**THE TEXAS STAR**

**Vol. 30, No. 1 January 2022**

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.]

**2021 In Review**

By President Peggy Garrett

I am writing this article a week before Christmas, but by the time you read it, it will be mid-January 2022! I pray that each of you had an enjoyable and memorable Christmas season and that 2022 will bring you good health, joy, peace, and that you will achieve your goals and even more.

Even though we are still in the midst of the pandemic, we have been able to keep moving forward. While I can’t list everything, we accomplished this year, in addition to our many advocacy efforts, here are some highlights of 2021:

We held the first ever Mass Chapter meeting and first ever ACBT Special Conference to amend our Constitution and Bylaws to allow us to vote virtually; With the support of the ACB Media Team, we held a 2nd successful annual Virtual conference/Convention; Even while meeting virtually, outreach efforts have brought new members to some ACBT Chapters; ACBT members voted in the ACB first ever virtual election where Kenneth Semien Sr. was elected to the ACB Board; Several ACBT members facilitated Community sessions.

Although the challenges were many, we persevered because we worked together and never gave up. I am very proud of ACBT members and appreciative of family members, friends and other supporters who helped us to achieve success this year, and I look forward to working with each of you to achieve an even greater 2022!

**From the Membership Committee**

By Michael Garrett

By the time you read this, you’re probably winding down from all of the 2021 holiday celebrations and gearing up for the new year of 2022. We can reflect on the challenges we overcame in 2021 and look forward to the new opportunities looming before us in 2022. Always remember that as a member of ACBT, you have a broad support system; a network of people from all over this vast state of Texas. In many cases, these are individuals who may have traveled the same roads and had similar experiences as you. They are waiting to share their experiences and give you an encouraging word.

To that end, the ACBT Membership Committee continues to look for ways to encourage both our members and other individuals who are blind or visually impaired. We will begin the year by offering an informative call entitled “You Do What?” This is the second in a series we began last year to show blind and visually impaired individuals that they can do almost anything. Join us for three amazing ladies who have hobbies and occupations that might surprise you. The call will take place on Thursday, January 27th at 8:00 PM. Look for the Zoom information on the ACBT list and other media platforms.

ACBT – Advancing the Cause of Blind Texans!

**Fundraising Article, Support ACBT**

By Kevin Ratliff

Happy New Year ACBT Members! I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2022.

Here is information on some ways that you can support ACBT throughout the year.

The Amazon Smiles fundraiser is one of the easiest ways to have money donated to The American Council of the Blind of Texas while shopping for those must-have products! Use our special link to access the Amazon Website. Shop for the items you want to purchase and proceed to checkout. Once the checkout process is complete, Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to ACBT.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0154367>

Yumraising with See’s Candies is another way to support ACBT. Check the ACBT Email List for the new campaign Information. The Vehicle Donation Program is also a good program that

Helps ACBT reach our fundraising goals. People who have unwanted vehicles can complete a form and have the proceeds from the sell of the vehicle donated to ACBT. Information about the program will be posted to the ACBT Email List. Finally, The Planned Giving Program is a program that allows individuals to contribute to the future and financial well-being of our organization through a will, trust, or other planned gift by making a specific bequest to the ACBT. Furthermore, a gift can easily be made by designating ACBT as a beneficiary of a specified life insurance policy, bank account, company retirement plan, pension, IRA account, annuity, or other means in which you have the option to designate a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary, using the standard Beneficiary Designation Form.

<https://acbtexas.org/donations/acbt-planned-giving/>

**Secretary Secrets**

by Mary Alice Gary

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays celebrating with their family and friends. May 2022 be a brighter, safer, healthier and more prosperous year for all.

If you’re like me, I’ve eaten way too many home-made treats along with my fill of turkey, ham, tamales, etc. There is always such an abundant number of goodies available at this time of year. I wouldn’t want to upset anyone by not tasting what’s offered to me? Would you? Especially if someone took the time to make it!

As some of you are aware, the ACBT Board met in December to approve the 2022 Budget and discuss 2022 events. Currently, ACBT is moving forward with the possibility of meeting in person for the Spring 2022 Board Meeting and 2022 Conference/Convention in Austin. The ACBT Spring Board Meeting will be held April 23, 2022. The dates for the 2022 ACBT Conference/Convention are August 25 to 28, 2022. It sure would be nice to be with everyone again.

Stop relying on others to keep you informed. Subscribe to the ACBT Groups List by sending an email to: [ACBT+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:ACBT+subscribe@groups.io), (that’s the plus symbol after the ACBT). No more missing important dates or events because you won’t have to rely on someone else to get the 4-1-1. The announcements will arrive directly in your Inbox! All ACBT happenings, Committee events and activities are announced here.

**Tales from the Treasurer**

by Sheila Derrick

It is now time to prepare your membership lists for delivery to me by Feb. 15, 2022 (for those with meetings on the 3rd Saturday as soon as possible) along with your member dues. Please help by sending **ONLY** information for members who have actually paid their dues for 2022. We encourage all members with email access to request publications by email.

For each member, I need: full name, address, home and cell phone numbers, email address, vision status (blind/visually impaired or fully sighted), Texas Star format (email, large print, or audio CD-The Star is not available in Braille) and Braille Forum format (email, Braille, large print, or NLS Daisy player cartridge). Membership lists can be sent by paper or electronically in word document or excel spread sheet.

Again, this year ACB and ACBT are requesting demographic information on our members for use in grant writing and other funding applications. The additional statistics are AGE RANGE: 13 to 20, 21 to 40, 41 to 59, and 60 +, GENDER: male, female or other, and ETHNICITY: Caucasian (white), African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian-American or other).

Dues are as follows: chapter members $7.00, Special Interest Affiliate members $2.00, at-large members $10.00, Junior members $3.00, ACB Life member $2.00, ACBT Life member $5.00, and life member of both $0.00. Please remember to include life members on your list even though you may not be submitting any dues for them.

Please mail dues and/or membership lists to: Sheila Derrick, 309 Paloverde Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76112-1122. My email is [sjderrick212@hotmail.com](mailto:sjderrick212@hotmail.com) and my phone is 817 507-3964. Please contact me, if you have any questions.

**Coming To Terms With Vision Loss**

by Chris Allen

Many of us have friends, coworkers and even relatives who have lost some or all their vision. Our 1st inclination is to help them, but how do we best assist them? By giving them tools to help them? By supporting them on their journey? I have been dealing with This exact issue recently.

My stepmother has had macular degeneration for the last several years. It has been difficult for her to accept that she is losing her vision. I have been trying to strike a balance of helping her when she asks for it, but not offering too much advice.

Those of us who have been blind or visually impaired our whole lives do not have the same experience as someone who is losing their vision later in life. Most people who begin losing their vision later in life do not know where to start finding resources to help them adjust to their declining eyesight. In my stepmother’s case I was able to put her in touch with a caseworker at Envision Dallas formerly the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind.

While resources can vary greatly from city to city the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has a program specifically to assist adults 55 and older who are experiencing vision loss. There helpline is 512 –936– 3388. According to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services approximately 261,000 Texans 65 or older have experienced difficulties with their vision. This number is projected to grow to over 658,000 people by 2038. We, as advocates, can educate those we meet, our friends and our loved ones who are experiencing loss of their eyesight about what is possible and remind them that they are entitled to enjoy the same rights as every citizen to live a happy, healthy, and productive life.

**Celebrate the Gift of Braille**

by Michael Garrett

In honor of World Braille Day on January 4 and Braille Literacy Month in January, treat yourself or friends and family to a special braille gift. Whether you create it yourself or purchase it, there are lots of options to be enjoyed by all who know and understand the importance of braille. Here are just a few ideas.

Create your own braille chocolate bars with messages such as Love You, Thank You, and Happy Birthday. Chocolate bar molds are available from The Braille Superstore at (800) 987-1231 or online at [www.braillebookstore.com](http://www.braillebookstore.com/).

Make your own cards with personalized messages and include braille love hearts. Using a slate and stylus or a Perkins Brailler, write the following symbols.

**Line 1:** dots 234, 15, 24, 156

**Line 2:** dots 126, space twice, dots 345

**Line 3:** space once, dots 15, 24

Support companies who demonstrate a commitment to literacy and accessibility by including braille on their packaging, such as products from cosmetics brand L'Occitane and winemaker M. Chapoutier.

Strike up a conversation by sporting a piece of beautiful braille jewelry with messages such as Together Forever, Peace, Hope, Love or Believe. Pendants are available from the National Braille Press at (888) 965-8965 or [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org).

Is a new braille gadget more your thing? Check out the paperless, erasable braille slate and stylus. Available from A. T. Guys, the Versa Slate has four lines of twenty cells and a magnetic stylus for easy storage. The Versa Slate Mini has two lines of twelve cells and a stylus that clips onto the corner. For more information, contact A. T. Guys at (269) 216-4798 or [www.atguys.com](http://www.atguys.com).

The Lighthouse stores in cities around Texas are likely to have a selection of braille products in stock, including braille cards and games, slates and styli, and appliance labeling kits. Call your local Lighthouse to inquire.

Don't forget the best gift of all, a gift membership to the Braille Revival League of Texas. If you have read this far, we invite you to come join us as we work to increase awareness of braille in Texas and help those who cannot read print maintain literacy through the gift of braille. We encourage you to Read More Braille!

**Library Users of America-Texas**

by Gayle Metoyer

Greetings LUAT members and friends: Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I believe that we should concentrate on self-care in 2022. There is no better way to relax than with a good book. If you are not a member of LUAT, please consider joining us this year so we can share our love for reading and get that self-care that we so desperately need.

At our last conference in August 2021, we elected new officers. The officers are as follows:

**President**: Peggy Garrett

**Vice President:** Vacant position

**Secretary:** Glenda Boerne

**Treasurer:** Michael Garrett

If you are interested in joining LUAT, there is an annual membership of $15. You can send your payment to:

Attn: Michael Garrett

7806 Chaseway Dr.

Missouri City, TX 77459

In the meantime, if you would like to join us through our list, you can subscribe by sending a blank email to [luatx+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:luatx+subscribe@groups.io).

We look forward to reading more books this year and sharing what we read.

Happy reading!

**A Texas Woman Develops a Typewriter for the Blind**

by Eleanor Coldwell

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Sthreshley Townsend

Lizzie moved to Texas as a child. She graduated from Sam Houston Normal Institute in Huntsville, now known as Sam Houston University, after which she became a teacher at the Institute for the Blind in Austin. While employed in Austin she developed the first braille typewriter called the "punctograph.” Her invention was made of brass and steel and weighed only 5 pounds. The punctograph only had 3 keys and a spacer for use with a single hand, and could be used for both font and Braille typing. Her patent application was approved one and a half years after she filed it in 1899. According to the application, Townsend’s machine was different from others in its construction, paper feeding mechanism, spacing, and embossing mechanisms. Lizzie began marketing her machine in 1894.

In 1894 she left the Sam Houston Normal Institution and married George Townsend, a photographer in Austin. She then worked at a sanitarium in Marlin Texas, until her death in 1919.

"Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light."  -- Brene Brown

**Alamo Council Update**

by Mary Alice Gary

Happy New Year! Gosh can you believe it’s already 2022? Time is just flying by. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season with family and friends.

Here in the Alamo City, we have been keeping busy. In November, we held our first in person meeting and conducted our yearly elections. The 2022 slate of Officers is as follows: President Mary Alice Gary, First Vice President Shelley McMullen, Second Vice President James Hanna, Secretary Melanie Brunson, Treasurer Kevin Dunlap and Assistant Treasurer Thomas (Gene) Williams. Congratulations to all!

As is the Alamo Chapters custom in December, we participated in the Christmas Giving Program, fulfilling requests from visually impaired (VI) students who attend the San Antonio Independent School District. Gifts ranged from basic clothing items, radios, cassette and CD players, headphones, and even multi-sensory toys. Thank you, Lou Ann, for working with the School District and doing all the shopping for the students. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

The year ended with an in-person Christmas party with lots of laughs and fun! There were door prizes, drawings, a White Elephant exchange and of course, good food and lots of conversation. It was great being together again!

Stay safe and healthy. From your friends in the Alamo Chapter.

**Austin Council update**

by Marcus Manning

It does not matter one bit whether you are holding a tall glass of Doctor Pepper like our newly elected chapter president or if you are pouring a brew that packs a little more or less of a punch, cheers to each of you in the ACBT family from the Austin chapter. Happy 2022!

Although 2021 has been another chapter in the ongoing pandemic saga, we have stood strong together, clasping each other’s hands as tight as we have needed in order to collaborate and carry out our mission. As a newly appointed chapter rep, this year, I have been honored, excited and in awe of our inclusive cooperative meeting process. Some Austin chapter highlights have been:

* Discussing and moving forward on website development with Paul as lead developer
* presenting 2 hardworking students with scholarships
* awarding and coordinating training for individuals in the community who need assistive technology
* assisting a member family and a nonmember family in the community with $250.00 to enhance their family holiday cheer.
* Participating in the awesome statewide special session and another phenomenal ACBT conference

However, the business meetings are where I learned the most valuable information, which is - what most of us need to do in 2022:

1. Push ourselves forward to find ways to serve our chapters and affiliates
2. To read all chapter and ACBT documentation and develop ourselves for leadership roles within our chapter and ACBT
3. to share with friends and people in our community who we are by inviting them to events and active participation

Happy 2022!

**El Paso Council Update**

by Eleanor Coldwell

Happy New Year to All from your Amigos in El Paso!

Kathy and Alfredo Perez participated in several Christmas fairs around town to raise funds for our chapter. They have been busy baking goodies, infusing flavorful oils, and sewing crafts for these fairs. EPCB had their in-person 2021 Christmas gathering at the home of Kathy and Alfredo where we enjoyed delicious food and a White Elephant gift exchange, which is always so much fun.

We delivered our annual Christmas Holiday Meals to needy families of BVI children, which was facilitated by very generous donations from Food King Grocery store chain, and Quality Fruit and Vegetable in El Paso. Their generosity helped us create abundant food packages for each family to enjoy. Walmart also donated $50 which we put toward gift cards to help each family purchase some extra items they needed.

Our website is undergoing some major design changes and will be ready to launch in January.

We're looking forward to starting 2022 with our new officers who will be sworn in on January 15th.

**Fort Worth Council Update**

by Jan Gray

Fort Worth has had several great speakers from Vanda and FFB. We met in person for our October meeting and our Christmas party. Instead of just passing around our Exchange gifts, we had a mock auction using poker chips. We enjoyed a great meal at Mama Mia’s Italian Grill and had a ton of fun. In January, we will be reviewing and discussing the book “ Identity Theft”. We plan to participate in local health fairs, a technology Olympics and more.

**Houston Happenings**

By Michael Garrett

The Houston Council of the Blind (HCB) continues to keep in touch with its members and stay involved with the community at large. Over the last quarter of the year, we were active with virtual meetings and other events. We participated in the planning and served as a cosponsor of our White Cane Safety Day Celebration. We had members who participated in the program. At our November meeting we had a special guest from the Houston office of Homeland Security who informed us about a new accessible emergency alert system.

Several of our members also participated in the Adopt a Grandparent Program sponsored by the University of Houston Downtown.

Elections were held at our November meeting, and we began plans for our annual Christmas party and auction. We have a new administrative team at the Lighthouse of Houston. Several of our board members met with the President and the Vice President for an informative briefing session

We are looking forward to meeting in person at some point in 2022. In the meantime, we continue to reach out to our members and the community at large. We always try to adhere to our motto;

Houston Council of the Blind: Helping, Caring, Building.

**Strange laws**

by Jan Gray

All states have laws on the books that once were relevant but are no longer useful. Here are some of the more humorous ones.

Citizens of Kentucky are required by law to bathe once a year, whether they need it or not. If you go to Kentucky, do not carry your ice cream cone in your pocket, as it is illegal to do so. If you have an elephant plow a cotton field in North Carolina, you can be arrested. In Several southern states, it is illegal to tether an alligator to a fire hydrant or a parking meter. That is one way to insure you have a parking spot, I guess. In Texas it is illegal to: sell your eyes, shoot a buffalo from the second floor window of a hotel, carry wire cutters in your pocket, use a feather duster to clean a public building, or release foul odors in an elevator. If you like Limburger cheese,be sure and stock up during the week as in several Texas cities it is illegal to sell Limburger on a Sunday. Under the Texas Penal code a criminal must give 24 hour notice before committing a crime and he must give notice either orally or in writing to the victim. That tells me Texas criminals are just not reading the criminal codes before committing crimes. In Minnesota it is illegal to cross state lines with a duck upon your head. In Alaska if you go into a bar and get drunk, you cannot remain on the premises. Makes less work for police officers, I guess. It is also illegal in Alaska to push a moose out of a moving airplane. I understand that a moose is not a particularly congenial animal, so I am wondering how he got into the airplane, and how would you push a1600 pound moose out of anything! My personal favorite comes from Sterling, Colorado, where it is illegal to allow your cat to wander outside at night unless it has been fitted with a tail light. I can only imagine the look on the face of the clerk at the pet store when they are asked where cat tail lights are located! These little bits of info sure brightened my day, and I hope they did the same for yours.

**2022 Conference/Convention**

By President Peggy Garrett

The 44th annual Conference/Convention of the American Council of the Blind of Texas is scheduled to be held at the Austin Southpark Hotel on August 25-28. The hotel, located at 4140 Governors Row, is in close proximity to the airport and downtown Austin and offers free parking. The room rate is $99.00 plus tax.

Many of you will remember that this is the old Omni Hotel, but it now has a new name and new management, and the site will be undergoing some major renovations. More information will be disseminated soon as details are still being confirmed.

The theme this year is “ACBT: A Leading Light Through the Darkness”. We are pleased to announce that the National Representative this year will be the ACB 1st Vice President Deb Cook Lewis!

The Conference/Convention Committee is working on an in-person event; however, we continue to monitor Covid and will determine if we will need to hold the Conference/Convention virtually again this year. A final decision will be made in early spring. Either way, the Committee is planning an event you won’t want to miss. So, stay tuned for updates!

**Member Morale**

By Jan Gray

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my committee and especially to Gayle for her leadership during my hospital visit and my recuperation. Member Morale sponsored a presentation from In Vision America in October and a Medicare Insurance conference in November. We were pleased with the turnout for both, and hope everyone got their questions answered. Member Morale will be working hard in the new year to meet the needs of ACBT members.

**From the Nominating Committee**

By Michael Garrett

Even though we’ve just ushered in the new year, it’s time to give some attention and serious consideration to the election’s process in 2022. The 2021 conference/convention was quite eventful and featured some significant changes in the way ACBT can conduct its election’s, as a result of some Constitutional revisions. Although held virtually, we were able to hold elections at the conference after having to suspend them during the 2020 virtual affair. At present, we are proceeding as though we will have an in-person convention in 2022. However, the ACBT Board will make it’s final decision by the end of March. In the meantime, whether we meet virtually, in person or hybrid, elections will be held at this year’s conference.

In 2021, all officers, who would have run in 2020, were reelected to serve their terms in addition to two board of directors. In order to keep our staggered elections process intact, all officer positions will be available in 2022. The Second Vice-President’s position has been filled for its full term and will be open this year.

That being said, it’s time to think about whether you or someone else you know would like to step up and take on a leadership role in ACBT. You may submit your own or the name of someone else as a candidate for an office. If you would like to recommend someone for an officer or board position, please make sure that person is qualified and willing to run. All persons seeking to run for a position on the ACBT Board must submit a biographical sketch. Of course, nominations can be made from the floor; and again, the person nominated must be qualified and willing to serve and fulfill the duties of that office. Also, he or she must have a current bio that can be read in the presence of conference attendees during the elections process. The bio should consist of a brief introductory paragraph which states the office to which you are seeking election, followed by answers to the questions which have been prepared by the Nominating Committee. Please limit your bio and question responses to two pages in Arial font, 16 -point. It is also imperative that each candidate be familiar with the duties of the office being sought, as stated in the ACBT Constitution and Bylaws.

Below are the questions to be completed and submitted to the Nominating Committee:

1. What are your reasons for seeking this office?
2. What experience and expertise can you contribute to this office and ACBT?
3. What actions would you take in assisting ACBT in fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals?
4. Fundraising is vital to keeping any nonprofit organization alive. Therefore, name two possible fundraising events and tell how you would personally contribute to the success of these events.
5. When do you feel that it is necessary for change to take place in an organization’s practices and procedures?
6. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing ACBT over the next two to three years, and how would you help ACBT manage these challenges?

All candidate bios and answers must be submitted no later than May 31, 2022, via email, or postmarked by May 31, 2022 if sent by regular mail. All submissions must be typewritten; no handwriting allowed. Please send all candidate submissions to: [megarrett4443@sbcglobal.net](mailto:megarrett4443@sbcglobal.net) or mail them to:

Michael Garrett, Nominating Committee Chairman

7806 Chaseway Drive

Missouri City, TX 77489

Please keep in mind we must elect officers and board members who are willing to work diligently for the American Council of the Blind of Texas, making it a stronger and more effective organization and helping us fulfill our motto:

**Get Movin’ with Transportation**

by Mary Alice Gary

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy, healthy, and safe beginning to the New Year. It sure doesn’t seem like January to me! Where’s the lower temperatures and cooler weather? Possibly a few snow flurries, to help remind us there are actually four seasons! Not just three, or so it seems in most of Texas. But definitely nothing like last February.

Well, your Transportation Committee is hard at work looking for topics that might interest each and everyone of you. Would you like to know more about post Covid travel requirements on trains, buses, or airplanes? What about cruise ships? Have there been any changes to ADA accommodations or requirements to help ensure our safety since our mass hibernation began in 2020? Wow, that seems like so long ago! Either way, your Transportation Committee is planning a call during the first quarter of the year to keep you informed about all things Transportation!

If you have any questions or ideas for topics contact any of the Committee members, Chris Allen, Conswella Bates, Cynthia Julun, Gayle Metoyer and Ted Harper. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Remember to stay safe when traveling by sanitizing your canes and harnesses and washing your hands regularly, especially once you return home.

Happy and Safe Travels!

**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:**

Peggy R. Garrett

(281) 438-9665  
prcgarrett@sbcglobal.net    
Local Chapter: Houston Council   
  
**First Vice President - Membership Chair:**

Michael E. Garrett   
(281) 438-9665  
megarrett4443@sbcglobal.net   
Local Chapter: Houston Council

**Second Vice President - Fundraising Chair:**

Kevin D. Ratliff  
(512) 826-1619  
kevin.ratliff512@gmail.com   
Local Chapter: Austin Council   
  
**Treasurer - Finance & Budget Chair:**

Sheila Derrick   
(817) 507-3964  
sjderrick212@hotmail.com   
Local Chapter: Fort Worth Council

**Secretary:**

Mary Alice Gary  
(915) 269-2119  
ma-gary@att.net   
Local Chapter: Alamo Council   
  
**Immediate Past President - Constitution & Bylaws Chair:**

Kenneth Semien, Sr.   
(409) 866-5838  
[semien.k@att.net](mailto:semien.k@att.net)  
Local Chapter: Beaumont Area Council 

**ACBT State Directors:**

**Board Member**:   
Chris D. Prentice - Director   
(806) 283-8227  
cprentice61@att.net    
Local Chapter: Austin Council   
  
**Board Member:**    
Louann Williams - Director   
(210) 884-7778  
la.lozano.williams@gmail.com    
Local Chapter: Alamo Council

**Board Member:**    
Jan Gray

(817) 232-4295

jan.gray1950@gmail.com

Local Chapter: Fort Worth Council

**Board Member:**    
Foster Brown

(832) 469-1817

brownfoster@gmail.com

Local Chapter: Houston Council

**American Council of the Blind of Texas, Inc. (ACBT)**

**2021 Partners for Success Honor Society**

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

* Amerigroup (Premiere Sponsor)

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

* Texas Central Partners, LLC (Keynote Sponsor)

Developing the new and accessible Texas high-speed train line connecting North Texas & Greater Houston.

* Vanda (Star Plus Sponsor)

Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder

* Superior HealthPlan (Star Plus Sponsor)

Transforming the health of the community, one person at a time.

* Cigna (Star Sponsor)

A global health services company dedicated to improving the health, well-being, and peace of mind of those we serve.

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

[semien.k@att.net](mailto:semien.k@att.net)

409-866-5838