



Winter 2012

Ohio Connection

American Council of the Blind of Ohio

P.O. Box 82234 Columbus, OH 43202

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2012 Conference and Convention Roundup

— *By Katie Frederick*

The ACB-Ohio annual conference and convention was held in October in Columbus and I'm happy to say we had another great year. If you were unable to attend this year's event, you missed a weekend full of fun, learning, and networking. The theme for the conference was "Learning Inspires Growth, Health and Technology" or LIGHT.

Many workshops focused on health and technology, while our keynote and meal time speakers inspired us to learn and grow.

The weekend began on Friday afternoon with a workshop on getting started with Apple's Mac computer. The workshop covered very basic concepts, such as explaining and demonstrating Voice-over, the built-in screen reader on Apple devices.

Friday evening's conference keynote speaker was Luke Stedke, Volunteer Coordinator at Ohio Capital Square Advisory Board, who spoke about what our statehouse has to offer. Something new this year was a fun, interactive evening

of trivia, during which participants formed teams and had to "name that tune," complete slogans, and guess TV show theme songs.

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ACB-Ohio News

Congratulations to Marc Guthrie, ACB-Ohio's Director of Outreach and Advocacy, on his appointment by President Barack Obama to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board.

On November 16, President Obama announced his intent to appoint several individuals to key Administration posts. In the press release from the White House, President Obama said, "I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to join this Administration and serve our country. I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come."

President's Message — By Nolan Crabb

Challenges and Opportunities

It is nearly Thanksgiving as I write this, and naturally I'm prone to introspectively catalogue those people and things for which I'm grateful. It ought to be more than an annual exercise for us all, but it takes on greater importance as we approach the holiday season. So here's my rather abridged list.

I'm grateful to those of you who attended our recent convention and gave me the opportunity to serve another term. I'm convinced it will be a better and more rewarding two years for me and I hope for the organization and its members as well. It will be two years fraught with challenges and difficulty, and we will all have the glorious opportunity of asking what we can learn from the various experiences the next two years will bring. But challenges and difficulties, in the right hands, translate to opportunities and successes—which leads me to the next item on my little list.

I'm grateful for the collective wisdom of the ACB-Ohio executive committee and board. All too often, I find it easy to feel overwhelmed, forgetting that the executive committee and the board possess vast treasures of collective wisdom and goodwill which, when drawn upon, can solve a host of problems.

For example, I was deeply concerned this fall about the opportunity to stream

our state convention live on ACB Radio. I know a tiny bit about Internet broadcasting, but I lacked the experience of streaming information to ACB Radio. I fretted over that for weeks, and finally I took the matter to the executive committee in early October.

I laid out all my fears and concerns about making things work, and I had the good sense to suggest that Rick Harmon of the Eye on Summit chapter be brought in to help. To my almost-euphoric relief, the committee agreed, and Rick and I worked together on streaming parts of the state convention. The end result was a true learning experience and great first effort.

I'm grateful for the fact that we can employ staff members whose innovation and dedication to the organization is monumental. In that regard, we are a fortunate affiliate indeed.

There's much to look forward to in the coming year. We have the honor of hosting the ACB national convention next summer. Perhaps at the moment, when our excellent host committee, under Vicky Prahin's leadership, is swamped with work, gratitude for the experience is far down on the list. But when the convention has ended successfully, the host committee members and all others who work to make the national convention a success will be grateful for the things learned.

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Convention Roundup *(Continued from pg. 1)*

Saturday morning began with a breakfast presentation by Kathy Streblo, Director of the Center of Vocational Alternatives (COVA), who explained the social security maze. After breakfast, the annual business meeting took place. Elections of two officer positions gave President Nolan Crabb and Treasurer Rob Rogers their second terms. Returning board members are Shirley and Lynn Roberts and Melody Banks. Deborah Woodall, Terry Olandese, and Don Kalman joined the Board.

Following the business meeting, the first set of workshops took place. They consisted of a panel discussing adaptive cooking techniques and an informative workshop by Brett Harbage, ADA Coordinator for the Ohio Secretary of State's Office, discussing Ohio's accessible voting machines.

The 2012 lunch speaker was ACB's national conference and convention committee chair, Janet Dickleman. She spoke to the group, suggesting ways we, as the host affiliate for 2013, may assist with preparation.

Saturday afternoon's sessions covered basic technology, yoga, diabetes, and a workshop for those who use guide dogs. Deserving individuals received awards at the evening's banquet, and InnerVision, a band consisting of OSSB alumni, entertained the audience. A

rousing auction took place after the banquet, raising funds for ACB-Ohio and local chapters.

Sunday morning began with the presentation of the ACB-Ohio scholarships to worthy Ohio students. Interested attendees then had the opportunity to learn about the ins and outs of Apple's iPhone.

For the first time, parts of the conference were streamed live on ACB Radio, which gave those who could not attend a way to join in. However, it is my hope, after reading about the fun and exciting things mentioned here, you'll want to begin planning to join us in person in 2013.

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 15, 2013. Please include your name, address and phone number and send to: Vicky Prahin at vicky@hadley.edu.

From the Executive Director's Chair

— *By Ann Gazelle*

Being executive director of this fine organization keeps me interested and motivated. Some highlights of my first year as Executive Director were the Winter and Summer Sports Retreats, the Family Seminar and, most recently, our annual Conference and Convention.

The Family Seminar, which took an enormous amount of planning and coordinating, was possibly our most successful ever with 75 participants. Marc Guthrie helped tremendously by securing financial support from the Ohio Lions Foundation.

Our convention weekend was filled with great activities, speakers and learning experiences, and even provided a couple of surprises for me. I was impressed by the annual scholarship win-

ners at this year's convention. But what I was totally unprepared for was my reaction when walking through the receiving line after the scholarship ceremony. Only by mustering great control was I able to keep from sobbing as I shook hands with each of the awardees, family members, and university staff and supporters.

On a deep level, I was struck by the enormity of the effort these people embodied as they strived to accomplish what they have. I was honored to be in their presence. They most certainly deserve congratulations, just as you do for all you do.

Keep up the good work and have a Happy New Year!

President's Message *(Continued from pg. 2)*

On another matter, Marc Guthrie, our director of Outreach and Advocacy, will alter his time spent with the organization in March. Marc has been selected by the Obama administration to serve as a member of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board and we wish him well in that endeavor.

Marc will continue to work closely with the scholarship program and university endowments, as well as our Community Shares revenue enhancement program.

Vicky Prahin has agreed to assist with the Community Shares program and I've created a committee comprised of Marc, Carl Kienzle, and Melody Banks to work on expanding our fundraising efforts. You'll doubtless hear more from this talented group as the year progresses.

I wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to working with you to make 2013 a successful one for ACB-Ohio.

Membership Report: Sharing Your Greatest Gifts

— *By Dave Perry*

Everyone has a gift or a special talent – whether it be in arts, science, history, languages, or mathematics. The members and friends of ACB-Ohio, both blind and sighted, work well with people, ideas, problem solving, laughter, and giving of themselves. It is the personalities that make up this great organization and make ACB-Ohio so special.

Jill Noble from the Cleveland chapter is such an inspiration to so many people. She is the treasurer for the Cleveland chapter, and has been sharing the message with people within her community that people who are blind are able to do whatever they choose in life if they really want to. Jill serves as a vice president of ACB-Ohio and has served as the treasurer on the state level. She received this year's Ken Morlock award in appreciation of her work.

Joyce Asher is serving her fourth term as treasurer for the Cincinnati chapter. Joyce is a sighted member who is very passionate about making a difference for people who are blind or visually impaired. Joyce has worked very hard to help ACB-Ohio's Cincinnati chapter prepare for various fund raising events, and does so much to help the chapter in keeping organized so that they can be the best advocate throughout Greater Cincinnati. There is no doubt that Joyce is very special to so many people!

Lynn Roberts is a very dedicated member of the Columbus chapter and is also currently serving as a director on the ACB-Ohio board. Lynn was one of the winners of a free 2013 membership at the state convention. He is a pleasure to be around and is always willing to lend a hand.

Carl Kienzle is also on our board of directors and is such a great help to everyone that needs it. Carl also won a free membership for 2013 at this year's convention, and will always be our number one coffee man.

The chapter with the highest membership increase for 2012 is the Stark County chapter, and the Marion Chapter has recruited the most members for the second year in a row!

It is wonderful that there are so many special members and friends in this organization. It takes work from every one of us to keep us on the right track in recruiting new members and getting them involved. I encourage everyone to get more involved with ACB-Ohio within the local chapters, throughout your communities, as well as at the state level.

For more information about ACB-Ohio or how to become a member, please visit our website at www.acbohio.org or call us at (800) 835-2226. You can also call our membership assistance line at (614) 636-3222 for more information or any type of assistance.

2012 ACB-Ohio Awards Recognize Tireless Efforts

— *By Linda Wyman*

The Awards Committee proudly presented seven awards at the annual state convention banquet on October 27. The first award, the Ken Morlock Award, went to Jill Noble, who is currently first vice president of ACB-Ohio. Jill has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the blind community at the Cleveland, state, and national levels for many years. She frequently represents Ohio at the annual Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C.

The Ambassador Award, which is given to a member who has worked tirelessly for ACB-Ohio and the blind community, was awarded to Nolan Crabb, our current president. Nolan serves as Director of Assistive Technology at OSU. His varied careers and avocations include writer and editor.

Chris Schumacher received the Ruth Davidson Award, given to a sighted person who works to enhance the lives of persons who are blind or visually impaired. Chris is a member of the Greater Cincinnati chapter and serves on the Board of Directors. He especially enjoys helping with our annual sports retreats.

The Media Award, presented to a person who has written or reported about blindness or issues concerning blind or visually impaired persons, went to Deborah Kendrick for her *Cincinnati Enquirer* newspaper column and ongoing advocacy for people with disabilities.

The Community Service Award was presented to the Ohio Lions Foundation for their outstanding efforts to enhance the lives of blind or visually impaired people in the community. The Lions have supported our annual Family Seminar financially for six years. Jeff Brantner, Secretary of the Ohio Lions Foundation, accepted the award.

James Duffield received the Arlene Cohen Art of Teaching Award, which is given to a teacher who is blind or who works with students who are blind or visually impaired. James has worked with students with special needs for 40 years and is currently a Master Teacher in the Columbus public schools.

The Employer of the Year Award went to L. Scott Lissner, ADA Coordinator at The Ohio State University. Under his leadership, the office strives to ensure that its employers and employees throughout the university have access to the latest and best hardware and software available to accomplish their jobs.

See page seven for photos of all of the 2012 award winners.

For more information on the ACB-Ohio Awards program, log on to www.acbohio.org.

Congratulations ACB-Ohio Award Recipients



Jill Noble receives the Ken Morlock Award from Linda Wyman.



Nolan Crabb accepts the Ambassador Award from Marc Guthrie.



Ruth Davidson Award winner Chris Schumacher.



James Duffield receives the Arlene Cohen Art of Teaching Award.



Media Award winner Deborah Kendrick of the Cincinnati Enquirer.



Scott Lissner, director of the ADA Office at OSU, accepts the Employer of the Year Award.

World Choir Games: A Golden Opportunity

— *By Annie Donnellon*

In early July 2012, more than 360 choirs from more than 64 nations gathered in Cincinnati to compete for world championships. The festivities began on July 4th. Diverse people, glorious music, tremendous fireworks, and amazing energy flooded The US bank arena.

The overall experience of this momentous occasion is perhaps most profoundly described by African-American gospel artist Kirk Franklin: "Cincinnati, one in song; a world united, voices strong." Strong indeed were the voices that graced the stages of venues all around town: Christ Church Cathedral, The School for Creative and Performing Arts, Masonic Temple, and even Warren County Correctional Institute! I am truly honored to say that I was part of this overwhelming excitement.

For the past year, I have been a member of MUSE, a Cincinnati Women's Choir, which for nearly 30 years has brought together women of all ages, races, religious backgrounds, and lifestyles. With all of our differences, including my blindness, we meet for a twofold purpose: to promote musical excellence and social change. I have sung in a number of ensembles, and I have never felt more welcomed, included, and accepted as I have in MUSE.

Two women who have been most helpful are Jill Huppert and Elaine Bishop. From my first day with MUSE, Jill has

been a wonderful mentor and traveling companion.

On the day we competed, we wanted to gain the full experience of the various talents the choirs had to offer, and we got the best of everything. In the morning, we attended the open competition of Musica Sacra – or Sacred Music – in which choirs from Israel, Indonesia, and Capital University in Columbus performed Gregorian chants and ancient church hymns. That afternoon we attended the Jazz champion competition, which included the Vocal Jazz Ensemble of my alma mater, Northern Kentucky University. I couldn't imagine a more entertaining and fun-loving companion with whom to share my love for these styles of music.

For the past several months, Elaine has graciously transported me to and from various rehearsals and performances. During the activities at the arena, she described wonderfully what was happening on stage, including English subtitles, the settings, and the costumes. I extend my deepest gratitude to these two and the other women in MUSE who have taken the time and trouble to know me as a person and as a talented colleague.

MUSE's winning a gold medal in the World Choir Games demonstrates our musical excellence, and my being fully included in MUSE is a perfect example of social change that I cherish deeply.

Student Reading Program Applications Now Online

ACB-Ohio is pleased to announce its 2013 Touch of Wonder Braille reading program and Arlene Cohen Braille Essay Contest for children attending school in Ohio who are blind or visually impaired between the ages of 10 and 17.

The Essay Contest, named in memory of Arlene Cohen, an outstanding and dedicated teacher and former president of ACB-Ohio, was established to encourage students in Ohio schools who are blind or visually impaired to read.

To participate, fill out the application form and submit it with your 200-400-word essay on the topic "Why I Enjoyed Reading This Book." Choose any book and write about it. You must read your selected book in Braille or large print. Several cash prizes will be awarded. Applications must be returned between January 14 and March 1, 2013.

For a full listing of contest rules and prizes, and to download an application, logon to www.acbohio.org/touch-of-wonder. If you have any questions about the contest or application, contact Joyce Rogers at jarogers@one.net or call (513) 921-3186.

In Memoriam

ACB-Ohio lost several long-time members in 2012. Our deepest sympathies go out to each of their families.

George R. Pyle, age 77, died on July 19. He was diagnosed with Stargart's disease while in the Army. He was a member of ACB and CCLVI for many years. When a local chapter of ACB-Ohio started in Canton, he joined and became active right away. He was vice president for six years and served as president for two-and-a-half years until his death. He helped write and distribute the chapter's resource book. George's wife, Jo Ann, also a member of the chapter, died only 17 days after George.



Mark A. Foersterling was a member of the Greater Cincinnati chapter. He was employed at the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for many years. Mark was a member of AER and the Tukandu Cycling Club.

Steve Yarman of the Eye-Deal chapter of Mount Vernon was active in ACB-Ohio with his wife, Patti, for many years. His sense of humor and willingness to step in and help wherever needed made him welcome everywhere. Steve is also known for playing Santa in his community.

Meet Our Scholarship Winners — *By Vicky Prahin*

ACB-Ohio's three university-endowed scholarships continue to help outstanding students. Three scholarships were awarded at the 2012 ACB-Ohio Conference and Convention in October.

Wright State University awarded a scholarship to Mallory Hollar, sister of ACB-Ohio's former WSU scholarship recipient, Zach Hollar. Mallory is pursuing a degree in the rehabilitation field. Bill Shepard, associate vice president of the university, accepted congratulations on her behalf.



University of Toledo student Rachael Lynn Spangler receives her scholarship from ACB-Ohio members Dave Perry and Vicky Prahin at the October awards ceremony.

The University of Toledo recipient was Rachael Lynn Spangler. Rachael is studying to be a teacher of children who are blind or visually impaired. Jennifer Schaefer, UT's director of development

in the College of Education, thanked ACB-Ohio for helping to make this scholarship possible.

Jenni Remeis, who is studying for her masters in VI education, received The Ohio State University scholarship. Jenni currently teaches toddlers at OSSB. She could not attend, so Jeff Byars, senior director of advancement of education, spoke on her behalf.

Contributors . . .

Thank you to ACB-Ohio members who contributed to this issue of the *Ohio Connection*: **Nolan Crabb, Annie Donnellon, Katie Frederick, Ann Gazelle, Marc Guthrie, Dave Perry, Vicky Prahin, Joyce Rogers, Bostwick Wyman, and Linda Wyman.**

ACB-O Community Shares Campaign Codes

State of Ohio - 19003
City of Columbus - 60240
Franklin County - 60240
Ohio State University - 60240
Columbus State Community
College - 1061

Keeping Connected — *By Marc Guthrie*

I'm pleased to report that, as a result of ACB-Ohio's nomination, the Ohio Lions Foundation received the 2012 Donor of the Year Award from Community Shares of Mid-Ohio. I nominated the Lions because they have donated \$1,000 annually for six consecutive years to our "Building Blocks for a Brighter Future" family seminar. Lions International has a proud track record of support for issues regarding vision, and we are very grateful to be affiliated with this wonderful organization. I'm also appreciative that ACB-Ohio supported my nomination of the Ohio Lions Foundation for our 2012 Community Service Award.

Scholarships have been awarded recently from our endowments at OSU, Wright State University, and the University of Toledo. All three scholarship recipients have very inspiring stories, making us proud that we have created the university endowments.

I had a recent phone conversation with Dr. Greg Rosenthal, of Vision Associates of Toledo, regarding helping us grow our endowed fund at the University of Toledo. Dr. Rosenthal, a respected ophthalmologist, recognized nationally for his commitment to people who are blind and visually impaired, has agreed to work with our contact at UT in an effort to solicit Toledo-area eye doctors to provide financial support for our endowment. I wish to thank Paul Rachow, our friend at the Frogtown Low Vision Support Group, for putting me in contact with Dr. Rosenthal. Currently, our UT endowment has a balance of

more than \$65,000, far more than our initial investment of \$25,000. My hope is that within a few years we can grow this fund to a point which will allow for two scholarship awards annually.

In addition to assisting Ann with logistics and coordination at this year's family seminar, I played a role in networking with the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Ohio (AERO) toward promoting the event. AERO advertised our seminar on their website for a month; the result was an increase in both family and VI teacher participation.

OSU students and Lions club volunteers provided an enormous amount of help at the seminar, and we are very grateful to both groups and my hope is that our relationships will continue to grow. I found the family seminar very inspiring. It continues to be an important part of ACB-Ohio's good mission and I love being part of it.

As always, if you know anyone who might want to support our efforts financially, please give them my connect information. Until we next connect, best wishes for a wonderful and safe holiday season.

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

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

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



2013 ACB-Ohio Datebook

ACB-Ohio Board Retreat

Columbus, Ohio
January 5, 2013

Winter Sports Retreat

Punderson State Park
January 18-21, 2013

ACB Legislative Conference

Washington, D.C.
February 16-19, 2013

ACB National Convention

Columbus, Ohio
July 4-12, 2013

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