

IVIE AND RSVA 2025 CONVENTION EVENTS

By Ardis Bazyn And Carla Hayes

Before you know it, the ACB Convention will be here! Since Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs (IVIE) and Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America (RSVA) will be co-sponsoring many of our events, it made sense to combine information about our convention program offerings in one article. Here is what we have planned for the convention this year.

IVIE has scheduled its annual business meeting immediately before the ACB Conference and Convention activities take place. The board hopes more members will be able to attend this year. It will be held on June 22 at 6 PM Pacific/9 PM Eastern. All officers and board members are up for election. We will have one Constitution and Bylaws amendment and we welcome all ideas for improving IVIE in the future.

IVIE kicks things off at the conference and convention on Friday, June 27 (Central time) From 1:00-2:15 PM with **The Coaching Round Table. Join ACB Women and IVIE for a conversation with three women coaches. You will learn about their training, their coaching philosophies, and their experience as coaching entrepreneurs. One of them might be the perfect coach for you.**

On Saturday, July 5, from 12:15-1:00 PM, we will hold the IVIE/RSVA luncheon (\$60) . Enjoy good food, catch up with old friends and make new ones. Immediately after the luncheon, from 1:00-2:15 PM, we will have our first seminar of the afternoon: "Bringing Meaning To Your Business." Our speaker, Dan Lococo, PhD, of Affinity By Design, Inc., in Milwaukee, WI, will use personal experiences to highlight how using the mission and goals of the business will help it thrive. The main focus is on bringing meaning into your business to ensure the passion for the business continues. Then from 2:30-3:45 PM, we will have a very timely panel presentation, Tips For Preventing Identity Theft. Speakers will give participants ways to prevent identity theft. You will also learn about recent scams and how to identify them so you don't get scammed. Our panelists will be Deborah Joyce, Author, Honolulu, HI, and Chris Peterson, Founder and CEO, Penny Forward, Richfield, MN. (Both of these presentations will be co-sponsored by IVIE and RSVA.)

Sunday, July 6 Will be another very busy day! From 1:00-2:15 PM, we will have a panel presentation entitled Discover The World Of Entrepreneurship. Join us as dynamic entrepreneurs Kevin Fortune, Owner The fortune Agency, CEO National BVI Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, OH; Hayley Agers, DoTERRA Wellness Advocate, Marysville, WA; Ardis Bazyn, Bazyn Communications, Thornton, CO; Linda Allison, President Tennessee Council of the Blind and Tennessee Vendor, Knoxville, TN; and Conrad Bennett, Lots of Smiles, Romney, W, V share their journeys, including opportunities within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Hear firsthand how they chose the path of entrepreneurship and what drives their success. (this event is co-sponsored by RSVA, IVIE, ACB Next Generation, the ACB Employment Committee, and the Rehabilitation Issues Task Force.

At 2:30 PM, we will hear "All about the Texas BET Program".

Karla Martinez, Training and Development Specialist, Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, Austin, TX; Crawford J. Odom, BET Business Consultant – District 2, Business Enterprise of Texas - Texas Workforce Commission, Fort Worth, TX and others

Speakers will highlight the Business Enterprise Program in Texas so participants will learn how they train vendors, the types of facilities they have in the program, and some statistics of relevance: gross sales, number of facilities, number of vendors, etc. They will also learn how blind persons can become a vendor in the state.

On Monday afternoon, July 7, leaving the hotel at 12:15 PM, RSVA will have a Texas BEP facility visit with possibly three locations including time for you to have lunch at one of them. More details will come soon.

Our convention offerings are not all work and no play! On Monday Evening, July 7, from 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM, come and enjoy this year’s comedian from the Comedy Company at Laugh with RSVA. Following this event, from 9:00 PM to Midnight, you can share your talent or simply relax and enjoy others’ performances at RSVA Karaoke (Note that both of these evening events are in-person-only.)

Finally, on Wednesday July 9th from 1:00-3:45 PM, the annual IVIE Business Expo will take place. Here, blind and visually impaired business owners will showcase their products and services and answer your questions. Come and do some early Christmas shopping and support blind and visually impaired business owners! Browsing the Expo is free, but if you would like to have a booth at the expo, the cost is \$10 for IVIE members and \$25 for non-members with the option of designating \$15 of this fee for IVIE Annual dues. You can pay for IVIE dues and/or an Expo booth on IVIE’s secure website: www.ivie-acb.org. If you have any questions about the expo or IVIE membership, you can call IVIE President Ardis Bazyn at (818) 209-8684.

As you can see, IVIE and RSVA have a variety of fun and informative events planned for you at this year’s convention! We hope you will join us for some or all of our events.