



ACB
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**American Council of the Blind
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

ACB State Affiliates

Alabama Council of the Blind	Montana Blind and Low Vision Council
Arizona Council of the Blind	ACB of Nebraska
Arkansas Council of the Blind	Nevada Council of the Blind
California Council of the Blind	New Jersey Council of the Blind
A3 of Colorado	ACB of New Mexico
Connecticut Council of the Blind	ACB of New York, Inc.
Delaware Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired	North Carolina Council of the Blind
D.C. Council of the Blind	North Dakota Association of the Blind
Florida Council of the Blind	ACB of Ohio
Georgia Council of the Blind	Oklahoma Council of the Blind
Hawaii Association of the Blind	ACB of Oregon
Illinois Council of the Blind	Pennsylvania Council of the Blind
ACB of Indiana	ACB of South Carolina
Iowa Council of the United Blind	South Dakota Association of the Blind
Kansas Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Tennessee Council of the Blind
Kentucky Council of the Blind	ACB of Texas
Bluegrass Council of the Blind	Utah Council of the Blind
Louisiana Council of the Blind	Vermont Council of the Blind
ACB of Maine	ACB of Virginia
ACB of Maryland	Virginia Association of the Blind
Bay State Council of the Blind	Washington Council of the Blind
Michigan Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired	Mountain State Council of the Blind
ACB of Minnesota	ACB of Wisconsin
Mississippi Council of the Blind	Wyoming Council of the Blind
Missouri Council of the Blind	

National Special-Interest Affiliates

Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss	Blind LGBT Pride International
American Association of Blind Teachers	Braille Revival League
American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys	Council of Citizens with Low Vision International
ACB Diabetics in Action	Friends-in-Art of ACB, Inc.
ACB Families	Guide Dog Users, Inc.
ACB Government Employees	Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs
American Council of Blind Lions	Library Users of America
ACB Radio Amateurs	Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America
ACB Students	Visually Impaired Veterans of America
Blind Information Technology Specialists	

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President's Report

By Kim Charlson



KIM CHARLSON
President

I continue to work with our incredible staff, elected board, and the leadership of affiliates in decision-making, to keep our organization moving forward on many levels and critical issues. I'll cover the highlights.

Right after the 2017 convention, the Federal Communications Commission adopted new rules increasing the number of hours of audio-described programming available on broadcast and cable networks. The new rules require audio-described programming be available from 6 a.m. to midnight, maintaining the 50 hours of prime time and children's programming and adding 37.5 hours of additional audio-described content.

Beginning last summer, ACB worked with researchers at the University of Hawaii, Google, and the National Park Service to audio-describe print brochures at 15 park sites in California as part of the UniDescription Project. This funding was shared between the University of Hawaii and ACB, with the National Park Service adding significant in-kind support at each of the involved sites, along with chapter members of the California Council of the Blind.

The summer of 2017 saw many natural disasters: hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and the wildfires out west. In response to such a need, ACB developed a relief fund to assist members in the affected areas. Assistance was provided in Houston and Beaumont, Texas, and in the central Florida area. I hope we won't

need to provide such assistance in 2018, but if Mother Nature isn't cooperative, ACB will be ready to assist.

In October, oral arguments were heard at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in ACB's currency case. In 2016, the government moved back the target date for the next currency redesign involving the \$10 note from 2020 to 2026. ACB then sought an order from the district court requiring that the \$10 bill be made accessible by 2020, and all the remaining denominations be made accessible by 2026.

In early 2018, the appeals court remanded the initial decision of our petition on the extension to 2026 to the lower district court level, and instructed them to address several unanswered questions for the court. ACB filed additional declarations from nine ACB members, including myself, calling for immediate action to move toward circulation of accessible currency. We continue to voice our concerns that we will not wait any longer while Treasury drags its feet.

Over the past year, ACB has also been engaged with key partners and stakeholders in the airline and automotive industries. ACB was represented by Tony Stephens in a working group to develop accessible in-flight entertainment and communication systems for commercial aircraft, presenting consensus guidelines to the Department of Transportation in November. ACB has also worked closely with auto manufacturers, tech companies, and other disability advocates

toward the implementation of appropriate regulations and legislation for autonomous vehicles, assuring that Americans who are blind will have access to such vehicles, and that safety on our streets for pedestrians remains a top priority.

In February, ACB was extremely surprised to learn of Delta Airlines' announced policy restricting access for service and emotional support animals. The policy was intended to address the tremendous increase in fake service dogs appearing on flights. These measures would have created significant hoops for travelers with guide dogs to comply with when traveling, while doing very little to stop anyone from going online and downloading false documents asserting their pet is a service animal. Due to significant input from ACB and our special-interest affiliate Guide Dog Users, Inc., Delta Airlines announced on Feb. 22 that it had re-examined its policy on service animals, relaxing constraints that negatively impacted travelers with guide dogs.

ACB commended Delta for its decision to revise its policy, and we also praised United Airlines for their policy that acknowledged the access rights of people using guide dogs. We continue to monitor this issue among all airlines.

The U.S. Senate introduced the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (S. 2559) in May 2018. The Senate committees on Foreign Relations and the Judiciary both held hearings on the treaty, and both the ratification instrument and the implementation act were favorably voted out of committee for consideration by the full Senate. The measures passed the Senate in September, and the House in November. This law will implement the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty, which will help to overcome the current accessible media shortage around the world for people who are blind or who have other print disabilities, and will allow for sharing of accessible materials between countries.

Over the past two years, through hard work by both ACB staff and volunteers, ACB has balanced its budget and even produced a small surplus!

As a result, ACB has stabilized financially, and is continuing to grow its revenue streams, putting ACB in a position to establish an endowment fund. An endowment policy was written and presented at ACB's board meeting in February and, after some discussion and debate, the board unanimously adopted the policy. Bequests received from this point forward will be used to make sure adequate reserves are in place to cover annual operating expenses, and then the residual assets will be added to ACB's Legacy Endowment Fund.

Beginning with the 2018 convention, ACB will offer continuing education credits for rehabilitation teachers and counselors, teachers of the visually impaired, low-vision therapists, orientation and mobility instructors, and other professionals. Credits will be offered for a wide range of specialized programs, workshops, seminars, and other events during the convention. These credits will be offered through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

ACB continues its efforts with the development of ACB Link for Android. Version 1.1 is now available in the Google Play Store for beta download. Please help us out by downloading it and giving your input. We are also working on some updates for the iOS version.

ACB and its members have much to be proud of. There is always more to do, but overall, our affiliates and chapters are making a difference. Our work continues to be important, and our advocacy is our strength. When we have victories, they are even more exciting as they are hard-fought, and we should celebrate our successes as important steps in our advocacy journey. Working together we can continue to make change happen. I look forward to working with all of you to make sure that ACB continues to be the gateway to opportunity for all people who are blind or visually impaired.

Executive Director's Report

By Eric Bridges



ERIC BRIDGES
Executive Director

I'd like to take this time to look back at 2018.

In January, airlines were reviewing and tightening their service animal policies after a woman tried to board a flight with an emotional support peacock at Newark International Airport. ACB worked with Delta Air Lines, among others, to revise their guidelines and relax many of the stringent policies for individuals with legitimately trained service animals.

ACB also worked with NCIS producers on the development of the character Annie, a blind attorney played by visually impaired actress Marilee Talkington on "Sight Unseen," episode

350 of NCIS. An in-depth article on how this episode came to be and ACB's involvement in it appeared in the Cordillera, Mont. "World Now"; view the article at <http://acb.org/NCIS-sight-unseen>.

In late February, ACB formed a partnership with Disability:IN (formerly the U.S. Business Leadership Network) to increase the rate of employment for people who are blind or visually impaired and advocate for enhanced workplace accessibility. Collaboration is a core value of ACB, and working with Disability:IN provides opportunities to educate and advocate for corporations to hire, employ and support people who are blind or visually impaired.

A few weeks later, ACB established The Legacy Fund, an endowment fund which will ensure ACB's financial future and help to perpetuate ACB's important work for many years to come.

In March, the Senate introduced the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (S. 2559). This legislation will pave the way for ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty. This treaty will help to overcome the shortage of accessible media around the world for people who are blind or who have other print disabilities. Through our advocacy both here and abroad, ACB has been able to play a significant role in carrying the treaty across the finish line. The legislation passed the Senate in late September, and was signed into law by the President in October.



Executive Director Eric Bridges with actress Marilee Talkington.



**Tony Stephens,
Director of Advocacy
and Governmental
Affairs, and Eric
Bridges, Executive
Director, check out
the new Cisco phone.**

In the midst of all of this activity, Claire Stanley joined the ACB national office staff as the advocacy and outreach specialist. Joining the staff in Minnesota this year were Nancy Christine Feela, administrative assistant, and Nicole Beito, human resource/payroll specialist.

Soon afterward, ACB, in collaboration with Cisco, announced the availability of the first enterprise-grade desk phone that includes built-in text-to-speech functionality capable of conveying vital information on the display through audible voice and tone indicators. This is a huge step toward making the digital workplace more accessible for the blind and visually impaired.

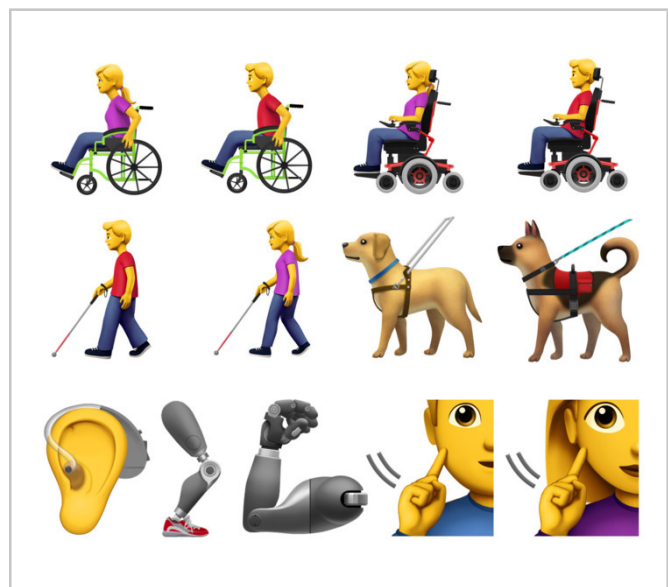
ACB also worked with Apple on a set of new emoji to provide better representation of people with disabilities. The 13 emoji include guide dogs, hearing aids, prosthetic limbs and people using canes and wheelchairs. They will be released in 2019.

Shortly thereafter, as a result of ACB's structured negotiations, CVS pharmacies obtained the ability to dispense controlled substance medications with the Access-A-Med talking prescription labels. Patients seeking Access-A-Med labels for controlled substances should contact their local CVS pharmacist. CVS continues to dispense non-controlled prescription medications with ScripTalk talking labels through cvs.com. To sign up for ScripTalk labels, contact cvs.com at 1-888-861-4363.

In May, I was featured with my son Tyler in a Microsoft video called AI for Accessibility, which

is available at <https://tinyurl.com/yavxlg49>. For the audio-described version, go to <http://acb.org/build-ai-accessibility-video-w-audio-description>. This video kicked off the Microsoft Build conference, and was viewed live by more than 700,000 people. It also introduced the AI for Accessibility grants program, a \$25 million 5-year program to accelerate the development of accessible and intelligent AI solutions to benefit the more than 1 billion people worldwide with disabilities.

In July, ACB held its annual convention at the Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, MO. From the bang of the gavel calling the opening session to



**The 13 disability-related emoji
proposed by Apple.**

order to the motion to adjourn, it was jam-packed with information, award winners, scholarship winners, recognition of the year's achievements and ACB members (both past and present) who have made significant contributions to the work of the organization, and major sponsors whose work has positively impacted the lives of ACB members and other blind people throughout America and the world. Highlights included presentations from Marilee Talkington, who played Annie Barth on NCIS, and Richard Turner, star of the documentary "Dealt."

This year saw many natural disasters: wildfires in the Midwest, southwest, and west coast, and hurricanes on both coasts. ACB's Disaster Relief Fund is still active. Financial contributions to the ACB Disaster Relief Fund may be made at <http://donate.acb.org/relief>. To donate via phone, call 1-800-866-3242.

In September, ACB's advocacy department began doing podcasts and live Facebook broadcasts. Claire Stanley and Tony Stephens have covered such topics as voting, diabetic retinopathy, the latest news from Hulu, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and the Marrakesh Treaty and associated legislation.

During October, I had the pleasure of appearing on "Comcast Newsmakers" with Ellee Pai Hong to discuss ACB's efforts to increase

the independence and quality of life for the blind and visually impaired community through collaboration with companies developing innovative technology solutions for everyday life. To view the video, visit <https://comcastnewsmakers.com/Videos/2018/10/4/Smart-Tech-Making-a-Difference>.

In November, ACB collaborated with Verizon, Aira, General Motors, and The GPS Alliance to hold a panel discussion on artificial intelligence and accessibility. Panelists were Anirudh Koul, Aira, Head of Intelligence and Research; J. David Grossman, The GPS Alliance, executive director; Reagan Payne, General Motors, Manager, Emerging Technologies Policy; and Tony Stephens.

Around the same time, ACB hosted a meeting of the North America/Caribbean Region of the World Blind Union. Attendees heard from Kenneth Suratt, executive director of the Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association, on the state of blind people in his country.

While we prepared for these meetings, Tony Stephens left ACB to take a new job as the executive director of the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance. We wish him much success in his new role. Also moving on was General, my guide dog. He is enjoying his retirement at my parents' place in Iowa.



Master card mechanic Richard Turner deals a deck of cards during his presentation at General Session at the convention in St. Louis, MO.

About the American Council of the Blind



ACB members at the 2018 convention in St. Louis, MO.

Established in 1961, the American Council of the Blind (ACB) is a national organization of people who are blind, visually impaired and sighted whose mission is to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and improve quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people. With 68 state and special-interest affiliates, its thousands of members have a long history of commitment to the advancement of policies and programs which will enhance independence for people who are blind and visually impaired.

ACB's national office is based in Alexandria, Va., and is supported by hundreds of volunteer-members from throughout the United States who donate their time and effort to assist the organization in meeting its goals. ACB works through a variety of programs and services to enable blind people to live and work independently, to become active in their communities and to participate fully in the democratic process. The Council has influenced positive change in areas such as:

- Education
- Employment
- Rehabilitation
- Pedestrian Safety
- Civil Rights
- Social Security
- Transportation
- Recreation

ACB has state affiliates in virtually every region in the United States and 19 special-interest affiliated organizations which focus on the unique concerns of various profession and special populations, for example, blind lawyers, teachers, parents, information technology specialists, business owners, and users of guide dogs. Like the national organization and state affiliates, these special-interest organizations offer their own newsletters, become involved in specialized projects, and host annual meetings for their membership.

Programs and Services

ACB Scholarship Program

Many blind and visually impaired students have needs beyond those faced by fully sighted students, such as the need for reader services for textbooks not already recorded or transcribed into braille; specialized equipment such as assistive technology for computers or adaptive equipment. The additional expenses associated with meeting these needs in addition to tuition, board and other costs can make it extremely difficult or impossible for blind or visually impaired students to remain in school.

In 1982, ACB established a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to outstanding blind and visually impaired post-secondary students. Since that time over one million dollars in scholarship aid has been awarded to outstanding students. ACB administers many scholarships including

the Duane J. Buckley Memorial Scholarship, Kellie Cannon Memorial Scholarship, the William G. Corey Memorial Scholarship, the Eunice Fiorito Memorial Scholarship, the John Hebner Memorial Scholarship, the James R. Olsen Memorial Scholarship, the Ross N. Pangere Foundation for the Visually Impaired Scholarships, the Floyd Qualls Memorial Scholarships, the Arnold Sadler Memorial Scholarship, and Norma L. Schechter Memorial Scholarship.

Affiliate-sponsored scholarships administered by ACB are: the Bay State Council of the Blind Scholarship for Massachusetts residents and the ACB of Oregon Scholarship for Oregon residents.

In 2018, 18 scholarships totaling \$66,500 were awarded to 17 blind and visually impaired students from throughout the United States.



Scholarship winner Dexter Rowell with ACB President Kim Charlson and Scholarship Committee Chair Denise Colley.

The 2018 Scholarship Winners



ACB of Oregon Scholarship

Leeahnn Victorio – Bachelor of Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Portland State University, Portland, OR.

Arnold Sadler Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Wiles – Juris Doctorate, Law, Western University, Springfield, MA.

Bay State Council of the Blind Scholarship

Dexter Rowell – Juris Doctorate, Law, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA.

Duane J. Buckley Memorial Scholarship

Emeline Lakrout – Bachelor of Science, Marketing, The University of Texas, Austin, TX.

Eunice Fiorito Memorial Scholarship

James Boehm – Bachelor of Science, Mental Health Counseling, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

The Ross N. Pangere Foundation for the Visually Impaired Scholarships

Edward Shaham – Bachelor of Science, Accounting and Supply Chain Management, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

Joshua King – Bachelor of Science, Management, Statistics, and Entrepreneurship/Innovations, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN.

Matthew Turner – Bachelor of Science, Mathematics/Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA.

Dexter Rowell – Juris Doctorate, Law, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA.

John Hebner Memorial Scholarship

Leonard Moore – Bachelor of Science, Adult Education, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

James R. Olsen Memorial Scholarship

Sasha Somuah – Bachelor of Science, Business Marketing, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Kellie Cannon Memorial Scholarship

Carlos Medrano – Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

Norma L. Schecter Memorial Scholarship

Emeline Lakrout – Bachelor of Science, Marketing, The University of Texas, Austin, TX.

William G. Corey Memorial Scholarship

Kyle Rufo – Bachelor of Science, Biology, Washington College, Chestertown, MD.

Floyd Qualls Memorial Scholarships

Angelina Stillman – Juris Doctorate, New England Law, Boston, MA.

Eric Harvey – Ph.D., Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

Miranda Borka – Bachelor of Science, Social Work, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

Ruben Flores Hernandez – Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, Corban University, Salem, OR.

Thomas Woodyard – Bachelor of Science, International Affairs, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA.



Scholarship winner Miranda Borka speaks during the 2018 convention.

ACB's National Information Hotline

ACB's National Information Hotline helps thousands of people each year who are looking for answers to questions about blindness, low vision and vision-related services. For the newly blind person, the opportunity to talk with someone who is blind can make a significant difference in how quickly and how well that individual adjusts and accepts the vision loss. Family members can ask questions about available services to help their family member learn skills and regain independence. Business owners can obtain information regarding accessibility laws. Whether the call is of a crisis nature or more purely informational, this hotline provides people with an opportunity to get answers to questions that are not readily available elsewhere.

ACB Link

ACB Link is ACB's iPhone app! Updated in fall 2017, the app assists ACB staff, members and friends to readily communicate news of relevance to the blind community.

ACB Link gives users access to valuable resources offered by ACB and sends out notifications of news relevant to ACB's work and the blindness community at large. It allows each user to be quickly and easily connected with the nearest ACB state affiliate, and to be informed and entertained by the wide variety of Internet radio programming offered by ACB Radio. ACB Link will bring blind people, their friends and families together in a new and exciting way. Newly available this year is a version of ACB Link for Android users. For more information about ACB Link, go to link.acb.org.

"The ACB Braille Forum"

"The ACB Braille Forum" features organizational news on both the national and state levels, national legislative updates, reports from the president and the executive director, human-interest stories, occasional poetry and book reviews, plus columns featuring new products and services, obituaries, letters to the editor, and "for sale" and "wanted" high-tech items. It is available in braille, large print, on digital cartridge, via email, and an ever-growing number of individuals



Braille Forum Editor Sharon Lovering assembles the convention newspaper.

(approximately 2,000 per day) are accessing the online version of the publication.

In 2018, "The ACB Braille Forum" was published six times during the year and provided to 10,400 subscribers, including ACB's members, businesses and overseas readers. "The ACB E-Forum" was also published six times during the year, and sent via email to more than 6,300 subscribers, including ACB members and overseas readers.

The Washington Connection

The Washington Connection is the American Council of the Blind advocacy and governmental affairs department's recorded legislative and information service. It is updated as vital information regarding blindness issues, pending legislation, regulations, and news is available. Updates also occasionally include hot news that cannot wait for publication in "The ACB Braille Forum." Callers can access this service toll-free (1-800-424-8666) in English daily, except weekdays between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time, when it is answered live by ACB staff members. In addition, the Connection is updated regularly on the ACB web site.

ACB's Audio Description Project

The purpose of the American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project (ADP) is to boost levels of description activity and disseminate information on that work throughout the nation. Its major goal is to sponsor a broad range of activities designed to build awareness of audio description among the general public as well as its principal users, people who are blind or have low vision.

In 2018, ADP's activities included:

- 2018 was the 10th anniversary year of the ADP and our fourth conference in July was a great success: multiple panels and individual speakers included our luncheon speaker, actress Marilee Talkington and a screening of "Dealt," the story of Richard Turner, a master card manipulator (magician) who is blind — Mr. Turner attended several conference sessions;
- The 2018 BADIE Awards received a record-breaking 36 entries — the Benefits of Audio Description in Education recognizes young people who write reviews of described film and video;
- ADP's major focus is now on developing a certification effort with the ACVREP (the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals) — the process has been informed by two open conference calls, a session at the ADP Conference and another at the LEAD Conference.

ACB Reports

In 1985, the American Council of the Blind began distributing a monthly radio program to radio reading services. These radio stations provide readings of newspapers, magazines, books, and other audio information to an audience of blind and print-impaired individuals throughout the country.

This half-hour radio program was christened "ACB Reports." It is now carried by 60 audio information service radio stations each month. The program also airs on ACB Radio Mainstream, and is distributed as part of the audio edition of "The ACB Braille Forum."

Now produced for ACB by the Radio Reading Service of Mississippi Public Broadcasting, ACB Reports is a monthly combination of legislative news, interviews with interesting individuals, information about current fashion trends, new technology, and highlights of the ACB annual conference.

ACB Radio

ACB Radio, our Internet radio station, showcases and nurtures the creativity and talents of the blind/low-vision community from many parts of the world. ACB Radio is heard by a global audience via the Internet, having visitors from more than 60 countries during 2018. Broadcast streams include "Mainstream," for entertainment and information; "ACB Radio Café," the place to hear blind musicians; "Treasure Trove," where you can hear classic radio dramas; "Interactive,"



Joel Snyder, Director of the Audio Description Project, speaks during the 2018 convention.



ACB Advocacy and Outreach Specialist Claire Stanley.

a wide variety of music presented by DJs from around the world, including requests; “World News and Information,” featuring several news sources including but not limited to BBC, CBC, Public Radio International and Pacifica; and “ACB Radio Live Event,” featuring live coverage of ACB affiliates and other blindness related special events. ACB Radio is one of the most innovative services for people who are blind to have come along anywhere.

In 2018, ACB Radio received an average of 350 visitors per day from throughout the United States and 100 per day from other countries. Included this year were live broadcasts of the ACB national conference and convention, and a number of affiliate conferences that were held throughout the year.

Advocacy and Governmental Affairs

The advocacy and governmental affairs staff and membership of the American Council of the Blind advocate on a wide variety of issues for people who are blind and visually impaired. In 2018, ACB national staff provided consultation on issues related to access and discrimination to approximately 500 individuals from throughout the United States. This year, ACB hired an advocacy and outreach specialist, Claire Stanley.

Key legislative priorities in 2018 included the ADA Education and Reform Act, ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty by the U.S. Senate, the Air Carrier Access Act, the Medicare Demonstration of Coverage of Low Vision Devices Act, passage of

the Cogswell-Macy Act, and safeguarding the older blind program along with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Randolph-Sheppard program.

ACB also worked with key departments in the federal government to expand an array of access equality issues for Americans who are blind. This work included working with the U.S. Department of Transportation on creating more accessible airport kiosks and more accessible airline web sites, and working with airlines and other stakeholder groups on service animal requirements.

The advocacy and governmental team founded a relationship with America Walks. This new relationship has allowed ACB to focus on the presence — or lack of — environmental access. For example, ACB has begun to discuss the implications of micromobility and its impact on the blind community. The advocacy team’s work has also gone deeper into the discussion of inaccessible medical devices for people with diabetes.

Donate to ACB

To make a contribution, which will be used to help us sustain our programs and services that promote dignity and independence for people who are blind, go to acb.org/donate.

ACB Enterprises and Services



DAN SPOONE
Member of ACB and
ACBES Boards

ACB operates two thrift stores under the auspices of a wholly owned subsidiary corporation known as ACB Enterprises and Services (ACBES). The profits generated by these store supports programs and services of ACB. The stores are in Amarillo and Lubbock, Texas.

The ACB board appoints the members of the ACBES board, and the day-to-day operation of the stores is overseen by the finance office. Current ACBES board members are Michael Garrett, Missouri City, TX; Jeff Thom, Sacramento, CA, David Trott, Talladega, AL; Dan Spooone, Orlando, FL; Kim Charlson, Watertown, MA; and George Holliday, Philadelphia, PA.



ACBES board member George Holliday at the ACB Mini Mall booth at the 2018 convention in St. Louis, MO.

ACB Board and Staff

ACB Officers

President: Kim Charlson, Watertown, MA
First Vice President: Dan Spooone, Orlando FL
Second Vice President: John McCann, Tucson, AZ
Secretary: Ray Campbell, Glen Ellyn, IL
Treasurer: David Trott, Talladega, AL

American Council of the Blind Board of Directors

Jeff Bishop, Kirkland, WA
Denise Colley, Lacey, WA
Sara Conrad, Fitchburg, WI
Dan Dillon, Hermitage, TN
Katie Frederick, Worthington, OH
Jim Kracht, Miami, FL
Doug Powell, Falls Church, VA
Pat Sheehan, Silver Spring, MD
Michael Talley, Hueytown, AL
Jeff Thom, Sacramento, CA

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Ron Brooks, chair, Phoenix, AZ
Donna Brown, Romney, WV
Paul Edwards, Miami, FL
Susan Glass, Saratoga, CA
Debbie Lewis, Seattle, WA

ACB Staff

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Executive Director

Nancy Marks-Becker
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Stephens
Director of External Relations and Policy

Claire Stanley
Advocacy and Outreach Specialist

Nicole Beito
Human Resources/Payroll

Sharon Lovering
ACB Braille Forum editor

Kelly Gasque
Executive Assistant & Multimedia Design Specialist

Nancy Feela
Administrative Assistant

ACB Annual Convention



Attendees of a botanical garden sensory tour at the 2018 national conference and convention.

The 57th annual ACB conference and convention was held in Saint Louis, Missouri from June 29 - July 6, 2018, and the theme was "Gateway to Success." It was hosted by the Missouri Council of the Blind.

In 2018, there were over 900 attendees, including students, teachers, parents, professionals, retirees and kids who had fun participating in ACB's Kids Club activities. In addition to holding sessions to conduct official ACB business, the conference was packed with an incredible array of workshops, seminars and programs on an endless variety of topics. Attendees found their days filled with information and new ideas; exploring new products in the exhibit hall; receiving tips on adaptive technology; and discussing issues related to rehabilitation, transportation, education, health, and much more.

Our thanks go to ACB's 2018 corporate sponsors. Their continued participation and generous support of the American Council of the Blind is appreciated.



Attendees of ACB's 2018 convention learn more about Aira smart glasses at their booth in the exhibit hall.



ACB staff member Jo Lynn Bailey Page guides life membership recipient Lawrence Carter to the podium.

ACB Convention Sponsors

Double Diamond Sponsor

Aira – Off-site Educational & Recreational Events

General Motors – Transportation Services & Continuing Education Units

Google – ACB Radio Worldwide Broadcast

Microsoft – ACB Conference Banquet

Vanda Pharmaceuticals Inc. – Audio Visual Services & ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk

Diamond

Verizon/Oath – Conference Communication Center & Marketplace

Emerald

Cisco Systems – Volunteer Services

Comcast – Your Day at the Conference

JPMorgan Chase & Co. – Exhibit Hall

Sprint – Information Desk

Uber – Conference Registration

Ruby

Adobe – ACB Scholarship Mentoring Program

AT&T – ACB Café

Amazon – Audio Description Project Conference and Training Institute

Charter – Interpreter Services for Deaf-Blind Attendees

Facebook – ACB Auction & Performing Arts Showcase

HIMS – ACB Workshops & Seminar Programming and Sponsoring a Student, Future ACB Leader or Young Professional

HumanWare – Official Sponsor of All General Sessions

Regal Cinemas – Kids Explorers Club and ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk

VFO – Official Conference Program

Onyx

Buell Fund – ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk and Recreation Zone

Cox Communications – Audio Described Movie and Sponsor a Student, Future ACB Leader or Young Professional

Macular Degeneration Foundation – ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk

MGM – ACB Life Member Reception

National Association of Broadcasters – General Operating Expenses

National Industries for the Blind – ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk

Topaz

ACB Lions – Scholarship Winner Travel

Coral

Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America – Reception for Outstanding Blind Students

LightHouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired, San Francisco – General Session for July 2

Pearl

Amtrak – ACB Café Day (July 2)

Library Users of America – NLS Talking Book Narrator

Lighthouse FTC of Seattle – Orientation Dinner for Outstanding Blind Students

Maxi Aids – ACB Café Day (July 1)

Financial Reporting



ACB member Naomi Soule with her yellow lab guide dog at the convention in St. Louis, MO.

	2018	2017
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$321,837	\$205,359
Restricted Cash	\$77,767	\$84,806
Accounts Receivable, Net	\$0	\$2,907
Contributions Receivable, Net	\$902,475	\$1,722,665
Inventories	\$58,260	\$60,457
Prepaid Expenses	\$20,788	\$8,985
Total Current Assets	\$1,381,127	\$2,085,179
Investments		
Endowment - Donor Restricted	\$938,876	\$1,051,166
Other		
Operational	\$3,550	\$3,550
Unrestricted	\$746,964	\$33,780
Board-Designated Reserves	\$1,237,460	\$1,175,757
Donor Restricted	\$189,978	\$208,589
Total Investments	\$3,116,828	\$2,472,842
Other Assets		
Noncurrent Accounts Receivable	\$8,466	\$10,007
Deposits	\$6,383	\$6,383
Total Other Deposits	\$14,849	\$16,390
Property and Equipment	\$69,791	\$61,792
Total Assets	\$4,582,595	\$4,636,203

Liabilities and Net Assets	2018	2017
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$94,515	\$67,410
Accrued Expenses	\$179,959	\$198,119
Deferred Revenue	\$1,615	\$3,870
Total Current Liabilities	\$276,089	\$269,399
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	\$977,783	\$202,305
Board Designated Operating Reserve	\$1,158,386	\$1,097,273
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$2,136,169	\$1,299,578
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,170,337	\$3,067,226
Total net assets	\$4,306,506	\$4,366,804
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,582,595	\$4,636,203

Operating Statement

Revenue, Support and Gains

Contributions from Individuals and Organizations	\$616,408	\$410,134
Legacies and Bequests	\$26,149	\$1,733,935
In-Kind Contributions	\$23,442	\$13,786
Assessments and Dues from Local Member Units	\$54,461	\$54,890
Program Fees	\$650,959	\$637,035
Special Events Revenue	\$135,053	\$114,354
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,931	\$8,427
Net Investment Return	\$(184,402)	\$278,360
Gain/Loss On Disposal of Equipment	\$19,668	\$(656)
Thrift Store Activities, Net	\$199,013	\$192,633
Total Revenue, Support and Gains	\$1,543,682	\$3,442,898

Expenses by Function

Program Services

Scholarships	\$114,127	\$98,991
Convention	\$283,507	\$225,330
Audio Description Project	\$195,536	\$129,865
ACB Radio	\$42,974	\$41,495
Telephone Hotline	\$33,335	\$35,460
Advocacy and Governmental Affairs	\$207,868	\$143,488
Program Consultation	\$91,980	\$79,322
Membership Services	\$138,740	\$135,796
Public Awareness	\$217,444	\$216,803
Liaison with External Organizations	\$82,609	\$81,983

Support services

Management and General	\$80,039	\$116,188
Fundraising	\$115,821	\$113,964
Total Expenses by Function	\$1,603,980	\$1,418,685

Change in Net assets	\$(60,298)	\$2,024,213
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Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the presentation used in the 2018 financial statements.

Net Assets

Net assets Beginning of Year	\$4,366,804	\$2,342,591
Net assets End of Year	\$4,306,506	\$4,366,804

Total Volunteer Hours	18,502	16,492
In-kind Value	\$456,814	\$398,117

ACB Officers and Board of Directors



Top row: Eric Bridges, David Trott, Katie Frederick, Dan Spoone, Dan Dillon, Ray Campbell, Doug Powell, Michael Talley.

Bottom Row: Kim Charlson, Pat Sheehan, Jeff Thom, Denise Colley, Sara Conrad, Mitch Pomerantz, John McCann, Jim Kracht.

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