

THE TEXAS STAR

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Neva Fairchild, Editor

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[Note: Articles printed in The Texas Star are submitted by the subscribers and are not necessarily reflective of the membership as a whole. The articles express only the opinion of the author.]

Presidential Points

By Chris Prentice

Fall has arrived and with it comes a new year of work for ACBT. First of all, let me extend a word of sincere thanks to everyone who planned, attended and worked to make our 2023 Annual Conference and Convention one of the best ever! I have attended every ACBT Annual conference since 1995 and this was one of the most unique, exciting and successful ever! In particular, I want to thank Peggy Garrett, our Conference Coordinator and Jan Gray, our Second Vice President in charge of fundraising. These ladies and their respective committees did a masterful job in coming up with a great program. For those of you who did not attend, you missed a great time!

As we look forward to the coming year, I now welcome our newest ACBT Board member, Alfredo Perez from El Paso. Alfredo replaces Kathryn Perez who submitted her letter of resignation a few weeks after our Conference. Kathryn has accepted an appointment as our Assistant Treasurer. She will be learning under our current Treasurer Sheila Derrick and will assist Sheila when needed. I still have one other Board position to fill in the coming days.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and White Cane Day was also celebrated on the 15th. I hope you participated in any local White Cane Day events in your community. These are important events for ACBT to gain publicity, new members and awareness to folks who are not familiar with our organization.

Our next Conference will be held in Houston next August. Start saving your funds and making your plans to attend!

First Vice President's Report

By Michael Garrett

What a time; what a time! If you missed being at the 2023 ACBT Conference and Convention in San Antonio, you missed a great time. There were over 160 attendees; there was a vibrant exhibit hall; there were

a number of informational and informative sessions; There was a Friday night carnival, the Escape Room and our National guest was David Trott, First Vice President of ACB and his wife, Ronda.

We awarded three scholarships this year and all three recipients were able to attend the convention. The Carolyn Garrett Memorial Scholarship went to Natalie Rankin from San Antonio. The Durward K. McDaniel Memorial Scholarship went to Ghania Ossaci from San Antonio. The ACBT Scholarship was awarded to Louise Anne Berger from Fort Worth. In addition, the Outstanding Member of the Year Award went to Jan Gray.

I mention these things because we made a concerted effort to make attendees feel welcomed and we tried to make sure that when they left, they felt informed, empowered and entertained. We believe that members of ACBT should expect these things. Being informed opens the door to advancement. You can't be empowered if you're not informed. Add to that exhilarating entertainment, and you have a recipe for successful advocacy in your local community.

Each member of ACBT has something to offer. Each member has some unique talent that can be put to good use in our organization. We hope that each member will exercise his or her unique talent and you can encourage others to come and join us so they can display their uniqueness.

ACBT: Advancing the Cause of Blind Texans!

Second Vice President's Report

By Jan Gray

As you all know at the conference I was duly elected to this position. I hope I can live up to your expectations as to what a 2nd V.P. is supposed to be. I promise that I will take this job seriously, and do my best. A big thank you goes to my committee; Daina Ashton, Sheila Derrick, Kathy Perez, and Kevin Ratliff for their diligent work on all of our fund raising projects this year that resulted in such great success. This year we are adding one more member to our committee, Ted Harper, so that Kevin won't feel so outnumbered on the committee. An extra big thank you goes to all of you

who participated in the Escape Room, the Carnival, and bought raffle tickets. It is because of you that all those things were successful. We welcome suggestions from anyone as to the kinds of activities you want and are interested in, as it is your conference. As a committee we had such a great time planning and coming up with ideas to make the conference interesting for everyone. We are starting early this year in our planning so if you have suggestions, please e-mail me at jan.gray1950@gmail.com and let me know your ideas. As a committee we will take them under consideration. Perhaps, by the next issue of the Texas Star, we will have more details on what we will be doing at the 2024 Conference.

Secretary Secrets

by Mary Alice Gary

WOW! Was that an awesome Conference or what? So much to do and attend, I for one, couldn't get it all in. The Escape Room was cool, trying to solve the puzzle before getting caught. And the Carnival with all those games to play. Talk about taking you back in time! It was so much fun. Oh, yeah, the sessions included line dancing, fencing, tech talk, and advocacy to name just a few. The Exhibit Hall also had quite a few places to spend your hard-earned bucks, but included a lot of information regarding various services available to you. The Conference was filled to the brim with fun, entertainment with even some educational topics added for good measure. Very well balanced. Great job!

For those of you who missed the Conference, or may have snoozed thru some of it, I have some updates for you. Jan Gray of Ft. Worth, has now officially been voted in as the ACBT Second Vice President. Alfredo Perez of El Paso has been appointed as a Director. And Treasurer Sheila Derrick is finally getting some well-deserved help from Kathryn Perez of El Paso, who has been appointed as the Assistant Treasurer. One Director position still remains vacant. If anyone is interested in this position or wants to serve on one of the ACBT Committees, I'm sure President Chris Prentice would like to hear from you ASAP. Committees are being formed as you read this article.

Keep connected and up-to-date by subscribing to the ACBT Groups List by sending an email to: ACBT+subscribe@groups.io, (that's the plus symbol after the ACBT). No more missing important dates or events because you can get the 4-1-1 delivered directly to your Inbox. Most ACBT happenings, Committee events and activities are announced here, along with issues and events concerning the blindness community. Another list that might peak your interests would be the ACB Community Calendar. Just email your request to: Community@acb.org. The daily list includes all the topics, times, links and call-in information to participate in any of the calls.

Tales from the Treasurer

By Sheila Derrick

Well, believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about 2024. After our fantastic conference/convention in San Antonio, we've got some work to do to live up to the expectations created. It was the largest event in several years with many new faces that we hope will return next year when we will be meeting in Houston.

I want to thank all of you who supported ACBT with your generous donations to our fundraising activities, the virtual and silent auctions, the raffle, the laugh-filled carnival and our new adventure, the Escape Room. If you missed all the fun and excitement, start planning now for 2024.

It is now time to begin renewing ACBT memberships and bringing in those new ones. Dues are as follows: local chapters pay \$7.00 per member and \$3.00 for junior members aged 13-17, at-large members pay \$10.00, and special interest affiliates with ACBT (LUA-T, BRLT, and GDUTX) pay \$2.00 for each member.

Current 2023 membership rolls will be sent to each chapter treasurer via email in Excel spreadsheet form in December. If a different format is needed, please let me know. This should allow for easier changes and additions. Updated membership rolls must be returned by February 20, 2024. The following information is needed for each member: name, address, home and cell phone numbers, email address, Braille Forum format (large print, digital cartridge, Braille, or email), Texas Star format

(large print, Audio CD, or email), and vision status (Blind/VI or fully sighted), and demographic information (age range, ethnicity and gender). **Please note ACB has changed their vision status choices again and only Blind/VI and Fully Sighted are needed.**

If you have any questions, please contact me: Sheila Derrick, ACBT Treasurer, 309 Paloverde Ln., Fort Worth, TX 76112; (817) 507-3964; sjderrick212@hotmail.com.

Blind Fencing

By Eleanor Coldwell

What happens when two blind people face each other with a fencing sword? Most people would have difficulty imagining such a thing, and would consider it impossible. But fencing coach, of 38 years, Ray Murray of Round Rock has made it possible. His fencing students must wear a nightshade under their helmets before dueling. The fencer's sword has a touch-sensitive tip that causes a buzzer to sound on contact. And the participants must stay on a mat that has ridges to help individuals' feet stay within boundaries. Coach Murray would like to see fencing teams form in cities and schools across the state to increase knowledge of the sport and increase competition opportunities. But the best part of Blind fencing is the improvement in balance, and Orientation and Mobility skills a fencer gains from practicing the art of fencing. Coach also hopes to have Blind Fencing accepted as a Para-Olympic sport by 2028. So, who knows?one or more of our

ACBT family members might just make the cut if they start practicing now. If you would like to learn how to fence, or if you know of any school which might like to include Blind Fencing in their curriculum, please email Ms Pat Pound at the following: patpound10@gmail.com for more information. and let her know who she might contact at that school to explain the program,. She will also send a message from Coach Murray, plus a video explaining how blind fencing works. I have already contacted our Region XIX Education Service Center in El Paso and they are considering offering fencing demonstrations and lessons at their summer camp for blind students at area school districts.

Advocacy: We Are Better Together!

by Kenneth Semien, Sr.

People who have experienced blindness, visual impairment, or have low vision embody the potential to lead full and productive lives with appropriate supports and resources. They also have the ability to learn, gain independence through the use of adaptive technology, and become empowered by joining with others to make a positive impact on their local community and society as a whole.

It's time to become more visible, educate, advocate, and elevate efforts as we seek to enhance the quality of life for Texans who are blind or visually impaired. ACBT has a committee for that, however all ACBT members and those within the blindness community can unify to effectively address the most relevant and significant issues being presented on a daily basis.

As we are all aware, issues related to education, employment, healthcare, housing, transportation, the need for voting solutions, inaccessibility of websites, exercise and medical equipment, airport and restaurant kiosks are at the top of the list when it comes to issues negatively impacting our community.

Always remember that your voice counts. Rise up and step into action through respectful self-advocacy, while working with us as we strive to build mutually beneficial collaborative relationships in an effort to achieve positive outcomes. Advocacy strategies include, but are not limited to registering to vote, becoming informed, casting your vote as your voice, making phone calls to legislators, scheduling virtual meetings, visiting the local office of your state representative, writing letters, using social media, sending emails, testifying during legislative hearings, writing the editor of your local newspaper, participating in city council and county level meetings, and more.

Thanks to Melanie Brunson, Michael Garrett, Peggy Garrett, and Mary Witherspoon for serving on the ACBT Advocacy Services/Legislation Committee. Make contact by sending email to: semien.k@outlook.com or dial 409-866-5838.

Auction Committee Update

by Sara Freeman Smith

A super-size Texas thank you to everyone that participated in our two Auction fundraisers in August. We held our Virtual Auction using Zoom on Sunday, August 20th prior to the start of the State Conference & Convention. It was our large one with more than 30 items and with participants from Texas and other states. We then held a small Silent Auction prior to the Saturday evening banquet on August 26th. Thanks again to all the generous donors and bidders for making this year's auction very successful given our current economy & inflation! We raised in total \$4,850.00 ! These proceeds will help fund many of our programs especially our Scholarships.

Thanks also to our Auction Committee, Website Committee, Leslie Schultz and our volunteers especially Laura & Mo for all their time and hard work on making it a success behind the scenes! We look forward to hosting you and having a successful auction in Houston next August!

2023 ACBT Conference/Convention Review

By Peggy R. Garrett, Conference/Convention Coordinator

The 45th annual conference/Convention of the American Council of the Blind of Texas was held in San Antonio at the Doubletree by Hilton Airport Hotel from August 24 to August 27. The event was well attended with more than 200 people participating including members, volunteers, vendors and other interested individuals!

In addition to the variety of sessions including advocacy, leadership, aging well, preparing for health emergencies, updates from all special interest affiliates, and the first timer's seminar, the event featured, for the first time in Texas, an Escape Room designed for people who are blind. There was also a great carnival on Friday evening designed for people who are blind, but was enjoyed by everyone!

We were fortunate to have newly elected ACB First Vice president David Trott who gave ACB updates during the annual luncheon and entertained us with some fun facts and much laughter as the keynote during the banquet!

Winners of the various raffles, and the silent auction winners were also announced Saturday evening.

Our Sunday morning awards breakfast included the presentation of scholarship winners, Member of the Year Award and first Timer Award with two recipients this year, All winners were present for the breakfast and expressed their gratitude for their scholarships and awards.

Also present for the breakfast was ed Serna, Executive Director of the Texas Workforce Commission who provided an agency update and answered questions from attendees.

The breakfast was followed by the annual business meeting and the 45th Conference/Convention was adjourned before noon!

The 46th annual Conference/Convention of the American Council of the Blind of Texas is scheduled to be held in Houston at the Marriott Westchase Hotel on August 22-25, 2024. Stay tuned for more information as we look forward to greeting you in 2024!

Member Morale Committee Update

By Jan Gray

Member Morale has three new members, Chris Allen, Daina Ashton, and Elizabeth Chaney-Hannah . Ted Harper is serving another year on the committee, and I am still the Chair. If anyone wants to join us, feel free to let me know. We will continue our What's on your mind; Let's Deal with it calls on the fourth Thursday of the month. If anyone has a suggestion of what you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact any of the members, or me at jan.gray1950@gmail.com anytime. We will continue to look for information that might be of interest to the ACBT members. The number for those calls on the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. is 732-434-3627. Hope you can join us!

Calling All Chocoholics!

By Jan Gray

Recently I read a series of books that are centered around a chocolate shop. These books have little blurbs about chocolate and I thought I would share some of what I learned. First off did you know that the average US citizen consumes 25 lbs. of chocolate per year? When I looked at the scale recently, I realized that perhaps I had eaten someone else's share as well as my own. Sorry about that. People in Switzerland consume about 50 lbs. per person and people in Denmark consume about 36 lbs. per year. Chocolate was not introduced to Europeans until the 1500's. Although the Indians had been using it since 1500 BC. The cacao bean was considered a gift from the gods. Cacao beans were used in place of money, and the drinks made from them were not sweet, but spicy. Dark chocolate contains potassium, magnesium, zinc, iron, and calcium, and a 1.4 oz piece of dark chocolate contains about 800 mgs. Of antioxidants, and Milk Chocolate contains about 400 mgs. Of antioxidants. White chocolate contains no minerals or antioxidants as it is made strictly from cacao butter. In 1644 England introduced coffee houses which sold Coffee, Chocolate, and tea. Coffee was the least expensive, chocolate was next, and the most expensive was tea. Before this chocolate was a drink for the wealthy. In 1847 the English firm of J.S. Fry and Sons developed a method of mixing cocoa powder, sugar and melted cacao butter into a product that could be cast in a mold, and the chocolate bar was born. The taste buds of Chocoholics have been grateful ever since. Happy Eating!

Library Users of America-Texas

By Gayle Metoyer

Greetings fellow LUAT members and friends:

I hope you all are ready for some cool weather! In the midst of a heat wave, ACBT held its conference/convention in San Antonio on the last weekend of August. As usual, LUAT held its annual business meeting. We did not have very many members present and did not hold an election. Please stay tuned for further details on that. However, Jacqueline Owusu was there with updates from the NLS Talking Book Program and National Library Services.

She played recordings of two narrators and they were very interesting. She also stated that in the Fall TBP will have accessible board games to loan out. Please stay tuned for that.

I am asking you to get involved in our affiliate. We need more members to make a successful group. Please ask your friends and members that are readers to join us. The annual dues are \$15. You can send your payment to:

Michael Garrett, LUAT Treasurer
7806 Chaseway Dr.
Missouri City, TX 77489

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Happy Reading!

The legacy of Helen Keller

By Chris Allen

Helen Keller's legacy means different things to different people. She wore many hats: from civil rights leader, advocate for people with disabilities to author. Helen was also a teacher. She taught the rest of the world that people who have disabilities can overcome obstacles and be productive functioning members of society.

A recently released documentary called possibilities produced by the American Foundation for the Blind in collaboration with beach glass films explores Helen Keller's legacy from the perspective of people with disabilities. The documentary examines through first-hand interviews how far we have come, but how far we still have to go to achieve equality of opportunity for people with disabilities. The film features interviews with 31 people from a diversity of backgrounds, races, genders and ethnicities. The film includes quotes from Helen Keller and reflections from the participants about what her legacy means to them.

The participants in the documentary spoke on a wide range of topics from the great strides that have been made in the accessibility of main stream technology, to the significant challenges that people with disabilities still face

in gaining employment. One man stated that he had been looking for a job for 7 years and was sure he had been passed over because of his visual impairment.

While Helen Keller would be proud of the many strides that society has made at acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities, she would lament the lack of progress of making people with disabilities full and active participants in every aspect of society.

Alamo Council Update

By Mary Alice Gary

I would like to begin with a huge “Thank You” to all the Alamo Council members, who with their support and dedication, helped make the hosting of the ACBT Conference/Convention a success. As President of the Alamo Chapter, I would like to take this time to express my sincere appreciation to all the Alamo Members for their hard work in obtaining and collecting various items and donations for the Hospitality Room and registration bags. I also want to give a shout out to the members who gathered donations to Alamo Council for the Auction and Door Prizes, along with products used for our fundraising efforts. Without all your hard work and time, it would not have gotten done. So, give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done!

Fall is a busy time of year for us, as I’m sure it is for all of you. October began with celebrating “White Cane Safety Day”. This year the event was held at the Hemisphere Park and included a short walk, followed with awards and guest speakers. We also began collecting 2024 Membership dues from existing and new members. In November elections are held for 2024 Officers. By December, we hope the weather is cooler as we hold our annual Christmas and Holiday gathering for all our members, their friends and families. Anyone who attends can participate in the “White Elephant” gift exchange. It’s fun to watch, even if you choose not to participate. Well, now that I brought that up, gosh, can you believe it’s already time to think about Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas? Now, if the weather would only cooperate! What I’d give for a cool week or two in the 60’s or 70’s. Mother Nature sure has been playing some tricks on us. Hopefully she’ll send some treats our way with cooler temperatures!

Enjoy the upcoming Holidays and the remainder of 2023 with your family and friends. And remember, stay healthy, happy and safe, especially if traveling. Until next time, Keep Smiling! 😊

Austin Council Update

By Marcus Manning

Although the temperature is starting to drop and the leaves are beginning to fall, Still reinvigorated by the summer's national and state ACB conventions, we are moving on with our momentum and walking tall. Happy Autumn 2023; I bring greetings to all of the ACBT family from the Austin chapter. We are happy to be welcoming more and more new members this season as we also are improving our member onboarding process. Our goal is for new members to be informed about the chapter's constitution and ACBT chapter mission, policies and procedures our online publications and mailing groups. Additionally, we are asking all new members to assert on which listed and described committees they desire to serve. We hosted a table at the 2023 capitol city White Cane Safety Day with Braille and Large print information about our chapter and Austin ACB SWAG. The website committee has also been meeting with the webmaster and developer as the website is under construction and will be launched very soon. We wish you all a happy Disability Awareness month and hope you all enjoy this fall as we get out into this city, enjoying, representing, and celebrating ourselves and ACBT.

Beaumont Area Council Update

By Cynthia Julun

Happy Autumn from the Beaumont Area Council of the Blind. We have been busy arming ourselves with information and resources to improve daily living. A guest speaker informed us about the Script Talk device and the Script Talk App. During the discussion we learned how to get the device, also which pharmacies are available to provide accessible prescription information for their medicine bottles. The speaker provided a demonstration of the device and app. Then President Semien, Sr. mentioned the dates for voting and early voting. He expressed the importance of accessibility regarding voting and how great it feels to be able to vote independently. We discussed our luncheon and voting day. Next,

Esterine Julun who is one of our members gave remarks on the importance of maintaining good mental health. There are steps that we can take to ensure that we have healthy or good mental health. One thing a person could do to have a healthy disposition is to stay in contact or connected with themselves. Another idea mentioned concerning improving mental health was good Communication. It is important to express yourself and not hold things in. Self-care is another method of maintaining good mental health. It was noted that we sometimes are so engaged with the care of others that we forget about ourselves. When you neglect or forget to take care of yourself, it could lead to serious consequences. It is very important to take time out of your day to practice self-care. A list of self-care activities was given. In fact, quite a few were given that suggest individuality. For example, writing, exercising, reading, music, and just meditating to name a few. The main objective is to select an activity that fits you. If one does not take care of themselves willingly it could cause problems such as stress, depression, high blood pressure, diabetes, and/or anxiety. Remember, you are the only one responsible for maintaining your mental health.

Dallas Area Council Update

By Mary Witherspoon

Education and opportunities describe DACB this fall. August found nine members at the ACBT Conference for education and fun. Three members were first time attendees. Linda and David Riddle found both the Blind Veterans of San Antonio presentation and the Friday night carnival impressive. Per Linda, the carnival games were lively and fun. Linda and David hope to explore bringing a Blind Veterans chapter to Dallas. Chris Allen, also a first timer, has served on ACBT committees for a few years but says he didn't really see himself holding a leadership position. Networking with leaders across Texas at conference, Chris says his thoughts are changing. He is inspired to participate even more in the future.

The September DACB meeting speaker was Alexa Poynor, a VI / O&M Consultant with the Region 10 Education Service Center's Special Populations team. She shared new projects in the works for blind and visually impaired elementary to high school students in North Texas. Members enjoyed sharing ideas and tips. DACB is also excited to explore how a future mentoring program with students could work. Fun and education for members and BVI students!

For October's White Cane Day, DACB continued an 8-year tradition of contributing to a fund for BVI in financial need to get immediate replacement white canes. Our donation gives those in need the best opportunity to be safe when white canes are broken. Thanks to Envision Dallas for administering this fund. DACB is looking for a fun way to celebrate the winter holidays as a chapter. For more opportunities, follow us at dallasacb.org to keep in touch!

El Paso Council Update

By Eleanor Coldwell

WCD October 15th was celebrated with an Open House party at our home office. Guests enjoyed freshly popped popcorn, grilled hot dogs, music, football games in our viewing room, and various other snacks. Media coverage special guests and our Proclamation were our highlights.

We have a new partner as of this past August. The Aaron Alexander NICU organization (a 501 C3) has joined us in group fundraising for EPCB and families of premature babies who need assistance while they wait for weeks or months to take their babies home. As we know, some of those babies might experience vision loss, and we will be available to them for moral support and education.

Dunk the President. No, not our nation's president; our own EPCB President, Alfredo Perez. EPCB supported a Bar-B-Q Cook-Off and family fun fair called, "Chuko Mania" held on September 23rd. Alfredo gamely volunteered to sit in the dunking booth to await his fate. On September 30th the Aaron Alexander Fund used our office space to hold an Arts and Crafts Fair, which was not only a fund raiser for them, but also a fund raiser for us as we charged each vendor \$25 per table.

The El Paso Council of the Blind wishes our ACB families a beautiful and peaceful fall and a happy and wonderful holiday season. See you in 2024!

Greater Fort Worth Council Update

By Jan Gray

The Greater Fort Worth Area Council of the Blind had a great picnic in the park July 8, complete with smoked brisket by one of our members. We all agreed that Shannon could cook for us anytime. We had several guests and we made the decision to have a fund raiser in October to get a head start on our scholarship drive. In August we met virtually as everyone was really busy. We had six members who attended the conference in San Antonio, and for our small group, that was a lot. We were involved with the White Cane Safety Day held in Fort Worth on October 14. We have an outreach project that is still in the planning stages, but we are hoping to have it up and running by January. Although we are small, we keep remembering that mighty oaks from small acorns grow.

Houston Happenings

By Michael Garrett

Things are always happening in Houston. Our chapter did not meet in July as some of us attended the ACB national convention. However, that time allowed us to continue the process of getting our office in order with technology upgrades and the like.

Transportation is an ongoing issue in Houston and we continue to work closely with our paratransit provider. In August we dove right back in the planning fray, preparing for upcoming events. Of course, there was the ACBT Conference/Convention which a number of our members attended. Several of us participated in a listening session sponsored by the Coalition on the Intersection of Disability, Race and Poverty. We were present at an event called Shred, Scams and Jams sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging and other organizations.

HCB also co-sponsored a mayoral candidates forum with our local independent living center which was well attended by people with disabilities from all over the city. We had an exhibit table at the Mayor's Kick Off for Disability Awareness month. And of course, we participated in the celebration of White Cane Safety Day on October 14.

We continue to receive a number of calls at our office from people who are experiencing vision loss who need a wide range of information and services. We try to link them with the appropriate agency or organization that can meet their needs.

HCB: Helping, Caring, Building!

2023 Partners for Success Honor Society

Honoring companies that have made a substantial contribution in support of ACBT achieving its annual goals and objectives.

Amerigroup (Excel Sponsor)

Our affiliated health plans and our parent organization are leading a national effort to reduce social barriers, drive change and improve lives.

Vanda (Star Plus Sponsor)

Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder

Democracy Live (Star Sponsor)

Leading the way in secure digital balloting. Providing remote accessible balloting technologies to over 20 million voters.

Contact Kenneth Semien, Sr. for additional information regarding our Partners for Success Initiative:

semien.k@outlook.com

409-866-5838

American Council of the Blind of Texas

The ACBT Board of Directors is comprised of 5 elected Officers, 4 Directors, an Immediate Past President, and an appointed representative from each Chapter and Special Interest Affiliate. The appointed representatives are selected by their respective Chapters or Special Interest Affiliates. Directors are elected for staggered 4-year terms. Below is a listing of all the state officers and elected board members along with their contact information.

ACBT State Officers:

President:

Chris D. Prentice (2022-2024, First Term)
(806) 283-8227
cprentice61@att.net
Local Chapter: Austin Council

First Vice President - Membership Chair:

Michael E. Garrett (2022-2024, Third Term)
(281) 438-9665
megarrett4443@sbcglobal.net
Local Chapter: Houston Council

Second Vice President - Fundraising Chair:

Jan Gray Appointed (2022, First Term)
(817) 232-4295
Jan.gray1950@gmail.com
Local Chapter: Fort Worth Council

Treasurer - Finance & Budget Chair:

Sheila Derrick (2022-2024, No Term Limits)
(817) 507-3964
sjderrick212@hotmail.com
Local Chapter: Fort Worth Council

Secretary:

Mary Alice Gary (2022-2024, No Term Limits)
(915) 269-2119
ma-gary@att.net
Local Chapter: Alamo Council

Immediate Past President - Constitution & Bylaws Chair:

Peggy R. Garrett (2022-2024)
(281) 438-9665
prcgarrett@sbcglobal.net
Local Chapter: Houston Council

ACBT State Directors:

Board Member:

Louann Williams - Director (2021-2025, Second Term)
(210) 884-7778
la.lozano.williams@gmail.com
Local Chapter: Alamo Council

Board Member:

Foster Brown, Director (2019-2023, First Term)
(832) 469-1817
brownfoster@gmail.com
Local Chapter: Houston Council

Board Member:

Alfredo Perez, Director (2023 Appointed, First Term)
Local Chapter: El Paso Council

Board Member:

Steven Salas, Director (2021-2025, First Term)
(210) 995-3021
salasblack@gmail.com
Local Chapter: Austin Council
entirely.