



“The Blind Spot”

**Newsletter of the Oklahoma Council of the Blind,
an Affiliate of the American Council of the Blind**

P.O. Box 1476

Oklahoma City, OK 73101

1-877-578-6212 -- Website: www.okcb.org

August 2017 Convention Edition



**Come Join Us
at the**

**Oklahoma Council of the Blind
2017 Annual Conference and Convention
September 22-24, 2017**

Tower Hotel

**3233 Northwest Expressway
in Oklahoma City.**



President's Message

By Joe Fallin

It's time! Time to saddle up and get ready for the upcoming OCB State Conference and Convention. It will be held in Oklahoma City this year from September 22-24 at the TOWER HOTEL in Oklahoma City. Those of you who have attended before don't need to be told how fun and important the convention is. In addition to the traditional program, including status reports on blindness services, our non-denominational service on Sunday morning, and of course, elections and resolutions, we'll have the pleasure of welcoming a new affiliate to the OCB Family. We're thrilled that Duncan is ready and eager to join us. There is also the banquet with well-known cowboy storyteller, Scot Taylor, music and, a first for us, a line dancing group, who will attempt to teach those of us who are up for the task, a new skill.

Our Friday Professional and Consumer Training Program features Anthony Stephens, Advocacy and Government Affairs Director for the American Council of the Blind. He's presenting on WIOA. No, that's not a Martian word meaning cold summer, but rather the newest version of the Rehabilitation Act and the Workforce Act. It's caused us to learn much that is new. Whether you are a rehabilitation professional, a client, or advocate, all of you can benefit from this session. Remember we'll have our annual business meeting on Sunday morning. We'll elect new officers, including a new President, as well as members-at-large. It promises to be another great convention. So, fill out those registration forms, and make your reservations. You will meet old friends and make new ones, and have a great time doing it.

We will be sampling out some of our dips available through our Rada Fundraiser and will have some for sale at the convention as well as being able to order items to be delivered to your home. Help support our organization.

Conference and Convention Highlights: Vicky Golightly Chair • Pam Holloway, Co-Chair

Are you ready to Saddle Up to OCB and walk, ride, or stampede to the 2017 Conference and Convention of the Oklahoma Council of the Blind? We plan to have a darn tootin good time with this western theme Put those horses in the barn and bed down the cattle and join us on September 22-24 at the Tower Hotel in Oklahoma City. The Tower Hotel is located at 3233 Northwest Expressway, in Oklahoma City. We even have specially designed T-shirts with our theme logo imprinted. Limited sizes and supply.

ROOM DETAILS

Sleeping room rates are \$73 per night plus applicable taxes for one to four occupancy. Make reservations by calling the hotel at (405) 842-6633 and let them know you are with the Oklahoma Council of the Blind. To guarantee the hotel sleeping room rate of \$73 per night, the deadline for reservations is September 15. After that date, you may or may not receive the \$73 rate.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Registration fee for the Convention until September 15 is \$90 and after that date, the registration is \$100. This does not include the all-day Professional/Consumer Training seminar on Friday from 8am to 5pm. Registration for the entire convention, including the Professional Consumer Training seminar, is \$110 until September 15, and after that date, the registration amount is \$120. Please remember that the OCB must cover the expense of meeting rooms, printing the convention program, paying for incidentals such as meals and lodging for speakers, etc. Also, the cost of our meeting rooms is impacted by how many people reserve sleeping rooms at the hotel. We appreciate your support.

HIGHLIGHTS

Festivities begin Friday with a Consumer/ Professional seminar. Our keynote speaker is Anthony Stephens, Advocacy and Government Affairs Director of the American Council of the Blind. Tony will discuss and lasso the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA), which affects

both clients and rehabilitation professionals. We will also discuss transition and how counselors and consumers can better work together for a mutually beneficial, maximum outcome.

Friday night you will be welcomed by OCB President Joe Fallin and Conference Committee Chairs, Vicky Golightly and Pam Holloway.

After a delicious BBQ dinner provided by the Heartland Council of the Blind, you will have the opportunity to give your input on important OCB resolutions and constitution/bylaws. Come be a part of OCB's future and learn what each of us can do to improve the lives of blind and visually impaired Oklahomans.

You can also choose to socialize and network with fellow OCB members while playing several "western" games. Don't plan to lollygag because there's no time for that.

Vendors will exhibit Saturday from 8am to 5pm. Exhibitors include: high-tech computers and CCTVs, low-tech independent living aids, arts and crafts, home decorating aids and some vendors you have not seen before. There will be plenty

of no conflict time to visit vendors; that means no meetings going on during your special time with our important vendors. A silent auction will be held all day Saturday as well.

Saturday you will hear updates from Visual Services Administrator Teresa McDermott, who will discuss Visual Services programs including rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility, the ABLE Program, Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Business Enterprise Program, and much more. We will also get an update on what's happening at the V.A. by Tony Kirksey, the relatively new Visual Impairment Specialist and NewView Oklahoma's CEO Lauren Branch. Much more will take place on Saturday with additional speakers, our awards luncheon, banquet and evening activities.

And the fun begins at the banquet in the OCB Corral where we will enjoy a wonderful steak and chicken dinner. Scot Taylor, cowboy poet/singer/storyteller will entertain us followed by line dancing lessons.

A non-denominational church service on Sunday morning is where we can give praise to our Lord for all that He has created and for our lives.

Then we have the most important part of OCB, our Annual Business Meeting where we take care of important OCB business. We discuss and pass resolutions to make this world accessible to all. We decide on our leaders of OCB to lead us into the future. This is a time to advocate for the Oklahoma Council of the Blind.

Please register as soon as possible so the Conference and Convention Committee has time to prepare your name tags and registration packets in advance. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and mail, along with your payment, to Jeanne Meyer, 814 North F Street, Muskogee, OK 74403. Make checks payable to “The Oklahoma Council of the Blind.” You can also find the registration form on the OCB website www.okcb.org and our Facebook page.

Scholarships Available

Is this your first time to attend an OCB Convention? Do you need some financial assistance, then read on and listen up. If you are blind and would like to apply for one

of five scholarships for first-timers offered by OCB to attend our convention, please email or write a letter telling us why you would like to attend. The scholarship will cover the registration fee, which includes five meals. If you plan to go to the Friday seminar, we will pay that part of your registration also, which includes lunch. Scholarships will be awarded to individuals who are first-timers depending on the date applications are received. Contact Vicky Golightly, 425 N.W. 27th, Oklahoma City, OK 73103 or email her at vgolight@yahoo.com. You can also contact her at (405) 740-6227. Applications must be received by August 15. You might also ask about scholarships provided through OCB chapters.

Convention Sponsorship Opportunity

Sponsorships support the OCB and help us with printing our convention program and weekend expenses. Your name will appear in the program as a sponsor and you will also be recognized at the convention during one of the general sessions. Convention sponsorship levels are: Patron, \$5; Silver, \$10; Gold, \$20; and Platinum, \$30. Send

your check to our treasurer, Jeanne Meyer (address listed above) and be sure to tell us of your wish to become a sponsor and at what level. The OCB sincerely appreciates your generosity.

Convention Advertising

Do you have a business you'd like to advertise? What about those arts and crafts you'd like to sell? Do our OCB chapters feel this urgent need to tout their outstanding programs? Place an advertisement in the convention program at the following rates: quarter page, \$25; half page, \$50; and full page, \$100. Please make checks payable to the Oklahoma Council of the Blind and send them to Treasurer Jeanne Meyer, indicating the money is to be used for an advertisement. If you are an exhibitor, check with Convention Chairman Vicky Golightly for discounted package rates.

Silent Auction

Every year the Council hosts a Silent Auction as a fundraiser, shopping opportunity and a chance to outbid your friends and family for that "got to own" item.

Maybe you don't even want the item, but you love to win at any competition, or you love OCB and show it by purchasing that perfect gift for someone special. The auction will open on Saturday morning and it will close before or during the banquet. If you know what you plan to donate for this just cause, send a description of your donation to Frances Poindexter at lisspo@aol.com so we can compile an inventory of these bang-up items for our Facebook and the OCB list serv. So, this year you will get an advance sneak peek view of some of the goodies featured in the auction. Put those cowboy hats on and think about what you'd like to pony up!

Meet Our Featured Speaker

**Anthony Stephens,
Advocacy and Government Affairs Director,
American Council of the Blind**

Mr. Stephens is a leading advocate in Washington, DC on rehabilitation of people who are blind and visually impaired. He worked extensively on advocacy around

the passage of WIOA, and mobilized a national grassroots base around the concerns raised after passage of the legislation during the regulatory process.

He continues to advocate to Congress and the administration, federal agencies, and corporate stakeholders on matters pertaining to meeting the needs of an increasingly older population experiencing vision loss. He sits on the Board of Directors for the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), which is the nation's largest cross-disability coalition, and the Aid Association for the Blind of DC. He is also on the steering committee for the National Disability Leadership Alliance (NDLA) and a PAC consultant for the National Leadership Consortium on Sensory Disability (NLCSD). He holds a M.A. in Journalism from the University of Georgia.

Tentative Agenda

Friday September 22 2017, Professional/ Consumer Seminar/Training

8am to 9am

Registration

9am to Noon

- **Lassoing the WIOA**

**Anthony Stephens, Director of Advocacy
and Government Affairs for the American
Council of the Blind**

- **WIOA Overview**
- **WIOA and Employment, and How it
Affects Ability One**
- **WIOA and Transition**

12pm to 1:30pm Lunch

- **Chance to Network with Peers and
Consumers**

**• My Story: Losing My Vision, Emotions
and the Adjustment Process as a Client
and a Visual Services Employee, Cheryl
Snow, Rehabilitation Therapist**

1:30pm to 4:45pm

- **From the Agency's Perspective
Tracy Brigham, Project Manager, Visual
Services**

Teresa McDermott, Visual Services Administrator

• What Do Employers Look For? How do counselors introduce clients to businesses? How can clients introduce themselves to the business world? Emphasize soft skills, social skills and work ethics.

Patricia Garrett, HR Advisor and Business Services Manager, Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board

• Client Self Advocacy and Empowerment: How can Counselors empower their clients to be self-advocates. Empower clients to effectively sell themselves to employers.

Anthony Stephens and Audience Participation and Q&A.

Saturday, September 23 2017

7am to 8am

Breakfast

7am to 8am

Vendors set up

8am to 10am

Registration

8am to 9am

**Begin with visiting our wonderful vendors
9am. To 9:15am**

**Welcome, President Fallin
Vicky Golightly, Convention Chair
Color Guard**

9:15am to 10am

My Personal Story, Anthony Stephens

10am to 10:30 am

Break/Visit Vendors

10:30am to 11:45am

Agency Updates

**Overview and Update of Visual Services
Programs, Teresa McDermott, Visual
Services Administrator**

(30 Minutes)

Update on Veterans Administration

Blindness Services

Anthony Kirksey, Visual Impairment

Team Coordinator

(20 Minutes)

NewView Oklahoma, Lauren Branch, CEO

(20 Minutes)

11:45am to Noon

**Nomination of Officers and Constitutional
Amendments/Changes**

12pm to 1:15pm

Lunch

ACB Update

Anthony Stephens

1:15pm to 2pm

Working with the Blind in Africa

Dr. Jean Hausheer

2pm to 2:30pm

Break/Visit Vendors

2:30pm to 4pm

Advocacy Panel

Facilitator, Anthony Stephens

Members: Pam Holloway, Cheryl Snow,

Jay Doudna and Kay Love

5pm

Vendors Depart

6:30pm to 8pm

Banquet

Emcee, Jay Doudna

Acceptance of Duncan Council of the

Blind Chapter, Charter Awards

Speaker: Scot Taylor

8pm to ?

Line Dancing Instructions/Lesson

Line Dancing Music with D.J. Jay Doudna

Sunday September 24

7am to 8am

Breakfast

8:15am to 9am

**Nondenominational Church Service
Norman Dalke**

9:15am to Noon

**Business Meeting of the Oklahoma
Council of the Blind**

President's Report, Joe Fallin

**Minutes of Previous Meeting, Pam
Holloway, Former Secretary**

Financial Report, Jeanne Meyer

Resolutions, Jay Doudna

Constitution Report, Vicky Golightly

**Nominating Committee Report/Election,
Elaine Boykin**

Unfinished business

New Business

Adjourn

Report from Reno, Nevada

By Jay Doudna



The 56th annual Conference and Convention of the American Council of the Blind was held in Reno Nevada, June 30 through July 7. More than a dozen Oklahomans attended.

In the exhibit hall, the latest advances in access technology were featured, along with some pretty cool gadgets to look at and purchase.

In our General Sessions, more than 20 resolutions were discussed and passed. These resolutions will reflect the policy of ACB and will guide us in our advocacy efforts over the next year and beyond.

President Kim Charlson was elected to serve her third and final two-year term. To find all election results and read much more about the convention visit: www.acb.org

Next year's Convention will be held in St. Louis Missouri. Let's all begin making plans to attend. Lets get a group together and we can all share the experience.

2017 Oklahoma Council of the Blind
Conference and Convention Registration

September 22-24

Please complete the form below and mail, with your payment, to Jeanne Meyer, 814 North F Street, Muskogee, OK 74403. Make check payable to OCB "The Oklahoma Council of the Blind". Registration deadline is September 15, 2017. Late registrations after 9/15/17 incur a higher rate.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Work Phone (_____) _____
Home Phone (_____) _____
Cell Phone (_____) _____
E-Mail _____

_____	OCB Convention Only	\$90.00
_____	OCB Convention and Friday Workshops	\$110.00
_____	Convention Only LATE REGISTRATION	\$100.00
_____	Convention & Workshops LATE REGISTRATION	\$120.00
_____	Extra Saturday Breakfast Ticket	\$15.00
_____	Extra Sunday Breakfast Ticket	\$15.00
_____	Extra Saturday Lunch Ticket	\$20.00
_____	Extra Saturday Banquet Ticket	\$30.00

_____ I would like Vegetarian meals (applies to entire weekend).
I need my program in __ Large Print __ Braille __ Electronic
(If electronic make sure we have your Email address above)
_____ I need an assistive listening device
_____ Other Special Needs _____
_____ I applied for a Scholarship-Verified by V. Golightly
_____ I would like a T-shirt - \$15. Please indicate size: _____

Hotel is \$73 a night plus tax for up to 4 people. Guaranteed room rate if reservation made by 9/15/17. When making reservation, indicate you are with the OCB Convention. TOWER HOTEL in Oklahoma City, 3223 Northwest Expressway in OKC, 405-842-6633. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. & check-out is 12:00 noon.

**Oklahoma Council of the
Blind
P.O. Box 1476
Oklahoma City, OK
73101**

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND AND HANDICAPPED**

Address Correction Requested / Do not forward