# **Dots and Dashes**

# **September 12, 2022**

# **ACB Mental Health and Wellness Committee**

In an effort to promote mental health and emotional well-being among persons who are blind and have low vision, ACB President Dan Spoone, with the support of the board of directors, has established the Mental Health and Wellness Committee (MHWC).

This committee will actively identify areas of needed advocacy and propose solutions that will positively impact the lives of people living with vision loss. The MHWC will present programs with the goal of sharing information about mental health and wellness while actively fighting the stigma surrounding prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. Distribution of resourceful information such as hotline numbers and state and federal registries will also be a part of MHWC activities. Collaboration with ACB committees, and state and special-interest affiliates, will be an essential element of the committee’s work.

If you are interested in serving on the MHWC, you are encouraged to apply by September 14th. [Fill out the form here!](https://forms.gle/Lsv9Dr8tQ8tfA9WR7) If you have questions, contact Pam Shaw, chair, via email, acb.mhwc@gmail.com.

**Call for Questions About Webb Space Telescope Photos & Alt Text**

Have you experienced the beauty and awe of the incredible photos taken by NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope? The scientists, writers, and educators from the Space Telescope Science Institute want to make space accessible for everyone, and have created vividly detailed alt text for every photo that has been released. These image descriptions can be found in the [Webb’s First Images Gallery](https://webbtelescope.org/news/first-images/gallery) under “Download Options.” In recognition of this valuable resource, the American Council of the Blind will be hosting a community event with representatives from the Space Telescope Science Institute to discuss how their team have collaborated with one another to make the photos accessible to people who are blind or low vision. We would love to hear from you with any questions that you have for their team. If your question is selected, we will meet with you to pre-record your question, which will then be aired during the live event. If you would like to submit a question, please email kgasque@acb.org **by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 16th.** This event will be a great opportunity to learn how NASA and the Space Telescope Science Institute are bridging the gap in access and inclusion for people with disabilities. More details about the event will be coming soon — stay tuned.

# **Hear Images from the James Web Space Telescope**

Experience the beauty of space through soundscapes. Newly released sonifications have mapped data to sound, allowing us to listen to a musical representation of images from the NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope. Learn more by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/4jmmfdnz>.

# **Emmy Awards Live with AD**

The [74th Emmy Awards](https://www.emmys.com/) will be airing on NBC with live audio description, provided by Descriptive Video Works, tonight at 8 p.m. Eastern. The broadcast will be available with additional audio narration, describing the rich visuals of the Emmys. If you would like to contact your local video programming distributor about any issues receiving audio description (also known as Network SAP), please use the Audio Description Project’s website to find their contact information: [https://adp.acb.org/tv.html#problems](https://adp.acb.org/tv.html?fbclid=IwAR3XVXD5B7bzVVMuOkMF-qqmpZSzcRwNWAiXLoOWH42fvuuI9AFwsahN0qs#problems).

# **Help Make Home Diagnostics Tests More Accessible**

ACB is sharing a survey on behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Georgia Institute of Technology to receive user feedback on the accessibility of COVID and home diagnostics tests. Whether you have taken a COVID home test or not, your feedback is incredibly valuable to inform this research and improve all future forms of home diagnostic testing. Please help us gain more equitable access to at-home testing by taking 15-20 minutes to share your thoughts and experiences in response to this survey: <https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bdqaz5GtByY4H1I>.

# **WBU Jobs Available**

The World Blind Union is looking to hire a Human Rights Policy Advisor and a Communications Specialist. Please review the attached job postings for all the details.

[Human Rights Policy Advisor](https://worldblindunion.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c3d30465cab01af49cfca7e8d&id=50a2089a41&e=584a2d0518)
[Communications Specialist](https://worldblindunion.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c3d30465cab01af49cfca7e8d&id=c835086fb9&e=584a2d0518)

Applications are due by September 14, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

# **APH Seeks Field Testers**

APH is looking for field evaluators for the Tactile Point Symbol Slate! This slate allows users to prepare and embellish tactile displays, worksheets, charts, artwork, and more. If you’re interested in being a field evaluator, complete the survey by Sept. 20th at [https://bit.ly/3pNiSVs](https://t.co/Jze5BnVYRr).

# **Seeking Older Adults with Macular Degeneration or Glaucoma**

Researchers at Georgia Tech want to learn from you about your everyday activities and challenges! Their study consists of questionnaires, which may be completed on paper or online, and an interview. You can complete the interview remotely by phone or video call.

Participants must:

* Be between the ages of 60-80
* Have a diagnosis of macular degeneration OR glaucoma forat least 10 years
* Have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses or contact lenses (or unable to see)
* Have vision loss that affects daily living activities (e.g., reading, cooking, and walking)
* Require additional magnification and/or assistive devices (outside of regular reading glasses) to read newspaper print

If you are interested in participating, contact Elena Remillard by phone, (404) 385-2564, or email, access-study@gatech.edu. For more information on the study, visit [www.TechSAgeRERC.org](http://www.techsagererc.org/).

# **Florida Open Tournament for Golfers with Disabilities**

The 17th annual Florida Open Tournament for Golfers with Disabilities and/or Mobility Challenges will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022 at Long Marsh Golf Club, located at 20 White Marsh Rd., Rotonda West, FL 33947. Pre-registering is free at <http://floridagolfmagazine.com/open/pre-register.html>. For more detailed info including tournament registration form and video of players from last year’s tournament, see <http://floridagolfmagazine.com/open>.