**Dots and Dashes**

**April 7, 2025**

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# **ACB Seeks to Hire a Development Officer**

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) is a national non-profit organization that aims to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people.

The Development Officer will be the primary development professional leading individual giving and supporting annual fund campaigns. This position will serve as the staff officer for development, engaging in the creation of written materials, moves management tracking, planning, reporting, communications, and stewardship for our volunteers, ACB leadership, its donor base, partners, and prospects. The position is part-time (30 hours per week). It requires travel for the D.C. Leadership Conference and ACB National Convention.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

* Oversee all forms of individual giving, including annual fund campaigns and all related initiatives (ACB Angels, annual walk, auctions, monthly giving program - MMS, major gifts, and ACB Strong Committee)
* Cultivate relationships and maintain open lines of communication with individual donors (moves management)
* Participate in Fundraising steering committee meetings with a focus on individual giving
* Develop and maintain fundraising reports and other written materials
* Track fundraising workflows such as reports, due dates, committee meetings, etc., and maintain records on existing and future supporters
* Work with other ACB staff from multiple program areas to meet fundraising goals
* Perform other related duties as assigned by management

**Required Qualifications:**

* Associate’s degree in business, marketing or related field OR equivalent work experience in resource development
* Proficiency in Microsoft 365 with an emphasis on using Excel, Word, and Outlook.
* Strong working knowledge in the use of Zoom.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

* Bachelor’s degree
* Experience working with individuals who are blind or have low vision

For more information, visit [**https://www.acb.org/jobs#DevelopmentOfficer**](https://www.acb.org/jobs#DevelopmentOfficer).

Interested candidates may email their resume and cover letters to [**hr@acb.org**](mailto:hr@acb.org) by April 18th. Applications will be reviewed in the order that they are received.

# **ACB to Provide Advisory Services to the NFL Regarding Accessibility for Fans Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision**

**Alexandria, Va., March 25, 2025** — The American Council of the Blind (ACB) and the National Football League (NFL) are pleased to announce that ACB will now provide advisory services to the NFL in support of its longstanding commitment to accessibility for people who are blind or have low vision. This collaboration underscores the NFL’s ongoing efforts to provide all fans with a full and equal experience when enjoying the excitement of the game of football.

In its advisory capacity, ACB will provide expert guidance and feedback to the NFL regarding special events and its ongoing efforts to continually enhance the accessibility of its digital platforms, including the league’s website, mobile applications, and other digital assets.

Read the full press release at [**https://www.acb.org/NFL**](https://www.acb.org/NFL).

# **A Reminder from the ACB Secretary**

Convention time is fast approaching, and voting is a vital part of the convention experience. That means it’s time to send in the name of your affiliate delegate, alternate delegate, and representative to the nominating committee.

What I need is: the name, email address, and contact phone number of your affiliate delegate and alternate delegate. I also need to know if they will be attending the hybrid portion of the convention in person or virtually.

Remember to include the name, email address and contact phone number for the person who will be representing your affiliate on the nominating committee.

The deadline for getting this information to me is May 11, 2025. Please email it to me at [**colleyd1952@gmail.com**](mailto:colleyd1952@gmail.com). If you have any questions, feel free to email me or call me at (360) 280-0077.

# **Call for Nominations for the 2025 ADP Awards**

When something is good, we tell our friends. When something is great, we tell the world. It’s time to nominate the best audio description you’ve encountered for an ADP Award so we can tell the world what great AD sounds like.

The ADP Awards are sponsored by the ACB’s Audio Description Project to recognize achievement in audio description in seven categories, including media, performing arts, museums, the public sector, and research and development. Nominations will be accepted through the end of today, and the winners will be announced in July.

Complete and submit the nomination form ([**https://forms.gle/G8Wxwuf4kKzrP6Ds7**](https://forms.gle/G8Wxwuf4kKzrP6Ds7)) today. For details on eligibility and award categories, visit [**https://www.acb.org/2025-ADP-Awards**](https://www.acb.org/2025-ADP-Awards).

# **Marketplace at ACB Convention**

Are you an entertainer or author with CDs or books to sell? Do you sell crafts, cosmetics, toys, etc.? Is your affiliate looking for a fundraiser? Do you have information to distribute before a specific general session? Consider ACB’s Marketplace if you will only be at the convention for one or two days, or the long hours of the exhibit hall are too much.

ACB’s Marketplace will be located near the ACB Café and general session, and is one of the highest traffic areas in the conference and convention. It is open before each morning general session begins, and is filled with something new and exciting every day.

Your Marketplace “booth” will include a draped 6-foot display table and two chairs. Space is limited, and tables will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables are $25 each, and you may reserve space for one or two days only; specify the days you prefer when registering. **No food items may be sold at Marketplace.**

Marketplace will run Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 10th, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tables are going fast —Tuesday, July 8 is already sold out!

To reserve your Marketplace table, contact Michael Smitherman at [exhibitors@acb.org](mailto:exhibitors@acb.org) or by phone at [(601) 331-7740](tel:601-331-7740).

# **Apply Now for the Genensky-Foley Magnification Award**

Now is the time to apply for the Samuel Genensky-Carl Foley Magnification Award!

This award is in honor of Samuel Genensky, an innovator in low vision technology who was the founding president of CCLVI, and Carl Foley, a very caring distributor of magnification devices, who took great care in providing the correct magnification device for each person he served.

This year CCLVI is obtaining various magnification devices that individuals with low vision can apply for. To be considered for this award, applicants must have low vision, and need the device to magnify print for educational, work, or independent living purposes.

Applications are being accepted through Tuesday, April 15th at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. For more information, visit [**https://cclvi.info/magnifier/**](https://cclvi.info/magnifier/).

# **SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act Reintroduced**

The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act has once again been introduced in Congress in the 119th Congressional session. The bill raises the SSI asset level to $10,000 for individuals and $20,000 for married couples. Currently, the asset limit is only $2,000 for individuals and $3,000 for married couples. In other words, SSI recipients can never have more than $2,000 in their bank accounts at any given time. The asset limit has not been updated since 1989.

This bill is greatly needed to keep up with inflation. Currently, if an SSI recipient is found to have more than the permitted amount, they are at risk of losing their monthly benefits. The bill was introduced in both the House and Senate with bipartisan support.

# **Nominations Sought for AFB’s Migel Medal**

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Migel Medal Awards, the highest honor in the blindness field. The Migel Medal was established in 1937 by M.C. Migel, the first chairperson of AFB, to honor those whose dedication and achievements have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. The 2024 winners were Kim Charlson, Executive Director of the Perkins Library in Watertown, MA, and Susan Mazrui, Director of Public Policy for AT&T Services Inc.

The Migel Medal Awards Committee selects two honorees each year. Nominees should be those whose work significantly influences services on a national level.

The Migel Medal is awarded in two distinct categories:

* Leadership in the Field of Blindness and Low Vision: This Migel Medal is bestowed to a professional in the field of blindness whose contributions have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. Prospective candidates include individuals with training and expertise in education, orientation and mobility, vision rehabilitation therapy, technology, personnel preparation, health, administration, or a related field.
* Leadership Impacting Positive Change to Broader Society: This Migel Medal is reserved for an individual who works outside the traditional field of blindness but whose career accomplishments or innovations significantly improve the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. This could include, but is not limited to, technology manufacturers, Congressional leaders, disability rights advocates, and others.

Nominations should be e-mailed to [**afblc@afb.org**](mailto:afblc@afb.org) with "Migel Medal Nomination" in the subject line. Nominators should provide the following materials for the nomination:

* A one-page description of the nominee and accomplishments.
* Two letters of recommendation from those familiar with their work.

The deadline to submit nominations is April 30, 2025. The awards will be presented during AFB’s 2025 Leadership Conference.

# **World Blind Union Podcast: Global Voice**

The World Blind Union has a brand-new podcast, Global Voice, your go-to source for insightful discussions on global issues impacting blind and partially sighted people. It features several different segments, all of which cover a different aspect of important topics when it comes to accessibility, inclusion, human rights, and so much more!

Their first podcast segment is an 8-episode series exploring Accessibility GO and its 7 Commitments. It dives into the key principles that drive meaningful accessibility improvements worldwide.

To listen to the podcast, visit [**Global Voice Podcast**](https://www.buzzsprout.com/2460681).