



PERISCOPE

**A Quarterly Newsletter sponsored by the
Mississippi Council of the Blind, Inc.
Summer, 2022**

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Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:

MS Council of the Blind

P O Box 134

Clinton, MS 39060

Anyone wishing to remember the MS Council of the Blind in a last will and testament may do so by including a special paragraph for that purpose. If your wishes are complex, please contact MCB for clarification.

Contributions to the James Doyle Case Memorial Scholarship Fund or to the Carter Gable Memorial Technology Assistance Fund should be appropriately marked, and sent to the above address.

Phone MCB at 601-672-0973.

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President's Message

by Ralph Smitherman

Hello, MCB members and friends. I hope all is well with all of you. Guess what! It is getting hot these days; ergo, stay cool and safe!

The MCB Board last met in April of this year, and, our next meeting will be held in June, 2022. We are current with all paperwork concerning the Secretary of State; and, our ACB dues have been paid and authorized. I thank everyone who paid their dues on a timely basis. We will have four delegate votes at the 2022 ACB Summer Conference/Convention.

Speaking of the Summer Convention, Ralph Smitherman will be the delegate, Pshon Barrett will be the alternate delegate and Ken Maddox will serve as the Nominating committee

representative for Mississippi. As you know, said Conference/Convention will be hybrid. I encourage everyone to register whether you will be attending in person or by Zoom. The cost for registering is \$35 per person. The dates are July 1 through July 8, 2022—and, of course, we will meet in Omaha, Nebraska.

Later this year--probably in September--MCB will host a one-day conference. This will include our annual business meeting. We will need to elect two Board members who would serve for three-year terms. We enjoyed a successful one-day convention last year.

Don't forget about our community calls; typically, we meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:15 PM, central time. The purpose of this call is to keep in touch with other MCB members; I encourage everyone to participate. We meet by Zoom, and the call lasts around 30 minutes. Thanks to Eddie Turner for providing the Zoom Platform!

Our Technology committee generally meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM, central time. The committee members are:

- Kenneth Reed, chair;
- Anna Shelton,

- Janice Gable,
- Jane Peets

Therefore, if you know of anyone who needs an application, just contact Chair Kenneth Reed at 601-455-0105.

In closing, I want to thank the Board, committee members, and, all members for your continued support. This organization is successful because of its members!

MCB BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

by Jane Peets, Recording Secretary

The MCB board met on 04/23/22 via the Zoom platform. Vice President Ken Maddox chaired in the absence of President Ralph Smitherman. Motions passed to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report as distributed by email.

Treasurer Rene Virden reported that she had received all funds from the disbanded Hazlehurst chapter and she needs a final report and bank statement showing a zero balance in the Hazlehurst chapter's bank account. Robert Thomas will relate this to the former treasurer of that chapter.

Treasurer Rene Virden explained that her desktop version of Quick Books will not be supported after May. Our CPA recommended Quick Books online would provide quicker access to his firm to do our 990. A motion passed to purchase a subscription to Quick Books internet version for a period of 12 months at half price of \$25 per month.

In preparation for the upcoming ACB convention, volunteers were requested for an alternate delegate and a representative to the nominating committee. Pshon Barrett volunteered to be the alternate delegate for meetings scheduled on 07/11 and 07/13. Ken Maddox volunteered to represent MCB in the nominating committee.

A motion passed to donate two \$50 Visa gift cards to the ACB auction.

The next board meeting was scheduled for 06/18/22 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

New Mailing Address for MCB

Effective immediately, the Mississippi Council of the Blind

has a new mailing address. It is: P. O. Box 134, Clinton, MS 39060. Please make a note of it and use this address for all future mailings to our organization.

Jackson Chapter News

by Jane Peets

Hello, everyone. I hope you have enjoyed spring and are ready for summer. The Jackson Chapter is happy to welcome ten new members from the disbanded Hazlehurst Chapter. If you need any information about the chapter activities, please feel free to contact me or any of our officers or board members.

Our chapter recently enjoyed a social at Berry's Fish House with 15 members and 1 guest. The food and fellowship were great, and some generous person anonymously paid the tab for the whole group. The waitress didn't know the person's name, so we weren't able to thank him or her, but the generosity was very much appreciated.

The chapter board met on 05/17/22 via conference call. We again voted to present the MSB graduating seniors with a card of congratulations with a gift of \$20 in each. We are proud of these young people for their accomplishments and just wanted to acknowledge their special day. These cards were delivered to

the school guidance counselor to be given to these graduates.

Our next social will be in June with day, time and location to be announced at a later time. Thank you, Wanda Allen, for the great job you do with finding locations for our socials and sending out invitations to our members.

Best wishes for the summer; try to stay cool.

Announcement from NRTC on Blindness & Low Vision
(taken from NRTC Notes, May 2022)

Lessons for Living with Vision Loss are now available on **BARD**, item DBC24872, through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). This includes 19 lessons, each packed with helpful information, tips, and strategies for living with vision loss. If you are not a member of NLS, you can access the lessons on the **OIB-TAC website**.

ACB Commends CBS on Expanding Description
submitted by Pshon Barrett

Alexandria, Va. (March 24, 2022) — The American Council of the Blind congratulates the CBS Television Network for significantly increasing the amount of programming it makes available on CBS with Audio Description (AD). In keeping with

its ongoing commitment to accessibility, CBS recently added AD to seven primetime series: *Bull*, *Ghosts*, *United States of Al*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Good Sam*, *Magnum P.I.*, and *Undercover Boss*. With these additions, CBS now offers AD with nearly all of its regularly scheduled scripted primetime programs.

CBS has consistently exceeded the government-mandated hourly requirement for AD programming over the past 20 years. With these expanded AD offerings, it has once again shown its leadership in the provision of accessible media to blind and low-vision consumers.

“As co-chair of the Audio Description Project and an avid consumer of Audio Description, I am thrilled that CBS is furthering its already robust commitment to quality Audio Description. Paramount Global has always been a leader in Audio Description, and it continues to show others that there is a need for even more Audio Description programming. I look forward to watching more of Paramount Global’s programming,” said Carl Richardson, ACB’s Audio Description Project Co-Chair.

“CBS is proud to provide Audio Description to audiences of nearly our entire primetime lineup and will continue to work to expand this important access for fans of our shows. It reflects many of Paramount Global’s core values including inclusivity, collaboration, determination, agility and adaptability. We thank the American Council of the Blind for their continued commitment and advocacy,” said Mark Turits, Vice President, Captioning & Audio Description at Paramount Global.

ACB sincerely hopes that other broadcasters and entertainment services providers will follow their lead and join Paramount Global in providing increased accessible content to our community.

For more information about accessible programming with Audio Description, please visit ACB's Audio Description Project website at <https://adp.acb.org>.

Create Your Own Pocket Calendar

by Deborah Armstrong

Are you envious of sighted people who can truly carry an entire year's calendar in their pocket? Even if you have a mobile device with a calendar, it's nice to have one available that never needs its batteries charged and that you can refer to with privacy.

It's actually easy to make your own braille pocket calendar. All you need is a medium-sized card and access to another calendar.

Your first task is to check the day of the week on which the first day of the month falls. For example, this year, January falls on a Saturday, February and March's first days fall on a Tuesday and April's first day is a Friday. You can look this information up using a calendar on your computer or phone. Or just ask Siri

"What day is July 1?". Of course, if you have a large braille calendar, you can grab the info from there as well.

On your card, braille a number for the month followed by an abbreviation for the day of the week. For example, my calendar for the first four months looks like this:

1 sa

2 tu

3 tu

4 fr

I abbreviate Sunday as Su, Monday as Mo, Wednesday as We and Thursday as Th.

You may be thinking that knowing the day on which a month starts isn't very useful. Oh, but it is.

Memorize these numbers, 8, 15, 22 and 29. If Thursday is the first, then the following Thursday is the 8th, the third Thursday of the month is the 15th, the fourth Thursday is the 22nd and the fifth Thursday is the 29th.

You now have a quick way of calculating which day any date falls on and whether it is, for example, the second Wednesday

after the first Tuesday! I actually have a committee meeting which convenes on that date!

You can use thermoform or any other brailleable plastic to make your pocket calendar. You can also make several copies in case one gets squished. My favorite way to make a pocket calendar is to cover an index card with laminating plastic and Braille directly on that.

I personally use a tiny 5 X 3 index card and make two columns -
- January through June on the Left and July through December on the right. You can also use a small notebook and have a page for each month so there's room to write in any appointments you need to track.

Keeping a calendar like this is a terrific way for new braille readers to use their budding skills on a useful task.

This idea was shamelessly stolen from APH who distributed pocket calendars just like this at ACB conventions in the 1980's.

Read, Learn, and Have Fun, Too!

by May Davis

Two retired Associated Services for the Blind employees, in search of material to transcribe into braille, have put together a

small spring-themed book of jokes and trivia for Elementary school children who are blind or visually impaired. We will happily send this braille book to any interested reader. To request a book, please send an email to: mayanddon52@gmail.com, or clyde.dog@verizon.net

A Note from the Editor

Thanks to all of you who contributed in some way to the Summer, 2022 issue of the Periscope. Whether you submitted an article or assisted with the formatting and mailing of the newsletter, we appreciate your contribution. Without your continuous help and support, the Periscope would not be possible.

Special thanks to Christine Chaikin with [Insightful Publications](#), who took time from her busy day to teach me how to set up links between the Table of Contents and the corresponding topics throughout the newsletter. Christine, your kind assistance is appreciated more than you know. Thank you!

A friendly reminder: If your mailing address has changed, or if you would prefer getting your Periscope in a different format than you are currently receiving, please don't hesitate to let me

know. My contact information is provided on page 1 of this newsletter.

Lastly, if you would like to submit an article for the Fall, 2022 issue of the Periscope, you may do so by submitting your article to me via email, regular mail, or over the telephone. I am always glad to assist anyone who needs assistance with writing their article, so please feel free to contact me for help. Although I will accept articles at any time, please note that the deadline for submitting articles for the Fall, 2022 issue of the Periscope is **August 21, 2022.**

Have a great summer, everyone!

Yours in Service,
Alison Smitherman