# **Dots and Dashes**

# **July 18, 2022**

# **Advocacy Update**

On this episode of the Advocacy Update, we discuss the ongoing advocacy efforts to make at-home COVID-19 tests more accessible for people who are blind and low vision. Clark is joined by ACB president Dan Spoone and immediate past president Kim Charlson, and Jill Heemsker, Deputy Director of the National Institute on Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering within the National Institutes of Health. To learn more and order your 12 free more accessible COVID-19 at home tests, please visit <https://acb.org/12-covid-test-2022>. Find out more at [https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/).

# **Who Won the Braille Forum Raffle?**

Many thanks to all who participated in the Braille Forum raffle! The winners are as follows: Golden Triangle won the $5,000 grand prize. Kenneth Semien Jr. won $1,000, and Marie Brinas won the $500 prize.

# **USDOJ Settles with Uber**

Today, the United States Department of Justice filed in court a multi-million-dollar settlement resolving its lawsuit against Uber Technologies Inc. The DOJ lawsuit alleged that Uber was in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act by charging wait-time fees to individuals with disabilities who may need additional time finding and getting into their car. Under the agreement, Uber will compensate riders with disabilities who were charged wait-time fees due to their disability. Additionally, Uber has committed to waving wait-time charges for riders who certify that they, or a person they frequently travel with, have a disability and need additional time to get into their car due to the disability. Read the full press release at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/uber-commits-changes-and-pays-millions-resolve-justice-department-lawsuit-overcharging-people>.

# **Accessible Home COVID Tests**

On June 22, 2022, the federal government [announced a new initiative to expand the availability of testing options that are more accessible for people who are blind or low vision and who use a smartphone](https://acb.org/accessible-COVID-tests-announcement). The tests work with the free Ellume COVID-19 Home Test app for [iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ellume-covid-19-home-test/id1536213996) or [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ellumehealth.homecovid.android&hl=en_US&gl=US) to provide users with audible instructions and test results.

Consumers who are blind or have low vision can order the Ellume COVID-19 Home Test free of charge by calling 1-800-232-0233 or online at [https://special.usps.com/testkits/accessible](http://email.prnewswire.com/ls/click?upn=OXp-2BEvHp8OzhyU1j9bSWuwMvMWelqIco5RbfBrouY-2BSwd4TqbuJrIP7-2BLHfv-2FXpO8M4ctMJ6IelKOlBdZ2ZCz85OdnvlrfoyS0SHVwTanAVGYgNzNo-2B9IRiK3EIDxS7q4CA20OH71bavOsy4fV7FQsrgnwETkXHe7jL-2BleEmfwNhQs56oPZrpZ5m2X6fpIybT0hCl1EX8C8l1pNTh9mE631YU92m4xb2Dij-2FHc3U0vP-2B8O-2BnmeZijNd9jRoavyu8NJ_c_QGL-2B0imNYUTBW7D0lqoNws-2BMHJI9VuGd6naFW4WMXY-2F1uO3k6zMKZ08QrhuBo70DGkF2ALHmmfI7pNQZ-2BqO6TEXV2fXaZ1AYBukYjvlq5zBB5SmXjah52HxNFKwc9e5eZSLFH5jbxj-2B7yon1PSyXLqc2zURRQpVlzoyhI6CrJnvFBFfIFTiKEFnmkPuqXb7a-2FdBURE4KihWh1QGtxS4CaFx5lU7s-2FNH1cQW4sVfl5Iw5rtn1bEmeDZStxlifb1DwsPLRRcF36y1tJvlJliTr4YbyfKcFyQEDBF8Wz0OSfjgSMK7UnLBrE7lVt3IWegWEvMwxzBf7u-2FeBuEkUKxMjA9xrfCrirTHZy3FL8GDe0h0-3D). Each order will include 12 rapid antigen tests and will ship free, while supplies last. More information regarding testing is available at [covid.gov/tests](http://email.prnewswire.com/ls/click?upn=OXp-2BEvHp8OzhyU1j9bSWuwMvMWelqIco5RbfBrouY-2BSwd4TqbuJrIP7-2BLHfv-2FXpOVylMlnthB-2BkI-2FgWpVPefDTRYajYhekAZgsJCx4q7ef81T0hpgeKpK7nlsydrTVkTtN3WrYkU14OnDdPthkX-2FLNu5yn6NtFYbe4vFIjaBI4c-3DSw7G_QGL-2B0imNYUTBW7D0lqoNws-2BMHJI9VuGd6naFW4WMXY-2F1uO3k6zMKZ08QrhuBo70DGkF2ALHmmfI7pNQZ-2BqO6TEXV2fXaZ1AYBukYjvlq5zBB5SmXjah52HxNFKwc9e5eZSLFH5jbxj-2B7yon1PSyXLqc2zURRQpVlzoyhI6CrJnvFBFfIFTiKEFnmkPuqXb7a-2FdBURE4KihWh1QGtxS4CaKewGlJQjnzA8izDJy675XtbQtJtSWHo7ryFDf8yYZ1Wfg0xzT3fvsHKjmqQ6E8kSBY67zIwDas-2FpRSI-2FuEbASFMJrZSivtkfHLIJgswGEBGGNJ8y9GLoFaZSg4HsB3Q6Oj69n5Nsg0KNbealFtNt9M-3D).

# **NLS Patron Engagement Section Launches Virtual Programs**

As part of its effort to provide services, programs, and resources directly to patrons that will enhance their library experience, NLS’ newly formed Patron Engagement Section will be hosting a virtual Monthly BARD Review on Zoom. This program will occur the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Eastern, starting on August 11. Each Review will last for one hour and will discuss a predetermined topic about a component of BARD usage or a specific BARD product.

To join the August 11 session, go to <https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1611161911?pwd=bVh5ejFsWFBlL21KY0VqaHlRMUlSQT09> or call in by telephone at 1-669-254-5252 (meeting ID 161 116 1911).
For more information on upcoming programs, visit [www.loc.gov/nls/about/services](https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/services).

# **FDA Request for Nominations**

On July 1st, the FDA announced a [request for nominations](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA3MDEuNjAyMDY2NTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZWRlcmFscmVnaXN0ZXIuZ292L3B1YmxpYy1pbnNwZWN0aW9uLzIwMjItMTQxMzUvcmVxdWVzdHMtZm9yLW5vbWluYXRpb25zLWluZGl2aWR1YWxzLWFuZC1jb25zdW1lci1vcmdhbml6YXRpb25zLWZvci1hZHZpc29yeS1jb21taXR0ZWVzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.9_1hE-exgjodDbGv4giyhxKMo18VdtAZlw8XXeQ4_oY%2Fs%2F2142747905%2Fbr%2F135131931679-l&data=05%7C01%7Cleen%40visionservealliance.org%7Ccea4e0256b1845733c5208da635c9dbd%7C99ced0095ce646e1b2574fd169e20c0e%7C1%7C0%7C637931546702484704%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LVQhZasKkEEceOmIIOlaQKlP338Yz5hEpfhAzSP2SKo%3D&reserved=0) for consumer representatives to serve on advisory committees and panels for which vacancies currently exist or are expected to occur in the near future. The agency seeks to include the views of individuals on its [advisory committee](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA3MDEuNjAyMDY2NTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZGEuZ292L2NvbnN1bWVycy9jb25zdW1lci11cGRhdGVzL2Fkdmlzb3J5LWNvbW1pdHRlZXMtZ2l2ZS1mZGEtY3JpdGljYWwtYWR2aWNlLWFuZC1wdWJsaWMtdm9pY2U_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.sEshq0hXPfccjvUJn0Vt74UYOXvGQjTpxIBEVXf4KxE%2Fs%2F2142747905%2Fbr%2F135131931679-l&data=05%7C01%7Cleen%40visionservealliance.org%7Ccea4e0256b1845733c5208da635c9dbd%7C99ced0095ce646e1b2574fd169e20c0e%7C1%7C0%7C637931546702484704%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LNeTc9HFXmJTyqiiThO7%2BKyUSlYB5Ddg8iiNiyQ2Rkk%3D&reserved=0) regardless of their gender identification, religious affiliation, racial and ethnic identification, or disability status and encourages nominations of appropriately qualified candidates from all groups. **Nominations should be submitted electronically through the** [**FDA Advisory Committee Membership Nomination Portal**](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA3MDYuNjAzODI0MTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5hY2Nlc3NkYXRhLmZkYS5nb3Yvc2NyaXB0cy9GQUNUUlNQb3J0YWwvRkFDVFJTL2luZGV4LmNmbT91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.ANXxcw2kxybj3-nUaEN4sBT1foZ--S6DPREd94gbLik%2Fs%2F1256065369%2Fbr%2F135669523106-l&data=05%7C01%7Cleen%40visionservealliance.org%7Ccea4e0256b1845733c5208da635c9dbd%7C99ced0095ce646e1b2574fd169e20c0e%7C1%7C0%7C637931546702484704%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YgwcVNPRe2%2BZKY9jf5dNnQMs3D%2FGAfjWhc5aydAWDiA%3D&reserved=0)**, by August 15, 2022.**

For more information, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/bdern4ef**](https://tinyurl.com/bdern4ef).