**Dots and Dashes**

**September 2, 2025**

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# **General Session Videos Now Available**

All of the general sessions' videos are now available on our official ACB National YouTube channel in a playlist titled "2025 ACB Convention." Additionally, a video of our Manager of Membership Engagement, Cindy Hollis, demonstrating her Meta Ray Bans during Meta's session is included in the playlist. Here is the link to the 2025 Convention Playlist: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mOipsRC-D0&list=PL8lZLvTN7ZUiMqTswBqHXTdAX6Kgwzk3P**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mOipsRC-D0&list=PL8lZLvTN7ZUiMqTswBqHXTdAX6Kgwzk3P).

To subscribe to our YouTube channel, click the link here: [https://www.youtube.com/@ACBnational](https://www.youtube.com/%40ACBnational).

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# **Final Days to Complete the Convention Survey**

If you haven’t taken or completed the convention survey, now is the time to do so. The survey closes on Friday, September 5, 2025. We hope you will encourage your members who attended the convention to do so as well. The survey has been greatly streamlined with questions tailored to your mode of participation, whether it was virtual, hybrid, or in-person. This is a fantastic opportunity to share your thoughts and suggestions in your own words on how we can improve the convention experience.

To take the survey, go to [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVG987R**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVG987R).

For screen reader users, here's a helpful tip: When you press "Next" to move between pages, the focus may land near the bottom of the new page. To quickly get to the first question, use your screen reader’s heading navigation command to jump to the first heading — it's directly above the first question on each page.

If you need any assistance completing the survey, please don't hesitate to reach out to Janet Dickelman at (651)-428-5059. If you have any questions or issues, you can email support@acb.org.

# **Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act**

As we participate in an increasing number of meetings on Capitol Hill to talk about the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act, we continually hear Congressional staffers asking for stories on how the issue directly impacts their constituents. This is a common question when we talk about any legislation; they want to directly tie it to the people they represent.

That is where you come in. Please share your stories about inaccessible websites and apps. We can then share them with Congress as we do more Hill visits. Specifically, if you can share stories about district-based websites, that would be helpful. Is the county’s website inaccessible? Is a local business’ website inaccessible? What about the school system’s website – is it accessible? Do not hesitate to share about nationwide websites as well. In order for us to share your stories with your members of Congress, email them to **advocacy@acb.org**. And be sure to include your city, state, and zip code.

# **Register for the Audio Description Institute**

Registration is now open for the Audio Description Project’s 26th Audio Description Institute, taking place virtually September 22–26, from 1 to 5 p.m. Eastern. The fee is $575. Space is limited, so don’t forget to secure your place. Registration closes on September 16 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

[Click to register now!](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/ACBADInstituteSeptember2025)

The interactive sessions (limited use of lecture, questions/discussion throughout, generous use of media, and individual and group writing exercises) are designed to provide immediate feedback and give and take, allowing for adaptation according to a sense of participants' grasp of the material. In addition, experienced users of description are a part of the Institute's faculty, providing an important perspective throughout the sessions.

# **New Campaign to Ensure Funding for IMLS, NLS**

Please click on the link below to participate in a new campaign to ensure funding for the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). In many states, NLS services flow through state library programs that receive IMLS funding. Let’s make sure library services get the funding they need so we can continue to access written materials.

Link: [**https://speak4.app/lp/ou01jn56/?ts=1755873072**](https://speak4.app/lp/ou01jn56/?ts=1755873072)

# **July’s Volunteer of the Month**

The Community Support Committee would like to congratulate Kaila Allen, who was voted Volunteer of the Month for July. Thank you, Kaila, for all you do for our ACB Community!

# **ICB’s Second Virtual Auction**

Mark your calendars! Illinois Council of the Blind (ICB) will have their second virtual auction on Sunday, October 19th at 6 p.m. Central Time.

We will auction things like gift cards, baked goods, jewelry, TV, signature autographed sports memorabilia, home and kitchen goods, a Phoenix embosser, and LOTS more!

If you would like to receive a full list of auction items you may reach out to the ICB office after, October 8th. There is no cost to attend. Registration opens October 1st.

Just call ICB at (217) 523-4967 and give your email address so you can receive the Zoom link to join the auction.

# **Social Security Work Incentives**

Do you receive Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance? Are you interested in returning to work as a self-employed individual in your own business? This webinar will provide you with the information you need to use work incentives to help protect your cash and healthcare benefits. An overview of Social Security Work Incentives will help you get your business off to a great start!

This webinar, to be held on Sept. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. Eastern, will be presented by Ray Cebula, Program Director of the Work Incentive Support Center, Yang-Tan Institute on Employment & Disability.

ASL interpretation and captioning will be provided. To make a reasonable accommodation request or if you have questions about this session, please email Alexis Jones at

**ajones@ndi-inc.org**. Please allow at least 3 to 5 business days’ advance notice; last-minute requests will be accepted, but may not be possible to fulfill.

To register, click on this link: [**Webinar Registration - Zoom**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M6JuGnRzR-WLH6sDmArDaw#/registration).

# **AI Impacts Everyone: Tell Us How You Use It**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we live, work, and connect. But is it working for everyone?

The American Foundation for the Blind is conducting a study on how people interact with AI. We want to hear from adults with and without disabilities, whether you are an experienced user or not. Your input will help us better understand how AI is being used across different communities.

To ensure the depth and accuracy of our findings, we are actively seeking responses from individuals without disabilities. We continue to welcome participation from people with disabilities as an essential part of this research.

Who can participate:

* Adults age 18 and older
* People with or without disabilities

What to expect:

* Complete a short screening form
* If you qualify, you’ll receive a survey link within 24 hours
* The online survey takes 10 to 45 minutes, depending on your AI use
* You’ll have a chance to win one of twenty $50 gift cards

We invite you to share whether you’ve used AI, how you use it, your opinions about it, and any challenges you’ve encountered. To begin, go to: www.afb.org/AISurvey.

Join the Study

Questions? Email: asilverman@afb.org. The survey will close on September 30, 2025.

**Survey Focusing on Improving Access to Mental Health Resources**

Serenity Hessenflow is conducting a survey as part of her doctoral capstone project in occupational therapy, focused on improving access to mental health resources for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Your input is very valuable. The survey gathers information on current resources, gaps in services, and opportunities for improvement. There is no time limit — you may take as long as you’d like and share as much detail as you feel comfortable with.

All responses are confidential and used only for this project. Thank you for taking the time to contribute — your perspective will make a meaningful impact.

Survey link: [**https://tinyurl.com/4xujcsv4**](https://tinyurl.com/4xujcsv4)

# **National Coalition on Accessible Voting Launches Website**

The National Coalition on Accessible Voting (NCAV) has officially launched its website. To learn more about the work of NCAV, visit [**www.ncavote.org**](http://www.ncavote.org).

NCAV is a coalition of disability advocacy groups working toward full-access to accessible voting for people with disabilities. ACB has been a member since the beginning of NCAV’s founding.

# **New York City Receives First Permit to Test Autonomous Vehicles in Manhattan, Downtown Brooklyn**

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez today announced that DOT has granted Waymo its first-ever permit to begin testing a limited number of autonomous vehicles (AV) in parts of Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn under the nation’s strictest AV safety rules, including a requirement to have a trained AV-specialist behind the wheel at all times. Launched by the Adams administration last year, the city’s [**robust safety requirements**](https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/motorist/autonomous-vehicles.shtml) have been established for responsible and safe AV testing in New York City. The rigorous permitting program ensures all approved applicants are ready to safely and proficiently test their technology in the country’s most dynamic and complex urban environment.

Read the full article here: [**https://www.nyc.gov/mayors-office/news/2025/08/mayor-adams--dot-announce-approval-of-first-application-to-test-**](https://www.nyc.gov/mayors-office/news/2025/08/mayor-adams--dot-announce-approval-of-first-application-to-test-)