



Fall 2013

Ohio Connection

American Council of the Blind of Ohio
3805 N. High St., Ste. 305
Columbus, OH 43214
1-800-835-2226

A Season of Change — *By Nolan Crabb*

We traditionally think of summer as the vacation season—a time to relax, take the gentler less frenetic path, and thereby make long-lasting memories. For the leadership of ACB-O, this summer has been anything but relaxing; that said, it has certainly been memorable. I want to sincerely commend the local host committee for achieving impressive accomplishments as an integral part of the national convention's success. I heard from scores of convention attendees from throughout the nation who bathed the committee in commendations and accolades.

In addition, thanks goes to Ann Gazelle for her efforts on the organization's behalf as our executive director for nearly two years. Ann resigned in early August, and we wish her well, rejoicing with her for the fact that she has her life and her house back—both precious commodities indeed.

I also want to thank Dave Perry for his service to the organization for many years. Dave resigned his position on the state board in early August for personal and family reasons. Along with our gratitude, Dave will remain in our

thoughts and prayers as he continues to deal with the impact of his wife's ill health.

Katie Frederick has resigned her position as secretary to ACB-Ohio in order to serve as the executive director for our organization while a search committee finds a replacement. At the moment, Vicky Prahin has graciously agreed to allow a room in her house to serve as the affiliate's headquarters. That will change soon since the board has agreed to enter into a lease for office space in Columbus.

So what does all this change mean to you? It means that the affiliate and its programs and projects will press forward. Our family seminar is on track to be a success. It is slated for September 14, and we're ready this year with great volunteers and speakers. The state convention occurs November 15 through 17, and the program committee continues to prepare a memorable and informative event. We will have a session on creating 72-hour emergency kits, instruction from an Apple representative on iPhones and iPads, and

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Marching On

— *By Katie Frederick, Executive Director*

Yes, you read the author's name correctly -- I am currently serving as the executive director of ACB-Ohio. Thanks to Ann Gazelle for all she accomplished during her tenure with the organization. I enjoyed working with her to improve the lives of blind and visually impaired Ohioans.

As I transition into this position, I am doing all I can to ensure the organization runs smoothly and events proceed on schedule. This year's family seminar will take place Saturday, September 14, at the Ohio State School for the Blind, 5220 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214. The morning session will help educate parents and others interested in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. We will have a group presentation, as well as one-on-one opportunities for those involved in the IEP process to have their questions and concerns addressed. The afternoon technology sessions will focus on educational and reading apps for iDevices, magnifiers and other aids for those with low vision, and a discussion about the various reading devices specifically designed for people who are blind or visually impaired. If you would like to attend the seminar, please visit our newly redesigned website, www.acbohio.org. Feel free to email or call the office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Our upcoming annual Conference and Convention will take place at the Holi-

day Inn Worthington, 7007 North High Street, 43035, November 15-17. The Convention Program Committee is hard at work planning another packed weekend of workshops and sessions.

As I move forward in this role, I truly look forward to working with members of the board of directors, the office staff, and most of all, you, the members of The American Council of the Blind of Ohio. If anyone wants to discuss an issue, if you or someone you know is having difficulties related to blindness or low vision, or if you have an idea or suggestion as to how the organization may best move forward, get in touch with me. You are ACB-Ohio, and I want to hear what you have to say.

Contributors ...

Thanks to the contributors: **Nolan Crabb, Katie Frederick, Marc Guthrie, Michelle Hausenstaub, Irwin Hott, Don Kalman, Carl Kienzle, Terry Olandese, Mickey Prahin, Vicky Prahin, Elizabeth Sammons, Chris Schumacher, Lori Woodall.** Send items for the next issue to Vicky Prahin (prahin@hadley.edu) by November 22.

Newsline

— *By Irwin Hott*

Since June the NFB Newsline has provided an ACBO channel. You can listen to minutes of the state board and several chapters.

If you are a member of Newsline in Ohio, log in, choose option 2 for your state's information channel, and select 3 for ACB-Ohio. (These options are current as of mid-August 2013.)

Local Newsline phone numbers are

Akron: 330-247-1241
Canton: 330-409-1900
Cincinnati: 513-297-1521
Cleveland: 216-453-2090
Columbus: 614-448-1673

If you don't have local Newsline access, call 888-882-1629 to log in. To sign up for Newsline, call 866-504-7300.

(A Season of Change, Continued from page 1)

NLS Narrator Erin Jones will speak at the banquet on November 16.

With all this change happening in so short a time, the affiliate is fortunate indeed to have Michelle Spillan and Dominic DiBlasi, whose experience and dedication have been tremendously helpful as we strive to retain continuity and progress amidst the change.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The American Council of the Blind of Ohio seeks an executive director to oversee the organization's daily operations; work closely with its elected officials to craft and implement budgets, policies, and short- and long-term plans for the organization; and supervise a small staff. He/she disseminates information about the organization to the press and the general public, including current and prospective members. The salary ranges from \$25,000 to \$40,000; benefits are negotiable. The closing date for applications is October 1, 2013.

Resumes may be provided via email to: nolan.crabb@gmail.com.

For additional information, visit www.acbohio.org and select the link labeled executive director position opening.

The *Ohio Connection* is a quarterly publication of the American Council of the Blind of Ohio. Please submit your material in print or through e-mail. The next deadline is November 22, 2013. Please include your name, address, and phone number and send to: Vicky Prahin at vicky@hadley.edu.

The 52nd National Conference & Convention— Over But Not Forgotten, – *By Vicky Prahin*

The national convention in July was a success! We experienced some glitches—only to be expected when hundreds of people, most of them using canes and dogs, gather in one place. Here are some highlights for those who missed the adventure.

Attendees had many unusual tours from which to choose. Most were sold out early, especially those to the American Whistle Factory and Anthony Thomas Candy. Those who went to Fort Ancient or rode the zip line in the Hocking Hills raved about their experiences, and we heard only good reports about all others—except the rained-out Reds game!

We received delighted comments about those who offered invocations. Several did not only offer a blessing, but included interesting stories, observations, and reflections. None was too long or dry. Our entertainers throughout the week were fantastic and diverse, beginning with the elegant mastery of Bob Allen and ending with keyboard and vocals provided by Don Haines at the banquet.

Affiliate members attending workshops and discussions had a wide variety of topics to consider, including technology, teaching

techniques, and health care information.

We had concerns about not having enough volunteers, but they popped up everywhere, often at a convenient moment when someone was lost or confused. The hotel staff could not have done better; they were abundant, friendly, and always ready to lend a hand.

Two events flawed the week. During the general session on July 7, Suzanne Whalen of Dallas, Texas, fell down a flight of stairs and is still in a Columbus hospital due to severe head injuries. And, as many of you know, Brenda Dillon died on July 11; we will all miss her.

In spite of these sad incidents, more than one person commented that this was one of the best conventions ever. You should feel proud, Ohio!



Katie Frederick, Vicky Prahin, Shelley Corcoran, Denise Baumann, Mickey Prahin singing at the opening session



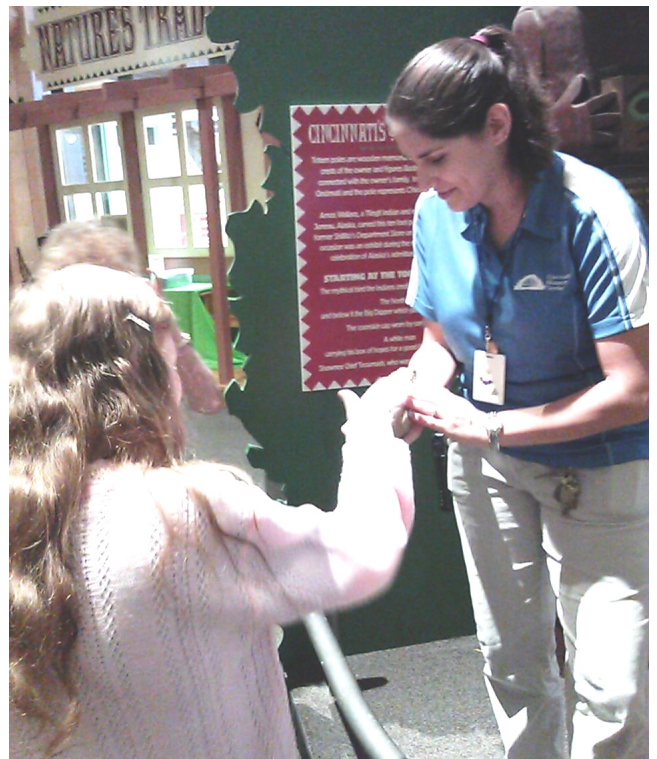
Convention attendees storm the Ohio Senate Gallery floor and explore its ornate fixtures



U.S. Department of Treasury Accessible Currency Testing with convention attendee



Convention attendees from Ohio locate their respective counties outlined on the Statehouse floor.



A convention attendee pets a bearded lizard at the Cincinnati Museum Center

State Convention Business

The nominating committee, chaired by Don Kalman, proposes the following slate to fill vacant or ending positions of officers and directors:

Officers: 1st vice-president: Jill Noble; Secretary: Karen Cayse; Directors: Rick Harmon; Carl Kienzle; Leah Noble; Vicky Prahin; Chris Schumacher; and Lori Woodall.

The Constitution & Bylaws committee, under the leadership of Melody Banks, proposes the following changes to ACB-O's constitution and bylaws. For further information about a specific article, please review the full text at www.acbohio.org.

Article I states the name of this organization; The American Council of the Blind of Ohio, hereafter now known as ACBO. The hyphen has been removed from between the B and O.

Article II explains that our organization is an independent affiliate of the ACB national organization.

Article III explains the purpose of ACBO and ways the purpose is fulfilled

Article IV states that there will be quarterly meetings of the board of directors and an annual meeting of the membership at the state convention.

Article V states that the assembled membership at convention is the supreme authority of the organization. Article VI describes how one becomes

a member of ACBO and the two categories of membership.

Article VII discusses how ACBO chapters may be formed.

Article VIII describes the voting process.

Article IX provides specific details concerning dues of ACBO, such as how and when dues may be paid, and how dues can affect membership.

Article X discusses the composition of the Board of Directors.

Article XI describes for how long officers and directors are elected and may serve on the board.

Article XII lists the duties of the board of directors.

Article XIII provides details for what is required for an amendment.

Article XIV discusses tax exempt status.

Article XV concerns the topic of corporate dissolution.

Bylaw Article I provides information concerning dues, specifically, the amount to pay to join the organization.

Bylaw Article II describes the responsibility of each chapter for reporting-membership to the state office for record-keeping purposes.

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Meet Our Scholarship Winners

— *By Vicky Prahin*



Elizabeth “Ellie” Adams attends the University of Cincinnati, in the area of Allied Health and Services towards a major in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Ellie Adams

She won the Max Edelman Scholarship for undergraduates. Ellie enjoys writing and won the All-Ohio sports editor award in 2011 for her work as sports editor at Van Wert High School. She wrote in her essay, “My biggest personal goal is to help children overcome disorders, knowing that I can relate on a firsthand basis to what they are going through and help them to rise and overcome major hurdles in their lives.” All of her references commented that Ellie is a hard worker and very goal oriented.

Kyle Perkins, winner of the David Newmeyer Scholarship, is a freshman at The Ohio State University.



Kyle Perkins

Although he had not declared a major when he applied for the scholarship, Kyle wants to study computer and informational sci-

ence. He is already a certified Microsoft specialist. Kyle’s pastor says, “Kyle is a determined young man. He brings focus and energy to the tasks that he undertakes. He does not let limitations of any kind inhibit his pursuits. Kyle attacks life and his challenges fearlessly.”

We gave the Joann Fischer Scholarship to Robert Campbell, a student at the University of Akron School of Law. In addition to



Robert Campbell

participation in several law-related programs, Robert has served as the Managing Editor of the Akron Law Review. At the time he received the scholarship, he was a Law Clerk in the Stow Municipal Court. He has helped at the law library, ensuring that documents are accessible for users of screen readers. After his cousin was murdered in 2006 and the killer went free, he determined to become an attorney to see that justice is served. He does not want other families to suffer as his is.

M&Ms in Medina

— *By Don Kalman & Mickey Prahin*

Friends n Focus, the Medina chapter, has found a unique way to raise funds. They noticed that the Lions Club had gumball machines around the area and contacted them. They told Don how to go about getting the machines and that the chapter could place them anywhere that the Lions didn't already have one.

Don purchased two gumball machines from a company in California and filled

them with plain M&Ms. He says 25 pounds of the candy cost \$94. If sales continue as they are, the Friends n Focus should see a profit by the end of the year.

Friends n Focus has about 15 members and was looking for a steady income. This could be it. Don says he's willing to share his experiences with any chapter interested.

Fund-Raising the Eye On Summit Way

— *By Michelle Hausenstaub*

Eye On Summit, the Summit County chapter of ACB-O, has three main sources of income at this time.

One of our local Lions Clubs allows us to participate in the annual sale of Entertainment and Save Around coupon books. That club takes a small percentage of the profit we earn for each sale. This has proven to be a mutually beneficial arrangement since our members have only to sell the books and collect the money while the Lions do the ordering and deliver the books to our members; we do not have to deal with any paperwork or unsold books.

Another local Lions Club sponsors an annual video horserace which attracts a large crowd. For each ticket we sell, we receive a percentage. Again, the tickets are supplied to our members and we

only deliver them to the buyers and turn the payment over to the local Lions.

Our group generally makes a good showing at the Auction at the state convention. Nearly every member donates a basket, some even send more than one. Besides all the fun of offering a unique and enticing creation, there is the fun of the auction itself with the bidding wars and the banter of the auctioneers.

While none of these endeavors requires a tremendous effort, each has proven to be quite profitable. Members may choose to participate in any one or all of these fund-raising opportunities and decide how much time and energy they will devote to that particular activity.

Fundraising is Fun!

— *By Lori Woodall*

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter has been very busy this year, having fun fundraising! First of all, in January we start contacting businesses for donations for our "Quarter Auction" to be held on October 12. A quarter auction is not a typical auction. It works like this: a person buys a Paddle for a dollar, and the paddle and an attached poker chip contain a number. If an item is worth \$25, the bidder puts a quarter in a pail on his table, adding a quarter for each \$25. The poker chip is dropped in a bucket, and a chip is selected when an item is up for auction. If the person has bid on the item, he wins; if the person has not bid, everyone yells "Loser!"

Another fun event is the "Flying Pig Marathon," which you read about in the last issue. Runners, walkers, and relay teams come from all over the country. Our group trains for months, and we have many participants. Joyce Rogers walked this year even though she broke her leg back in November.

In May we also participate in the St. Bernard block party, having a table with our information. Last year we sold bracelets for discounts on drinks and received half of the proceeds from the festival.

We are now selling raffle tickets for "December Delights." The tickets cost \$10 each, and you will have a chance to win each day during December, winning

up to \$1000. Contact any A.C.B.O.G.C.C. member to purchase your tickets.

Finally, each month at our meetings we sell tickets for a "split the pot."

Come join us at any time. For more information about becoming a member, contact President Terry Olandese at (513) 851-6445.

(State Convention Business Continued from page 6)

Bylaw Article III provides a brief description of the structure and composition of standing committees.

Bylaw Article IV discusses the role the affiliate President shall play if a complaint is received concerning a chapter not following its constitution and bylaws.

ACB-O Community Shares Campaign Codes

State of Ohio 19003
City of Columbus 60240
Franklin County 60240
Ohio State University 60240
Columbus State Comm. College 1061

From the Desk of the Recreation Chairman

— *By Chris Schumacher*

I experienced many firsts this summer. I participated in the three events of the flying pig marathon in Cincinnati. This was such a rewarding experience that I have already made plans to do it again next year. If you would like to join us, it's not too early to start training.

Taking part in the 2013 ACB National Conference and convention was very educational. It actually started in August of 2012 when I joined the local host committee. I served on other committees as well. Katie Frederick and I were in charge of the welcome party, and we did our best to make it enjoyable. I heard plenty of positive feedback. I learned many things during the convention and hope that I can use the knowledge to make the state convention more fun, too.

At the end of the convention, some of us decided to go to the Hocking hills to try the zipline. The group consisted of three totally blind people, one partially sighted person, and two sighted individuals. Each blind person was paired with a guide to prevent striking a tree at the end of each zipline.

The Summer Sports Retreat took place during the first weekend in August. It was a little chilly,

but we did not let that stop us from having a good time. There was lots of wonderful homemade food; the item I look forward to is the deep fried turkey, always nice and juicy.

Our next event is the Winter Sports retreat. It will be held over Martin Luther King Weekend at Pundersun State Park outside Cleveland. If you like good food and good times, consider going. It does not matter whether you are a snow bunny or a bar fly; there is something for you to enjoy at Pundersun.

If you have questions about anything I mentioned, contact me at 614-636-3222 or acboassist@gmail.com.

Remember to stay active!



The zipline group with guides in Hocking Hills

Finding New Horizons

— *By Marc Guthrie, Director of Public Outreach*

Several weeks ago I contacted an Ohio sports writer, Hal McCoy, about supporting our organization, particularly the endowment at Wright State University (WSU). Hal McCoy has covered the Reds for *The Dayton Daily News* for 37 years and still keeps up a blog titled “The Real McCoy.” Mr. McCoy won the prestigious Major League Baseball Hall of Fame's J. G. Taylor Spink Award, awarded "for meritorious contributions to baseball writing." This recognition is the highest award given by the Baseball Writers Association of America to one of its members. His work as a sports writer was recently highlighted on Fox Sports Ohio, where he still writes about the Reds and major league baseball. The TV story focused on the fact that he has been legally blind since 2003.

Last month Katie Frederick and I had lunch with him and talked about connecting with our organization. WSU Assistant Vice-President Bill Shepard hosted our luncheon. Hal expressed a willingness to assist with advancing our mission; he is especially interested in supporting our efforts to expand our endowed scholarship at WSU. I'm working with Bill Shepard to look at ways that Hal can help us grow the WSU scholarship fund, which is awarded annually to a blind or VI student. Katie and I left our meeting, convinced that he wants to be supportive.

Though Hal will be traveling during our state convention this year, he may be able to speak at our 2014 gathering. He is a dynamic speaker.

I'm looking forward to attending the Family Seminar on September 14 at OSSB. I encourage you to pass the word about this important event and to remind folks that registration is available via our spiffy new website at www.acbohio.org/family-seminar. I wish to acknowledge the Ohio Lions Foundation for sponsoring our seminar for the sixth year. This year the Lions donated \$1,250; without their generosity this informative event might not be possible. We all appreciate this extraordinary gift from an extraordinary organization!



Connecting the ACB-Ohio Financial Dots

— *By Carl Kienzle*

Have you ever tried connecting dots on a puzzle or in your mind to events, people, places, or in games? It isn't always easy, especially as we age. Last year I was asked to connect some "dots" for ACB-Ohio. Previously, Marc Guthrie connected dots by creating endowed scholarships at three Ohio Universities so that visually impaired and blind students in Ohio wouldn't have to miss equal educational opportunities "dots," delaying educational and personal growth. In the last decade Ken Morlock, the former Executive Director of ACB-Ohio connected "dots" by running a bingo operation on our behalf, securing a basis of the funding we have today for all the great programs and information we provide.

This past year I have had a learning curve and some personal challenges in the quest of learning grant writing. We are extremely fortunate to have on our board Melody Banks, who has grant writing experience. We have started slowly, but I believe we will be connecting "dots" in finding funding resources to keep us going soon. We have someone at Community Shares writing a grant proposal for us.

You, the members and the chapters, are "dots" we need to connect also. We won't grow without the vitality and growth of one another. We have a

matching grant program between the state affiliate and chapters. Chapters are the bloodlines of our affiliation with ACB National. Without the chapters there is no state convention, sports retreats, family seminar, or other programs. My next plea is for each of you to think and let us know of grants and foundations or fundraisers that may help us all grow as ACB members here in Ohio. Contact our Executive Director with suggestions at 800-835-2226 or ACBO.DIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM.

Trip to Kenya

Dana Metcalf of Cincinnati will be taking a mission trip with LifeSpring Christian Church this October 31 to Kenya. The church has adopted an area called Kosovo in the Mathare Slums outside Nairobi, committing to help the church, school, and residents. They will help with vacation Bible school, medical screening, working with the disabled, and educating families. In order to take part in this trip, Dana has tried to raise funds to cover expenses. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, make **your check payable to LifeSpring Christian Church with "Kenya Trip" on the memo line.** Mail to **Mission Trip, LifeSpring Christian Church, 1373 West Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231.**

Experiences of a Delegate

— *By Terry Olandese*

This wasn't the first convention I've been to, but, because I served as the Ohio delegate, it was most interesting and fun.

I arrived on Saturday, got checked in, and prepared to get to work for the state of Ohio. The nominating committee met on Sunday evening. This was my first time meeting with them and I was a little apprehensive. Someone told me that some of the meetings could last for hours. I was sitting there smelling some of the food that others brought in and wondering if I should have brought something. We first went through the slate of candidates, voted on them, and, to my surprise, the whole process from start to finish only took about 90 minutes!

There were 26 resolutions which we had to consider. As usual, some passed and some didn't.

On Thursday it was time to vote. To say that I was a bit nervous would be an understatement. With the help of the alternate delegate, Melody Banks, along with Leah and Jill Noble and our favorite Cincinnati member Sue Wesley, I managed to get through it.

It was a lot of fun, and I would do it again if I were asked. Thanks again for a marvelous convention and I for one am looking forward to the state convention, November 15-17.

News Bytes, *By Elizabeth Sammons*

Sign up for the Disability Jobs Summit offered by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission October 8-9, Columbus Convention Center. For more information and registration, please visit <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e7r06btff803c206&llr=rb76ilcab>.

Learn about eight ways to spend less on back-to-school electronics at http://m.yahoo.com/w/ygo-frontpage/lp/story/us/3402826/coke.bp%3B_ylt=A0WTTlqi5gBS5H8AygEp89w4%3B_ylu=X3oDMTFya21rY2xjBGNwb3MDMQRjc2VjA21vYmlsZS10ZARpbmRsA3VzBHBzZwNpZC0zNDAyODI2BHBvcwMzBHNsawNtb3JI?ref_w=frontdoors&view=today&.intl=us&.lang=en

After this summer's National Governors Association meeting, many Governors have vowed to begin working with disability advocates and business leaders on raising disability employment in their states. Learn more at <http://www.disabilitycoop.com/2013/08/06/governors-focus-disabilities/18457/>



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FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND



2013 ACB-Ohio Datebook

Summer Board Meeting

Via conference call
September 6-7

Family Fun Day—Sponsored by
the Cleveland Regional Library
September 11 (Cleveland)

TUKANDU Events

September 7
September 21
October 5

Family Seminar

Columbus, Ohio
September 14

ACBO State Convention

Columbus, Ohio
November 15-17

For more information on any
upcoming ACB-Ohio events,
call (800) 835-2226 or log on to
www.acbohio.org.