**Dots and Dashes**

**March 3, 2025**

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# **Advocacy Alert: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

Actions taken by the new administration have threatened the elimination of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. To help illustrate the importance of such a federal agency, the National Consumer Law Center is collecting real lived experiences of fraud or other related experiences. Please read the description below and submit a story if you can.

We are looking for [stories](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNXJgITy05Er8-QBirqC-lOl2UIk5PHqCUiazFUB4KwCdN6A/viewform) of people impacted by problems involving consumer financial issues, such as bank accounts, overdraft fees, student loans, debt collection, medical debt, credit reporting, fraud and payment apps, mortgages, auto loans, remittances, etc. Stories involving overdraft fees, medical debt or payment apps are especially welcome.

We especially would like stories of people who have been helped by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, used its financial education materials, relied on a rule, or just have a story that shows the need for the CFPB.

Ideally, we'd love people willing to talk publicly, but any story is helpful.

If you have a story to share, please fill out this short [**Story Collection Form**.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNXJgITy05Er8-QBirqC-lOl2UIk5PHqCUiazFUB4KwCdN6A/viewform)

# **How to Support the D.C. Leadership Conference**

Registration for the D.C. Leadership Conference is now closed. If you are unable to attend the conference either virtually or in-person but would like to help cover costs for the event such as streaming the event, please click on this link: [**https://bit.ly/3WhWmV9**](https://bit.ly/3WhWmV9).

# **Expand Your Leadership Skills in ACB**

Want to expand your leadership skills in ACB? Apply now to become a DKM First-Timer or ACB JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellow for the Class of 2025. If selected for either award, you'll attend the 64th ACB Conference and Convention in Dallas, TX from July 4-11, 2025. While there, you'll participate in leadership activities and experience personal growth while networking with other attendees. Recipients receive round-trip air travel and supporting transportation, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), a per diem allowance, and more. For more information, read the January and February ACB Braille Forum articles about the First-Timer award (<https://www.acb.org/take-next-step-acb>) or about the Leadership Fellows award at (<https://www.acb.org/are-you-leader-searching-more>).

Members who meet the qualifications, must submit an online application, and have the president of their state or special interest affiliate or chair of an ACB committee on which they serve submit a recommendation form on their behalf. The link to the online application form for both awards is [**https://forms.gle/vAPV5CFoVBsjG4f19**](https://forms.gle/vAPV5CFoVBsjG4f19) and the link to the recommendation form is [**https://forms.gle/gPJKg21tipw4YGqT7**](https://forms.gle/gPJKg21tipw4YGqT7).

If you have questions, or would like more information, check out the DKM webpage at [**www.acb.org/dkm**](http://www.acb.org/dkm).

# **Get Up and Get Moving Has New Facebook Page!**

The Get Up and Get Moving committee (GUGM) is excited to announce we have a new Facebook page! On Facebook, search Get Up and Get Moving. There is NO ACB in front of it. That is an old group page. We will be sharing updates what the committee is involved with. Look for convention announcements. We want everyone to feel welcome and to come share their health and wellness stories. Let’s all support each other on our health journeys. Here is the link to our committee page on ACB’s website: [**https://www.acb.org/get-up-and-get-moving-committee**](https://www.acb.org/get-up-and-get-moving-committee). Under the list of members, you will find the link to that will take you right to our new page, [**https://www.facebook.com/people/Get-Up-and-Get-Moving/61570076463254/**](https://www.facebook.com/people/Get-Up-and-Get-Moving/61570076463254/).

# **New Advocacy Update**

In the newest edition of the “Advocacy Update,” Claire and Kolby talk about their experience in Las Vegas at the Consumer Electronic Show. The conference provided an opportunity to learn about the latest technology, advocate for full accessibility in all designs, and network with other advocates in the world of technology access. Listen to the podcast at [**https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/).

# **Summer Auction Just Around the Corner**

Now is the time to start thinking about the ACB Summer Auction! The 19th annual ACB Summer Auction will be on Saturday, June 21st, with the appetizer auctions on Thursday and Friday, June 19th and 20th.

The deadline for descriptions and pictures is May 1st. You can ship your auction items to Leslie Spoone at 3924 Lake Mirage Blvd., Orlando, FL 32817. If you would prefer to bring your item to convention, you can give the item to Leslie Spoone during convention week. Then we can give it to the winner, or ship it to them after convention if they aren’t attending in person.

We look forward to hearing everyone with lots of bidding!

# **Braille Challenge Writing Workshop Deadline Extended**

Calling all braille readers and writers in grades 10-12 — you’re invited to join the Braille Challenge Writing Workshop for spring 2025!

In this virtual eight-week program, you’ll join a community of passionate braille readers to level up your writing skills. Learn directly from authors and professors, collaborate with your peers, and renew your excitement for the famous six-dot system!

We offer two tracks: Academic and Creative Writing. Both learning tracks will be fun, welcoming spaces to grow as writers while making new friends nationwide.

Interested? [Just fill out this survey to register and we’ll get back to you soon](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhnhvwq4qKZCkrk4amFY0J8CmUmt9OqYs2xZtzdNWFdu3XDw/viewform?usp=sharing). **Register by March 5** to hold your spot. Space is limited.

# **Discover Envision’s Ally at Vista Center Demo Day**

Friday, March 7th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., is Demo Day at Vista Center San Jose. You’ll get to learn more about Envision’s ally, an everywhere AI assistant for the blind and low-vision community.

To register, or for more information, visit [**https://lu.ma/tlc5cs6o**](https://lu.ma/tlc5cs6o).

# **Lighthouse Guild Scholarship Program**

**The Lighthouse Guild Scholarship Program** supports academically accomplished students who are legally blind as they successfully transition to college and graduate school. Scholarships are available for:

* College education: for current high school students who will be incoming college freshmen
* Graduate education (Master’s degree, PhD, MD, JD, or other post-baccalaureate degree): for college students already attending, or planning to attend, graduate school.
* As of 2023, among each year’s undergraduate and graduate student scholarship recipients, one student will be awarded the [**Dr. Neil S. Patel Memorial Scholarship**](https://lighthouseguild.org/support-services/academic-and-career-services/scholarships/dr-neil-s-patel-memorial-scholarship/) for embodying Dr. Patel’s legacy of hard work, honor, and dedication to supporting under-served populations.
* New this year, the [**Daniel M. Callahan Memorial Scholarship**](https://lighthouseguild.org/support-services/academic-and-career-services/scholarships/daniel-m-callahan-memorial-scholarship/) will be awarded each year to one student who exemplifies visionary leader Dan Callahan’s dedication to supporting and advocating for the community of individuals with vision loss.

For more information, or to apply, visit [**https://lighthouseguild.org/support-services/academic-and-career-services/scholarships/**](https://lighthouseguild.org/support-services/academic-and-career-services/scholarships/). The application deadline is March 31st.

# **EMPOWERing Youth with Visual Impairment Project Needs You**

The EMPOWERing Youth with Visual Impairment project is looking for adult community members to join our 2025-2026 Adult Advisory Board!

We are looking for adults with visual impairment who are familiar with various assistive technology devices and are willing to share their perspectives, both personally and professionally. Board members will provide personal and professional feedback on the priority issues and needs of blind and low vision individuals, with an emphasis on transition-aged youth in rural communities. Members will also have the opportunity to connect with each other to broaden their network. You can find more information in the [**Adult Advisory Board Interest Form**](https://redcap.vumc.org/surveys/?s=J3F3NMMRYJC9N8F8).