



Winter 2013

## Ohio Connection

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

### 2013 Convention Roundup — *By Katie Frederick & Vicky Prahin*

“Attitude and Challenges Build Opportunity” was the theme for the American Council of the Blind of Ohio's 2013 annual conference and convention. The event took place November 15-17 at the Worthington Holiday Inn. Attendees heard a keynote presentation by attorney Barbara Corner of Disability Rights Ohio. She spoke about numerous lessons she has learned throughout her life as a person who is blind.

On Friday afternoon the vendors hall opened. This year's vendors included technology from ULVA, GW Micro, and the Cleveland Sight Center; low-tech items from Functional Aids and ACBO; jewelry and other handmade items from Nancy's Knitting and Patty's Pebbles and Jenine Stanley's Beauty by Nature; chocolate, cookies, and cupcakes; and about 15 others.

Those interested in Apple products met with a couple of representatives from a local Apple store and discussed products and accessibility issues. Later in the evening Don Haines and guitarist/vocalist Gene McKahan provided music for dancing. One selection featured Jill Noble singing “Coal Miner's Daughter,” received with great enthusiasm.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Jill Noble belts out “Coal Miner's Daughter” backed by Don Haines on keyboard and Gene McKahan on guitar.*

Saturday morning's business meeting resulted in the reelection of board members: Chris Schumacher, Vicky Prahin, Sue Wesley, Lori Woodall, and the introduction of new board members, Rick Harmon and Secretary Karen Cayse. We welcomed the new Toledo chapter, represented by Theresa Carroll and Tom Dimit.

Following the business meeting, the group remained together for a workshop on building a 72-hour emergency kit. The workshop included putting together some kits to be auctioned off later that evening, as well as some tips and resources for preparing for a possible emergency. Saturday's lunch included the 2013 scholarship presentations (see elsewhere in this issue and in future issues for profiles of this year's winners).

The first afternoon breakout workshops featured presentations by American Foundation for the Blind's Paul Schroeder and an interactive session dealing with using a screen reader with Windows 8 by Marc Solomon. The second set of afternoon workshops focused on updates to areas of diabetes and new audible pedestrian traffic signals.

Erin Jones, NLS talking book narrator from the American Printing House, was this year's banquet speaker and was

very popular with those in attendance. Tracy Grimm, of the Ohio State Library, provided an update concerning BARD and NLS from an Ohio perspective during the Saturday morning breakfast. Sunday morning's breakfast gave Aneesa Locke from the newly renamed Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD, formerly ally of the Rehabilitation Services Commission) a chance to speak about updates and changes to the agency in 2013 and into the future.

This year's auction offered the opportunity to purchase everything from a backpack full of school supplies and bottles of wine decorated with scarecrow dolls to homemade cupcakes and hand-crafted items.

The dates for the 2014 convention have been set for October 10-12 the location will soon be determined. ACBO would like to move the gathering to another part of the state and would love to see even more participation from Ohioans next year.



*Katie Frederick and Nolan Crabb*



*Scholarship winners: (from left) Stacy Border, Jessica Rabenstein, Stacie Banner (standing in for her daughter Brooke), presenter Vicky Prahin, Rachel Bigham, Joseph Chadbourne, Chelsea Gerhan*



*Sam Moats, Becky Everett and Don Kalman get caught up.*



*Marty and Larry Honaker at the Columbus Chapter table*



*Erin Jones, NLS narrator*



*Keynote speaker Barbara Corner*



*Aneesa Locke, OOD*



*Tracy Grimm, Ohio State Library*



*Linda Wyman, Scholarship winner Jessica Rabenstein and her parents*



*Learning to make emergency kits*



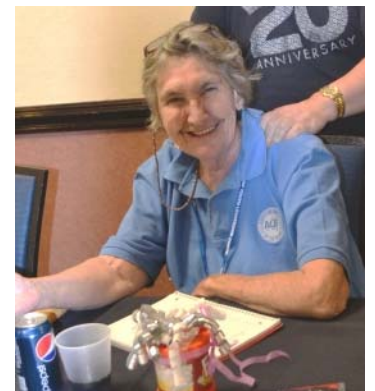
*Free samples from Petco*



*Checking out bags from Thirty-One Gifts*



*Ron and Becky Davidson Guiding Eyes for the Blind*



*Sue Wesley*

# ACB Ohio's Roots and Wings

— *By Nolan Crabb*

The southern journalist Hodding Carter, II, (1907—1972) once wrote: “There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.” Carter’s advice applies to ACB Ohio in much the same way it does to parents. Giving the organization roots and wings is the only way we can ensure the future of blind and visually impaired Ohioans. Our recently-completed convention is a wonderful example of ways in which the organization reaffirmed its roots and took wing.

Our roots are reflected in the return to office of several experienced officers and board members. Their understanding of ACBO’s traditions and historical positions on issues is vital if we are to take wing as we embrace new ideas and better solutions to our organization’s problems. We gained wings by virtue of the new board members who were elected. They will inevitably bring a fresh approach to problems. In their perspective we all may find opportunities where once there were challenges. Congratulations to both those who returned to office and those who were elected for the first time.

We see the reality of organizational roots and wings in the recent decision

of the board of directors to employ Katie Frederick as the affiliate’s executive director. Katie brings to the position not only a remarkable understanding of the organization’s positions and history, but also the kind of perspective that will enable her to gain the wings necessary to take the lead in elevating the organization to new places and new solutions. I look forward to the opportunity to work with her in keeping the affiliate rooted in its mission and purpose and elevated in its opportunity to expand its revenue and its work.

As I reflect on the events of our recently concluded convention, I am struck anew with what we accomplished. We grounded ourselves as we renewed acquaintanceships and created memories in addition to those that already existed. But we took wing, too, in welcoming scholarship winners and new members from an Ohio community wherein we have not had a presence in some years. We deepened our roots in our love of reading as we immersed ourselves in Erin Jones’s experiences, and we accepted the wings of challenge from Paul Schroeder and others who called on us to expand our efforts and elevate ourselves.

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The new year will inevitably be a glorious backdrop to ACBO's forward movement. Yes, we will be rooted in the grand tradition of a convention, but that convention may take wing in 2014 and find itself in a different city. We will keep you posted as plans for it develop.

In March, affiliate members will have an opportunity to be part of the Crossroads Leadership Conference in Louisville. This is open to every member of ACB Ohio who may wish to attend. Registration for the event will cost \$45, and the hotel rate is \$79 per night for two nights. But this conference is an excellent way to gain wings of leadership and ability that will not only be valuable in your work as a member of ACBO, but will also help in many of your life's other endeavors.

I'm grateful to all who have made the past year such a success. I am confident that 2014 will be a year in which we will remain rooted in the stability of our traditions and our affiliation with the national organization. It will be a year in which we will find wings, too—the kind of wings that will enable us to explore new opportunities and achieve impressive success.



## **Tactile Flags** — ***By Jamie Davis***

In July I attended an event at the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Cincinnati called the Family Fun and Learning Day, sponsored by the Ohio Library For The Blind and Physically Disabled. Several vendors came to present their products, and Mike Kramer, a narrator, talked about what it's like to read professionally for NLS.

One of the things I saw was a thermoformed sheet that had an embossed American Flag on it. This inspired me to look into getting a tactile American flag made of fabric. I checked with various companies and found nothing. Finally, I found a blog by someone from the American Printing House for the Blind that listed the name and number of someone who actually makes tactile American flags. I talked to Dawn, who asked me if I was totally blind. Her mother, Norma, makes the flags, and they usually sell for \$25.00. They will give one to someone who is blind or visually impaired. I received my flag a couple of weeks ago, and I am quite happy with it. Dawn and Norma are members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

***(Continued on next page)***

# A New Year, A New Beginning

— *Katie Frederick, Executive Director, ACB Ohio*



As 2013 draws to a close and preparations are underway to ring in 2014, changes are happening within ACB Ohio. Effective

December 2013 I began serving as the Executive Director of The American Council of The Blind of Ohio full time. I would like to thank the search committee and the board of directors for their support and for offering me this fantastic opportunity. I have been involved with the organization for the past ten years, and I look forward to more years of involvement in my new role.

During 2014, chapter outreach is a top priority for me; I hope to attend at least one meeting of each chapter. The family seminar is an event that will occur in early 2014; the September event had to be rescheduled.

Advocacy, at the local, state, and national levels, is another area I wish to improve in 2014. On November 22 I attended a meeting with Steve White from Senator Portman's office at the offices of Disability Rights Ohio. The purpose of this meeting was to express our support of the ratification of the Convention On The Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD) Treaty. When this treaty was voted on in 2012, Senator Portman was unsupportive; however, it is our hope he will do so when this treaty is voted on this year. I encourage everyone to contact the senator's office and urge his support of ratifying this treaty, which will increase access for those with disabilities around the world.

Warmest wishes for a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season. I look forward to working with you and for ACBO.

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## ***(Flags, continued from page 6)***

The flags measure 12 inches by 18 inches. Red webbing forms the red stripes; metal star studs fill the star field, surrounded by blue cord. Blue felt covers the back of the star field. Each flag is manually crafted in about

four hours. The flag is copyrighted and is made available to visually impaired individuals. Their contact information is General Marion Chapter, 59 Wild Rose Dr., Canon City CO 81212, Phone: (719) 671-1710 or (719) 671-6806 E-mail: [noralc@bresnan.net](mailto:noralc@bresnan.net)

## **Welcome a New Chapter** — *By Theresa Carroll*

Greetings from Toledo! We know that is not a phrase the members of ACBO have heard in quite a while since there has not been a chapter from “the hinterlands” for several years. We are proud to introduce ourselves as the newest members of the ACBO family.

The Toledo Chapter was organized by Kevin Dobens, formerly of Cincinnati. He now serves as our chapter president. Knowing that Toledo needs an active, mission-driven organization focused on the needs of the visually impaired community, many people have been eager to join him in the endeavor.

The Chapter elected the following officers who have pledged to serve two-year terms: Kevin Dobens, President; Nikki Fugett-Dobens, Vice-President; Jill Hofbauer, Treasurer; and Theresa Carroll, Secretary.

At this writing, the Toledo Chapter has 12 members, after holding only three meetings with the goal of welcoming many more into the group. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Our December meeting will be a holiday potluck dinner held

at a member’s home. If you are interested in knowing more about the ACBO-Toledo Chapter, call Theresa Carroll at 419-699-9204 or email us at [ACBO.Toledo@gmail.com](mailto:ACBO.Toledo@gmail.com).

## **Amazing Auction** — *By Lori Woodall*

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter of ACBO held its third annual Quarter Auction at the St. Bernard Municipal Building On Saturday October 12. Tiffany Wilson, a local morning anchor at WKRC-TV (Channel 12), served as our guest auctioneer. Auction items included candy, a health club membership, restaurant vouchers, hotel stays, gift baskets, a hydraulic jack, and a cake. The chapter raised \$1901.80 in only three hours!

The many volunteers were a huge help, and we would like to give them a big THANK YOU! Another big thank you goes to our chapter members who went out and asked for donations and to all of the local businesses for their donations. Lita Wesley obtained the most donations, as well as making contact with the TV station to get Ms. Wilson to come to our event. Kitty Hevener obtained the most expensive item for our auction. There was plenty of food, fun, and fellowship to go around.



# Meet Our Scholarship Winners

— *By Marc Guthrie*

Whitney Johnson, recipient of our Wright State University scholarship, is from Columbus, Ohio, and is majoring in middle childhood education and learning to be an intervention specialist. Whitney has completed two internships with Franklin County DD Northeast Schools as a classroom assistant and will begin student teaching this summer at Four Oaks in Beavercreek. She has participated as a peer mentor and disability awareness speaker for Disability Services for the past two years.

Rachel Bigham is in the first semester in The Ohio State University program for Masters of Education in Visual Impairments. She is already licensed by the *Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals* and works as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist in eastern and southeastern Ohio. She plans to add a license as a teacher of the visually impaired. She says, "This field is truly my passion."

Chelsea Gerhan, a freshman at the University of Toledo, received that university's scholarship for future teachers of the visually impaired. She would like

to work as an itinerant teacher. Since high school Chelsea has had a passion for helping people with blindness or visual impairments. She has raised puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, worked as a summer camp counselor for blind and visually impaired children and adults, and works in the University of Toledo's Office of Accessibility in the electronic text and braille departments. Chelsea says, "It is my belief that students with blindness or visual impairments are often cast aside and not given the education they deserve. I truly believe that every student is entitled to a quality education, and I want to see that my students receive that education."

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, 2014. Please include your name, address, and phone number and send to: Vicky Prahin at [vicky@hadley.edu](mailto:vicky@hadley.edu).

# Dedicated Worker and Volunteer

— *By Joyce Rogers*

Mary Ann Donelan is a member of the American Council of the Blind of Ohio, Greater Cincinnati Chapter. Mary Ann has been our secretary since January 2012. She is a resident of Fort Thomas, KY, and has been a childcare worker since the age of 16. After graduating from high school at Our Lady of Providence, she became formally certified as a childcare worker and has been a childcare worker for 34 years now, and, yes, she still has a big smile on her face at the end of the day.

Mary Ann was born with a visual impairment, so she rides a bus to work and uses a computer with magnification features. Most important, Mary Ann is a member of a large family whose members know how to love, laugh, and give generously of themselves. Perhaps her family experiences are what make her such a caring, dedicated, and competent day-care employee. She receives well-deserved respect and appreciation from her employer and the children who look to her for help and guidance. She loves to tell the children stories, and they love to listen.

On May 4 and 5, Mary Ann was one of 20 or so people with visual impairments

who represented our chapter in the Flying Pig Marathon. she walked the three-way and raised the most money in the chapter. A three-way means finishing a 10K and a 5K on the first day of the Flying Pig weekend and a half marathon on the second day.

Thanks, Mary Ann, for doing so much good through your vocation as a childcare worker and through your dedicated volunteer work with our organization.



*Mary Ann (left) and her sister-in-law Mary Beth after the Flying Pig races.*

# Recreation—Even in the Cold

— *By Chris Schumacher*

It's getting colder outside; everyone knows that means winter is coming. I am not ready for the cold, but there is one good thing to look forward to: the Winter Sports retreat, beginning Friday, January 17 and continuing until Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>, Martin Luther King weekend. It will be held at Punderson State Park, near Cleveland. The cost is \$315 per person for all three nights, \$280 for Friday and Saturday, double occupancy.

The Winter Sports Retreat is not at all like the Summer Sports Retreat, except for the camaraderie and fun. Besides the difference in temperature, the accommodations in winter are rooms in a lodge, whereas in summer you can sleep in a tent. The food at Punderson is great. They have a fabulous Sunday brunch, worth the trip all by itself.

If you are interested in attending the Winter Sports Retreat, there are three ways to register. You can go to [www.acbohio.org](http://www.acbohio.org) and choose the 2014 Winter Retreat link, send an email to [ACBOASSIST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ACBOASSIST@GMAIL.COM), or call 614-636-6222. If you are interested in attending but are not sure if you will be

able to get there, we attempt to provide transportation. If we are unable to, we will refund your money. The deadline for signing up is December 20. If you have any questions, contact me.

While I am writing this, I am thinking about the ACBO state convention that just finished. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the music of Don Haines and his special guest, guitarist Gene McKahan. Part of the responsibility of the recreation chairman is to organize the Friday night fun at the state convention and this seemed like a great idea. Now I am looking for suggestions for next year's Friday Night fun. You can email me at [ACBOASSIST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ACBOASSIST@GMAIL.COM) or call 614-636-6222.

Remember to stay active!



# Columbus's White Cane Safety Day Celebration Successful

— *By Mickey Prahin*

The Columbus Chapter of ACBO held its first celebration of White Cane Safety Day on October 15. The day was cool and cloudy, but chapter members and guests distributed literature about the White Cane Law and guide dog regulations. Rick Isbell, head of Veterans' Affairs and ADA Coordinator for the city of Columbus, read a proclamation from Mayor Michael Coleman, now posted on our website. He also spent some time with Rachel Smith, an Orientation and Mobility instructor at OSSB, wearing glasses that simulate blindness and using a cane. Rachel



*Participants explained about the use of the white cane.*

brought another instructor and three students along to explain to passersby about the use of the white cane. Elizabeth Sammons distributed literature from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (the new BSVI). We were surprised and pleased at the number of people who stopped to talk and to take a walk with a cane.

Thanks to my committee--Vicky Prahin, Ray O'Neal, Irwin Hott, and Lori Fernandez--and thanks to the other chapter members who came to help: J.K. Mendenhall, Barbara Corner (With office mates), and James Kulmacz.



*Passerby tries using a cane; another wears blindness-simulating glasses.*

# NewsBytes

## – By Elizabeth Sammons

The Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups (STIPDG) provides a unique opportunity to gain paid professional experience and skills that will complement academic pursuits. This hands-on program is designed to mentor and cultivate tomorrow's leaders, strengthen their understanding of the transportation industry, and prepare them for future public service opportunities. Read more about the internship opportunity <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/education/stipdg.cfm>

(Deadline: Dec. 31)

Listing of Ohio job fairs & workshops; basic computer skills; resume writing; money management, much more. <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/workshoplister.do?selectId=0>

From the creators of Ohio Means Jobs comes Ohio Means Internships. More than 1,000 already online; opportunities around the state. <http://www.ohiomeansinternships.com>

A list of what programs on television have audio description has been developed by the American Foundation for

the Blind. [www.afb.org/tv](http://www.afb.org/tv). Select "Described TV Listings," and enter your zip code, cable provider, and a date and time and you will get a listing of programs with description.

The link below leads to many of Social Security's publications in audio format. If the publication is not available in audio, you can request large print cd or Braille.

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/alt-pubs.html>

Microsoft has started a free program for people with disabilities through which technicians access computers in need of repair and fix what they can remotely. The service number is 800-936-5900. For more information such as calling hours, see <http://support.microsoft.com/gp/contact-microsoft-accessibility>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Releases Updated Publications on Employment Rights of People with Specific Disabilities <http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/ada18.html>



# Review of the Newsreel's New Cookbook

## — *By Marilyn Brandt Smith*

"In the Newsreel Kitchen" is a collection of recipes from Newsreel members, staff, and friends. It is available in large and regular print, braille, and audio. At \$20.00, it's a bargain--almost 100 recipes from about 50 people from the United States and Canada. Proceeds support Newsreel Magazine, a monthly audio collection of tips, questions, personal experiences, music, and essays.

From breakfast to dessert, they're all here: Orange Julius, Ham Balls, Fresh Mushroom Soup, Southwest Corn Soufflé, Saturday Night Slumgullion, Caramel Peach Bread Pudding, and Taco

Biscuits. Try Crockpot Chicken Stroganoff or Easy Crème Brûlée.

This book is dedicated to all cooks who love the old recipes and are willing to try the new ones. They are easy to prepare and easy to read. Most were contributed by visually impaired cooks.

Order by calling 614-469-0700 or 888-723-8737. Send payment to Newsreel Magazine by and for the Blind, 5 E. Long Street, Ste. 1001, Columbus, OH 43215-2915 or send e-mail to [info@newsreelmag.org](mailto:info@newsreelmag.org).

You'll love this book if you like variety in mealtime planning.



*Newsreelers hawking the cookbook at the state convention in November.*

### **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

# Welcome New ACBO Board Members

## — Mickey Prahin

Two new members joined the Board of Directors during the business meeting on November 16.

While Karen Cayse was taking courses to become a Medical Assistant and living with her sister Vicky Prahin, she joined the ACBO Columbus chapter. She had previously attended several national conventions and was a volunteer for the 2013 convention. She now lives in Cincinnati, is active in the Cincinnati chapter, and has agreed to become ACBO secretary. She has three grown children and currently works for Scholastic Books.

Rick Harmon is a familiar name to anyone who spends much time online. He could see until 2004 but lost all vision that year. Before that he worked as a computer programmer, troubleshooter, and builder of computers. He is an active member of the Eye On Summit chapter of ACBO in Akron, which he joined in 2009. He has been one of the sound men coordinating the streaming of ACBO conventions with

ACB Radio. He runs the Blind Geek Zone, which he started in 2006. He's also on the Board of the Akron Blind Center, where he is vice-president of membership and runs the website.

As you can see, ACBO elected two very energetic, busy and committed people to these board positions. Thank you both for joining!

### Contributors ...

Thanks to the contributors: **Theresa Carroll, Nolan Crabb, Jamie Davis, Katie Frederick, Marc Guthrie, Mickey Prahin, Vicky Prahin, Joyce Rogers, Elizabeth Sammons, Chris Schumacher, Marilyn Brandt Smith, Lori Woodall.**

Send items for the next issue to Vicky Prahin (prahin@hadley.edu) by February 15.



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3805 N. High St., Ste. 305  
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FREE MATTER  
FOR THE BLIND



## 2014 ACB-Ohio Datebook

**January 3-4, 7-9 p.m.**  
**January Board Meeting**  
Conference call  
call (712) 432-0926,  
enter code 843738#

**January 17-20**  
**Winter Sports Retreat**  
Punderson State Park

**February 21-25**  
**Legislative Seminar**  
Washington, D.C.

**March 21-22**  
**Crossroads Leadership Conference**  
Louisville, KY



*Columbus Chapter members and guests distribute literature about the White Cane Law in downtown Columbus. Learn more on page 12.*