# Dots and Dashes: February 7, 2022

## Dots and Dashes Now Includes More Accessible Content

Recently we were able to add accessible improvements in our Dots and Dashes newsletter in the form of headings. We are pleased to share with you that we can now include **content headings** to break up content subjects in the newsletter making reading the content a more user-friendly experience. Screen reader users are now able to jump to different sections and topics directly rather than having to read through the entire copy without any accessible distinction. These improvements are a direct result of ACB’s collaboration with *Constant Contact* and our shared goal to make online products and services more accessible to those who are blind or with low vision. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Constant Contact, and aiding their commitment to accessible and usable services for ACB’s members.

## Accessible At-Home Covid Testing

On January 21, 2022, ACB President Dan Spoone sent a letter to the Biden-Harris Administration to request immediate action be taken for accessible rapid testing options for our community. Read the letter by visiting: <https://acb.org/ACB-request-accessible-covid-tests>. On Monday, January 31, 2022, ACB President Dan Spoone sent a letter to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) seeking an update on accessible at-home COVID testing. To read the letter visit: [www.acb.org/accessible-test-letter-1-31-22](http://www.acb.org/accessible-test-letter-1-31-22?fbclid=IwAR2sT_YclQK4T7VxZD6A4k9Cyv_YgEMtTxvixbBAb7xTqKYo4xoJvW7rfAU). Both letters are as direct result of the challenges raised by our ACB members and the inaccessibility of current testing options.

## Accessible COVID Testing and Leadership Conference Update

On last week’s episode of the ACB Advocacy Update, Clark and Swatha discussed ACB’s advocacy efforts relating to accessible at-home COVID tests now available to order online and over the phone, and provided an update about ACB's 2022 DC Leadership Meetings. Listen at: [https://tinyurl.com/jjavamd9](https://tinyurl.com/jjavamd9?fbclid=IwAR3bzoy3Rbh4aHw6Jz3qGSybkU7yP1_tKbRIheCe3UdEGM4IA9dI3SYp9EY). To order rapid at-home test kits free of charge, visit [www.covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov/?fbclid=IwAR04DpUes7HXyHTndOyWLTSITwj3tsBFN0YyTRHN2dmaemW985ARaIA-PSM) or call 800-232-0233. To register for ACB’s 2022 DC Leadership Meetings, visit [https://tinyurl.com/2022-DC-Leadership-Meetings](https://tinyurl.com/2022-DC-Leadership-Meetings?fbclid=IwAR17i971Br1vYq9KA0mM4cbAaaADrT_3l-I4abCCKTn8yeZ45emQEBkhXxQ) or call the ACB Minneapolis office at 612-332-3242.

## 2022 DC Leadership Meeting Training on ACB Media

ACB Media hosts, along with ACB members and ACB staff will host three separate shows on ACB Media in preparation for the 2022 DC Leadership Meetings. It all begins on Tuesday Feb. 8th at 7pm ET on Tuesday Topics with Paul Edwards. Paul will be tackling effective communication with guests Larry Johnson, Thomas Reid, and ACB staff members Jennifer Flatt and Tony Stephens. This show will focus on strategies for communicating and effective storytelling. Join on Zoom [**by using this link**](https://acb-org.zoom.us/j/87991221181), by calling (312) 626-6799 and entering the Webinar ID: 87991221181, or listen on ACB Media 1. Then on Friday Feb. 11th at 7pm ET on VISAbilities Terry Pacheco welcomes FCB Representative Debbie Grubb to discuss strategies for finding the right point of contact in congressional offices, as well as communication templates and persistence. Join on Zoom by [**visiting this link**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86857935784?pwd=dzdNL05BRG5wRnI0cGtuKzZKdnFkUT09) or by calling (312) 626-6799 and entering the Webinar ID: 86857935784 and passcode: 736467. Finally on the Feb. 13th episode of Sunday Edition, Anthony Corona welcomes Clark and Swatha, ACB’s Advocacy & Governmental Affairs team, to introduce the 2022 ACB imperatives. Find the Zoom information in next week’s community event schedule or listen on ACB Media 1. There will be time for questions during all three shows, and information addressed during each episode will be available shortly after airing. This is a great opportunity for members to participate in ACB’s 2022 DC Leadership Meetings and find effective ways to communicate with their congressional representatives. To register for ACB’s 2022 DC Leadership Meetings, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2022-DC-Leadership-Meetings>.

## One Week Left to Apply for an ACB Scholarship

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) are offering educational scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $7,500 for undergraduate and graduate students, entering freshman, and students attending technical college. This program awards students with scholarships to help with post-secondary education financial needs such as tuition, fees, room and board, or assistive technology. Scholarships are available for both full-time and part-time students. The application deadline is quickly approaching, please apply by February 14, 2022. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, visit: [https://acb.org/scholarships](https://acb.org/scholarships?fbclid=IwAR0m-ofdTLmN-RUUf_wcugXVuhXe_Cr8AxAVawv58E7BPqXlgtzivh3t4ug).

## Become a DKM First Timer

If you are an ACB member who has never attended an in-person ACB conference and convention, we invite you to learn more about and participate in ACB’s primary leadership development program. Prepare to experience an array of opportunities to learn and grow personally as you connect with other like-minded individuals. We’ll join together in Omaha, Neb. for the 61st annual ACB convention from July 1-8, 2022 and participate in ACB’s wealth of inclusive convention activities. The DKM program and ACB honors recipients by funding round-trip air travel and supporting transportation, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), per diem allowance for meals and incidentals, leadership institute, reception, banquet tickets, the general convention registration fee, and other activities determined by the committee and ACB Board of Directors. Learn more by visiting: <https://acb.org/2022-DKM-first-timer>.

## Affordable Connectivity Program

The Council of Citizens With Low Vision International (CCLVI) and VISAbilities (Visually Impaired Seniors’ Abilities) will co-host a one-hour presentation by the Federal Communications Commission on the new Affordable Connectivity Program on Tuesday, February 8th at 3pm EST and Wednesday, February 9th at 8pm EST.  This program is meant to assist people with limited income or receiving government programs, such as SSI, get connected. These special events are for everyone, but especially those people who are blind or have low vision and have little or no internet access. Join on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405225341> or by calling (301) 715-8592 and entering the Webinar ID: 894 0522 5341. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Pacheco at VISAbilities50@gmail.com.

## Peloton Accessible Equipment Comments

Use your voice to let the FCC know that Peloton equipment must be accessible for blind and low vision users by Feb 8. ACB has issued an alert to act for our members at: [https://acb.org/peloton-comments-2-8-21](https://acb.org/peloton-comments-2-8-21?fbclid=IwAR11L1geGVvESPxeCMlV8PeYG66mQ5mOrvy1JbCKKnEzoVjj2cR4qQpBHKw). For those interested, please submit your comments to the FCC by Feb 8.

## 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games Q&A

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing began last week! Learn more about how to access audio description for the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games by visiting: [https://acb.org/2022-winter-olympic-paralympic](https://acb.org/2022-winter-olympic-paralympic?fbclid=IwAR2RyLo1Zlo5iWd70v-CQ4JPJiUFPL0IYh5X15vmBqMDHhuQRk6zs2pRS1I).

## Instagram Accessibility

Learn more about new accessibility improvements to Instagram for screen reader users: [http://ow.ly/OUH250HKNUx](http://ow.ly/OUH250HKNUx?fbclid=IwAR1d-74bVJ6jQ24STT3RjfhmatAPdM7xYCZrwwS7QqAtsOYayOtJZ5yICo4).