# **Dots and Dashes**

# **June 13, 2022**

## **Conference and Convention Announcements**

Are you planning on coming to Omaha, or attending the convention virtually? You’ve still got a week to register! Pre-registration will close next Monday, June 20th. For more information on sessions and to register, visit [**https://www.acbconvention.org**](https://www.acbconvention.org).

### **Candidates’ Forum Wednesday Night**

The Board of Publications Candidates’ Forum will be held at 9 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, June 15th. Watch for the Zoom and dial-in information on the lists. There are three candidates for the board of directors, and three for the board of publications.

### **ACB Summer Auction Saturday!**

Are you ready for some bidding fun? ACB’s Virtual Summer Auction will broadcast live on Saturday, June 18th, from 6 p.m. Eastern on ACB Media 1. For a list of auction items, visit [**https://acb.org/2022-summer-auction**](https://acb.org/2022-summer-auction). Appetizer Auctions will be held [**Thursday, June 16th**](https://acb.org/2022-appetizer-auction-day1) and [**Friday, June 17th**](https://acb.org/2022-appetizer-auction-day2).

### **Nominating Committee Meeting**

If you are your affiliate’s representative to the nominating committee, please mark your calendars. The nominating committee will meet at 7 pm on Thursday, June 23rd. You will receive the Zoom and dial-in information via email next week.

### **Door Prizes**

If you or your affiliate would like to donate a door prize for the ACB convention, please email Janet Dickelman at [**Janet.dickelman@gmail.com**](mailto:Janet.dickelman@gmail.com) with your name, a brief description of the prize, and whether you will be attending virtually or in-person. Everyone who registers for the convention will be eligible for door prize drawings, whether they are in-person or virtual.

### **Reserving Banquet Tables**

Our convention banquet tables this year will seat 6. To reserve a table, stop by the convention information desk, provide Vicky with names for your table, and she will give you your table number. If you want more than one table together, please reserve both tables at the same time. We will not reserve a table for less than six people. If you do not have a reserved table when you arrive at the banquet, you will be given a place at an open table. Please be sure to provide everyone in your group with your table number.

## **BPI, GDUI and MCAC Joint Candidates’ Forum**

Blind LGBT Pride, Guide Dog Users, Inc. and the Multicultural Affairs Committee will host a joint candidates’ forum on Saturday, June 25 at 5 p.m. Eastern/2 p.m. Pacific. It will be held over Zoom and streamed by ACB Media. Keep an eye on your inbox for the link information. Any candidates who wish to run from the floor and would like a slot on this forum should reach out to [**membership@BlindLGBTPride.org**](mailto:membership@BlindLGBTPride.org)no later than close of business on Wednesday, June 22nd.

**Audio Description Project’s 20th AD Institute**

ACB’s [**Audio Description Project**](https://adp.acb.org/) will hold its 20th Audio Description Institute August 8-12, from 1 to 5 p.m. Eastern each day. The Institute will be all virtual. Topics include: audio description history and theory, the four fundamentals of audio description, active seeing/visual literacy-developing skills in concentration and observation the art of “editing” what you see, vivid language, and using the spoken word to make meaning. Register online at [**https://tinyurl.com/2022-AD-Institute**](https://tinyurl.com/2022-AD-Institute)­­­**.** You’ll be asked to create a login for the ACB database and continue to register for the Institute.

## **Waymap Transportation App**

On May 24th, Waymap was joined by partners in the public and private sectors including the American Council of the Blind, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, WMATA, The White House Office of Public Engagement, several District government agencies, National Industries for the Blind, Verizon, and The Catholic University of America for the launch of their groundbreaking app that will strengthen and make community travel more accessible for blind and visually impaired people in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For more information, and to find links to key articles and news stories that reported on the launch, visit [**https://acb.org/Waymap-DC-transportation**](https://acb.org/Waymap-DC-transportation?fbclid=IwAR2GLq-E-j0TdR5cC1dKdLb0Ijb8mgOzaD4N36KTsKh4nZNMavhd510M46g).

## **VisionServe Alliance’s Transportation Webinar Series**

A three-part workshop hosted by VisionServe Alliance will take a deep dive into the world of public transportation and how individuals, organizations and communities can work together to make it better. The dates, time, and registration links for each webinar are listed below.

* The Basics of Public Transit: The Complete Trip from a Blind/LowVision Perspective -**June 15 @ 1pm-2:30 pm ET.**[**Register Here**](https://visionservealliance.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6c0ab02acf7f6c8b7a4f0d76c&id=d995adea43&e=58aa7a323c)**.**
* Make a Difference: Strategies to Participate and Inform Transportation Services - **June 21 @ 1pm-2:30pm ET.**  
  [Register Here](https://visionservealliance.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6c0ab02acf7f6c8b7a4f0d76c&id=65ab78d62b&e=58aa7a323c).
* Using Partnerships and Advocacy to “Get on the Right Track” with Accessible Transportation: Specific Examples - **June 29 @ 1pm-2:30pm ET.**[**Register Here**](https://visionservealliance.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6c0ab02acf7f6c8b7a4f0d76c&id=6b590cf40a&e=58aa7a323c)**.**

**Disability Community Creative Grants**

In collaboration with Verizon and the National Disability Leadership Alliance, Getty Images has launched creative grants focused on authentic representation of disability communities. Open to photographers and videographers around the world, the program aims to highlight groups and experiences within disability communities. The application period will close on June 30, 2022.⁠ Learn more at [**https://tinyurl.com/getty-creative-grants-2022**](https://tinyurl.com/getty-creative-grants-2022).

**Twitter Audio Translations for Charts**

Twitter continues to expand its accessibility tools, this time via the addition of a new option to translate charts into audio elements for visually impaired users. The new process will enable visually impaired people to ‘listen’ to charts by translating the data into pitched sounds, in accompaniment to a written description of the chart. For more information, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/twitter-audio-chart**](https://tinyurl.com/twitter-audio-chart).

**AER Has New Executive Director**

Lee Sonnenberg has been chosen by the AER Board of Directors as the new Executive Director of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. His first day on the job will be Wednesday, June 15.

**Senators Call on DOJ to Ensure Government Websites Comply With the ADA**

Last week, Sen. Tammy Duckworth along with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin led a group of 10 senators in urging the U.S. Department of Justice to finalize regulations to help employers, state and local governments, and places of public accommodations better comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it applies to their websites, mobile applications and online services. ACB commends Sens. Duckworth and Durbin for their leadership on this important issue and for their continued collaboration with the disability community to complete these regulations by the end of the current Administration. To read the letter, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/nhe869kc**](https://tinyurl.com/nhe869kc)**.**

# **Inaccessible Medical Billing Questionnaire**

People who are blind or use a screen reader or other assistive technology to access the web sometimes receive inaccessible medical bills or other health information. KHN, a nonprofit newsroom that covers health care, wants to better understand the scope of the problem. They would love to hear from you about any challenges you, family members, or colleagues have faced navigating inaccessible medical or health insurance bills. Fill out the questionnaire at [**https://khn.org/news/article/inaccessible-medical-billing-khn-wants-to-hear-from-you**](https://khn.org/news/article/inaccessible-medical-billing-khn-wants-to-hear-from-you).