**Dots and Dashes**

**August 18, 2025**

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# **Convention Survey Now Available!**

Thank you for joining us for the 2025 ACB Conference and Convention that occurred from June 23 through July 10, 2025 — whether you participated virtually, in person in Dallas, or in a hybrid format. Your feedback is essential and will help us improve future conventions for everyone.

Please take a few minutes to complete our satisfaction survey. It should take no more than 15 minutes and will remain open until **Friday, September 5, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.**

Take the survey here: [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVG987R**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVG987R)

**Accessibility tip for screen reader users:** When you press Next to move between pages, focus may land near the bottom of the new page. To get to the first question quickly, use your screen reader’s heading navigation command to jump to the first heading — it’s directly above the first question on each page.

If you need help completing the survey, please call Janet Dickelman at (651) 428-5059.

Questions or issues may also be sent to **support@acb.org**.

# **Financial Platform Accessibility Outreach**

We are seeking feedback from individuals who are blind or have low vision regarding the accessibility of the websites and mobile apps of major financial platforms such as Fidelity, Vanguard, Merrill Edge and others.

Our goal is to better understand how accessible and user-friendly these platforms are for screen reader users and others who rely on assistive technologies.

Your insights will help identify areas for improvement and advocate for more inclusive digital experiences in financial services.

Please email Accessibility@ACB.org with any feedback on the financial platforms you use; have attempted to use; or have used in the past.

Thank you in advance for your time and insights.

# **Affiliates May Use the Speak4 Platform**

State and special-interest affiliates have the ability to use the Speak4 platform ACB has recently subscribed to. If you have not engaged with the platform yet, it is a tool that allows users to create a campaign regarding a piece of legislation or a specific subject and easily advocate for elected officials to act on it. A pre-written letter can be sent to a person’s legislators after entering the constituent’s contact information (your address is matched with the elected officials representing your area). In addition to the federal advocacy ACB spearheads, state affiliates can use it to advocate at the state level.

If an affiliate would like to use the platform to advocate for a state bill or issue, please reach out to Claire Stanley at **cstanley@acb.org**. She will ask for the bill name and number, a summary of the bill, and a pre-written letter that constituents can send to their legislators. She can help you with drafting the letter.

Each campaign an affiliate creates will cost $75, paid directly to ACB. Claire Stanley can then keep your affiliate updated on the number of responses your campaign is receiving.

If you have questions, contact Claire via the email address above.

# **Get Up & Get Moving in National Wellness Month**

August is National Wellness Month — a perfect time to prioritize your health, stay active, and build lasting wellness habits. ACB’s Get Up and Get Moving Committee is all about empowering people who are blind or have low vision to take charge of their physical and mental well-being.

Whether it’s getting outside for a walk, gardening, eating healthy, or simply taking a break to stretch and reset, small daily activities can make a difference.

We’d love to hear from you! Drop your favorite healthy habit in the comments, or share a go-to recipe that keeps you feeling your best. Let’s get up, get moving, and support one another in living healthier, more active lives!

Find us on Facebook: Get up and Get Moving. Follow us, share what you do to stay or get healthy. We are here to help and encourage each other on our journeys.

#NationalWellnessMonth

# **The ACB Mini Mall Is Back Online**

We’re pleased to announce that the ACB Mini Mall has officially reopened with a refreshed and reorganized shopping experience. Our merchandise is now grouped into updated categories, including the newly created “Convention” section.

Among the latest additions are two exciting products unveiled at the recent convention: a sleek new fanny pack and a charming plush bulldog dressed in an ACB sweater.

To celebrate, convention pricing is available through **August 31st**, offering a great opportunity to explore the new site and enjoy exclusive savings.

Visit the Mini Mall today and discover what’s new: [**https://acbminimall.org**](https://acbminimall.org)

# **ACB National and ADP Official Social Media Platforms**

Get connected with ACB and ADP through our official social media platforms! ACB is active on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, Mastodon, YouTube and **now TikTok!** You can access our ACB National accounts on our official ACB website here: [**https://www.acb.org/home**](https://www.acb.org/home). You can also access our ADP accounts on our official ADP website here: [**https://adp.acb.org/**](https://adp.acb.org/). Each platform will be linked to their respective social media icon both on the top and at the bottom of the homepage.

# **Be My Eyes, Amtrak Partner to Pilot Innovative Visual Interpretation Technology for Blind and Low Vision Passengers**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA and WASHINGTON, D.C. — August 6, 2025 — Be My Eyes, the world’s leading Customer Accessibility Management platform for people who are blind or have low vision, today announced a partnership with Amtrak to launch a pilot program that brings on-demand visual interpretation to blind and low vision passengers at key Amtrak stations.

The initiative will allow passengers to access live, real-time assistance from trained visual interpreters via the Be My Eyes mobile app, providing support with navigating station environments, finding gates, reading signs, and more — all through the user’s smartphone camera.

The three-month pilot, launching this summer, will deploy the service at 16 stations in the Northeast Corridor, including high-traffic hubs such as New York Penn Station, Philadelphia 30th Street Station, Boston South Station, and Washington Union Station. These locations were selected to provide data across a range of environments.

To read the full press release, go to [**https://www.bemyeyes.com/business/news/be-my-eyes-and-amtrak-partnership/**](https://www.bemyeyes.com/business/news/be-my-eyes-and-amtrak-partnership/).

# **Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act**

Congress has reintroduced the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (TCIEA). This bill works to ensure that people with disabilities are not paid subminimum wage under an almost 100-year-old piece of legislation that allows certain businesses with a specific certificate to do so. The bill will work to eliminate such working environments and help transition people currently in such settings into a more integrated work situation. To ask your member of Congress to support the bill, go to [**https://speak4.app/lp/9801enwx/?ts=1754485747**](https://speak4.app/lp/9801enwx/?ts=1754485747).

# **Beyond the Blind Podcast**

Zero Blind has recently launched its “Beyond the Blind” podcast, and many people have asked how to sign up. To make it as easy as possible, we would like to share the enrollment instructions with you.

There are two ways to enroll:

1. Visit our website: [**https://zeroblind.org.nz/podcast-enroll-to-win-can/**](https://zeroblind.org.nz/podcast-enroll-to-win-can/)
2. Or, go to: <https://zeroblind.org.nz> and click the green “Enroll to Win” button in the top right corner.

The step-by-step enrollment instructions can be found there.

You can also help by sharing your stories. We’re featuring an international storytelling competition to shine a light on the real-life experiences of ordinary people living with blindness or low vision. We’ll be interviewing participants to hear their life stories — their hopes and dreams, what drives them, the challenges they’ve faced because of their disability, and how they’ve overcome these obstacles to achieve something they're proud of.

This is about much more than just sharing stories; it’s about inspiring others in the blind and low vision community by highlighting resilience, determination, and meaningful achievements that often go unnoticed.

In recognition of these powerful narratives, the competition offers cash prizes — **including a grand prize of up to $30,000 NZD** — to support and honor those who step forward to share their journeys. The contest is open to anyone who is blind or has low vision — of any age, gender, or nationality.

**How to Enter**

1. Visit [**www.zeroblind.org.nz**](http://www.zeroblind.org.nz)
2. Click the **“Enroll to Win”** button
3. Receive your **unique Applicant Registration Number**
4. Schedule and complete your **recorded interview** (30 to 60 minutes, ideally 45 min.)

Yes, you will be able to listen to other podcasts and vote for your favorites. Visit [**https://zeroblind.org.nz/podcast/**](https://zeroblind.org.nz/podcast/) for more information.

# **Special Offer for Rides from GoGoGrandparent: 2 Free Rides**

GoGoGrandparent makes getting around simple and stress-free. Our easy-to-use transportation service connects you to reliable rides with just a phone call — no smartphone or app is required.

Use the link here: [**https://www.gogograndparent.com?promo=ACB2025**](https://www.gogograndparent.com?promo=ACB2025), or the promo code: **ACB2025** when joiningGoGo Grandparent’s service and get two free rides (up to five miles).

Call 1-855-970-6294 and book a ride today!

# **Social Security Celebrates 90th Anniversary**

On August 14th, the Social Security Administration (SSA) proudly commemorates its 90th anniversary, marking its unwavering commitment to the financial security and dignity of millions of Americans. Since President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935, the program has grown into one of the most successful and trusted institutions in American history. At a ceremony in the Oval Office today, President Trump signed a presidential proclamation reaffirming his commitment to protect Social Security and celebrating the customer service improvements that have occurred at the agency during his presidency.