



AUGUST 2020

1093 South Broadway, Suite 1214 | Lexington, KY 40504 | info@bcbky.org | 859-259-1834

BCB Providing Programs/Services During Virus

I hope this issue of the BCB eyeKNOW News finds you healthy and staying safe during these crazy and uncertain times. I just wanted to give you a brief update on BCB services and how proud I am of the BCB staff and volunteers for all their hard work to keep programs and services available to our Kentucky community during the Coronavirus pandemic.



As we move into August, we want everyone to know “our VIRTUAL doors are open” and we are still here to serve you! The BCB staff is hard at work planning support group and mentoring meetings, assistive technology training seminars, offering one-on-one training appointments, providing technology loans and distributing devices and supplemental food for adults who are blind or have low vision. In spite of the pandemic and restrictions in place for our health and safety, BCB continues to offer nearly all of our services through video and phone conferences, home delivery and curbside service. We hope that if you are in need of services, that you will not hesitate to contact us.

Back in March, the BCB staff and Board made the decision to move our services to a more virtual platform, in the best interest of the safety and well-being of our volunteers, staff and those we serve. This transition was quick and smooth and we are very pleased with the options we are now offering in these difficult circumstances.

We want to encourage all who are in need of services to reach out to us by phone at 859-259-1834 or by email at info@bcbky.org and be assured that we are here to help and to do our best to help you find the support and solutions you need to live successfully with a blindness or low vision. Our staff has a staggered schedule, working from home and the office at different times to keep the work-place as safe as possible. For this reason, you may not get a staff member immediately on the line, but please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Our Peer Support program is offering group meetings via Zoom nearly every week and can be accessed by Zoom using a landline, smart phone, tablet or computer. We hope you will consider joining us in August for some really great opportunities to learn and share. Supplemental food distribution is available for those who qualify and is being delivered each month on the fourth Wednesday between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the Fayette County area. In addition, some personal care items are also available such as soap, hand sanitizer, cloth face coverings and other essential items for personal health and safety. We are grateful to the many volunteers we have helping us from other organizations like the Lexington Lions Club, CLARK Materials Handling and many others making this possible.

As we take tiny steps moving toward the “new normal,” we ask for your patience and support to make these transitions as safe and easy as possible for all. We would like to recognize the Kentucky Colonels for all the great work they do, as they have graciously provided a grant to purchase much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitization products and services so we may continue to work and serve our community in a healthy and safe environment. Individuals who need in-person services will be expected to:

- Wear a face covering,
- Consent to a temperature check,
- Follow proper hand-washing procedures,
- Reschedule if you are feeling ill or have a fever, and
- Comply with all CDC recommendations for the health and safety of our staff and community

Again, we want everyone to know we are still working through this pandemic to continue these vital services needed for those who face challenges due to vision loss. We hope you will continue to stay in touch, join in our programs, and most of all, stay safe and healthy! Please reach out to us and let us know how you are doing through these challenging times. We miss our gatherings and our members and look forward to the time when we can gather again safely.

Wishing you a wonderful and healthy summer,
Theresa Thomas, Executive Director

#TEAMBCB Practicing Social Distance

There is no shortage of team work at Bluegrass Council of the Blind! Practicing social distancing and wearing masks, VISTA Volunteer Paula Wiese assists long time BCB Member and volunteer Charles Christmeyer, right photo below, in bagging 200-plus quarantine masks made by Dorothy Head, mother of BCB Assisitive Technology Coordinator Richard Sizemore. These protective coverings will be distributed to BCB consumers, as services resume. Richard practices social distancing with consumer Walter Graham, left photo below, while demonstrating equipment. See the photos below:



ACB Hosts Virtual Convention July 3-10

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) convention was held virtually this year from July 3 through July 10. It was packed full of information and workshops on the latest in technology, legislation, membership programs and more. There was a live auction, a memorial walk and door prizes. Vendors gave presentations on available products. There was even an audio described fireworks display to celebrate our nation's independence. This exciting event was made possible through the generosity of 24 major sponsors including contributions from:



- Google - ACB Conference Banquet
- JPMorgan Chase & Co. - Conference Communication Center and Newspaper
- Microsoft - Virtual ACB Educational and Recreational Tours
- Vanda Pharmaceuticals – Convention Announcements and ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk

You can still listen to episodes of the 2020 convention by going to <https://acb.org/convention> for more information.

Paula Wiese Honored at ACB Convention

During the convention, our own Paula Wiese was awarded a lifetime membership to the American Council of the Blind (ACB), thanks to the generosity of Adam and Carla Ruschival. She is so deserving of this honor! Paula supports ACB through her dedicated help with convention registration, online and in person auctions, and in any way she is asked. She has made numerous friends and acquaintances with the ACB family and goes out of her way to assist anyone needing help. Although Paula is sighted, she gained much empathy and understanding of blindness issues due to her late husband's challenges with losing his sight.



“I am honored to have been gifted, by Adam and Carla Ruschival, this lifetime membership to the American Council of the Blind,” said Wiese. “I am extremely proud to be counted in this honorable list of ACB Members in recognition of my past 12 years of working with this incredible organization made up of so many amazing people!”

Woodsongs Treats Members to Old Time Radio

BCB members and associates were treated to a fascinating hour with Michael Johnathon, host and producer of the weekly show, Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour, during our July 13 Community In-ing. Michael is an accomplished folksinger himself and loves the traditional folk and



bluegrass music of Kentucky which nurtured his childhood. Woodsongs, which normally is produced in front of a live audience at the Lyric Theater, is on hold due to the pandemic. However, you can still listen to older recorded shows on WEKU on Saturday at 8 p.m. or on WUKY at 10 p.m., on Woodsongs.com or on YouTube. Woodsongs features artists from all over the world and has produced over 1,000 shows.

Mayor's Commission Hosts Virtual Town Hall

The Lexington Mayor's Commission for Racial Justice & Equity will hold a virtual town hall meeting on Tuesday, August 4, online at the Commission's



LEXINGTON

YouTube Channel, <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/commission-racial-justice-and-equality>.

The town hall meeting topic will be Housing & Gentrification, Law Enforcement, Justice & Accountability and moderated by Renee Shaw of Kentucky Educational Television. To submit questions, email TownHall@lexingtonky.gov.

BCB August 11 Assistive Technology Seminar

If you have iOS 13, you'll be delighted to hear about a new feature called series shortcuts. Join us for this Zoom meeting to learn how to navigate your iOS device easier.

Date: Tuesday, August 11 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqf-GoqzwwGtcDQVOO5s_Bni-D2F0-LCS

To join the meeting directly, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85788057003>

Or iPhone one-tap

US: +13017158592, 85788057003# or +13126266799, 85788057003#

Or dial this number to join by telephone:

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 857 8805 7003

BCB August 12 & 17 Mentoring Support Groups

We will host two small mentoring support groups in August. The topic will be dealing with isolation and loneliness as a sight-impaired person during the pandemic. Join this fun and lively group for good conversation about subjects meaningful and helpful to blind and vision impaired people. New members welcome!

RSVP to the office at 859-259-1834 or email susana@bcbky.org.

Dates: Wednesday, August 12, 1 p.m. and Monday, August 17, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Isolation and Loneliness as a Sight-Impaired Person During the Pandemic

Location: Call Susan Ament at BCB, 859-259-1834, or email her susana@bcbky.org for the meeting ID and link. Meeting will be Zoom.

BCB August 19 Community “In-ing”

On Wednesday, August 19, 12 noon, our group is invited to join the Lexington Lions Club for one of their regular meetings. The Lions Club is one of our benefactors and we can show our gratitude for their support by attending this Zoom meeting. It is a great way to socialize. The speaker will be announced in the August 15 calendar. Mark your calendar now for this opportunity to show our gratitude for the Lions Club! You do not need to be a Lions Club member to participate.



Date: Wednesday, August 19 **Time:** 12 noon – 1 p.m.

Topic: Lexington Lions Club Speaker

Location: Zoom meeting, Registration online here:

RSVP to 859-259-1834 and we will get you the Zoom access info needed to join. All you need is a regular phone to join if you do not have a computer or smartphone.

OR call the office at 859-259-1834 for the access number.

BCB August 26 Lunch & Learn

Join us this month as we welcome back Kathy Holder, HIA, CBC, PAHM Community Outreach Manager, from United Healthcare, as our featured presenter. She will give an update on Dual Service plans for people who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid and all the extra benefits for yourself or a loved one.

Date: Wednesday, August 26 **Time:** 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Topic: Dual Service Plans for Extra Benefits for Medicare Recipients

Location: Via Zoom

RSVP: by phone at 859-259-1834 for access info

Registration URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-CqqDwqGdNK1fxwl1EvvCdvpihfTyD0>



Book of the Month

“Hamilton-An American Musical”

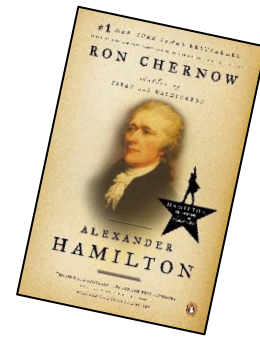
Novel by: Ron Chernow

Book Number: DB58364

Access: Downloadable Talking Book

Reading Time: 38 hours, 22 minutes

Read by: Roy Avers



Award-winning author chronicles the life of the foremost American founding father who never became president. Describes Hamilton (1757-1804) as self-pitying, cynically manipulative, yet compassionate. Documents his membership in the Constitutional Convention, service as Treasury secretary, and prolific authorship that helped shape U.S. political agendas and institutions. Bestseller. 2004.

Disclaimer: The book recommendations and opinions from staff and others do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Bluegrass Council of the Blind, Inc.

2020 SEE Cruise – Sailing the Air-Waves!

The Bluegrass Council of the Blind is excited to announce that the **now virtual** 2020 SEE Cruise will be “Sailing Through the Air Waves” on Saturday, October 10, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and we need YOUR help to reach our final destination – raising \$20,000 in 2020!

This fun and festive **virtual** event will feature LIVE music from Conch Republic, an online auction and raffle, along with exciting updates and recognition from our “SEE Captain,” LEX18 Chief Meteorologist, Bill Meck. Although the event this year will have a new look and feel, we believe it will still be an exciting time for all to join us in supporting programs for people with vision loss while enjoying fun music, great auction deals and philanthropy for a great cause!



Plans are in the works now to move this cruise ship themed event to sail the air waves from the live sound stage at the Lexington School for the Recording Arts and broadcast LIVE over multiple social media platforms and our event website. Our silent auction and raffle will launch one week prior to the live event (Oct. 3) and conclude at 8:30 p.m. on October 10, giving you plenty of time to view and bid on the unique items in our online auction and share with your friends and family for some “friendly competition.” We hope you will save the date and begin planning how you want to tune in for the fun! Due to the virtual platform, no “boarding pass” or admission is required. We encourage you to tune in on your favorite platform and enjoy the music and fun to help us reach our goal of \$20,000.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our donors and volunteers over the past seven years, this annual event has raised nearly \$93,000 to support life-changing programs for

Kentuckians who are blind or visually impaired. We hope we can count on your support to reach our goal to continue essential services for adults and families impacted by vision loss.

Because of the current economic situation due to the pandemic, we know it is very difficult for businesses and restaurants to donate silent auction items and we want to respect them and do what we can to help them in their situation. For this reason, we are requesting that our friends and supporters consider purchasing items and gift cards from your favorite local businesses that you would like to support through the pandemic and donate those items to the BCB auction – providing a wonderful way for you to support your favorite businesses and restaurants while also supporting programs for people with vision impairments. For more info, see the September issue of the BCB eyeKNOW News or call the office at 859-259-1834. We hope you will join us on October 3 and invite your friends to join in the “sail-abration!”

CVS Pharmacy Introduces New App Feature for Reading “Talking” Prescription Labels

CVS Pharmacy announced that it has developed Spoken Rx™, a new feature of the CVS Pharmacy app that can read a specific type of label for patients with visual impairments and those who cannot read standard print labels. Spoken Rx is the first in-app prescription reader application to be developed by a national retail pharmacy.



By the end of 2020, 1,500 CVS Pharmacy locations will be equipped to affix special RFID labels to prescription vials. When the RFID labels are scanned by Spoken Rx in the CVS Pharmacy app, which can be accessed by users using Siri or Google Assistant on their phones, prescription label information will be spoken out loud. This information, which is important for patient safety and adherence, currently includes patient name, medication name, dosage and directions and will be enhanced to include additional information over the months to come. Spoken Rx will be available in all CVS Pharmacy locations by the end of 2021.

Enrollment in the program is seamless and can be done either over the phone or in store where a pharmacist can ensure the patient’s app is appropriately set up for the service. Spoken Rx is free to CVS Pharmacy patients and the app will read prescription label information aloud in either English or Spanish.

The announcement is the result of collaboration between CVS Pharmacy and the American Council of the Blind, which worked with CVS and tested the technology throughout its development. For more information on Spoken Rx and a list of active stores please visit [CVS.com/spokenrx](https://www.cvs.com/spokenrx)

BCB AUGUST CALENDAR

August

Children's Eye Health Safety and Cataract Awareness Month

BCB Assistive Technology Seminar

Date: Tuesday, August 11 **Time:** 1 p.m., Zoom

BCB Mentoring Support Group

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 1 p.m. and Monday, August 17, 7:30 p.m.

BCB Community "In-ing"

Date: Wednesday, August 19 **Time:** 12 Noon Zoom

BCB Lunch & Learn

Date: Wednesday, August 26 **Time:** 1 p.m., Zoom

