



OHIO CONNECTION

American Council of the Blind of Ohio

A Note from the President

By Brant Adams

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer. I certainly have, while also getting a lot accomplished for ACB-Ohio.

We recently completed our IRS Form 990 filing for the organization. My sincere thanks to D Pimley and Lori for ensuring that was managed smoothly and on time.

I was also glad to assist with this year's scholarship selection process. We conducted interviews with all of the candidates, and the committee ultimately selected four outstanding recipients. In addition, I helped complete several recordings with our winners that will be played during our upcoming convention.

Recently, I traveled to Ohio to attend the state cookout at Hogback Ridge Park, where I enjoyed getting to visit with so many people. This also gave me the opportunity to participate in ACB National's Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. I am proud to have walked and raised funds for both ACB National and ACB-Ohio.

As your president, I feel strongly that attending as many in-person events as possible is a vital part of the role. At the same time, I am mindful of our resources, so I have personally covered my travel expenses for all my trips to Ohio to ensure no unnecessary costs are passed on to the organization.

A huge thank you to Dustin Grandstaff and the Sports and Recreation Committee for all their hard work organizing both the state cookout and Fall Fest. Special thanks as well to the Columbus Chapter and President Janae Miller for hosting us at Hogback Ridge, and to Dan Kelley for grilling all the meat!

By the time this newsletter is published, the board and I will have completed the initial evaluation for our new Executive Director. I am extremely glad to have Lori on board and working with us—thank you, Lori, for all your hard work!

I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Fest and at our upcoming State Convention this October!



Rachel and Alex Densmore with their guide dog on the Braille Trail at Hogback Ridge; President Brant Adams in the background

Thank You, Bold Buckeyes!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who walked with us, donated to our Bold Buckeyes team, or cheered us on for the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk this year. With still a couple of weeks to go, we have already surpassed our \$2,000 team goal! Every step and every dollar helps strengthen advocacy, leadership, and connection across the ACB family. We are so grateful for the generosity and enthusiasm of our members, friends, and supporters across Ohio. The team page stays open through August 31 for

anyone who would still like to add to the total:

<https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E144393&id=109&cfid=92>



Janae Miller and Lynn Powers on the March to the Arch during the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk

2026 ACBO Board Nominating Slate

By Melody Banks, Nominating Committee Chair

At the annual business meeting on Saturday, October 10 during the ACB-Ohio and ACB-Indiana convention, members will vote on candidates for president, vice president 2, treasurer, and director positions. The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for the 2026 ACBO Board of Directors:

President: Brant Adams (Term 2)

Brant is seeking his second term as ACBO's President. He looks forward to continuing his work to move the organization forward.

Treasurer: Alex Densmore (Term 1)

Alex has served as ACBO Secretary for over two terms. He actively serves on the budget, legislative, and personnel committees, and he chairs the organizational documents and technology committees. He also serves as treasurer for the Cleveland chapter.

Vice President 2: Kate Morse (Term 2)

Kate actively participates in the Cincinnati chapter and serves on ACB-Ohio's fundraising, matching grants, organizational documents, and sports and recreation

committees. She also chairs the membership committee and assists with ACB-Ohio's monthly Morning Exchange show on VoiceCorps. She looks forward to continuing her service with ACB-Ohio.

Director: Jenna McCartney (Term 2)

Jenna participates in the Stark County chapter and serves on ACB-Ohio's fundraising, membership, newsletter, and scholarship committees. She looks forward to continuing her work on the ACB-Ohio board.

Director: Don Kalman (Term 2)

Don serves as President of the Friends 'n Focus (Medina County) chapter. He works tirelessly to ensure local individuals who need CCTVs receive them. Don also serves on ACB-Ohio's matching grants and sports and recreation committees.

Director: Niral Sheth (Term 2)

Niral brings a strong passion for advocacy. He serves on ACB-Ohio's legislative and membership committees, and he actively participates in the Cleveland chapter as well as the national ACB Next Generation affiliate.

Director: Renee Arrington-Johnson (Term 2)

Renee actively participates in the Cleveland chapter and ACB's Audio Description Project, working to increase access to audio description for people who are blind or have low vision. She also serves on ACB-Ohio's budget, matching grants, personnel, and sports and recreation committees.

Director: Phil Gates (Term 1)

Phil previously served on the board and as president of ACB-Ohio. He actively participates in the Cincinnati chapter and looks forward to rejoining the board to advance ACB-Ohio's mission.

Members may also make nominations from the floor during the business meeting for anyone wishing to run for these slated positions. Before nominating someone, please confirm that the individual knows about and agrees to the nomination. If an election to a higher office creates a vacancy, the Nominating Committee has candidates ready and will nominate them directly from the floor.

Constitution and Bylaws Proposals

By Alex Densmore, ACB-Ohio Org Docs Committee Chair

Each year, the ACB-Ohio Organization Documents Committee reviews our governing and policy documents to ensure that the documents align with how our organization operates. Based on this year's review, the committee recommends the following changes to the constitution and bylaws. Each recommendation includes the specific section number from the original document. The full text of the current versions of the constitution and bylaws can be viewed at <https://www.acbohio.org/about/constitution/> and <https://www.acbohio.org/about/bylaws/>, respectively.

Those who are members in good standing of ACB-Ohio for at least 30 days prior to our annual business meeting on Saturday, October 10 will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to approve these changes. A two-thirds majority vote will be required to approve any constitution changes, and a simple majority vote will be required to approve any bylaws changes. Since all proposed constitution or bylaws amendments must be distributed to ACB-Ohio membership at least 30 days prior to the annual business meeting, members cannot propose new amendments or revise currently proposed amendments from the floor.

The proposed changes are organized by the topic which they address. Some changes would involve amending multiple articles of the constitution and/or bylaws.

Anyone who has questions about these changes ahead of the business meeting may contact Alex Densmore, Organization Documents Chair, at alexander.densmore@gmail.com or 440-554-2138.

Removal of Remaining “Chapter Representative” References

Last year, we voted to remove the specification in Article 10.0 of the constitution that each chapter could appoint a special “Chapter Representative” to the board if no member was elected to the board from that chapter. Our reasoning for this change was that chapter representatives thus appointed were not elected by the membership at large and would cause the total number of board members to change. However, while the intention with this change was to entirely remove this position, due to an oversight, references to it were still left throughout other parts of the constitution and bylaws. Therefore, we are proposing the following changes to align with the previously approved removal of “Chapter Representative” language from Article 10.0:

- Remove Constitution Article 7.9 and renumber the remaining sections of Article 7 accordingly. Article 7.9 currently reads, “A chapter in good standing may appoint one of its members to represent it at board meetings. However, a chapter shall

not have such representative on the board if one or more of its members are already elected to the board.”

- Remove the last sentence from Constitution Article 11.6 specifying how chapters fill a chapter representative vacancy. New wording: “Filling of Vacancies: The president in consultation with the board is empowered to fill any vacancies of the officers and directors, so long as the required balance is maintained, that is, 3 of the 5 elected officers and 6 of the 11 directors are blind or visually impaired. Appointments shall be effective immediately.”
- Remove the language about chapter representative from Constitution Article 11.8.2. New wording: “If an elected board member has as many as two unexcused absences, or if it is determined that the member can no longer attend meetings, the Board shall, by two-thirds majority vote, appoint a replacement. All concerned parties shall be notified as to actions taken by the board at the earliest possible time.”
- Remove “or chapter representatives” from Bylaws Article 3.0. New wording: “Committees consisting of board members and others perform predefined tasks for the board and corporation. Divisions and actions of any committee may be appealed to the president and to the board if deemed necessary. Committee participants need not be members of the board. However, participants must be current ACBO members in good standing and committee chairs shall be board members or the immediate past president.”

More Detailed Election Procedures

We currently do not have any specifications about what happens in the case of a tie during an election in our organization documents. We feel that a framework for handling this in the constitution will make procedures clearer. We also do not have information about candidates for contested positions giving speeches. We feel that it is important that each candidate have an opportunity for both an initial speech and a rebuttal speech. These changes would be added between Constitution Articles 8.2 and 8.3, and would be as follows:

- 8.2.1: At the beginning of elections, the Nominating Committee Chair will read the list of slated candidates. Then, elections for each position will occur in the order slated. In addition, when an office is vacated due to its current holder being elected to another position, an election will occur for that position. The Nominating Committee may choose to nominate a candidate from the floor for a position thus vacated.

- 8.2.2: For each position, the Nominating Committee Chair will read the name of the slated candidate (if applicable) and then make three calls for nominations from the floor. After the third call, a voting member may make a motion to close nominations for that position at any time and, if there is only one candidate, move to elect that candidate by acclamation.
- 8.2.3: Once nominations are closed for contested positions, all candidates shall have the opportunity to make one initial speech and one rebuttal speech. The initial speech shall be limited to two minutes in length, or one minute if that candidate has already spoken when running for another position during the same election. All rebuttal speeches shall be limited to one minute in length.
- 8.2.4: A candidate must receive a simple majority (1 more vote than 50%) of all votes cast in order to win. If no candidate receives a simple majority, then the candidate with the least votes is eliminated, and a new ballot is cast for all candidates that remain. Voting continues until a simple majority is reached. In the case that there are only 2 candidates left and they tie, ballots continue to be cast for those 2 candidates until one receives a simple majority. In the case that there is a tie for candidates with the least votes, no candidate is eliminated from the ballot.

Requirement for Board Members to Maintain Membership in Good Standing

While the Constitution currently defines requirements for membership in good standing in Articles 6.2-6.4, and Article 10.0 requires that those seeking election to the board be members in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the election (or 6 months prior to election for officer positions), there is currently no stated requirement that board members must maintain their membership in good standing once elected. We want to add a provision for what happens if a board member loses membership in good standing and does not remedy the situation within 30 days so that the board member can be removed and a replacement appointed. The following would be added after Constitution Article 11.8, and the rest of the sections of Article 11 would be renumbered accordingly:

11.9. If a board member loses their membership in good standing status due to failing to renew their membership or falling in arrears in payment to the organization, the board member will have 30 days to remedy the situation. This remedy may take the form of renewing their membership (if applicable), making required payments, or establishing a payment agreement accepted by the executive director as defined in Article 6.4. If, after 30 days, the board member has not remedied the situation, they will be subject to removal from the board by a two-thirds majority vote of the board.

Update Membership Dues Policy so that Dues are Good for One Specific Calendar Year

Currently, Bylaws Article 1.0 has a special provision that dues paid at convention entitle the member to membership through the end of the following year, but there is otherwise no provision allowing individuals to pay dues for a future year during the current year. Therefore, our practice has been to determine which year(s) dues count toward based on when they are paid relative to convention. This has led to confusion. Moving forward, we would like dues to count for January 1 through December 31 of a specific year, and members to specify the year for which they are submitting dues. New wording:

1.0. ACBO members are also members of the national ACB through an annual dues subscription of \$5.00 per member paid by ACBO to the national organization. Members' dues may be received by the ACBO office at any time in the year and may not be prorated. Dues are assessed on a calendar-year basis and cover only the designated calendar year for which they are paid. Members must specify the calendar year to which their payment applies.

Restructuring Legislative Committee as Advocacy Committee

Currently, the Legislative Committee only handles advocacy as it relates to specific legislative issues at the state or national level. There is no specific committee which handles advocacy on behalf of individuals or groups in non-legislative contexts. We propose renaming the Legislative Committee to Advocacy Committee with the following definition. If approved, since committee-specific subsections of Article 3 are alphabetized by committee name, Advocacy Committee would now be defined in Article 3.3 and other committees' article numbers would be updated accordingly:

3.3. Advocacy: The committee is responsible for keeping the ACBO board and membership apprised of relevant state and federal legislative issues. It shall promote and/or coordinate involvement of the board and membership with government officials and the public for greater understanding and appreciation of the needs and concerns of the ACBO membership. It shall also be responsible for coordinating ACBO's participation in the annual leadership conference in Washington, D.C. Furthermore, it shall provide resources and recommendations to the Executive Director and the board to assist with advocacy requests brought forth by individuals, local chapters, or other organizations. The committee shall consist of at least three members.

Removal of Requirement that First Vice President Chair the Matching Grants Committee

Currently, Bylaws Article 3.8 specifies that the First Vice President must chair the Matching Grants Committee. We see no reason why the First Vice President specifically needs to chair this committee. We feel that a specific officer should only be required to chair a committee if that committee clearly falls within the role of their office (such as the Treasurer being required to chair the Budget Committee). With the last sentence of Article 3.8 removed to eliminate the First Vice President chairing requirement, this article would now read:

3.8. Matching Grants: The committee receives and considers requests for grants from ACBO chapters and Ohio residents who need funds to expand membership, develop projects, or purchase adaptive equipment. All requests must fall in line with our mission.

2026 Proposed Convention Standing Rules

By Alex Densmore, ACB-Ohio Org Docs Committee Chair

The Organization Documents Committee of ACB-Ohio submits the following standing rules for approval at, and use during, the upcoming state convention on Saturday, October 10, 2026. The purpose of these rules is to ensure fair, orderly, and efficient proceedings during the annual business meeting of ACB-Ohio. The first item of business at the October 10 meeting will be discussing and voting on these proposed rules. Should you have any questions regarding these rules, please reach out to Alex Densmore, Organization Documents Chair, at alexander.densmore@gmail.com or 440-554-2138, or Brant Adams, ACBO president, at brant@acbohio.org or 419-566-0918.

1. At the start of the meeting, the ACB-Ohio executive director shall announce the total number of eligible voting members present at the meeting. Furthermore, the executive director shall announce if the required 10% quorum of all eligible voting members has been reached, and if 60% or more of those members present are blind or visually impaired. "Present" shall be defined as in-person or virtual attendance at the time of the start of the business meeting. This is to ensure compliance with ACBO Constitution sections 4.1 and 8.0, which can be accessed at <https://www.acbohio.org/about/constitution/>.

2. When debate is held on a proposed constitutional or bylaws amendment, or any other motion, there shall first be a portion of time for questions on the proposed topic, which shall be for the explicit purpose of clarification and gathering additional information on the issue on the floor. Following this, a time of debate shall proceed. During debate, there shall be an equal number of people speaking for and against an issue, with preference given to those who have not previously participated in the current debate. The first person speaking in favor of a proposal shall be the member or a representative from the committee bringing forth the motion. If no one wishes to speak from the opposing side, then the person or representative of the committee bringing forth the proposal shall speak and then debate shall close and a vote shall be taken.

3. Once nominations are closed for an election of a contested position, all candidates shall have the opportunity to make one initial speech and one rebuttal speech. The initial speech shall be limited to two minutes in length, or one minute if that candidate has already spoken when running for another position during the same election. All rebuttal speeches shall be limited to one minute in length.

4. In order to win a contested election, a candidate must receive a simple majority (1 more vote than 50%) of all votes cast in order to win. If no candidate receives a simple majority, then the candidate with the least votes is eliminated, and a new ballot is cast for all candidates that remain. Voting continues until a simple majority is reached. In the case that there are only 2 candidates left and they tie, ballots continue to be cast for those 2 candidates until one receives a simple majority. In the case that there is a tie for candidates with the least votes, no candidate is eliminated from the ballot.

Join Us for the 2026 ACBO and ACBI Joint Conference and Convention

By Rachel Densmore

This year's joint ACB-Ohio and ACB-Indiana conference and convention will take place Friday, October 9 through Sunday, October 11 at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel. Join us as we explore the theme "Many Voices: One Vision." Registration is now live! This year's conference and convention will feature all of the following:

- Our annual business meeting, where we will vote on important issues such as potential changes to the constitution and bylaws and elect new officers and

directors to our ACBO board (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more information)

- Our annual banquet, where we will hear from newly elected ACB national board member Sheila Young of Orlando, Florida, and present our ACBO Awards to some very special individuals and organizations
- A plethora of great workshops on topics such as adaptive cooking, cell phone technology support, disability disrespect, employment, and adaptive sports
- An excursion to the recently updated Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum
- Our annual auction, which not only benefits ACBO and ACBI but is a great way for participants to support our local chapters
- An exhibit hall with 19 confirmed vendors, and possibly more on the way: ADA-Indiana, American Council of the Blind of Indiana, American Council of the Blind of Ohio, Ambutech, AT Guys (Saturday only), Bosma Enterprises, Eye Can See, Family First Attendant Care LLC, First Aid For The Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Helen Keller Services, INDATA Project, Easter Seals Crossroads, Indiana Lions for Leader Dog, IU School of Optometry, Loney's Leathers, Selvas BLV, Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL), Tactile Engineering, and Visual Eyes Access
- Plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow ACBO and ACBI members, both for networking and fellowship

Registration

Registration fees are \$100 for in-person attendance and \$50 for virtual attendance. The in-person fee includes all workshops, access to the exhibit hall, and four meals. The virtual fee includes workshop programming, the welcome, and mealtime programming, including the banquet.

The registration form includes menu choices, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum ticket cost, a link to Blind Girl Designs for ordering your convention shirt, a link to be an individual sponsor, and the registration fee. To register, go to: <https://tally.so/r/GxEB4O>

For other convention information, such as a list of exhibitors and sponsors and more detailed information about programming, go to acb-indiana.org.

Hotel

The convention will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel, located at 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241. The room rate is \$125 per night plus tax. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel front desk at 317-248-2481 (use the

group code American Council of the Blind of Indiana), or online. Rooms are set aside for Thursday, October 8 for those coming early. The reservation cut-off date for our group is September 17, 2026.

We hope you'll join us at this year's conference and convention!

ACB National Convention Recap: St. Louis

By Lori DeWine, from member contributions

Ohio members had a full week at this year's ACB National Convention. Some traveled to St. Louis, some joined the virtual sessions in the weeks leading up to it, and some took part in the St. Louis sessions virtually. The highlights below are from members who attended in person.



A view of the Gateway Arch from the convention hotel

The Multicultural Affairs Committee held two really good sessions on the history of Native American and African-American communities in St. Louis, including one focused on Kinloch, Missouri, one of the oldest historically Black towns in the state. Claire Stanley, ACB's Director of Governmental Affairs, gave an update on the legislative and advocacy priorities the organization is watching at the federal level. We heard from Waymo about where autonomous vehicles stand and the legislation shaping their rollout, and attendees could even sit in the cars, which were on-site to explore. Microsoft shared what they're doing to build accessibility into their products, and Scott Thornhill, ACB's Executive Director, talked about why partnerships with other

disability organizations and tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon matter so much right now, especially with technology playing such a big role in daily life.

The BITS Affiliate sessions were another favorite. Members especially liked the one on Google's Gemini and NotebookLM, which was practical, clear, and full of ideas people could actually take home and use.

One of the most-talked-about wins this year was NaviLens in the exhibit hall. Those colorful codes made it easy for members to get around the hall independently using just their phones, with no login required. We hope to see more of this kind of accessible navigation at future events.

Six Ohio members joined the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk, held this year as the March to the Arch. It was hot, but the walk was a good one, with plenty of time to catch up along the way. Each of us came home with a nice canvas tote, and one will be offered as a door prize at state convention.

Bingo night was more competitive than anyone expected and a great chance to sit with new people. The banquet was another favorite, especially getting to gather as the whole Ohio affiliate around one table. The Riverboat Cruise brought good food, good music, and even better company on the water.

Between sessions, members made time for Arch tours, museum visits, and restaurants around the city. The expo hall was another favorite stop, with a close look at the newest assistive tech and time to talk with vendors.



Deborah Kendrick tries out the Glide mobility device in the exhibit hall

Honestly, the best parts of the week were often the small ones. Sitting next to someone new at dinner, sorting out which way to walk, comparing notes on a session over coffee. Thanks to everyone who made the trip and took the time to send in their highlights.

On a personal note, this was my first ACB National Convention, and I want to thank the ACB-Ohio board for making it possible for me to attend. What struck me most was the vibrancy of the community and how open and welcoming everyone was. I had a great time getting to know members from across the country, and I especially enjoyed spending time with Deborah Kendrick, whose long history with ACB and the blindness community made every conversation a real education. Walking the March to the Arch alongside members from many states was another highlight, and I appreciated how naturally advocacy and community-building were woven into so many of the sessions. I came home with a better sense of what ACB stands for at the national level and a lot of ideas about how we can build on that here in Ohio.

Seeking Donations: Support the ACB Indiana and Ohio Joint Convention Auctions

By Melissa Wobschall

The annual American Council of the Blind of Indiana and American Council of the Blind of Ohio joint convention is fast approaching, and that means it is time for our highly anticipated fundraising auctions. We are officially seeking unique, fun, and high-quality item donations to benefit both state affiliates.

To accommodate everyone, we are hosting two separate events this year: an In-Person Auction and a Virtual Auction.

How You Can Donate

Choose the auction format that best fits your item:

- In-Person Auction (October 10): This event will take place live during our state convention. Please note: donated items for this auction must be compact and easy enough for you to physically carry with you directly to the hotel.
- Virtual Auction: Ideal for any items that do not fit the in-person criteria. These items must either be emailed electronically (such as digital gift cards or certificates) or mailed directly by the donor to the winning bidder at the donor's expense.

Submission Guidelines

To enter your items into either auction, you must submit a description ahead of time:

- What to send: A detailed description of the item and which auction it is for (In-Person or Virtual).
- Where to send it: Email your descriptions directly to Mel at Mkwobsch@gmail.com.
- Submission Deadline: September 30 at 5:00 p.m.

Questions?

If you have any questions or need to clarify if an item is eligible, please feel free to reach out to Mel. You can call or text 765-543-2281.

Thank you for your generosity and continuous support in making our joint convention a success.

Get Involved with the ACB Audio Description Project

By Rachel Densmore

How do blind people watch movies? Why would you go to an art museum if you can't see? Is the price of the play ticket really worth it for you if you're just going to listen to the dialogue at a live performance? These questions, and many more are ones we, as members of the blind and low vision community, have probably dealt with, and for some of us, may have struggled to answer. However, just like closed captioning helps those who are deaf and hard of hearing, audio description bridges the visual gap for those of us who are blind or low vision. By providing descriptions of the visual elements of what is happening, confusion and frustration turn to understanding and enjoyment.

ACB has many different initiatives, events, and projects at the national level to benefit the blind and low vision community. One very special program is the Audio Description Project which works to bring more meaning and enjoyment to entertainment, cultural, and educational experiences for blind and visually impaired people. The ADP serves as the primary authority on audio description (AD). From providing training and education to maintaining a website of information and lists of AD content that is currently available across locations and platforms, the ADP works tirelessly on all things audio description.

You can get involved with the ADP in several ways this season.

First, as we described in the summer edition of the Ohio Connection, the ADP is currently conducting a survey of accessibility challenges and successes you have encountered on any and all streaming platforms. This survey will remain open through August 31. Whether you use just one streaming service occasionally, or you are a daily streamer, they want to hear from you. To access the survey, go to <https://adp.acb.org/shape-future-accessible-streaming-take-adp-survey>

Second, the annual Audio Description Awards Gala will take place on Thursday, November 14 at 7:30 PM ET. The awards gala is streamed on several platforms, including YouTube, and features celebrity guests, the winners of the People's Choice Awards for AD, and a whole lot of fun. This is a great way to learn a lot about what is being done with audio description. In 2024, I had the opportunity to attend a watch party with the Cleveland Chapter. We had a blast meeting up, having snacks, watching the gala, and enjoying the party. Whether you're a chapter leader or not, I would encourage you to get a group together to tune in! For more information about the gala, visit <https://adawardsgala.org/>

Fall. Frolic. Fun.

By Dustin Grandstaff, Chair, ACB-Ohio Sports and Recreation Committee

Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26



Fall Fest logo featuring a black cat leaping through autumn leaves and butterflies

ACBO Sports and Recreation is co-hosting with local Lions clubs for our 4th annual Fall-Fest weekend. This event brings our community together for great accessible recreation in friendly downtown Wooster.

Fall-Fest is a time to relax, explore, share exciting adventures, build confidence, and support each other in independence.

Build Memories with a Scavenger Hunt

The weekend is packed full of activities and we want you to get involved. Put a team together and compete for bragging rights and prizes. For each activity you attend you receive a point for your team. You will get a small charm for each (for example, a fish charm for fishing). Get bonus points for special challenges. Keep the charms as a reminder of your Fall-Fest weekend.

Friday Evening

Hang out at the Best Western hospitality room for our welcome pizza party. The Boys and Girls Club will be on hand to start the fun with a round of Bird Search Trivia. The rest of the night is yours, so grab your guide dog, your cane, or your bestie and discover something amazing together.

Saturday

Saturday morning, walk over to Main Street Wooster for the farmers' market with local vendors and live music. Be sure to visit the many shops and eateries. The Lions STEPS walk for pediatric cancer research is scheduled for Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and is an optional 1-mile hike. Separate registration and a \$20 fee are required.

In the afternoon we are off to Izaak Walton Forest for fishing and archery. We come together in the evening for a bird talk, frog walk, picnic, and wrap-up at Barnes Preserve. Finally, we settle back at the hospitality room, Wooster nightlife, or wherever your heart leads you.

Fall-Fest Wearables



This year's Fall Fest t-shirt design, available at Blind Girl Designs

Fall-Fest wearables are available September 1st at Blind Girl Designs. Visit www.blindgirldesigns.com to see the collection.

ACBO Matching Grants Program: Funds Available for 2026

By Lynn Powers

Funds are available to any blind or visually impaired resident of Ohio, or any ACB-Ohio chapter, to cover half the cost of a purchase or chapter project, up to \$1,000. These funds must be used for new equipment.

Examples of eligible purchases include, but are not limited to:

- Screen readers
- Braille displays
- CCTVs or other magnifiers
- Chapter fundraising projects

Additional information and the application can be found at <https://www.acbohio.org/matching-grants-application/>.

ACBO DATEBOOK

AUGUST 30, DEADLINE FOR ACBO AWARD NOMINATIONS

SEPTEMBER 1, FALL-FEST APPAREL AVAILABLE AT BLINDGIRLDESIGNS.COM

SEPTEMBER 2, ACBO ON THE RADIO, 11 A.M., VOICECORPS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 17, CONVENTION HOTEL BOOKING DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 25-27, ACBO FALL-FEST 2026, WOOSTER, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 30, IN-PERSON /VIRTUAL AUCTION SUBMISSION DEADLINE, 5 P.M.

OCTOBER 7, ACBO ON THE RADIO, 11 A.M., VOICECORPS.ORG

OCTOBER 9-11, ACB-OHIO AND ACB-INDIANA JOINT CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS

OCTOBER 10, ACBO BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTIONS

OCTOBER 15, WHITE CANE DAY

NOVEMBER 4, ACBO ON THE RADIO, 11 A.M., VOICECORPS.ORG

NOVEMBER 14, ACB AUDIO DESCRIPTION AWARDS GALA, 7:30 P.M. ET

NOVEMBER 15, WINTER OHIO CONNECTION NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

DECEMBER 2, ACBO ON THE RADIO, 11 A.M., VOICECORPS.ORG

DECEMBER 5, VIRTUAL ACBO HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 4–7 P.M.

