# **Dots and Dashes**

# **May 16, 2022**

## **Pre-Registration Now Open**

Pre-registration opened on May 12th for ACB members, and will open this Thursday, May 19th for non-members. Pre-registration will close on June 20th. For information, visit [**https://acbconvention.org/**](https://acbconvention.org/)**.**

### **Transportation from the Airport**

zTrip, (402) 292-2222 charges $13 from the airport to the Hilton. You can also use Uber or Lyft from the airport.

### **Using Paratransit**

To be certified to use paratransit (called Moby) in Omaha, call (402) 341-7560 ext. 2520 to be certified, or send an email to [**mobycert@ometro.com**](mailto:mobycert@ometro.com). They ask that we call at least two weeks in advance. You will need to provide proof of eligibility to be certified.

### **Requesting Reasonable Accommodations**

If you plan to attend the convention and need a support service provider or interpreter, please contact Lori Scharff. Send her an e-mail with “interpreter for Omaha” in the subject line at [**loris1@optonline.net**](mailto:loris1@optonline.net). If you’d prefer, you can contact Lori via phone at (516) 695-6370. Lori needs to receive your request by **June 10th** to ensure she can meet your needs.

### **Ordering Dog Food**

Scoop Masters will provide and maintain our dog relief areas. If you would like to pre-order dog food to be delivered to your hotel room, call Tim Stone at (661) 714-0749 or order online at

[**http://scoopmasters.com/acb**](http://scoopmasters.com/acb)**.** Food must be ordered by **June 25th** to ensure delivery.

## **Modernizing the AbilityOne Program**

On this episode of the ACB Advocacy Update, Clark and Swatha, with special guest ACB President Dan Spoone, speak with Kimberly Zeich, Acting Executive Director of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, and two private citizen members of the Commission, Gabe Cazares and Bryan Bashin, about the AbilityOne program. We discuss ways to modernize the program, including the Commission’s Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026, and ways to increase representation of people with disabilities, including blind and low vision people within all levels of the program and Commission. To learn more about the AbilityOne Program, please visit: [**www.abilityone.gov**](http://www.abilityone.gov).

Find out more at [**https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co).

May 19th is also Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD). Be sure to follow #ACB’s social media channels and check out the hashtag #GAAD22 as ACB will focus on the power digital access has made in helping us navigate the world around us.

## **2022 Friends-in-Art Virtual Showcase: Wanna Perform?**

Once again, FIA’s Showcase of the Performing Arts will be a highlight of ACB’s 2022 conference and convention. Once again, the Showcase will be virtual. Interested in being included? Read on for details.

Please send material you want to be included in the Showcase to [**showcase@friendsinart.org**](mailto:showcase@friendsinart.org)**.**

Materials might include:

* Music: Any style; original material especially welcomed. Your selection may either be sent as an e-mail attachment, or you may send us a link from which the piece can be uploaded. Please accompany your musical selection with your name, city/state, e-mail address, and a brief description of the piece that you are sending (to be used to introduce the piece).
* Prose/poetry. Original works preferred, especially if read by the author. Your work may either be sent as an e-mail attachment, or you may send us a link from which the performance can be uploaded. Please accompany your work with your name, city/state, e-mail address, and a brief description of the work that you are sending.

**Deadline: Friday, May 20, 2022**

In order to make it more likely that your selection will be included in the Showcase, please note:

1. Each selection should not exceed five minutes, including the description of the work you are asking us to consider.
2. We will consider including two contrasting short works if together they do not exceed five minutes.
3. We prefer up-tempo to slow, but will consider anything.
4. This is family entertainment; no profanity, please.
5. We aim for a show of around 20 selections of varying styles. Originality, professionalism, and flair count.
6. Please note that the ACB Media production team reserves the right to do editing or audio processing at their discretion in order to assure that the audience will get a high quality broadcast.

The Showcase is scheduled to air on Friday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern. We will contact you well before then to let you know if you will be included in the show. Questions? Please email us at [**showcase@friendsinart.org**](mailto:showcase@friendsinart.org)**.**

## **Department of Justice Alleged UC Berkeley Violates ADA By Providing Inaccessible Online Content**

After conducting an investigation, the Department of Justice issued a [Letter of Findings](https://www.ada.gov/briefs/uc_berkley_lof.pdf) against UC Berkeley, concluding that UC Berkeley’s online content is inaccessible to individuals with disabilities in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).  UC Berkeley creates and publishes free online content, including courses on its UC BerkeleyX platform, as well as audio and video content featuring conferences, lectures, sporting events, graduation ceremonies, and other university events or programming on its YouTube and Apple Podcasts channels.  UC Berkeley’s online content is made available to the public, but much of it is inaccessible to individuals with hearing, vision, and manual disabilities**.  If you have tried to access UC Berkeley’s online content but were unable to do so because it is inaccessible, please email the Department of Justice at** [**UC.Berkeley@usdoj.gov**](mailto:UC.Berkeley@usdoj.gov)**.**

The Department’s Letter of Findings explained that some of UC Berkeley’s visual online content does not provide an alternative way to access images or visual information (e.g., graphs, charts, animations, or hyperlinks on slides), such as audio description or alternative text, which makes it inaccessible to people with vision disabilities. Audio description is the verbal description of a visual image (for example, a picture or scene from a movie or play) in order to provide essential information to individuals with vision disabilities. Similarly, alternative text conveys the content and function of an image, including pictures, illustrations, or charts, to individuals with vision disabilities so that they can understand the image. The letter also explained that UC Berkeley’s online content also includes documents and links that are inaccessible to screen readers or are not keyboard-accessible because of improper formatting. As a result, the documents and links are inaccessible to individuals with vision or manual disabilities, including those who use screen readers or who do not use a mouse.

The letter also explained that much of UC Berkeley’s online content includes videos without captions or videos with automated captions (typically referred to as automatic captions) that are inaccurate, lack punctuation or proper grammar, and are difficult or impossible to understand. As a result, the audio content on the video is inaccessible to people with hearing disabilities.

The Department of Justice is interested in speaking with individuals with disabilities who have faced barriers in accessing UC Berkeley’s free, online content. Please email us at[**UC.Berkeley@usdoj.gov**](mailto:UC.Berkeley@usdoj.gov)**.**