# **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**

President: Rita Kersh

(812) 278-3038

Hoosierrita60@gmail.com

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Mary Stores edits this newsletter and can be contacted at 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.

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## **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.

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## **From Your President**

## **By Rita Kersh**

Hello ACBI family!

In case you haven’t heard, ACBI was invited to share exhibit space with Envision America at the National Council for State Legislators Summit held Aug. 14-16 at the Indianapolis convention center. Don Koors and Dee Ann Hart manned the table, which they shared with Envision America. There were over 800 exhibitors, so being at an event like this is a big deal. There were over 5,000 state legislators attending. ACBI had lots of material for the legislators to take. We certainly wanted to promote our victory in making absentee voting accessible. I truly appreciate Don and Dee Ann giving so much of their time to represent us at this event and thank Envision America for including us.

The Indiana Vision Expo was September 9th, 2023 from 10am-2pm at the Indiana State Library. ACBI had an exhibit table and the Circle City Chapter agreed to man the table. We hope some people who stopped by learned something beneficial and will eventually join our affiliate.

The statewide picnic is coming up quickly. The entrance fee into the park is $7 per car. It will be a fun time for everyone and the food, especially the BBQ, will be delicious. The picnic auction is going to be a great money-maker again this year, which will supplement next year’s convention in Indiana. Remember, it will not only include desserts or baked items, but some neat non-food items, too. If you have an auction item, food or not, bring it along. Folks will go home with full bellies and satisfied smiles on their faces!

Our joint state convention with ACB of Ohio is fast approaching. Read more about the details further down in this newsletter.

Before you know it, we’ll be celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas! Wow, time really flies when you’re having fun!

## **ACBO-ACBI Joint State Convention Deadlines**

## **By Rita Kersh**

The place to be the weekend of Nov. 10-12 is at the Crown Plaza North Worthington in Columbus, Ohio.

If you joined us on the Information Station, call on Aug. 14, you heard about the planned activities and sessions that will take place. Of course, our exciting auction is going to be awesome! There are some really excellent items up for bids.

If you plan to go to Columbus, here is what you need to know for registering and making your hotel reservations.

The registration form will be on the ACBO site which can be found at [acbogio.org](http://www.acbohio.org/) and the cost is $80 for those attending in person. The cost is $40 for virtual attendees.

Room reservations can be made by calling the Crown Plaza is (614) 885-1885. Your room rate is $107 plus taxes. The cut-off date for making your room reservation is October 19, 2023. Your group code when making your reservation is BLI, or you can ask for a room in the American Council of the Blind of Ohio block.

As for transportation to Columbus, I’m hoping we’ll have enough drivers in each area of the state where most of our members live. Those needing a ride can call the driver in their area to find out what location will be the pick-up point. Some members may need to use other transportation to get to the pick-up point, though. I’d like for drivers who will have available seats to let us all know by posting the availability of seats on the Indiana list along with their phone numbers. The drivers can let people know where they will meet them when they call. I hope our individual chapters will be able to arrange transportation for their members, too.

One more thing about the convention, ACBI is selling raffle tickets now and if you’re a member of one of our chapters you should have some to sell. The tickets are $5 each and the ticket and money will be turned in at the convention to either our treasurer, Cindy Brooking or at the ACBI table in the exhibit hall. There are two cash prizes, 1st prize is $175 and 2nd prize is $75. We’ll continue selling tickets at our exhibit table and the winning tickets will be drawn at the banquet on Sat. evening.

Cindy also said she’ll assist those wanting to buy raffle tickets by calling her at 812-797-2185 and she’ll take down the information over the phone. We’re going to let ACBO know about this option as well.

## **Convention Auction Items Needed**

## **By Rita Kersh**

One of the highlights of our annual joint state convention is the auction. There’s always a wide variety of items to bid on and some year’s we have had some “big spenders”.

If you plan to donate any auction items, you need to e-mail Rita with the name of the item and the description. Rita’s e-mail address is hoosierrita60@gmail.com.

Our limit is 20 items, so get your information to Rita ASAP. No items will be accepted after October 19, which is when the Indiana list goes to Ohio. If we don’t collect 20 items by the deadline, we will just turn in what we have. No late items will be accepted, even if the item(s) are taken to Columbus in person.

We always appreciate our members stepping up to donate great items!

## **Scavi news**

## **By Dolly Sowder**

In June, the South Central Association of the Visually Impaired (SCAVI) held their picnic at the Thornton Park Shelter House in Bedford. SCAVI provided the chicken, drinks and paper products. Everyone brought sides. We played a trivia game and had prizes. Fun was had by all.

In July our speaker was Denis McKinney talking about envision glasses. He demonstrated with a pair of titanium frame glasses that had a touch pad on the right side which can be swiped and tapped on. It will also operate with voice command.

There is a camera on the front of the device. The frames he showed us were very slim and light weight. They had no lenses in them. Denis said he had other frames with lenses. He said the glasses can read long hand along with print. Some other features can include, a color identifier, people identifier, describe the area you’re in and soon they hope to have a GPS system. It also can make calls and answer calls. This device works best with a secure Wi- Fi network. You need a smart phone with a Envision app which is free. This device will work for people with low vision or no vision. There was time for Q and A questions. Everyone was fascinated at how advance things have come for those who have sight loss.

At our August meeting we focused on planning our annual chili supper in collaboration with White Cane Safety Day. We’ll hold the supper on Tuesday, October 17 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Bedford. There will be a silent auction and a table for folks who would like to try some tasks while wearing a blindfold.

Many of the group are looking forward to the ACBI picnic on Sept. 16 at McCormick’s Creek State Park.

## **Request for ACBI Award Nominations**

## **By Rita Kersh**

Recently a request for award nominations was sent to the ACBI e-mail list and to our ACBI board to spread the word about our two awards that are available.

An awards committee has been established and nominations can be sent to any of these members:

Don Koors DonKoors@aol.com

Dolly Sowder mdsowder90@sbcglobal.net

Deanna Austin deannaaustin2009@comcast.net

Barbara Salisbury barbara.salisbury@att.net.

Below are the descriptions of each award and past recipients.

### Hofstetter Award

The Hofstetter Award is one of ACBI's most prestigious awards and honors sighted individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to Indiana’s residents who are blind or visually impaired. The award is named after Dr. Henry W. Hofstetter (1914-2002), international lecturer, author, founding director of Indiana University’s Optometry program, Past President of the American Optometry Association, member of the National Optometry Hall of Fame and past member of ACBI.

The Hofstetter Award is bestowed upon deserving individuals who have made an exceptional life time contribution to blind and visually impaired citizens of Indiana.

#### Past Hofstetter Award Recipients:

* Carol Gardiner 2022
* Dr. Deborah McConnaha, 2018
* David Nelson, 2012
* Lou Moneymaker, 2011
* Julia Studebaker, 2010
* Edie Huffman, 2008
* Durward Hutchinson, 2007
* Richard Harris, 2005
* Frank Kern, 2004
* Stephen Campagnoli O.D., 2003
* Mike Sowder, 2002
* Frances Shine, 1999
* C. William Trubey O.D., 1998
* Rev. Maurice Brockman, 1995
* Marie Jeffreys, 1993

### Patricia “Pat” Price Award

The Patricia Price Award was established by ACBI in 1996, to be given to a blind or visually impaired individual who has done much to enhance the lives of Hoosiers who are blind or visually impaired. Pat, a founding member of ACBI, received the first award. It may be given each year if there is a deserving candidate. Pat Price died in 2009 and will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues.

#### Past Pat Price Award Recipients:

* Katrina Anderson 2022
* Deanna Austin, 2018
* Cathy Nimmer, 2015
* Barbara Salisbury, 2014
* Pauline Ulrey, 2012
* Dolly Sowder, 2011
* John Huffman, 2010
* Don Koors, 2008
* Sue L'Esperance, 2007
* Bashir Masoodi, 2002
* Evelyn Meyers, 2001
* Josephine Price, 2000
* Patricia “Pat” Price, 1996

## **ACBI Raffle**

## **By Pat Tusing** **Fund Raising Chair**

We are doing a Raffle this year where the American Council of the Blind of Indiana will award two prizes at the Convention on November 11 in Columbus, Ohio. First prize is $175 and the second prize is $75.  Tickets are $5. All one needs to include is the name of the purchaser and the phone number or address only. As the tickets are card stock, please feel free to Braille in the information of the ticket purchaser. From earlier raffles for braille, the dots will hold up just fine.

Cindy Brooking has graciously offered to help fill in tickets to help anyone. Call her at 812-797-2185. You can also send her an email at

cindyfleener@yahoo.com to request help.

Your Chapter presidents should receive tickets in 2 weeks or you can contact me at ptusing@outlook.com. Put “tickets” in subject line.

Money and tickets should be sent to ACBI

PO Box 2216

Bedford, IN  47421

If you cannot travel to Columbus in November, please make sure to hand tickets and money to someone who can attend the Convention.

Prizes were donated by The Literacy Project. We all thank you for supporting this effort.

## **The Hoosier All State Chapter (HASC)**

## **By Melissa (Mel) Wobschall HASC President**

The Hoosier All State Chapter of the American Council of The Blind of Indiana has been meeting the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom at 7 PM. Our first couple of meetings were focused on getting to know each other.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to you to join us, especially if you live in a part of Indiana where you can’t get to a chapter meeting. If you would like to join us or receive more information about our chapter, please visit [The Hoosier All State Chapter web site](https://acb-indiana.org/hoosier-all-state-chapter/) , where you can subscribe to our low-traffic email list and receive the Zoom link. You can also call me at (765) 543-2281 if you have any questions. We look forward to having you be with us.

Our meetings are getting down to business, now. We are looking forward to the ACBI picnic and convention. We are looking for ways to grow as an organization, both in membership and fundraising. We hope to see you at our next meeting on October 10!

## **Contact Information for the ACB Board**

### **Officers**

President: Rita Kersh, Bedford

812-278-3038, Hoosierrita60@gmail.com

Vice-president: Kari Goodman, Shoals

812-276-7646, klgoodman1976@gmail.com

Secretary: David Rosenkoetter, Fort Wayne

 Davidrosenkoetter260@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cindy Brooking, Mitchell

812-797-2185, cindyfleener@yahoo.com

Past President: Barbara Salisbury, Bloomington
barbara.salisbury@att.net

### **Directors**

Deanna Austin, Indianapolis

deannaaustin2009@comcast.net

Deanne Hart, Muncie

d64hart@outlook.com

Earlene Hughes, West Lafayette,

earlene.hughes7@gmail.com

Gerry Koors, Indianapolis

gerrykoors@aol.com

Cliff Goodman, Shoals

clffgoodman@yahoo.com

Melissa Wobschall, West Lafayette

mkwobsch@gmail.com

Pat Tussing, Indianapolis

ptusing@outlook.com

### **Chapter Representatives**

Circle City: Don Koors

DonKoors@aol.com

Heartland Association Mary Stores, Bloomington
mstores@iu.edu

SCAVI: Dolly Sowder, Bedford

mdsowder90@sbcglobal.net

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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Blind or visually impaired? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_no