# **Dots and Dashes**

# **February 6, 2023**

# **Member Registration for ACB’s 2023 Leadership Conference is Now Open!**

ACB’s 2023 Leadership Conference will feature both a virtual and an in-person component. The ACB Presidents’ Meeting and Legislative Seminar will take place virtually from March 4-7, and will include a Fireside Chat on Sunday, March 5. The in-person portion of the Leadership Conference will take place at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town from March 9-12 in Alexandria, Va. During the in-person portion of the Leadership Conference, ACB will host an Accessible Currency Rally at the White House. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take part in multiple exciting and informative tours around the D.C. area. Tours include the White House Visitor Center, U.S. Botanical Gardens, Jefferson Memorial and U.S. Capitol, George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, and several historic D.C. Monuments. ACB member-only registration for the 2023 Leadership Conference is open, with registration access for all opening on February 7. The deadline to register is February 28. For more information, visit [acb.org/2023-leadership-announcement](http://acb.org/2023-leadership-announcement).

# **ACB’s 2023 Scholarship Application Period Closes Soon!**

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) offers educational scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $7,500 for entering freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students, and students attending technical college. This program awards students with scholarships to help with educational financial needs such as tuition, fees, room and board and assistive technology. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants need to be legally blind, maintain a 3.0 GPA to be eligible for most scholarships, be a full-time student or a part-time student who works at least 32 hours per week and attends college part-time, and be involved in their school and local community. Students must submit their application by February 14th, 2023. For more information about ACB’s scholarship program, visit [acb.org/scholarships](http://acb.org/scholarships). To learn more about ACB’s 2022 scholarship recipients, visit: [tinyurl.com/2022-ACB-scholarships](https://tinyurl.com/2022-ACB-scholarships).

# **Last Call to Register for the Audio Description Institute**

ACB’s Audio Description Project will hold its 21st Audio Description Institute February 20-24, 2023. It will be all virtual. Participation is limited. Register by February 13th at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E144393&id=83>. You will be asked to create a login for the database.

# **ADP Awards Nominations**

Help ACB’s Audio Description Project (ADP) recognize outstanding contributions to the field of audio description by submitting your nomination for the 2023 ADP Awards! The call for nominations ends on Friday, May 5, 2023, with winners announced during the 2023 ACB convention. Find more information about the awards, including how to submit your nomination at [www.acb.org/2023-ADP-awards](http://www.acb.org/2023-ADP-awards).

# **2023 BADIE Contest**

The Benefits of Audio Description In Education (BADIE) contest, brought to you by ACB’s Audio Description Project and Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP), wants students to experience media with audio description and describe what they’ve experienced! Participants from ages 7-21 have the chance to win prizes for themselves and their teachers by selecting an audio-described film or video from the more than 6,000 educational titles available through DCMP and submitting an evaluation of its use of audio description. To register for the contest, find guidelines and prize information, learn how audio description is created, and get tips for writing a good review, visit [www.badiecontest.org](http://www.badiecontest.org/). The deadline for contest entries is March 17, 2023.

# **Join the Audio Description Project Discussion List**

If you like to be entertained and informed, the ACB Audio Description Project (ADP) discussion list is for you! It’s a great way to keep up with everything in the world of audio description (also known as AD), which includes movies, live theatre, museums, educational videos, national parks, and much more. You’ll get updates on the latest films, TV and streaming series, events, and attractions that are providing AD; announcements of AD news; and invitations to share your AD experiences with the ADP advocacy team. You can choose whether to receive each message posted to the list individually or as a weekly digest. Simply send a blank email to ADP-List+subscribe@acblists.org with “Subscribe” in the subject line, and you’re in!

# **Where to Find Oscar Nominees with Audio Description**

If you’re a movie fan, you probably can’t wait to watch the Oscars on ABC next month. To help you get ready, ACB's Audio Description Project has compiled a list of nominated films and where to find the ones with audio description. The 95th Academy Awards will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at the Dolby® Theatre at Ovation Hollywood and will be televised live on ABC and broadcast to more than 200 territories worldwide. Until the big night, grab your popcorn and choose your own winners! For the list of nominees, and where to watch them with audio description, visit [acb.org/2023-oscars-AD-films](http://acb.org/2023-oscars-AD-films).

# **DKM First Timers & ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows**

We’re honoring the Legacy of Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) as we announce that we are now accepting online applications for the Class of 2023 DKM First-Timers and Class of 2023 ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows. To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must be age 18 or older; blind or visually impaired; current on ACB membership dues, and never have attended an in-person ACB conference and convention. For full details on the DKM First Timers, visit <https://acb.org/2023-first-timers>. To learn more about the ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows, visit <https://acb.org/2023-leadership-fellows>. Access the 2023 Award Application by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/DKM2023>.

# **Settlement Agreement Creates Accessible Absentee Voting Options for Indiana Voters with Print Disabilities**

A historic Indiana lawsuit brought by Disability Rights Advocates, Indiana Disability Rights and the American Council of the Blind of Indiana seeking increased ballot accessibility for voters with print disabilities has settled. As a result of the settlement, the state has agreed to acquire a new remote accessible ballot marking tool that will allow these voters to cast their absentee ballots privately and independently. Voters will be able to access and mark their ballots digitally with their own assistive technology thanks to this tool. Once the ballot has been marked, voters will be able to submit it via email. The tool will be available to voters in time for the May 2023 primary election. [Read the Disability Rights Advocates press release](https://dralegal.org/press/indiana-voting-settlement/).

# **New Educational Series Features Guide Dogs in Action**

Maine’s Pine Tree Guide Dog Users recently launched a free educational series for students and others that provides information and materials about how blind people and guide dogs work together as a team, and how guide dogs use a variety of skills to safely guide their partners. All materials are available free from the Educational Corner at [www.PineTreeGuideDogUsers.org](http://www.PineTreeGuideDogUsers.org).

The series includes a supplemental document for teachers and other presenters; a professionally designed poster and handout of a guide dog team using five different skills; and a two-module lesson plan and worksheet for grades 2-3.

# **Spoken Rx Tutorials**

Hadley has launched a new series of tutorial workshops on prescription management. The video workshops demonstrate the benefits of Spoken Rx®, a proprietary audio prescription label solution available for free on the CVS Pharmacy app, which allows patients to have their prescription information read aloud in English or Spanish. The 7-part series, available on Hadley’s website and through the mail, is available to anyone with visual impairment. Learn more by visiting [Hadley.edu/CVS](http://hadley.edu/CVS).

# **PBS NewsHour Employment Survey**

Are you a worker with a disability whose employment opportunities have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic? The PBS NewsHour wants to hear from you. In November, the employment rate for people who reported having a disability hit its highest level since record-keeping began in 2008. Several factors have led to this rise, including more opportunities for remote work, the tight U.S. labor market and the growing number of people with long COVID-related disabilities. [Fill out the survey form here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaYT93mAwg2gZbR8XCre2vDtnkubwG677I8IFeHTRhw1abzg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR0Gxp_U26UrxDRkNNL-ARKNZUNwYZPtXjmltW6P5tPwYmLcXg7qAGZS-Uw).