



NextGen Insight

**Volume 6, Issue 1
February 2026**

Publications Committee Chair: Greg Lindberg

Table of Contents

- President’s Message1**
- 2025 ACB Next Generation Election Results3**
- Membership Renewal Announcement.....5**
- Advocacy Committee Update6**
- Fundraising Committee Update7**
- Develop, Lead, and Elevate: Why You Should Join the
ACB NextGen Excel Mentorship Program.....12**
- 2026 ACB DC Leadership Conference14**
- 2026 DKM First-Timer and JPMorgan Chase
Leadership Fellows Awards16**
- Important Dates for the 2026 ACB
Conference and Convention.....20**
- It’s a Win/Win with ACB NextGen21**
- A Tribute to Janeen Lea.....22**
- How to Use – Not Abuse – AI (Part 1)26**
- Cookbook Winter Recipe: Sweet Corn Soup with Crab
and Asparagus27**
- Blog and Podcast Roundup29**
- Calendar of Events31**
- ACB Next Generation Board of Directors.....34**
- How to Reach Us34**
- ACB Next Generation Committees35**

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.

ACB NextGen Trivia: On what day did ACB Next Generation officially become an affiliate of ACB? (Hint: Read the entire newsletter to find the answer!)

President's Message

Greetings Framily,

I remember that when I began my presidency, I asked myself why I chose to run for president of ACB Next Generation in the first place.

Yes, it's true that I have served as a committee chair and even president of my local chapter and other groups. But to run an affiliate? That was scary to me. I had mixed emotions – I was sad that I was vacating my comfortable position as a committee chair in ACB NextGen in order to take up the position of president, but I was also excited knowing that I had reached a new milestone in my development as a leader. I suppose that this is the very reason I chose to run for the position of president in the first place. In doing so, I was eager and excited to do my part to help ACB NextGen grow. I long for this affiliate to be a place where members feel like they belong and can serve in a way that works for them because everyone has

something they can bring to the table. I share my feelings and my experience in hopes that I can encourage that person who may be questioning their own ability to serve and to lead. Please know that you are valued, and we are here to help you grow personally and professionally, and I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities offered to you.

As 2025 has ended and 2026 has begun, I can't help but stop and reflect on this because we have new leaders taking up new positions. I personally want to thank Dakota Burch, Michael Babcock, Amber Grant, Lindsey LaVere, and Vika Trussel for their service to the ACB Next Generation Board of Directors. Your time and service to our affiliate have been invaluable, and I want to wish you the best in your future endeavors.

I also want to welcome our new board members: Jessica Dail, William Belina, Joseph Hernandez, Sara Mornis, and Lisha Pottackal. Congratulations to Justin Graben as a returning member of the board. I look forward to working with each of you as we represent the interests of ACB NextGen and its members.

Best regards,

Kristen Kelling

President, ACB Next Generation

2025 ACB Next Generation Election Results

by ACB NextGen Nominating Committee

ACB Next Generation held an election in December of 2025. The following members were elected to the board of directors by acclamation:

Jessica Dail – Secretary (1-year term)

Jessica resides in Davison, MI. She works as a Customer Service Representative for her local public transportation system.

In addition to serving as secretary for ACB NextGen, she serves on the Publications and Fundraising Committees. She also serves as assistant secretary for the Michigan Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MCBVI) and is a member of the Fundraising & Technology Committees. Her hobbies include ham radio and singing in her church choir.

Joseph Hernandez – Director (2-year term)

Joseph was born and raised in California and now resides in Kentucky. He has Retinopathy of Prematurity. He earned three associate degrees in Social Behavioral Health, Health and Fitness, and Arts and Humanities from Los Angeles Harbor Community College. He has worked as a DJ since age 14 and goes by DJ Vision. He serves as

chair of the ACB NextGen Awards Committee and on the Membership Committee. His hobbies include many outdoor activities.

Justin Graben – Director (incumbent, serving new 2-year term)

Justin is from Valley, AL. A few of his hobbies include music and ham radio. He is co-chair of the ACB NextGen Fundraising Committee.

Sara Mornis - Director (2-year term)

Sara graduated from Northern Vermont University with a bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in English, Psychology, and Alternative Medicine. She enjoys creative writing, music, and outdoor activities such as skiing. She currently does part-time work in web accessibility testing. She serves on the ACB NextGen Publications/PR, Membership, and Advocacy Committees.

William Belina – Director (2-year term)

William is from Seattle, WA. He spent six years with the Lighthouse for the Blind as a production worker. He is a member of the ACB NextGen Fundraising Committee and frequent contributor to the Messenger Lounge. He's also a member of the United Blind of Seattle chapter. In his free time, he enjoys socializing and connecting with others.

Lisha Pottackal – Director (2-year term)

Lisha resides in Cherry Hill, NJ. She has retinitis

pigmentosa. Lisha earned a bachelor's in Psychology from Rutgers University and an MBA from Louisiana Tech University. She serves on the ACB NextGen Membership Committee and as first vice president of the New Jersey Council of the Blind (NJCB), as well as on the NJCB convention and scholarship committees. She's also active in the Mercer County Association of the Blind. She successfully completed the ACB Mentorship, Access, and Peer Support Program (MAPS). In her free time, she enjoys ice skating, crocheting, and knitting.

[Membership Renewal Announcement](#)
by ACB NextGen Membership Committee

If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to renew your membership for ACB Next Generation for 2026, and bring a friend along too. Joining ACB Next Generation not only provides you with access to our numerous member perks, programs, events, and other opportunities, but you can be a part of one of the greatest affiliates in ACB. We hope you will renew, and please encourage your friends to join our growing affiliate this year.

You can renew by completing our membership application. The application is available at <https://acbnextgeneration.org/membership/>

Dues are only \$15 per calendar year or \$150 for lifetime membership.

If you have any questions or issues, feel free to contact membership@acbnextgeneration.org.

We look forward to another great year with you along for the ride as a member of ACB NextGen!

[Advocacy Committee Update](#)

by ACB NextGen Advocacy Committee

We recently had a presentation about the 2026 ACB DC Leadership Conference as part of our Tuesday Night Huddle series so our members understand what it is about and how they can participate, whether they attend remotely or in person.

Also, we are back in discussions with AccessiBe to arrange a presentation about their company and technology.

We have also been spreading the word when ACB needs help raising awareness about advocacy issues at the

national level so that our ACB NextGen members can step in and do their part as advocates.

Feel free to contact our committee at advocacy@acbnextgeneration.org.

Fundraising Committee Update

by ACB NextGen Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is hard at work and excited to bring you new and meaningful opportunities to support ACB Next Generation.

Here's what's coming up in 2026:

How Sweet It Is to Lead Valentine's Day Fundraiser Recap

By the time you receive this newsletter, we'll have wrapped up our How Sweet It Is to Lead Valentine's Day Fundraiser, which took place during the month of January. Thanks to your incredible generosity, this fundraiser was a success, closing with a profit of \$171.35.

Thank you to everyone who participated, shared the fundraiser, or helped in any way. Your support truly makes a difference.

Relaunch of the Monthly Monetary Support (MMS) Program

Get ready to make a lasting impact by joining our Monthly Monetary Support (MMS) Program. This program offers a simple and effective way to provide ongoing support to ACB Next Generation. More details will be shared soon.

Save the Date: General Auction

Sunday, June 14 (tentative date)

Mark your calendar for this tentative date for the ACB Next Generation Auction, but be on the lookout for any future updates on this date. If you would like to donate an item, please email a description to fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org. More information will be coming soon.

Snacks for Convention Fundraiser

Our popular Convention Snacks Fundraiser returns in July. Stock up on tasty treats while supporting our mission. More details will be shared soon.

Also in July, we will participate in the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk, an opportunity to work together to raise funds for both ACB Next Generation and ACB.

Show your support by walking in style with ACB Next Generation Blind Girl Designs' All-Star apparel, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags. Apparel is available through May 3, 2026, and \$7 from each item purchased goes directly back to ACB Next Generation. Additional information and the purchase link is below.

<https://blindgirldesigns.com/collections/next-gen-allstars-2025>

Year-Round Fundraising Opportunities

We also offer several ways to support ACB Next Generation throughout the year.

- RaiseRight Year-Round Fundraiser

Support ACB Next Generation by purchasing gift cards through RaiseRight. For more information, email fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org.

- ACB Next Generation Cookbook

Our cookbook is available in multiple formats, including PDF and Word, and features recipes submitted by members and friends – perfect for any time of year.

We sincerely thank everyone who has donated time, items, or supported our fundraisers in any way. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

On a sad note, as we were preparing to begin a brand-new fundraising year, we were heartbroken to learn of the passing of a fellow committee member and dear friend, Janeen Lea. Janeen passed away on January 8, 2026. Janeen was a valued part of our committee and has been a big part of numerous fundraisers, especially the auction. Janeen's dedication, kindness, energy, and commitment will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. As we continue to process this loss, we ask for your patience, and we will respond to messages as quickly as possible.

If you have questions, need assistance, or are interested in joining the Fundraising Committee, please email fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org or call 202-524-0909. Please leave your name, phone number, and time zone, and we will return your message as soon as possible.

Develop, Lead, and Elevate: Why You Should Join the ACB NextGen Excel Mentorship Program

by ACB NextGen Membership Committee

If you've been looking for a meaningful way to grow within the American Council of the Blind community – whether by sharing your hard-earned experience or by gaining new skills and confidence – the ACB Next Generation Excel Mentorship Program is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

This program was created with one purpose in mind: to connect members who are eager to learn with those who are ready to guide. It's a space where leadership, curiosity, and community come together to help every participant move forward.

The program pairs Coaches – ACB members with at least a year of leadership experience – with Discoverers, ACB NextGen members who want support in developing personal or professional skills. These partnerships are thoughtfully matched by the Membership Committee, which considers availability, goals, and overall compatibility. While matches can't be guaranteed, every effort is made to create pairings that set both participants up for success.

Whether the focus is leadership development, advocacy, communication skills, or navigating ACB involvement, the program is designed to support meaningful progress. Coaches play a vital role by offering guidance, encouragement, and practical insight. If you're an ACB member with leadership experience, this is your chance to give back in a direct and personal way. You'll be asked to submit a brief narrative outlining your background, mentoring interests, and preferred communication style. The Membership Committee may request an interview, and accepted Coaches are invited to quarterly group meetings to share their experiences.

Discoverers, meanwhile, have the opportunity to shape their own growth. Applicants will submit a narrative describing their goals, preferred communication methods, and how mentorship can support their development. Once matched, Discoverers can begin scheduling sessions and working toward the outcomes that matter most to them. At the end of the program, participants complete a final evaluation to help ACB NextGen continue improving this valuable initiative.

Be on the lookout for details on how to apply and get involved. Whether you're ready to guide or eager to learn, the Excel Mentorship Program offers a supportive,

structured, and empowering environment to help you take your next step in your goals.

2026 ACB DC Leadership Conference

by ACB NextGen Membership Committee

The American Council of the Blind DC Leadership Conference is an opportunity for ACB to gather and hear updates on the various advocacy imperatives and issues facing the blind and low vision community. Many state affiliates also take the opportunity to meet with their Congressional delegation and ask for their support of proposed legislation.

ACB's 2026 DC Leadership Conference will have both a virtual and in-person component. Preregistration for DC Leadership is currently open and costs \$30 for virtual registrants and \$115 for in-person registrants.

Preregistration closes on Friday, February 28. ACB's Presidents' Meeting and Legislative Seminar will take place from March 6-10.

The in-person portion of the Leadership Conference will take place at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Friday, March 6: Afternoon Tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- Saturday, March 7: Board Meeting & Evening Welcome Reception
- Sunday, March 8: Presidents' Meeting (including luncheon) & Evening Dine Around in Pentagon City
- Monday, March 9: Legislative Seminar (including luncheon) & Trivia Night Social
- Tuesday, March 10: Attendees may visit Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives

ACB Next Generation is excited to offer financial assistance for its members to attend the DC Leadership Conference. For those who need financial assistance, we will reimburse the preregistration fee of \$115 for in-person or \$30 for virtual participants to attend DC Leadership. Assistance will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. We anticipate providing assistance for three in-person and five virtual attendees. In return, we require that you are a currently paid member of ACB Next Generation for 2026 and that you provide feedback on what you found interesting or enjoyed about the seminar. You will be asked to share about your experience as a guest on our Next Up with NextGen podcast or on our ACB NextGen blog. We cannot guarantee publication of your

feedback.

After you register for DC Leadership, please send a copy of your receipt to treasurer@acbnextgeneration.org and to membership@acbnextgeneration.org. Please note that your reimbursement will be issued after the event in early April and only after we have verified your participation with the podcast or blog.

More details about the DC Leadership Conference can be found at <https://www.acb.org/2026-acb-dc-leadership-conference>.

2026 DKM First-Timer and JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows Awards
by DKM Fund Committee

Are you looking to take a positive step in your leadership journey? Perhaps you are a leader ready to experience a higher level of connection and achievement. If so, we have a terrific opportunity for you.

The Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) Fund Committee seeks to identify two ACB members (one east of the Mississippi River and one from the west) as DKM First-Timers and five ACB members who wish to expand their leadership skills as ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows.

Experience personal growth by participating in many convention activities while you learn and interact with others during the 65th annual ACB Conference and Convention from Friday, July 24 through Friday, July 31, 2026, in St. Louis, Mo. As a DKM First-Timer or ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellow, you will connect with previous recipients and other leaders in ACB.

To be eligible for consideration for either award, you must be age 18 or older, blind or visually impaired, and a current ACB member. For the DKM First-Timer Award, you must have never attended an in-person ACB Conference and Convention either as a member or non-member, and you must be a member for at least two consecutive years of an ACB state or special-interest affiliate, or an ACB member at large serving on an ACB committee. To be eligible for the ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows Award, you must be a member for at least three consecutive years of an ACB state or special-interest affiliate, or an ACB member at large serving on an ACB committee.

If you meet the above requirements, we encourage you to complete the online application form. In addition, a recommendation form must also be submitted on your behalf by the president of your referenced qualifying ACB

state or special interest affiliate. If you are an ACB member at large, the recommendation form must be completed by the chair of the ACB committee on which you serve.

We will begin accepting applications on January 1, 2026.

The link to the application form is

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYccBNo7-EgxUYG2xHIsOp0wC1JgPW1GkABEQMOxbEUp6nwg/viewform> and the recommendation form can be found at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0BRILQFnpVEjJf8ccWmuETu0zc6V-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0BRILQFnpVEjJf8ccWmuETu0zc6V-wGzSRRrVYPGEZRuw5g/viewform)

[wGzSRRrVYPGEZRuw5g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0BRILQFnpVEjJf8ccWmuETu0zc6V-wGzSRRrVYPGEZRuw5g/viewform). Both forms must be received by the deadline of April 1, 2026.

The next step includes a 30-minute interview with a team from the DKM Committee in mid-April. Following the review of the application and recommendation forms and interviews, selection by the DKM Committee will occur in late April. Two DKM First-Timers — one from east and one from west of the Mississippi River — and five ACB/JP Morgan Chase Leadership Fellows will be selected. The DKM Committee reserves the right to recognize two first-timer recipients from the east or west if there are no qualified applicants from one of the specified areas.

All applicants will be notified shortly thereafter.

If selected for either award, ACB will provide you with round-trip air travel and supporting transportation to convention, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), per diem allowance for meals and incidentals, reception, banquet tickets, the general convention registration fee, and other activities determined by the committee. Funding for tours and other optional activities is not included in the program.

As a recipient, you are responsible to arrange for all necessary accommodations that allow for attendance and full participation in the entire week of in-person convention. This includes attendance at all general sessions as well as participation in other predetermined events.

If you have questions, contact Zelda Gebhard, DKM Committee Chair, at zgeb@drtel.net, or (701) 709-0262.

Take a positive step to unlock your leadership potential and apply to become a 2026 DKM First-Timer or ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellow.

Important Dates for the 2026 ACB

Conference and Convention

by ACB NextGen Convention Committee

The 2026 ACB Conference and Convention will be a hybrid convention held virtually and in St. Louis, Missouri. Registration opens on May 28 for ACB members and June 4 for non-ACB members. Registration closes on July 6.

Other important dates to remember include:

Virtual Portion:

Wednesday, July 8 - Candidates Forum

Saturday, July 11- ACB Summer Auction

Monday, July 13 - Call to Order and Nominating Committee

Tuesday, July 14 through Thursday, July 16 (evenings) – Resolutions

Wednesday, July 15 - Exhibitor Open House

Friday, July 17 (evening) - Constitution and Bylaws

Zoom Days – Thursday, July 16

through Saturday, July 18

July 21 - - Mock Election

Friday, July 24 - First Tour and Welcome Party in St. Louis
Saturday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 29 - Affiliate
and Committee Programming (Session times will be 1 PM,
3 PM, 5 PM, and 7 PM Central and will be 75 minutes
long.)

[It's a Win/Win with ACB NextGen](#)
by Kenneth Semien Sr.

Have you ever desired to be a winner or be a member of a winning team? At one point and time, we have all experienced winning in some form or fashion. After realizing that you have won, smiling comes naturally, and guess what? Smiles are very contagious.

ACB Next Generation and ACB of Texas will benefit from the energy, creativity, and forward thinking of a fine group of young adults who are joining together to form ACB Next Generation of Texas. As first vice president and Membership Chair of ACB of Texas, it's my pleasure to report that we are diligently working to establish one of the first chapters of ACB Next Generation. We're connecting with Texans who are blind or have low vision, and are 40 years old or younger. Potential members have been identified, began submitting membership dues, completed

our first draft of the constitution and bylaws, and we are about to hold our third planning meeting. There is excitement in the air, and it will be a highlight of 2026 when this new organization is represented during the ACB Conference and Convention in St. Louis this July, and during the ACB of Texas Conference and Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas in mid-September. ACB Next Generation of Texas will have their own space at the Texas convention to hold their inaugural business meeting and social events as well.

It's all about learning and growing, enhancing and advancing. We look forward to participating in ACB Next Generation meetings and events. We're just getting started on the road to a win/win with ACB NextGen.

[A Tribute to Janeen Lea](#)

ACB Next Generation lost one of our very active members at the beginning of the year. Janeen Lea of Kissimmee, FL passed away on January 8, 2026. Below are tributes to Janeen from some of our members. ACB Next Generation would like to send her family and friends our deepest sympathies and are very grateful for the time and energy she put into supporting our organization.

“As many know, Janeen and I were very close. We had

never met before ACB Community and actually joined the community around the same time in September of 2020. I attended her Nerd Night call, and at first she didn't know about this weird girl doing laundry. But by mid-October of that year, she was already fully backing me in everything I was doing in ACB. She is the reason I am even here with ACB NextGen. It was she and a couple of other friends who really pushed me to run for a director seat — and I have been here ever since.

ACB NextGen was very important to her, even though she was too old to hold a leadership position. Being new to blindness, she knew she wasn't alone in feeling that she was still worthy in the world. She was determined to let everyone know that life isn't fair for people who are blind, and that we all needed to do better—and that we could work together to make it happen. Within ACB NextGen, she helped with many committees, even when she didn't have a vote. She wanted to make sure the work got done and couldn't have cared less if her name was attached. She started the Fundraising Committee with me and was a huge reason for our success.

Not only was she part of ACB NextGen, but she was also involved with the Florida Council and many other affiliates. Having been very involved with theater before becoming blind, she strongly believed in and advocated for audio description wherever she could. Because she had worked

in the board game industry before losing her vision, she was passionate about AIRA and improving its services so board gaming could once again be accessible to her. She also loved music, and this led her to further advocacy after a difficult concert experience where she was separated from her cane and treated poorly. She was committed to speaking with government leaders — not just talking about how assistive devices helped her, but bringing them in, demonstrating them, and challenging officials to try pedestrian signals and audio description for themselves.

She was one of the most energetic people I have ever known. She was always ready for a new adventure. She loved road trips and striking up conversations with anyone she met. She had so many interesting stories, and I'm sad I will never hear them all.

All was not sunshine and roses for us, though. We faced some of our hardest life moments during the short five years we were friends. She was exactly what I needed to get through the bullying we both experienced. She was the one telling me I couldn't give up, even when the fight felt never-ending. She knew better than I did what I was capable of, and she stood by me through it all — even when others didn't want to get involved because they didn't think it was a problem. Some people even said she was like a rain cloud wherever she went. Well, for the haters — only after the rain do you get a rainbow.

There are so many things I will never see the same way now that she's gone, and it would take too much space to list them all. She was truly one in a million, and I just wish you all could have known her the way I did. She may be gone, but her spirit lives on in me. I may never live up to her, but I will never give up." – Moe Carpenter

"I want to pay tribute to my friend, Janeen Lea. She was a wonderful person not only in person but also on Zoom. I remember meeting her in 2024 in Jacksonville, FL and what a wonderful, vibrant person she really was. She always enjoyed helping people as much as possible. She really enjoyed animals, especially dogs. She will be missed tremendously." – William Belina

"Janeen reached out to me right after I moved to the Orlando area two years ago. I got to hang out with Janeen and her fiancée, Dan, several times, and they have always been so welcoming to myself and my guide dog, Goldie. Janeen cared deeply about helping younger people and made a big impact on ACB Next Generation as part of several committees, including Fundraising and Membership. She always spoke her mind but truly cared about the blind community and fighting for accessibility. I'd like to send my deepest sympathies to her loved ones." – Greg Lindberg

How to Use – Not Abuse – AI (Part 1)

by Dakota Burch

I am here to explain some of the ways in which AI is used in today's world. Even though AI can be a great tool, it should not be used to take over. Let's get started with one of the many ways people sometimes abuse the use of AI.

Let's focus on writing with AI, which has been done quite a bit, especially in recent years. People have used AI to write their messages to certain individuals so they could get what they think is great wording for the messages. However, people can sure tell when AI is used.

Another common use of AI is to write books and stories. While it can give useful ideas for topics and concepts to use in an essay or a longer story, I feel that individuals using the tool need to think about one main question, is this really mine?

Even if the tool is used to make a story, I don't feel that this is actually a creation. I feel that a creation should come from the heart. Thinking about this, if someone wants to write a story about their life, shouldn't they use their own words? It's fine to use AI for ideas, such as asking which details to focus on like events at school, trips

taken, and other family matters. Using AI to get these ideas is one thing, but then I feel that the writer needs to write about these ideas in their own words. Nobody can tell the “real” story just by using a computer. If AI were used to actually “create” this sort of memoir, I’d look at it as a memoir of a computer, since the computer wrote it.

Overall, I don’t think AI is a bad tool, and I encourage individuals to try it. However, remember that it is a tool, not a creator. Use the tool and then create something from your own brain and heart. This will make it “yours.”

This is just one of the many ways to “use” AI, but not “abuse” AI.

[Cookbook Winter Recipe: Sweet Corn Soup with Crab and Asparagus](#)

What they used...

- 1 1/2 lbs. fresh asparagus
- 1/4 cup water
- 4 cups fat-free, low-sodium chicken broth
- 15 oz can no-salt-added cream-style corn
- 2 tsp low-salt soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp cold water
- 3 large eggs or equivalent substitute

- 12 oz crab meat (rinsed and drained)
- 1/2 tsp toasted sesame oil
- 6 medium finely-chopped green onions (green part only)
- chili garlic sauce (optional)

How they made it...

1. Trim the asparagus and cut into 1-inch pieces.
2. Put cut asparagus in a microwave-safe dish with 1/4 cup water. Microwave, covered, on 100 percent power (high) for 5 minutes, or until tender and crispy.
3. Drain asparagus.
4. In a large saucepan, bring the broth to a boil over high heat.
5. Stir in the corn, soy sauce, and salt. Return to a boil.
6. Meanwhile, put the cornstarch in a cup. Add 2 Tbsp of water, stirring to dissolve.
7. Pour into the broth mixture, stirring constantly.
8. Pour in the eggs or substitute into the boiling soup in a thin stream.
9. Remove from the heat.
10. To serve, spoon 1/2 cup asparagus into each bowl. Ladle the broth mixture over each serving. Top with the crabmeat and sesame oil. Sprinkle the green onions over each serving.

Serve the chili garlic sauce on the side.

You can find this and over 100 other recipes in the ACB NextGen Cookbook! Purchase your copy today to spruce up your culinary skills and support ACB NextGen at the same time. Visit

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2022cookbook/>

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

Passion Project Portal: Taking a Skate with Lisha Pottackal (by Greg Lindberg):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2025/10/30/passion-project-portal-taking-a-skate-with-lisha-pottackal-by-greg-lindberg/>

Making Blind Life Much Easier with WayAround (by Moe Carpenter, AFC):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2025/11/29/making-blind-life-much-easier-with-wayaround-by-moe-carpenter-afc/>

My Experience as a Blind User of the Ray-Ban Meta AI Glasses (by Victor Andrews):

<https://acbnnextgeneration.org/2025/12/08/my-experience-as-a-blind-user-of-the-ray-ban-meta-ai-glasses-by-victor-andrews/>

Next Up with NextGen Podcast

The Job Search for the Blind and Visually Impaired:

<https://acbnnextgeneration.org/2025/12/22/the-job-search-for-the-blind-and-visually-impaired/>

Spams and Scams and How to Avoid Them:

<https://acbnnextgeneration.org/2026/01/25/spams-and-scams-and-how-to-avoid-them/>

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.

February 2026

4 - NextGen 101 – 8 p.m. ET

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

15 - February NextGen Insight published

17 - Tuesday Night Huddle - 8 p.m. ET

March 2026

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

17 – Tuesday Night Huddle - 8 p.m. ET

April 2026

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

TBD - Tuesday Night Huddle

May 2026

6 - NextGen 101 – 8 p.m. ET

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

15 - May NextGen Insight published

TBD - Tuesday Night Huddle

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

Trivia Answer: February 22, 2020 – On this day, ACB NextGen officially was chartered as a special interest affiliate of ACB during the ACB board meeting as part of the 2020 DC Leadership Conference. This means we're celebrating our sixth birthday this year!

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 - Jessica Dail

Treasurer - Moe Carpenter

Immediate Past President - Amanda Selm

Director - Joseph Hernandez

Director - Justin Graben

Director - Lisha Pottackal

Director - Sara Mornis

Director - William Belina

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

Vice Chair: Winter Renfrow

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: Lindsey LaVere and Justin Graben

Vice Chair: Moe Carpenter

Contact: fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org

Membership Committee

Chair: Matt Selm

Contact: membership@acbnextgeneration.org

Nominating Committee

Chair: Megan Meigs

Contact: elections@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