# Focus On ACBI

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

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# April-June 2024

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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 to all our ACBI members and friends!

There are a lot of convention related articles in this issue, so please read them carefully.

We want our members to exercise their right to vote on the national level. Everyone should have your voting code by now and the included information of how to vote using the Vote Now system. In the next article you’ll find more details for voting during the last week of June and in July.

For our state convention, I want to encourage everyone who is able to be a sponsor to do so soon. The sponsorship article appears later in this issue which tells how you can be a sponsor.

So far this year our Information Station programs have been very informative. We have scheduled presenters who will be interesting to most of our members, so please watch the Indiana e-mail list for the announcements for the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. ET. Our July Information Station is cancelled since it falls during the ACB convention.

Our web master is adding Information Station recordings to the ACBI site, so if you missed out on any, you can now listen in.

I encourage all of you to get more involved in ACBI, invite your family or friends to join you in various activities we have every month and check out one of our chapters to see what happening there. This is your organization, so if you get involved and speak out about your ideas, that will make ACBI a stronger and more tightly knitted group. Invite someone to attend the state convention with you this fall, too.

I hope those of you who can’t attend the national convention in person will listen on your Alexa or on the ACB Media link on your device. It’ll be a jam-packed convention for sure!

## ACB Voting for 2024 National Conference and Convention

## By ACB Voting Task Force

ACB will use Vote-Now for up to five (5) contested Board of Director positions and up to three (3) contested Board of Publications (BOP) positions; Resolutions requiring a record vote; and all Constitution and Bylaws amendments.

The vote count is comprised of two (2) parts: the individual vote and the affiliate vote.

Anyone registered as a member with the National office by May 24th is eligible to vote; the right to vote is not tied to convention registration.

### Virtual convention Timeline

All times listed are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

#### Monday June 24th

* 7:00 PM: Opening of the convention with the adoption of standing rules and first reading of credentials.
* 8:00 PM: Nominating Committee. The Zoom room will open at 7:30 PM and will be locked promptly at 8:00. The slate for the five (5) Board of Director positions, and three (3) Board of Publications (BOP) positions will be decided.

#### Tuesday, June 25th

* 7:00 PM: Constitution and bylaw changes are read; no other action is taken on these.

#### Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (June 25th, 26th, and 27th)

* 7:00 PM: Resolutions will be debated, and votes will be taken using the Raise hand in Zoom.

#### Wednesday June 26th

* 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Mock Election to practice using the Vote Now system.

#### Friday June 28th

* 7:00 PM: final reading of credentials
* Proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws are read and debated.

#### Monday, July 1st

* 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM: The individual record vote for all Constitution and By-law amendments and those Resolutions for which a record vote has been requested will take place using the Vote-Now system.
* 5:00 – 6:30 PM: The affiliate roll call vote will be taken. Delegates must report to the Zoom room to record their votes. Members may listen to the roll call on ACB Media. The outcome will be announced when the vote is completed.

### Individual Votes Timeline

* Tuesday, June 25th 7:00 – 10:00 PM: Resolutions
* Wednesday, June 26th 7:00 – 10:00 PM: Resolutions
* Thursday, June 27th 7:00 – 10:00 PM: Resolutions
* Friday, June 28th 7:00 – 10:00 PM: Constitution and By-Laws second reading and debate. Any amendment proposed during debate will be voted by a raise of hands.

### Individual Record Vote Timeline (Vote-Now)

* Wednesday, June 26th: 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Mock Elections
* Monday, July 1st from 12:00 – 4:00 PM: Resolutions for which a record vote has been requested, and all final versions of Constitution and By-Laws amendments.
* Monday, July 8th 2:00 – 6:00 PM: first contested election.
* Tuesday, July 9th 2:00 – 6:00 PM: Second contested election.
* Wednesday, July 10th 2:00 – 6:00 PM: Third contested election
* Thursday, July 11th during general session: Fourth contested election.

### Voting Process

The Nominating Committee slate will be presented Sunday July 7th at the opening general session of ACB’s Conference and Convention.

Elections will begin with the first of five (5) board of director positions and will continue throughout the week until a contested election occurs. After the board of director positions are elected, we will continue with the three (3) board of publication (BOP) positions.

If an election is not contested, the candidate submitted by the Nominating Committee will be elected by acclamation.

If a candidate is nominated from the floor for the position under consideration, ACB will have a contested election. If nominating someone from the floor, please make sure this member has agreed to be nominated.

Each nominated candidate will be allowed a total of five (5) minutes for no more than two (2) speakers to explain why their candidate should be elected for the position. A person nominated for an office more than once shall be limited to one minute.

### Voting Methods

Access Vote-Now using any of the following methods:

Mac, PC, Tablet, iPhone, Android, and Landline Phone.

There is a toll-free number with two voting options:

Automated system or

Operator assistance

#### **Member Unique voter codes**

Your unique voter code will be used for all individual record votes and contested elections in Vote-Now. You may cast only one ballot during each voting period.

Members with a valid email address in ACBs database will receive a unique voter code by email on June 25th and again on July 7th, 2024. If you do not receive your unique voter code, please check your junk or spam folder. The email will provide the log in link along with instructions for voting by phone; the same unique voter code will be used for all voting methods.

The Subject line on this email will be: Ballot-ACB unique voter code.

The from person on this email should be: ACB ballot code.

## Delegate Contacts for ACBI Voting Members

## By Rita Kersh

All ACBI members who wish to participate in the affiliate vote to help determine how our four votes should be presented during the roll call will need to e-mail or call our delegates.

To send an e-mail with your vote, e-mail delegate@acb-indiana.org or call Rita Kersh (Delegate) 812.797.7699 or Dee Ann Hart (Alternate delegate) 765.215.1211.

Affiliate member’s votes will take place on the following dates/times:

* Mon., July 1 at 4:00 p.m. ET
* Tues., July 9, Wed., July 10 and Thurs., July 11 at 7:00 p.m. ET

Rita and Dee Ann will then tally the votes and be prepared for the roll call.

Thank you in advance for participating in the voting process.

## Ways to be a Sponsor for the ACBI-ACBO Convention

## By Rita Kersh, ACBI president

If you or someone you know (or a business) would like to be a [sponsor for our 2024 ACBI-ACBO state convention](https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLBK5GPGP7446/checkout/P63KEOG4NSLNAAQL4ORPY6WP)  in Indianapolis, here’s where to find the link on our website.

When you go to acb-indiana.org scroll down to the heading “Convention Sponsorship” and below this is a link that will take you to the donation page.

Be sure all the blanks are filled in or the payment may not be processed.

If preferred, sponsorship checks can be mailed to: ACBI, PO Box 2216, Bedford, IN 47421.

We appreciate any amount that is donated. The minimum amount that can be donated is $10.

For businesses or individuals who wish to be top sponsors by giving between $200 to $1,000, we have benefits you should know about.

### Sponsorship Levels:

* $1,000 = Palladium: This level provides an opportunity to speak at our awards banquet on Saturday evening (Oct. 26), plus mention on our website and in our convention program.
* $500 = Gold: This level provides the opportunity to speak before the convention attendees at the luncheon on Saturday (Oct. 25), plus mention on our website and in the convention program.
* $400 = Platinum: This level provides an opportunity to speak on Friday (Oct. 25) at our opening session, plus mention on our website and in the convention program.
* $300 = Silver: This level provides an opportunity to speak on Friday (Oct. 25) at our opening session, plus mention on our website and in the convention program.
* $200 = Bronze: This level provides an opportunity to speak on Friday (Oct. 25) at our opening session, plus mention on our website and in the convention program.

All donations through sponsorships are tax deductible.

## Get Ready to “Transform Attitudes” at the 2024 ACBI and ACBO Joint State Convention

## By Rachel Densmore and Brant Adams

Can you believe it has already been 7 months since the 2023 ACBO and ACBI state convention? Are you eager for another chance to spend time with old friends and meet new ones? To gain useful new information and hear from wonderful speakers? To have fun on an excursion and stroll through the exhibit hall? To win a door prize or bid on an auction item? To elect new officers and hear about award recipients? Well, thankfully the 2024 state convention will be here before you know it, and here’s a sneak peek:

### Featured Events:

**ACB Ohio and ACB Indiana business meetings –** Come learn what your state affiliate has been up to over the past year, elect officers and board members, and gain a better understanding of the important business that keeps each organization running

**Informative Workshops and Speakers – H**ear from our keynote and banquet speakers and choose from several informative workshop sessions. These topics will be geared at those who are blind or low vision as well as those who are parents of young children with visual impairments. Potential topics include school transitions and experiences, independent living and cooking, and disability etiquette and conflict resolution.

**Engaging Fundraisers** **–** Whether you’re bidding on an item in the auction, getting a beautiful convention t-shirt, participating in a raffle, or donating as an individual sponsor, there are many ways for you to get involved and support the work that makes this convention possible!

**Friday Afternoon Excursion** **–** Back by popular demand, we will once again be offering an excursion as part of this year’s convention. Join us Friday afternoon as we explore the multisensory exhibits at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. This fantastic museum will be a great experience for participants of all ages to spend some downtime with friends while we explore dinosaurs and learn about “the power of children.”

Who: Everyone is welcome. From parents to potential members, board members to brand new members, from Ohio to Indiana and beyond our borders! Come and see what ACB Ohio and ACB Indiana is all about, and feel free to bring a friend. It will be a great getaway weekend for everyone.

When: Friday, October 25th- Sunday, October 27th

Where: Crown Plaza Airport Hotel

2501 S High School Rd. Indianapolis, Indiana 46241

### Hotel Information:

Phone- (317)244-6861

Website- <https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/indianapolis/indap/hoteldetail>

Reservation and Cost Information: Guest rooms are $139.00 per night. A $30 .00 per night reimbursement will be given to the person whose name is on the reservation for Friday and/or Saturday nights. Use code “ACB” when making room reservations.

## Contact Information for the ACBI Board

### Officers

President: Rita Kersh, Bedford

812-278-3038, Hoosierrita60@gmail.com

Vice-president: Deanne Hart, Muncie

765-215-1211, d64hart@outlook.com

Secretary: Mary Stores, Bloomington

812-272-1876, mstores@iu.edu

Treasurer: Cindy Brooking, Mitchell

812-797-2185, cindyfleener@yahoo.com

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

### Directors

Cliff Goodman, Shoals

clffgoodman@yahoo.com

Kari Goodman, Shoals

klgoodman1976@gmail.com

Earlene Hughes, West Lafayette,

earlene.hughes7@gmail.com

Don Koors, Indianapolis

donkoors@aol.com

Gerry Koors, Indianapolis

gerrykoors@aol.com

David Rosenkoetter, Fort Wayne

Davidrosenkoetter260@gmail.com

Pat Tussing, Indianapolis

ptusing@outlook.com

Regina Vonderhaar, Indianapolis

rvonderhaar@att.net

Melissa Wobschall, West Lafayette

mkwobsch@gmail.com

### Chapter Representatives

Circle City: Bill Sparks

bill@billsparks.org

SCAVI: Dolly Sowder, Bedford

mdsowder90@sbcglobal.net

Hoosier All State: Kevin Wobschall, W. Lafayette

Kwobsch@msn.com

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