



NextGen Insight

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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.

“Insight is the first condition of art.”

– George Henry Lewes

President’s Message

Season’s greetings, NextGen family and friends,

Happy fall, y’all! This is my favorite time of year as it is both festive and busy. It also produces many priceless memories for me; the first time I attended my state convention Kentucky, buying our first home, experiencing life with a new baby, and last but certainly not least, the very first conversations and hard work that were put into forming our affiliate. As I write this, I am full of emotions ranging from being excited to being rather anxious. However, my thoughts for the most part gravitate towards expressing gratitude, and after spending quite a bit of time reflecting on the last six years, my heart is full of joy.

I recently counted the number of individuals who served alongside me in various leadership roles within our organization. Some served for a short time, while others served for years. My total came to roughly 30 people, which is a huge demonstration of people in our age range wishing to step up and develop their leadership skills. If you are one of the roughly 30 people who served alongside me over the last six years, please know how grateful I am that you have shared your time, skills, and

aspirations with not just me, but with our affiliate. Outside of our affiliate, I am thankful for the wisdom of over 50 ACB leaders who were kind enough to share their knowledge with us in those earlier days and in current day through partnerships within our programs, guidance to our leadership, and being a source of support. This shows that we have both a community who believes in the work we are doing and who believes in our mission.

As we close out six amazing years of ACB Next Generation awesomeness, we find ourselves in a time of transition. We have reached the end of an era, and it is indeed an era worth celebrating. This transition we are about to experience has become my inspiration for the theme for our Annual Business Meeting, “An Era Worth Celebrating.” If you love our convention Pep Rallies, celebrating achievements, fun surprises, and lots of laughter and holiday cheer, you won’t want to miss this year’s Annual Business Meeting. Watch your email for important announcements over the next few weeks as lots of information regarding our elections and the Annual Business Meeting will be circulated. However, Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for the celebration on Monday, December 2, beginning at 8:00 p.m. ET, 5:00 p.m. PT, 3:00 p.m. HT.

Speaking of celebrations, NextGen raised \$540 from the ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. Fifty percent of this

total comes back to our affiliate and will help us continue creating programs for our aspiring leaders and members. We also partnered with Blind Girl Designs, which created our Allstar merch for the ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk this past summer. If you purchased one of those items – whether it be the tote bag or a shirt – please snap a photo of you showing it off and send it to us via email or text. Our contact information is included at the end of this newsletter. We can't wait to see you sporting it next year in Dallas as well. Thank you to our Fundraising Committee for all their hard work on both outstanding fundraisers.

There are so many things worth celebrating right now. There are so many achievements, many milestones, many connections and relationships, and the many things to come with ACB Next Generation. If there is one thing that I ask our readers to hone in on at this very moment, it is that we exist. We exist because of the hard work that was put into us becoming an affiliate. We exist because we focused on positives and capitalized on our strengths. We exist because we are unique in that we are the only organization across the span of all blindness organizations specifically designated for younger members. We exist because we saw a need in the American Council of the Blind, and we are fulfilling it. We exist because we are special and have created a home for people to take their personal and professional development to the next level. We exist because six years ago, the founders of this

organization were on a mission to build something special. Looking back, it has exceeded their expectations. Grit, hard work, and overcoming adversity are all part of the game, especially if you are hyper-focused on the bigger picture.

To conclude this President's Message, I would like to thank so many people who have personally changed my life while serving as President. However, I am afraid that I will leave someone out, and the list of people is pretty extensive. There are two shoutouts I would like to make that have gone unrecognized over these past six years. My girls, Charlotte and Meredith, spent many long nights watching their parents run meetings, talk one on one with people, and have made friends with perfect strangers. They have been a part of our board and committee meetings, accidentally called and texted some of my fellow leaders, and have inspired me in so many ways. Thank you for being the rockstars you are, Charlotte and Meredith. My hope for you is that you learn the values of serving others, and how fulfilling and rewarding it can be. Finally, to my husband, Matt, who has been by my side since the very beginning, you have been my moral compass and number-one supporter through all of this. We made an incredible team both as parents and as leaders, and I am extremely grateful that you were my First Vice President. I would not have been able to get to this point without you.

To all of our members, our “family”, and our supporters, I am so thankful to have served as President of ACB Next Generation for the past four years. Thank you for your support and faith in me. Whatever your next step is, do not let fear hold you back. I want to wish the next administration the absolute best of luck. I will be here to assist you with whatever you need in my role as the Immediate Past President.

Happy holidays! Sending lots of hugs, and love you all!!!

Sincerely,
Amanda Selm
President, ACB Next Generation

2024 ACB Next Generation Annual Business Meeting

by Greg Lindberg

This year’s ACB Next Generation annual business meeting and elections will be held Monday, December 2, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. ET, 5:00 p.m. PT, 3:00 p.m. HT

The theme for this year’s meeting is “An Era Worth Celebrating.” During the meeting, we will look back at ACB NextGen's numerous successes in 2024 and previous

years as several longtime board members will be terming out. We will also recognize our life members, award our technology grant, discuss a proposed amendment, and hear from a few special guests to mark the occasion and all that our affiliate has achieved.

Be on the lookout for the Zoom info on the email list. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate!

2024 ACB Next Generation Candidates' Forum

With seven open positions on the ACB Next Generation Board of Directors up for election this year, ACB NextGen will be holding a Candidates' Forum to learn more about each of the candidates running. This forum will be held on Thursday, November 21 at 9:00 p.m. ET, 6:00 p.m. PT, 4:00 p.m. HT. Be on the lookout for the Zoom info for this event and additional information regarding the elections, which will take place in December.

How to Give to ACB Next Generation this Holiday Season

by Moe Carpenter, Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

Happy fall, ACB NextGen! The holiday season is a great time to give to causes that are important to you, and ACB Next Generation has the perfect fundraiser going that will also help you get gifts for everyone on your list.

We have partnered with RaiseRight, and if you sign up using our referral, you can purchase gift cards to all kinds of places, from physical stores such as Walmart and Target, to online stores such as Amazon and Chewy. There are also options for delivery services like Instacart and DoorDash, travel such as Uber and Southwest Airlines, and numerous other choices of restaurants, grocery stores, entertainment, and Visa Gift Cards, good for gift giving or keeping for yourself. here is the link to enroll and purchase these awesome gift cards:

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll/RR-L3LFBRSLBC>

Also, don't forget about Giving Tuesday, which takes place on December 3 this year. We know you will be getting a lot of requests for donations during this time of year, but we hope you will remember ACB Next Generation during the

season of giving. You can learn more about ways to give here:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/support/>

Every little bit supports our mission. Thank you for your generosity!

For questions and assistance, please send an e-mail to fundraising@acbnextgeneration.org.

Advocacy Corner

by The Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has been hard at work addressing a diverse range of issues.

Video Games

We took some time to establish the position of Accessible Gaming Officer, who would be responsible for reaching out to gaming studios to advocate for accessibility in video games, conducting accessibility research, and helping individuals become video game accessibility consultants. Additionally, this officer would collaborate with studios to ensure their games are accessible.

Unfortunately, Brandon Cole passed away not too long ago, which set our plans back. We are currently working to find someone to fill his role. Plan B is to create a team composed of passionate members from ACB Next Generation who are dedicated to gaming and accessibility.

Internal ACB Issues

We are drafting recommendation requirements to present to the scholarship chair for ACB national scholarship recipients. These requirements outline what we believe should be fulfilled to receive the scholarship, as there is currently no formal criteria in place.

We are collecting all necessary information to assess the feasibility of changing the dates for the national ACB Conference and Convention, as well as how such a change could be implemented.

Relationship With AccessiBe

Advocacy Committee Chair Aaron Espinoza appeared on AccessiBe's YouTube Spotlight session during which he discussed the initiatives ACB Next Generation is working on. You can find the link to the interview below.

We are planning a panel discussion with AccessiBe in November or December. They will have the opportunity to talk about their company, product, and its impact on our

community. This collaboration was initiated because we believe AccessiBe is likely to remain in our community. We want a seat at the table to share the effects their technology is having on us, influencing both its development and how they market their product and services. We have made it clear that we will not hold back in our critiques. As with any relationship, they can expect both positive and constructive feedback.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yl-ezis92o>

What Should We Be Working On?

We decided that our form for gathering advocacy ideas should remain open year-round, without a deadline, allowing people to submit their ideas for us to consider and work on. You can find the form at the following link:

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

KCBNG Update

by Joey Couch

Happy fall from all of us at KCB Next Generation. We are getting ready for our state convention coming up at the end of November.

We have continued our community calls with the last few focused on learning about the Envision glasses and the Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses to ensure each of the two sets of glasses got equal representation and time and so people who had questions could get them answered. Also, we held a gardening/small business call with Hayley Agers who talked about her business and how she got started, and how she maintains and runs her business.

We also donated a pair of Meta Ray-Ban smart glasses to our state auction, which is used to raise money for our state affiliate, as well as a percentage going to the chapter that donates the item.

Finally, we participated in our local White Cane Safety Day event where we talked about the different resources and services available to those who are losing vision or are blind.

Take care and have a great holiday season!

Gift Giving for All!

by Jessica Dail

When it comes to gift giving, we normally consider the recipient's likes & dislikes. If the recipient of the gift is blind or low vision, there are other considerations to select what that individual would most enjoy receiving. Yes, we still need to know their likes & dislikes, but we also need to know their visual acuity to know what gift would be most useful and accessible to them.

A gift that may be a huge hit is the new Blind Barbie, which has received a lot of attention in the blind community when she made her debut appearance over the summer. This item could be used as a toy for young children, as well as an educational tool for older kids & even teenagers. Some blind and low vision adults are even joyously purchasing them as a nostalgic throwback. You can read more & purchase one at Target or on Amazon.

Target: <https://www.target.com/p/barbie-12-7-34-fashionista-doll-blindness/-/A-89979808>

Amazon: <https://a.co/d/3HS6L0A>

To satisfy those who are technologically inclined, you could get them some sort of Apple product, such as the new iPhone 16 Pro or a new Apple watch. The great news about Apple devices is that they all offer built-in accessibility features, such as VoiceOver to act as a screen reader, and Zoom to enlarge the images and text

on the screen. In addition, the iPhone and iPad have a stand-alone magnification app which makes use of the device's camera to make objects larger. Devices such as the iPhone 16 Pro come equipped with LiDAR technology which allows the user to detect doors & other objects using the phone. If the user comes upon a door and this feature is in use, VoiceOver will tell them how to operate the door. For example, they may hear, "Turn the knob." All of the above items can be purchased online at apple.com.

Holiday Gatherings: Inclusive or not?

by The Publications Committee

We asked our members about their experiences during holiday gatherings as blind and visually impaired individuals and whether they have felt included in these social events. Here is what some had to say.

"At holiday gatherings with family and friends, I always feel included and supported. They're incredibly patient and understand how particular I am about food, so they never just put things on my plate. Instead, they help me through the line, allowing me to choose what I want like everyone else. When it comes to games, they always make sure I'm part of the fun, even if it means teaming up to make sure I

can fully participate. It's these thoughtful gestures that make me feel truly embraced." – Vika Trussell

"Well, as a kid, holidays were very boring and depressing to me because my parents are Indian and don't really celebrate American holidays. At times, I would go with my parents' friends to events they were going to, and I would feel left alone and bored. However, now I celebrate the holidays with a friend of mine, and I am included." – Niral Sheth

"As is typical this time of year, the holidays are upon us. This time can bring a range of emotions for all of us, but this especially rings true for those of us who are blind or have low vision.

Being blind or low vision can make it difficult during holiday gatherings, especially when there are many people around. We are never sure if someone is talking to us unless they address us directly. In my personal experience, though, thankfully this rarely happens. When it does, though, it can make you feel isolated. Therefore, if I am unsure, I will ask the person I hear talking something like, 'Were you talking to me?' Oftentimes, the answer is no, but I always do that, just to be sure.

Another thing you could do is try to remember everyone's

voices. This may not work in some cases, especially if you do not frequently talk to the people who are attending said gathering, but it can help when you do see them again, you will learn people's voices the more they talk to you.

For more details on making your events inclusive for all, read the tips found at:

<https://www.respectability.org/2019/11/10-tips-holiday-celebrations/> – Jessica Dail

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

My Experience Attending Live Shows with Audio Description (by Greg Lindberg):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/09/19/my-experience-attending-live-shows-with-audio-description-by-greg-lindberg/>

Passion Project Portal: Vika Trussell (by Hindley Williams):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/08/26/passion-project-portal-vika-trussell-by-hindley-williams/>

My Summer 2024 European Adventure with Seeable (by Amber Grant):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/09/30/my-summer-2024-european-adventure-with-seable-by-amber-grant/>

Passion Project Portal: Matt Selm (by Hindley Williams):

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/10/28/passion-project-portal-matt-selm-by-hindley-williams/>

Next Up with NextGen Podcast

Discussing Sports and Recreation for the Blind and Visually Impaired Community:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/09/08/discussing-sports-and-recreation-for-the-blind-and-visually-impaired-community/>

Demonstrating the Clubhouse App with Accessibility in Mind:

<https://acbnextgeneration.org/2024/10/22/demonstrating-the-clubhouse-app-with-accessibility-in-mind/>

Want to Win a \$10 Gift Card

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.

E-mail your responses to these two questions by Sunday, December 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.

November 2024

6 – NextGen 101 – 8:00 p.m. ET

11- ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8:00 p.m. ET

12 - Monthly Education Program – 8:00 p.m. ET

15 - November NextGen Insight published

21 - Candidates' Forum – 9:00 p.m. ET

December 2024

2 - ACB Next Generation Annual Business Meeting – 8:00 p.m. ET

9 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8:00 p.m. ET

17 - Monthly Education Program – 8:00 p.m. ET

January 2025

13 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8:00 p.m. ET

21 - Monthly Education Program – 8:00 p.m. ET

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

February 2025

5 - NextGen 101 – 8:00 p.m. ET

10 - ACB Next Generation Board Meeting – 8:00 p.m. ET

15 - February NextGen Insight published

18 - Monthly Education Program – 8:00 p.m. ET

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.

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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>