**Dots and Dashes**

**June 12, 2023**

# **Convention Registration Closes Friday**

ACB’s convention registration closes at 11:59 p.m. Central time Friday, June 16th. Don’t delay – register now! [Learn how to register for convention](https://acb.org/2023-convention-registration).

ACB's 2023 convention takes place from June 19-July 7. The virtual portion begins June 19 with the Call to Order. Resolutions will take place from June 20-22, and Constitution and Bylaws will take place on June 23. ACB’s hybrid convention sessions begin on June 30 and end on July 7, with all in-person events taking place in Schaumburg, IL. If you need to reserve a room in the ACB room block, please call Janet Dickelman at (651) 428-5059.

# **People’s Choice Award: Nominations Now Open**

The Audio Description People’s Choice Award is now open for nominations. The winners will be revealed during the [2023 ACB Audio Description Awards Gala](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001tvOyULHpOX2f6cpZLGyNvtH_IoRGYRbpVWK6HKRkwexE7O9omr3G9wC9hKETrNpm-ubmaTm0gPaNq1DwqqUZxrCloh9vmMgpGZI0IHiEqNYv_LiEMLgWa69iZmpxyIegc6aAEpAQzKbXK5UIA8Cqgw==&c=g0eU5ChGUlndBf2ewJyCDeR9AC4PqJdwRO0ib7LiQ0eGeJjjFyjHUA==&ch=fX1eHN4sRNZcndJzKQlAktulIxLDj-6L9bNo5OKt67iR5NOQVoDbog==), which will take place virtually on November 14 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern.

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, now through June 26. Second, the top titles in each category will compete for the grand prize during a two-week voting period from July 25 to August 8.

Nominee selections must follow the [**nomination criteria**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001tvOyULHpOX2f6cpZLGyNvtH_IoRGYRbpVWK6HKRkwexE7O9omr3G999s4HnIRldmJyHryxtYXgfkuTjlbbIBz-X8WowbcI7F8h9hEHIbXwonMhw0JyN8Io9iWC9RzL9CHDr3HqLu0YexiCXHzkf7_tavLv8wO0O2T6thAdQezs1lfJNVU3YURteeDMpiPh2M&c=g0eU5ChGUlndBf2ewJyCDeR9AC4PqJdwRO0ib7LiQ0eGeJjjFyjHUA==&ch=fX1eHN4sRNZcndJzKQlAktulIxLDj-6L9bNo5OKt67iR5NOQVoDbog==) to be eligible for the finalist vote. The nomination form is available at [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADAwards-Nominations2023**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001tvOyULHpOX2f6cpZLGyNvtH_IoRGYRbpVWK6HKRkwexE7O9omr3G999s4HnIRldmEXfK-nYtbJ3Ks-gY8BEnRFQCq2HyLfI78xD-KlGqJl1bygyV9wCh980neeTxVISJOP9Z3pgWyMM26SVgXr59HihEt8BRycG1e9Sx8SBYuY_0dDmszdYxut5p9JYk-JP7&c=g0eU5ChGUlndBf2ewJyCDeR9AC4PqJdwRO0ib7LiQ0eGeJjjFyjHUA==&ch=fX1eHN4sRNZcndJzKQlAktulIxLDj-6L9bNo5OKt67iR5NOQVoDbog==). To submit your nomination by phone, call (202) 596-7041.

# **Candidates’ Page Is Up – Candidates’ Forum Wednesday**

ACB’s annual Candidates’ Page is now available at [**https://www.acb.org/candidates-pages-2023-elections**](https://www.acb.org/candidates-pages-2023-elections). Those running for office are: Deb Cook Lewis, for president; David Trott, for first vice president; Ray Campbell, for second vice president; Denise Colley, secretary; and Michael Garrett, for treasurer.

The Board of Publications’ annual Candidates’ Forum will be held Wednesday evening, June 14th, from 8 to 10 p.m. Eastern. Check the community events list for the meeting ID and passcode to participate.

# **Get Ready to Bid!**

The ACB Summer Auction will be held Saturday, June 17th, from 7 to 11 p.m. Eastern time. Appetizer auctions will be held Thursday and Friday, June 15th and 16th. Items in the auction include jewelry, technology, homemade baked goods, handmade quilts and other items, gift cards, gear for your guide dog, beauty products, and much more!

Contact Leslie Spoone at (407) 678-0075 or (407) 678-4163, or email her at **lesliespoone@cfl.rr.com** with your bid. Please provide your name, phone number, email, item number and bid amount. Bids must be in $5 increments.

# **ACB Link, Upgraded**

The ACB Media team is proud to announce the newly upgraded version of ACB Link. It brings the following enhancements:

* A newly enhanced app with more modern support for iOS 16 with significantly improved performance and reliability.
* ACB Link comes to the Mac platform!
* New revised look and feel for listening to the ACB Media streams and podcasts.
* Better visual and color contrast support for those with low vision.
* More robust buffering and reliability when listening to streams and podcasts across ACB Media.
* More reliable push notification support.

[**Learn more about the ACB Link upgrade**](https://acb.org/ACB-Link-upgrade-2023).

# **Catching Up with Eric Bridges on the ACB Advocacy Update**

On last week’s episode of the ACB Advocacy Update, ACB’s advocacy team catches up with an old friend, Eric Bridges, President and CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB). Eric discusses his new role at AFB, including his experience at the AFB Leadership Conference and AFB’s continued partnership with ACB. Listen to the episode: [**Catching Up with Eric Bridges, AFB President & CEO**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/).

# **Got Your Braille Forum Raffle Ticket Yet?**

If not, don’t delay! Tickets are selling fast. We may even sell out before convention! You can order yours when you register, or purchase one separately by calling the Minnesota office at (612) 332-3242. Tickets are $50 each and can be purchased by individuals, chapters, affiliates or with up to five people.

The third place winner will receive $500; second place, $1,000; and the first place winner will receive a whopping $5,000!

# **FCC Adopts CVTA Video Conferencing Proposal**

ACB commends the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for adopting the proposal in the Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA), that ensures video conferencing technology is accessible for people with disabilities. We thank Sen. Edward J. Markey and Rep. Anna G. Eshoo for their continued leadership on this legislation. Read the press release: [**Sen. Markey, Rep. Eshoo Applaud FCC Vote Advancing New Accessibility Standards For Video Conferencing**](https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sen-markey-rep-eshoo-applaud-fcc-vote-advancing-new-accessibility-standards-for-video-conferencing?fbclid=IwAR0RvoyBOh-VXITXpa6aLAqyqYT-zLJgm5qfhCAFWwelX4YqD4IP7szPNvA).

# **Summer Grab Bag on ACB Advocacy Update**

On the ACB Advocacy Update, ACB’s advocacy team celebrated the unofficial start to the summer season with a recap of recent news at ACB. They covered what took place on Global Accessibility Awareness Day, federal agency activity surrounding digital accessibility, and ACB’s 2023 Conference and Convention. Listen to the episode: [**Summer Grab Bag**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/episode/81cdb494/summer-grab-bag).

**Reintroduction of DATA**

ACB commends Sen. Bob Menendez and Rep. Dina Titus for reintroducing the [Disability Access to Transportation Act (DATA)](https://www.menendez.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/disability_access_to_transportation_act.pdf) legislation that would address numerous persistent challenges faced by people with disabilities when they use transportation services. It would establish a one-stop pilot program to help paratransit riders avoid excessive wait times between multiple trips, streamline the process for submitting accessibility complaints, and assist local communities with identifying gaps in transportation accessibility. Learn more from the press release: [**Sen. Menendez, Rep. Titus Introduce Legislation to Expand Accessible Transportation Options for Individuals With Disabilities**](https://www.menendez.senate.gov/newsroom/press/sen-menendez-rep-titus-introduce-legislation-to-expand-accessible-transportation-options-for-individuals-with-disabilities).

# **WID Research Study in NYC**

The World Institute on Disability (WID) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Berkeley, California that works to continuously advance the rights and opportunities of more than one billion people with disabilities worldwide. WID utilizes participants with disabilities from all over the U.S. for many of their research studies for a variety of clients to improve accessibility or implement accessibility into their spaces, both physical and digital, by assessing their products, equipment, processes, websites, and more. This summer, WID is managing an in-person research study in New York City, and is looking for blind participants. Participants will be paid $100/hour for their feedback. If interested, please [**complete the participant application for the WID Research Study**](http://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7267457/WID-Research-Participant-Application).

# **M-Enabling Summit**

ACB will be in Washington, D.C. from Oct. 10-12 for this year’s M-Enabling Summit. This annual event brings together thought leaders in the field of digital accessibility to discuss the latest technologies and strategies for creating accessible digital experiences. From web design and development to mobile apps and e-books, they’re covering it all. We hope to see you there! Find out more and register at [**M-Enabling.com**](http://m-enabling.com/).

# **BlindShell Free Monthly Wireless Service**

With the BlindShell Mobile powered by Easy Wireless Affordable Connectivity Program, you can stay connected with your loved ones, access important information, and participate in the digital world with ease. The program provides [free monthly wireless service](https://blindshellusa.com/free) to eligible customers. Individuals who are enrolled in a qualifying government assistance program like **Medicaid**, **SNAP**, and **SSI**, are eligible to receive free monthly wireless service through the program. For more information, visit [**https://blindshellusa.com/free**](https://blindshellusa.com/free).