# Focus On ACBI

A Publication of the American Council of the Blind of Indiana

April-June 2022

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[ACBI Website](https://www.acb-indiana.org): https://www.acb-indiana.org

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Mary Stores edits this newsletter and can be contacted at mstores@iu.edu or812-272-1876.

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 the [Donate page](http://acb-indiana.org/donate/) on our website (http://acb-indiana.org/donate/)

* [Shop Amazon and support ACBI](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0958471) (https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0958471).
* 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.
* Consider including a gift to ACBI in your Last Will and Testament.

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## From Your President

by Rita Kersh

Hello fellow ACBI members!

Are you getting ready for the ACB National conference and convention? It’s going to be a busy couple of weeks with all the pre-convention meetings, the popular auction, voting for candidates, learning from various presenters, attending special interest affiliate activities, then voting on resolutions and constitution amendments.

ACBI will have a few members attending the national conference and convention in person with several of us attending virtually. Everyone should be receiving their instructions for casting their individual votes through the Vote Now system.

During the national convention, ACBI will begin using the e-mail address of delegates@acb-indiana.org and the phone number (812) 276-7646 for members to cast their votes with our ACBI delegates. Everyone will be able to vote in all elections by voting with an individual vote and by letting us know your choices for the affiliate vote. We will then figure the percentages for deciding how to cast our three (3) delegate votes.

We now have a new Google Voice phone number noted on our website for the general public to contact us, which is (317) 500-4840. This number will be monitored by our secretary, Michelle Hahn.

On another note, the Hoosier All State Chapter of ACBI is coming together nicely. This group has got a draft of their chapter constitution and bylaws just about ready. They need more interested people to join their calls to help make decisions that are necessary in establishing a new chapter. Watch for the announcements on the Indiana list and possible phone calls inviting you to attend.

We’re making some headway on insuring our convention and covering our ACBI board. Some options have been sent to the board for comparison and we will vote on this at our July board meeting.

The budget committee has been on hold for a while, and they hope to get back on task soon. They know how important this is for our affiliate to conduct business. Plans are to have the proposed budget ready for our July board meeting.

The Information Station planning committee has pretty much planned out the rest of this year’s topics. There will be more in this issue about that.

We have installed Square on our [ACBI website](https://www.acb-indiana.org/) (https://www.acb-indiana.org) for electronic payments. The new member/renewal dues form is set up with Square, as is our donation form. When we post our convention registration form on our website, it will also have Square capabilities. Just as a side note, we’ll be able to use Square at our convention auction for on-site payments to make payments more convenient.

The convention committee continues to meet on a regular basis with our ACBI committee members and with Ohio’s committee members. The schedule of activities and sessions is coming along. Topics for sessions seems to be narrowed down and we already have a gold, silver and mini-session sponsors committed to attending. The vendor list continues to grow with several already sending in their vendor forms. The big job is contacting the potential speakers/presenters, but that also has been started. I can tell you right now, this fall’s convention will be great!

I’d love to see more member participation on the Indiana list, chapter membership growth, involvement in ACBI activities like the convention and more. Take time to invite someone to take part in the convention, which is our biggest state activity. They just might end up joining ACBI!

## SCAVI news

by Rich Vonderhaar

With the coming of spring weather, our chapter has both kept busy and had fun. In April we had an evening out at Buffalo Wings and Rings in Bedford. Our members enjoyed the food and good time with each other.

At our May meeting, Joan Godsey, a local counselor, spoke to us on the psychological aspects of the pandemic.

In June we will have our summer picnic.

We also found time to distribute brochures at two senior citizen events in April.

We are hoping all of you reading this have a safe and fun summer.

## Heartland Chapter News

by Mary Stores

We held a social fundraising meeting at Buccetto’s Restaurant, where $60 was raised for our local chapter. It was great to reconnect with people face-to-face and make money doing it. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us.

## The Indiana Virtual Chapter

by Melissa Wobschall

The Indiana Virtual Chapter is well on its way to formation. We meet on the second Thursday of the month over Zoom. The Constitution Committee has worked hard to form a constitution to be presented at June's meeting and we are trying to decide on a catchy name for the chapter. We are still hoping for new members to join us.

## Convention, 2022: Seeing the Future, Saluting the Past!

by Barbara Salisbury

Save the date! The 2022 joint convention of ACBI and ACBO is Friday, November 11th through Sunday morning, November 13th.

This year’s convention, hosted by Indiana, will be held in Bloomington at the Hilton Garden Inn, situated right on the square in downtown Bloomington. This area is fully accessible, easy to navigate and filled with lots of restaurants and shopping opportunities. Additionally, it is Veteran’s Day weekend, so we will be recognizing and saluting our vets throughout the weekend!

This convention will be filled with a variety of great topical sessions, well known motivational keynote and banquet speakers, Sat. night live auction, and Fri. night live entertainment provided by a local duo “Davis and Devitt”. Sharlee Davis happens to be blind, a well-known singer and songwriter, and a member of our Bloomington chapter, the Heartland Association of ACBI!

Our anchor speakers are Lonnie Bedwell and Kathy Nimmer.

Lonnie Bedwell is a blind veteran that travels the country engaging blind vets and other blind people in extreme activities. Examples include kayaking the churning river waters of West Virginia, mountain climbing in Alaska, and hunting and fishing expeditions throughout the country.

In addition, we bring back Kathy Nimmer, who is a teacher and administrator at a public school. She was the 2015 Indiana teacher of the year. She is also a member of the top five elite national 2015 finalists, who happens to be blind. If you’ve heard her speak before, you know you don’t want to miss another opportunity!

A session teaser: We will continue our efforts to “get up and get moving” by partnering with Dr. Georgia Frey. She is currently at the Indiana University School of Kinesiology. She has a specialty in exercise and wellness for people with disabilities. Her recreational therapy students will join us throughout the weekend in offering “get up and get moving” opportunities. These activities include walkabouts to explore downtown Bloomington and part of the B-Line trail, experience tandem biking, as well as other engaging movement opportunities that can be replicated throughout at-home daily routines.

Stay tuned to the Focus On ACBI, our website www.acb-indiana.org, and our Indiana email list for more teasers to come! And don’t forget, save the date, Nov. 11th-13th!

## Contact Information for the 2022 Board of Directors

### Officers

President: Rita Kersh, Bedford

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Heartland Association

Vacant

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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.

## Membership Application

Persons interested in becoming a member or renewing their membership can do so in two ways:

1. Join or renew membership through the [Annual Membership page](https://acb-indiana.org/membership/) on our website (https://acb-indiana.org/membership/)
2. Send the following application form with a check for $7, payable to ACBI, to Cindy Brooking, 676 VFW Road, Mitchell, Indiana 47446

Name:

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Phone Number:

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E-Mail Address:

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Newsletter Format Preference:

\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_ Audiocassette\_\_\_\_ Large Print \_\_\_\_ Computer Disk

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

## Free Matter for the Blind

ACB of Indiana

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Indianapolis, IN 46220-2509

April-June 2022