**Dots and Dashes**

**July 15, 2024**

# **Correction: Election Results**

At convention, several new members of the board of directors and the board of publications were elected. The newest board member is Peter Heide of Wisconsin. Re-elected to the board of directors are: Christopher Bell, Donna Brown, Cecily Laney Nipper, and Kenneth Semien Sr. New board of publications members are: Katie Frederick, chair, and Belinda Collins. Jeff Bishop and Zelda Gebhard were re-elected to the BOP.

# **Audio Description Project Awards**

The Audio Description Project (ADP) is pleased to announce the 2024 winners of the ADP Awards. This year’s winners span entertainment, education, and information and recognize achievement in digital access and live delivery of AD across a range of platforms and venues. The ADP applauds the dedication to and advancement of inclusion exhibited by the award recipients. Access the award announcement video here: <https://youtu.be/udspayg29s8>

The winners are:

**Media:** Jehovah's Witnesses

**Performing Arts (Organization):** The Audio-Description Learning Network (ADLN) is a consortium of four Philadelphia-area theatres: People's Light, 1812 Productions, Hedgerow, and the Wilma.

**Performing Arts (Individual):** Beth Crabb, Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville

**Special Achievement in Performing Arts:** Think Outside the Vox trains culturally competent describers from diverse communities.

**Public Sector:** The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism developed Alcohol and Your Brain, a module that educates young audiences about alcohol's effects on the brain. The audio-described version will be included in NIH Section 508 accessibility trainings to demonstrate effective AD and captioning.

**Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award for Audio Description Research and Development:** Kyle Sisk, Chief Technology Officer at the Described and Captioned Media Program

# **Your Chance to Win Some Cash!**

The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI) is having a 50/50 drawing. Half the proceeds will go to the Genensky/Foley Magnification Awards, which awards iPads and other magnification devices to people of all ages who have low vision. The lucky winner will get the other half. The amount depends on how many tickets are sold.

Tickets are $10 each! You may purchase tickets online at [**https://cclvi.info/drawing/**](https://cclvi.info/drawing/) and following the directions. To purchase tickets by phone, call Patti at (502) 905-0869 or Debbie at (812) 620-0477.

The winner will be drawn at CCLVI's Game Night next Monday, July 22, at 8 p.m. Eastern.

# **ACBVA Hosts Sessions at Libraries**

Join the American Council of the Blind of Virginia (ACBVA) in collaboration with Richmond Public Libraries for an informational session called “How we do it: Learn about accessible reading resources for the blind and low-vision*.*”

Speakers from ACBVA, the Richmond Public Libraries, Virginia Voice, and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) Library and Resource Center will share information about helpful reading tools available to assist you in meeting your life goals for independence, personal growth, and development. Inspirational author Judith “Judy” Kirby will share excerpts from her new book, “Blurred Vision.” The book will be available for purchase at the session.

This session will be held on Tuesday, August 6, at the Belmont Public Library, 3100 Ellwood Avenue in Richmond, Va. To register for this session, send your name, telephone number, and email address to **DebraHill.ACBVA@gmail.com** or text or call (804) 424-0407.

# **Understanding Assistance Needs of Shoppers with Vision Loss in Supermarkets**

Do you find it challenging to shop independently at the supermarket due to your vision condition? If given the opportunity, would you suggest ways to make your shopping experience more favorable? Do you use technology to help you navigate everyday tasks?

If you answered YES to these 3 questions, read on to learn about an opportunity to participate in a research study designed to improve the shopping experience for those that are blind or visually impaired.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q. What is the purpose and goal of the study?**

**A.** The objective of this study is to ascertain whattypes of assistive technology would be most helpful for improving the supermarket shopping experience for the visually impaired. Our goal is to diagnose real world pain points, then address concerns identified by developing solutions that can be implemented and piloted.

**Q. How long will it take to complete the survey?**

**A.** The survey should not take more than 15 minutes to complete from start to finish.

**Q. Will participants be compensated for their time?**

**A.** Participants will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of four $50 gift cards.

**Q**. **Who is conducting this research?**

**A.** Assistive Technology Publishers is a startup company of dedicated professionals that advocate, conduct research and develop projects that facilitate supermarket shopping and other daily life activities for people who are blind or visually impaired.

We are committed to improving the lives of the visually impaired by learning what is important to them and taking action. We are creating partnerships with other organizations who can help us help others.

**Q. I'm interested in participating in the survey. What should I do now?**

**A.** Thank you so much for being a willing participant! The survey can be completed by clicking on the link below.

**Survey link:**[**https://forms.gle/3eEYKwb7JUXfuFTYA**](https://forms.gle/3eEYKwb7JUXfuFTYA)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. All responses will be recorded and analyzed. Your insights are invaluable to us in making supermarkets more inclusive and accessible for everyone.