# **Dots and Dashes**

# **November 7, 2022**

# **ACB Action Alert: Rideshare Guide Dog Denial Survey**

ACB and our affiliate Guide Dog Users, Inc. are conducting a survey to collect information from guide dog users who’ve been denied rides by rideshare drivers due to the presence of their guide dog. We will send the survey data to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), per their recommendation, to draw attention to this frustrating civil rights violation and highlight the severity of this ongoing problem. The survey opened November 2nd and will remain open until the end of the year. During this time, we ask that you fill out this survey each time you are denied a ride by a driver. Submit the form as many times as you have denials. If you wish to submit responses over email or phone, contact ACB’s Advocacy team at either [**advocacy@acb.org**](mailto:advocacy@acb.org) or (202) 467-5081. To take the survey, visit [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rideshare-Denial**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rideshare-Denial). **Please only respond to the survey if you have had a ride denial between November 2 and December 31, 2022.**

# **ACB Scholarship Application Now Live!**

The American Council of the Blind offers educational scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $7,500 for entering freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students, and students attending technical college. This program awards students with scholarships to help with educational financial needs such as tuition, fees, room and board, and assistive technology.

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants need to be legally blind, maintain a 3.0 GPA to be eligible for most scholarships, be a full-time student or a part-time student who works at least 32 hours per week, and be involved in their school and local community. Students must submit their application by **February 14th, 2023.**

For more information about ACB’s scholarship program, visit [**ACB’s Scholarship page**](https://acb.org/scholarships). Learn more about ACB’s 2022 scholarship recipients through a [**series of videos on our YouTube page**](https://tinyurl.com/2022-ACB-scholarships).

# **Get Ready for the 2nd Annual Audio Description Awards Gala!**

Clark and Swatha speak with Kim Charlson (ACB’s immediate past president and co-chair of the Audio Description Project) and Matt Ater (ACB Advisory Board Member and Vice President at Vispero) about this year’s gala. We cover how it got started, lessons learned from last year’s inaugural gala, and some of the awards being given out this year. The Gala will air on November 29, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern. Learn more at [**https://adawardsgala.org/**](https://adawardsgala.org/). Or listen to the podcast at [**https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co**](https://acb-advocacy-update.pinecast.co)**.**

# **2022 ACB Convention Podcasts and Edited Videos Now Available**

The podcasts of the hybrid general sessions from the 2022 ACB conference and convention in Omaha, Neb. are now available. All presentations that were not heard on the live webinar and ACB Media feed are in these recordings, including the insightful presentation made by Marc Workman, CEO of the World Blind Union. Access the general session & banquet podcasts at [**https://www.acbmedia.org/category/convention/**](https://www.acbmedia.org/category/convention/). For the RSS feed, visit [**https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-convention**](https://pinecast.com/feed/acb-convention). Access the breakout session podcasts at [**https://www.acbmedia.org/podcasts/**](https://www.acbmedia.org/podcasts/). Breakout sessions from the ACB business meetings on July 11 & 13 will be available soon. We will publish a searchable cross reference of all sessions after all podcasts are published.

And that’s not all! The edited video versions of the 2022 ACB Conference and Convention General Sessions and the Banquet Keynote by Judy Heumann are now available on ACB’s YouTube channel. The entire program that was presented at general sessions are in these videos free of technical glitches. Visit [**2022 ACB Convention YouTube Playlist**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8lZLvTN7ZUi9oew10I4uIndK0H3LgFtt) to access all 8 videos.

# **IVIE Online Business Expo**

IVIE is holding an Online Business Expo on Nov. 12 from 11:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. To participate, or more information, send an email to [**info@ivie-acb.org**](mailto:info@ivie-acb.org)with your request to present/exhibit. Be sure to send your business name, product line, your telephone number, and your email address. If you wish to shop at the IVIE Online Business Expo, send an email to [**info@ivie-acb.org**](mailto:info@ivie-acb.org), or contact Ardis Bazyn at (818) 238-9321.

# **Electronic Version of Talking Book Topics**

Are you missing the large print version of Talking Book Topics? There’s one place you can find various versions of TBT: [**https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/**](https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/). The HTML for November/December is already up. Other versions will be posted as they become available.

There are several different versions of TBT on this page. The HTML version allows the user to make adjustments in type size and contrast using the accessibility tools on the right side of the page. Also available are an accessible PDF version, and different sections (children, adults, Spanish) of the magazine for those who want a hard copy but don’t want to print the whole issue. The final link takes you to the audio version on BARD.

# **NBP Seeks Applications for Touch of Genius Prize**

The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation is taking applications for the 2023 year! Applications are due **January 13, 2023**.

The Touch of Genius Prize was developed to inspire entrepreneurs, educators, or inventors to continue the promotion of braille and tactile literacy for blind and deafblind people worldwide. This prize can be granted for innovative and accessible computer software applications, tactile hardware, or curriculum that promotes braille and/or tactile literacy. Full application details and more information can be found at [**www.touchofgeniusprize.org**](http://www.touchofgeniusprize.org).

Questions? Send email to [**geniusprize@nbp.org**](mailto:geniusprize@nbp.org).

# **Blindness Statistics from CDC**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, West Virginia, Mississippi, and Arkansas have the highest rates in the country of people reporting blindness or difficulty seeing. It also found 38% of Americans don’t have an eye doctor and 63% don’t have vision insurance, despite 70% of people needing prescription glasses.

* 1 in 10 Americans haven’t been to the eye doctor in 6+ years
* 58% have refractive errors (blurred vision, nearsightedness, etc.)
* States with the best patient-to-doctor ratios: Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Montana
* The worst patient-to-doctor ratios: Louisiana, Tennessee, and South Carolina

View the results of the survey at [**https://www.nvisioncenters.com/finding-an-eye-doctor/**](https://www.nvisioncenters.com/finding-an-eye-doctor/).