



Fall 2012

Ohio Connection

American Council of the Blind of Ohio

P.O. Box 82234 Columbus, OH 43202

1-800-835-2226

A Sneak Peek at the 2012 Convention

— *By Nolan Crabb*

Ask most people what October means to them, and you'll likely get answers about fall weather, football, and Halloween. Ask the same question of an ACB-O member, and you'll likely hear about a conference that includes captivating workshops and discussions, hands-on opportunities to see the latest technology, and a chance to reunite with old friends and meet new ones.

The 2012 ACB Ohio State Conference and Convention, "LIGHT — Learning Inspires Growth, Health and Technology," is slated for October 26 - 28 at the Holiday Inn, 7007 N. High St., in Worthington, Ohio.

Convention workshops will include: "You Don't Have to See Well to Cook Well: Strategies That Make Cooking Easy and Fun," an extremely timely session on accessible voting, and a lunch session with ACB National Convention Coordinator Janet Dickelman, and other engaging sessions.

We'll also have an advanced technology workshop that focuses on iDevices and how to use them; a session designed to

help you determine whether a guide dog is in your future; and a speaker who will help untangle the Social Security maze.

Be sure to stop by the exhibit hall throughout the weekend to check out the dozens of vendors and their wares. And we'll once again be giving away door prizes and holding our popular auction – a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for your chapter. Bring a basket or two filled with goodies for your fellow conventioners to bid on.

The pre-registration fee for ACB Ohio members is \$70. Registration after October 15 or at the door is \$80. The cost for non-members is \$85; however this will secure your membership for 2013.

The room rate at the Holiday Inn is \$89 per night, plus tax, for single, double or triple occupancy. For reservations, call (614) 436-0700.

So be sure to join us October 26 - 28 for a weekend of learning, growing and fun! Look for registration information in your mailbox soon.

Building Blocks for a Brighter Future Family Seminar Promises Education and Fun

Don't miss out on ACB-Ohio's popular family seminar, "Building Blocks for a Brighter Future," to be held at the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus on September 29, 2012.

The seminar is packed with information and activities for families with children who are blind or visually impaired, as well as teachers of visually impaired students. The goals of this seminar are to give parents tools to work with; to encourage children to explore creative outlets through various activities; provide round-table discussion groups for parents and/or grandparents; and for families and siblings to network with one another.

The seminar is a great opportunity to learn about:

- The "alphabet soup" of special education, such as IEP and IDEA.
- Working with school administrators;
- How to support a teacher who is an advocate for your child;
- The latest technology and what is best for your child;

Our keynote speaker will be Colleen Miller, former state coordinator for the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities. Mary Jo O'Neill, founder and director of Creating an Equal Playing Field, will facilitate the event and educate families on how to advocate for your child.

There will be panel discussions, resource materials, and technology experts offering hands-on technology demonstrations. Children will enjoy a day of games and activities, while parents share and learn. Lunch will be provided.

The fee is just \$10 per family, which includes lunch and a day of learning and sharing. Pre-registration is required by September 24.

There are also limited stipends available for VI teachers and families that drive long distances and need help with fuel costs.

Sign-in and exhibits open at 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

For registration information or questions, please call Ann Gazelle, ACB-O Executive Director at (800) 835-2226 or e-mail acbo.director@gmail.com.

Contributors . . .

Thank you to ACB-Ohio members who contributed to this issue of the *Ohio Connection*: **Glenn Beachy, Nolan Crabb, Ann Gazelle, Marc Guthrie, Carl Kienzle, David Perry, Vicky Prahin, Robert Rogers, Chris Schumacher, and Linda Wyman.**

Congratulations to The Ohio Lions Foundation

selected as Community Shares of Mid Ohio Donor of the Year

The Community Shares of Mid Ohio recognized the Ohio Lions Foundation for their continuing support of ACB Ohio's annual Building Blocks for a Brighter Future family seminar.

ACB Ohio is proud to have nominated the Lions for this prestigious award.



Executive Director's Chair — *By Ann Gazelle*

Where Friends and Rivers Meet

The ACB-O Summer Sports Retreat was held in Hockingport, Ohio in August and as a first-time participant, I am happy to report that I had a wonderful time! Our main point of reference was a 3-acre site, including a trailer adorned with a wrap-around deck overlooking the Hocking River flowing south, where it quickly empties into the Ohio River flowing west. The Harris family hosts this event each year, bringing fun and pleasure to all who attend.

Friday afternoon we launched the family pontoon boat from Jody Harris' house on the Ohio River. We experienced alternating sun and shade, along with sounds of water slapping the boat, which added to our lively conversations.

Chris Schumacher was the chief captain but many of us took a whirl at the wheel. Controlling the change of direction and speed provided interest on an otherwise smooth course. But that all changed when an oil barge passed by. The low-riding platform — the length of a football field — chugged along the river with a 2-story tug pushing it from the rear, leaving large waves in its wake. It was comforting having Captain Chris at the helm when we were heaved up by a three foot wake and slammed back down.

As for real exercise, a short 10-mile tandem bike ride Saturday morning with Glenn Beachy was invigorating as we ventured out along the winding, rural roads. I quickly discovered just how hilly

this part of Ohio is, as real leg-power was required.

Glenn and I found a great spot where we could get off the bike to explore some of the local flora. Glenn is quite knowledgeable about wild flowers, so I was surprised when he asked me if I could identify a specific plant. To my own surprise, I informed him that it was a Lollipop Viburnum, with its long stems, sparsely adorned with little leaves and round, poufy, purplish flowers.



First time Summer Sports Retreat participant Ann Gazelle gears up for an adventurous tandem bike ride.

Other riders included Jill Noble who, along with Glenn, road a total of 30 miles, climbing no less than 2,465 feet. I'm tired just thinking about it.

Back at the trailer, Jill, Jenny Harris, and Emily Davis did a fine job in the kitchen so none of us would starve. On Saturday evening, they, along with a few

Director's Chair (Continued from page 4.)

other guests, created a fabulous feast including a deep-fried turkey cooked by Joe Harris. We gorged ourselves at picnic tables under the wonderful new shelter Joe recently built. We then moved to lawn chairs and snuggled around the fire where the smell and taste of roasted marshmallows mingled with great conversation.



Participants gather around the campfire for roasted marshmallows and great conversation.

Many of us gathered together for a final boat ride on Sunday. Once we were out away from shore, I stepped off the boat and onto a Jet Ski with Steve Plouk. If you have never been on a Jet Ski, it feels a bit like riding a motorcycle - including the noise. I sat behind Steve and I dug my fingers into his life jacket. until I relaxed. While skimming the water, a gasp of joy escaped Steve when he spotted a bald eagle flying over with a fish in its mouth.

Nominating Slate

The nominating slate to be voted on at the ACB Ohio State Convention in October is as follows:

Officers:

Nolan Crabb, President
Irwin Hott, Second Vice President
Robert Rogers, Treasurer

Board Members:

Terri Olandese
Don Kalman
Shirley Roberts
Melody Banks
Lynn Roberts

In addition, there is one open position.



Planning committee members Leah Noble, Katie Frederick, and Chris Schumacher planned a fantastic Summer Sports Retreat.

If this type of outdoor activity sounds fun to you, you must consider joining us next year. Although this was my first Summer Sports Retreat, it certainly will not be my last!

2013 American Council of the Blind of Ohio Membership Invitation

Come join The American Council of the Blind of Ohio, which promotes a brighter outlook for blind or visually impaired Ohioans.

We are a participating member of Community Shares of Central Ohio and are recognized by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

Membership Application Contacts

If you would like to become a member or renew your membership in a local chapter, please contact:

*Cincinnati

Terry Olandese (513) 851-6445

*Cleveland

Dave Padgett (440) 884-6316

*Columbus

Larry Honaker (614) 338-0733

*Knox County

Patty Yarman (740) 397-8492

*Mansfield

Brant Adams (419) 529-5792

*Marion

Ernie Breece (740) 382-8986

*Medina

Jean Mellow (330) 225-1306

*Ohio Parents of Children with
Visual Impairments

Rachel Miller

rlmiller423@gmail.com

*Stark County

Carolyn Burley (330) 484-3807

*Summit County

Michelle Hasenstaub (330) 686-0076

*Tuscarawas Valley

Carl Russo (330) 343-1717

*At-Large

Ann Gazelle

ACB Ohio Executive Director

(800) 835-2226

When you join a local chapter, you are automatically enrolled in the state and national ACB affiliates and will receive their newsletters, *The Ohio Connection* and *The Braille Forum*. Patron, sponsor and corporate member levels include a "Thank You" in both our *Ohio Connection* quarterly newsletter and annual convention attendee packet.

If you wish to become involved in specific activities, please call us at (800) 835-2226 and let us know in what area you would like to contribute your time and talents.

2013 ACB Ohio Membership Application

Please fill out and return this membership form today, or call your local chapter representative, listed on the previous page. Dues paid between October 26, 2012 and February 15, 2013 count for 2013. If you have already paid your dues locally at a chapter for 2013, you do NOT need to fill out this form again.

Annual dues are \$15. Please make checks or money orders payable to "ACB Ohio" and return it with this membership form by February 10, 2013. You can also join through ACB Ohio's website at www.acbohio.org and click on the "Membership Application" link. Simply fill out the form, print and take this form to a local chapter or mail it along with dues to:

ACB Ohio, P.O. Box 82234, Columbus, OH 43202

Please print your information carefully.

*Name _____ Today's Date _____
*Address _____
*City/State/Zip _____
*Phone (____) _____
*E-mail Address _____
*Fully Sighted? No _____ Yes _____
*Membership New _____ Renewal _____

*ACB *Ohio* Newsletter Format:

Please Choose One: Audio Cassette Large Print E-mail

*ACB *National* Newsletter Format:

Please Choose One: E-mail Large Print Audio Cassette
Braille CD-Rom

*MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

\$15 Member of a Local Chapter, or member-at-large _____

(LIST CHAPTER) _____

_____ \$25 Non Profit Organizational Member

_____ \$30 Sponsor Member (Individual Membership, plus "Sponsor" a
College Student)

_____ \$100 Corporate Member (Individual or Organization)

_____ \$500 Patron

2012 Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

Four amendments to the ACB-O constitution and four bylaws amendments will be proposed at the ACB-Ohio annual meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2012. The amendments follow:

Constitution article 4.6. - Simply add an additional phrase at the end of the article starting: "To be eligible to run for the position of an officer on the ACB-O board, one must be a member of ACB-O for at least six months prior to the election."

Four amendments are to the standing committees bylaw article 4.0.

(Amendment 1) Original form:

4.3. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE: The constitution and bylaws committee shall consist of at least three persons.

Proposed amendment:

4.3. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE: The constitution and bylaws committee shall consist of a chair and at least two other members.

4.3.1 The committee prepares all proposed amendments to the constitution and the bylaws to then be submitted to the ACB-O annual meeting for a vote.

4.3.2. Amendments may originate from either the committee or from the membership.

(Amendment 2) Original form:

4.6. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: There may be a committee of creden-

tials. The committee shall consist of the secretary, treasurer, and one other board member.

Proposed amendment:

4.6. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: There shall be a Credentials Committee consisting of the secretary, the treasurer, and one other board member appointed by the president. This committee shall rule on all disputes of membership and voting eligibility of chapters and individuals as it relates to ACB-O.

(Amendment 3) Original form:

4.7. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The legislative committee shall consist of at least three members.

Proposed amendment:

4.7. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The legislative committee shall consist of at least three members.

4.7.1. The committee is responsible for keeping the ACB-O board and membership abreast of state and federal legislative issues of concern.

4.7.2. The committee shall promote and/or coordinate involvement of the board and membership with legislators and the public for greater understanding and appreciation of the needs and concerns of ACB-O members.

4.7.3. The committee shall coordinate ACB-O participation in the annual Washington, D.C. legislative conference.

Amendments

(Continued from page 8.)

(Amendment 4) Original form:

4.8. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The membership committee shall consist of a chairperson to be assisted by the rest of the board.

Proposed amendment:

4.8. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The membership committee shall consist of a chair and at least three others, including the ACB-O executive director.

4.8.1. The committee is responsible for developing and implementing programs to promote ACB-O membership.

4.8.2. The committee is responsible for keeping and maintaining a current and accurate electronic membership database to enable quick delivery of membership information in accessible formats to authorized persons. The executive director and ACB-O board members are authorized.

4.8.3. The committee is responsible for delivery of dues and membership information to the ACB national office on or before the deadline of March 15.

4.8.4. Release of lists of members' addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses to individuals or organizations other than the board or executive director is prohibited. However, authorization may be granted to others by the Executive Committee or the board.

“Eye Opener” Coffee Sale and Chapter Fundraising Opportunity

— *By Carl Kienzle*

Make sure to get some of your very own of ACB Ohio's own special "Eye Opener" blend of coffee at this year's annual convention. Also, if you are interested in raising funds for your chapter through this venture we have bags ready for that opportunity.

If you would like someone from your chapter to take home some “Eye Opener” coffee from the convention, please call (937) 361-6909 or e-mail number1coffeeman@yahoo.com. Please use "coffee" in the e-mail subject heading.

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, 2012. Please include your name, address and phone number and send to: Terri Kevany, Editor, at takevany@roadrunner.com or call (216) 251-0484.

Meet Our Scholarship Winners — *By Vicky Prahin*

Two more excellent students, highlighted below, received ACB-Ohio scholarships last year..

Barbara “Barbie” Stahl, from Spring Valley, put her award to use during her final year of law school at the University of Dayton. She received her degree in May 2012, graduating summa cum laude. When she passes the Ohio bar, Barbie wants to work in a small firm, helping people plan their estates.

During her three years in law school, Barbie received about a dozen CALI awards, given to the student receiving the highest grade in the class. “I am both highly driven and goal oriented,” Barbie says. “I have an inexhaustible thirst for knowledge and an insatiable love of reading.” When asked how her blindness has affected her life, Barbie said, “I believe that blindness is in reality a special opportunity. It may present more life challenges, but it also gives a person the chance to take the more complex and interesting path through life. Rather than a hindrance, blindness is in fact a great adventure.”

Stacy (Boni) Border of Canton won the 2011 Linwood Walker Scholarship. She is working toward a degree in physical therapy, and all of her advisors and mentors speak highly of her motivation, her accomplishments, and her ability to give hope to patients. Initially, Stacy worked as a recreational therapist for several years after earning her Bachelor’s degree, but, she says, “Observing the improvements that patients were

making on a daily basis as a result of receiving physical therapy solidified my decision to return to school and achieve my goal of becoming a physical therapist.”

She has had to cut her work hours to a minimum in order to attend school full time and do all of the hands-on training necessary, so assistance from ACB-O has really helped.

At our upcoming state conference and convention, we will again award scholarships to outstanding students from around Ohio. Attendees can meet them during sessions on Saturday and after breakfast on Sunday.

Tandem Cycling Rally to be held Sept. 22

ACB-O and TUKANDU Cycling Club are holding a tandem cycling rally/fundraiser on Saturday, September 22, 2012. Visually impaired stokers and sighted captains will begin and end their routes on the trail near Loveland, but there will be several distances and routes to choose from. Cost is \$35 per person. We would love for you to join us.

Please go to www.acbohio.org for the flier and a registration form. Call Robert Rogers at (513) 921-3186 for more information on the rally. Sighted tandem teams and single bikes are also welcome.

Keeping Connected — *By Marc Guthrie*

ACB-Ohio is gearing up for the fall Community Shares employee campaign. If you know anyone who works for the State of Ohio or the City of Columbus, please encourage them to support ACB-Ohio's mission via the Community Shares payroll deduction campaign. Several Ohio United Way campaigns also allow employees to allocate funds to non-profits which may not be specifically noted in their local campaign. Therefore, it's important for folks who support our mission to ask their local United Way if they can designate their gift to ACB-O.

ACB-O recently nominated the Ohio Lions Foundation for Community Shares' Donor of the Year Award and I am pleased to report that our effort was successful. In the nomination letter, we recognized the Lions for their continuing support of ACB-O's annual family seminar. Despite a difficult financial environment, the Ohio Lions Foundation has donated \$1,000 annually for six consecutive years, as the primary sponsor of the seminar. The Ohio Lions Foundation is part of Lions International, which has made a worldwide commitment to support children and adults who are blind and visually impaired.

Speaking of our 2012 family seminar, registration information is posted on our website at www.acbohio.org. The event takes place Saturday, September 29, at the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus. I've been working with Ann and several board members in an effort to make families and VI teachers aware

of this important event. The Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Ohio posted a notice on their website homepage to invite VI teachers, and Ann was successful in getting our seminar posted in the VSA Ohio and Ohio Department of Education newsletters.

In scholarship endowment news, the University of Toledo and WSU are working with me toward growing our endowed scholarship funds. WSU recently sent a letter, under the signature of two Dayton area eye doctors, seeking financial support for our scholarship fund, and their effort is already producing contributions.

I've been working with UT regarding a similar letter to Toledo area eye doctors. Paul Rachow, a leader in the Frog Town Low Vision Support Group, has assisted me in acquiring a list of local eye doctors, which I have provided to UT. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to find a Toledo area doctor to sign a letter asking for donations to the fund.

If you know any individual, foundation or corporation that I should contact concerning financial support of ACB-O, please provide me their contact information. Best wishes until we next connect.

Marc Guthrie is ACB-Ohio's Director of Development and Advocacy. His e-mail address is marcguthrie@hotmail.com.

**ACB-O Community Shares
Campaign Code 19003**

Ohio Connection
American Council of the Blind
Ohio Chapter
P.O. Box 82234
Columbus, Ohio 43202
Fall 2012

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



2012 ACB-Ohio Datebook

ACB-Ohio/Tukandu Cycling Club
Tandem Bike Rally and
Fundraising Event
Loveland, Ohio
September 22, 2012

**Building Blocks for a Brighter
Future Family Seminar**
Ohio State School for the Blind
Columbus, Ohio
September 29, 2012

**ACB-Ohio State Conference and
Convention**
Columbus, Ohio
October 26-28, 2012

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