

The Rhododendron

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# President’s Message

Dear MSCB Members,

I hope everyone is well, and that you are having a wonderful summer. It’s hard to believe that summer is more than half over. That means that our state convention is fast approaching.

We need your input. Consider joining in on the MSCB convention conversation at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 2. We will be determining a theme for our convention, considering ideas for our virtual convention format, dividing the responsibility for contacting potential speakers and exhibitors, and discussing our main ACB person.

Please plan to attend our next 7-up call on Monday, August 9 at 7:00 PM. The topic is to be determined.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Carol McGhee and Marcia Springston for their diligence in serving as our delegate and alternate delegate during the ACB convention. They were always at the microphone when it was time to give our delegate votes during the affiliate roll call.

It is not too late to donate to our West Virginia Walkers team. Donations will be accepted through August 31. We are halfway to our goal. Thank you to those who have already made donations. Remember, half of the money we raise from the Walk comes back to MSCB. Some of the money we receive is used to help fund our scholarship and technology grant programs. To keep those important programs going, we need to continue to raise money.

Until the end of August, stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Donna Brown, President

## MSCB Moments

This month in MSCB history:

Get Moving Together with MSCB and ACB!

The 2021 ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk was held virtually. The actual Walk celebration took place before the opening General session of the ACB convention on Sunday, July 18. Prizes were awarded to the top six teams in the fund-raising standings. Interviews were conducted and videos were shown as ACB members walked in their homes or out in their communities.

The West Virginia Walkers team is still moving along. Please consider donating to our team. Our goal is to raise at least $4,000. We have raised a bit over $2,000. MSCB receives 50 percent of the funds we raise. A portion of the money we raise from the Walk goes into our scholarship and technology grant funds.

To donate, visit:

https://secure.qgiv.com/event/acbwalk2021/team/874084/

### Tech Talk

#### Voting Remotely

By Donna Brown

As we progress through Covid times, the need for all forms of technology is paramount. Technology has enabled many people to work from home, and it gives employers the option for many employees to work from home going forward.

Last week, technology, in all shapes and sizes, brought about historical times for ACB. All ACB members had the opportunity to cast their vote during three contested elections. ACB used a platform called Vote Now to create the ballots as needed and provide members with a variety of options for casting their votes. A person could use any computer or mobile device to cast their vote online by simply clicking on a link in an email from Vote Now. If a person didn’t feel comfortable with the online process or didn’t have access to that option, they could cast their vote by calling a toll-free number and entering their voter code. A third option was to select operator assistance after dialing the toll-free number.

Once again, technology will play a huge roll in the environment for our 2021 MSCB convention.

Wow! What is in our future with technology?

#### ACB Action

Have you heard the latest news? ACB turned 60 on July 7 and is going stronger than ever. A lot has changed over those 60 years. The passing of the ADA in 1990, the 2010 passage of the video and communications accessibility legislation, advances in accessible technology, a bit more financial stability for ACB, just to name a few.

One huge change that took place during the 2021 ACB national conference and convention last week was that all certified members of ACB were eligible to vote in ACB elections regardless of needing to be registered for the convention. Elections were held for officers, board of directors, and members of the Board of Publications. The results are as follows:

Officers:

President: Dan Spoone, Florida; First Vice-President: Deb Cook Lewis, Washington; Second Vice-President: Ray Campbell, Illinois; Secretary: Denise Colley, Washington; Treasurer: David Trott, Alabama

Board of Directors:

Jeff Bishop, Washington; Doug Powell, Virginia; Kenneth Semien Sr., Texas; Donna Brown, West Virginia; Chris Bell, North Carolina; Koni Sims, South Dakota

Board of Publications:

Zelda Gebhard, North Dakota; Penny Reeder, Maryland; Cachet Wells, Florida.

For ACB to conduct remote voting in the future, changes to the Constitution and By-laws need to be made. At 8:00 PM on Saturday, August 14, a special meeting will be held for all ACB members to hear the proposed changes. At 4:00 PM on Sunday, August 15, another meeting will be held for a second reading, an opportunity for members to discuss and debate the changes, and for us to vote on the changes.

Please make every effort to participate in these meetings. The result of this special election will play a huge roll in how ACB conducts business in the future as well as how ACB members can participate in future business meetings.

##### Healthy Living

Social Security Change in Notice Policy Could Affect Visually Impaired

Renewed opt-in needed for many to keep getting mailed notices in formats like large print and braille

Editor’s note: This information is an excerpt from an article that can be found at:

https://www.aarp.org/retirement/social-security/info-

A letter regarding ACB’s disappointment in this action did accompany the below information. Contact me if you are interested in reading the actual letter. As your President, I signed MSCB onto the letter as a supporting organization.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Americans with vision loss who receive specially formatted notices from the Social Security Administration (SSA) will stop getting them this summer unless they act now to continue this service.

For more than a decade, the SSA has offered visually impaired beneficiaries special notice options (SNO) to receive communications in formats such as large print, braille, and CD. Even those who chose, via online

My Social Security accounts

to no longer get printed letters from the SSA could still receive special notices in their chosen format, along with an online message.

Starting August 14, these Americans will get only the online version of SSA messages unless they or someone assisting them logs in to their account and opts in for paper mailings. Those who do so will continue receiving special notices in their preferred format as well as online notices in the Message Center of their My Social Security account.

The SSA says the change reflects how most My Social Security users want to receive official communication.

How to Set Up Special Notices

If you do not get special notices and want to start, log in to your My Social Security account and open the Preferences page. Click the Request a Special Notice Option link in the blue information box at the bottom of the page and choose one of these communication methods:

* Standard print notice by first-class mail
* Standard print notice by certified mail
* Standard print notice by first-class mail, with a follow-up phone call
* Standard print and braille notices by first-class mail
* Standard print and large-print (18-point font) notices by first-class mail
* Standard print notice and Microsoft Word file of text on a data CD, by first-class mail
* Standard print notice and voice recording of the text on audio CD, by first-class mail

Due to these changes described above, ACB has joined the National Disability Rights Network and Justice in Aging to send a letter to the Social Security Administration. The letter contains reasons for why individuals request their Social Security information be sent to them in alternate formats. A request was also made for SSA to rescind this policy and continue to provide SNO to those that requested it.

### Cook’s Corner

Submissions by Donna Brown

#### It’s time for a smoothie!

Backyard Picnic Summer Fruit Smoothie

2 (16 ounce) cans apricots, peaches, pears, pineapple, or fruit cocktail, in any combination, packed in lite or heavy syrup or juice

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1 (16 ounce) carton vanilla ice cream, frozen yogurt or fruit sherbet

Drain fruit, reserving 1 cup syrup or juice. Place fruit, reserved syrup, and lemon juice into blender. Cover; process until smooth. Add ice cream in small chunks. Cover; process just until smooth and frosty. Serve immediately in tall glass with straw.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Cupid's Vanilla Berry Smoothie

Start your day with a delicious, easy 2-minute berry smoothie. It's packed with flavor and kid approved!

8 ounces Horizon Organic low-fat Vanilla Milk

½ cup Horizon Organic Fat-Free Plain Yogurt can substitute with vanilla flavored yogurt for a sweeter smoothie

½ cup frozen red berries I like a combination of strawberries and raspberries

½ cup ice

Place all ingredients in a blender and puree until smooth. Divide between two glasses and serve immediately.

Makes two servings.

#### Calendar of Events

August 2: MSCB convention planning meeting, 7:00 PM.

August 9: It’s 7-up Time! 7:00 PM.

August 14: ACB special meeting on Constitution updates, 8:00 PM.

August 15: Voting on Constitution changes, 4:00 PM.

August 31: ACB board meeting, 8:00 PM.

September 6: Labor Day.

September 13: It’s 7-up Time!

November 5-7: MSCB state convention.