**Dots and Dashes**

**August 14, 2023**

# **Audio Description People’s Choice Award Closes Tomorrow**

Now is the time for you to get your vote in for the 2023 Audio Description People’s Choice Award! Voting closes tomorrow. The winners will be revealed during the [**2023 ACB Audio Description Awards Gala**](https://adawardsgala.org/), which will take place virtually on November 14th at 7:30 p.m. Eastern. [**Find more information on how to vote for this year’s finalists!**](https://acb.org/2023-AD-Peoples-Choice)

# **Get Your Application for the “INSPIRE” Mentoring Program In!**

Calling all ACB members who are interested in becoming an ACB Guide (Mentor) or Explorer (Mentee)! Applications will be accepted through Thursday, August 17th. For more information, visit [**https://acb.org/2023-INSPIRE**](https://acb.org/2023-INSPIRE). If you have questions, contact the ACB INSPIRE Mentoring Team via email, **acb.mentoring@gmail.com****,** or phone (409) 866-5838.

# **Apply to Be an ACB Facebook Community Group Moderator**

The ACB Community Facebook Group was launched over three years ago with the support of a small Moderating Team. Now, with nearly 2,000 subscribers, we would like to create a more structured Moderating Team for this group. Moderating Team volunteers must ensure group content upholds the established rules and approve or decline posts on a daily basis. Declined posts must specify the rule (or rules) that have been violated. The ability to competently use Facebook, a clear understanding of the group’s rules, and a modest and forthright demeanor are all qualities which would lend nicely to this role. [**Read the group rules here**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ACBCommunity/about). We will be taking applications through August 21. Apply by visiting: [**https://forms.gle/qvUbCtq4oFxMi3sm7**](https://forms.gle/qvUbCtq4oFxMi3sm7)**.**

# **Website & Mobile App Accessibility NPRM**

On August 4, the Department of Justice published a notice of proposed rulemaking for websites and mobile applications accessibility under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the Federal Register. Title II applies to information and services provided by state and local governments. ACB applauds DOJ for publishing the first of its kind NPRM, and we encourage them to do the same for Title III, which applies to places of public accommodation. We encourage our members and friends to submit comments on the need for state and local governments to make their online services accessible to people with disabilities. [**Read the NPRM and submit comments**](https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOJ-CRT-2023-0007-0001/). The deadline to comment is October 3rd.

# **ACB Advocacy Update: Revisiting Convention**

Two new episodes of the ACB Advocacy Update podcast revisit some important 2023 convention sessions related to advocacy. In one episode, [**A Conversation with Uber**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/episode/a484cac8/a-conversation-with-uber), moderated by ACB’s Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, Clark Rachfal, representatives from Uber discuss how they are improving the rideshare experience for passengers with disabilities, including service dog handlers. In [**Making the Case for a More Equitable Paratransit Future**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co/episode/1041986f/making-the-case-for-a-more-equitable-paratransit-future-), moderated by Ron Brooks, ACB members describe the policy and service changes that a number of transit agencies have made to improve the equity and service outcomes of their paratransit systems and make recommendations for how individuals and ACB chapters can advocate for similar paratransit improvements in their home communities.

# **ACB Convention Podcasts**

We are pleased to announce that the podcasts of the 2023 ACB Conference and Convention General Sessions and Banquet have been posted to the **ACB Conference and Convention** feed. For the RSS feed, visit [**https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-convention**](https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-convention). Additionally, the podcasts of the simultaneous translation into Spanish of the General Sessions and Banquet have been posted to the “[**Podcasts en español de la ACB**](https://acb-espanol.pinecast.co/)” feed. For the RSS feed, visit [**https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-espanol**](https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-espanol). The episode notes of the podcasts contain links to the videos of the sessions as well as links to CART transcripts in .rtf format. We are currently in the process of finalizing the podcasts of the virtual sessions that occurred June 19 – 24, 2023 and the breakout sessions that occurred July 1 – July 6, 2023. Thanks for listening and supporting ACB Media!

# **Planning Events on the Community Platform!**

Community averages 100 events each week on Zoom, with many broadcasted on ACB Media and/or in Clubhouse. Anyone can organize an event to be held as part of Community. You can facilitate a discussion or peer support call, or present on a particular subject matter. You can facilitate, or invite an individual or panel of experts to do the presenting.

Submissions are due by Wednesday for inclusion on the schedule for the following Sunday-Saturday week. All events must be scheduled on the hour or half-hour (always Eastern time). Although we can add events throughout the week, we encourage timely submissions to assist us with scheduling of volunteers, ensuring inclusion on the recorded schedule for the phone, and helping us with a myriad of other steps we take behind the scenes.

[**Fill the form out here!**](https://bit.ly/2T88iI3) If submitting after Wednesday, please email **community@acb.org** to alert us to check for your late submission.

For more information, check out the following resources:

* [**Listen to our Facilitating Community Events podcast**](https://tinyurl.com/hru3dp9a)
* [**Read our Community Events participant guidelines**](https://www.acb.org/community-participant-guidelines)

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe, respectful, and welcoming for all. We always welcome your feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for any reason.

# **Access Board Issues Final Rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines**

Pedestrians with disabilities throughout the United States continue to face major challenges in travel because many sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian facilities are inaccessible. The U.S. Access Board addressed this inequity by issuing a final rule on accessibility guidelines for pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way ([**https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/**](https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/)). These guidelines inform federal, state, and local government agencies on how to make their pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, shared use paths, and on-street parking, accessible to people with disabilities. Read the full press release at [**https://tinyurl.com/6dmpepdr**](https://tinyurl.com/6dmpepdr).

# **More Than 20 Million Households Enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program**

On August 14, 2023, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced that more than 20 million households have enrolled in the agency’s Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), the nation’s largest broadband affordability program. Eligible low-income households can receive a discount of up to $30 per month toward internet service and up to $75 per month for eligible households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if the household contributes more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price. ACB is an outreach partner for the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program. Read the full press release at

[**https://www.fcc.gov/document/20-million-households-enroll-acp**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/20-million-households-enroll-acp).

# **Google Seeks Feedback from Users of Live Captions**

Google is looking for feedback from users who use Live captions on iOS. If you're open to participating in a 10-minute survey, please see the information below.

**Study Name:** Media consumption research survey

**Length of survey:** Approximately 10 minutes

This survey is open to Live Caption users on iOS, both in the USA and Canada. To take the survey, visit[**Media consumption research survey**](https://google.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTIf2MMDLFRfGaW).

# **Blindness and Mental Health Webinar**

Accessible Pharmacy Services will hold a Blindness and Mental Health Webinar on Friday, September 29 at noon Eastern. Please join us as we discuss mental health in the blind and low vision community. Expert presenters will discuss:

* Psychology and therapy for the blind community
* Medications and genomic testing
* Peer and community support resources
* 988 Mental Health Hotline information

This webinar will have captioning and a live ASL interpreter.

To register, go to [**https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blindness-and-mental-health-webinar/**](https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blindness-and-mental-health-webinar/)**.**

# **Envision Conference to Showcase Latest Low Vision Research and Rehab Practices**

The Envision Virtual Fall Conference will be held via livestream webinar September 29-30, 2023. The two-day schedule of clinical education and research presentations will address topics covering a wide range of specialties, including optometry, occupational therapy, vision scientists, genetics, neurology and other areas. The full program is available on the website agenda page, as well as the [**speaker bios and details**](https://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=-2BDE7ivbHjMgN3TRRvuZIIF9p3V8LmDTjP-2BU5xbHExHdBmJQq4BCZhlXQ0JxZgU-2BLfLWqxqv4mWc-2FTF0g8HB5BhbbIdLt5IQCFeP3amN5h4piX0XpIwjtDqsI9vYov3CZtOBH_QGL-2B0imNYUTBW7D0lqoNws-2BMHJI9VuGd6naFW4WMXY8LkzUv1XuPu0n2gpUpApueufOXI-2BXNRzHAbrNHeXw6oj2nrT44KTThLFfQLFKc6ku4dgbzHkGJ34ugYyBgVsGlNlabOFzb-2FAFYru2Jx-2BbRf3HDYTM-2Bp4TPWjfLAcmOtWAdLDItSkDL7iFiCtBNpLZzMpm8p8nAAUDT2j6hoyPpUij384NCkSAJeV1s1t2TfMpN36y9NtZg5kMLZDa0HXv4gx8zarNHfYnq-2BJQ9D3GEbC1fhYqmbD3saA9bgAtFREAYBrTh21KcIdr-2Fqkfx1sR7JIepKBk8Nhw2gkxb-2BAU7AlVfGrMt4E19U8RuNTLG8O-2BlCrQZUibYBsh1RC6URsrC)**.**To register, visit the Envision Conference website at [**www.envisionuniversityevents.com/VirtualFallConference2023.**](www.envisionuniversityevents.com/VirtualFallConference2023.)

# **WID Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

For the past four decades, the World Institute on Disability has been committed to advancing inclusion, independence and equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Its virtual event celebration, to be held November 7th, will feature special guests, entertainment, and will highlight findings from our Global Strategic Planning Sessions. For more information, visit [**https://wid.org/registration-now-open-wids-40th-anniversary-virtual-celebration/**](https://wid.org/registration-now-open-wids-40th-anniversary-virtual-celebration/).