# American Council of the Blind of Virginia

## 2026 Hybrid Convention

**Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Fredericksburg, VA**

**November 6 – 8, 2026**

## "The Future is Ours! Shaping What's Next"




https://www.acbva.org

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3928915757355727

https://www.youtube.com/@acbvirginia

(540) 318-3450

convention@acbva.org

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# Welcome to the ACBVA 2026 Hybrid Convention!

Dear ACBVA Members, Friends, Volunteers, Exhibitors, and Sponsors,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the second annual hybrid state convention of the American Council of the Blind of Virginia (ACBVA)! We are thrilled to offer what we hope will be a fun and rewarding experience for all. With this year's theme, "The Future is Ours: Shaping What's Next," we aim to establish a period of strong and positive growth for our organization as a whole and for our members individually.

Our growing membership has made it possible to organize what promises to be a dynamic and memorable weekend:
Friday Evening: We will kick things off with a hospitality hour featuring tasty appetizers and a cash bar, followed by a session on leadership led by ACB's Second Vice-President, Kenneth Semien Sr., as well as a session where we can hear from you as to what's working in ACBVA and what we might do differently to be even more effective.

Saturday: A full day of learning and connection, featuring both in-person and virtual sponsor and exhibitor showcases, sessions on innovative transportation options, harnessing the power of AI to enrich our daily lives, and the latest in vision research. In addition, we will hear the story of a blind gamer, will express our creativity in a card-making workshop, and will be challenged to become

more physically active by a panel of impressively outstanding blind and low vision athletes.

Saturday Night: Enjoy our banquet, where our keynote speaker, ACB's secretary Katie Frederick, will inspire us to use our personal stories to determine the impact we can have in our lives. Following the banquet, we will hold our better-than-ever silent auction to benefit ACBVA, try out a gaming station, and enjoy karaoke with friends old and new.

Sunday: We will begin by hearing a report from the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, followed by our Annual Membership Business Meeting, including elections of officers and board members,  and reports about what your organization has been doing and what we hope to do this coming year.

I encourage you to take time to connect, learn, and celebrate our shared mission. None of this would be possible without the incredible members and volunteers who devoted countless hours to make this convention happen. Please join me in thanking them for their hard work and dedication.

Finally, I know many of us will be thinking of Doug Powell, our former President, at the time of this convention; he was instrumental in planning last year's convention and his dedication, leadership, and passion for all things ACBVA will be sorely missed. However, he would want us to move forward in a positive direction, which is exactly what we are attempting to do, given the theme of this year's convention.

Thank you for being part of ACBVA and for all you do to strengthen our community. I look forward to seeing—and hearing—you throughout the weekend!

With warm regards,
RoseAnn Ashby, Acting President
American Council of the Blind of Virginia

# Sponsors

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of all the sponsors listed here. The costs involved in conducting a hybrid convention have continued to increase. Without sufficient financial support, we could not have coordinated a convention offering such a variety of presentations, exhibitors, and other engaging activities.

## Individual Sponsors

**Platinum:** $1,500.00

- Lynn Fuechsel: Arlington, Virginia

**Gold:** $1,000.00

- Kendall Jesmer: Arlington, Virginia
- Larry Moye and Nancy Swanson: West Boylston, Massachusetts

**Silver:** $500.00

- Sally Cooney Anderson: Fredericksburg, Virginia
- Tina Egge: Williamsburg, Virginia
- Dr. Jose and Dr. Stella Evangelista: Detroit, Michigan
- Chris and Jan Jennings: Arlington, Virginia
- Anonymous: Arlington, Virginia

**Bronze:** $250.00

- Schuyler Richardson: Leesburg, Virginia

## Corporate Sponsors

**WAYMO** – Platinum $1,500.00

WAYMO

Logo description: The word “WAYMO” in black, uppercase letters

contact Person: Hannah Tuten
Phone: 804-347-7339
Email: htuten@waymo.com
Website: https://waymo.com
##

## **Aquilano Salon** – Silver $500




Logo description: Blue circle with white text "Aquilano Salon"

Contact Person: John Pascazio
Phone: 703-683-0755
Email: aquilanosalon@me.com
Website: https://www.aquilanosalon.com/
##

## **St. Mary's Episcopal Church** – Silver $500

Contact Person: The Very Rev. Janetta Rose Green
Phone: 703-527-6800
Email: janettarose@stmarysarlington.org
Website: https://stmarysarlington.org
##

## **Uber Transit** – Silver $500.00

Logo Description: The words Uber Transit in black

Contact Person: Angel Grajeda
Phone: 312-375-3755
Email: agrajeda@uber.com
Website: https://www.uber.com/us/en/transit/
##

## Vision 2020 Solutions – Silver $500

Mission: providing financial assistance to blindness organizations at the national and local levels.

Contact Person: Marie Brinas
Phone: 571-419-7737
Email: info@vision2020.solutions
##

## Access Virginia – Bronze - $250

Logo Description: A gold key with the words ACCESS VIRGINIA cares

Contact Person: Lois B. Boyle
Phone: 757-276-1761
Email: admin@accessvirginia.info
Website: https://www.accessvirginia.info
##

## Computers for the Blind (CFTB) – Bronze - $250

Logo description: Letters C F T B over the words Computers for the Blind

OPENING WORLDS - ONE COMPUTER AT A TIME
Website: https://computersfortheblind.org/
Contact Person: Stacy Turos
Phone: 214-340-6328
Email: outreach@computersfortheblind.org
Website: https://computersfortheblind.org/
##

## Dominion Energy – Bronze - $250

Logo Description: a stylized D and the words Dominion Energy in white on blue background

Contact Person: Suyapa Márquez, Community Engagement
Phone: 804-432-0023 (cell)
Email: suyapa.d.marquez@dominionenergy.com
Website: https://www.dominionenergy.com/
##

## **Fidelity Investments – Bronze** - $250

Logo Description: The word “Fidelity” in white lettering against a solid green background

Contact Person: Alex Arinsmier, CFP® -Vice President, Branch Leader
Phone: 571-842-6980 ext.50486
Email: ArlingtonVA.office@fidelity.com
Website: https://www.fidelity.com/
**##**

## **The Optimal Service Group of Wells Fargo Advisors – Bronze** - $250

Logo Description: A white silhouette of a tree on a dark green background with the words “The Optimal Service Group of Wells Fargo Advisors”

Contact Person: Cathleen Dillon
Phone: 757-220-1782
Email: cathleen.dillon@wfa.com
Website: https://www.optimalservicegroup.com/
##

## **Retina Institute of Virginia** – Bronze - $250



Logo Description: Circular share bordered by colored triangles

Contact Person: Alice Veditz
Phone: 410-463-1098
Email: aveditz@rivonline.net
Website: https://www.rivonline.net/
##

## **UZURV – Bronze** - $250

Logo Description: “UZURV” in navy blue lettering

Contact Person: Ron Brooks
Phone: 866-898-7836
Email: ron.brooks@uzurv.com
Website: https://uzurv.com/
##

## **Vanda Pharmaceuticals - Bronze** - $250

Logo description: The word VANDA over the word Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Contact Person: Maggie Felton,
Clinical Nurse Educator – Patient Outreach
Non-24 Sleep Wake Disorder
Phone: 202-579-8035
Email: Maggie.felton@vandapharma.com
Website: https://www.vandapharma.com/
##

# ACBVA 2026 State Convention Program Agenda

You can also view this agenda online at https://acbva.org/convention-agenda/

## Friday, November 6: Welcome & Connect

3:00 PM – Registration and Exhibits Open

5:00 PM – Hospitality Hour – in Mary Washington Room

6:30 PM – Opening Ceremony
Welcome – RoseAnn Ashby, Acting President
Pledge of Allegiance – Michaun Harrison
Singing of the National Anthem – Lisa Calhoun
Welcome from Mayor of Fredericksburg – Kerry P. Devine
Attendee Introductions

7:00 PM – Discovering Unlimited Possibilities Together: Cultivate Your Vision, Your Leadership, Our Future
Facilitator: Kenneth Semien Sr., Second Vice-President, ACB

Envision yourself wearing an “ACBVA’s Got Enthusiasm” T-shirt and cap as you show up to the seminar to learn proven and simplified strategies to identify and stimulate

thoughts of ways to give back that you never imagined. Gain insight and inspiration into the power within you beyond concerns of limitations.

8:15 PM – Building ACBVA Together: Your Voice Matters
Facilitators: RoseAnn Ashby, Acting President, ACBVA; Theresa Breeden, Treasurer, ACBVA
This is your chance to help shape ACBVA's future. Share what's working, what could be better, and what you'd like to see next. Your ideas and feedback will help us build a stronger ACBVA together.

9:00 PM – Friday Night Fun, Laughs & Surprises!
Including our Trivia Game "Men vs. Women". Bragging Rights Are on the Line!

## Saturday, November 7: Learn, Explore & Celebrate

8:00 AM – Exhibits Open

9:00 AM – Welcome, introductions, and review of the Agenda
RoseAnn Ashby

9:30 AM – Session 1: Cruising the Commonwealth – Getting Smart and Going Faster

Presenter: Ron Brooks, Senior Director – Policy and Partnership, UZURV, Richmond, VA
Transportation options for blind and low vision Virginians vary widely, with those living in small towns and rural areas facing greater challenges. Discover innovative transportation options helping blind and low vision Virginians get where they need to go. Explore microtransit, dial–a-ride services, and on-demand paratransit programs expanding accessibility across the Commonwealth. Learn about UZURV's free online advocacy toolkit and how you can help shape the future of accessible transportation in Virginia.

RoseAnn Ashby will then describe our advocacy initiatives to prepare us for our visit to the General Assembly in January.

10:45 AM – Break

11:00 AM – Session 2: The Sighted Screen: An Interactive AI Co-Pilot Workshop
Presenter: Rajiv Shah, Shah Access Services
Artificial Intelligence has evolved far beyond simple voice assistants; today's AI can act as a real-time co-pilot for both your digital workspace and your physical environment. In this interactive session, we will explore practical applications of today's top AI tools—including

ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Perplexity, and new action-oriented agents like Guide. Rather than a standard presentation, this session will be driven by audience participation. Together, we will use live demonstrations to decode inaccessible apps, refine documents, and use camera AI to navigate our surroundings. We will also discuss the potential perils of AI—such as “hallucinations” and data privacy—and share best practices for protecting your personal information while safely leveraging this technology.

12:00 PM – Pick Up Your Box Lunch, Check Out Exhibits, and Start Bidding on our Fabulous Silent Auction Items

2:00 PM – Session 3: Gaming Accessibility: From Player to Advocate
Presenter: Chris O’Meally, Accessible Gaming Advocate
Discover how gaming is becoming more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision. Chris O’Meally shares his journey from struggling to play video games alongside family and friends as a child to working with major game studios to improve accessibility. Along the way, he’ll explore how advocacy, technology, relationship-building, and a passion for gaming can open doors—and how others can get involved in accessible gaming and the industry.

2:45 PM – Break

3:00 PM – Session 4: Hear from Blind and Low Vision Athletes
Facilitators: April Allen and Donna Clarke
Athletes Presenting: Jillian Bante, Kevin Brown, Lisa Calhoun, Doug Goist, Marcia Harvey, and Ed Sales
Hear from blind and low vision athletes and discover exciting accessible sports. Learn about team sports such as blind soccer or blind hockey, and individual sports such as kayaking, tennis, and horseback riding. These dedicated and competitive athletes will make you want to try something new!

4:30 PM – Break

4:45 PM – Session 5: Latest in Vision Research
Presenter: Chad R. Jackson, PhD, Foundation Fighting Blindness, Senior Director, Preclinical Translational Research Program
Discover what's new in vision research and learn about emerging studies, treatments, and advances that could shape the future of vision care and vision restoration.

4:30 PM – Breakout Session: In King George Room, Creative Card-Making Workshop
Facilitator: Theresa Breeden

Join Theresa for a fun, hands-on workshop creating your own personalized greeting card! Explore your creativity using a variety of materials and decorations. All skill levels are welcome, and no experience is necessary. just come ready to have fun!

6:00 PM – Banquet

6:45 PM – Keynote: From Showing up to Stepping up: Our stories, Our Voice, Our Future
Keynote Speaker: Katie Frederick, Secretary, ACB
Every step forward begins when we reflect on our personal journeys and see the value in our lived experiences. We'll examine how taking ownership of our individual stories turns presence into active impact. Take a moment to reflect on your strengths, elevate your voice, and find your role in designing what comes next.

7:45 PM – Going Once, Going Twice… Get Those Bids In! Don't miss your chance to snag some fabulous silent auction treasures!

8:30 PM – Bidding Is CLOSED! We'll Announce Our Lucky Winners!

9:00 PM – Karaoke Time! In Mary Washington Room, Grab the Mic and Let Loose!

Whether you're a superstar singer or just love to sing along, it's time to turn up the fun!

9:00 PM – Accessible Gaming Demo Station, In King George Room
Ready to play? Stop by Chris's gaming station for a hands-on demonstration of Stardew Valley, an accessible farming and life simulation game. Designed to be playable by people who are blind while still offering graphics for players with some usable vision, it's an easy and fun introduction to accessible gaming.
No gaming experience required—come explore, listen, play, and see what accessible gaming is all about!

## Sunday, November 8: Wrap-Up & Reflect

9:00 AM – Rick Mitchell, CRC, Commissioner of the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
This is your opportunity to ask questions and bring up issues that are important to you.

10:00 AM – Business Meeting
All members are encouraged to attend. We'll elect Board members and hear from our officers and committees.

- Call to Order – RoseAnn Ashby, Acting President
- Roll Call of Members – In-person and on Zoom
- Approval of Meting Agenda – RoseAnn Ashby

- Approval of 2025 annual business membership meeting Minutes – Sue Bowmaster, Secretary
- Approval of 2025-2026 Treasurer's Report – Theresa Breeden, Treasurer
- Approval of 2025-2026 Audit Report – Jonathan Avila
- Approval of 2026-2027 Budget – RoseAnn Ashby and Theresa Breeden
- Election of Board Members – Donna Clarke and RoseAnn Ashby
- President's Report – RoseAnn Ashby
    - Talk about the past year of transition and future plans
    - Vote on disposition of NOVA Council funds
- Committee Reports
    - Advocacy – RoseAnn Ashby
    - Communications – Theresa Breeden
    - Fundraising – Tina Egge & Lisa Calhoun
    - Membership and Outreach – RoseAnn Ashby & Theresa Breeden
    - Program Planning – Sue Bowmaster & Davida Luehrs
    - Technology and Training Fund – Peter Brown and Don Barrett
- Other Business

12:00 PM – Adjourn

##

# What to Expect at Convention

## Hotel Orientation

This year, in addition to sighted volunteers, we are pleased to offer two complementary resources to help attendees familiarize themselves with the hotel's layout and navigate the convention facilities. Both resources are available on our Hotel Wayfinding webpage.

### 1) Interactive Hotel Wayfinding Application (app)

The first resource is an accessible, interactive wayfinding app developed by Rajiv Shah. Available on computers and mobile devices, the app can be used before arriving at the hotel or while attending the convention.

Simply select your starting location and desired destination to receive step-by-step walking directions. You can choose to review the complete route or navigate through individual instructions, providing flexibility in how you access the information.

### 2) Hotel Orientation and Walking Guide

The second resource is a downloadable Word document developed by Scott Marshall with the assistance of artificial intelligence and available hotel reference materials. It provides a written overview of key hotel locations, including meeting rooms, elevators, restrooms, dining facilities, and other amenities.

The document can be downloaded for offline reference or read directly from the webpage.

Both resources are intended to help attendees become familiar with the hotel and plan their movements throughout the convention. The first option is simple and can quickly provide instructions for getting from one place to another on the first floor of the hotel using preferred origin and destination selections. The other is a longer narrative description of ways of reaching various locations and areas related to Convention activities.

Please remember that directions are approximate, and they reflect reference materials that were sometimes hard to interpret and not ideally accessible. Therefore, attendees should continue to use their customary mobility aids and seek assistance when needed.

## Volunteers

Volunteer guides are available to assist you in the lobby, near elevators, and near the Mary Washington and King George rooms. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance if you need it. Volunteers will be instructed to ask you if you need assistance rather than assuming that you do. However, please do show volunteers courtesy as they assist you; remember that they are doing their very best to help and this may be the first time they have come in contact with blind individuals.

## Guide Dog Relief

Guide Dog relief areas are located behind the hotel. You may use any of the grassy areas there. There is a trash receptacle right outside the back door of the hotel, and additional trash receptacles are available on the patio outside the Mary Washington room.

## Keeping Fit While at Convention

The indoor pool is open from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. The gym is open 24 hours a day. Equipment includes Ellipticals, free weights, stationary bikes, and treadmills. So, there's no excuse for skipping your exercise routine!

## Zoom Links for Virtual Convention Participants

Zoom links will be emailed to all individuals who have registered for the convention, both those who will be coming in-person and those who will be participating virtually, along with a copy of the convention program book. The same Zoom links will be used throughout the convention, including the annual membership business meeting taking place on Sunday morning. Please do not share these links with those who have not registered for the convention.

## Transportation

If you have not done so already, please let RoseAnn Ashby know if you need transportation assistance. Specifically, she is organizing volunteers to pick people up from the Fredericksburg

train station on Friday and to return them to the station on Sunday. Please be aware that this station is not staffed. In order to request that our volunteers meet you at the station, you need to let her know when your train arrives on Friday, and in order to arrange a drop-off at the station on Sunday, you need to let her know when your train is scheduled to leave the station. She can be contacted at beachrose9@verizon.net or 703-403-0226. The Amtrak toll free number is 800-872-7245.

In addition, she is arranging for car transportation, particularly for those who live far from a train station. There will be a minibus traveling from Arlington to Fredericksburg on Friday and back to Arlington on Sunday, and there will be a 12-person van traveling from Newport News to Fredericksburg on Friday and back again on Sunday. In order to be considered for either of these accommodations, please contact her at your earliest convenience.

## Exhibit Hours

Exhibitors have been told that the exhibit area will be open on Friday November 6 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and on Saturday November 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exhibits will be set up in one-half of the Mary Washington Room and in the pre-function area just outside the room. Please do not expect a particular exhibitor to be at their table for this entire time; you may have to check back a couple of times. You can certainly visit the exhibit tables during registration time on Friday, during program breaks (check your agenda for times), and at lunch (12:00 noon - 2:00) p.m. on Saturday. And, of course, you can step out of the meeting room briefly if needed to talk to an exhibitor.

# Food Highlights

## Friday - Hospitality Hour in Mary Washington meeting room:

Be prepared for some yummy appetizers, courtesy of Costco or Sam's Club. We will have volunteers to assist you to fill your plate if you wish. There will also be a cash bar. Most mixed drinks are $13.00, while beer is $9.00, wine by the glass varies in price depending on the type of wine, and soft drinks are $2.00. We have 15 lucky winners who won a free drink ticket. All others who want to purchase a beverage during the hospitality hour may use cash or credit.

## Saturday - Breakfast in hotel lobby:

The breakfast in the hotel lobby is included in your hotel room fee. Volunteeers will be available to assist if you wish. The b**reakfast buffet** offers a daily variety of items, including eggs, breakfast potatoes, turkey or pork sausage, bacon (meats rotate daily), yogurt, cereal, oatmeal, and assorted bakery items. It is located directly across from the front desk check-in area, with seating available in the hotel main dining area.

## Saturday - Lunch in Mary Washington meeting room:

All of you have given us your Panera box lunch order: either ham and cheese sandwich, turkey and cheese sandwich, Mediterranean veggie sandwich with feta cheese, or Caesar salad with chicken. We have submitted special orders for those of you

who requested a minor modification to the standard box lunch. Each lunch comes with chips and a cookie, and we will have a variety of sodas and fruit available as well.

## Saturday – Sit-down Dinner Banquet in Mary Washington meeting room:

Each of you has submitted an order for your dinner, either baked chicken, fried chicken, ham steak, or vegetarian. All dinners come with a house salad and either cornbread or biscuits. Dinners typically also come with green beans, mashed potatoes, and mac and cheese. For those of you who have special dietary needs, we have attempted to honor them. Vegetarians will be offered a vegan vegetable lasagna made with gluten-free noodles. Those who are gluten-free and who ordered a dinner with meat will be offered rice rather than mac and cheese. And, of course, dinner is not complete without dessert: a variety of cheesecakes, raspberry bars, or vegan chocolate cupcakes will be available.

## Sunday - Breakfast in hotel lobby:

The hotel will again set up the breakfast buffet for us on Sunday. Volunteer servers will be ready to assist. We will also provide Krispy Kreme doughnuts, which were so popular last year in the Mary Washington room.

## All Day:

Coffee, tea, and water available in the pre-function area outside the Mary Washington room.

### Hotel restaurant:

The restaurant in the hotel, Toast to Toast, serves dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Unfortunately, the menu is not very accessible.

Toast to Toast is a fast casual, counter service restaurant concept only at Holiday Inn. The menu features a delicious selection of small bites, bowls, and big bites. You can also select from a fresh grab n go offerings for meals to go or to enjoy in your room along with a premium coffees and espresso. Daily Happy Hour between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM.
Location: Lobby level

## Assistive Technology Consultations

Once again this year, we will be providing brief assistive technology consultations. However, this year in addition to Don Barrett and Stan Gowin, we are fortunate to have with us our very talented Technology and Training Fund trainers on-site. The trainers will have a Tech Fund table in the exhibit area. If you need to have some quiet space for a more private consultation, we will provide space for those consultations to occur. We are also encouraging anyone who needs assistive technology or more extensive training to apply for the Tech and Training Fund. Please sign up during registration to set up an appointment or stop by the exhibit table to discuss your tech issue and sign up for a consultation.

For questions in advance, contact either Rajiv Shah at rmshah@shahaccess.com
Or Don Barrett at donbar8372@fastmail.com

## Special Raffle – Computers for the Blind (CFTB)

Similar to last year, CFTB is generously providing:
Refurbished computer with Windows 11, 256GB SSD, 8GB RAM
1-year license for JAWS, ZoomText, or Fusion
1-year warranty & JAWS training
Sign up at registration to enter raffle.

## 50/50 Raffle

Feeling lucky? Don’t miss your chance to win big in our 50/50 raffle! Half the proceeds go to support ACBVA programs, and the other half goes straight to one lucky winner.
See Theresa Breeden for your tickets—get in on the fun early, because you can’t win if you don’t play! $5/1 ticket, $20/5 tickets.
To play virtually email, Theresa at theresa@acbva.org.

## Door Prizes

Door prizes will be announced throughout the convention – don’t miss out! You need to be present to win! This means that if you are in person you have to be either in or near the Mary Washington or King George rooms and if you are participating virtually, you must be present to respond when your name is called.

# Silent Auction

We will have a large number (over 70) of fantastic silent auction items this year—and there should be something for everyone's taste. The list of Silent Auction items, along with photos and descriptions, will be emailed closer to the event. It is also posted on the website at https://acbva.org/auction2026 . Instructions on how to place bids and participate will soon be available. Both in-person and virtual attendees can participate. Auction items will be on display in the King George room beginning on Friday afternoon and will be moved to the Mary Washington room after exhibits end late Saturday afternoon. Bidding will open at noon and will end at 8:30 on Saturday. In-person attendees can place their bids on cards next to the item, and volunteers will be available to assist., Similar to last year, virtual attendees will be able to submit bids via email to auction@acbva.org.

# Explore Fredericksburg During the ACBVA Convention!

**November 6–8, 2026 | Fredericksburg, Virginia**

Welcome to Fredericksburg! While you're here for the ACBVA State Convention, why not explore a little of what our historic city has to offer?

Whether you enjoy live music, theater, history, shopping, ghost stories, a delicious frozen treat, or a candle-making workshop, there's something for everyone!

These activities are optional and perfect for exploring during free time, between sessions, or after convention activities. See more at this webpage: https://acbva.org/explore-fredericksburg/

# 2026 ACBVA In Person Exhibitors

## Ability2Access




Logo description: the words “Ability 2 Access” and “A 2 A”

Ability2Access (A2A) provides schools, government agencies and individuals with the highest quality low vision and blindness products, software and trainings. A2A provides free, no obligation on-site demonstrations of the products. We also offer on-site delivery, set-up and basic training. We have over 17 years of experience in the low vision and blindness industry and are dedicated to improving the outcomes and facilitating the independence of individuals with visual impairments or blindness.

Contact Person: Julie B. Akers
Phone: 540-639-9732
Email: julie@ability2access.com
Website: https://ability2access.com/
##

# ACBVA Technology and Training Fund




Logo Description: ACBVA and it's braille representation dots, beneath three mountain peaks in black and two shades of blue

Whether someone needs assistance obtaining accessible equipment, learning to use technology, or developing new skills, the fund is designed to help remove barriers and promote greater independence.

**What We Offer:**

- **Assistive Technology:** Helping individuals obtain technology that supports accessibility and independence.
- **Technology Training:** Connecting individuals with training to build confidence and practical technology skills.
- **Technical Support:** Helping individuals overcome technology challenges and make better use of accessible tools.

Assistance is available to eligible Virginians who are blind or have low vision, regardless of their eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services through DBVI.

Contact Name: Peter Brown

Phone: 540-318-3450

Email: tech-fund@acbva.org

Website: https://acbva.org/ttf-info/

##

# Advanced Vision




Logo Description: the words “Advanced Vision”

Advanced Vision is a family-owned business serving individuals with low vision throughout Virginia. We specialize in assistive technology, including desktop, handheld, portable, and wearable video magnifiers that help people with everyday activities such as reading, writing, and viewing objects at a distance. We offer free, personalized demonstrations to help individuals find technology that meets their needs. Our services also include equipment delivery, setup, training, and ongoing support, with a focus on helping people maintain their independence and quality of life.

Serving all of Virginia excluding Fairfax and Loudon counties

Contact Person: Jeremy Bareford
Phone: 804-822-6868
Email: jbadvancedvision@gmail.com
Website: http://advancedvisionva.com/
##

# American Printing House – APH

Logo description: Letters A P H in white circle

Access to the right tools and information at the right time can change lives. From everyday tools to high tech solutions, APH will offer "hands-on" experiences with products and services that break down barriers, provide access to materials and curricula, and empowers those who are blind or have low vision to shape a future of equity and inclusivity.

Contact person: Erin Weaver
Phone: 585-208-0677
Email: eweaver@aph.org
Website: https://aph.org
##

**A P Real Oils and More**

Logo description: The words “A P Real Oils and more!” on a green circle

April Branch is an entrepreneur who creates and promotes natural products. She makes her own shea butter blends, sells body oils, and sells natural soaps. She believes everything good for your skin and body is naturally made. She had eczema as a child and she believes that this was part of her personal testimony to help others discover that nature's products, such as shea butter, are the only products our body naturally craves and needs. She sells quality fragrance body oils for men, women, and children. She promotes them because they are natural and do not have the alcohol found in perfume and cologne. Her mission is to naturally make AP Real Oils & More the one-stop destination for your body by responding to skincare and personal hygiene through providing all natural products to the heart of her company- YOU!

Contact Person: April Branch
Phone: 804-909-1901
Email: aprealoilsandmore@gmail.com
Websites:
https://www.facebook.com/APRealOilsAndMore/
https://www.etsy.com/shop/aprealoilsandmore
##

## Atlantic Low Vision




Logo description: A stylized eye with the words Atlantic Low Vision, Low Vision Solutions

Atlantic Low Vision provides assistive technology for those with impaired vision. We create a personal relationship with our clients establishing a direct connection. We create this relationship by providing a no obligation demonstration. This allows the client to see, feel, and use the machines we offer. We offer demonstrations at home or in the office, so we both can get a feel for the best solution for you. Phil Linz is the representative for Enhanced Vision and Vispero products for northern Virginia.

Contact Person: Phil Linz
Phone: 703-888-7134
Email phil@atlanticlowvision.com
Website: https://atlanticlowvision.com/
##

## Breeden Inspirations




Logo description: The words Breeden Inspirations, Handmade Stationery Products below the roots of a Tree of Life.

In 2018, Theresa Breeden lost her central vision to Macular Telangiectasia 2. She turned that challenge into inspiration, creating low-vision stationery—journals, planners, and notebooks with bold lines, large print, and wide spacing. Each cover is a unique piece of art, designed by Theresa herself. Her work proves that vision loss doesn't stop creativity—it transforms it.

Contact Person: Theresa Breeden
Phone: 540-621-4843
Email: breedeninspirations@gmail.com
Connect: Facebook | Amazon
##

## DBVI - Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired




Logo Description: Letters "d b v i" beside "Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired" and "Employment. Independence. Education."

The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) is a Virginia state agency that helps individuals who are blind, vision impaired, or deafblind. DBVI provides people with services and resources to confidently reach their goals for work, school, and life.

DBVI works with people of all ages across Virginia. They offer programs that teach new skills, find jobs, and become more

independent. With DBVI's help, people can feel more confident and take part in their communities.

DBVI has a team of trained staff who work with each person to create a plan that fits their needs. Services are offered in local communities and at the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired in Richmond. Everything DBVI does is focused on supporting individuals build skills, confidence, and a positive outlook to achieve their goals.

To learn more about DBVI's programs, services, and job opportunities, visit our website.

Contact Person: Becky Keller, PreETS Specialist
Phone: (804) 845-0685
Email: becky.keller@dbvi.virginia.gov
or
Contact Person: Dr. Rick Mitchell, Commissioner
Phone: 800-622-2155 or 804-371-3140
Email: rick.mitchell@dbvi.virginia.gov
Website: https://www.dbvi.virginia.gov/
##

## disAbility Resource Center of the Rappahannock Area, Inc. (dRC)



Logo description: Shapes of different colors with d R C in the center

The disAbility Resource Center (dRC) empowers people of all ages and all types of disabilities to live as independently as possible. We achieve this through the five core services of Independent Living: independent living skills training, peer mentoring, advocacy, information and referral, and transition services. These services work together to support individuals in gaining the skills, confidence, and resources needed to lead self-directed, fulfilling lives.

dRC is one of 17 Centers for Independent Living in Virginia and 403 around the country. We work together, and in our communities, to advocate for change to ensure people with disabilities have access to programs and services.
The dRC believes that people with disabilities should always be fully included and valued members of their communities—because inclusion, equality, and participation are not privileges; they are rights.

Mission Statement
To assist people with disabilities in achieving their highest potential and the full benefits of independent living by providing them—and those who support them—and the community with information, education, and resources.

Objectives

- Serve people with all disabilities and of all ages to live independently.

- Promote independent living and full community inclusion for all.
- Ensure access for people with disabilities in all areas of community life.
- Advance awareness and appreciation of the abilities and contributions of people with disabilities.

Contact Person: Debra Fults, Executive Director
Phone: 540-373-2559
Email: dfults@cildrc.org
Website: https://www.cildrc.org/
##

## Foundation Fighting Blindness




Logo description: The words Foundation Fighting Blindness in white letters on navy square with beam of light

The Foundation Fighting Blindness was established in 1971 by a passionate group of individuals determined to help find treatments and cures for blinding diseases affecting themselves or loved ones. At the time, very little was known about these devastating

diseases that lead to blindness, and there were no clinical trials for potential treatments.
The Foundation's goal was clear, and today the mission of the Foundation is to drive the research toward preventions, treatments, and cures for blinding diseases, including age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome, Stargardt disease, Leber congenital amaurosis, and more. Together, these conditions affect more than 10 million Americans and millions more worldwide.
An additional goal of the DC Metro chapter is to provide support, resource connections and helpful information to those with any vision issue. Both in-person and virtual meetings are scheduled a few times a year to help foster these connections.
At the convention Davida will have printed documents for sighted or low vision attendees. She will also provide materials electronically to anyone who would like them in that format.

Contact Person: Davida Luehrs
Phone: 703-819-8621
Email: davidaluehrs@gmail.com
Website: https://www.fightingblindness.org
# #

## Integration Technologies Group Inc (ITG)

Logo Description: The words "ITG", "Integration Technologies Group", and "Uncompromising Performance"

ITG provides technology and accessibility solutions, including assistive technology products, training, and support for people who are blind or have low vision. Stop by their exhibit to meet their team, ask questions, and explore technology designed to support greater independence at home, work, and beyond.

Contact Person: Michael Batista
Phone: 703-698-8282
Email: Michael.battista@itgonline.com
Website: https://www.itgonline.com/
##

## JW.org




Logo description: White letters JW.org on blue square

Jehovah’s Witnesses are a global religious organization that can be found in 240 lands. We are Christians who believe in Jesus Christ and that he is God's son. We base our beliefs solely on the Bible. While we primarily help our local communities with our bible-based education work, we also provide support in other ways. We invite you to explore this further using the link below:

Louis Braille—Bringing Light to Prisoners of Darkness

JW.ORG provides many free Bible study aides for those who are blind or visually impaired. These include Braille and large print publications. Also, audio publications can be accessed via JW.ORG, JW Library and Alexa. Additionally, screen reader (RTF) and notetaker (BRL) files as well as DAISY and MP3 formats are available. Videos with audio descriptions are also published on JW.ORG. These resources assist individuals, married couples as well as their teens and young children to have uplifting Bible-based information that assists them to face daily challenges successfully and provide answers to life's big questions.

Contact Person: Kevin Burrus
Phone: 845-430-1408
Email: kwburrus@gmail.com
Website: https://www.jw.org/en/
##

## Lil Tea's Specialty Desserts




Logo Description: Smiling cartoon chef holding a mixing bowl and spoon, against a teal background with a white banner reading "Lil Tea's Specialty Desserts."

Founded in 2006 by pastry chef Teaira “Chef Tea” Little, Lil Tea’s Specialty Desserts brings creativity and delicious flavors to every occasion. From custom cakes, cupcakes, cheesecakes, and bite-sized desserts to unique homemade jams and jellies, there’s something to tempt every taste bud!

Serving Fredericksburg, Stafford, and surrounding communities, Chef Tea specializes in turning creative ideas into delightful treats.  Only at convention Friday afternoon.

Contact Name: Teaira Little
Phone: 540-310-3477
Email: lilteabear@gmail.com
Website: https://www.cheftea.com/
##

## Lions




Logo description: The words Lions International in blue and L in gold on shield with lion’s head on left and right

In 1917 Melvin Jones, a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities

and the world. Jones' group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed.

The mission of the Lions is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.
Lions are constantly seeking civic minded citizens who are willing to donate some time and effort toward making our communities better places in which to live. If you are interested in visiting a Lions Club, please contact Davida Luehrs to receive an invitation to a local Lions Club. You can join us and learn more about what Lions really do to help their fellow man. Membership in a Lions Club is by invitation only; however, the only requirements are to be of legal age and good character. Through membership, Lions not only help people in need, but they have opportunities to develop personal friendships and gain valuable leadership skills which can be used in their work or in their personal lives.
At the convention Davida will be selling the 2025 White House Ornaments that the Reston Lions sell as well as the Virginia peanuts. She will provide the flyers electronically in advance and will take orders in advance of the convention. She will also certainly take orders at the convention.

Contact Person: Davida Luehrs
Phone: 703-819-8621
Email: davidaluehrs@gmail.com
Website: https://e-district.org/sites/md24/
# #

# Metropolitan Washington Ear




**Logo description: Gold & blue rim encircling M W E in print and braille representation. Man walking w/cane, woman with guide dog, gold mic and headphones.**

**Opening Doors to Information, Independence, and Opportunity**
**Celebrating 52 Years of Service | 1974–2026**
MWE offers a variety of services designed to help you stay informed, connected, confident, and independent:

- **24/7 Radio Reading:** Listen to newspapers, magazines, local news, and community information.
- **Telephone Dial-In Service:** Access news, publications, and valuable information anytime using your telephone.
- **Audio Description:** Experience live theater through descriptions of important visual elements.
- **Braille Reading and Writing:** Develop essential literacy and communication skills.
- **Assistive Technology Training:** Learn to use accessible devices and technology to enhance everyday living.

- **Orientation and Mobility:** Build skills for safe, confident, and independent travel.
- **Information Assistance:** Receive help accessing information and locating useful resources.
- **Blind Men's Support Group –** meets twice a month and can be attended in person or virtually

**VISIT OUR EXHIBIT TABLE —**
Meet our representatives, explore our FREE services, ask questions, and **REGISTER TO BECOME AN MWE PARTICIPANT RIGHT HERE AT THE CONVENTION! Also,** sign up for the $50 raffle.

Contact Person: Marcella A. Copes, Ph.D.
CEO/Executive Dire4ctor
Phone: 301-681-6636
Email: marcella@washear.org
Website: https://washear.org
##

# National Industries for the Blind (NIB)




Logo description: N I B and National Industries for the Blind in blue on white background

NIB is the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind, and through its network of associated nonprofit agencies, is the largest employer of people who are blind in the country. We create opportunities for people who are blind to

become wage earners and taxpayers, reducing their reliance on government support and increasing engagement with their communities.

NIB connects its associated agencies with manufacturing and service delivery opportunities with the federal government and commercial companies. Our customers get the business solutions that they need, and people who are blind are employed—it's a win-win. We offer career training, which is crucial to getting Americans who are blind employed and keeping them employed. Today, thousands of people who are blind are using these skills in state-of-the-art manufacturing and professional services careers. NIB's impact is made possible through the sale of SKILCRAFT® products and services produced and delivered by people who are blind. SKILCRAFT is a registered trademark owned and licensed by NIB. The SKILCRAFT line includes thousands of offerings — from office supplies and hardware to knowledge-based professional services — that meet or exceed exacting government standards, including the rigorous requirements of the U.S. military.

NIB's vision is that blindness is not a barrier to employment. NIB's mission is to enhance the personal and economic independence of people who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

At the convention Janice Forbes will be talking about employment opportunities with NIB and their associated agencies and will collect resumes from anyone who has a resume with him/her.

Contact Person: Janice Forbes
Phone: 703-310-0500
Email: jforbes@nib.org
##

## NFB Silver Bells




# Silver Bells

Logo Description: stylized circle of cane users with the words “National Federation of the blind. Virgina. Live the life you want. Silver Bells”

Are you or a family member 55 or older and a Virginia resident? Blind or experiencing vision loss? Silver Bells is for you!
Our blind and low-vision staff help you learn practical skills and connect with others who understand.

- Learn independent living skills, communication, information access, technology, and orientation & mobility skills.
- Build confidence and independence
- Create connections and community

Join us for a FREE weekend retreat.
Bring an optional family member or companion.

Contact Person: Rachel Schreiman, Program Coordinator
Phone: 571-419-0512
Email: silverbells@nfbv.org
Website: www.nfbv.org/silverbells
##

## NSITE




Logo Description: three Curved blue arcs on the left, followed by “NSITE” in bold, dark gray uppercase lettering. Beneath the name is the tagline “A VISION FOR TALENT” in smaller uppercase letters, all against a white background.

NSITE is a national employment services provider supporting blind and low vision individuals in finding meaningful employment and accessible training with industry recognized credentials.

Contact Person: Laura Anaya
Phone: 703-310-0349
Email: lanaya@nsite.org
Website: https://www.nsight.com/
##

# Patriot Vision Industries




Logo description: “Patriot Vision Industries, LLC” surrounded by 13 stars

Family owned and operated by President and founder John D. Palmer. We specialize in and manufacture technology under the exclusive PATRIOT brand for all sorts of visual needs! We help you select the right technology to meet YOUR specific needs and to reach your functional goals.  Matching technology to the person is what we do!!

PATRIOT VISION INDUSTRIES LLC, nestled in the rolling hills of central Florida, proudly designs, manufactures and distributes innovative assistive technology under our PATRIOT brand. Pioneers in the industry, we continually strive to empower our customers’ lives with our award-winning products and improve the quality of life for those we serve.

Patriot is the brand you can trust. Please call today to schedule a demonstration with one of our authorized dealers in your area, worldwide, or to receive more information or place your order!

Patriot Industries has products that harvest AI which can do item descriptions, read barcodes, electric bills and count money. Patriot also provides portable CCTV’s with OCR reading, along

with digital magnifiers and a wearable that harvests the OCR reading and contrast color adjustment options.

Contact Person: Haley Lan, National Account Executive
Phone: 470-313-4116
Email: haley@patriotvision.com
Website: https://patriotvisionindustries.com/
##

## Seed Of Light Inc




Logo Description: The words “Seed of Light” encircle a yellow sun wearing dark sunglasses and smiling behind a vintage microphone.

Seed Of Light will broadcast live from the convention through SOL Radio, featuring interviews, event coverage, and conversations with members of the blind and low-vision community. We will also present Sol Vision, our AI-powered accessibility application designed for people who are blind or have low vision, offering attendees the opportunity to experience the technology and provide valuable feedback. Our exhibit will also introduce the community to Seed Of Light’s SOL Virginia initiative and our commitment to accessibility and true inclusion.

Contact Person: Luis Ortiz
Phone: 954-868-9360
Email: info@seedoflight.org
Website: https://seedoflight.org/radio
##

## Six Dot Paws




Logo Description: Gold text reading “SIX DOT PAWS Toys & Treats to Support Guide Dogs” with braille cell to the right.

Six Dot Paws was founded by Cole Bischoff to sell dog toys and treats to support guide dog training. Being legally blind himself, Cole knows these dogs offer life-changing benefits for someone who is blind or visually impaired such as greater independence, increased safety, emotional support, and social connections. Since 2023, Six Dot Paws has raised over $14,000 and sponsored 5 guide dogs through Guiding Eyes for the Blind and Freedom Guide Dogs: Doyle, Shayla, Jeb, Ace & Latte.

Contact Person: Cole Bischoff
Email: sixdotpaws@gmail.com
Website: https://www.sixdotpaws.com
Contact: Facebook https://www.facebook.com/SixDotPaws
##

Uber Transit

Uber Transit

Logo Description: the words Uber Transit

Uber Transit partners with public transportation agencies, municipalities, and regional authorities around the globe to seamlessly connect on-demand mobility with existing public infrastructure, making transit more accessible, efficient, and equitable for all riders.

Contact Person: Angel Grajeda
Phone: 312-375-3755
Email: agrajeda@uber.com
Website: https://www.uber.com/us/en/transit/
##

# Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired




Logo Description: The words “Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired” and “Live The Life You’ve Imagined…” on a navy blue background

The Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VRCBVI) empowers individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind to live independently, work confidently, and pursue meaningful lives. Located in Richmond, the Center offers personalized residential or commuter training in essential skills such as orientation and mobility, Braille, access technology, personal and home management, and vocational readiness. Operating under the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, VRCBVI fosters a supportive environment focused on building self-sufficiency and confidence while offering specialized programs for teens, young adults, and seniors.

Contact Person: Lloyd Dunnavant
Phone: 804-371-3204
Email: Lloyd.dunnavant@dbvi.virginia.gov
Website : https://www.vrcbvi.virginia.gov/
##

# Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind




Logo Description: “Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind EST. 1839” on a black shield.

VSDB is a preK-12 public day and residential school for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, or DeafBlind. VSDB provides academic and enrichment programs that meet the Virginia Standards of Learning and satisfy all Virginia graduation requirements, while providing specialized instruction that is fully accessible to the students. Everything at VSDB is provided for students to Grow in every aspect, Do more to expand capabilities, gain confidence, and Become capable adults who succeed in post-secondary education, in the workforce, and as citizens in their communities. VSDB is state-funded, which means there is no cost to families or school divisions for students to attend.

Contact Person: Julie Saum
Phone: 540-332-9000
Email: julie.saum@vsdb.k12.va.us
Website: https://www.vsdb.k12.va.us/
##

## Virginia Voice




Logo Description: “Virginia Voice” below stylized sound waves

Virginia Voice is a nonprofit providing free audio access to newspapers and magazines, along with live audio description for performing arts, for people who are blind, have low vision, or have other disabilities that make print and visual content inaccessible.

Contact Person: Connor Redmond
Phone: 804-266-2477
Email: credmond@virginiavoice.org
Website : https://www.virginiavoice.org/
##

# 2026 ACBVA Virtual Exhibiters

## AGIGA Inc.



Logo Description: A stylized face within the colorful word “AGIGA”.

AGIGA is a Silicon Valley startup building AI-native smart glasses, EchoVision, that provide real-time understanding of the world for the blind and low vision community.

From 11/04 through 11/14, use the discount code HALLOWEEN for a $50 discount off the regular $599 retail price of EchoVision.

Contact Person: Buddy Brannan
Phone: 1-855-GO-AGIGA (855-462-4442)
Email: contact@agiga.ai
Website: https://agiga.ai/
##

## En-Vision America

Logo Description: ”En-Vision America”  to the right of a stylized sunburst

En-Vision America is shaping the future of accessible prescription labeling!  They partner with thousands of pharmacies to provide talking, large print, Braille and translated prescription labels at no additional cost to patients.  Hear the ScripTalk label speak aloud all your prescription label information from directions to warnings to refill info, using the ScripTalk Mobile app or stand-alone ScripTalk Station.

Contact: En-Vision America Patient Care Team
Phone: 800-890-1180
Email: patientcare@envisionamerica.com
Website: https://www.envisionamerica.com
##

## Glidance Inc.

Logo Description: The word “Glidance” and two bright pink circles

Glidance is the company behind Glide, an AI-powered mobility aid designed for people who are blind or have low vision. Glide uses cameras, sensors, and intelligent navigation technology to help

users avoid obstacles, locate doors, stairs and other destinations, and navigate indoor and outdoor environments with greater independence.

Contact Person: Allison Remington
Phone:  425-510-6155.
Email: gliders@glidance.io
Website : https://www.glidance.io/
##

## Sportable Richmond Adaptive Sports and Recreation

Logo description: The word sportable in orange and navy next to stylized raised arms

Founded in 2005, Sportable creates opportunities and transforms the lives of individuals with physical disabilities, visual impairments, and those requiring physical accommodations through sport, recreation, health, and wellness.
As Central Virginia's premier adaptive sports club, Sportable provides sport and wellness opportunities to more than 400 athletes each year by offering a variety of competitive and recreational adaptive sports programs.
Our athletes are of all ages, come from different backgrounds, and have varying abilities.
By fostering a fun, inclusive, competitive, and accessible environment, we transform the lives of our athletes and free them

to see beyond their disability, enhance their peer relationships, and help them to reach their personal finish line.

Contact Person: David Robbins, Community Outreach Manager
Phone: 804-340-2991
Email: david@sportable.org
Website : https://sportable.org/
##

## UZURV




Logo Description: “UZURV” in navy blue lettering

is an Assisted Mobility Transportation Network Company (TNC) built for paratransit. We partner with public transit agencies, healthcare systems, and nonprofits across the country to provide safe, reliable, and efficient rides for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Designed to solve the complex challenges of safety, cost efficiency, and universal mobility access, UZURV pairs a specialized network of drug- and alcohol-tested drivers with its innovative assisted mobility technology to protect budgets without compromising service quality or performance.

Contact Person: Ron Brooks
Phone: 866-898-7836
Email: ron.brooks@uzurv.com
Website: https://uzurv.com/
##0

# Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Logo description: The word VANDA over the word Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Vanda is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative therapies to address high unmet medical needs and improve the lives of patients.

Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder
Non-24 (Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder) is a circadian rhythm disorder that causes a person's internal body clock to become out of sync with the 24-hour day. Non-24 has High Prevalence and Low Awareness in the Blindness Community. Up to 70% of people who are totally blind may have Non-24 and may not even know it. People living with Non-24 may experience trouble falling asleep and staying asleep, have a strong urge to sleep during the day, and have sleep patterns that are different from most people.

Contact Person : Maggie Felton,
Clinical Nurse Educator – Patient Outreach

Non-24 Sleep Wake Disorder
Phone: 202-579-8035
Email: Maggie.felton@vandapharma.com
Website: https://www.vandapharma.com/
##

## Visionary Solutions




Logo Description: White text reading “Visionary Solutions” on a solid dark blue background

Michael Beattie – Empowering Families and Expanding Employment Opportunities
Navigating special education can be challenging, but you don’t have to do it alone!
With professional expertise and firsthand experience, Michael Beattie helps families navigate IEPs, understand evaluations, resolve school-related challenges, and find educational programs and resources that meet their child’s needs.

Exciting News for Blind Job Seekers!
At the ACBVA Convention, Michael will introduce a new résumé bank for blind job seekers and share his efforts to develop employment contracts that could create new job opportunities.
From educational advocacy to employment opportunities, Michael is helping break down barriers and open doors!

Contact Person: Michael Beattie
Phone: 703-994-8619
Email: michaelbeattie@yahoo.com
Website: https://www.visionarysolutions.online/
##

## Waymo

WAYMO

Logo description: The word “WAYMO” in black, uppercase letters

Waymo began as the Google Self-Driving Car Project in 2009 and launched the world's first fully autonomous ride-hailing service in Phoenix, Arizona. Since then, we’ve driven more than 270 million miles on public roads, served more than 20 million paid trips, and now provide over 500,000 rides per week across 15 U.S. cities, with many more to come across the U.S. and globally. We began mapping in Alexandria and Arlington over the summer as we continue testing in DC.

Across those 270 million miles, Waymo has been involved in 95% fewer serious injury-causing collisions compared to human drivers in the cities where Waymo operates today. In addition to safety, accessibility has been fundamental to Waymo's mission since day one. Autonomous vehicles have the power to create more

inclusive transportation options that work for a wider range of people - regardless of age, ability, or how you move through the world. The Waymo Driver doesn’t discriminate, nor does it ever drive distracted, drowsy, or impaired.

Waymo is proud to work alongside key mobility advocacy organizations, including ACB, to understand transportation challenges across each city we serve, and to create solutions that benefit more riders.

Contact Person: Hannah Tuten
Phone: 804-347-7339
Email: htuten@waymo.com
Website: https://waymo.com/
##

# In Gratitude

## Program Planning, Convention Logistics, and Fundraising Committees

No convention can happen without the dedication, time, and talent of many individuals. From designing the program to coordinating logistics—securing space, arranging food, recruiting vendors, and raising donations—these committees make it all possible.

**Program Planning Committee**
**Chair:** Sue Bowmaster
**Members:** April Allen, RoseAnn Ashby, Jillian Bante, Theresa Breeden, Donna Clarke, Robin Hoerber, Davida Luehrs, Millie McRae, Doug Powell

**Convention Logistics Committee**
**Convention Co-Chairs:** RoseAnn Ashby and Theresa Breeden
**Members:** April Allen, Sally Cooney Anderson, Liana Ashby, Jillian Bante, Don Barrett, Sue Bowmaster, Peter Brown, Lisa Calhoun, Annette Carter, Donna Clarke, Margie DeMars, Tina Egge, Maria Evangelista, Brenda Evans, Marcia Harvey, Dennis Helms, Robin Hoerber, Davida Luehrs, Millie McRae, Martin Pfeifer, Doug Powell, Sarah Radt, Traci Rasdorf, Bernie Werwie, Gail Wiltshire

**Fundraising Committee**
**Co-Chairs:** Tina Egge and Lisa Calhoun
**Members:** Jillian Bante, Margie DeMars, Shelia Gunn, Robin Hoerber, Davida Luehrs, Millie McRae, Marty Pfeifer, Sarah Radt, Bernie Werwie

## Session Facilitators and Presenters

A heartfelt thank you to everyone sharing their expertise and leading engaging sessions:

**Keynote Banquet Speaker:** Katie Frederick
**Leadership Training:** Kenneth Semien Sr, with RoseAnn Ashby and Theresa Breeden assisting
**Transportation:** Ron Brooks presenter; Sarah Radt and RoseAnn Ashby, facilitating
**Artificial Intelligence:** Rajiv Shah
**Gaming:** Christopher O'Meally
**Blind Athletes:**
Panelists: Jillian Bante, Kevin Brown, Lisa Calhoun, Doug Goist, Marcia Harvey, Ed Sales
Facilitators: April Allen and Donna Clarke
Research: Chad Jackson presenting; Davida Luehrs, facilitator
**Card-Making:** Theresa Breeden
**Report from DBVI:** Rick Mitchell, Commissioner

## Special Thanks

Rick Morin, Media and IT Manager from the national office of the American Council of the Blind, has been instrumental in designing and executing our hybrid program. His expertise and support made this convention possible. We also owe our thanks to Joyce Feinberg, who is assisting him this year and will be supporting our conventions in the future.

Joshua G. Cole, Virginia state delegate representing the 65th House district, brings special expertise about the state legislative process and how to advocate effectively. Thanks to him for being

willing to speak to us during our advocacy session early on Saturday morning.

Kerry P. Devine, Mayor of the city of Fredericksburg, plans to welcome us warmly during the Friday evening hospitality hour.

## Thank You to Our Local Business Donors

We are grateful for the generous support of these local businesses, whose contributions help make our convention a success:

**Breeden Inspirations**
Fredericksburg, VA
Theresa Breeden
Phone: 540-621-4843
Email: breedeninspirations@gmail.com
Connect: Facebook | Amazon

**Krispy Kreme**
1891 Carl D Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Park Lane Tavern**
1 Town Center Blvd, Unit 4100, Fredericksburg, VA 22407
Phone: 540-548-0550
https://www.parklanetavern.com/

**Renato's Ristorante**
422 William St, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone: 540-371-8228
https://www.rrenato.com/

**Skechers**
1370 Carl D Silver Pkwy, Bldg. 5, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Staples**
2003 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

## Other Business and Community Partners:

**Bark Box**
Website: https://bark.co/

**Blind Girl Designs**
Tricia Waechter
Phone : 862-221-0024
Email: tricia@blindgirldesigns.com
Website: https://blindgirldesigns.com/

**Braille Wear**
Terry Keyson
Email: braillewear4u@gmail.com
Website: https://braillewear.shop/

**Chewy**
Website: https://www.chewy.com/

**Cracked Pots**
Website: Linktr.ee/crackedpotsstudios

**Philip Carter Winery of Virginia**
Website: https://pcwinery.com/

**Pleasants Hardware**
Tom Townsend
Email: ttownsend@taylorsdoit.com

**Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington**
Tara Aziz
Phone: 202-234-1010
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In addition to the sponsors who were listed earlier, we owe thanks to our many members and friends who provided financial support for our convention.

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## Volunteers:

No convention would be possible without the tireless work and support provided by our wonderful volunteers. Thank you - - you are awesome!

Volunteer Coordinators: Sally Cooney Anderson and Liana Ashby – Any organization would be lucky to have these two women involved; their energy, creativity, diplomacy, and just good sense in dealing with anything that comes up are truly outstanding.

The volunteers below perform many essential assignments, such as orienting attendees to the hotel, helping them find food, running mics, helping attendees place auction bids, driving to and from the convention, and many, many more.

Bob Ashby, Marjorie Barclay, Carol Byers, Rick Browning, Annette Carter, David Cropper, Stacy Curley, Debbie D’Addario, Paul Douthit, Rosa Dut, Jean Falvey, Christine Frescas, Jane Furey, Carol George, Heather Held, Carol Kurtz, Relda Larguet, Ned Leonard, Kat Malaquias, Madeleine McGraw, Tom & Judy Morgan, Emily Moody, Larry Moye, Sean Parman, Martin Pfeifer, Traci Rasdorf, Abigail Reynolds, Jad Roberts, Barb Sheffer, Jody Silverberg

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