

THE VENDORSCOPE®

RANDOLPH-SHEPPARD VENDORS OF AMERICA®



WINTER, 2013 – VOLUME 45 – ISSUE # 4



BLIND BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA



Purpose of the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America®

The purpose of this national organization is to bring together blind persons engaged in the operation of vending facilities, and individuals and groups supporting the goals and objectives of this organization, its members, and the Randolph-Sheppard vending facility program, in order to:

- A: Provide a continuing forum for the expression of the views of licensed blind vendors, trainees, retired blind vendors, and blind employees participating in, or affected by, the Randolph-Sheppard vending facility program;**
- B: Protect the interests of blind persons engaged in the operation of vending facilities under the Randolph-Sheppard program;**
- C: Promote the expansion and improvement of the Randolph-Sheppard program and the economic benefits and employment opportunities for blind vendors throughout the United States; and**
- D: Assist in promoting the purposes of the American Council of the Blind through affiliation with that organization.**

Bequests

If you or a friend would like to remember the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America in your will, you can do so by employing the following language; "I give, devise and bequeath unto the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America, a nonprofit charitable organization in the USA, the sum of \$--- (or '---') to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons."

If your wishes are more complex, you may have your attorney communicate with the executive office for other suggested forms.

THE VENDORSCOPE®

A PUBLICATION OF
THE RANDOLPH-SHEPPARD VENDORS OF AMERICA®
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THE VENDORSCOPE® provides a forum for issues of interest concerning the Business Enterprise Program for the Blind. Editorials, columns and articles appearing in this publication are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of RSVA's Board of Directors. Furthermore, editorials, columns and articles appearing in **THE VENDORSCOPE** do not constitute policies or recommendations of the organization unless otherwise stated. All submissions are welcome and will be considered for publication.

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**REMEMBER....
THE NEXT ISSUE OF YOUR
VENDORSCOPE CAN BE RECEIVED
VIA EMAIL...EITHER IN LARGE
PRINT OR TEXT VERSIONS.**

JUST REQUEST IT!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Dan Sippl, RSVA President

“Building Relationships”

As we strive to strengthen, preserve and build our great program for future generations, we must be diligent in reminding ourselves that our program has done well for our families, so now it is time for us to take care of the program. If not us, then who?

In our travels to many states and organizations this fall, it has become ever so apparent that we are the best ones to nurture and build our program or, perhaps, the only ones to do it justice. One very easy way to work on this is to build relationships with other blindness organizations and earn their respect and support. This is relatively easy as I have yet to come across any blind or visually impaired person lacking the desire to support or admire the BEP program; just simply feel they are not the entrepreneurial personality type.

Since reaching out and working with our friends in the blindness community accomplishes so much with such little effort, we can easily find time to reach out to other civic organizations to enhance their knowledge of the blindness-related issues that we overcome so readily in our everyday lives. Please keep in mind that the more you reach out, the easier it becomes to learn from their trials and tribulations in their lives and share those with our friends in the blindness community. As an example, this fall I relinquished my position as Past President of one of our local Kiwanis Clubs, and accepted the position of President once again.

As of this writing, I accepted the position of Treasurer of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, effective January 1st. It is amazing how so many people are curious as to the interworkings of our business, and how we accomplish such an undertaking. This curiosity brings understanding and support from great business leaders of our communities. Often times this involvement is the only involvement and experience that many have had in their lifetimes with a blind or visually impaired person.

I have never left a meeting without a great sense of satisfaction and achievement, not for myself, but rather for the entire blindness community. As we are all aware, many of us have a very lucrative business, but more of us have moderate financial success. In either case, the vast majority of us have more time than financial resources to share with other disability and non-disability organizations.

Perhaps we can look at it another way. Many individuals and businesses are suffering from a severe lack of disability knowledge and a limited awareness of the abilities of the blind and visually impaired community. Therefore, we can help educate them on blindness issues and they can reciprocate by assisting us in preserving and building our program through legislative support, moral support, and financial support to enhance our educational endeavors.

We must remember that education begins at home, so it is imperative that we all attend the Sagebrush Training Conference in Las Vegas in February to build relationships with our colleagues and peripheral businesses to take back to our business colleagues, friends and families back home.

Looking forward to seeing you in Las Vegas and hearing your thoughts on how to build relationships!

* * * * *

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIR

By: Ardis Bazyn, Publications Chair

The Publications Committee encourages you to check the www.rsva.biz website for more information about RSVA. This issue highlights our upcoming RSVA Sagebrush National BEP Training Conference in Las Vegas, in February. The agenda is packed with some well-known speakers and "need to hear" topics. Please submit nominations for the George Arsnow Scholarship Award for Sagebrush, as soon as possible (see reminder article on page 14). RSVA presents this award at our annual Sagebrush luncheon. The winner receives a free registration, hotel stay and flight.

In this issue, you will read about some good news on video description and cable TV accessibility, an article about a vendor getting removed out of a facility because the building was contracted, and our regular columns of "What's New?" Legislative News, and The President's Message, etc. The RSVA Publications Committee extends an invitation to all affiliates to please share your state upward mobility and state affiliate events with us, both to publicize your events in advance and to share outcomes and information about them, after they occur. Please let me know if your affiliate is planning an upcoming event and we'll write about it!

Did you know you can change the format of your Vendorscope if you wish? If you would prefer to receive your issue via email in Word or text, please let us know. We just need your preferred email address. This will save RSVA some money and make it easy for you to save the copies without taking room in your bookcase.

Our website now has past issues of the Vendorscope on it. The latest Vendorscope is not placed online right away, since receiving the Vendorscope promptly is a benefit of membership. However, we want members to encourage others to learn about our publication. We'd also like you to let us know what you'd like to see in future issues.

We have a periodic award for the best article sent in by an RSVA member who is not on the RSVA Board of Directors, or the RSVA Publications Committee. This award entitles the winner to a free flight, hotel and conference registration, to an upcoming RSVA conference of your choice.

Please keep those "FaceBook" and "LinkedIn" messages coming. We'd like to get you all connected. If you don't like to use the online site, sign up for the RSVA-L email list. It is the easiest way to connect with others interested in Randolph-Sheppard issues. There are links to all three opportunities on the RSVA website.

I want to again thank our Publications Committee and their commitment to complete each issue on time. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please give me or Dan Sippl a call.

RSVA OFFICE REPORT

By: RSVAs Administrative Staff

If anyone would like to include a memorial or their get-well wishes in "The Vendorscope", contact RSVAs.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sorrow that we make the following announcements. We would like to extend our condolences to all of their family and friends. All who knew and loved them will sorely and deeply miss each and every one of them.

Gene Rasberry (TX)

Henry Hunt (GA)

Reece Griffith (CA)

GET WELL WISHES FROM RSVAs

Natasha Humphreys (HI)

Jeannette Tu (HI)

Richard Bird (OH)

Hazel Harmon (CA)

Joyce Bullock (TX)

- - - - -

All of your much needed tax deductible donations can be sent to the RSVAs National Office, 940 Parc Helene Drive, Marrero, LA 70072-2421. The office phone number is 504-328-6373 and the fax number is 504-328-6372. Remember, RSVAs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. It is a pleasure to see our members so dedicated to our cause.

DONATIONS TO RSVA:

Harry Eberle (NJ)
Robert Kunau (AZ)
Michael Osborne (OH)

DONATIONS TO DURWARD K. MCDANIEL LEGAL FUND:

Howard Burt (AL)
Debra Hietala (FL)

RSVA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL: This is our most honorable individual membership bestowed upon those most philanthropically disposed individuals. Lifetime memberships may be attained with a one-time contribution of \$1,000.00 or more. A lifetime member in the RSVA President's Council receives a plaque from RSVA and acknowledgement at a national conference.

If you are interested in becoming a life member in the President's Council or perhaps you would like to honor someone else with an RSVA lifetime membership in the President's Council, please contact the RSVA National Office at 504-328-6373.

You can also purchase a life membership in RSVA for \$200. A separate fund has been established for life membership donations. All persons or organizations that make donations to RSVA are listed in the Vendorscope in the issue immediately after receiving the donation.

The current quarter's life memberships are:

Howard Burt (AL)
Edna C. Odegaard (CA)

- - - - -

MONTHLY MONETARY SUPPORT (MMS)

RSVA has instituted a “Monthly Monetary Support” or MMS plan. The plan is in conjunction with the American Council of the Blind (ACB). All an individual needs to do is sign up, and determine whether the MMS will come from a checking account or credit/debit card. There are two date choices for withdrawal during a month. That's it!!

Fifty percent goes to ACB and fifty percent goes to RSVA. If you want to donate \$25.00 a month to RSVA, the total would be \$50.00, with \$25 going to ACB. You can call the MN office of ACB with your credit card or banking account information at 612-332-3242 or toll free, 800-866-3242.

Alternatively, you can go to www.acb.org any time and click on the donation link. Then click on MMS donation. It will give you two options, either clicking a link for a credit card withdrawal form, or a link to a banking account withdrawal form.

Once you've signed up, you will receive a printed annual statement showing your total contribution, which is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!** You will be helping your organization as well as yourself!

DON'T MISS SAGEBRUSH 2014!

By: Ardis Bazyn, RSVA Secretary

“Let's Embrace Change - Change is the Steel We Can Forge to a New Future”

The RSVA 2014 Business Enterprise Program Sagebrush Training Conference at the legendary Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, a four star facility in downtown Las Vegas, has negotiated another super low room rate starting at only \$45 per night! The conference dates are Monday, February 10 through Friday, February 14, 2014.

The theme for the 2014 training conference is:

“Let's embrace change - Change is the steel we can forge to a new future”.

As usual, there will be a full program, with sessions for SLA administrators and staff, a State Committee Chair session, numerous educational subjects, including trending markets and healthy vending and marketing, as well as legislative Randolph-Sheppard issues and opportunities to visit with exhibitors (manufacturers and distributors of products and equipment) and sponsors, including DOD teaming partners.

Take advantage of the following topics and events:

- ❖ “Welcome to Vegas!” Reception
- ❖ “BEP Training - What’s Working?”

- ❖ “User Friendly Universal Access to Touch Screen Technology”
- ❖ “Integrating Healthy Products”
- ❖ “Accessible Technology for Business Management”
- ❖ “Does the future R-S Program Include Micro-Marts?”
- ❖ “Can Franchising Work in BEP?”
- ❖ “Randolph-Sheppard Program – the Big Bang”
- ❖ "How To Prevent an Unnecessary Audit”
- ❖ Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Blake Lindsay, Communications Manager at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind and Manager of Blazin’ Blake Productions
- ❖ American Council of the Blind, First Vice-President, Jeff Thom, providing updates on advocacy and events
- ❖ National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA) presents Healthy Vending Updates, as well as legislative issues
- ❖ SLA Administrator’s Panel
- ❖ Military Dining Training and Multiple State Contracting

Many new and exciting events are planned! We look forward to seeing you all there! Be a winner at our slot tournament! A special Valentine outing, for you and your “sweetheart”, is being explored! Additional special speakers, and the full agenda will be available on the www.rsva.biz website soon.

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS “THE FREMONT STREET EXPERIENCE”!

NOTE: Hotel reservations deadline is January 4, 2014. Room reservations must be made directly with the hotel. Phone 800-634-3454. Let them know you are with the RSVA Sagebrush Conference, 2014 or block room code - GSSAGEC. Special room rates are good from Saturday, February 8th, through Saturday, February 15th. Please check out the hotel and its room reservation policy at www.goldennugget.com

For more information, please contact the RSVA National Office at 504-328-6373 or 800-467-5299.

**PLAN FOR SOME EXTRA FUN AND
WIN SOME EXTRA FUNDS
AT SAGEBRUSH!**

**SIGN UP FOR THE “SLOT TOURNAMENT”
BY REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE AT
WWW.RSVA.BIZ SOON, BEFORE THE SLOT
TOURNAMENT FILLS UP WITH
PARTICIPANTS!!**

* * * * *

ACB 2014 LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

By: Ron Eller, RSVA 1st Vice President

ACB has announced the ACB's 2014 midyear meetings. These include a meeting of the ACB Board of Directors and possibly the Board of Publications, a meeting for affiliate presidents or their representatives, and the 2014 Legislative Seminar. The meeting dates are February 21-25. The Board meetings are on the 21st, followed by the Affiliate Presidents Meeting on the 22nd and 23rd, and the Legislative Seminar on the 23rd through the 25th.

Once again, the meetings will be at the Holiday Inn, National Airport in Arlington, Virginia. Room rates will be \$125.00 per night for singles and doubles, plus tax. The hotel is ready to start taking your reservations, and they can be made online or by telephone. To reserve your room online go to:

http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=WASDC&_PMID=99801505&GPC=ACB&blpu=true

You will need to enter our group code, which is *ACB*, in order to get our rate. To reserve your room by phone, you can call the hotel directly at 703-684-7200, or you can call the Holiday Inn's toll free number 877-834-3613. Again, you'll need to give the reservations agent the group code, which is *ACB*. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to these events.

* * * * *

**THE 2014 SAGEBRUSH CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

FAX _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

_____ DO NOT SHARE MY CONTACT INFORMATION

VENDOR _____ SPOUSE _____ GUEST _____ OTHER _____

SPEAKER _____ ADMINISTRATOR _____ BEP/STAFF _____

MEDIA FORMAT

LARGE PRINT _____ BRAILLE _____ CD _____ EMAIL _____

The following food events are included in your registration. To assist the convention committee, please check the events you plan to attend.

_____ Monday Evening Welcome Reception

_____ Tuesday Breakfast

_____ Wednesday Breakfast

_____ Wednesday Exhibits

_____ Thursday Breakfast

_____ Thursday Luncheon

_____ Friday Breakfast

(Over)

Registration Fee Prior To December 31, 2013 - \$175.00 _____

Registration Fee After December 31, 2013 - \$225.00 _____

Tuesday Night Slot Tournament - \$50.00 _____

“Vendorscope” Subscription/RSVA Membership - \$10.00 _____

Individual Convention Sponsorships:

Bronze \$25 _____ Silver \$50 _____ Gold \$100 _____ Platinum \$250 _____

To register online and pay by credit card/PayPal and to get conference updates, go to www.rsva.biz. For further information, contact RSVA @ 504-328-6373, fax: 504-328-6372 or e-mail: rsvaterry@juno.com.

Notice to all Participants:

A valid registration badge will be required to enter any convention function. Sorry we will be unable to give refunds after 12-31-13.

Make your check payable to: RSVA. Mail check and completed form to the RSVA National Office, 940 Parc Helene Dr., Marrero, LA 70072.

**..... OTHERWISE, YOU CAN REGISTER AT WWW.RSVA.BIZ
FOR THE ANNUAL SAGEBRUSH TRAINING CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 10th - 14th, 2014.**

**..... AND DONT' FORGET TO CALL THE GOLDEN NUGGET
HOTEL FOR YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS, 800- 634-3454.**

SEE YOU THERE!

***** REMINDER *****
GEORGE ARSNOW SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

The Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the annual George Arsnow Scholarship Award. The RSVA National Training Conference for BEP, offers the George Arsnow Scholarship to one newly-licensed blind vendor/manager in the Randolph-Sheppard Program.

An individual who has been licensed for less than two years will be selected by no later than December 31, 2013. Get your nominations in as soon as possible. The scholarship winner will be selected from among applicants who have been nominated by an RSVA member in the state where he or she is licensed.

The RSVA Awards Committee shall consider the person's background, training record and business operation to date. The RSVA member should send a letter of recommendation. The scholarship winner will receive airfare, hotel and free registration to enable him or her to attend all activities at the annual training conference.

For more information or for questions, please contact RSVA Awards Chairman, Eddie Turner at 601-624-4443 or email: ETurnerServices@aol.com. Please email your nomination letter to Eddie and cc a copy to:

randolph-sheppardvendorsofamerica@randolph-sheppard.org.

The scholarship is named in honor of George Arsnow, the former Chief of the Vending Facilities Branch at the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration. Throughout his tenure in this important post, George Arsnow demonstrated a personal commitment to the Randolph-Sheppard Program and to increased opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.

* * * * *

2014 RSVA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

With our 2014 membership drive in progress, you may ask:
What are the benefits of joining RSVA?

- ❖ RSVA is the oldest and largest organization of blind businessmen/ businesswomen in the United States.
- ❖ With membership you will receive the Vendorscope, the quarterly publication of RSVA, which gives updates of all legislative activity and governmental issues, follow-up articles on RSVA events, state upward mobility conferences, business information, and more!
- ❖ Membership offers the opportunity to network with peers and experts in the Randolph-Sheppard organization, from different states and programs.
- ❖ The RSVA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee keep members abreast of issues and actively work for positive change.

- ❖ These RSVA members also contacted legislators across the country to make them aware of the negative impact on R-S vendors, of the government shutdown in October.
- ❖ The Board of Directors actively gets involved with national and state efforts in healthy vending, and contributes feedback for transitions to implementation of healthy food regulations.
- ❖ The RSVA Legislative Committee led efforts in contacting legislators about the possible erosion of the program through the Portman Amendment to the 2012 U.S. Transportation Reauthorization Bill. Senator Barbara Boxer (D) (CA) was successful in having the amendment pulled.
- ❖ The RSVA Board of Directors, with collaboration from ACB and the RSA Commissioner, pursued an Executive Order for the Randolph-Sheppard Program. The President signed the Presidential Memorandum in January 2012.
- ❖ Stay informed with RSVA social media: Facebook, LinkedIn and the RSVA web site.
- ❖ RSVA has 3 national events each year for its members: the annual convention, the legislative seminar and the Sagebrush Conference.
- ❖ The RSVA Board of Directors stay in contact with legislators and staff on both state and national levels, to ensure the message of employment for blind businessmen and women is understood.

- ❖ Membership in RSVA includes active membership in the American Council of the Blind (ACB).
- ❖ Most of all, you have the opportunity to make your voice heard as an advocate for blind business person's rights.

All This for Only \$10 per Year!

With your involvement, RSVA can continue to meet the challenges coming from Washington, DC that attempt to limit the priority of the Randolph-Sheppard Program. We keep our legislators well informed of the value of our program. Members have access to the RSVA and the ACB National Offices as resource and information centers, giving legal consultation, advice and assistance to protect the legal interest of our blind businessmen & women.

State affiliates, state administrators, and statewide elected committee of managers may contact the RSVA office or the Board of Directors, to request a speaker for your upward mobility event or state conference. Any legally blind person who operates, or is an employee in a Randolph-Sheppard facility, and who wishes to support the work of RSVA, may join through an RSVA state affiliate or may become a member at large.

Any interested person wishing to support the aims and goals of RSVA, may join as an associate member. Life Membership is also available. Membership dues are \$10 and become payable on or before January 1st and become delinquent on March 1st of the same year.

RSVA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all dues and donations are tax deductible. Membership is also available on the RSVA website at www.rsva.biz and may be completed via the website. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Hiesler-Carruthers at cindyrsva@ymail.com or Kim Venable at kim.venable@att.net

Please return your completed membership application and check made payable to “Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America (RSVA)”.

Sincerely,
Terry Camardelle, Treasurer
Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By: Ron Eller, RSVA 1st Vice President

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has just announced that it will be publishing final regulations requiring that virtually all TV and TV-like devices must be accessible through audible controls, guides and menus! This action by the FCC is the result of an unprecedented outpouring by the vision loss community demanding greater accessibility.

Advocates will recall that there had been attempts by some industry groups to thwart the intent of the historic *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA)* to revolutionize the television viewing experience for people with disabilities.

AFB, along with the American Council of the Blind (ACB) successfully negotiated with leading industry advocates to craft the consensus that the FCC ultimately used to adopt their new rules.

Under this consensus, virtually all TV and TV-like devices, inclusive of tablets and smartphones, receiving digital video programming must be accessible through audible controls. The rules do apply a slightly different degree of accessibility requirements on devices that depend on additional equipment, such as a so-called cable card. However, even in such instances, the devices must be accessible but will only be required to be provided upon request. All other devices must be accessible as a matter of course unless the manufacturer can demonstrate that accessibility was not achievable.

This rulemaking is the last of the many rulemaking proceedings implementing the CVAA which, along with requirements for described TV programming and accessible advanced communications services such as text messaging and email, will forever change the way people who are blind or visually impaired can fully use and enjoy the most ubiquitous technologies on the market today.

Once the final official version of the new rules has been published, there will be more to say about the details. As with all of the FCC's regulations, they will only work to the extent that our community makes use of them through ongoing advocacy. And if history is our guide in this regard, these new rules will be a tremendous success.

When our community was called upon to make our voices heard, you were heard in no uncertain terms. Your advocacy made this transformative achievement possible. It will be up to all of us to continue to hold companies accountable for their responsibilities under these new rules, to make their video programming devices fully accessible to us.

FCC adopts new rules to make video devices accessible to people with disabilities.

This order represents a final milestone in the FCC's implementation of landmark law, making digital communications more accessible: The Federal Communications Commission today adopted rules that will enable people who are blind or visually impaired to have easier access to digital video programming on a wide range of electronic devices. The rules will also enable consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing to activate closed captioning on their devices with greater ease.

This action represents the final major step in the FCC's implementation of the *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010* (CVAA), enacted in 2010 to bring people with disabilities access to the modern and innovative communications technologies of the twenty-first century.

The CVAA is the most significant accessibility legislation since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result of the FCC's implementation of the CVAA, more than 50 million Americans will have greater access to advanced communications.

Devices covered under the rules adopted include navigation devices - devices used to access cable or satellite services, such as set-top boxes and TiVo's - as well as other devices used to receive or play back digital video, ranging from televisions and computers to tablets and smartphones. All covered devices are required to provide on-screen text menus and guides that are audibly accessible, as well as a mechanism that is comparable to a button, key or icon for activating certain accessibility features, such as closed captioning. Devices other than navigation devices are also required to make their other built-in functions accessible.

The Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking implements Sections 204 and 205 of the CVAA.

Its provisions include flexibility for small entities through extended compliance deadlines, outreach requirements to inform the public about the availability of accessibility options, and a procedure for complaints.

The Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeks comment on a number of areas where the current record is insufficient. The CVAA has helped ensure that people with disabilities are not left out of the digital revolution by requiring design features that improve accessibility in telephones and television, as well as on the Internet and in new devices, applications, and services.

The FCC has played a key role in implementing the Act through initiatives that have already provided enormous benefits to consumers, including the following:

More than 50 million Americans with disabilities have greater access to advanced communications services, such as text messaging, e-mail, and distant messaging and the equipment used with these services, such as smartphones, personal computers, laptops, and tablets.

36 million Americans who are deaf or have hearing loss can watch television programs with closed captions when those programs are re-shown over the Internet, and soon they will be able to use their cell phones, tablets and other portable wireless devices to watch these programs with captions.

25 million Americans who are blind or visually impaired can enjoy TV programs with video description and send an email or instant message on a smartphone.

Thousands of people who are deaf-blind can receive accessible communication devices so they can make telephone calls and access the Internet, to work, learn, and shop, like everyone else. Americans with disabilities are able to locate accessible communication products and services through the Commission's new accessibility clearinghouse at:

<http://apps.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse/>

And, as a result of today's actions, 25 million Americans who are blind or visually impaired will be able to navigate menus on a range of devices that show video programming, with access to captioning facilitated for an additional 36 million Americans.

* * * * *

FORMER BEP VENDOR ONE OF “50 NOTABLE PEOPLE”

For the 50th anniversary of the Department of Rehabilitation in California, 50 Notable People have been recognized for their service.

Joe Smith: Week 33, September 4 - 10, 2013

Model, mentor, and inspiration across the nation, Joe Smith embodies the American dream; successfully transitioning from dependency on public benefits, to entrepreneurship, and to becoming a husband, father, taxpayer and landowner along the way.

Born in rural Bakersfield as Fagan Smith, Joe began losing his eyesight gradually from birth, due to Retinitis Pigmentosa, eventually rendering him totally blind. In 1962, Joe entered training in the Business Enterprises Program (BEP) where he operated as a vendor until 1995. Joe had facilities throughout the state, from Auburn all the way to San Francisco City Hall.

In 1995, Joe became the Business Enterprises Program Administrator, bringing much-needed leadership and stability to the BEP, a program that had seen five different administrators in five years. Joe moved on to serve the Department of Rehabilitation in the *Americans with Disability Access Section* and as an Administrator of the *Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program*, until his retirement in 2009. While his lengthy tenure in the BEP is an outstanding accomplishment in itself, what distinguishes Joe from other leaders in the disability

community is his sense of purpose, the embodiment of employment, equality and independence.

Joe has a vision beyond BEP and was one of the few vendors that was an active supporter and participant in other organizations supporting the blind and visually impaired, including but not limited to; the California Council of the Blind, the American Council of the Blind, the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America, the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of California, and the California Blind Concessionaires Association.

Joe was a cornerstone in the establishment and development of the Sagebrush Conference, a national forum bringing together vendors from across the nation, and giving them the opportunity to shape the future of the BEP and the blind community as a whole.

He has the unique ability to listen to the concerns and perspectives of those around him and develop a meaningful plan of action. Joe can always identify the good in anyone and never allows differences of opinion to stand in the way of moving an issue forward or fostering a conversation that will bring about a brighter future.

CONGRATULATIONS JOE SMITH!

* * * * *

**REMEMBER... RSVVA IS YOUR ANSWER TO ISSUES.
CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER FOR ADVOCACY!**

GEORGIA ANNUAL VENDOR CONFERENCE

By: Zachary Snow, RSVVA Board Member

The state of Georgia held its annual training conference at the Sonesta Hotel in Duluth, GA on the weekend of October 17, 2013. The conference usually has a standard schedule of events that we had been following for several years, if not decades. Usually we would convene on Friday night for an opening ceremony followed by an open forum.

Saturday, we would hold seminars on customer service, basic business practices, and have a trade show. Saturday evening, we would have a formal dinner and awards ceremony. On Sundays, vending machine training was provided. However, as Vice Chairman of the Committee of Blind Vendors, it was my job to plan the conference this year. Needless to say we made a few changes.

Our Friday night open forum had become more of a complaint fest with individuals complaining about their own perceived injustices in the program. I left the open forum several years in a row, wondering why we did this. As Vice Chair, I removed the open forum and replaced it with the candidates running for statewide chairman.

We had four candidates running this year. Each candidate was given fifteen minutes to stand before the vendor body and explain what they intended to do, if elected. They also had the option to have two people speak on their behalf for two minutes each. It went great. We replaced a negative activity with a positive event that left me inspired.

On Saturday we still had two workshops and a trade show. However, instead of customer service and basic business practices, we held a class on how to write and present a business plan, bringing in a CPA. The business plan class was mandatory because we have a new interview process in which your business plan is 50% of your total score.

The plan, combined with the ten oral questions (50%), make up your total score. The CPA answered questions about taxes and write-offs. I was told by several vendors that this year's workshops were very informative and that they had learned more at this year's conference than years past.

On Saturday night, we received the election results. Wayne Dye is our newly elected statewide chairperson. Wayne is a member of RSVA, has been a member of our committee of blind vendors for several years, and on top of that he is an excellent vendor. Wayne is a progressive thinker who works hard for the vendors of the state of Georgia. Dale King received the Vendor of the Year Award for 2013. Dale runs an excellent operation at the Twin Towers in Atlanta. Dale often goes the extra mile for vendors in our area.

On Sunday morning, we held our refresher course on vending machines. We had a repairman, Earl Carden, from our AMS distributor come and teach this class. Although some vending classes are the same, Earl always teaches tips and tricks about vending machines.

Overall I would say we are moving in the right direction. We eliminated a negative event and replaced it with a positive activity.

We replaced the usual classes on Saturday with informative classes to help you get a new location and save you money. We have a new chairman in place that will deal with issues instead of sweeping them under the rug. It is my opinion that we had an excellent event and that the Georgia BEP is continuing on the success journey.

* * * * *

PROFILE: EDDIE TURNER

By: Marie Keane, RSVA Board Member

Eddie is one of RSVA's Board Members who had served from 2010-2012 and was then re-elected to serve from 2012-2014. Eddie is presently Chairman of the RSVA's Awards Committee and he is also actively involved with the Convention Committee.

Eddie Turner is a graduate of the Mississippi School for the Blind (MSB) where his aspirations toward becoming an entrepreneur first began. While in the fourth grade, Eddie sold drinks and snacks at the school canteen. He creatively converted his popcorn popper into a cooker and fried bologna to make sandwiches to sell to his fellow students during his school years.

Along with all the important accomplishments in Eddie's life, he was proudest of becoming an Eagle Scout. After graduation in 1981, Eddie began working at the Mississippi Industries for the Blind (MIB) and was a line leader. The administration wanted to promote him, but the State Personnel Board regulations required five years' experience. A request for a Supervisor's position was denied.

When MIB went on a four-day work schedule, Eddie began taking training under the Randolph-Sheppard Program on Fridays, in January, 1987. Then, in December, 1987, he was asked to run an open stand. This opportunity has brought many positive experiences to his life.

Eddie Turner has been a licensed vendor in the state of Mississippi since 1987. During these years, he has operated many different types of facilities including snack bars, vending routes and cafeterias, and he presently operates the Military Dining Hall at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Mississippi.

Eddie has served on the elected Committee of the Business Enterprise Program in Mississippi for several terms, where he has also served as chairman. Eddie is also currently serving on the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America, Board of Directors, and has received the Vendor of the Year award from this organization.

He is active in advocacy efforts, both locally and nationally. Eddie is willing to tackle those tough issues on behalf of all blind vendors everywhere. Please feel free to contact Eddie for any vendor concerns or issues.

RSVA is a grassroots advocacy group and Eddie's extra efforts are always appreciated.

Thank you Eddie for all of your special efforts!

* * * * *

CALIFORNIA VENDOR A “NO-WARE MAN”

Reproduced from L.A. Times Metro, 10/14/13

Column One: *Vendor is no longer a “no-ware man”. Rick Lopez ran the cafeteria and snack bar at the Long Beach courthouse for 20 years. Forced out, he's set up shop elsewhere.*

By: Christine Mai-Duc

When Rick Lopez packed up the sodas, chips, gum and candy on his final day, he knew he was leaving a lot behind. There was the security guard who helped him set up shop in the morning and would give him a ride home in the evening, the judicial commissioner who raved that his egg salad sandwich was the best in town, the attorneys who arrived early for the freshly brewed coffee, and even the old, dilapidated Long Beach courthouse itself.

For two decades, Lopez was a fixture there, running the cafeteria and snack bar through a state program that gives blind vendors priority in government buildings. But when all the judges, bailiffs and clerks moved down the street to a gleaming new courthouse this fall, Lopez didn't make the trip. State officials told Lopez there was nothing they could do to keep him in Long Beach, but they could transfer him to another location.

The new courthouse was built by a public-private partnership and developers were given the right to lease out the food stalls as they pleased. Taking his place would be a food court with chains such as Subway, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. Lopez was crushed.

A courthouse is often a place where some of life's sad and dire dramas play out. But for Lopez, it was also a place where he and a regular cast of characters found ways to bond. As he walked away from the old courthouse for the last time, he cried.

Lopez, 59, has never married and lives alone in a one-bedroom condo in Long Beach. Every night he phones his 92-year-old mother to catch up. Blind at birth, he regained some sight in his left eye as he got older. He credits his mother, who prayed over him every day. She would wave her palm over his head, and one day his eyes began tracking it. "She could never take no for an answer," he said.

In high school in upstate New York, he ran track, always careful to keep his competitors to his left so that he could see them with his good eye. When he was 23, he left New York to study at a small theology school near Disneyland. He stayed in California, taking odd jobs to make ends meet. During one stretch, he worked as a night-shift manager at a tortilla factory. When a friend told him about the state's blind vendor program, he applied and landed at a tiny snack bar at a juvenile hall in San Diego, selling chips and sodas.

It wasn't until he was transferred to Long Beach, several years later, that he finally felt at home. Family members of defendants and victims, along with prosecutors and defense attorneys, came to know him by name. The court interpreters, whose offices were next to Lopez, would come in to get their weekly fix of french fries. He was there long enough that some of those who were called to jury duty for a second or third time became regulars.

"I eat up the years like I eat popcorn," Lopez said of his decades at the Long Beach courthouse. His hair has gone gray, and his constant laughter has carved deep lines in his face, but he said, "I don't feel old". He has a knack for remembering names and faces, even of people just passing through. When someone says a kind word, he replies simply: "You're nice."

Lydell Ball, a security guard, looked for him first thing in the morning at the old courthouse and sometimes helped him set out the pastries and get the coffee going. Ball would take Lopez on Costco runs, and Lopez always made sure to stock up on Whoppers, the guard's favorite candy. Ball misses the vendor. Lopez went by the new building a couple weeks ago after hearing Ball had been out sick.

"I want to make sure you're doing what the doctors tell you," Ball recalled Lopez telling him. By that time, the old Long Beach courthouse had been shuttered, its escalators still, and a sign advertising Lopez's sixth-floor cafeteria papered over with a misspelled notice: "*Serado*", *closed*.

After leaving Long Beach, Lopez set up shop at the Downey courthouse, a two-hour train and bus ride from home. He wakes up at 3 a.m., dedicating an hour to prayer before heading out the door. He sees well enough to get around on his own, but has little peripheral vision and no sight in his right eye. Lopez was able to take two of his employees to Downey with him, but the snack bar doesn't have a kitchen, and he had to let his longtime cook go.

His shop is tucked into a windowless corner on the first floor where he can hear the constant beep of the security screeners.

He is still getting the hang of the register, and the ice machine and freezer are in need of repair. Business is slower, but he's convinced his store will thrive.

Shelves that were practically bare when he first arrived, are stacked with neat rows of packaged bear claws and doughnuts, the fridge stocked with sandwiches. Near the register, a hot dog warmer clinked as it rotated. "Quarter-pounder, all beef," he said, beaming. Lopez took apples and plums and rearranged them into neat rows. "We buy with our eyes," he said, looking up.

He is getting to know a young security guard who's about to become a father. "It's going to change your life," Lopez advised him, patting him on the back. The guard, a foot taller than Lopez and half his age, grinned sheepishly. During his first couple of weeks, Lopez said, his sales weren't enough to cover his employees' wages; he drew from his savings to pay the bills. He has big plans: a popcorn machine, ice cream, and, eventually, made-to-order breakfast and BLTs for lunch. "Remember 'Casablanca'? We just have to get a little piano now," said Lopez, his eyes squinting with laughter behind thick glasses.

Still, he said, he had been praying for change – for sales to improve or another courthouse to serve. Two weeks ago, the state granted Lopez a temporary contract to run the cafeteria at the Compton courthouse, too...a far busier facility, that's closer to home. He called his cook to tell him he could have his job back. Lopez will spend time at both spots. One morning, he was walking through the hallway in Downey when he noticed a somber-looking man in line for small claims court.

He stopped to talk to him. David Lugo had recently lost his son, killed when the driver of a parked car he was sitting on sped off and ran him over.

Lopez listened to his story and suddenly hugged Lugo, a bear of a man, and invited him to the snack bar. The two talked about faith and purpose and grieving. Before he left, Lopez shook the man's hand and discreetly slipped a \$100 bill into his palm to help with funeral costs. Just after noon, one of the security guards walked in with a nod and retrieved his sack lunch from a refrigerator, leaving a dollar at the register for a 'cup' of coffee.

A few minutes later, a gruff-looking man with a mustache and tattoos on both arms showed up. "So you took over, huh?" he said, looking around. "Yeah, I did," Lopez said. "Do you work here?" "Just passing through," the man replied as he paid for his water and stepped out into the hall to wait.

Lopez has begun to cultivate a new group of regulars. He's introduced himself to court employees and traded laughs with the building manager. Between customers, he recited one name after another, committing them to memory. "You grow where you're planted," Lopez said with a shrug, and then turned to his register to ring up the next sale.

***REGISTER FOR SAGEBRUSH AND GET READY FOR
NEW EXHIBITORS, SPONSORS, FRIENDS...
AND LAS VEGAS FUN!***

HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND CELEBRATES 40 YEARS FOR ITS PRESIDENT...WARREN TOYAMA!

By: Vendorscope Publications Staff

A very special celebration was held at the Honolulu County Club on August 31, 2013. Over 100 attendees were greeted by a large banner hanging high above, declaring “*Mahalo Plenty Warren!*” Warren Toyama had served as President of the Hawaii Association of the Blind for 40 years and the HAB was honoring Warren for his many years of service to the Hawaiian blind community.

The celebration was sponsored by the Hawaii Association of the Blind and the Blind Vendors of Ohana. Entertainment was provided by Ron Miyashiro and Friends, singing and playing music reminiscent of popular music during the 40 years of his service. Ron had attended the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind with Warren many years previously.

Warren, accompanied by his wife Julie, was completely surprised by the celebration of his service. The party began with a special cocktail hour in which drinks were served with special toasts from friends and dignitaries. Leis were piled high on both Warren and Julie as a “thank you” for honoring Warren.

Lauhala baskets were centered at each dinner table filled with local favorites such as candy, Mele Macs (special toffee and chocolate covered macadamia nuts), flowers, etc. Pupus, poke, garlic chicken, and all sorts of Hawaiian specialties were served as part of an awesome Hawaiian sit-down menu.

Of special note were the local political dignitaries who attended the celebration. Senator Suzanne Chun - Oakland, Senator Will Espero, and Judge Rey Graulty enthusiastically praised Warren for representing the blind community of Hawaii. Mainland special guests were RSVA President, Dan Sippl and his wife Sue, RSVA 1st Vice President, Ron Eller, RSVA Secretary, Ardis Bazyn and her husband, Kevin Berkery and RSVA Board Member, Roy Harmon and his wife, Hazel.

Program highlights included a very long and personal proclamation from Hawaii's governor, Neil Abercrombie, read by HAB member Amelia Cedrone. A second proclamation was then presented by Senator Suzanne Chun - Oakland. Judge Rey Graulty also presented Warren with a proclamation. RSVA President, Dan Sippl, presented Warren with an engraved money clip as a present, to thank him for all of his tireless efforts on behalf of blind vendors. Don Thompson presented Warren with a special plaque from HAB, and Filo Tu presented Warren with an all-expense paid trip to Las Vegas from the HAB and BVO.

After the formal presentations, a special audio tape was played for Warren. It contained many, many messages from ACB members throughout the nation, thanking Warren for his tireless efforts not only for the blind community of Hawaii, but the blind community throughout the nation. These messages were compiled during the annual ACB convention in July, in Columbus, Ohio. After the audio messages, Warren was finally able to thank everyone for the wonderful surprise celebration. He reminded everyone that they need to continue to work for their rights for employment, etc.

Warren then talked about the importance of establishing and maintaining relationships politically. He told us he had been friends with the present governor for years, prior to his election. He maintained relationships with senators and congressmen and would always attend any event he was invited to, as well as maintain relationships with the staff, etc.

Warren advised that we should never wait for an issue to arise and then try to get someone to politically help. Establishing and maintaining a relationship prior to issues arising, is vital for getting help for the blind community. It was clear the Hawaiian Association of the Blind, the Blind Vendors of Ohana, Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America, and the American Council of the Blind have all benefited from Warren's dedication and hard work.

Thank you Warren for your continued dedication!!

* * * * *

CALIFORNIA'S ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

By: Roy Harmon, RSVA Board Member

The 2013 Annual Vendor Training Program got underway in Sacramento, at the Holiday Inn, on November 1, 2013. California utilizes a CVPC subcommittee of approximately 7-10 vendors each year, to work with training staff and administration, in planning the conference and the extra-curricular activities.

On Friday at 12:00 noon, registration opened for the vendors attending this year's training. From 12:00 to 2:30 p.m., during the registration process, vendors were greeted by several brokerage firms presenting new products and equipment.

“Goody Bags” were provided for vendors during registration by the Atnip Corporation. Joe Rogan, RSA Buyers Group, was able to meet individually with vendors and help sign them up for their rebate program.

The training session began promptly at 2:30 p.m. with a presentation by James Swift, a financial consultant with Charles Schwab. Mr. Swift discussed in detail the various retirement plans available, including IRAs, SEP-IRAs, and 401k’s. Throughout the conference, vendors had made personal appointments with a representative from Prudential Financial Services, as vendors are participants in a group retirement program with Prudential, as well.

The remaining part of the day contained presentations by BEP staff and administration, disclosing the health of the California BEP Program and vendor earnings, etc.

For the evening entertainment, the training subcommittee had planned “Karaoke Night” in the Hospitality suite and a good time was had by all who attended.

Following a program breakfast, Saturday’s program included an Apple presentation, a DOR/BEP report and healthy trends in vending. The luncheon speaker was Urban Miyares, who gave a presentation on how to effectively build and market your business.

How to Hire and Dismiss Employees was presented by Dr. Sharyn Gardener, an Associate Professor of Management at Sacramento State University.

A deputy labor commissioner, with the *Division of Labor Standards Enforcement*, then gave a presentation on “Labor Law” and provided necessary materials that vendors must post for employees.

The classes ended with two video presentations; one was titled “The Pickle” and the other “How to Connect in Business in 90 Seconds or Less”. The day ended with a dinner banquet for the vendors, followed by an auction to raise funds for events at the annual conference.

Following Sunday breakfast, Gene Romagna, an independent business consultant, gave an excellent presentation on progressive, advanced management processes, skills and techniques for BEP business owners. The California Vendors Policy Committee used the remaining morning time to present their committee updates and subcommittee reports.

The conference ended at noon on Sunday to allow time for vendors to travel back home, throughout the state. There were lots of comments that this year’s educational presentations were outstanding and most vendors appreciated the efforts of everyone involved. Vendors also had “off-time” opportunities to meet with Nicky Gacos, NABM President, Dan Sippl, RSVA President, and Ron Eller, RSVA 1st Vice President to discuss R-S issues and to learn more about the national vendor organizations.

* * * * *

WHAT'S NEW?

By: Ardis Bazyn, RSVA Board Secretary

(To submit items for this column, please send information to Ardis Bazyn, email: abazyn@bazyncommunications.com. Note, the appearance of any items in this column does not imply any endorsement by the RSVA Board or by the Publications Committee.)

Odin Mobile Phones

Odin Mobile, a nationwide provider of cellular service, serves people who are visually impaired. Odin sells phones and provides cellular service. Odin uses the T-Mobile network but they are a separate carrier. Anywhere T-Mobile has its network, Odin will have coverage. Odin does not provide service in areas where T-Mobile provides roaming coverage.

The current three phones are the Emporia Essence (\$49), the Emporia Click (\$73), and the Huawei Vision (\$299 with RAY software installed). The Essence is manufactured by Emporia, an Austrian company, new to the U.S. This phone is inexpensive and has been customized for blind users who just want to make calls. Low-vision users can send and receive text messages and access other functions because it has a high-contrast screen and large font size.

Odin worked with the manufacturer so that the phone is useable out of the box. The screen is set to the highest contrast and the font size is set to large.

Features:

* Speaks the numbers when they are pressed.

- * Speaks "delete" when a number is deleted.
- * Speaks "calling" when a number is being called.
- * Speaks the battery level at the press of a button.
- * If the key lock feature is used, the phone will speak "key lock on" and "key lock off".
- * Speaks "home" when the user is at the Home screen.
- * Speaks "menu" when the user has accessed a menu.
- * Speaks "call ended" at the end of each call.
- * Gives audio feedback when Bluetooth is activated and deactivated.
- * Allows for five speed-dial numbers.
- * Phone comes with desktop stand for charging.
- * Does not speak text messages.

The Click is a clamshell phone designed for low vision users and users who have difficulty hearing. This phone does not have text-to-speech capability and therefore is not appropriate for someone who uses a screen reader.

Features:

- * Large keys.
- * High-contrast color display with adjustable font size.
- * Extra powerful speakers.
- * Ringtones can be adjusted to very high volumes.
- * High power vibrations when a call comes in.
- * Three speed-dial buttons.
- * Desktop stand charger.

- * Call for Care button, (when pushed, five separately stored numbers are called in sequence until one answers; emergency SMS messages are also sent to emergency numbers).

The Vision, manufactured by China-based company Huawei, is an Android phone that uses the Ice Cream Sandwich 4.0 operating system. RAY software makes this phone readily accessible and gives users with vision loss access to many important smartphone features. It was developed by Project RAY, an Israeli company.

Although this software has previously been used in other countries, it's now making its debut in the U.S. The RAY has a unique user interface designed from the ground up for *eyes-free* operation and every feature is accessible. It emphasizes simplicity and is an ideal phone for a user with vision loss who wants basic, and certain advanced capabilities, but does not need or want all of the functionality (or expense) of an iPhone.

The RAY will include capabilities such as calling, text messaging, alarms, calendar, and managing contacts. The device has speech recognition to make calling and text messaging easier. It also offers more advanced capabilities, such as an easier-to-use GPS, voice recorder, money recognition and color recognition.

It accesses audio books, newspapers, and magazines. The Audible application is pre-loaded onto the RAY, to give the user access to more than 100,000 audio books. In addition, it plans to integrate the RAY with the NFB Newslines, the National Library Service and the Connecticut Radio Information System and additional organizations that can make available audio

materials on the RAY. Odin's rate plans were designed with lower income users in mind.

The rate plans range anywhere from \$10 to \$45. The \$10 plan allows for 150 minutes a month, while for \$45 you get 4000 minutes and 4000 texts. There are additional plans between those rates so the customer can select a more customized plan. Data plans are also offered in various amounts.

For example, the \$5 plan allows up to 100MB usage and the \$30 plan allows up to 2 GB. At the present time, only the Huawei Vision with RAY software supports data, but the additional smartphones Odin plans to offer in the future will also support data. When a customer receives a newly purchased phone, all accessibility features are on by default.

Odin Mobile will donate 2 percent of their talk and text revenue to organizations that assist the blind community. Odin is also applying to the Federal Communications Commission to be part of its Lifeline Program. Odin Mobile is creating an advisory board consisting of at least three people from the blind community.

The purpose of the advisory board is to keep Odin Mobile connected to the needs of its customers. Specifically, the members will provide Odin Mobile with feedback regarding its existing services, as well as ideas on how better to meet customer needs in the future.

To learn more about Odin Mobile and the services it provides, visit the Odin Mobile website at <http://www.odinmobile.com/> or call 800-826-0337.

Code Factory Phones

Code Factory, developers of software solutions for the blind, has announced today that their Mobile Accessibility suite of apps will support Microsoft's Windows Phone 8. Mobile Accessibility for Windows Phone 8 will be offered free of charge in the Windows Phone Store. Users will be able to access and enjoy their devices within a suite of accessible apps for the most common wireless tasks. Along with basic functionality of calling and contacts management, users will have access to emails, web browsing and messaging.

Mobile Accessibility gives access to six simple and intuitive apps that will increase user's productivity on everyday tasks:

- Phone app to place and answer calls, and manage your call log.
- Contacts Manager app for managing contacts from users' Microsoft Account.
- Messaging app to compose and read SMS messages.
- An easy-to-configure email app, compatible with IMAP.
- First-class accessible web browser.
- Settings Manager to configure the app details and notifications to fit each user's needs.

For more information, feel free to contact Code Factory S.L., Code Factory, S.L., C/ Major 19, 2-3, 08221 Terrassa (Barcelona). Help desk: www.codefactory.es.

Glucose Monitor Syncs with Mobile Devices

This portable Bluetooth-enabled blood glucose monitor syncs readings automatically to a designated iOS or Android device for future tracking and sharing.

iHealth Lab's wireless blood glucose monitor is available at Best Buy for \$79.95. From the cloud, they can track their measurements and share the results with their health care providers. The device unveiled, received FDA approval. It can be purchased at Best Buy stores nationwide and on the Best Buy and iHealth Lab websites. It is small, sleek and not at all flashy. After charging the device and downloading the free companion, iHealth Gluco-Smart App, the initial set-up takes a few minutes and the whole kit comes in a small case with little compartments for easy storage.

The set-up also comes with 50 test strips, and through the app (for iPhone, iPad , iPod Touch and Android devices) users can not only track trends but set up reminders to take medications, as well as track test strip expiration dates, without any counting or coding involved.

The glucose monitor joins iHealth Lab's suite of heart-related mobile health devices that are all connected through the cloud, including blood pressure monitor, wireless scales and wireless activity and sleep trackers.

Shop Amazon and Support ACB

Are you starting to make your shopping list for the upcoming holidays? You can support the American Council of the Blind while shopping! You can shop Amazon and a portion of your hard-earned money can go to assist ACB. It is really easy.

Here's how: Simply go to www.acb.org/adp and you will find information on ACB's Audio Description Project. There is a link called "The ADI Amazon.com Associate Link." This will take you to Amazon, where you can shop as usual.

ACB receives a commission on everything you purchase from Amazon through this link - described DVD's, games, household products, books, music and even food.

And it doesn't cost you one penny more to help ACB! If you have an account at Amazon, they will recognize you when you enter, using the ACB links. You can shop the Amazon main site or a link to an accessible site.

Spend some time on the ADP page; there is a bundle of very valuable information there for your perusal. You'll find information about audio-described TV shows, movies, DVD's and much more.

TV Described Programming

Tuesdays :

Brooklyn Nine-Nine (FOX), 8:30 E / 7:30 C
Covert Affairs (USA), 9:00 E / 8:00 C
The Mindy Project (FOX), 9:30 E / 8:30 C
Chicago Fire (NBC), 10:00 E / 9:00 C
Suits (USA), 10:00 E / 9:00 C

Wednesdays :

Law and Order SVU (NBC), 9:00 E / 8:00 C
Royal Pains (USA), 9:00 E / 8:00 C

Thursdays :

Parks and Recreation (NBC), 8:00 E / 7:00 C
Burn Notice (USA), 9:00 E / 8:00 C
Parenthood (NBC), 10:00 E / 9:00 C
Graceland (USA), 10:00 E / 9:00 C

iOS 7 Without the Eye

It is available in Braille, eBraille (BRF), or DAISY for \$19.95. Is iOS 7 a step forward or a step back for blind users? This book explores all aspects of the latest version of Apple's mobile operating system from the viewpoint of a blind user.

The author guides readers through the installation of iOS 7, including all necessary safeguards to protect your data, as well as everything that's new and everything that's changed from a VoiceOver user's perspective. It covers iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch. Read the full table of contents and order the Braille, BRF or DAISY editions at: <http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/IOS7-EYE.html>. Please note: You can purchase an accessible PDF and RTF edition of this book directly from Jonathan Mosen at:

<http://mosen.org/index.php/mosen-consulting-ebook-ios7-without-the-eye>

All iPhone and iPad books and tutorials can be ordered, 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>.

Starbucks Offers Braille Gift Cards Year-Round

A Braille gift card is now a regular at the Starbucks registers for disability awareness. It will now be part of the chain's permanent gift card lineup. On the face of the card is Braille lettering that reads "Starbucks," to help customers differentiate it from the other cards in their wallets or purse.

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**RANDOLPH - SHEPPARD VENDORS OF AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



Year First Joined: _____ New Member Renewal

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

BUSINESS

Business Name: _____ Work Address: _____

Work City: _____ Work State _____ Work Zip Code _____

_____ Cell Phone: _____

MEMBERSHIP

(Please Check One)

- Regular Member: Dues \$10.00. Any legally blind person who manages or is an employee in a facility.
- Associate Member: Dues \$10.00. Any interested person, business or organization wishing to support the aims and goals of RSVA.
- Life Member: Free, retired, 5-year member nominated by state affiliate.
- Any member in good standing wishing to become a Life Member for a one-time donation of \$200.00.
- Any member in good standing wishing to become a Life Member in the President's Council for a one-time donation of \$1,000. This member will receive a plaque and special recognition at a national convention and in the Vendorscope.
- Corporate Member: Any business or organization wishing to support the goals of RSVA. (Please contact the national office for details.)

(Over)



MEMBER PROFILE



Vendor Spouse Administrator Employee

Other _____

Blind Partial Sighted

THE VENDORSCOPE

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