# Focus On ACBI

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# A Publication of the American Council of the Blind of Indiana

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# April-June 2023

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Mary Stores edits this newsletter and can be contacted at [mstores@iu.edu](mailto:mstores@iu.edu) or 812-272-1876.

Edward Stahl narrates the Focus for cassette output. Don Koors is responsible for the printing and mailing of hard copies, as well as e-mail distribution and cassette duplication and distribution.

## Ways to contribute to the American Council of the Blind of Indiana:

Those much-needed contributions, which are tax-deductible, can be sent to ACBI, Attn: Cindy Brooking, 676 VFW Road, Mitchell, Indiana 47446 or through our website noted above.  
Vehicle donations: 1-800-929-8659. You can donate cars, trucks, vans, and boats.  Live operators are on hand 7 days a week and it includes free pick-up.  
Shop [Terri Lynn](https://acb-indiana.terrilynn.com/) online or call 1-800-323-0775 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST. A portion of every product sold will benefit ACBI.

Consider including a gift to ACBI in your Last Will and Testament.

## From Your President

## By Rita Kersh

Happy spring ACBI family!

We’ve got a lot going on with our organization this year. Chapter activities, the ACB National Conference and Convention, our statewide picnic and the joint state convention in Columbus, Ohio.

ACBI has gotten quite a bit of attention since the agreement on the accessible absentee voting lawsuit with the state. As the representative for ACBI on the lawsuit, Dee Ann Hart has been interviewed by various news sources. She, along with our Indiana Disability Rights attorneys who have joined her, have done excellent jobs getting the facts out to the public. This is a huge accomplishment for ACBI, and we should be proud.

Some members are attending the ACB National Conference and Convention in Schaumburg, Illinois either in-person or virtually. Unfortunately, we don’t have as many attending in person as we hoped, but we’ll have a good number attending virtually.

As a member in good standing of ACB, you’ll get your voter code in the format your Braille Forum comes in to use for elections. All individual votes will be done on the Vote Now electronic system or by telephone.

As for affiliate voting, I will be the delegate and Dee Ann Hart will be the alternate. She’ll also attend the nominating committee meeting prior to the actual convention. If you wish to participate in the affiliate votes, you’ll e-mail or call Dee Ann or me at the appropriate time. My e-mail is [hoosierrita60@gmail.com](mailto:hoosierrita60@gmail.com) and my phone number is 812-278-3038. Dee Ann’s email is [d64hart@outlook.com](mailto:d64hart@outlook.com). Her phone number is 765-215-1211.

We’ll tally the votes and cast our four delegate votes for ACBI during the general sessions.

ACBI will be having our statewide picnic at McCormick’s Creek State Park in Spencer. I have reserved the CCC Recreation Building for Saturday, September 16 and reserved a block of rooms at the Canyon Inn for those who would like to stay overnight. Lunch will be provided by ACBI. More details are in the picnic article later in this newsletter.

Don’t forget about our joint state convention in Columbus, Ohio the weekend of November 10-12. More details to come on this in the next issue of the Focus.

One last thing to bring up…ACBI will have two additional fund-raising opportunities for you and your friends to take part in. We’re setting up a page with Kroger.com where ACBI will get around 3% of the total sale. Also Goodshop.com is a clearinghouse for coupons for hundreds of businesses and we’ll also get a certain percentage of sales. Once these are ready to use, we’ll put the word out on the Indiana e-mail list as well as links to the shopping sites on our ACBI website.

Have a great and safe summer!

## ACBI Statewide Picnic Coming in September!

## By the Picnic Committee

Make plans to attend the statewide picnic on Saturday, September 16 at McCormick’s Creek State Park.

We’ll be at the CCC Recreation Building and it has lots to offer. We have the building for the entire day and plan to have plenty of fun stuff to do. The food will be catered from a local business, but some members may want to bring soft drinks, water, extra side dishes or desserts.

This is an enclosed building with folding tables and chairs. It includes a kitchen with a fridge, stove and sink. A toilet is also in the building. There is a fireplace if the day is cool or if anyone wants to cook hot dogs or roast marshmallows that evening. Wood is not included, though.

We’re also talking about having a mini-auction at the picnic with desserts, etc. to raise money for next year’s convention. So, bring your auction items with you to the picnic.

Door prizes are also a possibility!

The park has hiking trails, a nature center, horseback riding, the waterfall, fire tower, camping and fishing.

We have ten single queen rooms on hold for Saturday night at the Canyon Inn at $114 plus tax and fees. You can reserve a room by calling 812-829-4881 and give them the group code 0916RK. If you’d like to reserve a room for Friday night, we do not have any blocked off so you may want to make reservations early to be sure you get one.

We’d like to see each chapter work out transportation for your members, as well as those in your surrounding area. This may help at-large members who might be able to meet somewhere along the route catch a ride to the park.

Get ready for a fun day and if you’re definitely coming, we’d appreciate a food count for lunch. Contact one of the picnic committee members—Mel Wobschall, Mary Stores, Pat Tussing or Rita Kersh no later than Labor Day weekend.

## Cards that Talk

## by Elizabeth Ann Klippen (Circle City Member)

Are you a card lover like me and love to play a good game of euchre or poker or whatever your favorite card game is? Are you like me where your ability to read braille is not what it used to be, or you never learned braille? Do you struggle to see playing cards even if they are large print?

I want to share with you something I recently discovered. Cards That Talk is a deck of cards (less than $20.00) and a free app that uses QR scanning technology to verbally tell you what is on the card.

Let me tell you how this works from my point of view:

You will need a smart phone (iPhone/Samsung) or a tablet (iPad/Samsung). You will also need to download the app Cards that Talk

For me, once the app was downloaded (I had some help with that), then I said, “Hey Siri to open the cards that talk app”. I then put a card about 6 inches from my phone camera and it read the card i.e., 5 of spades.

Now it took some practice, and I have to keep practicing so I could get faster. But I knew what cards I had in my hand. I was able to play a few rounds of Texas Hold ‘em with a friend!!

I want to share with all of you how joyous it made me feel to be able to play a card game without someone knowing my cards!

If you are in the Indy area and want to play some cards, let me know! If we gather for an ACB event in person, I’ll bring them along to show you how they work.

**Editor’s Note**: this is the Apple app store link to [download the Cards That Talk app](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cards-that-talk/id1088588020). The company who sells the deck of cards you will need is [Qrspeak.com](https://www.qrspeak.com/). An android app has not yet been developed.

## Circle City Chapter Update

## Deanna Austin Circle City Chapter President

Happy Summer to all of you!! Hope you have had some good watermelon and have caught the smell of barbeque! Wanted to give an update on what has been happening with the Circle City Chapter of ACB.

In Jan, Feb, April and June we have met by phone (317) 559 5425 on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 1030am. We had had discussions of goal setting, discussed ACB national affiliates like Braille Revival League and heard from the superintendent of Indiana School for the Blind/Visually Impaired.

For our March meeting, 14 of us met at a local church. We had local EMS come to our meeting, and they showed us an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device. They also talked about CPR. This was a great opportunity to touch and understand more about an AED and practice chest compressions with a mannequin. We asked lots of questions and really appreciated our local fire department’s knowledge.

On May 6th a group of 10 of us had a tour of the President Benjamin Harrison’s home in downtown Indianapolis. We had the executive as our speaker some time ago, and on that May Day, had the opportunity to tour the home that was built in 1870’s. We enjoyed our trip and the new knowledge gained.

Our chapter continues to annually support the Indiana Blind Children’s Foundation and thanks to a recent Information Station call, I was able to learn more about this organization that supports blind children in Indiana.

We will not meet in July due to the national convention but will resume in August for our annual picnic at the Indiana School for the Blind on August 12th at noon. Feel free to join us for good food and good fun!

Our September meeting will be the same day as the upcoming Vision Expo on September 9. We’ll informally meet at the library at the ACB table and enjoy the Vision Expo activities. Hope to see you there!

Our chapter will continue to have both in person and phone sessions. If you live in the Indy area and have not been to a meeting or joined on the phone, we hope you will check us out!

May you have a wonderful summer season!

## SCAVI news for Focus June 2023

## By Dolly Sowder

Greetings from the South Central Association of the Visually Impaired (SCAVI)!

The May meeting speaker was Dr. Andrea Rope optometrist.

She spoke on many diseases of the eyes along with dry eyes which many people experience. Our members found it interesting that there are small bugs on our eye lids which can cause dry eyes. Eye drops and a special ointment can help take care of this irritating dryness.

We are planning our chapter picnic in June. Everyone brings a white elephant prize, and we play trivia.

Several members will be attending the July 2023 ACB National convention virtually because of transportation and health issues.

## Contact Information for the 2023 Board of Directors

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NOTE: Mention of products and services in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not imply endorsement of any such product of service by the American Council of the Blind of Indiana.

## Renewal Application

Persons interested in becoming a member or renewing their membership need only to send their check for $7, payable to ACBI, to Cindy Brooking, 676 VFW Road, Mitchell, Indiana 47446, along with the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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