# **Dots and Dashes**

# **April 4, 2022**

## **Board Votes to Go Forward with Hybrid Convention**

On Friday evening, ACB’s board of directors voted to move ahead with the hybrid ACB national conference and convention in Omaha. You can learn more about registration and upcoming program events at [www.acbconvention.org](http://www.acbconvention.org).

## **One More Day to Nominate for DKM, JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows**

If you are an ACB member who has never attended an in-person ACB conference and convention, and you meet the criteria below, we invite you to learn more about and participate in ACB’s primary leadership development program.

Or are you an ACB member who has been active in the organization on the local and/or state level and have a desire to learn more and explore opportunities associated with the national level? Are you an ACB member who has served previously, attended a previous ACB convention and wishes to re-energize, learn more, expand your horizons with greater involvement in the organization, while strengthening ACB with your skills and abilities?

To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must be age 18 or older; blind or visually impaired; an ACB member in good standing (current on membership dues), and never have attended a previous in-person ACB national conference and convention. Two letters must be submitted for each applicant — a letter of application from the interested member and a letter of recommendation from a state or special-interest affiliate president. Please refrain from asking your chapter president to submit a letter of recommendation. The letter of application should include your full name, physical address, email address containing your name, along with a home and cell number; then introduce yourself to the committee and include reasons for applying for the award, a brief summary of education and experience related to your community service, contributions to your respective affiliate and/or chapter, and the significance of the First-Timers award or JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows program to your personal or career development. The letter of recommendation should include the applicant’s demonstrated leadership potential and contributions. Send letters to Sharon Lovering, [slovering@acb.org](mailto:slovering@acb.org), before midnight Eastern time tomorrow, April 5th.

For more information, visit:

DKM First-Timers Award: <https://acb.org/2022-DKM-first-timer>

JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows: <https://acb.org/2022-leadership-fellows>

## **Leadership Conference Survey**

Many thanks to all who attended ACB’s 2022 virtual D.C. Leadership Conference. We would like you to participate in a brief satisfaction survey. This will greatly assist us in improving the quality of our conferences and events. You can take the survey at <http://surveymonkey.com/r/2022acblc>.

## **ACB to Simulcast Benefit Concert for Ukraine**

ACB will simulcast the upcoming April 16th online benefit concert for people who are blind and visually impaired impacted by the current conflict in the Ukraine. The event will stream live over ACB Cafe, which is Channel 4 on the ACB Media Network. Information on the event can be found at <https://mushroomfm.com/WithYou>.

Donations can be made through the WBU Unity Fund. More details will be shared over the coming weeks.

## **Audio Description Project Seeks Nominees for Awards**

This year’s ADP Awards include a call for nominations in nine categories. Please note there is no category for Media/Organizations, as we will recognize outstanding achievement for a Media organization at the second annual Audio Description Gala, to be held in the fall of 2022.

* Achievement in Audio Description - Media / Individuals
* Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts/Organizations
* Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts/Individuals
* Achievement in Audio Description - Museums, Visual Art, Visitor Centers/Organizations
* Achievement in Audio Description - Museums, Visual Art, Visitor Centers/Individuals
* Achievement in Audio Description - Public Sector/Government agencies-federal, state, local
* Achievement in Audio Description - International
* Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award in Audio Description - Research and Development
* Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description

The call for nominations ends on **Friday, May 5, 2022,** with winners announced during a plenary general session of the ACB conference and convention in July 2022 (the 2022 Conference and Convention sessions will be held a hybrid format; in-person and virtually via Zoom and also broadcast on ACB Media).

Nomination material, criteria and more information are also available at [https://adp.acb.org](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001AsNaVYK6NET_4plinjb1CIGlJiRpqzcb65K0piIYBuqh6zgvSmmUbem2kjI1gIs263cK1nHWmrJYxZxl9Z84nZ4UB0wOfKue7z1EUgHMvLNGJhUe6fLIGYHFJCFtNY8H0p2x30wGXmk=&c=X7YnS0MOPtFfGEjRgxINNoUKS0njZkwt8SxPLHrehBzAcQ2fwocuzw==&ch=JRbkVIpUyk2KJg9w0NCzL6YjxsYr1YRGBklOs-ZhTWSWpfOf9szDYQ==).

## **ACB Furry-Tails, Presented by Sunday Edition ands GDUI**

There have been so many memorable moments and people in the American Council of the Blind over the last 60 years, but there have been so many Furry Skilled Professionals who live in our hearts and memories. Sunday Edition is partnering with GDUI for a program to recognize some of these amazing guides. This year in Omaha during the national convention, join us as we remember and honor these wonderful dogs and their handlers.

How will Furry-Tails work? Sunday Edition will collect nominations from now through May 15th. Then a committee from GDUI and Sunday Edition will select 10 Furry-Tail recipients to be awarded at the convention. A paw-shaped plaque will be awarded to the handler or their representative, and a testimonial will be placed on the Furry-Tails webpage that will be created for this awesome program. Pictures and video testimonials will be recorded for the program, and the handlers will have the opportunity to address the program attendees to remember their special furry professionals. Additionally, Sunday Edition will highlight the awardees on the weekly program in August.

Submissions should include:

* A written testimonial of 500 to 750 words, including the story of said furry professional with anecdotes and accomplishments. Please include any memorable moments from the life of the nominee.
* Who is the handler and who will represent the handler and nominee at convention;
* A bright, clear picture of the nominee and one of the team; and
* Any folks who wish to share stories and memories of the nominee.

Please send your nominations by May 15th to [SundayEditionAC@gmail.com](mailto:SundayEditionAC@gmail.com), and put “Furry-Tails Nominee” in the subject line.

As we celebrate 60 memorable years of ACB, let’s celebrate the furry members who have added so much to our great community. Look for more information on Furry-Tails in the national convention program, and announcements on Sunday Edition. We look forward to brushing through the submissions and presenting these amazing stories for ACB members at convention.

## **AAVL Cookbook Available**

Does a cookbook with more than 165 mouthwatering recipes contributed by members and friends of the Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss, including main dishes, desserts, holiday favorites, and much more, sound appetizing to you?  If so, the AAVL Cookbook, “The Food of Our Times” is just what you need!

This special collection is available now in two formats for just $20. The electronic version will entitle you to two downloadable versions: Microsoft Word and accessible PDF.

There are currently six copies of the non-UEB (aka “regular”) braille that are looking for a good home and ready to ship right away. Others will be ordered and shipped as soon as possible.

To get a copy, visit <https://www.aavl-blind-seniors.org/>, or send your check or money order payable to AAVL to treasurer Kathy Gerhardt, 2456 Edgewater Dr., Poland, OH 44514-1724, or contact her at (304) 283-7424 or [treasurer@aavl-blind-seniors.org](mailto:treasurer@aavl-blind-seniors.org).

## **Markey, Porter Introduce Disabled Jurors Nondiscrimination Act**

On March 29th, Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass) and Rep. Katie Porter (CA-45) introduced The Disabled Jurors Nondiscrimination Act, legislation that prohibits excluding a person from federal jury service on account of disability. Currently, federal law prohibits excluding an individual from jury service on account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. The new legislation adds the word “disability” alongside those protected characteristics.

The bill also clarifies provisions of federal law governing juror qualifications, by amending the statute under which jurors are qualified to serve unless they are “unable to read, write, and understand the English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to fill out satisfactorily the juror qualification form” or “unable to speak the English language.” The bill clarifies that no person may be disqualified from serving on a federal jury under those provisions on account of disability. Under the bill, it would be clear that a person who uses braille or sign language is not “unable to read, write, and understand the English language” or “unable to speak the English language.” Twenty-three states already have statues that prohibit exclusion and/or disqualification from state jury service on account of a disability, including both Massachusetts and California.

A copy of the legislation can be found [HERE](https://www.markey.senate.gov/download/sil22489). A copy of the one-pager can be found [HERE](https://www.markey.senate.gov/download/disabled-jurors-nondiscrimination-act-one-pager).

Additional co-sponsors of this bill in the Senate include Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Bob Casey (D-Penn.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). Additional, co-sponsors of this bill in the House include Representatives Dina Titus (NV-01), Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05), Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), Rashida Tlaib (MI-13), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC).