

IVIE Motivator Newsletter

SPRING 2024

Welcome to the quarterly IVIE Motivator Newsletter!

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MESSAGE FROM IVIE President

Hi members,

It's Spring- it doesn't always seem so. We've had some snow and cold weather here in Colorado in mid-April. It's wonderful to have the changing seasons. Please check the IVIE member directory for new and updated member listings. Please invite other blind and visually impaired entrepreneurs to join us for any of our upcoming events. I get notifications of new people joining our IVIE email discussion group. Please continue to share your tips and suggestions. The IVIE board appreciates all your involvement.

We hope you've been enjoying our monthly "Entrepreneur Exchange" calls. If you have not, please read more information about these calls in the section of this newsletter called "Member Opportunities". Descriptions of all the opportunities IVIE has to offer members are listed. I'll continue to add some info learned from recent "Entrepreneur Exchange" calls and IVIE list posts in case you were not able to attend.

If any of you have suggestions for IVIE, particularly for reaching additional entrepreneurs, please let us know. If you have suggestions for the IVIE website: ivie-acb.org, please send them to info@ivie-acb.org. You can also reach me at 303-963-5153.

Happy reading,

Ardis Bazyn

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

IVIE will continue to provide opportunities for members to network and share ideas. If you have not already taken advantage of the following options available for members, please consider participating in one or all of them.

- On the second Sunday each month, IVIE sponsors an ACB community call called the IVIE “Entrepreneur Exchange”. Each month, a speaker often gives tips on a particular topic and each attendee gets the opportunity to introduce themselves and their business. Comments and questions are appreciated.

Join our upcoming two call dates and topics:

--May 12: Entrepreneur Exchange topic: “How do you network?”

--June 9: Entrepreneur Exchange topic: “What online courses have helped you improve?”

Recently, on the IVIE email list, specific topics were mentioned to add for future calls. A new list will be published on the IVIE website in late June for the time period between July 2024 and June 2025. We'll be happy to add your suggested speakers and topics to our list of upcoming calls.

- The IVIE email discussion list is available for members and others interested in creating or developing a business to share announcements, resources,

opportunities, and other information of interest for business owners and others. If you are not on the general IVIE email discussion list, please subscribe by sending an email to ivie+subscribe@acblists.org

- All members should be on the IVIE-members email list for members only. If you are not currently subscribed, please send an email to ivie-members+subscribe@acblists.org. Members can share entrepreneur related information, IVIE business related information such as potential Constitution and Bylaw amendments, resolutions, and positive strategies to improve IVIE in the future. The quarterly Motivator newsletter is sent to the IVIE-members email list. All upcoming calls and events are also publicized on this list as well as anything members wish to share with other members.
- The IVIE business directory gives members a free chance to advertise their business and publicize contact information for networking or business purposes. If you'd like changes to your listing on the business directory, please send an email to info@ivie-acb.org or call 303-963-5153. We want to share specific details in your member directory listing. Those without businesses have their personal information on the list so anyone can contact them. If members would like to add why

they joined, they can do so by saying retired business owner, their current job- title and company, someone with resources to share, etc.

- Our quarterly newsletter is sent to members via the IVIE-members email list. Members can submit articles about their business or give helpful tips to readers. See suggested topics under the article at the end of the newsletter called SUBMITTING ARTICLES.
- On the fifth Sunday each quarter, if we do not have a book to discuss, we'll have an open discussion call.

American Council of the Blind 2024 Conference and Convention Details

The 2024 American Council of the Blind Conference and Convention in person segment (including IVIE sessions) will be held July 5th through July 12th at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel located at 225 E. Coastline Dr. in Jacksonville, FL. room rates at the hotel are \$99.00 per night (Single or Double Occupancy), \$124.00 (Triple Occupancy), \$149.00 (Quadruple Occupancy), The cost of

a king room is \$109.00 per night with very limited availability. Room tax is 14.64%. To ensure you receive the convention rate you must make your reservations prior to June 14 2024. Upon check-in, a charge of \$40.00 per night for incidentals will be charged to your credit or debit card. To make reservations online, go to

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/JAXRJ/G-ACOB>

If you prefer to make reservations by phone, call (800) 233-1234, and use Code G-ACOB.

Opening General Session will be on Sunday evening, July 6th. The banquet will be held on Thursday night, July 11th. The Exhibit Hall will open on Sunday, July 7th and close on Wednesday, July 10th. Day long tours will occur both Fridays, July 5th, and 12th with many other tours throughout convention week. Special-interest affiliates, committees and business partners will hold sessions throughout the convention: some Zoom, hybrid, and in person. See the calendar of registration deadlines and other important dates related to the National Conference and Convention below.

5/13/2024: Registration opens for members only for the ACB Conference and Convention.

5/20/2024: Registration opens for everyone for the ACB Conference and Convention.

5/25/2024: This is the Voters of Record date; only those certified by this date may vote at the ACB Conference and Convention.

6/17/2024: Registration closes for the ACB Conference and Convention.

6/24/2024: Opening of ACB Conference and Convention (virtual only): reading of Standing Rules, first Credentials Report, and Nominating Committee meeting.

6/27/2024: Virtual only ACB Conference and Convention sessions begin.

7/5/2024: ACB Conference and Convention begins in Jacksonville, Florida. For any ACB convention-related questions, please contact Janet Dickelman, ACB convention chair, (651) 428-5059 or via e-mail at janet.dickelman@gmail.com.

IVIE 2024 Convention Information

By Carla Hayes, IVIE Convention Chair

The IVIE Affiliate Registration Fee is: \$20 for those preregistering. This fee not only assists IVIE with convention expenses but also covers your 2025 membership dues. On-site, the fee is: \$25.

Schedule of Events

- Thursday, June 27th

5:00 PM: "What you need to do to prep for a networking event, how to engage in the event, and what to do after the event."

Sponsored by ACB Next Gen).

This is a virtual only event.

- Friday, June 28th

5:00-6:15 PM.: IVIE Business Meeting, (members only virtual meeting) The agenda will cover the annual business for the affiliate. Please attend and share your thoughts. Each member will receive a Zoom webinar link which will contain the agenda and possible Constitution and Bylaw changes. Plans for the next year will be discussed.

- Saturday, July 6th

12:15 PM: RSVA/IVIE Awards Luncheon (program from 1:00-3:45 PM Eastern (Hybrid))

1:00-2:15 PM: Motivational Speaker: Tricia Waechter, CEO, Blind Girl Designs, Houston, TX. After losing much of her vision, she had to learn a new career. She'll tell how a newly Visually Impaired Entrepreneur Created and Launched her New Business.

2:30-3:45 PM: "Tech It Out! iPhone And Android Tips For Entrepreneurs" Adam Gaffney, Distributed computer systems analyst and computer technician, Tallahassee, FL. He'll give Iphone and Android tips for entrepreneurs by telling about apps in each type of phone and how they can effectively be used.

4:00-5:15 PM: Networking Event In-Person In Jacksonville, (Sponsored by ACB Next Gen.) [A debrief at the end will be available for participants to discuss the experience.](#)

- Wednesday, July 10th:

1:00-3:45 PM: "IVIE Business Expo," Blind and visually impaired business owners can showcase their products and services and answer your questions. Members can purchase a table for \$10. Nonmembers can pay \$25 which can be used for membership for 2025. Please invite entrepreneurs you know will be attending in person.

If you have questions, please send an email to ivie@ivie-acb.org or call Carla Hayes or Ardis Bazyn.

IVIE “Entrepreneur Exchange” Call Tips and IVIE Email Discussion Posts

Read below for some of the valuable information learned at the recent “Entrepreneur Exchange” calls.

- On February 18, the topic was “business tax focus”. This is a repeat since this info is important for you to know. Beneficial Ownership: how many of you have heard about this? All entrepreneurs need to be aware of these new Beneficial Ownership Reporting Requirements resulting from the passage of the Corporate Transparency Act. As of January 1, 2024, any “corporations, limited liability companies, and any other entities created by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office in the United States,” are required to register their businesses with Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). It should be noted that a retail vending business would NOT appear to fall into any of the exempted categories. If you started your business after January 1, 2024 you

have only 90 days to submit the report. If your business was started before January 1, 2024, you have until December 31, 2024 to file. It is a simple form to file so shouldn't be difficult to comply. To read all the details, go to <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>

There are stiff penalties for noncompliance. The direct link for filing is: boiefiling.fincen.gov/fileboir

- The March 10: Entrepreneur Exchange Call topic was: "Marketing digitally using QR codes, Google docs, and other digital forms." Michael Badcock spoke about several resources. He sent the following ones for you to check. Five Power Tips for Navigating Google Docs with JAWS April 18, 2024
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Vkc7CAuNRsyz_IOXtuodnQ

Enhanced Braille Support Now Available for Google Docs
<https://www.boia.org/blog/enhanced-braille-support-now-available-for-google-docs>

Gravity Form Nonprofit License

<https://www.gravityforms.com/nonprofit-license/>

GravityWiz: A Suite Of 47+ Gravity Forms Addons

<https://gravitywiz.com>

Perkins Google Docs and Sheets with a Screen Reader:
Resources <https://www.perkins.org/resource/google-docs-and-sheets-screen-reader-resources/>

Use keyboard shortcuts in Google Groups

<https://support.google.com/groups/answer/6148722?hl=en>

Keyboard shortcuts for Google Forms

<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/6026976?hl=en#zippy=%2Cpc-shortcuts>

You can contact Michael: Michael - KJ7PAZ

Payown Media, LLC; Michael@payown.media

•On April 14, the topic was: “Handling social media”. Jeff Bishop, BITS President, gave the following strategies. He said it was important to have a website for your business and it should come before worrying about social media. When you share contact information, he encouraged entrepreneurs to have a professional email with your business name or relevant name. He said info@businessname.com is better than a name. Once you have a website, he said you should choose the best social media site for your company. Think about where your customers generally are seen. If you are business to business, LinkedIn is good. If you deal with a general audience, FaceBook is likely a good option. X and Mastadon may be a good fit. However, more general

users are on X but it is much more difficult for a blind person with a screen reader. If you have videos or images, Instagram would be another option to try. He suggested using one first and make sure you are consistently posting information before attempting a second one. This strategy works better than trying to occasionally post to a number of different sites.

Some content from the IVIE email lists posts follow. This information was shared from the national disability Institute. NDI helps individuals with disabilities to set up and run small businesses. Below is some information shared about funding. The Black Ambition Prize competition provides a platform for Black and Hispanic founders across the nation to access growth capital, coaching and a curated community of innovators and mentors. Eligible applicants consist of Black and Hispanic innovators building early-stage ventures across five distinct categories:

- Consumer Products and Services
- Healthcare
- Media and Entertainment
- Technology
- AI

Eligible ventures will compete for awards between \$15,000 to \$1,000,000 as well as mentorship, coaching, community, exclusive training opportunities and more. Apply today! Applications close May 6, 2024 at 6pm PT.

https://platform.younoodle.com/competition/black_ambition_prize_competition_2024

LegalZoom has partnered with the NBA, WNBA and NBA G League to offer \$3 million in grant funding and services to small business owners and emerging entrepreneurs. Now in its third season, this program aims to assist business owners with the tools and resources they need to start and grow their businesses. This opportunity is designed to support both established and budding business ventures. For your chance at a \$10,000 small business grant and/or up to \$500 in LegalZoom products and services. Grant applications close on September 13, 2024 at 8pm ET.

<https://www.legalzoom.com/fastbreakforsmallbusiness>

MEMBER PROFILE: Tonya J. Drew, CBT

Tonya Drew (Braille Chicken Whisperer) agreed to send in her member profile. After reading, if you have questions, please contact her. Her contact information is at the end and also in the member directory on our IVIE-acb.org website.

Her business name is: Essentially Braille. Their motto is “custom Braille your way.” They transcribe print books into braille for the blind and visually impaired, as well as cards, business cards, manuals, etc. They are willing to try all sorts of different media; Even lyric books for people who like music. If it has to do with Braille, they try it. However, if it’s beyond their capability, they’re not afraid to send them somewhere else. They just want people to be satisfied with what they get.

They started the business in 2019, just Tonya and her friend Jennifer. They were both taking the transcription course at the time. Tonya had a really difficult vocational counselor so they put together a business plan and open the business. Her counselor kept saying they couldn’t do it. They both have a passion for serving the visually impaired, so it was really easy to figure out how they wanted to put together the business.

Most of their advertising is word-of-mouth. She has donated items for auctions under the business name to get it out there. They've also done Braille in exchange for food or services. They've done all sorts of things to just let people know the business is available. They would like to serve others if they can work something out. One of her favorite things to do is to make soap and shampoo bars with a sister company they call the dirty Chicken soap company. She makes the soaps and goes to craft fairs to sell them and while selling them, she offers people free Braille books that she makes as samples. She places Braille copies of Books that people might enjoy on SD cards. It's another way to get the business publicized.

As far as technology she uses, she has Duxbury, a QBraille XL, and a Juliet Pro 120. She also utilizes scan marker. They have an OCR, but that's Jennifer's area. She utilizes apps on her phone, as well as all sorts of things like flash drives and SD cards to get electronic Braille available where it needs to be. She is hoping to get a mantis from the American Printing House For The Blind in a couple years to be able to utilize her computer even better than she does now.

One of their most interesting projects that they did recently was Dr. Wallach's book "Dead Doctors Don't Lie." This is a

nine volume book that they have available reasonably priced through email or on an SD card. The book is absolutely amazing. It's full of different minerals you can use to help support your health, and he has so many facts and figures that you can't help but really get into the book. It was wonderfully written and a joy to transcribe and people have been showing a lot of interest in it.

One of the things they strive to do is find ways to make Braille financially accessible. That is getting harder in this economy, but they still try their best to make it as affordable as possible. With everyone getting E-readers in every state now, they have found that they can transcribe a book and have it available for a very reasonable cost on an SD card, or even less by email if people know how to download it to their e-reader. She has found many times that people don't want to call her because they're afraid it's going to be really expensive. She would encourage them to please call her and let's see if they can work something out. If she can't do it, she will tell you straight up that she can't, but if she can, and it's still not affordable, they will try to find a way to help you. She and Jennifer have always believed in bartering and not only working for cash. They get to know the people that they work for. They often end up with friendships they never expected to have because they took the time to really care about that

person's project or showed concern about how they were going to be able to pay for it. They just really care about people and want to help others. Tonya J. Drew, CBT, Essentially Braille, phone number is 502-706-5007 and her website is www.essentiallybraille.com

What's New?

(Items in this column are not endorsed by the IVIE board. If you wish to contribute an item for this column, please send it to info@ivie-acb.org)

List of Presentations From CSUN 2024, Compiled by Christopher Phillips

This list has been compiled as a spreadsheet using Google Sheets.

Activate the link to enable screen reader support to ensure screen reader accessibility.

Pressing ctrl+/ (control slash) provides a list of Google Sheets keyboard shortcuts.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yBCYJ6fIHW_KSYfBX1wNBRhGx9bxZ993_PoYaFrUAvE/edit#

Blind Information Technology Specialists Basics with BITS

BITS is an ACB affiliate offering a twice-monthly training of technology basics through ACB community calls on zoom. They are teaching you through Basics With BITS presentations on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at noon pacific. You will need to get the zoom information from the ACB community mailing list. If you aren't already signed up, send a blank email to

Acb-community-events+subscribe@groups.io

Also, on the first and third Saturdays of each month, at the same time, there's an iPhone Basics presentation so every Saturday you have a chance to get some beginner-level technology training absolutely free from ACB community.

These trainings are recorded, streamed and podcasted by ACB community, so even if you miss a Saturday, you can always get the podcast later. You can also listen to them on ACB media 5

Be My Eyes New Service Available

Be My Eyes app: Service Directory

You will have access to hundreds of hard-to-find customer service numbers and connections to companies and organizations worldwide in the Be My Eyes' Service Directory, a new section in the app where you can easily connect directly with them for free.

This new Service Directory allows you to reach out smoothly to companies and organizations for customer service. This new service is available worldwide for free, and you will be able to get in contact with all companies and organizations that are available in your location. There are already over 600 companies and organizations available worldwide and they are adding new ones every day. To get in contact with a company or organization in the new Service Directory, simply open the Be My Eyes app and tap on "Service Directory" (previously Specialized Help), in the tab bar. From here, simply select a company or organization profile to reach out to and get assistance whenever you need it.

For example, you can reach out to an Apple representative directly in the Be My Eyes app to get real time assistance in many different situations, like setting up Voice Over on your iOS product, getting more information about Apple's products accessibility features or setting up

your Apple TV. Use Be My Eyes' Service Directory to get real time assistance from many companies and organizations like Apple, IKEA, PayPal, Nintendo, and hundreds more.

The availability of company numbers depends on your location. If there are companies or organizations that you cannot find and you'd like to see included in the Service Directory, please let them know by using the link in the app or writing to info@bemyeyes.com.

AppleVis: Recent App Directory Entries

Use PiccyBot to convert photos into spoken descriptions, pose questions in the text field, and zoom in for specific details. PiccyBot answers any image-related query with a clear calm voice.

Key Features:

- Photo to Voice: Instantly convert your photos into vivid spoken descriptions with a single tap.
- Voice-Activated Queries: Use your microphone to ask anything about your picture.
- Enhanced Interactivity with PiccyBot:
- Ask Anything, Anytime: Pose questions about your pictures in the new text field and receive insightful

answers. - Zoom and Inquire: Delve into specific details by zooming into parts of the image and asking questions about particular aspects.

- Unlock Premium Benefits:

- Experience PiccyBot without interruptions. Enjoy an ads-free environment.

- Enhance your image interpretation with personalised voice choices, adjustable voice duration, dynamic search engines, and seamless sharing of audio and detailed image descriptions.

Please refer to the end user license agreement for app:

<https://sparklingapps.com/piccybot-eula.html>. All data (text description as well as photos) provided to PiccyBot are used only for text and voice generation within the app itself and will not be used in any other way ever. See privacy policy here: <https://sparklingapps.com/piccybot-privacy.html>.

Elevate your PiccyBot experience with these exclusive premium benefits, effortlessly managed through your Apple account settings.

For any questions or suggestions, write to support@sparklingapps.com.

Version 1.7

App Store Link:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/piccybot/id6476859317>.

Developer's Website: <https://sparklingapps.com>.

GE Appliances Improves Access for Visually Impaired Consumers

GE Appliances is offering a DIY kit. The Access Kit was created in partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). In a press release, the appliance maker described the kit as the "most comprehensive set of tactile stickers for appliances." With over 400 stickers, representing the 80 most commonly used settings, the kit is designed to "make thousands of GE Appliances more accessible for everyone," and it can be used on non-GE appliances, as well. The clear adhesive stickers are placed over the appliance label, allowing the label to show through. They include both tactile symbols and braille.

The number one goal with this offering is to make appliances more accessible for everyone, since a lot of blind and low-vision consumers are devising their own complex systems just to navigate the settings on their appliances, making simple household tasks incredibly difficult. This kit ensures everyone can feel confident using their GE Appliances. They

partnered with American Printing House for the Blind, a true authority in this space, who help bring this product to life and make everyday living easier for those who are blind or low vision.

The Access Kit can be purchased for \$19.99.

<https://ophthalmicedge.org/patient/ge-appliances-improves-access-for-visually-impaired-consumers/>

Updated Guide of The Americans with Disabilities Act

On April 18, 2024, the Department of Justice issued an updated guide of The Americans with Disabilities Act and Other Federal Laws Protecting the Rights of Voters with Disabilities ADA.gov. This guide describes the legal protections designed to allow full access to every aspect of elections, including registration and voting, for people with disabilities. For more information on this and other new and updated guidance on voting rights, For more information on the ADA, please visit ADA.gov or call the toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (TTY 833-610-1264).

4 Audio Books on BARD for Zoomax and Humanware eReader

- * Braille e-reader Zoomax User Guide DBC11644
- * Braille ereader Zoomax user guide DBC19380
- * NLS braille eReader HumanWare user guide DBC24650;
Download NLS braille eReader HumanWare user guide
DBC24650.
- * NLS Braille eReader HumanWare User Guide
DBC27446

Technology Guides for Blind Users

National Braille Press

iOS Guides: iOS Basics for the Beginning User, NEW! iOS 17 Reference Card, Capturing and Sharing the World, 31 Cool Things You Can Do with Your iPhone, Getting Visual Assistance with an iPhone, and Writing Your Way on an iPhone or iPad.

macOS Guides For Mac computers: Mac Basics for the Beginning User and Mac Reference Card: macOS 11.

Android & Google Guides Google operating system: Getting Started with Google Suite: (2023), An Introduction to Chromebooks, Getting Started with Android S 12, and Android Commands and Settings.

Microsoft & Windows Guides: Getting Started with Windows 11 with Screen Readers, Microsoft Windows 11 Keystroke Compendium, Windows Screen Reader Keystroke Compendium JAWS, NVDA, and Narrator; The Power of PowerPoint, Designing Documents for Appearance, Computer Basics for the Newly Blind User, Format Your Word Documents, NEW! Microsoft Outlook Keystroke Compendium (2023), Microsoft PowerPoint 2019 Keystroke Compendium, Microsoft Excel 2019 Keystroke Compendium, and Microsoft Word 2019 Keystroke Compendium.

To order any books, send payment to: NBP, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115-4302 or call and charge it: toll-free 800-548-7323 or 617-266-6160 ext 520. or order any of our books online at <http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/index.html>.

They also carry a List of Health-related Books.

SUBMITTING NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

I hope you've enjoyed reading this issue of the IVIE Motivator. Articles are due for the next issue on or before June 15, 2024. Please forward information you think other

business owners might find useful. Our newsletters are more valuable when many members share resources. We welcome articles on technology particularly helpful for business owners, starting a business, and growing a business. Please share your business experiences in a "member profile" article about you and your business. Include: your name, business name or reason you joined IVIE, how you started your business, the way you advertise or market your business, the technology you use, and other items which might interest other members. Please include any specials, new products, or new features of your business as well. If you don't feel comfortable writing an article yourself, contact us and we'll give you a call.

We also welcome book reviews, technology reviews, online resources, or info about organizations or agencies you've found beneficial. Send any items for the newsletter to info@ivie-acb.org or abazyn@bazyncommunications.com.

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