



## **NextGen Insight**

**Volume 3, Issue 2**  
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**Publications Committee Chair: Greg Lindberg**

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Title Page Image Description: Background - Black night sky with dim stars in a horizontal rectangle. Foreground - All text is in white font. NextGen spans the width of the image with the N and G capitalized. ACB is in capital letters above the word Next. A yellow star is shooting out of the top right corner of the letter x and hovering over the word Gen. Underneath and spanning the width of the word NextGen are the words Develop Lead Elevate (1/3 of the font size of ACB NextGen) with a dot between each word.

“The best vision is insight.”  
– Malcolm Forbes

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## President's Message

Dear NextGen Family,

Happy Spring to you all! I am so excited for this new quarter. We have lots of fun things in store for our Family.

Have you attended our Board of Directors meetings lately? We have added a new item to our agenda called “Mission Moment,” which recognizes an individual, group of people, or one of our amazing committees for their hard work in fulfilling our mission in ACB Next Generation. We want to celebrate the wins in our affiliate, and this is just one of the many ways we are doing so. Our Board of Directors meetings are open to our members and occur on the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m. Eastern, 5 p.m. Pacific.

Lace up your favorite pair of shoes and get ready for this year's ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. This year's theme is “Stepping Out With ACB.” Our NextGen Allstars team page has been created. As our team captain, I'm challenging our members to “step out” of their comfort

zones and share their NextGen stories with their friends and family. This is not only how we gain new members, but it also helps us bring on new supporters as well. You can find information in this newsletter about how to join. Also, be sure to watch our social media pages and email list for more exciting announcements.

Are you gearing up for the 2023 ACB Conference and Convention? Our Convention Committee is hard at work planning and preparing programs that are sure to interest our members. Make plans now to attend virtually from June 19 to June 25 and either in person in Schaumburg, IL or virtually from June 30 through July 7. Keep your eyes peeled for more information throughout this newsletter about our programs and how our members can request financial assistance to attend the convention.

We will once again kick off the summer with our Annual Mid-Year Membership Meeting. This meeting will be held on Monday, June 5 at 8 p.m. ET, 5 p.m. PT, and will include updates from our committees. More information will be coming soon.

I am excited to announce that our Advocacy Committee is getting off to an excellent start. At the April Board of Directors meeting, Aaron Espinoza was officially appointed as our Advocacy Committee Chair. He is eager

to work with our members on advocating on issues that directly affect our members, such as employment, transportation, healthcare, and many others. We are excited to see Aaron and the Advocacy Committee run with these topics this year.

As I conclude my message for this issue, I just want to say thank you to our Family for supporting each other, encouraging each other, and helping each other. I may be just a little biased here, but I don't believe there is any other affiliate within ACB that pours this much support and encouragement into their members. Thank you for a great first quarter, and I look forward to what this new quarter will bring our Family.

Warmest wishes to you all,

**Amanda Selm**

**President, ACB Next Generation**

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## **Shop into Spring with ACB Next Generation**

By Moe Carpenter

Fundraising Committee Chair

Spring has sprung, and it's time to shop for a cause with ACB Next Generation! Our first-ever auction is taking

place on April 30, 2023 at 7 p.m. ET, with bidding beginning at 7:30 p.m. ET.

Our dedicated Fundraising Committee has been working tirelessly to bring you nearly 40 fantastic items to bid on. Whether you're looking for beauty products, electronics, or unique experiences, we have something for everyone. Check out the ACB Next Generation blog at <http://acbnextgeneration.org/blog> for the full list of items.

Register at the link below to receive the webinar link and to be able to bid:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc70OQZssFTkLS\\_ZSsTzNDh5RQOK1gICXXju\\_bABksH8CAgA/viewform?usp=share\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc70OQZssFTkLS_ZSsTzNDh5RQOK1gICXXju_bABksH8CAgA/viewform?usp=share_link)

If you have any questions or need assistance with the registration process, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Fundraising Committee at [fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org](mailto:fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org).

Join us as we Shop into Spring with ACB Next Generation!

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## 2023 ACB Conference and Convention Preview

Join us at the [Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel](#) in Schaumburg, Illinois for the 62nd Annual Conference and Convention of the American Council of the Blind, June 30 to July 7, 2023 (with virtual components being held via Zoom June 19 through July 7, 2023).

Once again, ACB will be holding a hybrid conference and convention where we will be offering virtual-only sessions, in-person only sessions, and virtual and in-person sessions together.

### **Registration:**

Convention pre-registration opens May 18 for members, May 25 for non-members, and closes June 16.

Registration cost for members is \$35 and \$50 for non-members.

### **Hotel Reservations:**

The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel is located at 1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL, 60173. The standard room rate at the Renaissance is \$98 (single



or double occupancy) with an additional \$20 for each additional person. Room tax is currently 15%.

To make reservations online, visit:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/AmericanCounciloftheBlind2023>

For telephone reservations, call (800) 468-3571 and indicate you are with the American Council of the Blind 2023 Conference and Convention at the Renaissance Hotel in Schaumburg, IL.

### **Travel to Schaumburg**

The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel is located approximately 15 miles from O'Hare International Airport and approximately 40 miles from Chicago Midway International Airport. All major and regional airlines serve both airports. Schaumburg is also served by Amtrak and Greyhound.

### **Staying in Touch:**

The convention announce list will be filled with information about the convention; subscribe to the list by sending a blank e-mail to [acbConvention+subscribe@acblists.org](mailto:acbConvention+subscribe@acblists.org).

If you received updates for the 2022 convention, you do not need to subscribe to the list.

More information will be posted at <https://acbconvention.org/> as it becomes available.

### **Convention Contacts:**

2023 Exhibit information: Michael Smitherman, (601) 331-7740, [exhibitors@acb.org](mailto:exhibitors@acb.org).

For any other convention-related questions, please contact Janet Dickelman, convention chair, (651) 428-5059, [janet.dickelman@gmail.com](mailto:janet.dickelman@gmail.com)

Source: <https://acbconvention.org/>

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## **2023 ACB Next Generation Convention Programming**

By Cassie Trooper and Melanie Sinohui  
Convention Committee Co-Chairs

It's that time of year again! The 2023 ACB Conference and Convention is barreling toward us at a crazy pace. This year's convention theme is "Winds of Change." So many awesome programs are coming together nicely, and your ACB Next Generation Convention Committee is excited to share a quick glimpse into our planning world for this year's convention programming.

### **Convention Pep Rally**

Virtual: Saturday, June 24 at 5:30 p.m. CT

We are really excited to be partnering with ACB Students again this year for our Pep Rally. We can't wait to hear another great pep talk from Coach Kenneth and get ready for an awesome convention. We will also have a few other special guests along with some surprises!

### **ACB Next Generation Meet and Greet**

Virtual: Thursday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m. CT

In Person: Saturday, July 1 at 4 p.m. CT

This year, we will hold both a virtual Meet and Greet during the virtual convention weekend and an in-person Meet and Greet in Schaumburg. This will give everyone an opportunity to reunite or check us out, however they prefer. We will have some ice breakers and a few other fun things to get some excitement flowing for Convention.

### **Advocacy Series**

Part 1: Virtual: Tuesday, June 22 at 2:30 p.m. CT

Part 2: Hybrid: Monday, July 3 at 2:30 p.m. CT

Part 3: TBD July after convention

This advocacy program will be a three-part series beginning virtual weekend with "What Is Advocacy?" Part 2, "Advocate for Yourself Any Place, Any Time, and Any Situation," will be a hybrid program during convention week. The concluding program, "Let Your Voice be Heard

by Legislators,” will be an ACB Next Generation event held later in July. DJ McIntyre has worked hard on putting together a robust list of panelists to give us so much information on how we can learn to advocate, use advocacy in our daily lives, and continue to explore additional advocacy options that may be available.

## **Communications and Active Listening**

Hybrid: Saturday, July 1 at 1 p.m. CT

Our communications program will concentrate on active listening. What are some ways we can honestly contribute to a conversation? What does it mean to be an active listener? Join us as Gregg Wandsneider and TerriLynn Higashi explore the realm of active listening with ACB members who are pros at it.

## **You Got the Job, Now What?**

Virtual: Saturday, June 24 at 1:00 p.m. CT

In this employment program, we are partnering with the ACB Employment Committee to discuss what happens after you finally get the job you were going after. What accessibility options do you need to be successful? Who do you talk to so that you are sure you can do your job? What do you do if you are looking to move up within your company and how do you set yourself up to win? Join Kristen Kelling as we discuss all of these topics and hear

real-life experiences from our panel sharing information on how to be successful at your new job.

## Organize Yourself: How to Get and Keep Your Ducks in a Row

In Person (will be podcasted: Sunday, July 2 at 1 p.m. CT  
Ever watch someone seem to get everything done, all the time, without breaking a sweat? Wonder how they work, take care of the kids, travel, volunteer for everything, and seem to meet every deadline? How do they do it? Join us as we learn the methods that Kenneth Semien, Sr, Michael Babcock, and Hindley Williams use to get everything done and not lose their marbles. Let's learn how to get organized in 2023 and learn from some of the best on how to do it!

## **After-Hours Socials**

Virtual: TBD

We will have a few prescheduled evenings during convention week where we host our After-Hours Socials via Zoom. These will not be a part of the convention programming, so watch for the announcements on the ACB Next Generation email list and social media platforms.

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## **ACB Next Generation at the 2023 Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk**

by Amanda Selm

It's time to step out of our comfort zones and get ready to move with this year's ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. Lace up your favorite pair of shoes and get ready to show your love for ACB Next Generation. This year's theme is "Stepping Out With ACB," and we are challenging you, our members, to "step out" of your comfort zone and share your NextGen stories. This is how we grow our membership and how we receive support.

ACB's goal is \$62,000. Our goal is \$3,000 with 50% of what we raise going to ACB, and 50% coming back to us.

ACB Next Generation believes in empowering our members to achieve their Allstar potential. We help our members become passionate leaders, achieve their goals, and give them the opportunity to shine.

The funds raised from this event will support initiatives like our technology grant and assisting our members to attend ACB events.

Register or donate today by visiting our NextGen Allstar team page. Everyone who registers and/or donates will be entered to win door prizes. We will recognize those who join our team and/or donate each week in our Facebook Group, in our members-only ACB Next Generation Messenger Lounge, and on our Next Generation email list. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to us at [fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org](mailto:fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org). Here is the link to our team's page:  
<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/acbwalk2023/team/922786/>

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## **Financial Assistance to Attend the ACB Conference and Convention**

**By Matt Selm**

Membership Committee Chair

Hello ACB NextGen Family,

Are you ready for the biggest event of the year? The ACB Conference and Convention is coming up soon, and you don't want to miss it! Pre-registration opens on May 18 and runs through June 16, so mark your calendars and get ready to join us for an amazing experience.

The convention will be hybrid, meaning you can choose to attend virtually or in person. The convention dates are June 19 to June 25 (fully virtual) and June 30 to July 7 (hybrid). Registration is only \$35 for ACB members and \$50 for non-ACB members.

But wait, there's more! ACB Next Generation is thrilled to offer financial assistance for 13 lucky members to attend the 2023 ACB Conference and Convention. We know that some state affiliates also provide financial assistance to their members, and we encourage you to check with your state affiliate first to see if they have such an opportunity. You can find your state affiliate information at <https://acb.org/state-affiliates>.

If you still need financial assistance, ACB Next Generation will cover the \$35 convention registration fee for 13 people who register first. All you have to do is send a copy of your receipt to [treasurer@acbnextgeneration.org](mailto:treasurer@acbnextgeneration.org) and to [membership@acbnextgeneration.org](mailto:membership@acbnextgeneration.org) after you register. Please note that we will reimburse you after the convention in early August and only after we receive a testimonial about your convention experience. This reimbursement does not include the \$10 registration fee for ACB Next Generation, which we highly recommend you cover to have a chance to win some of our cool door prizes. What's the catch? There is none! We just ask that you are a current paid member of ACB Next Generation



for 2023 and that you share your feedback with us about the convention. You can either tell us what you liked or learned at the convention at an upcoming Saturday Night Live Hangout event, or write us a short statement by July 31. Your testimonials will help us improve our future assistance programs and may be featured in our newsletter and on our website. We can't wait to see you at the convention!

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## **New Board Member Bios**

### **Cassie Trosper – Secretary**

Cassie was born and raised in Mississippi and joined the U.S. Army in 2006. After serving for a few years, she was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). For some reason, the Army decided that it was no longer safe for her to drive the rather large military vehicles and medically discharged her under honorable circumstances. She is now a mom of 3 kiddos ages 18, 14, and 7. She is also very involved with ACB Next Generation as Co-chair of the Programs and Convention Committees, as well as a Director on the Board. She serves as Secretary and Membership Chair for ACB of Oregon and Secretary

of her local ACB chapter. She loves spending her spare time with family and friends.

### **Shane Aguilera – Director**

Shane is a musician, singer, and arranger from Los Angeles, CA. He is totally blind and has been a member of ACB since 2019 and is now a life member of ACB. He has been a member of ACB next generation since July of 2020 and as one of the youngest members of the affiliate. He strives to bring his unique perspective to the Board of Directors. He also has a desire to learn, ask important questions, and do work that matters. Some of his other hobbies include hiking, spending time with friends and family, and attending concerts.

### **Lindsey LaVere – Director**

Lindsey LaVere lives in North Street, Michigan and was elected as a Director in December 2022. Once elected, she began serving on the Programs and Fundraising Committees. Prior to joining Next Generation, she served as Secretary for her local chapter, Blue Water League of the Blind, within the Michigan affiliate. Outside of her involvement in ACB Next Generation and Michigan, she is in her first year of teaching an adaptive dance class at a local dance

studio. Dance has been an important part of her life, before and after her vision loss.

## **Hindley Williams – Director**

Hindley has a bachelor's degree in English literature from Villanova University and is a program director at a nonprofit. She became a member of ACB in 2022 and now serves as a Director on the ACB Next Generation Board and is a member of the Publications and Public Relations Committees. She lives in Maryland with her retired guide dog and two troublemaking kittens. She is a voracious reader and loves to cook all different types of cuisine.

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## **Can't Take Iowa Out of the Girl**

By Moe Carpenter

I was blessed this year and asked to represent Iowa at the ACB D.C. Leadership Conference which took place in and around Washington, D.C. It had been a couple of years since this event had taken place in person, and ACB decided to do things a little differently this year. First, there was a virtual-only weekend that took place from March 3 to March 7. I know that is a little more than a weekend, and actually, the 7th was my travel day, so I was not able

to attend half of the events. Then, they took the girl out of Iowa, and I was off with another ICUB member, Tasha Welsh, and headed off to the Des Moines Airport, so we could participate in the in-person events, which really didn't start until March 9. We finished our adventure on March 13 with a couple of in-person visits on the Hill. It was a great experience, and I think I kept my Midwest values with me throughout the adventure.

Our travel adventure began with our mystery gate. We were not the only ones puzzled about where exactly we were supposed to go. The app only had a couple of dashes in the place where we were supposed to find the gate number, and in the words of another sighted passenger, it was like a grown-up scavenger hunt to find where we were to go. I preferred the idea of teleportation over a gate, but alas, it was not meant to be. Once we were off, things were fine, and we were able to find our gate assistance without too much of a problem. This is where advocating for ourselves began. Even though our assistance was fine with no wheelchairs, they also did not know the layout of the airport, and they didn't even know how to find the Metro, the method of transportation we would be using to get to the hotel. It was later in the evening and beyond the after-work crowd, so we were able to entertain one of the Metro employees while getting our Metro cards and learning how the system works. I

guess you could say we forgot we weren't in Iowa, and the staff wasn't quite sure what to think of the Midwest niceness we brought with us.

However, we made it to our stop and to our hotel, and we had basically a full day to settle in and explore Old Town Alexandria. We had some great sushi and got to ride the trolley. By the end of the 8th, we had met up with the rest of our Iowa group and were all excited for the rest of our adventure.

The rest of the trip contained a mix of activities. Over four days, we had tours. The most memorable outing was probably on Friday, which ended our outing with the accessible currency rally. It was cool out, and it drizzled the entire time. Our signs melted in the rain, but the speakers were fantastic, and Kolby's version of "RESPECT" was fabulous. This is another point in which my Midwest roots showed, as I was trying to make sure everyone was warm enough and could handle our not-so-favorable conditions. This was also true with our other tours, as I guess once you've been a mom of four, it's hard to turn off the motherly instincts.

On Saturday and Sunday mornings, we had some breakout sessions. I went to all of the ACB-focused events. I would have preferred these to be a little more

centered around meeting with our legislators, but I did enjoy sitting next to new people and those that I had only talked to over Zoom. Some of the best places, however, that I learned things were on the buses to and from places and with our group dinner night.

Most days, the four of us lowans got together for a meal or some hangout time. This was a great opportunity to build connections between us. I would highly recommend it to anyone doing this trip in the future. It allowed us to work out details and really get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses so that we could easily conduct our meetings on Monday.

Originally, we were supposed to meet with staff from each of the six Iowa legislators. However, due to different events, we were only able to meet with two of them. This was fantastic, though. It was not nearly as intimidating as I thought it was going to be, and now I have a better idea of how things will run when we do get Zoom calls organized for the people with whom we were unable to meet.

Unfortunately, even with all the time at the conference, there was little actual preparation for what was to be going on with our Hill visits. I am hoping that we can get this changed in the future and get a D.C. leadership committee started at the national level so that others attending for their first time, with little guidance, can be a little more

prepared. For example, it was shortly before I left on the 7th that we had heard there would be information provided to us when we got to the conference to hand to our legislators. This turned out to be a digital-only document with no plan on something to put the print document in. Luckily, we were prepared and had already printed this information off and made little report files with the imperatives, some info about ICUB, and some information about what is going on in the state as far as blind concerns go. This is a small thing but is vital to us looking professional, and no matter how many people I asked about what to expect, this never came up.

Overall, it was an amazing week of getting to know people. I got to hug people I had only ever talked to over Zoom, and I got to meet so many new people. I learned things about the processes of ACB that just don't come up in normal conversation. I was also reminded that there are still things that need to be done in our communities to make them accessible for all. It was a great experience, and I was honored to be able to represent Iowa at this event. Lastly, I learned that no matter how far I get from Iowa, I will always be an Iowa girl first.

NOTE: This article was originally written for Moe's state affiliate newsletter.

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## **CRAB, Children Raised Around the Blind Stimulate Your Potential and Personal Greatness**

By DJ McIntyre

We are growing and doing new things this year. CRAB launched a podcast in January called CRAB Blog, and it can be found on Apple and Google podcasts, as well as on the TuneIn Radio app. There are two episodes per month released on the first and third Mondays. The second monthly episode is a topic based on the month (January was Braille Literacy, and February was What Do You Love About Having a Blind Parent). We are currently looking to feature some guests for May and June for Mother's Day and Father's Day episodes. We will ask you about 3 questions and record via Zoom. If you know someone who would love to share their experience, please let me know. Email DJ McIntyre at [dgrenevitch@me.com](mailto:dgrenevitch@me.com).



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## **ChatGPT: The Augmented Intelligence You Need to Know About**

By Michael Babcock

Hey there, ACB Next Generation readers,

Have you heard about this thing called ChatGPT? If not, let me tell you why it's worth learning more about it.

As someone who started using ChatGPT in November of 2022, I was initially worried about accessibility challenges. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was easy to use, and it gave me the same results as my sighted colleagues.

What really impressed me about ChatGPT was how it helped me express my thoughts in writing. As someone who struggles with writing, I found that using ChatGPT to rewrite my content in a professional tone made me much more productive and helped me complete projects I never thought possible before.

For instance, this very article was dictated into Drafts, copied, and pasted into ChatGPT. The tool quickly fixed my grammatical errors and added a professional tone to it, resulting in the piece you're reading right now.

While there are some questions around who the actual author of the content is when using ChatGPT, there's no denying the potential of this AI-powered tool. In fact, I've always referred to ChatGPT as augmented intelligence because of its ability to enhance our productivity and creativity.

So, if you're looking for a new way to improve your writing and get more done, give ChatGPT a try. Trust me, you won't be disappointed!

Check it out at: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt>

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## **ACB Next Generation Media Posting Schedule**

By Greg Lindberg

The Publications Committee is excited to unveil our new media posting schedule for ACB Next Generation! Each month, we plan to roll out a new podcast episode, two blog posts, and a YouTube video. Here is our tentative posting schedule:

First Monday: Podcast

Second Monday: Blog post

Third Monday: Monday Member Spotlight YouTube video  
Fourth Monday: Blog post

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## **BLOG POST: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward: ACB Next Generation**

By Hindley Williams

Check out a recent post on the ACB Next Generation blog highlighting the early days of our affiliate and looking ahead to the future. Read it here:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/reflecting-back-and-looking-forward-acb-next-generation-by-hindley-williams/>

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## **Calendar of Events**

Everyone is welcome to attend these events by accessing the Zoom mobile app, visiting the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us>, or calling (312) 626-6799, and entering the appropriate meeting ID and passcode.

You may sign up to receive reminders and Zoom details by subscribing to the ACB Next Generation email list. Please send a blank email to [main+subscribe@acbnextgeneration.groups.io](mailto:main+subscribe@acbnextgeneration.groups.io)

In addition, many ACB Next Generation events are listed on the ACB Community Call schedule.

### **April**

- 10 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting - 8 p.m. ET
- 15 - April NextGen Insight published
- 18 - Monthly Education Program - 8 p.m. ET
- 22 - Saturday Night Live Hangout - 7 p.m. ET
- 30 - ACB NextGen Auction – 7 p.m. ET

### **May**

- 3 - NextGen 101 Orientation – 8 p.m. ET
- 8 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting - 8 p.m. ET
- 16 - Monthly Education Program - 8 p.m. ET

27 - Saturday Night Live Hangout - 7 p.m. ET

## **June**

12 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting - 8 p.m. ET

20 - Monthly Education Program - 8 p.m. ET

25 - Saturday Night Live Hangout (Convention Pep Rally) -  
6:30 p.m. ET

30 - ACB Conference and Convention

## **July**

1-6 - ACB Conference and Convention (cont.)

15 - April NextGen Insight published

18 - Monthly Education Program - 8 p.m. ET

22 - Saturday Night Live Hangout - 7 p.m. ET

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The NextGen Insight is published four times per year: (January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15) in a digital format via email and posted to our website the following month. Send newsletter items for consideration to [publications@acbnextgeneration.org](mailto:publications@acbnextgeneration.org).

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## **ACB Next Generation Board of Directors**

President - Amanda Selm

1st Vice President - Matt Selm

2nd Vice President - Melanie Sinohui

Secretary - Cassie Trosper

Treasurer - Maria Kristic

Director - Shane Aguilera

Director - Moe Carpenter

Director - Kristen Kelling

Director - Lindsey LaVere

Director - Hindley Williams

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## **How to Reach Us**

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<http://www.acbnextgeneration.org/contact-us>

ACB NextGen Blog:

<http://www.acbnextgeneration.org/blog>