Needs You!**

The Braille Revival League is putting together a panel of employed people who use braille on the job for a presentation at convention. We are specifically looking for people who are employed in jobs that would be very difficult to do without using braille. If you, or someone you know in ACB, fall into this category, please contact Denise Colley at colleyd1952@gmail.com or (360) 280-0077.

# **Change in How People Receive Money from the Government**

On March 25, President Trump issued another executive order related to how people receive money from the federal government. The executive order calls for the distribution of all benefits, such as Social Security benefits and tax refunds, to be issued electronically; paper checks will no longer be issued. As a result, recipients will have to have a bank account, debit card, or digital wallet. The order goes into effect on September 30, 2025. There is some nervousness about the quick six-month turn-around. There have been many employee cuts to both the SSA and IRS. Please share this information with those who still receive their benefits via mail, as it will take time to set up their accounts online.

# **EMPOWER VI Seeks Students, Families & Professionals**

The goal of EMPOWER VI is to equip transition-age youth, their families, and the professionals who serve them with virtual supports to improve postschool outcomes.  These virtual programs create opportunities for connection and support, especially for those in rural areas who may not have access to in-person resources. Below are brief descriptions of our current programs with links to learn more.

EMPOWER VI is recruiting juniors and seniors who are blind or have low vision (from any U.S. state) for their 2025-2026 virtual [EMPOWER VI Mentoring Program](https://www.empowervi.org/mentorship). For more information about the program and to complete an application, visit this link: [Mentee Role and Application.](https://www.empowervi.org/mentorship/mentee-role)

They are also seeking three high school students who are blind or have low vision to join their Student Advisory Board for the 2025-2026 school year. To learn more about this opportunity, visit: [Advisory Boards](https://www.empowervi.org/advisory-boards).

Starting in the fall of 2025, EMPOWER VI will begin hosting Communities of Practice (CoPs) for adult family members and professionals. CoPs provide an opportunity for family members/professionals to learn and build community. To learn more and fill out an interest form, visit [Communities of Practice](https://www.empowervi.org/communities-of-practice).

They are recruiting blind and low vision adults (from any U.S. state) for their 2025-2026 **virtual** [EMPOWER VI Mentoring Program](https://www.empowervi.org/mentorship). For more information, or to complete an application, visit: [Mentor Role and Application](https://www.empowervi.org/mentorship/mentor-role).