



November 2023

2265 Harrodsburg Road, Suite 102 | Lexington, KY 40504 | info@bcbky.org | 859-259-1834

In addition to email, the BCB Calendar of events is recorded and available for listening after the 15th of the month by calling 859-259-1834 and choosing extension 9; the BCB Bulletin is recorded and available for listening after the first of the month by calling 859-259-1834 and choosing extension 8.

Highlights

No Lunch & Learn in November or December

Just a reminder that due to the holidays, we will not be holding Lunch & Learns in November or December.

BCB Members: Registrations for the Holiday Party Are Due Nov. 29

BCB Members: You are invited to our annual membership Holiday Party and Luncheon on December 6, 2023, from noon until 2 PM, at the UK Fayette County Extension in Room B – the same place we had our March Membership meeting. The address is 1140 Harry Sykes Way here in Lexington. **Registration is required by Wednesday, Nov. 29.** We hope you can join us!

We have some important business to take care of involving acceptance of current bylaws and two additional proposed bylaw changes. Of course, we also have festivities planned to celebrate the holidays so feel free to wear holiday attire. We will have an Ugly Sweater Contest, an optional Gift Exchange, Goodie Bags and possibly a visit from Santa himself! If you wish to participate in the Gift Exchange, please bring a wrapped gift with a suggested value of \$10 and you will receive a gift in return.

If you haven't renewed your membership by Dec. 6, you can pay your dues at the door. Dues are \$10 for the year. We also accept money for sponsorships for those members unable to afford the payment who request assistance.

A copy of the proposed bylaws and amendments to be voted on at the meeting have been mailed for review to all current members we have addresses for. This information will also be emailed to members who provide an email address and a recording of this material has been posted on our voice mail system at extension 7. Members can call the main office to request alternate formats like Braille and print larger than 14 point. Please review the information in advance and direct any questions you may have to BCB Board President Arthur Abshire at president@bcbky.org or Judy Potter, Board Vice President and Bylaws Committee Chair at judapotter@gmail.com. Phone numbers for each of these can be obtained by calling the BCB office at 859-259-1834.

Membership Makes Our Organization Stronger

It's that time of year again: BCB's Fall Membership Drive! BCB is now accepting renewals and new applications for 2024 memberships. Although membership is NOT required to receive services or participate in most BCB activities, we are hopeful that you will want to join and show your support for our organization!

BCB Membership allows you to come to and participate in our Quarterly Membership meetings. This includes the annual Holiday Luncheon (coming up Dec. 6!), our last Membership meeting of the year; regular meetings in March and June; and our annual business meeting with elections each September.

Dues can be paid by check, cash or card and are \$10 a year. To pay by card, please go to www.bcbky.org/donate, make your payment and key in "2024 Membership" in the Notes section.

For new or nonrenewed members, if you pay dues now through December this year, your membership will extend through the end of 2023 and all through 2024. We would like to have as many new or renewing memberships as possible in by March 1, 2024, in order to count toward memberships in our parent organization, the American Council of the Blind (ACB). This increases our voting power as decisions are made on a national level. Your \$10 membership automatically grants you membership in ACB so you can stay up on news on legislation, advocacy, the annual convention and other items of interest to the blind and low vision community, such as self-driving cars, accessible currency, and audio description, just to name a few.

If the cost of a membership presents a hardship for you, please contact Susan Ament at susana@bcbky.org. BCB offers anonymous sponsorships to cover your dues. We do accept donations to help meet this need. Many thanks to all our past and current members! We would not be who we are without your support and participation.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving!

Calendar

November 2023

November BCB Mentoring Small Group

We offer two dates for the mentoring small groups: an in-person afternoon meeting and an evening virtual meeting.

Evening Mentoring

Date: Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM EST

Location: Zoom meeting

To participate, contact Susan Ament at susana@bcbky.org or 859-259-1834 for access information.

December 2023

BCB's Holiday Luncheon Quarterly Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Time: Noon until 2 PM

Location: UK Fayette County Extension in Room B (1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington)

BCB Members are invited to our annual membership Holiday Party and Luncheon! We have some important business to conduct involving BCB's current bylaws and two additional proposed bylaw changes, along with holiday festivities. Feel free to wear holiday attire. We will have an Ugly Sweater Contest, an optional Gift Exchange, Goodie Bags and possibly a visit from Santa himself! If you wish to participate in the Gift Exchange, please bring a wrapped gift with a suggested value of \$10 and you will receive a gift in return.

BCB Membership is \$10 and is required to attend. You can pay your membership fees ahead of time at www.bcbky.org/donate or at the door. Dues paid now will pay your membership through 2024. Each member can bring one guest.

Registration: Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email info@bcbky.org if you are planning to attend. Early registration is encouraged; registration closes at noon Wednesday, November 29. Be sure to let us know if you will be needing Wheels reimbursement passes.

December BCB Woodturning

Date: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023

Time: 1 PM to 2 PM

Location: BCB Headquarters, 2265 Harrodsburg Rd, Suite 103, Lexington

BCB is now offering wood turning for people who are blind or visually impaired on the first Thursday of every other month, Class size is limited to two. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a handcrafted gift for the holidays. The first two to sign up will work directly with Richard, our trainer, on creating a keychain. Others who call will be put on a waitlist. If you're interested in learning how to do wood turning, please reach out to Richard at richard@bcbky.org. This activity requires registration and that a liability waiver be signed.

Registration: To register, call 859-259-1834; if you have questions, contact Richard at extension 4 or email at richard@bcbky.org.

December BCB SAFE Space group for spouses and family members of people with low to no vision

Date: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Zoom

Our SAFE Space group is open to spouses, significant others, roommates, parents, children or any other individuals who may be living with or concerned about assisting a person with a vision impairment. SAFE Space meetings are confidential and everyone in attendance is required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to participation and expected to be respectful of others. This is strictly a peer support group and any advice, recommendations or information shared are not necessarily the opinions of the Bluegrass Council of the Blind and are not to be intended as professional advice or counseling.

The SAFE Space group will be co-hosted by Dr. Susan Ament, BCB's Peer Support Program Manager, and Julie Jones, M.A., spouse of Michael Jones.

Registration: Please contact Susan at susana@bcbky.org or 859-259-1834, ext. 6, to register or if you would like more information about participating.

December BCB Mentoring Small Group

Afternoon In-Person Mentoring

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023

Time: 1 PM to 2 PM EST

Location: BCB Headquarters (2265 Harrodsburg Rd, Suite 102, Lexington)

To participate, contact Susan Ament at susana@bcbky.org or 859-259-1834.

December BCB Assistive Technology Group Seminar

Date: Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023

Time: 1 PM to 2 PM

Location: Virtual and in BCB Office, 2265 Harrodsburg Rd, Suite 102, Lexington

Topic: "Best Magnifying Apps For Android And iPhone "

This month, Sam will be talking about his favorite magnifying apps for both Android and iOS. Not only are these apps incredibly helpful for low vision in a variety of situations, they're also free!! Join the event to find out more and to learn how you can get these apps for yourself!

Registration: Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email info@bcbky.org to register. Remember, if you can't join us in person, you can use a landline telephone, cell phone, computer or tablet to access the meeting via Zoom. Carrier rates may apply.



If you would like to help support the BCB Bulletin and the vital services provided by the Bluegrass Council of the Blind, please visit www.bcbky.org/donate to make a secure online donation today.

Thank you!