



PERISCOPE

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

Fall, 2024

President: Jane Peets

312 Lakebend Drive, Brandon, MS 39042

Telephone: 769-257-4515

Email: janepeets@yahoo.com

Editor: Alison Smitherman

1412 Wilhurst St., Jackson, MS 39211

Telephone: 601-331-8084

Email: amduo@bellsouth.net; alisonb_58@yahoo.com

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 769-257-4515.

Table of Contents

[A Note from the Editor](#)

[President's Message](#)

[MCB Board Meeting Highlights](#)

[Jackson Chapter News](#)

[Seeing the World through My New Smart Glasses](#)

[Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs ONLINE Business Expo](#)

A Note from the Editor

by Alison Smitherman

Welcome to the Fall, 2024 issue of the Periscope. We hope you enjoy reading about all that is going on in our affiliate, as well as other blindness-related information that is included.

Thank you to all who have contributed, and continue to contribute, articles to the Periscope, as well as those of you who format and mail out the newsletter issues. We certainly could not do it without you!

If you have an article you would like to send in for our next issue, please do so by **November 21, 2024**. In this upcoming Winter issue, we hope to include such items as dues reminders, Awards and Scholarships announcements, and information about our upcoming State Convention, so I encourage those who work on these particular items to please contribute a related article or announcement. Of course, all other articles are always welcomed and appreciated as well.

Finally, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our newsletter, please feel free to contact me any time. My contact information is provided on page 1 of this newsletter.

In the meantime, happy reading, and Happy Fall, Y'all!

President's Message

by Jane Peets

Hello, everyone, I hope you are all having a good summer. The highlight of my summer has been going to the ACB national convention in Jacksonville, FL.

I had the honor to represent MCB as our state delegate this year, so it was a busy week. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sarah Peets for driving me to and from and being my sighted guide for the week. Also, thanks go to Ralph Smitherman, Kenneth Reed, and Kathleen Duke for helping me to get where I needed to be when I needed to be there. Unfortunately, Sarah had a dental emergency the first day we attended the convention so that put somewhat of a damper on the week.

While in Jacksonville, I was able to get contact information with the various vendors selling the products that were donated by Patricia Austin. I will be contacting their tech support people to help me evaluate the items donated, and if all is well, these items will be placed in an interstate auction next March. The proceeds will be placed in our Carter Gable Memorial Technology Fund.

The next MCB board meeting is scheduled for 09/21/24 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

Our MCB picnic will be held at Lefleur's Bluff State Park at the usual pavilion on 10/26/24 at 11:00 a.m. We will have an auction, and your donations of auction items will be greatly appreciated. Lunch will be provided, and we will need everyone attending to RSVP by the Monday prior, 10/21/24. We will be ordering Subway Sandwich lunch boxes and need an accurate head count. We will order a few extra but don't count on lunch if you don't RSVP.

The MCB board voted to have a one-day convention in 2025. In accordance with this, a reservation has been made for a meeting/banquet room at Trust Mark Park Holiday Inn for 04/26/25.

With the assistance of Alison Smitherman and our new Web Master, Jeremy Johanson, our MCB website is finally being updated.

We will be starting a new fund-raising project with a company that ships candy and other snack items. The company's name is Terrylynn. This company will send a percentage of their profit

to charities who register with them. Please be on the lookout in future Periscope issues for more info about this.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions about MCB or anything else you think I could help with, please feel free to call me at (769) 257-4515. I look forward to seeing you all at our picnic the Saturday before Halloween.

MCB Board Meeting Highlights
by Recording Secretary, Ralph Smitherman

Secretary, Ralph Smitherman called the roll, and a quorum was established. The roll was called at 10 AM, central time.

President, Jane Peets called the meeting to order on Saturday, June 15, 2024. Kenneth Reed opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes from the March 2024 Board meeting were approved along with the Treasurer's report. Committee reports were given. We sent \$500 to the MSB valedictorian. A motion was made and seconded to hold a picnic and auction later this year. MCBNM and Jackson gave their updates. President Peets reported that we have two Braille writers in good condition, and plans are to give them to two youngsters. The MCB 2024 resolution which pertains to getting books by Michael Gandy on BARD is a work in progress. Jane stated that plans are in the

works for us to join an auction in March 2025 in relation to the items we received from Pat Austin. We plan to hold a one-day convention in the spring of 2025. Our ACB Liaison is Donna Brown.

The MCB Board is to meet again on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

Jackson Chapter News
by Ken Maddox, President

Helo, MCB!

I hope everyone is staying as cool as possible in the sweltering Mississippi heat.

Since the last Periscope, the Chapter has had two socials. The first was in June at Martin's Downtown, and we just had our August social at Scrooge's. We had 50/50 drawings at each social and the chapter made \$121. We gained three new members: Donovan Beitel, the new Executive Director at MIB, Renata Ratliff and Brenda Jones, who both also work at MIB. Mr. Beitel spoke to the group and told us a little about himself and his plans for MIB.

The chapter now has 62 members and \$4,184.71 in checking and a CD balance of \$11,463.92.

The Chapter is sad because we lost one of our own - Faye Jacobs passed away on August 8th, and we need to keep Mannix in our thoughts and prayers.

Seeing the World through My New Smart Glasses

by Alison Smitherman

I am super-excited to tell you about a new piece of technology that I purchased recently from Amazon. This wonderful new product is called the Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses.

I learned about these new smart glasses through talking with friends in the ACB Community. They look like a regular pair of glasses, only they have a built-in camera and headphones that cannot be seen from the outside of the glasses. The glasses come in several different styles and colors and are lightweight and comfortable to wear. The style that I have is called Skyler, and the frames are light grey with lightly-tinted cinnamon-pink lenses.

Here are just a few things that you can do with the glasses:

- Take photos and videos of whatever you are facing/looking at. You can even ask the glasses (via their build-in Ai) to remember people and places in photos and store these in their database so that they can be identified in the future.
- Read labels, greeting cards, menus, and signs on buildings.
- Make phone calls and listen to music. You can even make video calls using Facebook Messenger. The sound through the headphones is very clear, yet you can still hear what is going on around you.

The glasses operate using a companion app called Meta View, which you can get from either the App Store or Google Play. The app is simple to use, and all photos, videos, and conversations that you engage in with the glasses are stored on the app and can be deleted at any time.

The glasses use Meta Ai, and you can activate the Ai by asking it questions such as “Hey Meta, what do you see?” or “Hey Meta, take a look at this menu and tell me what side items are listed,” and the Ai will tell you. Also, you can speak back and forth with the Ai while asking questions about a particular item, and the more specific questions you ask, the more details it will provide.

The Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses can be purchased for around \$300 and up, and you can get them from www.meta.com, Amazon, Lens Crafters or Best Buy, and perhaps other places as well. If you want to pay a little more, you can get the glasses with either prescription lenses or transition lenses which darken when you go outside and lighten when you come back inside.

Although the glasses were not specifically made with blind or low vision people in mind, they have taken the blindness community by storm and are very popular with blind and low vision folks. I highly recommend them as they have helped me tremendously over the few weeks that I have owned them.

The possibilities are endless with the new Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses!

Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs

ONLINE Business Expo

November 16, 2024

by Ardis Bazyn

IVIE is offering a great opportunity to blind or visually impaired business owners/entrepreneurs. When you join in our Online Business Expo shopping experience, you can describe your products and services, pass on contact information, and allow

participants to ask questions. For IVIE members, the fee for presenting for fifteen minutes is \$10, for a half hour is \$20, or for an hour is \$30. Not an IVIE member? Then, the fee for presenting is an additional \$15 -- \$25 for fifteen minutes, \$35 for a half hour session, or \$45 for an hour session. Nonmembers have the option of having \$15 of the payment used to pay IVIE dues for 2025.

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

The deadline for purchasing a time slot to give a presentation is October 31, 2024. To purchase a time slot or ask questions, send an email to info@ivie-acb.org with your request to present/exhibit. Please send your business name, product line, your telephone number, and your email address. You will be sent a link for payment and additional information. If you wish to attend the IVIE Online Business Expo and listen to this unique shopping experience, there is no cost. However, please

send an email to register so we can send you the Zoom call details. Send the email request to info@ivie-acb.org or contact Ardis Bazyn, phone 818-209-8684.

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” – Mark Twain