One of the hardest lessons I learned from my patient but persistent parents in my teenage years was that you can’t change your world from your bedroom in the basement. I would be 19 and thousands of miles from home before I completely stopped fighting that idea, realizing they were right.

My basement bedroom had it all in that quaint seventies way that anything can have it all. My gadgets—my Citizen’s Band radio, my eight-track recorder with its turntable and FM tuner—all of it surrounded me. I had an intercom down there that allowed me to hear the goings-on throughout the house without ever leaving the room. In short, it was my bunker, my safe place, the most wonderful gadget-filled place of refuge a geeky blind kid could ever hope for.

Ah, but then came that tenacious parental interference. They insisted that I get out of the bunker and go to the game on Friday nights. I could usually talk them out of making me stay for the silly dance after, but not always. I generally managed to convince my friend, Doug, to go to the game with me. He was good at providing enough play-by-play to keep me engaged, and his descriptions of the cheerleaders is still an art form these many decades later. In retrospect, I can see that while I never altered the outcome of those Friday night football games, I expanded my world. Granted, my dire prophecies about how I would hug the walls at those horrible noisy school dances were mostly self-fulfilling, but there were occasional successes, too, that gained me a modicum of regard among my peers for reasons other than academics. In short, I didn’t change the entire world, but I changed mine.

When we hear the word advocacy, we instantly think of contacts with legislators who can craft laws or regulations that assist us in some way. But arguably some of the best self advocacy in which we participate is the kind that gets us onto the dance floor and out of the bunker. Sometimes, that personal world-changing dance means sliding your bank card into an ATM to use the accessibility features of the machine. If the manufacturers of the machines can prove that the accessibility features just aren’t being used, is it a far stretch to
assume that they will advocate that laws be changed in the future that exempt them from building in such features?

Apple iPads are showing up more and more frequently in Ohio’s public libraries. I visited a library in Cambridge recently, where library staffers were genuinely excited to serve as a training site for blind patrons wishing to read Kindle or Overdrive books on library-issued iPads. That’s particularly relevant, since this library serves as a lending site for NLS talking book players. I very much enjoy the safe bunker that getting books on cartridge from Cleveland represents, but I’m sure my world would change for the better if I start making broader use of my public library by checking out its CD collection or taking the big step of learning more about the potential of a library iPad to deliver books I can’t get from Cleveland. We have become quite proficient over the decades at asking for things that level the playing field, but I fear we are less proficient at making use of those things we’ve asked for. It’s time to get out of the safety of the bunker and get into the thrill of the game or even the dance afterwards. Perhaps you don’t have the money to go to Washington to advocate for things; maybe you’re not comfortable discussing our issues with your legislator. But all of us can test the accessibility of an ATM or check out a CD from the public library or even ask whether it loans iPads to patrons. If nothing else, just start by getting a library card if you don’t already have one. Those trips out of the basement bunker are never easy at first, but they will change and enhance both your world and the lives of fellow ACB Ohio members for the better.

FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

— By Katie Frederick

The weather has finally warmed up, and many of us are thrilled to be out and about enjoying the arrival of more tolerable temperatures. I have been out and about, attending conferences, meetings, and visiting ACB Ohio chapters. During the month of March, I, along with several ACBO members, made the trip to the second annual Crossroads Conference in Louisville, KY. It was my pleasure to present about social media, growing membership, and recruiting new members. I also had the opportunity to demonstrate how mobile technology can be used to connect individuals remotely into meetings. Also in March I spoke to our newly formed Toledo ACB Ohio chapter. The group consists of approximately 12 members; they are eager to obtain 501(c)(3) status, adopt the con-
stitution and bylaws, and begin fundraising and planning more activities and events for those in the northwest region of the state.

In early April I presented to undergraduate students at my alma mater, Wright State University, who are considering a career in the rehabilitation field. It was a privilege to inform the class about ACB Ohio and answer their questions concerning blindness specific issues, including technology, lack of employment, and guide dogs. Unfortunately, the 2014 Building Blocks for a Brighter Future Family Seminar did not occur as scheduled; however, thanks to an outreach opportunity and networking with the Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM), we hope the event will be bigger and better in 2015.

Since the inception of the family seminar in 2007, ACB Ohio has received generous financial support and volunteers from the Ohio Lions Foundation. Thank you, Ohio Lions, for partnering with us to help ensure families and teachers are better able to advocate for and educate the next generation of Ohioans who are blind or visually impaired.

Attending that conference allowed me to network with parents and professionals and check out some awesome adaptive technology! Partnerships, such as that between GW Micro and Independence Science, are making it more possible for a student who is blind or visually impaired to consider a career in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field. Also, assistive technology companies such as HumanWare and HIMS are continuously improving their product lines of braille displays, magnifiers, and hand-held digital players to meet the needs of today’s assistive technology consumers.

A few other April highlights for me included attending a quarterly meeting with staff at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and our quarterly ACB Ohio board meeting, which was held at the Holiday Inn & Suites Eastgate, the hotel where our 2014 state conference and convention will take place October 24-26. By the time you read this, I will have had the opportunity to travel throughout Ohio, meeting with members of the Appleseed Chapter (Mansfield), EyeDeal Friends of Knox County (Mt. Vernon), and Friends in Focus (Medina). It is truly a pleasure visiting chapters, meeting members, and information sharing. If your chapter or group wishes for me to speak, please give me a call or send an email; I am here to help at the state level, but I know there are great fundraising ideas/events and issues of importance at the local level going on, and I want to hear about them!
Eric Bridges, Director of External Relations and Policy for ACB National, recently sent an update about bills HR4040 and HR3749.

The goal of HR4040, The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, is to ensure that students with vision loss and any other disabilities are counted and properly served. Its passage will ensure that students with vision loss will receive instruction from properly trained personnel in the Expanded Core Curriculum, which includes braille, assistive technology, and other necessary skills. This bill currently has 17 cosponsors, including Rep. Tim Ryan from Ohio’s 13th district.

We are making modest progress regarding cosponsors for HR3749, Medicare Demonstration of Coverage for Low Vision Devices Act of 2013. Currently any low vision device using a lens is excluded from Medicare coverage. The passage of HR3749 will allow for some reimbursement. To date ACB has secured four cosponsors, but none of these are from Ohio.

It is very important that Ohio’s Representatives support both of these bills. Please contact your representative and encourage him/her to cosponsor each of them. Remember that this is an election year and that your members of Congress will be spending entire weeks throughout the summer and fall back in their districts. This provides affiliates with ample opportunity to schedule appointments to discuss these bills. Additionally, almost all members will participate in town hall meetings to hear about what their constituents consider important issues. If at all possible, speak with your representative about supporting one or both of the pieces of legislation.

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
SUPPORT ACB OHIO  
— By Vicky Prahin

Most of you understand the importance of and need for a budget to keep up with necessary expenses—rent, telephone, groceries, transportation, etc. You periodically revise that as your circumstances change and try to keep the outgo less than the income.

ACB Ohio has an annual budget, available to any member interested in seeing how the organization disburses funds. Expenses include rent for office space, telephone lines, salaries for staff, programs such as the annual conference and convention, and printing of brochures, this newsletter, and other documents. At present income is limited to annual member dues, donations through Community Shares of Mid-Ohio, and donations from members. This means that revenue does not match expenditures.

The fund-raising committee is endeavoring to increase our income in several ways. We are seeking grants which can help cover costs of specific programs or general needs. For example, we are soliciting funding from Lions clubs and other groups to provide needed transportation for the upcoming convention. We also have some ideas which will include members.

Last year the Greater Cincinnati Chapter held a fundraiser called “December Delight.” Members sold raffle tickets and then drew one name a day throughout December. Winners received from $10 to $100 and could win more than once. This year members of ACB Ohio will begin selling tickets at the national convention in Las Vegas and will continue through November. We will draw one name each day throughout December; if we succeed in selling all tickets, the organization will net nearly $2000.

We encourage people to help defray the costs of the state conference and convention through the purchase of sponsorships. We will give each sponsor a ribbon to wear during the convention in October, will list the names in the program, and will recognize everyone at the banquet on October 25. You may, of course, choose to remain anonymous.

Consider making a donation to ACB Ohio on line at www.ACBOhio.org or by mail at 3805 North High Street, Suite 305, Columbus, OH 43214. You can specify that your funds support something specific, such as our scholarships, the state convention, the family seminar, or the newsletter. Anyone donating $100 or more will receive a small gift of appreciation. We will publish the names of donors in the Ohio Connection.

This is your organization, and we need your help to remain solvent!
REFLECTIONS
— By Linda Wyman

As president of ACB Ohio in 2009-2010, I was honored to represent our membership in the Ohio capitol and at the annual legislative seminar in Washington, D.C. I was a voice for ACB Ohio members and blind consumers when policy discussions affected us with the Rehabilitation Services Commission, now Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. I visited chapters to hear members’ concerns. And always, I did my best to curb expenses and encourage good stewardship of our funds.

A president, I believe, is only effective with the support of others. I am grateful to Ken Morlock, our long-time executive director, who taught me so much from my first involvement with ACB Ohio in the 90’s, and to Mary Hiland, his successor, who was executive director during my tenure as president, along with Marc Guthrie, our Director of Development and Advocacy at that time.

The president chairs the board of directors, who all took on committee assignments. I would never have been successful without all its hard work. I am proud of the endowed scholarships that bear the name of ACB Ohio, at The Ohio State University, Wright State University, and the University of Toledo, which were developed with Marc Guthrie’s guidance, and which add to our other annual scholarships.

Our family seminar, which began during my tenure, was Mary Hiland’s idea. With funding from the Ohio Lions Foundation, we produced an annual event that offered education, advocacy tips, and networking opportunities for parents of blind children, as well as fun for their kids.

Let’s not forget our annual conventions, which demand months of planning, culminating in a fun filled weekend in the fall.

Currently, I serve as your past president, a term that will end in October. I am proud to have served ACBO first as a board member, then as an officer, then as your president.

I marvel at the accomplishments of this organization during Nolan Crabb’s term. Our technology committee has worked diligently to upgrade our website, our membership listserv, and the ability to stream our convention on the web. Nolan is a strong leader with a broad view of our national organization.

(continued on next page)
The Columbus Chapter held a CD Yard Sale on May 10, 2014. The sale offered CD music, CD and cassette books, and DVD and VHS movies. This is the second time the Columbus Chapter has held this type of event, and each time this has been a successful fundraiser. Amy Billerman of VOICEcorps, the Central Ohio Radio Reading Service, conducted the auction. All money collected from the CD Yard Sale benefits our chapter exclusively.

For every five items a person donated, he received a $2.00 credit. These credits were only redeemable for purchases made at the auction. Our chapter offered a pre-sale listing of the music and books available. This allowed for early purchase. The listing included the songs for each musical CD and the title, author, and the number of CDs or cassettes per book. The pre-sale price for each category was a set price. For example, music CDs were priced at $5.00. At the auction, bids started at $3.00 with raises of $1.00 increments.

When planning this event, we allowed two and a half hours for the auction. On the day of the sale, members brought additional items. Some items did not sell, and we ran out of time before all items could be offered. Since then, we have posted revised lists of the remaining music CDs, audio books, and movies, which members can purchase at a reduced price.

The CD Yard Sale was a successful fundraiser for our chapter. The participants enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, and they were able to take home some of their favorite music, audio books, and movies. If your chapter would like to try this, contact someone from the Columbus Chapter for more information.

(Reflections continued)

It has been a real pleasure to work with him.

I would like to propose some goals for the next five years which will be hard to accomplish but crucial to our future. We need to expand our membership, with special attention to young people. We need to revive existing chapters if they are fading, and we need to establish new ones. We need to secure a steady stream of income to serve as a foundation for our service to the blind and visually impaired community.

I believe that ACB Ohio has a strong future. We have a solid core of hardworking, enthusiastic, and creative members. We have a long tradition of service. If all of us as leaders and members work together to promote ACB’s mission we will expand and strengthen our affiliate in the next few years.
During the first quarter of 2014, President Nolan Crabb accepted the resignation of Melody Banks (Cincinnati) from the board of directors. I enjoyed working with Melody when I was on the board, as well as after accepting the position as Executive Director; thank you for your service on the American Council of the Blind of Ohio Board of Directors, Melody!

Following Melody’s departure, names of interested members for the vacated position were submitted to President Crabb; the board voted to accept the appointment of Jenna Karg to fill Melody’s position until the ACB Ohio Conference and Convention. Some of you may recognize Jenna’s name; she received the Nola Webb-McKinney scholarship in 2010 and the Max Edelman scholarship during the 2011 conference and convention. Jenna graduated from Bowling Green State University in 2013 with a degree in Mild-Moderate Special Education. She currently is the office manager at Opportunities to Succeed, helping people with developmental disabilities in the Cincinnati area. Jenna is a member of the Greater Cincinnati chapter, and is looking forward to future involvement with the organization.

Put October 24-26 — dates of the state convention -- on your calendars now! We have what we think will be wonderful speakers and sessions for this year.

Friday's Keynote Speaker is Richard Crawford, a writer for the Clermont Sun, and a Clermont County Historian. Saturday morning during breakfast we will hear from Hal McCoy, a columnist for the Dayton papers. Saturday’s lunch will feature the 2014 ACBO scholarship winners. The banquet will feature a narrator from APH and presentation of awards.

Some of the workshops include presenters from the Council on Aging, the Association for the Blind of Cincinnati, and Home Depot; there will be sessions on style and what to wear, self defense, what your pharmacy can do for you, and a meeting of blind cancer survivors.

We look forward to seeing all of you!
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2014 ACBO CONVENTION — By Sue Wesley

Transportation services will be provided in honor of our friend Mark Foersterling who died suddenly in October of 2012. Mark was the epitome of a successful blind man who could look at a problem and come up with a solution. We intend to accomplish this with the transportation for those attending the 2014 ACBO Convention.

You can reach the hotel by land, air, or water.

If you come in your own vehicle, the Holiday Inn Eastgate is easily accessible at Exit 63B of Interstate 275 (the beltway around Cincinnati). Just follow the signs.

If you choose to take either Greyhound or Megabus, we will need to know when you plan to arrive and depart to schedule a shuttle or volunteer to pick you up in Cincinnati and take you to the hotel. You will have a cell number to contact me in case of any problems. This service will be available on Friday for your arrival and Sunday for your departure.

If you choose to come by water, the Little Miami River will get your kayak or canoe within five miles of the hotel, and we will pick you up. Since these arrival times are hard to pinpoint, we will have to work them out on an individual basis. If you choose a larger boat or yacht, there are places to dock on the Ohio River, and we can meet you and transport you to the hotel.

Commercial flights come into CVG in Northern Kentucky. There is a shuttle shared by hotels in the area to get you to Eastgate. We can provide you with this information. Private jets use Lunken Airport, but smaller planes will probably have to use Clermont Regional Airport.

Mark was a master of assistive technology, so in his memory I promise to come through with assistance for transportation. Stay tuned to your Ohio Connection for updates as we get closer to the exciting Convention; we will also update our website (ACBOhio.org).
MEET OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
— By Linda Wyman & Sam Moats

Brooke Banner, from Loveland, Ohio, was a freshman at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in the fall of 2013 when she won the Nola Webb-McKinney scholarship. She started college the previous June to give herself time to learn the campus and work with the Student Accessibilities Center. Since return travel from Utah would be very expensive, Brooke joined us at the convention by phone to accept her scholarship. Her mother, Stacie, attended on her behalf. Brooke is strongly considering a major in Communication Disorders, followed by a master’s degree in Speech and Language Pathology. She is also considering the possibility of becoming a teacher of physics. Brooke has been deeply involved in vocal music for many years. She has sung in church and school choirs and has received a scholarship from the Cincinnati Symphony for her musical studies. She expects to continue her singing at BYU. Her extensive volunteer and service activities include working with disadvantaged students at Halloween, tutoring math and Spanish, and serving as a camp counselor for the University of Cincinnati Conservatory’s musical theater camp. One of her teachers wrote, “Brooke never has allowed her visual impairment to be an excuse for low expectations or for asking for special treatment.” Another teacher wrote, "She is willing to take risks, be knocked down by academic challenges, and then rise to overcome them."

Jessica Rabenstein hails from West Liberty, Ohio. She received the Max Edelman scholarship. She attends Cedar-
ville University in Cedarville, Ohio, majoring in social work. She is especially interested in working with the elderly and disabled. She is currently with some of her fellow students and professors working with blind children in Brazil. Jessica was a strong honor student in high school with extensive service and leadership activities to her credit at school, in her church, and throughout the community. She was a squad leader in the marching band, worked in the after-school tutoring program, helped in a soup kitchen, and taught classes in her Vacation Bible School. She has received scholarships from the Parent-Teacher Organization and the Lions Club in West Liberty. One of her teachers says, "Jessica is a diligent, focused student who is mature beyond her years." Her V.I. instructor wrote, "although she faces visual challenges, she has a contagiously positive attitude." The band leader said that her work as a squad leader shows that "she would make a great teacher."

The winner of the David Newmeyer scholarship was Joseph Chadbourne of Akron. Joe graduated from Akron’s Firestone High School with a GPA of 4.2. He was a member of the Honors Club, the Spanish Club, and the swim team, where he lettered for three years in free-style and backstroke. He studied in the International Baccalaureate Program. Outside school, he participated in swimming marathons to benefit the local Children’s Hospital, volunteered for Paralympics, helped children in swimming, and tutored children in braille. Joe is now enrolled at the University of Akron, living on campus in the Honors Dorm, majoring in statistics. He plans to work in the insurance industry or some related math field. Stacy Border received the JoAnn Fischer scholarship. She has received the Linwood Walker scholarship in the past. Stacy has just received her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from Walsh University in Canton. She says, “My desire to help others stems from having my own disability, which has given me a personal awareness of the struggles that individuals with disabilities encounter on a daily basis.” She spent part of the last year in Houston, Texas, working at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is a current member of the Stark County chapter. Good luck to you all!
FROM THE RECREATION CHAIR  
— By Chris Schumacher

I mentioned last time that I started playing Goalball. In early March, a group of Goalball players traveled to Warren, Michigan, for a Goalball tournament. It was definitely an experience. I can freely say that I know I am not the world’s greatest athlete, but I thought I was prepared to play at the next level, even though I am new at it. Keep in mind, we did not expect to win the tournament, but we expected to at least make a good showing for ourselves. All I can say is that we showed up and played our best. And someone has to be last.

In late March, Jenna Karg, Dave Perry, and I went to Toledo, Ohio, for the Northeast Ohio Sight Center’s Goalball tournament to promote the Disability Awareness Month. The three of us and a team from Michigan put on a short display. Then we attempted to coach teams as they tried to play. At least 16 teams signed up to participate in the tournament. I believe that it was a huge success, and they are expecting an even better turnout next year.

The Cincinnati Flying Pig marathon took place on May 3 and 4. The Cincinnati chapter had many participants who walked in the events. The secretary, Mary Ann Donelan, walked in the full marathon – that’s 26.2 miles! I am sure everyone will join me to congratulate Mary Ann.

Jenna Karg and I did the three-event challenge called the Skyline Three Way. This consists of the 10k (6.2 miles), the 5k (3.1 miles) and the half marathon (13.1 miles). The rest of the participants from our group did the 10k or the 5k. We are already making plans for next year.

The next event on the ACBO recreation calendar is the Summer Sports Retreat. It is happening August 1-3, outside Athens, Ohio, again this year. In addition to the usual activities -- boating, hiking, tandem biking, sitting around the camp fire, and eating great food -- we are hoping to have a special
My husband Bob died on April 28. He was born on June 4, 1931. He retired from the Cleveland school system after teaching for many years. He taught woodworking and drafting. We met at a dance in 2005 and were married June 10, 2006. We bought a motor home and traveled all over the United States. He was a help to me, taking me to meetings of my chapter of ACBO and often taking others as well. He made posters for our group to use when we participated in senior fairs and vision fairs. He helped me to bring items to the State conventions for the auction.

He went to several sports retreats. In addition, he took many photographs on our trips; he then framed them and has some exhibited at an art gallery in Canton.

Bob will be missed!

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 August 15, 2014. Please include your name, address, and phone number and send to: Vicky Prahin at vicky@hadley.edu.
Did you know that you have the right to return to BSVI within five years of closing your case successfully if on the job your disability is creating additional difficulties, or in the case of a new position, you need additional support? Contact your BSVI field office to learn more as needed. Did you know that BSVI is actively recruiting for people interested in becoming a Business Enterprise vendor? Contact your local BSVI field office for more information on the cafeteria, micromarket and rest stop career field. To find your local BSVI office, visit http://www.ood.ohio.gov/.

If you know a child who could benefit by learning Braille, see this page to learn more about an Ohio training program in Columbus, July 21-August 2, organized by the National Federation of the Blind. https://nfb.org/bell-program-

Window-Eyes is now available to users of Microsoft Office at no cost. Formerly priced from $800 to $1,000, the program is now available to anyone with an active license of Microsoft Office 2010 or higher. Many questions concerning Window-Eyes can be answered by the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at www.windoweyesforoffice.com.

Here is a guide to government agencies and organizations that can help you find an affordable place to live. You’ll also find information about rental assistance programs, assisted living facilities, and modifying your home to make it accessible. https://www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-housing/.

Making summer get-away plans? Check this link for a thorough overview on accessible state park facilities around Ohio, including camping, hotels, trails, and more: http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/accessiblefacilities.

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. You will also find a listing of Ohio job fairs & workshops, basic computer skills, resume writing, money management, and more.

Ohio-faqs. If you have further questions about the NFB BELL program, please contact Natalie Shaheen at nshaheen@nfb.org.
This handbook offers advice on loans, grants, scholarships and the best colleges specifically for students with disabilities: www.affordablecollegesonline.org/spotlight/affordable-colleges-for-students-with-disabilities/.

The American Council of the Blind now details White Cane Laws for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, including regulations, penalties, and direct links: http://www.acb.org/whitecane.

The American Foundation for the Blind has developed a list of TV programs with audio description. Go to 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.

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.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Ohio Connection has grown, thanks to new contributors. If you have written something you think will interest other Ohioans, send it along. If you have an idea but lack the confidence to write it down yourself, contact me; I can find someone to help you put your thoughts together.

We need some volunteers to help with interviews. If you enjoy talking to people, contact me for more information: prahin@hadley.edu or 614-268-0380.

Contributors …

Thanks to the contributors: Carolyn Burley, Nolan Crabb, Katie Frederick, Marty Honaker, Sam Moats, Vicky Prahin, Elizabeth Sammons, Chris Schumacher, Sue Wesley, Lori Woodall, Linda Wyman. Send items for the next issue to Vicky Prahin (prahin@hadley.edu) by August 15.
2014 ACB Ohio Datebook

July 11-19
ACB National Conference & Convention, Las Vegas

July 25-26
Summer Board Meeting
Via conference call
Open to all members

August 1
Deadline for Scholarship Applications

August 1-3
Summer Sports Retreat

August 15
Deadline for newsletter items

September 7
Deadline for Awards Nominations