



Winter 2010

Ohio Connection

American Council of the Blind Ohio

P.O. Box 307128 Gahanna, OH 43230

1-800-835-2226

ACB Ohio 2010 Convention Roundup

— *By Katie Frederick*

The 2010 ACB Ohio Convention – “Accessibility and Communications Brings Opportunity” – held November 5-7 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, Ohio, was a resounding success. It featured terrific guest speakers, informative workshops, a host of first-rate vendors and a lot of fun and camaraderie.

The conference kicked off on Friday afternoon with the opening of the exhibit area, which was filled with more exhibitors and quality goods than ever before. Later in the afternoon, exhibitors took turns describing some of their featured items on display.

Conventioneers gathered for the traditional Friday afternoon meetings, including a first-time attendee gathering and a meeting of the Ohio Guide Dog Users Group.

Max Edelman, a holocaust survivor who was blinded during his time in a prison camp, delivered an unforgettable keynote address Friday evening. Max talked about some of the struggles he has overcome, but he also encouraged

those in attendance to never give up and to keep on advocating for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Dan Conners, director of the Bureau of Services to the Visually Impaired, gave us insight into the agency's future during the Saturday morning breakfast. The annual business meeting followed Dan's talk.

We brought back the three-concurrent workshop format this year and participants seemed to enjoy having an assortment of workshops from which to choose. Our morning session consisted of an employment session, a beginning technology session, and a discussion on new regulations pertaining to the ADA.

We were pleased to have motivational speaker Blake Lindsay as our Saturday lunch speaker. Blake spoke about the importance of a positive attitude and how it can impact our lives. Saturday

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From the President's Desk — *By Nolan Crabb*

I almost feel a certain sense of guilt as I contemplate taking space in this publication to communicate with you. It seems a bit odd, frankly, to be on this side of the desk. I'm much more familiar with the side of the desk where our editor Terri Kevany sits — a chair from which you're constantly looking for ways to cut the copy without significantly altering its meaning—ways to tighten the message without playing God and imposing your own style on the messenger. I've learned in this short paragraph that it's far easier to tighten and fix someone else's copy than it is to be self-disciplined about mine.

I'm grateful to those of you who attended the convention and cast your vote on my behalf. I wish that the election had been more competitive, but the lack of opposition doesn't detract from the legitimacy of the result.

As I approach this job with a healthy amount of personal trepidation, I'm reminded of the words of a personal hero of mine—words spoken amidst the horror, bloodshed, and turbulence of the Civil War. In his final message to Congress as 1862 drew to a close, President Lincoln said, "We can succeed only by concert. It is not "Can any of us imagine better?" but "can we all do better?"

This isn't the first time you've seen in these pages a call to greater involvement on the part of the members of ACB Ohio, but it may be a first in terms of some of the differences that separate the coming year from our past.

This organization desperately needs to build capacity. The alternative is a kind of pernicious burnout on the part of that tiny cadre of people who are being asked to do the work. I believe deeply that we retain members only to the degree that we understand and teach the immense value of our history and traditions, assign each member some kind of meaningful task, and ensure that every member has a friend within the organization. If any one of those three components is missing, we run the real risk of losing valuable talent and members. When that happens, the same tiny handful of people who do the work continue to do it until they scream "Enough!" and walk away never to look back.

Building capacity in the organization is very nearly as important as finding badly needed dollars to keep it alive. We live in an era of apathy—a time when people are seriously asking whether social networking will ultimately take the place of face-to-face organizations like ACB Ohio.

The apathy and the burgeoning nature of social networking will inevitably change the organization in ways we don't fully comprehend. Fortunately, apathy is neither eternal nor inevitable. If we think carefully and act well, we can actually enhance our position in the state by using social networking facilities like Facebook and Twitter to our advantage.

Mr. Lincoln is right; we can succeed only by concert. In other words, only by

From the President's Desk (*Continued*)

working together actively can we meet the financial and political challenges that lie ahead for the organization. It is indeed easy to imagine better, as Mr. Lincoln put it, but the time for doing better is very much upon us.

As usual, he makes my point better than I do with these words: "As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew." I've heard a great deal of gloom and doom since the recent election about how blind and visually impaired Ohioans will suffer for one reason or another as a result of the election. I must tell you, I grow impatient with that mentality. Yes, it is inevitable that many of the things we've taken for granted are about to change. But rather than cowering and engaging in angst-saturated pronouncements, I challenge us all to think and act anew—to use the changes politically in the state as an opportunity to ask the hard questions and find the hard answers.

We will serve one another well if we can find the courage to ask the hard questions instead of merely accepting the kneejerk assumptions and presumptions of the past. If one of our favored programs is in financial and political trouble, rather than cower in a corner, let's work in concert to ask questions about our program.

Can we educate those newly elected individuals and thereby help them make better decisions? Can we as an affiliate take a hard look at our favored causes and ask whether those can be altered to

meet the new challenges in which we live without damaging or destroying those programs? I'm convinced we will succeed over the next two years only if we can truly work in concert as never before and think and act anew by asking the hard questions and having the courage to seek the hard answers.

New Faces for ACB Ohio — *By Mary Hiland*

The election of the ACB Ohio Board of Directors was held during the business meeting at the recent annual convention. It is my pleasure to introduce to you our new ACB Ohio President Nolan Crabb, First Vice President Jill Noble, Treasurer Robert Rogers, and Secretary Katie Frederick.

New board members elected to the board are Melody Banks from Cincinnati, Shirley Roberts from Dayton, and Joyce Rogers from Cincinnati. My sincere thanks go to retiring board members Enjie Hall and Carl Kienzle for all that they have contributed to our organization's success.

Linda Wyman will now serve as Immediate Past President, and I am grateful that she will be around to lend a hand. I look forward to working closely with all of these folks. Together, I am sure we will continue to make a difference in the lives of Ohioans who are blind or visually impaired throughout the state.

From the Director's Chair — *By Mary Hiland*

Each year, the ACB Ohio Board sets goals, objectives and strategies for carrying out its mission. This exercise keeps us focused and allows us to review our successes and assess our progress at the end of the year. Here is a summary of our 2010 accomplishments.

Goal: Be a support and information resource to families of children who are blind or visually impaired.

Success: Our fourth annual Building Blocks for a Brighter Future seminar in September provided valuable information for parents of children who are blind and offered opportunities for networking and sharing.

Goal: Provide technology support and education for people who are blind or who have low vision.

Success: In May we hosted the "All Technology All the Time" seminar at The Ohio State University. We demonstrated Windows 7, various note-taking devices, cell phones, and GPS systems. What set this seminar apart from others was that those demonstrating the devices also use the products themselves.

Goal: Preserve and promote the use of Braille among people who are blind or visually impaired.

Success: In addition to constantly advocating for Brailled menus, conference materials, and signage, we conducted our second annual "Touch of Wonder" Braille reading and writing contest for young students. Although speech technology has greatly improved our access

to print material, ACBO continues to believe in and encourage Braille literacy.

Goal: Be the primary resource for newly blinded individuals around the state.

Success: During the past year, our information and referral line has been a lifeline to more than 100 individuals who either are experiencing vision loss or who have a family member who is dealing with blindness. I listen, offer suggestions, and make resource referrals for additional help. When appropriate, I encourage callers to attend a local ACB Ohio chapter meeting and to join us at our annual state convention or one of our many seminars.

My thanks to Linda Wyman for her dedication to carrying out these goals during her term as president. We will continue to set challenging goals and reach exciting results under the leadership of Nolan Crabb, our new president for 2011-2012. I encourage all members to contact me with your ideas, suggestions and input.

Contributors . . .

Thank you to ACB Ohio members who contributed to this issue of the *Ohio Connection*: **Nolan Crabb, Katie Frederick, Marc Guthrie, Mary Hiland, Carl Kienzle, Dave Perry, Vicky Prahin, and Joyce Rogers.**

Celebrating 30 Years — *By Joyce Rogers*

After a little delay and some minor panic, ACB Ohio's Greater Cincinnati Chapter held its 30th anniversary celebration on October 5, 2010, at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Covedale. By all accounts, this was the first anniversary ever celebrated by the chapter. The idea of such a celebration was introduced at a monthly meeting in the spring. Sandy Wilbur, one of the chapter's founders and still an active member, bravely volunteered to chair the event planning committee.

Although we technically celebrated the anniversary one year late (the chapter began in 1979), Sandy and her committee doggedly pursued the plan of honoring past presidents and long-time members and of featuring the talents of our present membership.

The other three founders were Dean Wilbur, the late George Coorey, and the late Ken Marrs. Dean Wilbur, also a past president, was among the six presidents who shared memories with more than 90 members and guests in attendance. Because of our very welcomed but larger than expected attendance, we had to find a roomier location than our original choice for our celebration, and the size and kind of place we needed was as scarce as are live turkeys on Thanksgiving.

St. Teresa of Avila Church, located on the west side of Cincinnati, has been my home church for 42 years. Avila Hall turned out to be a wonderful place for our event.



Allen Gerard, 11-year-old grandson of the late George Coorey, honored us with music.

Interspersed with memories from past presidents and the presentation of certificates for memberships of five, 10 and up to 30 years, talented members and invited guests provided delightful entertainment. Allen Gerard, the 11-year-old grandson of our own very special George Coorey, honored us by playing the piano. We also appreciated Jane Strohmeier's playing the piano and Jacque Perry and Annie Donnellon singing a song or two. Mary Hiland and Linda Wyman traveled from Columbus to honor us and to say a few words. As chapter president, I was able to present Sandy Wilbur with an ACB Lifetime Membership award in recognition of all her hard work and dedication.

We were blessed to be part of a grand evening of reminiscences, entertainment and good food. Thanks to Sandy Wilbur and her committee for planning such a memorable event and to all who shared in our anniversary celebration!

2010 Scholarship Recipients — *By Vicky Prahin*

Congratulations to the eight students who won this year's ACB Ohio scholarships. The winners, who hail from all over the state of Ohio, were honored at the annual state convention in November.

David Newmeyer Scholarship (\$2,000)

Sandra Sommers, North Canton
Sandra is pursuing a degree as an Assistant Physical Therapist at Stark State University.

Max Edelman Scholarship (\$2,000)

Stephanie Fernandes, Steubenville
Stephanie is a senior at Boston College earning a degree in Communications.

JoAnn Fischer Scholarship (\$2,500)

Barbara Stahl, Spring Valley
Barbie is a second-year law student at the University of Dayton.

Linwood Walker Scholarship (\$2,500)

Lindsey Hall, Portsmouth
Lindsey is a graduate student at Shawnee State University working toward a Masters degree in Special Education.

Nola Webb-McKinney Scholarship (\$2,000)

Jenna Karg, Upper Sandusky
Jenna will pursue a degree as either a Mild/Moderate Intervention Specialist or a Special Education teacher at Bowling Green State University

Endowed Scholarship at the University of Toledo

Shannon Dunigan, Toledo
ACB Ohio established this scholarship, with a \$25,000 matching grant from the university; it is awarded to students planning to teach children who are blind.

Endowed Scholarship at Wright State University

Lauren Adams, Pickering
A result of a \$25,000 matching grant from the university, Lauren is majoring in psychology.

Endowed Scholarship at The Ohio State University

Megan Rutschilling, Blacklick.
Megan is completing her Masters of Education in Vision Impairments and Certification in Orientation & Mobility.

For more information on ACB Ohio scholarship opportunities, logon to www.acbohio.org.



Keeping Connected — *By Marc Guthrie*

ACB Ohio had an exceptionally exciting convention this year. I was elated to see and meet our scholarship winners, and I'd like to send a special note of appreciation to Jeff Vernooy and Bill Shepard for driving over from Wright State University for our awards event. WSU continues to distinguish itself as one of America's leading universities in serving students with disabilities.

Since we last connected, our Community Shares application has been submitted. Mary Hiland did a tremendous job preparing our application. I am reasonably confident that the Community Shares board will approve our application, and that in the fall of 2011 ACB Ohio will be listed as an eligible charity with the State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC).

If our application is approved, more than 50,000 state employees will have the option of supporting ACB Ohio via payroll deduction. Our affiliation with Community Shares can be the fruit tree that produces annually to support ACB Ohio's mission. I'm certain that our three endowed university scholarships, Building Blocks for a Brighter Future seminar, and annual scholarships will attract state employees to our mission.

Since my last writings, ACB Ohio held its wonderfully successful Building Blocks for a Brighter Future seminar. Every year we see this event grow. This year was especially exciting because many VI teachers attended much of the morning session. I was so im-

pressed with the event and its dynamic seven year old speaker, Caiden, that I wrote a column in my local paper about his inspiring speech.

Caiden lost his eyesight to a rare cancer of the retina at age four. Today, he is cancer free and is a gifted second grader at the Ohio State School for the Blind. Caiden's parents, Darci and Jamie, are wonderful advocates for Caiden and his siblings. The family actually moved from Michigan to Ohio because they felt that Caiden's special needs could be better met in the Buckeye State.

I encourage members to use every opportunity to spread the word about what we do and who we are. Our words and our actions further entrench ACB Ohio as the number one advocate for Ohioans who are blind and visually impaired.

I wish to acknowledge Linda Wyman's unselfish service as our president for the last two years. Linda has been a tremendous advocate for ACB Ohio and we are lucky that she made our mission her priority. Best wishes to new board president Nolan Crabb, as he undertakes his new duties.

The next time we connect will be 2011. Until then, I wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

Marc Guthrie provides counsel to ACB Ohio on fundraising and advocacy matters. His e-mail address is marcguthrie@hotmail.com.

2010 Conference *Continued from page 1*

afternoon's workshop session topics included advanced technology, budgeting and investing, and recreation and leisure. Topics at the third and final workshop session included fitting in with sighted peers, tips and tricks for daily living, home maintenance and life organization, and a Diabetes workshop.

Saturday evening we enjoyed our annual banquet and ACB Ohio auction. The banquet address was given by NLS talking book narrator Anne Hancock, whose presentation was a favorite among conference attendees. The banquet also included a presentation of the annual ACB Ohio awards. See page 10 for award winners.

The annual scholarship awards were presented during Sunday morning's breakfast. See page 6 for a complete listing of scholarship winners. Following breakfast, conference-goers were able to choose among three breakout sessions. The first offered a panel discussion on low vision issues, the second was a meeting of the Ohio Alliance of Visually Impaired Students (OAVIS), and the third session's discussion focused on one's "bucket list."

Thank you to all of the ACB Ohio board members and volunteers who helped make the 2010 convention a true success. For those members who were unable to attend this year's convention, we encourage you to join us next year. Stay tuned to future issues of the *Ohio Connection* for 2011 convention details!

An Apology and a Solution

Recently, the cassette editions of the *Ohio Connection* may have arrived in your mailbox either blank or garbled. We apologize for not delivering the quality product you have come to expect. Our cassette duplicator has gradually been dying. But we have found a solution and board member Irwin Hott has come to our rescue. Irwin will be duplicating the tapes at the office of Newsreel Magazine (www.newsreelmag.org) at no cost to ACB Ohio. Our sincere thanks to Irwin for saving the day for those who aren't quite ready to give up their cassette tape editions.

Membership Contest Winners

Each year at the ACB Ohio annual convention, awards are given to chapters who grow in membership. Taking home the awards this year were the Columbus chapter with 11 new members and the Cleveland chapter with a 200 percent increase in membership. Teresa Noble won the drawing for a free 2010 membership. Congratulations to our chapter winners. Let's keep growing in 2011!

2011 ACB Ohio Membership Application

Please take this form to a local chapter or mail it along with dues to:
ACB Ohio, P.O. Box 307128, Gahanna, OH 43230

Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Fully Sighted? No _____ Yes _____

Membership New _____ Renewal _____

ACB Ohio Newsletter Format: *The Ohio Connection*

Choose One: Audio Cassette Large Print E-mail

ACB National Newsletter Format: *The Braille Forum*

Choose One: E-mail Large Print Audio Cassette
Braille 3.5 inch Computer Disk

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

_____ \$15 Chapter
(LIST CHAPTER) _____

_____ \$15 At-Large

_____ \$25 Non-Profit Organizational

_____ \$30 Sponsor Member (Individual and "Sponsor" a College Student)

_____ \$100 Corporate Member (Individual or Organization)

_____ \$500 Patron

ACB Ohio Member Remembered, Posthumously Honored — *By Nolan Crabb*

At ACB Ohio's recent convention, long-time member George J. Coorey was posthumously awarded the organization's Ambassador award. Joyce Rogers, who placed his name in nomination, remembered George this way:

"I first met George Coorey during my college days in the 1960s when I bowled with the Cincinnati Blind Bowlers. I immediately saw George as a role model and a friend. Besides being kind, friendly and funny, he seemed to personify all that people with visual impairments could become: happy, successful and compassionate.

George was one of the three founders of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter in 1979. To my younger self, George was the American Council of the Blind in all its triumph and glory. He was the father of six children; worked as a professional musician; and made people laugh with his wit and humor. I am not sure about his bowling ability.

One of my last and most cherished memories of George is his standing up in August of 2009 and speaking passionately before the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County strongly opposing the closing of the library for the blind. Whenever George spoke on behalf of people who are visually impaired he spoke with knowledge, intelligence, respect, courage, passion, and, of course, humor. He was an advocate for ACB

and its members and a wonderful person to know. George left this world on April 22, 2010, at the age of 83, but his spirit and courage will forever make this sometimes crazy world a better place.

When our chapter worked on getting audible traffic signals installed in downtown Cincinnati, George was there. When we worked on making voting machines accessible, George was there. When we needed to tell the library board of trustees a thing or two about how we loved our library for the blind, George was there. And, when we got H.R.3101 and S.3304 passed in Washington D.C. this summer, we know George was there with his fellow ACB advocates feeling the elation and triumph of gaining equal access to technology. Thank you, our friend, our role model, and our exemplary ACB Ambassador."

Other ACBO awardees include Donna Faust, the former director of the talking book library in Cincinnati, who received the Ruth Davidson Award, the city of Columbus Traffic Engineer's office, who received the Municipality Award, and ACBO board member Joyce Rogers, who received the organization's Media Award for her work in writing for a Cincinnati-area weekly paper.

It's not too early to begin thinking about nominations for the 2011 awards. Look for additional information in an upcoming issue of the *Ohio Connection*.

“Eye Opener” Coffee Blend on Sale Now — By Carl Keinzle

Looking for a unique gift idea this holiday season? ACB Ohio is selling its special Eye Opener Coffee Blends just in time for the gift giving season. A percentage of all sales benefit ACB Ohio. At just \$10 a bag, these great tasting and great smelling coffee bags make perfect stocking stuffers. This is a great fund raiser for us! The bags are selling fast, so pick up yours today and buy one for a friend! Other great flavored coffees and teas are also available for purchase. To buy the coffee, look for ACB Ohio on the “Give Back” page at www.stoneycreekroasters.com. You can also call 937-697-5200 to place your order.

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 February 22, 2011. Please include your name, address and phone number and send to: Terri Kevany, Editor, at takevany@roadrunner.com or call (216) 251-0484.

Let Me Count the Ways — By Mary Hiland

Have you ever missed an event sponsored by ACB Ohio? Did you wonder why you hadn't heard about it? It sure wasn't because we didn't try to get the word out.

In order to keep our members informed of ACB Ohio activities and keep you up to date on all of our educational and entertaining events throughout the year, we offer the *Ohio Connection* newsletter in large print, on cassette, via e-mail, on our website, and on the Ohio Telephone Reader. We also have an ACB Ohio Membership List, where you can find out what's happening with other chapters and make announcements about your own chapter.

If you have not been receiving information you need, call the ACB Ohio office at 614-221-6688, or toll-free at (800) 835-2226 or you can e-mail me at mary.hiland@wowway.com. We are making every effort possible to make our communications accessible to you.



Ohio Connection
American Council of the Blind
Ohio Chapter
P.O. Box 307128
Winter 2010

**Free Matter
for the Blind or
Handicapped
P.O. Manual
Part 138**



2011 ACB Ohio Datebook

ACB Ohio Board Retreat
Holiday Inn Worthington
January 8, 2011

Winter Sports Retreat
Pundersen State Park
January 14-17, 2011

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

Be Sure to Renew Your Membership!

A 2011 ACB Ohio Membership Application appears on page nine of this issue of the *Ohio Connection*. Please be sure to fill out the form and take it to a local chapter or mail it with your annual dues no later than February 15, 2011. For more information on membership, call (800) 835-2226 or logon to www.acbohio.org.