# **Dots and Dashes**

# **October 11, 2022**

# **Action Alert**

On Sept. 28, 2022, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Representative John P. Sarbanes (D-MD) introduced the Website and Software Applications Accessibility Act (S. 4998 and H.R. 9021) in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This bill would require the Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to establish clear and enforceable accessibility standards for websites and mobile applications, reaffirm that existing disability rights legislation covers websites and software applications, and ensure that accessibility standards keep pace with new and emerging technology.

ACB encourages all our affiliates, members, and friends to contact their Representative and both of their Senators and urge them to co-sponsor The Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act – H.R. 9021 in the House of Representatives and S. 4998 in the Senate. For more information, visit [**https://acb.org/washington-connection#ActionAlert**](https://acb.org/washington-connection#ActionAlert).

# **Celebrate White Cane Day with the Get Up & Get Moving Committee!**

The Get Up and Get Moving Committee is having a White Cane Event on Saturday, October 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. Eastern time. We are inviting the chapters and affiliates to come on and share what they are doing for White Cane Day or what they are doing to get moving in their community. Please let us know if you, your affiliate or chapter have something planned so we can schedule a time to have you join us to talk about the event. Feel free to share photos or videos.

Attend the event by using [the Zoom link](https://acb-org.zoom.us/j/84555573491?pwd=azQ5M05tN2orMFMxK01qVDFDRThVQT09) or by calling (312) 626-6799 and entering the Meeting ID: 84555573491#.

# **James Webb Space Telescope Accessibility with STScI**

The scientists, writers, and educators from the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) want to make space accessible for everyone, and have created vividly detailed alt text for every photo that has been released from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. ACB’s advocacy team were joined by [**representatives from STSCI**](https://acb.org/webb-alt-text-event) during this presentation to discuss how their team have collaborated with one another to make the Webb images accessible to people who are blind and low vision. Experience the breathtaking images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope and share in the joy and enthusiasm of space by visiting [**https://youtu.be/6t-ZwnCsbkY**](https://youtu.be/6t-ZwnCsbkY). Access the full image descriptions in the [**First Images Gallery**](https://webbtelescope.org/news/first-images/gallery) under “Download Options” for each photo.

# **Insulet Accessibility Survey**

As a member of the Accessible Insulin Pump Task Force, ACB Diabetics in Action is disseminating the survey from Insulet (see below) as far and as wide as possible.

Here at Insulet, we aim to simplify life with diabetes. We are looking for ACB and NFB members living with diabetes who seek to share what their experience with diabetes equipment is like. For more information, or to volunteer, email us at [**usability@insulet.com**](mailto:usability@insulet.com).

# **Accessible COVID Testing on Comcast Newsmakers**

On [**this Comcast Newsmakers segment**](https://comcastnewsmakers.com/Videos/2022/9/28/Advancing-Accessibility-of-At-Home-Medical-Tests?eo1=notrack&fbclid=IwAR31Tvr66lGdvd8U1P9GfzoEp_YKVqz0Kuj0apPHk7k-KmCmT9httVaf760), ACB Director of Advocacy & Governmental Affairs Clark Rachfal discusses the impact of the lack of accessible COVID-19 testing on the blind and low vision community, and efforts to ensure health care and medical systems are accessible for everyone.

# **Google Guided Frame**

Google has announced a new accessibility feature that will help blind and low vision users take better selfies. [**Guided Frame**](https://www.engadget.com/google-guided-frame-accessibility-features-143637505.html?fbclid=IwAR1INAWrXvHLNFNDMDFKI8QQlRI73fr13Bl1-iwLGIctUTNUXFF15szVy_8) is a voice coach that will tell users where to hold their phones in order to take a selfie. Hold the device in front of you, and it’ll ask you to go up, down, or to the side, until its AI believes you’re in the best place to shoot. When it does, it’ll even trigger the shutter automatically.

# **Amazon Accessibility Features**

A [**series of new videos**,](https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/devices/how-amazon-is-building-a-more-accessible-future?fbclid=IwAR0qWgB_u2cO7eImRwyX43mguWEafZ72gm4jONGBzvH2Gwf_bU98SB6dfhA) just released by Amazon, features people with disabilities using many of their accessibility features across Alexa, Fire TV, Kindle, and more, to help all of their customers learn how these features can help them be more connected, entertained, and independent. [**Amazon.com**](https://www.facebook.com/Amazon/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZU4Dx0-5UOQ9dAgftxD9qmkyl6EoUbN4WN-ctqrsISK8vhCIknKqEjPCB36806Dte15qGz6EStSodM0oUv9Ie2PqxFwMpyT-4fJJcXAqpL4wy1rG7t1u-4QCaLQ8G7gNa967VWUEY1mZoccYKNbvonJJi6mzypFXSxkoatH6HdRnpcyEHxtDwC4WFuaE47NpV8&__tn__=kK-R) has also redesigned [**amazon.com/accessibility**](http://amazon.com/accessibility?fbclid=IwAR1Z8WxVwqdOVfYDNyi_65BhdeZabccub2QHZYikBFQgPz7Nr7HZXrB1ihE) to make it easier for customers to explore more.

# **Waymo Accessibility Network**

Last week, Waymo announced the [**Waymo Accessibility Network**](https://blog.waymo.com/2022/10/launching-waymo-accessibility-network.html), a collaboration with disability advocates whose unique perspectives will help ensure the future of transportation is shaped for everyone as they continue to scale. This collaboration formalizes Waymo’s longstanding tradition of working with organizations that support people of all ages living with physical, visual, cognitive and sensory disabilities as they have developed their fully autonomous ride-hailing service, Waymo One. ACB is proud to collaborate with Waymo to ensure the autonomous vehicle future is accessible for everyone.

# **AAPD Summer Internship Program**

In 2002, AAPD launched the Summer Internship Program to develop the next generation of leaders with disabilities. We place college students, graduate students, law students, and recent graduates with all types of disabilities in paid summer internships with Congressional offices, federal agencies, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations within the Washington, D.C. area and nationwide. For summer 2023, AAPD will offer a hybrid internship program with some interns joining remotely from across the country in addition to the interns based in D.C. Apply online at [**https://aapd.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=08dab5cd58ad9250c3f56519f&id=729e5b4eda&e=746f46faf3**](https://aapd.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=08dab5cd58ad9250c3f56519f&id=729e5b4eda&e=746f46faf3) by Monday, October 24 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

# **Access Board Seeks Public Comment**

Touchscreen kiosks and other types of self-service transaction machines (SSTMs) are a common feature in places of public accommodation, allowing users to independently conduct a range of transactions and functions. The U.S. Access Board has issued an [**advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM)**](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/21/2022-20470/americans-with-disabilities-act-accessibility-guidelines-for-buildings-and-facilities-architectural) on supplemental accessibility guidelines for different types of SSTMs, including electronic self-service kiosks, for persons with disabilities. The Board seeks comments on accessibility related to the various types of SSTMs, use and design of SSTMs, location of SSTMs, and economic impacts on small business, non-profit, and governmental entities in the implementation of accessible SSTMs.

Public comments are due by **November 21, 2022**. Individuals may submit comments via any of the following methods:

* [**Federal Register**](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/21/2022-20470/americans-with-disabilities-act-accessibility-guidelines-for-buildings-and-facilities-architectural): Select the “Submit a Formal Comment” link at the top of the notice and follow the instructions.
* [**Regulations.gov e-rulemaking portal**](https://www.regulations.gov/document/ATBCB-2022-0004-0001): Select “Comment” link and follow the instructions.
* Email: [**docket@access-board.gov**](mailto:docket@access-board.gov). Include docket number ATBCB-2022-0004 in the subject line of the message.
* Mail to: Office of Technical and Information Services,   
  U.S. Access Board, 1331 F Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111

For more information, visit [**https://www.regulations.gov/docket/ATBCB-2022-0004**](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/ATBCB-2022-0004).

# **Beta Testers Wanted**

Aira is working on improving its mobile app across both iOS and Android devices. As our apps evolve, we have invested in technology that allows us to write features once and have them available on multiple device types, which means for you, the pace of updates and new functionality will be more consistent. We are seeking individuals, particularly Android users, who are interested in participating in a closed beta. We need people who are excited to try new technologies, enjoy giving feedback, and are not discouraged when things aren’t working as expected. To apply for consideration, please complete the form at [**https://bit.ly/airabeta**](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Furl%3Fq%3Dhttps%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2Fairabeta%26sa%3DD%26source%3Deditors%26ust%3D1663958078266669%26usg%3DAOvVaw2v8g6VqOAUPnzbaSAr4Har&data=05%7C01%7C%7C55d4c6671f4f472f349c08da9fc6b948%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637997973111026043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tl4O4UZZb91FLKcKVVemAeE%2FlrCXmyDZ65IhhM%2Bo7Ns%3D&reserved=0).

# **Golf Tournament Postponed**

The 2022 Florida Open Tournament for Golfers with Disabilities and/or Mobility Challenges has been postponed due to the damage caused by Hurricane Ian.

Our tournament co-sponsor, Adaptive Golf Program Director David Windsor (PGA), has saved a tentative date (Dec. 3rd), with confirmation TBA. Visit [**http://floridagolfmagazine.com/open/**](http://floridagolfmagazine.com/open/) for updates and more information.