



NextGen Insight

**Volume 4, Issue 3
August 2024**

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.

“Your sight must become an insight; it must be turned within and used to purify and clarify your mind.” – Sri Sathya Sai Baba

President's Message

Dear ACB Next Generation Family and Friends,

Happy summer, everyone!!! I am still feeding off of massive amounts of energy from the ACB Conference and Convention. It was such a pleasure to meet several of you for the first time and reconnect with people I have known for quite some time. I will dive more into the ACB Conference and Convention at a later point in this message. I am eager and excited to celebrate what our affiliate has been up to this past quarter.

Let's jump back two months to the beginning of June and talk about our Midyear Membership Meeting. We had an excellent turnout with roughly 30 members in attendance. Our members really enjoyed the spirited debate as did I. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event and voted on proposed amendments following the meeting. I hope to see you all again at our next membership

meeting. In fact, as I write this message, I am beginning the planning process for our Annual Business Meeting this fall. Go ahead and mark your calendars for Monday, December 2, and be sure to watch your email for important information about submitting proposed amendments and elections.

As I stated in the beginning, I am feeding off of the positive convention energy. Jacksonville offered one of the best conventions I have personally experienced. I say this every year, and I mean it every year. I am so proud of our Convention Committee. There are a lot of components that go into convention planning. It's not just about planning programs – it's also about relationship building with people and organizations outside of our affiliate. This team is also responsible for collecting and distributing door prizes, and they work with a deadline which is set by the ACB Convention Coordinator. Thank you again to Melanie Sinohui, Cassie Trosper, Terrilynn Higashi, Gregg Wandsneider, and Hindley Williams for all of their hard work this past year. It definitely showed during the actual convention, and in the feedback received by multiple attendees.

There are still a few weeks left to pick up your NextGen Allstars gear and donate to our walk team. The ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk closes on August 31, and our fundraiser with Blind Girl Designs closes on

September 3. Seeing the products in person, they look amazing. I own three of the items, and I love and appreciate the detail that was put into the design. Thank you to Blind Girl Designs for their amazing partnership with ACB Next Generation, and thank you to everyone who has participated in both fundraisers this year.

Have you thought about getting more involved with ACB Next Generation? Our committees are a wonderful start. If you missed our Committee Showcase on August 7, don't worry. A recording will be circulated on our email list as well as a link to our Committee Interest Form. Committees offer an abundance of skill-building opportunities which may be transferable to other areas outside of ACB and ACB Next Generation such as educational settings and some employment settings. If you are interested, I encourage you to fill out the form and chat with our Committee Chairs to find a committee that fits your interests.

The fall season is such a fun but busy time in our Affiliate as we prepare for the upcoming year. Our Constitution and Bylaws Committee prepares proposed amendments for voting at our Annual Business Meeting, and our Nominating Committee begins seeking candidates for the upcoming elections. Our committees do not stop working, however. They also prepare for some transition as they may be losing and gaining members, or shifting to different

leadership. However, this fall is a little different. For some of our Board Members and Committee Chairs, this will be a time of change as some of them are terming or aging out of their current positions, and others are entering exciting new phases in life. It's bittersweet for me because as we lose talented and passionate people, we realize that our mission is being fulfilled. One of ACB Next Generation's purposes is to prepare our members for leadership roles outside of our affiliate, and we have done that. The other positive to this transition is that we have new talent ready to step up and members who are eager to be mentored. This fall will be a time to celebrate, and until the next issue of the NextGen Insight, I will leave it at that!

To close my message, I want to congratulate our Publications Committee on receiving the Hollis K. Liggett Braille Free Press Award. This is an award of journalistic excellence given by the American Council of the Blind's Board of Publications. I cannot express how proud I am of the team of talented members who produce this newsletter. It's one of the best publications I have the opportunity to read, and I am not just saying this because I am ACB Next Generation's President. I enjoy this publication because it is unique and special, and it is extremely inclusive and showcases who we are as an organization. Thank you to each of you for your creativity, the long hours of work, your patience with people, and most importantly, your time. Thank you to Greg Lindberg,

Melanie Sinohui, DJ McIntyre, Hindley Williams, Amber Grant, Michael Babcock, and Moe Carpenter for their hard work and dedication to our Publications Committee.

And to all of you who are reading this message, thank you for always supporting our affiliate.

Warmest regards,
Amanda Selm
President, ACB Next Generation

Hollis K. Liggett Award **Acknowledgement**

Dear ACB Next Generation members,

Our affiliate is incredibly grateful to have been awarded the 2024 Hollis K. Liggett Braille Free Press Award at the ACB Conference and Convention in Jacksonville. This writing award is presented by the ACB Board of Publications to a state or special interest affiliate of ACB

As chair of the Publications Committee, I would first like to

thank our president, Amanda Selm, for nominating our committee for this award and for being so supportive of our efforts. I would also like to thank the Board of Publications for recognizing us with this great honor.

I would like to thank and recognize each committee member for their hard work: Melanie Sinohui, Hindley Williams, Amber Grant, DJ McIntyre, Moe Carpenter, and Michael Babcock. There is no way our affiliate and committee would have received this award if it were not for the tremendous efforts of this group. I always say writing and editing are the least favorite tasks for many people to handle. As chair, I've been extremely fortunate to have such a talented group to support the publication efforts of our affiliate.

In addition, I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to this newsletter in some fashion. This includes former committee members, committee chairs, and members who have submitted a variety of content, all of which has been a valuable piece of making this newsletter shine. We pride ourselves on the diversity of content you will find in each issue.

We hope to continue serving our members with long-form content that informs, educates, and perhaps even entertains at times. Thank you all again for your support and for reading the Insight each quarter!

Sincerely,
Greg Lindberg
Publications Committee Chair, ACB Next Generation

Membership Renewal **Reminder**

by the Membership Committee

The ACB NextGen Membership Committee would like to encourage all members who have joined us in 2024 to rejoin our affiliate for 2025. Starting on September 1, members will be able to join or renew their membership for 2025 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 Meetings in March, as well as the ACB Conference and Convention in July. This fall, we are relaunching the ACB Next Generation Mentorship program. We hope you will renew and encourage your friends to

join us for 2025. You can join or renew using our membership application here:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/membership>

2024 ACB Convention Member **Feedback**

by the Publications Committee

We caught up with a few members of NextGen to learn about their takeaways from attending the 2024 ACB Conference and Convention in Jacksonville, FL.

Janeen Lea:

“Going in person to national convention is something everyone should try. It’s really great to be in a convention center with other people like myself who have canes and can’t see. I really loved being able to be in the room during the board meeting and election processes. I was able to participate by speaking into the microphone and making a motion in person. My favorite breakout sessions were the Berl Colley Leadership Institute sessions in which we did role playing and learned about leadership. I am so happy I was able to lead the blood drive as a community service project. Every pint of blood donated saves anywhere from

three to seven lives. There is no sight required to change lives. One suggestion is that there should be a program implemented to help members when attending the convention for the first time.”

Niral Sheth:

“Convention has great networking opportunities. One of the best opportunities I had this year was to have dinner with [Scott Thornhill], the executive director of ACB. If anyone is hesitant to go to convention, you should go. It is the opportunity of a lifetime. The first time I went, I decided I’d be going to almost every convention in the future.”

Danielle Stevens:

“Convention was fun and I learned a lot. I got to meet people who I probably would not have met if it had not been for things like the NextGen networking event. It felt like I belonged. Since I am from Jacksonville, I was also able to connect with local people.”

2024 ACB Convention Photos



At the CCLVI Dance Party. In the back are Niral Sheth, matt Selm, Benjamin Wright, and Anthony Akamine. In front are Amanda Selm, TerriLynn Akamine, and Samantha Hubbard.



NextGen members having dinner at The Shore Grill on Saturday evening. On the left side of the table are Danielle Stephens, William Belina, Aaron Espinoza, Kristen Kelling, and Gregg Wandsneider. Niral Sheth sits at the end of the table in the middle. On the right side of the table are Nyx Scotko, Vika Trussell, Amanda Selm, Matt Selm, and Justin Graben.



Amanda Selm and Moe Carpenter standing together after the Beryl Colley Leadership session.



Greg Lindberg, Janeen Lea, Matt Selm, and Greg's guide dog, Goldie (an off-white Goldendoodle) standing together in front of a window in a hotel with buildings visible in the background.

2024 ACB NextGen **Convention Door Prize Donors**

by the Convention Committee

The 2024 ACB NextGen Convention Committee would like to say a big thank you to those who donated door prizes to be given out during our convention programming.

Thank you to: Amanda Selm, Matt Selm, Cassie Trospen, Hindley Williams, Melanie Sinohui, Jordan Mirander, and Merisa Musemic.

Fundraising Update

by the Fundraising Committee

Happy summer, ACB Next Generation. We hope you had a wonderful convention.

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank you all for your support so far this year. Our “Spring Into Auction” brought in \$6,265. Our City Pop fundraiser took in over \$589. The ACB Next Generation Allstars team has made \$440 for the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk, half of which

goes to NextGen and half to ACB, and we have sold 21 items from our ACV Next Generation Allstars collection by Blind Girl Designs.

Did you miss donating to the Walk during the convention? It isn't too late. Support our team through August 31 by visiting

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E144393&id=93&cfifid=29>

You can also still purchase our awesome collection of items from Blind Girl Designs at:

<https://blindgirldesigns.com/collections/acb-next-gen-all-stars>

Also, stay tuned for information about our RaiseRight event in the fall.

Thanks again for your ongoing support of ACB Next Generation!

ACB Next Generation Excel **Mentorship Program**

by the Membership Committee

The NextGen Membership Committee is proud to relaunch the ACB Next Generation Excel Mentorship Program this fall. Our mission is to foster growth and development by connecting ACB Next Generation members with experienced mentors who can provide guidance, support, and valuable insights. By participating in this program, you'll have the opportunity for personal growth, networking, skill development, and goal achievement.

To learn more about the program and express your interest to become a mentor or mentee, please be on the lookout for further details on our email list and social media in the coming days.

The Advocacy Committee **Needs Your Feedback**

by the Advocacy Committee

Dear members,

The ACB Next Generation Advocacy Committee values your input and invites you to contribute your advocacy ideas. We recognize that diverse perspectives lead to stronger advocacy efforts. Your suggestions will shape the future direction of our committee.

Please take a moment to complete the form below with your ideas and suggestions. The form will remain open ongoing for now to ensure everyone has ample opportunity to participate.

We appreciate your support of our committee and input on our advocacy efforts as an affiliate!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczHzDfNYmTReVg0IRtLK9dCcu-kIndaBIGK0P-xvDfqgQmww/viewform?pli=1>

Cosmic Committee Corner: Website Committee

by the Website Committee

Welcome to the ACB Next Generation Website Committee! We manage our digital home located at <http://acbnextgeneration.org> and focus on other web-based and IT initiatives.

Our website serves as a stable foundation and a central hub for our community. The IT and Website Committee is dedicated to building and maintaining a robust, accessible, and welcoming online presence for all users.

Joining our committee provides a fantastic opportunity for members to learn the ins and outs of WordPress. This valuable experience is not only beneficial for managing our website but also equips you with skills that can be brought back to your local affiliates, enhancing their online capabilities.

Our goal is to create an accessible, inclusive, and user-friendly website. We are committed to ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, can navigate and engage with our content effortlessly. By participating in the IT and Website Committee, you can be part of a team that makes a meaningful impact on our community's digital presents.

Visit <https://acbnextgeneration.org/> to see our progress and get involved in building a brighter, more accessible future for all.

KCB Next Generation Update

Hello from KCB Next Generation,

Hoping everyone's summer has been going well so far and everyone enjoyed the convention. We have been relatively quiet for the past two months because of convention happening as well as people taking a summer break from everything.

At this point, we are in the process of launching a first-timers grant which will enable someone to attend our state

convention who has not had the opportunity to attend before. Those who reside in the state of Kentucky would be eligible. For more information. Please contact KCB Next Generation at joey40206@gmail.com. Please put "KCB Next Generation" in the subject line.

Enjoy the last dog days of summer!

Sincerely,
Joey Couch
President, Kentucky Council of the Blind next generation

IVIE Online Business Expo

Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs

(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 describe your products and services, pass on contact information, and allow participants to ask questions. For IVIE members, the fee is \$10 for presenting for fifteen minutes, \$20 for 30 minutes, or \$30 for an hour. 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 hour session. Nonmembers have the option

of having \$15 of the payment used to pay IVIE dues for 2025.

All those participating in the call, whether presenting or not, will use the same Zoom information to connect. The event will be held on November 16, 2024 from 11:30 AM to 7 PM Eastern. At 11:45 AM, an introduction of all the vendors participating with their specific timeslots will be given along with instructions for those attending. A wrap-up after all the presentations will be available for anyone to ask any final questions of those exhibiting online.

The deadline for purchasing a timeslot to give a presentation is October 31, 2024. To purchase a timeslot or for any questions, send an email to info@ivie-acb.org with your request to present/exhibit. Please send your business name, product line, telephone number, and email address. You will be sent 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, please send an email to register so we can send you the Zoom call details. Send the email request to info@ivie-acb.org or call Ardis Bazyn at 818-209-8684.

Tech Tip: The Zoom Essential **Line**

by Michael Babcock

Introducing the Zoom Essential line of products, a range of digital voice recorders designed to meet your wide recording needs. The line includes three models: the H1E, H4E, and H6E.

The H1Essential is a handheld, portable digital voice recorder, priced at \$99. It features a built-in XY microphone, a 1/8" line-in jack, and a 1/8" headphone out jack, making it a compact and affordable choice for on-the-go recording.

The H4E, priced at \$199, includes a built-in XY microphone, two XLR/1/4" Combi jacks, and a headphone jack for monitoring. This model offers additional connectivity options, making it wonderful for more complex recording setups.

The H6E, the most advanced model at \$299, comes with removable XY microphones at the top, four XLR/1/4" Combi jacks, and a headphone jack for monitoring. Its modular design allows for greater flexibility and professional-level recording capabilities with future attachments to come.

All three units support up to a 1TB micro SD card for ample storage space, ensuring you can record extensively without worrying about running out of memory.

A standout feature of these devices is their accessibility out of the box. Each model offers an option to use speech, beeps, or no accessibility feedback right from the initial setup. After choosing your preferred accessibility mode, you can set the date and time and select the type of battery you're using. Every time you turn on the device, it announces the battery level, providing vital information at a glance.

Zoom's commitment to accessibility is evident in their updates, which now include the ability to quickly toggle accessibility features on and off. This user-centric approach makes the Zoom Essential line ideal for anyone who needs an accessible way to keep recordings without worrying about the device's status.

In conclusion, whether you're a professional or a hobbyist, the Zoom Essential line offers accessible, high-quality recording solutions to meet your needs. All of these recorders are flexible enough to also serve as an audio interface for your computer or phone.

For a button layout of each model, you can review the Zoom Essential Recorders category on the A. T. Guys Help Center at: <https://support.atguys.com/hc/en-us/sections/25274744316948-Zoom-Essential-Recorders>

Blog and Podcast Roundup

by the Publications Committee

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: Amber Steet (by Hindley Williams):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/05/30/passion-project-portal-amber-steet-by-hindley-williams/>

Unlocking Opportunities: The Power of Volunteering (by Hindley Williams):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/06/10/unlocking-opportunities-the-power-of-volunteering-by-hindley-williams/>

Passion Project Portal: Janeen Lea (by Hindley Williams):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/06/24/passion-project-portal-janeen-lea-by-hindley-williams/>

Next Up with NextGen Podcast

Discussing Debate and Resolutions with Robert's Rules in Mind:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/06/18/discussing-debate-and-resolutions-with-roberts-rules-in-mind/>

Want to Win a \$10 Gift Card?

by the Publications Committee

This year, The Publications Committee is giving out a \$10 gift card to one lucky reader of each issue of the NextGen Insight newsletter! All you have to do is read it and answer the following two questions:

1. What was your favorite article in this issue of the Insight and why? Please explain with a thoughtful response (at least two sentences).
2. What type of content/article would you like to see in an upcoming issue of the NextGen Insight?

Please be specific with your answers as we want to ensure we are serving our readers with informative, useful, and interesting content.

Please email your responses to these two questions by Sunday, September 1 to

publications@acbnextgeneration.org. One lucky winner will be selected and contacted with their prize. Happy reading and good luck!

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.

August 2024

15 - August NextGen Insight published

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

September 2024

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

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

October 2024

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

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

26 - Saturday Night Live Hangout – 8:30 p.m. ET

November 2024

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

15 - November NextGen Insight published

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

NOTE: Dates and times for events are subject to change. Please be on the lookout for updated information on the NextGen email list and social media.

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 - Amanda Selm

1st Vice President - Matt Selm

2nd Vice President - Melanie Sinohui

Secretary - Kristen Kelling

Treasurer - Maria Kristic

Director - Michael Babcock

Director - Amber Grant

Director - Lindsey LaVere

Director – Vika Trussell

Director - Hindley Williams

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>