**Dots and Dashes**

**January 21, 2025**

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# **Register Now for the D.C. Leadership Conference**

Registration is now open for the 2025 D.C. Leadership Conference! This year’s conference will be a hybrid event, with ACB’s Board Meeting, Presidents’ Meeting, Legislative Seminar, and Capitol Hill visits taking place March 14-18, 2025, at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

To register, log into your ACB member account at [**https://members.acb.org/**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fmembers.acb.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0srNuQ4gIw-S1h7m-DXOHhAkn5VS3UKFCgTMRhJunAI9yjTcJRaszGqV4_aem_2M6XxS7naaa9hvj4GwBwkg&h=AT2XcUMYqiE1IHDZe7LgAUONCFPu9uurYQGzMQ951g_eIuxjkogpucFU3XE6fjBRGIuT7s535TJtpkwp3XMgI-Wv6O4eW54p1wBkJW9eKncWfYF8Uk7alREpekNASqBqgw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT24rlbQyy3b8QGBa5evvUmNXnqVJ1Uoj8T_oUcLPQt4iYyCXLE7aMrqUeTO1I13Pk-kB_I9FmFQqbw4UwFa3EskagEy0DJvbIbkXMt1hCXJkXBfJbgd5a0dsFySLu0Yjk2QfeEhOZfp4FqVDaknaJAb4kILXJtCBmB2GUCYDgDpu2dpM6xUByR7xlFruAAtXokQlDnSrULetyQI5XIdRa4RIOE). To register by phone, or if you need assistance, call our Minnesota office at (612) 332-3242. Please note that we are unable to accept any in-person registrations this year. The deadline to register is **Friday, February 28.**

This year’s Leadership Conference will feature a tour of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress on the afternoon of Friday, March 14. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

You can book your room at the Sheraton Pentagon City now. The room block cutoff date is **Monday, February 17.** For more information, click here: [**https://www.acb.org/2025-acb-leadership-conference**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.acb.org%2F2025-acb-leadership-conference%3Ffbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1zvGJrjFN33xSjADB5AiVY-C3lD28ng3Rld08jf0f5kKaPH54hrqowqsQ_aem_ir893wz9wjgJjqjRKxRYHw&h=AT2dgCaz_Bxu2PJWmjEBWZICcg5KUVtKMEHco8YaHCCau01GsEd0jbHIaXxflOzGQ0YhWzRE22ilwj-S0zF2tRATnveCFiC5FxVIxEnVa6yOY8kP6J_qEjlqGre3qfk7lQ&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT24rlbQyy3b8QGBa5evvUmNXnqVJ1Uoj8T_oUcLPQt4iYyCXLE7aMrqUeTO1I13Pk-kB_I9FmFQqbw4UwFa3EskagEy0DJvbIbkXMt1hCXJkXBfJbgd5a0dsFySLu0Yjk2QfeEhOZfp4FqVDaknaJAb4kILXJtCBmB2GUCYDgDpu2dpM6xUByR7xlFruAAtXokQlDnSrULetyQI5XIdRa4RIOE).

# **Want to Help Those Affected by the California Wildfires?**

As wildfires continue to impact communities across California, our thoughts are with everyone affected by this devastation, including people who are blind or have low vision who have been displaced or experienced loss.

ACB believes in standing together as a community in times of need. If you would like to make a donation to support relief and recovery efforts, please consider the Braille Institute’s Wildfire Relief Fund: [**www.brailleinstitute.org/la-wildfires**](http://www.brailleinstitute.org/la-wildfires).

100% of your donation will go directly to help those with vision loss who have been impacted by the fires. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference.

# **ACB Staff Updates for 2025**

As we enter 2025, there are a few staff changes which have been made. A brief note about the role and purpose for the shift is included for some context. We are excited about how these new positions and alignment will help us serve our members better and lead ACB into the coming years.

Kolby Garrison is now our Accessibility & Training Services Coordinator. Our Board of Directors understands we have to seek additional areas of revenue while maintaining our commitment to ACB’s long-standing mission. The Accessibility & Training Services (ATS) program area will allow us to respond to member needs regarding accessibility issues while also being a key partner to outside organizations wanting to learn more about various topics related to blindness, assistive technology, audio description and more. If you have issues with accessibility related to websites or mobile applications, email Kolby at **Accessibility@ACB.org**.

Dan Spoone is now our Director of Operations. Dan is a valuable resource for me and the team with his knowledge of prior organizational initiatives. More importantly, Dan is an excellent project manager and will be leading our Resource Development team while also continuing to oversee our overhaul of multiple websites.

We have secured a contracted grant proposal writer. This will allow Jo Lynn Bailey-Page to focus more on corporate sponsorships and individual giving. We plan to bring on an additional member of the Resource Development team in the near future.

Hannah Park is now our Communications Coordinator, focused on internal communications. (She will retain administrative assistant responsibilities in Alexandria as well.)

Mike Johnson remains a contractor now focused primarily on external communications.

Kyla Ventura has joined us for the next few months as an intern working in our Advocacy program area. Kyla will be working closely with Claire Stanley to support ACB’s mission and build on her own Disability Studies major work from UCLA.

We will be filling the Membership Services Administrative Assistant position in the near future.

Our staff is a wonderful team of individuals who are dedicated to carrying out the wide-ranging duties necessary to keep ACB moving forward. Thank you for your support of all of us in this pursuit.

# **Job Opening: Membership Services Administrative Assistant**

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. ACB was founded in 1961 and has since been actively involved in policy reform, legal advocacy, as well as grassroots program management to meet the needs of its members at every level.

The Membership Services Administrative Assistant supports American Council of the Blind’s Membership Services Program by providing operational support to the Manager of Membership Engagement.

Duties and responsibilities include:

* Communicates with affiliates, ACB Committees and other community stakeholders to ensure timely and informative information is shared and received for community activities.
* Schedules community calls through the designated Zoom accounts for those calls being hosted by ACB.
* Compiles, prepares, and updates weekly community schedule, and prepares daily schedule for distribution in a timely manner.
* Responds to inquiries about membership and services available to members.
* Collaborates with other members of the ACB team as needed to increase awareness of ACB’s causes, missions, and goals to encourage membership growth.
* Support the company vision, mission and core values and implement strategies necessary to achieve them.
* Other duties as assigned by the Manager of Membership Engagement.

This role is 100% remote with sedentary work that mostly involves sitting/standing. The job is full-time, 40 hours per week. It requires travel to the ACB national convention each year.

Applicants must:

* Have at least one year of related experience
* Proficient in Microsoft 365 with an emphasis on using Excel, Word, and Outlook.
* Proficient in the use of Google Workspace: Sheets, Docs, and Forms.
* Strong working knowledge in the use of Zoom.

Experience using assistive technology and Spanish language proficiency are preferred.

Salary: $40,000 - $44,000 per year.

Interested candidates may email their resume to **hr@acb.org**. Cover letters are not required, but will be reviewed if submitted. Apply by **February 3, 2025.**

# **Volunteer of the Month for December**

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

# **Walk Committee Seeks Your Input**

The ACB Walk Committee is once again seeking your input with this year’s theme for the ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. Get those creative juices flowing friends and send us your BIGGEST and BOLDEST ideas to coincide with the theme of the ACB Conference and Convention, Big Dreams, Bold Ideas.

The walk them contest will close on Friday, January 24. Submit your ideas to Donna Brown at **donnambrown59@gmail.com**.

Get excited and submit those suggestions today!

# **Boldly Step into Leadership**

Be bold as you take your leadership to the next level by completing an online application by April 1, 2025 to become a member of the Class of 2025 Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) First-Timers.

To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must meet each of the following requirements: age 18 or older, blind or visually impaired, never attended a previous in-person ACB national conference and convention either as a member or non-member, current ACB member; member for at least two consecutive years in an ACB state or special interest affiliate, or an ACB member at large serving on an ACB committee.

If you meet the above qualifying requirements, complete the online application form found at the following link [**https://forms.gle/vAPV5CFoVBsjG4f19**](https://forms.gle/vAPV5CFoVBsjG4f19) and request an online recommendation form at the following link [**https://forms.gle/gPJKg21tipw4YGqT7**](https://forms.gle/gPJKg21tipw4YGqT7)  be completed on your behalf. The submission must come from the area of your membership – either from the president of your ACB state or special interest affiliate or, if a ACB member at large, from the chair of the ACB Committee on which you serve.

Both the application and recommendation forms must be received by the deadline of **April 1, 2025.**

# **Are You a Leader Searching for More?**

The Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) Fund Committee seeks to identify five ACB members who wish to expand their leadership skills. Apply now to become one of the ACB JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows for the Class of 2025.

To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must meet each of the following requirements: age 18 or older, blind or visually impaired, current ACB member; member for at least three consecutive years in an ACB state or special-interest affiliate, or an ACB member at large serving on an ACB committee.

If you meet the above qualifying requirements, complete the online application form found at [**https://forms.gle/vAPV5CFoVBsjG4f19**](https://forms.gle/vAPV5CFoVBsjG4f19), and request an online recommendation form at [**https://forms.gle/gPJKg21tipw4YGqT7**](https://forms.gle/gPJKg21tipw4YGqT7) be completed on your behalf. The submission must come from the area of your membership – either from the president of your ACB state or special-interest affiliate or, if an ACB member at large, from the chair of the ACB committee on which you serve.

Both the application and recommendation forms must be received by the deadline of **April 1, 2025.**

# **FIA Author Collective**

Master the tools to achieve your writing goals! Our January 2025 guest author is bestselling novelist Barbara Hinske. Barbara will join Friends-in-Art on Friday, January 24 at 8 p.m. Eastern. Watch the Community Events list for further details.

Barb's session will focus on the business aspects of publishing. She's independently published in print and ebook and traditionally published in audio. She'll share her favorite tip on finding an agent and suggestions on deciding which track is right for you.

# **Notice for Amendments to Definitions and Related Provisions**

The Federal Register Notice for the Amendments to Definitions and Related Provisions Under the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program was recently released. The closing date for comments in regulations.gov is **March 11th.**

[**https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/10/2025-00124/amendments-to-definitions-and-related-provisions-under-the-randolph-sheppard-vending-facility**](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/10/2025-00124/amendments-to-definitions-and-related-provisions-under-the-randolph-sheppard-vending-facility)

To review Tips for Submitting Effective Comments, visit:

[**https://www.regulations.gov/document/FS-2018-0053-0007**](https://www.regulations.gov/document/FS-2018-0053-0007)

# **Identity Theft Webinar**

January 27-31 is Identity Theft Awareness Week. The Social Security Administration is partnering with the Federal Trade Commission to host a free webinar about how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft. The webinar will be held on **Thursday**, **January 30, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. ET** to learn more about this important topic.

During the session, we will cover:

* What identity theft is and how it happens;
* How to protect yourself against identity theft;
* How to spot and avoid identity theft;
* What to do if your identity is stolen; and
* What free tools are available to help you recover from identity theft.

For more information, visit [**https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/identity-theft-awareness-week**](https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/identity-theft-awareness-week).

# **Casting Call: Cathedral, Florida**

Casting the role of Dennis, a blind man in his 40s-50s, for a short film, “Cathedral, Florida.” Must be male and blind. All ethnicities welcome.

**Synopsis**: A young boy joins his girlfriend on vacation, but finds he is more drawn to her father, who is blind.

Shooting 4-5 days in Los Angeles for 4-5 days within June 21-29, 2025.  Travel/housing can be provided.

Submit: [**www.ebcastingco.com/post/dennis**](http://www.ebcastingco.com/post/dennis)