

American Council of the Blind of Texas  
46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE/CONVENTION  
August 22-25, 2024

THEME: "ACBT: Building Bridges in the Bayou City"

Thursday, August 22, 2024:

2:00-6:00 PM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open

2:00-6:00 PM  
Registration Open-Ballroom Foyer

2:00-6:00 PM  
Information Desk Open-Ballroom Foyer

12:00-6:00 PM  
Volunteer Desk Open-Ballroom Foyer

Dine & Donate for ACBT: BLAZE Pizza

4:00-7:00 PM Executive Board Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
Pre-Conference/Convention Board Meeting

8:00-11:00 PM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open

Friday August 23, 2024:

7:30-8:45 AM Salon E-H  
Exhibitor's setup

8:00-10:00 AM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open

8:30 AM Depart from the hotel lobby for the Federal  
Reserve Bank Tour

8:50 AM Depart from Hotel lobby for Tour to the  
Dunham Bible Museum

9:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Registration Open, Ballroom Foyer

9:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Information Desk Open  
Ballroom Foyer

9:00 AM-5:00 PM Salon E-H  
Exhibit Hall Open

1:00-2:00 PM Briarpark 1-3  
Adjusting to Dual Sensory Loss Deaf/Blind  
services with Texas Workforce Commission  
focuses on supporting customers with dual  
sensory loss to achieve their employment  
or independent goals. Presenter: Jacob  
Garber, M.A., M.B.A. Deaf Blind Program  
Specialist, Texas Workforce Commission,  
Vocational Rehabilitation Blind Services

1:00-2:00 PM Westchase 1-4  
"Expanding New Horizons"

This is an audience participation session designed to encourage networking and reaching out to others. It will also encourage participants to expand their personal horizons

Moderators: Chris Allen, Neva Fairchild & Jan Gray

2:15-3:15 PM Briarpark 1-3  
Credit 101: What's in your score?

There are only six factors that influence your credit score. writing things down can help them stick in your mind.

Presenter: Arfonzo Adams, Vice President,  
Community  
Manager, JPMorgan Chase

2:15-3:15 PM Westchase 1-4  
211-Hurricane & Disaster Preparedness  
Session will cover current forecast for this hurricane season, 211 roles in disasters, personal preparedness, STEER and ways to connect with 211.

Presenter: Alex Edwards, Outreach &  
Disaster Coordinator, 211 United Way  
Helpline

3:30-4:30 PM Briarpark 1-3  
New Horizons for Common Eye Conditions  
This session will include an overview of treatments

for common eye conditions including age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and inherited retinal diseases. Treatments and trials will be shared and audience questions will be addressed.

Presenters: Dr. Swati C. Modi, OD, FAAO, Diplomat, Low Vision Clinic Associate Professor – University of Houston

Jennifer Tasca, OD, FAAO, Clinical Associate Professor- University of Houston

3:30-4:30 PM Westchase 1-4

Guide Dog Users Texas (GDUT) Program

“O&M Offered by guide dog schools” This session includes guide dog school updates. There will also be door prize drawings!

4:30-5:30 PM Briarpark 1-3

“Fair Housing & Voting Rights”

Session includes an overview of DRTX information and Fair Housing laws and voting rights.

Presenter: Veronica Cortez, Community Navigator/FHIP Project Specialist, Disability Rights Texas Belinda Lucio Cepeda, Training and Support Specialist, Voting Rights Team, Disability Rights Texas

4:30-5:30 PM Westchase 1-4

Make your feet happy and learn some new moves with line dance instructor Sheila Brown, Happy Feet Line Dancing

Dinner

8:00-11:00 PM Salon A-D  
Carnival

9:00-11:00 PM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, August 24, 2024:

8:00-10:00 AM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open

8:30-11:15 AM Ballroom Foyer  
Registration Open

9:00-11:15 AM, 1:30-5:00 PM  
Exhibit Hall open

9:00-10:00 AM Westgate 1-4  
Library Users of America- Texas: Business  
meeting, Jacquelyn Owusu, TBP/NLS updates

9:00-10:00 AM Briarpark 1-3  
Bridging the Gaps to Employment  
Michelle Norris, MCRC, Regional Blind Services,  
Texas Workforce Solutions, Vocational Rehabilitation  
Services, Fernando Rivera, Business Relations  
Consultant Region IV, Texas Workforce Solutions

10:15-11:15 AM Westgate 1-4

"Celebrating the Impact of Advocacy"

Advocacy Committee Program

Join the ACBT Advocacy Committee for a time of sharing success stories, testimonials, and lessons learned while advocating for positive change and equal access.

Facilitator: Kenneth Semien Sr., ACBT  
Advocacy Committee Chair

10:15-11:15 AM Briarpark 1-3

"Aging Well in Texas "

Session will focus on the role of the Harris County Area Agency on Aging in providing services under the Older Americans Act to older adults in Harris County.

Presenter Carmen Castro, DRPH, MS, CHES  
Div Manager, Harris County Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center,  
Houston Health Department

11:30 AM Salon A-D

Doors open for Luncheon

11:45-1:15 PM

ACBT Annual Luncheon & Opening Session

1:15-1:30 PM Break

1:30-5:00 PM Silent Auction

Silent auction items will be on display in the foyer. No bids will be accepted after 5:00 PM & winners will be announced during the banquet.

1:30-2:30 PM Briarpark 1-3

IBUG-Technology Seminar

"Get Smart In Improving Your iPhone Productivity"

Join iBUG's CONTROL team, Brad "Maxwell Smart" Snyder, Sandhya "Agent 99" Rao, and Michael "The Chief" McCulloch, in their on-going fight against "the international organization of evil" KAOS.

1:30-2:30 PM Westchase 1-4

"Braille Matters" Braille Revival League- Texas BRLT invites you to join in the fun as we play a game to test your knowledge of Braille with prizes, conduct our elections, explore new technology including the Braille eReader, from the Talking Book Program and much more!  
Neva Fairchild, BRLT President

2:45-3:45 PM Briarpark

First Timers Session: Join representatives from ACBT Chapters and Special Interest Affiliates to learn more about ACBT and share your first timer experiences.

2:45-3:45 PM Westchase 1-4

Bridging Androids

This workshop will discuss technology with the android. There will be a brief presentation followed by a Q&A with panellist.

Facilitator: Ava Carruth, Panellist: Foster Brown & Kevin Ratliff

3:00-4:30 PM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open

4:00-5:00 PM Briarpark 1-3  
"Laughing through the Struggle"  
This is an interactive session telling and sharing  
crazy stories about being blind and learning to laugh  
through the struggle!  
Facilitated by Chris Prentice

4:00-5:00 PM  
Last chance for Exhibit Hall!

5:00-6:00 PM Briarpark 1-3  
Candidates Forum

6:30-10:00 PM Salon A-D  
Banquet & Silent Auction

6:30-7:00 PM  
Pre-Banquet Social  
Music by DJ Kevin Ratliff

7:00 PM Banquet

8:30-10:30 PM  
Dance to the music of the CC Riders  
Band!

9:00-11:00 PM Rosegarden  
Hospitality Room Open



Sunday, August 25, 2024: Salon A-D

7:00-12:00 PM Salon A-D

7:00-8:15 Awards Breakfast

8:15-8:45 Ed Serna

8:45-9:00 AM Break

9:00 AM Business Meeting & Elections