



NextGen Insight

**Volume 5, Issue 3
August 2025**

Publications Committee Chair: Greg Lindberg

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Membership Renewal Reminder	2
Clubhouse Updates	3
Get Your Bids Ready for the 2025 ACB Next Generation Auction	4
Thank You for Supporting Our Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser!.....	5
2025 ACB Convention Experiences	6
ACB NextGen at the 2025 ACB Convention	10
Thank You, Convention Door Prize Donors	14
Special Interest Affiliate Spotlight	15
Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs (IVIE) Online Business Expo.....	17
Announcing the ACB NextGen Writing Awards	18
Blog and Podcast Roundup	19
Calendar of Events	21
ACB Next Generation Board of Directors.....	24
How to Reach Us	24
ACB Next Generation Committees	25

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.

Did You Know? About two weeks after conception, an embryo's eyes start to develop. However, babies don't produce tears until 6 weeks of age, even though they can cry at birth.

(Source: <https://www.drarthurhaley.com/9-fun-eye-facts-in-observance-of-world-sight-day/>)

President's Message

Hello NextGen Framily,

How time has flown! I can't believe we are over halfway through the year. We have just returned from another fabulous convention, and whether you attended any portion of it in person or virtually, I hope you enjoyed it.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to welcome all of our new members and thank those who have chosen to renew their membership for 2026. I would also like to take this moment to thank those who helped make our programming a success.

Finally, I want to take some time to give an overview of what's next for our affiliate. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have had our annual Committee Showcase where committee chairs provide information on

ACB NextGen's committees. If you are even remotely interested in any committee, I would strongly encourage you to complete the Committee Interest Form to be connected with the committee chair to talk about how you can serve on the committee.

I hope all of you have a great rest of your summer and a great start to fall.

Warmest regards,
Kristen Kelling
President, ACB Next Generation

Membership Renewal Reminder

By ACB NextGen Membership Committee

The ACB NextGen Membership Committee would like to encourage all members who have joined us in 2025 to rejoin our affiliate for 2026. Starting on September 1, members will be able to join or renew their membership for 2026 for only \$15. You can also become a Life Member for \$150.

This year, the Membership Committee has continued to welcome our new members through our NextGen 101

events. We also provided financial assistance to several members to attend the DC Leadership Conference in March, as well as the ACB Conference and Convention in July. Earlier this year, we relaunched the ACB Next Generation Mentorship program. We hope you will renew and encourage your friends to join us for 2026. You can join or renew using our membership application here: <https://acbnextgeneration.org/membership>

Clubhouse Updates

Dear ACB Next Generation members,

In an effort to improve the Clubhouse experience for our members who use this platform, we have implemented some new guidelines that took effect on July 1, 2025. If you wish to serve as a Clubhouse moderator, you must agree to these guidelines by signing the form. To view the guidelines and sign the form, please visit:

<https://forms.gle/Scnp937gLVWeWd7u5>

After you agree to these guidelines, you will become a “Leader” in the ACB NextGen house. This will allow you to create and moderate rooms.

We hope this will create a more welcoming experience for all of our members. Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you on Clubhouse!

Best regards,
The ACB NextGen Membership, Public Relations, and Publications Committees

Get Your Bids Ready for the 2025 ACB Next Generation Auction

By ACB NextGen Fundraising Committee

Come one, come all, to the “Fired Up for ACB Next Generation Auction” on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 7 PM Eastern.

We invite all to attend, but make sure you fill out the registration form at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_RRPw44BN_WIEVgBF8ACnUOPJujRo72I2q8fRKHHhgQwd8Q/viewform

Are you curious about what you can bid on? We’ve got Amazon gift cards, an Ambutech gift certificate, and so much more! It’s a great way to support our organization.

If you're still interested in donating to the auction, please let us know by emailing fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org.

We look forward to seeing you there and raising lots of money for ACB NextGen!

Thank You for Supporting Our Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser!

By ACB NextGen Fundraising Committee

The NextGen Fundraising Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. Because of your efforts and generosity, we sold a total of \$738 worth of popcorn out of our \$1,300 goal. That means \$369 will go directly to supporting the work and mission of ACB Next Generation!

We couldn't have done it without our 12 amazing participants: Kristen Kelling, Sara Mornis, Justin Graben, Megan Meigs, Lisa McKeown, Gregg Wandsneider, Moe Carpenter, Jessica Dail, Greg Lindberg, Niral Sheth, Danielle Stevens, and Lindsey LaVere.

Whether you sold popcorn, purchased a tasty treat, or helped spread the word, your contribution made a difference. Thank you again for supporting ACB Next Generation!

2025 ACB Convention Experiences

Several ACB Next Generation members attended the 2025 ACB Conference and Convention virtually and in Dallas, Texas. Below, some of our members shared their experience. Check out more at <http://acbnextgeneration.org/blog>

Gregg Wandsneider

“By now, I guess you could call me a seasoned veteran when it comes to attending the American Council of the Blind convention. After all, this was my fourth in-person convention and my fifth ACB convention in total. In fact, attending my first convention, at the recommendation of my friend Niral Sheth, also a member of ACB Next Generation, was my entry point into all things ACB. My first ever convention in 2020 was completely virtual due to the Covid pandemic. The story goes like this. I was on the phone with Niral and I heard people having fun in the

background of our conversation. 'Who are all of those people?' I asked him. The rest was history. On a Saturday, I was on the phone with someone from ACB's main office registering for my first ever convention. I eventually got to know a good amount of people from ACB and talked to my parents, who are also my Uber drivers, about attending the 2022 convention in Omaha, Nebraska. I love the fact that ACB holds our convention in different places throughout the country. It gives me an opportunity to 'see' the world!

If you ask me one thing that really impressed me during the 2025 convention, it was the staff of the Hyatt Regency in Dallas. Even before the convention, it was obvious that they were preparing for the arrival of several hundred people who are blind or visually impaired. From the front-of-house staff to the culinary team, they were simply amazing! The lay out of the hotel was easy for me to comprehend as well.

One of my other highlights was getting to know the ACB scholarship recipients, many of whom I have stayed in touch with after convention due to my involvement with the American Council of Blind Students. Though I never see myself interacting with my representatives in D.C., the advocacy session, the ABCs of Advocacy, was a step in that direction. I also enjoyed the session with Meta about

the Meta glasses. While I am pretty familiar with my Meta glasses that I received this past year, I always love being a fly on the wall and hearing about new features that might be rolled out within the near future.

In closing, I will say that there is always something special about being a part of the voting process. I believe that everyone in ACB, as a member-driven organization, has the ability, right, and duty to vote in our elections. So, as I always say, vote, vote, vote! If you haven't yet, consider attending the national or your state convention for the above reasons and more! As the saying goes, 'Meet me in St. Louis!'"

Vika Trussell

"This was my second year attending the convention in person and I'm so glad I decided to stay for the entire week. It was truly a rewarding experience from start to finish.

One of the highlights for me was attending the advocacy sessions. Although I haven't done a lot of advocacy work yet, learning more about it was interesting. Hearing people share their stories about advocating on both local and national levels was incredibly inspiring. It reminded me that advocacy doesn't have to be big or flashy - every

voice matters, and every action, no matter how small can make a difference. I even found myself thinking that one day, I'd love to attend the D.C. Leadership Conference and take a more active role.

The pep rally was another fun moment. It was exciting to meet people I'd previously only connected with online. There's something really special about getting to finally talk and laugh in person. I also attended a session on the five love languages which was both insightful and fun. Learning how people give and receive love – especially in different kinds of relationships – gave me a new perspective.

Even though I didn't get to attend the in-person Leadership Link-Up event, I participated in the virtual version and had the chance to meet some amazing ACB leaders.

This year's convention was the perfect mix of education, connection, and fun. I'm already looking forward to next year!"

ACB NextGen at the 2025 ACB Convention



Photo Left: Matt Selm reaches out and touches a twisted 22-foot steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center at the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas.
(Photo courtesy of Terri-Lynn Higashi)

Photo Right: Vika Trussell sits in the front passenger seat of a Waymo self-driving car that was on display in front of the Hyatt Regency Dallas during convention. The vehicle's steering wheel and other instruments are visible in the background.
(Photo courtesy of Nyx Skotko)



ACB NextGen at the 2025 ACB Convention



Photo Left:
ACB Next
Generation
Pep Rally
Group Photo
(Photo
courtesy of
Terry-Lynn
Higashi)



Photo Above: ACB Next Generation Breakfast Group
Photo (Photo courtesy of Cindi Dail)

ACB NextGen at the 2025 ACB Convention

Reunion Tower is a significant image on the Dallas skyline. It is a skinny tower with a sphere atop, towering 561 feet with lights that form a diamond grid pattern around the geodesic dome, the colors of which are changed for different events.



Photo Above Left: Reunion Tower and the Hyatt Regency Dallas. The hotel stairsteps down to the base of the tower and the tower rises up from the end. Photo Above Right: Reunion Tower at night with blue lights illuminated.
(Photos courtesy of Melanie Sinohui)

ACB NextGen at the 2025 ACB Convention



Photo Left: William Belina, Sara Mornis, Kristen Kelling, Matt Selm, and Amanda Selm, pose on the observation deck with the

skyscrapers of downtown Dallas in the background. (Photo courtesy of the tour guide)

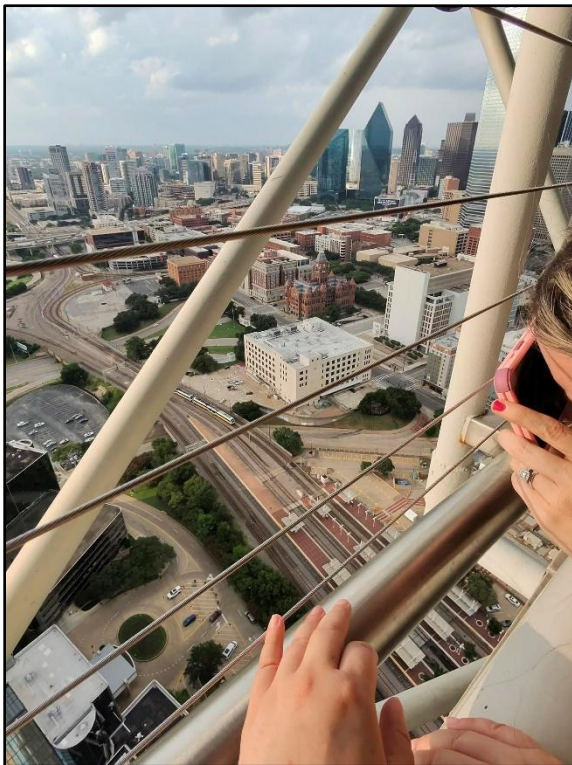


Photo Left: View from the observation deck of Reunion Tower looking down on Dealey Plaza where President John F. Kennedy was shot in 1963. In the middle of the frame you can see the Texas School Book Depository and the Grassy Knoll on Elm Street. (Photo courtesy of Kristen Kelling from her Meta AI glasses)

Thank You, Convention Door Prize Donors

By ACB NextGen Convention Committee

The ACB Next Generation Convention Committee would like to thank the following individuals for donating door prizes for our programming at the 2025 American Council of the Blind Conference and Convention.

Thank You: Greg Lindberg, Kristen Kelling, Matt and Amanda Selm, Kenneth Semien Sr., Lindsey LaVere, Dakota Burch, Joey Couch, and Justin Graben

We are so thankful for your donations. Without you, we would not be able to provide door prizes for all of our amazing ACB NextGen sponsored programs. Thank you again for supporting our organization.

Special Interest Affiliate Spotlight

ACB Students

Affiliate Name: ACB Students

Affiliation Year: 1973

Contact Info: president@acbstudents.org

Website: <https://www.acbstudents.org/>

Social Media:

- Instagram: @acbstudents
- Facebook: American Council of Blind Students
- LinkedIn: American Council of the Blind Students (ACBS)

What's your name and what role do you have in ACB Students?

Malia Thibado, former Second Vice President

What is the goal / mission of ACB Students?

The mission of ACB Students is to provide a community of visually impaired and blind students who desire both academic excellence and to advance classroom advocacy.

Why did you join your affiliate and what makes you continue to be actively involved?

When I joined ACB Students as an incoming college freshman, I was drawn into the feeling of companionship with fellow blind students. I hadn't been involved in the blind community in years, and I was thrilled to commiserate with those who faced similar struggles.

My favorite part of being involved continues to be the community aspect. I've seen programs for visually impaired/blind students that don't showcase the real fruits of what we can achieve. ACB Students is not one of those. We support students' efforts to succeed both academically and socially

What does your affiliate offer its members?

We offer our members a supportive community and resources in the form of our professional and social programming.

What kind of programming does ACB Students put on?

ACB Students provides professional, academic, and advocacy programs every month. We have a Zoom meeting, alternating between social and professional events. Notable ones include our "Finals Freakouts" and "Resume Reviews" we've done in the past.

How does someone join your affiliate and how much are dues?

Contact us via email or social media with your name and proof of attendance at an accredited high school, college, or trade school. Dues are \$15 a year.

Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs (IVIE) Online Business Expo

Source: IVIE

IVIE is offering a great opportunity to blind or visually impaired business owners/entrepreneurs. When you join in our Online Business Expo shopping experience, you can tell the audience about your business, describe your products and services, pass on contact information, and allow participants to ask questions. For IVIE members, the fee for presenting for fifteen minutes is \$10, for a half hour is \$20, or for an hour is \$30. Not an IVIE member? Then, the fee for presenting is an additional \$15 -- \$25 for fifteen minutes, \$35 for a half-hour session, or \$45 for an hourlong session. Nonmembers have the option of having \$15 of the payment used to pay IVIE dues for 2026.

The event takes place November 15, 2025, from 11:30 AM to 6 PM Eastern. All those participating in the call, whether

presenting or not, will use the same Zoom information to connect.

The deadline for purchasing a timeslot to give a presentation is November 1, 2025. To purchase a timeslot or ask questions, send an email to info@ivie-acb.org with your request to exhibit. Please send your business name, product line, telephone number, and email address. You will be sent an online business expo registration form which will include a link for payment and additional information. If you wish to attend the IVIE Online Business Expo and listen to this unique shopping experience, there is no cost. However, if you are not on the IVIE email list or the ACB Conversation email list, please send an email to register so we can send you the Zoom information. Send the request to info@ivie-acb.org.

Announcing the ACB NextGen Writing Awards

by ACB NextGen Publications Committee

The Publications and PR Committees are excited to announce a new writing award for 2025! We plan to award two writers for a high-quality article published in either the NextGen Insight newsletter

(<http://acbnextgeneration.org/newsletter>) released in February, May, August, and November, or on the ACB NextGen blog (<http://acbnextgeneration.org/blog>). The award will be presented at our annual business meeting in December and will include a \$50 gift card.

We are looking for articles relevant to blind and visually impaired individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 geared toward college students, young professionals, and younger parents. Examples of topics include advocacy, employment, technology, relationships, sports and recreation, and guide dogs, but we are open to ideas.

To submit an article for consideration or if you have any questions, please e-mail publications@acbnextgeneration.org.

Thank you for your interest!

Blog and Podcast Roundup

In addition to publishing the NextGen Insight, the Publications Committee also produces blog posts and the Next Up with NextGen podcast. Below is a roundup of recent blog and podcast content.

Blog Posts

Moving While Blind: How Good Communication Made It Stress Free:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2025/06/09/moving-while-blind-how-good-communication-made-it-stress-free-by-vika-trussell/>

Next Up with NextGen Podcast

Bridging the Language Gap as a Blind or Visually Impaired Individual:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2025/06/21/bridging-the-language-gap-as-a-blind-or-visually-impaired-individual/>

NextGen Members Share Their 2025 ACB Conference and Convention Experiences:

[NextGen Members Recap Their 2025 ACB Conference and Convention Experiences – ACB Next Generation](#)

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

In addition, many ACB Next Generation events are listed on the ACB Community Call schedule. Please watch your email for program details and possible updates.

August 2025

6 - ACB Next Generation Committee Showcase – 8 p.m.
ET

11 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8 p.m. ET

13 - NextGen 101 – 8:30 p.m. ET

15 - August NextGen Insight published

19 - Tuesday Night Huddle: Let the Search Begin – 8 p.m.
ET

24 - Game On with NextGen: NextGen's Not So
Newlywed Game – 9 p.m. ET

September 2025

- 7 - ACB Next Generation Auction – 7 p.m. ET
- 8 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8 p.m. ET
- 16 - Tuesday Night Huddle: Resume and Cover Letter Writing Tips and Tricks – 8 p.m. ET
- 28 - Game On with NextGen: 8 Second Rule – 9 p.m. ET

October 2025

- 13 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8 p.m. ET
- 15 - Conversations in Advocacy: Traveling with Courage and Confidence – 8 p.m. ET
- 26 - Game On with NextGen: A Virtually Spectacular Fall Festival – 9 p.m. ET
- 29 - Conversations in Advocacy: Being Your Best Self Advocate – 8 p.m. ET

November 2025

- 5 - NextGen 101 – 9 p.m. ET
- 10 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8 p.m. ET
- 15 - November NextGen Insight published
- 11 - Tuesday Night Huddle: When Interviews Come Mocking – 8 p.m. ET
- 23 - Game On with NextGen: American History Trivia – 9 p.m. ET

December 2025

TBD - ACB NextGen Annual Business Meeting

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

16 - Tuesday Night Huddle: Catching the Scammers and Spammers – 8 p.m. ET

21 - Game On with NextGen: Holiday Extravaganza – 9 p.m. ET

*Topics and speakers are subject to change. Please reference ACB Next Generation emails and the ACB Community Call schedule.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in the content of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of ACB Next Generation as an organization.

The NextGen Insight is published four times per year: (February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15) in a digital format via email and posted to our website the following month. Send newsletter items for consideration to publications@acbnextgeneration.org.

ACB Next Generation Board of Directors

President - Kristen Kelling

1st Vice President - Maria Kristic

2nd Vice President - Megan Meigs

Secretary – Dakota Birch

Treasurer - Moe Carpenter

Immediate Past President – Amanda Selm

Director - Michael Babcock

Director - Justin Graben

Director - Amber Grant

Director - Lindsey LaVere

Director - Vika Trussell

How to Reach Us

Email Address: ACBNextGen@gmail.com

Phone Number: (202) 524-0909

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

Social Media:

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

ACB NextGen Blog:

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

ACB Next Generation Committees

Interested in joining a committee? Fill out the committee interest form at <https://forms.gle/kNpzgMBW3ZWzPS7S6>

Advocacy / Legislative Committee

Chair: Aaron Espinoza

Contact: advocacy@acbnextgeneration.org

Awards Committee

Chair: Joseph Hernandez

Contact: awards@acbnextgeneration.org

Budget / Finance Committee

Chair: Moe Carpenter

Contact: treasurer@acbnextgeneration.org

Constitution and Bylaws / Resolutions Committee

Chair: Matt Selm

Contact: constitution@acbnextgeneration.org

Convention Committee

Chair: Amanda Selm

Contact: convention@acbnextgeneration.org

Fundraising Committee

Co-Chairs: Moe Carpenter and Lindsey LaVere

Vice Chair: Justin Graben

Contact: fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org

Membership Committee

Chair: Matt Selm

Contact: membership@acbnextgeneration.org

Nominating Committee

Chair: TBD in Q4

Contact: elections@acbnextgeneration.org

Programs Committee

Chair: Amanda Selm

Contact: programs@acbnextgeneration.org

Public Relations and eCommunications Committee

Chair: Vika Trussell

Contact: pr@acbnextgeneration.org

Publications Committee

Chair: Greg Lindberg

Contact: publications@acbnextgeneration.org

Website Committee

Chair: Michael Babcock

Contact: website@acbnextgeneration.org