**Dots and Dashes**

**May 6, 2024**

# **ACB, Athenahealth Collaborate**

ACB is collaborating with athenahealth to expand accessibility around its patient-facing applications to be more inclusive for millions of patients. “There are already too many barriers for people trying to access care in the United States – especially for those who are visually impaired,” said Claire Stanley, ACB director of advocacy and government affairs. “Technology can help reduce those barriers, empowering individuals to better communicate with their providers, and manage their own care.”

ACB applauds athenahealth’s commitment to accessibility and we are excited to be working with them as they continue to make their patient experiences more digitally accessible and inclusive.

To read the full release, visit [**https://www.athenahealth.com/press-releases/athenahealth-and-the-american-council-of-the-blind-collaborate-to-expand-digital-accessibility-for-athenahealth-patients**](https://www.athenahealth.com/press-releases/athenahealth-and-the-american-council-of-the-blind-collaborate-to-expand-digital-accessibility-for-athenahealth-patients).

# **People’s Choice Award Now Open for Nominations!**

The Audio Description People’s Choice Award is now open for nominations. The winners will be announced during the 2024 ACB Audio Description Awards Gala, which will take place virtually on Thursday, November 14th, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern.

The Audio Description Awards Gala celebrates inclusivity and recognizes the entertainment industry’s role in providing access to film and television through audio description for people who are blind or have low vision. The Audio Description People’s Choice Award, now in its third year, is a unique opportunity for fans to get involved by showing their support for the audio description they love the most.

The selection process for the Audio Description People’s Choice Award takes place in two phases. First, ACB will accept nominations in two categories, film and series, from May 4 through May 19. Second, the top titles in each category will compete for the grand prize during a two-week voting period from July 20 to August 4.

Nominee selections must follow the [**nomination criteria**](https://adawardsgala.org/peoples-choice/) to be eligible for the finalist vote. The Audio Description People’s Choice Award nomination form can be found at [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AD-Awards-Nominations-2024**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AD-Awards-Nominations-2024). To vote by phone, call (202) 559-2042.

# **Get Your Delegate Info In by May 12th**

Convention time is fast approaching, and voting is a vital part of the convention experience. That means I need information from all of you.

What I need: 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 convention in person or virtually. I also need the name, email address and phone number for the person who will be representing your affiliate on the nominating committee.

The deadline for sending me this information is **May 12, 2024.** Please email it to me at [**colleyd1952@gmail.com**](mailto:colleyd1952@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, contact me by email, or call me at (360) 280-0077.

# **Planning to Run for the Board or BOP?**

If you’re planning to run for a seat on the ACB board or the board of publications, you have two weeks left to get your Candidates Page in! See [**https://www.acb.org/2024-acb-candidates-page**](https://www.acb.org/2024-acb-candidates-page) for the questions you’ll answer, and for other important information.

Send your Candidates Page, either in the body of an email or as a Word attachment, to [**slovering@acb.org**](mailto:slovering@acb.org), with the subject line “My Candidates Page.” **The deadline for all submissions is 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Monday, May 20, 2024.**

# **Concerns Related to Obtaining Accessible Prescription Labels at Walgreens**

ACB has recently heard from some members about concerns related to obtaining accessible prescription labels at Walgreens. To assist ACB’s work concerning these access issues, it would be helpful to get a sense from all of you out there about your recent experiences getting accessible prescription label services from Walgreens. If you have gotten a prescription from Walgreens in the past 12 months, or talked with a Walgreens pharmacist about talking labels, we'd like to talk with you.

Please let us know the location of the Walgreens stores where you have had any experiences in the past 12 months. Be sure to include the best email and phone number to reach you.

Email your information to [**advocacy@acb.org**](mailto:advocacy@acb.org)**,** or call the Alexandria, VA office at (202) 467-5081.

# **Member on the Mic**

Member on the Mic is a highlight of the ACB Voices blog, where you can find the members who have had their turn at the mic by clicking [**http://ACBVoices.org**](http://ACBVoices.org). For the last year we have been featuring ACB members who may not be known well by the membership; members who inspire, have interesting stories or are doing the “Good Work.” We feature their projects and a photo along with a transcript of the interview.

We’re looking for more members who inspire, create, motivate, have interesting stories, and/or do good work. Want to nominate someone? Send an email to [**slovering@acb.org**](mailto:slovering@acb.org). Please include the person’s full name, state or special-interest affiliate, contact email and/or phone number.

# **Announcing the 2024 International Voices Contest**

ACB’s International Relations Committee invites entries to our 2024 International Voices Contest! This opportunity will enable international guests to receive complimentary virtual registration to our 2024 conference and convention, occurring June 27-29 and July 5-12, 2024. The convention will be packed with over 200 sessions on all aspects of living with blindness, including advocacy, technology, employment, transportation, and audio description, and sessions of interest to communities such as guide dog users, students and young professionals, seniors, and more. You will be able to browse all sessions at [**https://acbconvention.org**](https://acbconvention.org)beginning in mid-May. Note that while a select number of tours and sessions are in-person only, the vast majority can be attended virtually.

Being selected as one of our winners would grant you free virtual attendance. Please note that, should you choose to attend in person, this does not include any travel expenses or hotel rooms.

To be eligible, you must reside outside of the United States and its territories. To participate, kindly submit an audio recording of up to 10 minutes in length discussing your blindness-related experiences in your country, your message to the blindness community in the United States, and why you wish to attend the ACB convention. The top three contestants will receive complimentary registration, and the first-place winner will have the opportunity to address a general session of the convention via a pre-recorded video interview with the Committee chair.

Send your audio files to Committee chair Maria Kristic at [**acbinternationalcommittee@gmail.com**](mailto:acbinternationalcommittee@gmail.com) by **June 7**.

# **Volunteer of the Month**

Congratulations to Dorlyn Catron, who was voted Volunteer of the Month for March. Thank you, Dorlyn, for all you do for our ACB Community!

# **Greater Louisville Council Auction**

The Greater Louisville Council of the Blind's 2024 Spring into Summer Auction is happening Friday, May 10, and you are invited to get in on the fun. From 7 to 10 p.m. Eastern time (6 to 9 p.m. Central, 4 to 7 p.m. Pacific, and 1 to 4 p.m. Hawaiian), you can bid and buy from any computer, cell phone or landline phone on Zoom.

Among the items up for bid are:

* A beautiful collectible Bradford Exchange porcelain music box featuring Glinda the Good Witch from Wizard of Oz;
* A new-in-box Ruby video magnifier;
* An Echo Dot (5th Generation), an Echo Pop, and an Echo Show 5 (third generation, 2023 release);
* A HIMS Sense Player;
* An Eton AM/FM/NOAA emergency radio with lots of features and powered by solar, hand crank or USB;
* A solid wood serving set and an air-fryer bake set;
* A Kentucky Derby pie;
* Bags and purses, sparkling jewelry, Starbucks and Amazon gift cards, and much more.

You must register in order to bid in this auction. Bid on Zoom from your phone or computer. Registration is free. Just call the Greater Louisville Council of the Blind at (502) 895-4598 and give us your contact information. The Zoom link and dial-in information will be emailed to you to confirm your registration.

# **GDUI Drawing**

This year, GDUI is holding a drawing for a plush black lab fitted out in a hand-made leather harness thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Hava.

His name is Garth, and he measures 24 inches from nose to tail. His pose is a play bow (chest and front paws touching the ground while his butt and tail are raised off the ground). He has a cute paw print collar, name tag and a little leash.

Tickets are three for $5 or seven for $10. You may purchase tickets via PayPal (does not require a PayPal account) at [**https://guidedogusersinc.org/gdui-2024-drawing-for-plush-pup-in-harness/**](https://guidedogusersinc.org/gdui-2024-drawing-for-plush-pup-in-harness/). Or you may call the GDUI office at 1-866-799-8436 in the U.S. Get them by 10 a.m. Eastern on June 29th!

# **Iowa Council of the United Blind**

# **Offers New Scholarship**

Iowa Council of the United Blind is now offering a one-year, non-renewable $2,500 college scholarship to be available for the 2024-2025 academic year. This scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior planning to attend a fully accredited community college, college, or university on a full-time basis. The ICUB membership invites eligible students with a broad range of business, professional, skilled/technical, or service career aspirations to apply. All application materials should be submitted to the ICUB Scholarship Committee by **May 15.**

Applicants for this scholarship must be:

* A 2024 high school graduate
* A legal resident of the state of Iowa
* Blind or legally blind
* Have a minimum high school cumulative grade of B

For more information, or to apply, visit [**https://www.icublind.org/post/empowering-the-future-the-new-iowa-council-of-the-united-blind-scholarship**](https://www.icublind.org/post/empowering-the-future-the-new-iowa-council-of-the-united-blind-scholarship). Any questions may be addressed to [**President@icublind.org**](mailto:President@icublind.org).

# **Many Faces of BARD**

The topic for the Thursday, May 9, 2024, Many Faces of BARD program will be Using the Siri Shortcuts for BARD. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. eastern time and last for one hour. This program will be recorded.

The session will begin with a brief presentation. The remainder of the time will be spent answering questions about the presentation or answering other questions related to BARD usage.

For more information, visit [**https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/many-faces-of-bard/**](https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/many-faces-of-bard/).

# **GE Improves Access**

GE Appliances is offering a DIY kit as a workaround. The Access Kit was created in partnership with the [American Printing House for the Blind](https://www.aph.org) (APH). In a [press release](https://pressroom.geappliances.com/news/ge-appliances-launches-new-accessible-tactile-sticker-kit-for-individuals-who-are-blind-and-low-vision), dated Feb. 27, 2024, the appliance maker described the kit as the “most comprehensive set of tactile stickers for appliances.” With over 400 stickers, representing the 80 most commonly used settings, the kit is designed to “make thousands of GE Appliances more accessible for everyone,” and it can be used on non-GE appliances, as well. The clear adhesive stickers are placed over the appliance label, allowing the label to show through. They include both tactile symbols and braille.

The Access Kit can be purchased at **<https://www.geapplianceparts.com/store/parts/spec/WX01X48726>** for $19.99.

# **Texas A&M Transportation Institute Survey — Deadline Extended**

Are you a member of the blind or low vision community who rides public transit? Are you at least 18 and live in the United States?

If so, you can help improve how transit information is provided to people who are blind or low vision by taking a Texas A&M Transportation Institute survey. To indicate your interest or learn more, call (979) 393-0168 or email [**BLV-Info@tti.tamu.edu**](mailto:BLV-Info@tti.tamu.edu).

You will be asked a few questions to confirm your eligibility and then you can fill out the survey online or by phone.

Complete the survey by the deadline, and you’ll get a $10 gift card of your choice and be entered to win one of five $100 gift cards!

The deadline to complete the survey is **May 15, 2024.**

To help us reduce fraudulent responses, please **do not post this invitation to social media.**

# **Accessible Pharmacy Presents**

# **Blindness and Mental Health Summit**

Join us for the first annual Blindness and Mental Health Summit on Friday, June 14th at noon Eastern. The Summit is the largest online gathering of organizations and consumers sharing information, resources, and services focusing on mental health in the blindness, low vision, and disability communities.

* 100% virtual
* ASL interpretation
* CE credit available

The Summit is a 2-part event:

* Part 1 - Speaker Series
* Part 2 - Exhibit Hall

To register, go to [**https://tinyurl.com/yee77vsj**](https://tinyurl.com/yee77vsj). To learn more about the summit, visit [**https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blindness-and-mental-health-summit-2024/**](https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blindness-and-mental-health-summit-2024/). If you have questions, send an email message to [**info@AccessiblePharmacy.com**](mailto:info@AccessiblePharmacy.com)**.**

# **Beezwax Records Seeks True Music Lovers**

Are you an audiophile? Do you appreciate good hi-fi? Beezwax Records, a brass, jazz, and blues record label based out of Elkhart, Indiana, is looking for visually impaired, eclectic audiophiles to judge their music past, present, and future.

If you are interested, please email [**beezwaxrecords1580@gmail.com**](mailto:beezwaxrecords1580@gmail.com)**.**

Beezwax Records will send you a list of questions about your favorite classical brass, jazz, and blues listening, including what constitutes favorite record labels, artists, albums, songs, etc. Based on the responses to that survey, we will select 12 visually impaired individuals for each genre.

The market for Beezwax Records will be strictly limited, so it is essential that only the best ears and music lovers apply.