# **Dots and Dashes**

# **September 26, 2022**

# **How Alt Text Can Tell the Story of Space**

Have you experienced the beauty and awe of the incredible photos taken by NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope? The scientists, writers, and educators from the Space Telescope Science Institute want to make space accessible for everyone, and have created vividly detailed alt text for every photo that has been released. These image descriptions can be found in the [Webb’s First Images Gallery](https://webbtelescope.org/news/first-images/gallery) under “Download Options.” In recognition of this valuable resource, ACB’s Director of Advocacy & Governmental Affairs, Clark Rachfal, and ACB’s Advocacy & Outreach Specialist, Swatha Nandhakumar, will be joined by representatives from the Space Telescope Science Institute on **Thursday, September 29 at 4 p.m.** to discuss how their team have collaborated to make the photos accessible to people who are blind and low vision. Tune into the live event on ACB’s [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI_nLwS9Cw2Bm1IA4qIBw3Q) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/acbnational) pages. To learn more about the panelists, visit <https://acb.org/webb-alt-text-event>.

# **Announcing the 2022 Audio Description People’s Choice Award**

Make your voice heard at ACB’s second annual Audio Description Awards Gala by casting your vote for the new Audio Description People’s Choice Award. Visit [www.acb.org/2022-AD-Peoples-Choice](https://acb.org/2022-AD-Peoples-Choice) for more information about the 2022 finalists. Voting for this award ends on **Monday, October 10th at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.**

To submit your vote, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022ADPeoplesChoice>. To vote by phone, call (202) 596-7041. The People’s Choice Award winner will be announced during the gala, taking place virtually on November 29th at 7:30 p.m.

# **Advocacy Grab Bag Back in Session**

Congress is back in session, and so is the ACB Advocacy team! On this episode of the ACB Advocacy Update, Clark and Swatha provide another round of updates for our listeners. Topics we cover include Rep. Sarbanes’ letter to the Department of Justice with over 30 supporting Congressional offices, ACB’s accessible at-home COVID test accessibility survey, the Federal Aviation Administration’s request for comments on airplane seat dimensions and safety, and an upcoming live event with the James Web Telescope Science Institute on the recent accessible images captured by NASA. We also provide a teaser for ACB’s 2nd annual Audio Description Awards Gala. Listen here: <https://www.acbmedia.org/2022/09/15/advocacy-grab-bag-back-in-session/>.

# **White Cane Safety Day Approaching**

Saturday, October 15th — White Cane Safety Day — is fast approaching! The Get Up and Get Moving Campaign Committee (GUGM) would love to hear what everyone has planned for that day! Is your affiliate, chapter or just a group of friends having an event to recognize the White Cane Law? GUGM is planning an event, and we would like to incorporate your event into our event.

Reach out to us on our Facebook page at ACB Get Up and Get Moving or reach out to Tom Tobin, tltobin@att.net, or Koni Sims, koni.l.sims@gmail.com.

# **MMS Summer Drawing Winners Are …**

Finally, we held our MMS summer drawing, and the winners are Lucy Edmonds and Dianne Devereaux, both from Michigan. Lucy will receive a $300 Amazon gift card, and Dianne will get one for $200.

Thanks to all of you who participate in our Monthly Monetary Support program. And if you’re not already a member but would like to be, or would like more information, head to our website, [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org), or call the Minnesota office at (612) 332-3242. Who knows — you might be the next lucky winner!

Happy shopping, Lucy and Dianne!

The MMS Team

# **Medicare and You**

It’s that time again when the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services distributes Medicare and You for the upcoming benefit year. It includes a summary of Medicare benefits, rights, and protections; lists of available health and drug plans; and answers to frequently asked questions about Medicare.

The Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library has braille versions of this publication available. If you have received it from Perkins in previous years, you will be receiving it very soon. If not, and you are interested in a braille copy of Medicare and You, contact Kim Charlson via email at kim.charlson@perkins.org, and include your mailing address. The book is also available on digital cartridge; email Kim with your name and mailing address.

# **Nathan Ruggles ADP Audio Description Award**

Check out [this great article](https://triblive.com/aande/theater-arts/prime-stage-earns-american-council-of-the-blind-award-for-audio-description-services/?fbclid=IwAR0qEYYDZY1C7vUruh3mhYdZoQEGZF5SZjfWi2uS2UOgNMj_wJyKasi7SNE) from TribLive about Prime Stage Audio Describer Nathan Ruggles, who received an Achievement in Audio Description ­­for Performing Arts/Organization award in July during [ACB’s 2022 ADP Audio Description Achievement Awards](https://acb.org/2022-ADP-award-recipients). For more information about ACB’s 2022 ADP Audio Description Achievement Awards, visit [https://youtu.be/lnLtYiZEZns](https://youtu.be/lnLtYiZEZns?fbclid=IwAR2hw6FK2VUhMTOjUwFzAzD11lNbF33ewh5GttKzzJV6n0SsKimJrHYP8tU).