



Spring 2013

Ohio Connection

American Council of the Blind of Ohio
P.O. Box 82234 Columbus, OH 43202
1-800-835-2226

Washington Wrap Up – *By Katie Frederick*

The 2013 Legislative Seminar consisted of many informative speakers and presentations. The Sunday afternoon session featured David Capozzi, Executive Director of the U.S. Access Board, who spoke about issues in the blindness community and the Board's efforts to address those issues. David Morrissey, Executive Director U.S. International Council on Disabilities, next spoke about The Future of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Treaty. Mitch Pomerantz, ACB's President, then gave an update on the efforts for accessible prescription drug labeling. The final Sunday afternoon speaker, ACB Executive Director Melanie Brunson, provided an update of the organization's legal efforts over the past year.

Monday morning began with presentations from The American Foundation for the Blind's Director of Public Policy, Mark Richert. He discussed the two legislative imperatives of 2013. The first is the need for Medicare to cover the purchase of certain low vision devices, and the second is the need for comprehensive special education legislation, including the Ann Sullivan Macy Act.

Eric Bridges, ACB's Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, provided an update on our legislative successes over the past few years, noting that there is still much more advocacy work to do.

The afternoon session featured speakers from the Federal Communications Commission, The Department of Justice, and presentations concerning the future of vehicle donation and the legislative agenda of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in the 113th Congress.

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Support ACB-Ohio!

Anyone living within a 50-mile radius of Columbus can donate an unwanted vehicle for auction. It's easy and there's no charge to have it towed. Just call Goodwill Columbus at 614-444-AUTO (2886). Be sure to tell Ray you want proceeds to go to ACB-Ohio.

President's Message— *By Nolan Crabb*

What can you say about a meeting that spanned a day and a half and included advice on everything from affiliate insurance to fostering relationships with corporations? Far more than space permits here. It's sufficient to say that the 2013 ACB Affiliate Presidents meeting was the best I've been to for a variety of reasons.

A lunch-time panel on affiliate fundraising was particularly timely. The presenters urged ACB leaders to look hard at corporate giving in their area and match programs to corporate interests. If, for example, a corporation is currently supporting programs that focus on high-school retention, most ACB affiliates would perhaps shrug and look elsewhere for funding. Instead, the affiliate should consider fashioning transition programs that more fully match the corporation's giving emphasis.

While a session on whether affiliates have sufficient event insurance and crime and theft insurance doesn't sound like much of a topic, it was riveting as Rick Morin, treasurer of the Bay State Council of the Blind, and Lane Waters, ACB's controller, describe the need for board and officer insurance, event insurance, crime and theft insurance, and more. Morin's experiences procuring such policies for the Bay State Council provided a fascinating look at the pitfalls other affiliate leaders must avoid.

Paul Edwards, chair of ACB's Board of Publications, announced that a new publication will be released beginning in the spring which will supplement *The Braille Forum*. Members will continue to receive the regular editions of the *Forum* six times a year; the new electronic edition will publish in the months when a regular edition isn't created.

The Sunday morning session was highlighted by a presentation by Carla Ruschival, ACB Treasurer, on the new electronic membership database now in use at the national office. The database will enable state affiliates to provide membership information to the national organization far more easily and quickly than has been the case up to now. ACB Ohio leaders have been trained in the use of the database.

Look for archives of the affiliate presidents' meeting on the ACB Web site in the near future.

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

From Your Host Committee – *By Vicky Prahin*

As most of you already know, this year's national convention will take place in Columbus, July 4-12, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 N. High Street. The Host Committee has already put in many hours of preparation for this event. Here is a brief summary of some of the things we have done and some ideas for how you can help make the 52nd national convention the best ever.

We have helped scout some exciting tours, including the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Fort Ancient, the Anthony Thomas Candy Co., the American Whistle Corporation, the Ohio State House, and a replica of the Santa Maria on the Scioto River. You might sample wines at the Wyandotte

Winery or eat at Schmidt's Sausage Haus.

Speakers from throughout Ohio will address the general sessions and affiliates during the convention. The annual walk will take place in Goodale Park on July 6; make pledges at www.acb.org. We will have the honor of hearing from the president of ONCE, the organization which promotes the welfare of blind persons in Spain.

We need your help to find talented Ohio musicians to provide entertainment in the mornings before the general sessions and to get volunteers. For more information about how you can help, contact Vicky Prahin at 614-268-0380 or by e-mail at prahin@hadley.edu.

Volunteer Opportunities – *By Mickey Prahin*

The week of July 4-12 will be busy in Columbus, where approximately 1,500 blind and visually impaired ACB members will convene. More than 350 meetings, workshops, seminars, tours, and social events will pack the week.

We need hundreds of volunteers. A volunteer might welcome a visitor at the airport, usher a blind person to a seat at a meeting, participate in the ACB Fundraising Walk on July 6, help people locate booths in the exhibit hall,

read and complete registration forms, act as guides on tours, or give directions to the elevators. Each volunteer will receive a certificate of appreciation; students and others needing service hours may have forms completed and signed at the Volunteer Desk.

For more information, go to www.acb.org or contact Mickey Prahin at mickeyprahin@gmail.com or at 614-269-7633.

ACB-Ohio Scholarships Available – *By Vicky Prahin*

Do you know a high school senior or a college student who can use some help with the cost of higher education? ACB-Ohio offers five scholarships each academic year, three for \$2000 and two for \$2500. Applicants must:

- Be an Ohio resident or attend an Ohio school in a two-year or more post-secondary degree program.
- Be legally blind (except the NOLA WEBB-MCKINNEY SCHOLARSHIP).
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Be willing to attend the 2013 ACB-Ohio convention's Saturday workshops.

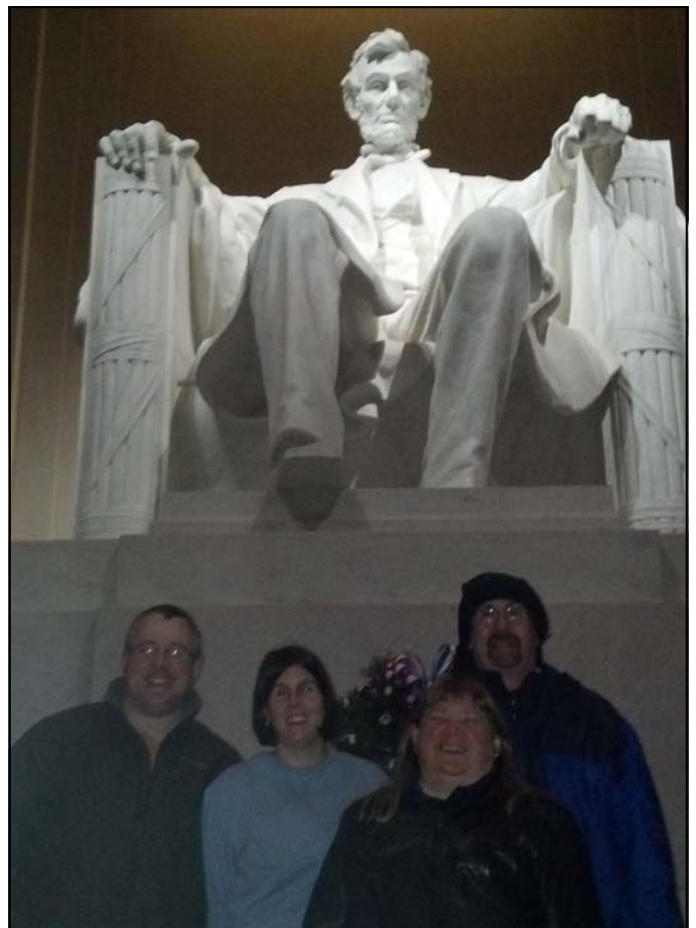
Past scholarship recipients may reapply. Applicants must provide three letters of reference, an official transcript, and a current eye report.

Download the application and reference forms at www.acbohio.org or call ACB-O at 800-835-2226 to request the forms.

Washington Update Continued

On Tuesday we visited Congressional staff from Ohio, sharing with them information about our two issues.

On a more personal note, this was my third year of participating in this event, and I would encourage anyone who's interested to consider attending in 2014. It is rewarding to see some of the issues we advocate for come before Congress.



Chris Schumacher, Katie Frederick, Lynn Power and Carl Kienzle in front of the Lincoln monument.

Put on Those Thinking Caps and Recognize a Worthy Ohioan! – *By Katie Frederick*



A banquet tradition at the annual state convention of ACB-Ohio is to recognize those who have positively contributed to making life better for those who are blind or visually impaired. We do this by giving awards to individuals or organizations deserving of the appropriate honor. Nominate someone you know for one of the following:

KEN MORLOCK AWARD:

Given to a person who is blind or visually impaired who has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the blind.

RUTH DAVIDSON AWARD:

Given to a sighted person who has worked to enhance the lives of persons who are blind or visually impaired.

AMBASSADOR AWARD:

Given to an ACB-O member who has worked tirelessly for ACB-O and the blind community.

ARLENE COHEN ART OF TEACHING AWARD:

Given to an outstanding teacher of the visually impaired

MEDIA AWARD:

Given to a person who has written or reported about blindness or issues that concern blind or visually impaired persons. All nominations for the Media Award must be accompanied by the article, video, or other

presentation which is the basis for the nomination.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Given to an Ohio employer who has hired and made accommodations for employees who are blind or visually impaired.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

Presented to a city, town, or organization for its outstanding efforts to enhance the lives of blind or visually impaired people.

Submit nominations by September 1 to ACB-O Awards, P.O. Box 82234, Columbus, OH 43202 or by email to the ACB-O executive director, Ann GAZELLE, at acbo.director@gmail.com. The phrase "ACB Awards" should appear in the subject line. So, put your thinking caps on and start sending in nominations now; the awards committee eagerly awaits hearing from you!

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

Staying Connected – *By Marc Guthrie*

In March I will reduce my duties with ACB-Ohio. I want to say a few words about my years with the organization and its future.

My new title will be director of public outreach. Though my duties will be scaled back, I'll continue to liaise with our three university endowments and the Ohio Lions Foundation. I'll work to further develop our relationship with the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Ohio, advancing our mutual interest in educating children who are blind and visually impaired.

Board members Carl Kienzle and Melody Banks will work with Nolan Crabb and Ann Gazelle on fundraising; I will continue to handle liquidating any donated sports items. The final numbers for this year's auction are in, and we netted \$1388. I'd like to thank Larry Rodak, who has donated sports items to us for nearly a decade, and Robert Wilson, our Newark Auctioneer, who has worked hard to market our sale for several years and who takes a significantly reduced commission to increase our net proceeds.

I was fortunate to create a relationship with Brian Jackson of Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc. (IAAI). IAAI owns several national charity auctions, including the one we've worked with. I hope that my contacts with Brian will produce more revenue from national charity auctions, in spite of the current challenges facing charities. We have

succeeded in establishing a local car auction option with Goodwill Columbus. We will promote both auctions on the ACB-O Web site.

Board member Vicky Prahin will take over as our representative with Community Shares this spring. I'll continue to provide counsel to the legislative committee and an annual report regarding my activities at our state convention. I'll serve on the ACB-O scholarship committee and represent the organization's interest as a member of the Ohio Sensory Disability Advisory Board, coordinated by Professor Peter Paul at OSU.

As Director of Public Outreach, I will seek opportunities to speak about our Ohio's mission "to improve the quality and the equality of life for Ohioans who are blind or visually impaired."

I recently gave a speech to a Kiwanis Club about the mission of the United States Access Board, and I talked about ACB-O and ACB's national convention being in Columbus this summer and the need for volunteers. I concluded my comments by saying how very important it is for all Americans to have access and opportunity, not just to the environment around them, but also to education and employment. People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to be full participants in our society.

Continued on next page

Sharing the Joy of Advocating for Each Other

— *By David Perry*

What makes ACB-O great? There are the wonderful members and friends that make up this Organization. ACB-O advocates for all people who are blind or visually impaired in Ohio. We have fun at the winter and summer sports retreats and the annual State Convention, as well as during local events. We are excited and honored this year to be the host affiliate for the ACB National Conference and Convention, occurring July 4-12, and hope that all of our members and friends can attend.

I've had the honor of chairing the membership committee since November of 2010! I'm excited about all of the great work that has taken place because of the dedicated committee members who have done so much hard work to enable us to be a support group of friends. We conducted a membership panel discussion at the 2011 State Convention dealing with the importance of people who are blind demonstrating independence to the best of their abilities. We have awarded several members and chapters for their successful work and outreach in their

communities. We have created the Membership Information Line. We've started working on a monthly newsletter on the ACB-O List, called "Your Membership Observer."

In 2013 the Membership Committee will conduct a survey to address needs of people who are blind throughout Ohio. We want to unify to be more effective. We are also considering having focus calls with local chapters to address needs. This will strengthen our relationships between chapters and the State Affiliate.

Your committee members are Rob Rogers, Joyce Rogers, Robin Altland, Mary Ann Donelan, Troy Sullivan, Don Kalman, Lynn Roberts, Michelle Hasenstaub, Carolyn Burley, Nolan Crabb, Ann Gazelle, and your chairman and friend David Perry. We are looking for more members to enable us to continue doing good work. If interested, call the membership information line at 614-636-3222 or ACBOASSIST@gmail.com.

Staying Connected, continued

I was recently appointed by President Obama to the United States Access Board. As a public member of the US Access Board, I represent all Americans with disabilities; however, I undertake my service with a far better understanding of issues facing people who

are blind and VI because of my nearly seven years with ACB-Ohio.

Always feel free to contact me via email at marcguthrie@hotmail.com. Best wishes for 2013.

Celebrating 25 Years in the Snow

— *By Ann Gazelle, Executive Director*

There wasn't much white stuff this year, but that didn't stop any of the nearly 40 attendees from enjoying the 25th anniversary of the ACB-Ohio Winter Sports retreat held at the Punderson Manor in Northeastern Ohio.

We stomped through the woods, explored covered bridges, and, Walking along what was once a railway, now paved, we witnessed something unusual: a woman skiing on dry pavement in her two-wheeled skates using ski poles for balance -- something new for us to think about for next year. Other pleasures included antiquing, sampling cheese from the Amish cheese factory, taking advantage of the indoor pool,

playing Scrabble or euchre, and eating lots of great food.

The big event this year was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the annual Winter Sports Retreat. A luscious cake and champagne added sparkle to the weekend. Everyone received a fleece jacket, displaying an emblem of the Punderson Manor designed by one of our loyal guides, Beth Duffield, an art teacher in the Columbus area.

Put the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend on your 2014 calendar and join us for fun and adventure!



Winter Retreat guests enjoying the auction

Punderson in Pictures



Jill Noble holds up Beth Duffield's artwork while wearing a fleece jacket featuring Beth's design



Friends and fun in the activity room



**Join us next year,
MLK Day weekend!**



Exploring the scenic woods of Punderson State Park

photos courtesy of Chris Schumacher

From the Recreation Chairman

— *By Chris Schumacher*

We held the 25th anniversary of the Winter Sports retreat at Punderson State park. Unfortunately, there was no snow this year until it was time to leave, but everyone still had a good time.

Our next event is the summer sports retreat. The dates are August 2, 3, and 4. It retreat takes place in Hockingport, Ohio. So mark your calendars and enjoy good company and fun activities. We will send out the forms for the retreat in early June.

The Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon is slated for May 4 and 5. This event offers a 5K, 10K, and half marathon, in addition to the full marathon of 26.2 miles. ACB-O's president, Nolan Crabb, will walk in the 5K, and four other board members are participating. The organizers try to match each blind or visually impaired walker with a sighted guide who matches his pace. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Joyce Rogers at 513-921-3186 or e-mail her at jarogers@one.net.

If you have any questions about either activity, e-mail me at ACBOASSIST@gmail.com.

Remember -- stay active!



Retreat guests enjoying a winter hike

Chapter Matching Grants

Would you like to establish a new chapter of ACB-Ohio? Does your chapter have an idea for fund-raising for which you need some start-up money? Is someone in your group interested in attending a legislative workshop or a grant-writing seminar? You may request funding of up to \$500 dollars to match funds raised for these or other specific purposes. Applicants must fill out a form and supply either a receipt once funds are expended or a bank statement showing previous and continuing activity. Contact Lori Woodall for more information at 513- 876-3351.

Summer Camp Opportunities

— *by Cheryl Reed*

Summer will be here soon. It's time to start planning activities for the kids. Have you thought about sending them to camp? Here are three options to consider.

Marmon Valley Insight Horse Camp

Campers at Marmon Valley Insight Horse Camp in Zanesville learn basic horsemanship skills, such as tacking up and controlling a horse at a walk and trot. Campers will experience trail riding in the woods, archery, kayaking, climbing, and other activities. The session includes counselor-led Bible study discussions designed to help kids discover truth from the Word of God. Insight Horse Camp is designed for blind and visually impaired children. Each blind/visually impaired camper will need a sighted buddy to accompany him throughout the week. Find more information at <http://www.marmonvalley.com/newwebsite/Camp/CampIHC.htm> or call 937-593-8000.

Highbrook Lodge

Highbrook Lodge, located five miles south of Chardon, was the first camp in the United States built specifically for blind or visually impaired persons. Programs are available for kids, adults, and families. Activities include swimming, hiking, music, dance, and field trips. Contact 216-658-4593 or email

camp@clevelandsightcenter.org for more information.

Sight Center of Northwest Ohio Summer Camp

Every summer The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio hosts a summer camp for blind and visually impaired children ranging in age from five to 19. The goal of the camp is to help these children learn basic daily living skills, as well as how to move about the community safely while enjoying some valuable community resources. The camp is held for one to two weeks from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Dani Moran, 419-720-EYES (3937), extension 108, or email dmoran@sightcentertoledo.org.

(Cheryl Reed is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist and director of United Disability Services Low Vision in Akron.)

Contributors ...

Thank you to ACB-Ohio members who contributed to this issue of the Ohio Connection: **Nolan Crabb, Katie Frederick, Ann Gazelle, Marc Guthrie, David Perry, Mickey Prahin, Vicky Prahin, Cheryl Reed, and Chris Schumacher.**



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Free Matter for
the Blind or
Handicapped
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2013 ACB-Ohio Datebook

ACBO Spring Board Meeting

Goodwill Columbus
April 20, 2013

ACB National Convention

Columbus, Ohio
July 4-12, 2013

Summer Sports Retreat

Hockingport, Ohio
August 2-4, 2013

Family Seminar

Columbus, Ohio
September 14, 2013

ACB-O 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