

15 Ways to Maximize HAB's Membership

All too often, people join organizations without taking advantage of the opportunity to truly become familiar with intricate details of its mission, purpose, and operating practices. This can very well result in a lack of participation and could ultimately result in a decision to forfeit what could have been the ideal vehicle to enhance your life, build great relationships and effectively share personal skills and abilities that can make an enormous difference.

In an effort to encourage you to explore the rich history and meaningful efforts of HAB, the tips below are listed to assist you in making the best of your membership, while connecting with others whose skills and abilities complement your own.

1. Be inquisitive and don't hesitate to ask questions. Any question you have deserves a meaningful response. Inquire by reaching out to your state affiliate President.

HAB President: Art Cabanilla

Email: 808hab@gmail.com

HAB's Voicemail: at (808) 521-7648 or directly at 808-728-1554.

2. Become familiar with the history, mission, vision, CORE Values, and purpose of HABB frequently to be able to share the information with others. This could lead to potential members looking to join an organization like HAB.

Read about HAB's history and other information by visiting www.hab50.org.

Once on the HAB site, the best place to start is by reading "People of Vision", The ACB Story.

It includes entries about the founding father of American Council of the Blind, Durward K. McDaniel. Plus others who joined him in forging ACB. Download it

Information can also be found on the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) BARD website. Access to the BARD web site is restricted to eligible readers. Thus, to use BARD will require registering for a login ID and password. To enroll in BARD visit: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/information-request/>. It's recommended to first gather information. A good place to start is with the NLS's Frequently Asked Questions page. It can be found at: <https://www.loc.gov/>

nls/how-to-enroll/sign-up-for-bard-and-bard-mobile/nls-bard-frequently-asked-questions/

Once you've obtained access to BARD, Search for DB56115, People of Vision (A history of the American Council of the Blind) and download it to your chosen reading device.

For Support, send email to: NLSDownload@loc.gov.

3. Make a personal commitment to identify ways to get involved in service and fundraising efforts.
4. Find out who the officers and directors of HAB are and become acquainted with them and their roles and responsibilities, as well as members you observe actively participating in events and projects associated with our organization.
5. Make your skills and abilities known to leaders of the affiliate. These individuals are likely to be your ticket to greater opportunities of service.
6. Make every effort to participate in the state affiliate, regional, and national meetings, training sessions, seminars, conferences and conventions. Learn more about the legislative process, by attending the Hybrid ACB DC Leadership Conference in order to meet members from around the nation who enjoy the privilege of participating in the Legislative Seminar held in February or March of each

year, which culminates with a visit to our nation's Capital also known as Capitol Hill. You can make a difference and this is the key vehicle to promote positive change for all Americans who are blind, visually impaired or have low vision. Be sure to access the ACB Advocacy Update Podcast at www.acbmedia.org or on your favorite podcast player. Listen to the Washington Connection by dialing 202-467-5081. This is ACB's Legislative and Information Service.

7. Inquire about available committees you may be able to serve on to assist the organization in achieving its goals and objectives. Seek to join committees that allow you to utilize your skills and abilities in the most effective and efficient manner. Speak with HAB's membership chair to review the list of committees that are available. You may also speak to the individual committee chair persons during a general monthly meeting. You can also access a list and descriptions of committees from the chair of membership. Notify HAB President of your interests by sending email to: 808hab@gmail.com. Include reasons for desiring to serve on specific committees, prioritize your preferences, along with skills and abilities you plan to use to make contributions to the work of the committee.
8. Sign up for up-to-date news

and announcements from all levels of our affiliate. Ask the president or a member to tell you how to take advantage of this option. Remember you can also subscribe to various national ACB Group Email List to receive and share announcements, resources and supportive information. Visit www.acb.org and scroll down to the link to all email lists and focus on how to subscribe.

9. Listen to or read publications and newsletters distributed by the state affiliate and the national organization on all levels in various formats. This is one of the best ways to learn about useful resources locally and nationally, access inspirational stories, scholarships, awards, and upcoming projects and events. All members are eligible to receive the ACB Braille Forum magazine; Dots and Dashes newsletter, and other special announcements from the announce list.

10. Identify and become better acquainted with the various -activities that meet your personal needs and interest. These activities provide you the opportunity to network with others sharing common interests, such as your prior or current occupation, hobbies, health concerns and so much more; take advantage of making mutually beneficial connections.

11. Learn of the agreed-upon

operating practices spelt out in HAB's bylaws and constitution and procedures of our organization. The most currently adopted and/or governing documents.

12. Get social by connecting with ACB national through its social media networks; such as ACB You Tube Channel; Facebook; Twitter/X and Mastodon. This is a great way to introduce others to the work and accomplishments of ACB on a national level.

Follow us on Twitter @
acbnational

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmericanCouncil-oftheBlindOfficial

Follow us on Mastodon at
<https://mastodon.social/@ACBNational>

13. Participate in the local affiliate committee meetings to build your knowledge; such as HAB's membership committee, PAY committee, advocacy committee and more.

14. Explore HAB's web site and our national organization. You may locate information on the web site that you didn't think of inquiring about. Be sure to download the ACB Link App on your smartphone, or other mobile device as an alternate method of accessing ACB on the Worldwide Web.

15. Exercise your right to vote! Your vote is your voice. Take advantage of the opportunity to vote during state and

national elections. Prepare to observe and participate in meetings in regard to proposed resolutions and constitution or bylaw amendments. Ask questions and read to become informed about issues in an effort to cast an informed vote.

In conclusion, the more you know and the more you become involved, the more you will be prompted to share your personal story of how you have joined a phenomenal organization that is continuing to advance. Pay your annual dues faithfully and encourage others to do the same. Have a great HAB adventure!

Passing of Sam

Please keep Evelyn and family in prayers over the passing of her husband Sam AH San. He was a loving husband, father, uncle and friend to many.

Our hearts go out to her and her family. Please find services below. Hope to see you there.

When:

Saturday, August 30th

Visitation 5:00p.m.

Services 6:30p.m.

Where:

Nu'uuanu Memorial Park

2233 Nuuanu Ave

Accessible Street-Crossing App Oko Gets Acquired

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 12:03 PM

By David Goldfield

It isn't often I cover M&A news, but today happens to be one of those rare times.

Texas-based transportation safety company Synapse on Tuesday announced its plan to acquire Oko. Oko, an Apple Design Award winner and last year's App of the Year, is an iPhone app which uses the device's camera(s) and artificial intelligence to help Blind and low vision people accessibly (and safely!) cross streets. In its announcement, Synapse describes Oko as developed by "a team of accessibility and mobility experts" and which technical attributes include "[harnessing] location data, audio cues, and accessible interface design to help guide users through the most dangerous aspects of crossing intersections." Oko collaborated with the Blind community to build its app.

Once the deal is officially completed, Oko will become a free app in an effort to "make its services accessible to as many pedestrians as possible," according to Synapse.

Synapse is owner of Polara, which specializes in building accessible pedestrian signal (APS) technology. The deal with Oko enables Synapse to integrate Oko's technologies with the

existing APS infrastructure by way of its consumer-oriented PedApp in an effort to make street-crossing more accessible to the Blind and low vision community.

“This acquisition is a natural extension of our mission to increase roadway safety, accessibility, and efficiency with state-of-the-art software,” Josh LittleSun, Synapse’s chief technology officer, said in a statement included in the company’s press release. “The fusion of Oko’s smart navigation technology with Polara’s trusted PedApp moves us closer to a future where pedestrian equity and safety are built into every crosswalk.”

Synapse’s vice president of intersection sales, Matthew Baker, agrees with LittleSun.

“This is the kind of life-changing innovation we’re proud to bring into the Polara family,” Baker said. “By eliminating subscription fees, we’re making Oko accessible to all and speeding up adoption in communities that need it the most.”

In an email to me, Oko founder Willem Van de Mierop said he believes the acquisition “can be seen as one of the most exciting deals for the accessibility space.” He also noted Oko recently hit a milestone, as it has helped people navigate 10 million streets.

<https://www.curbcuts.co/blog/2025-7-15-accessible-street-crossing-app-oko-gets-acquired>

The Basics of Leadership Explained.

To influence someone, you have to know what influences them. the following story is told best by Tony robins.

Years ago, I landed at a small airport in the Midwest to refuel my plane.

The young man who came out to meet me was one of those people you like instantly—grounded, genuine, full of heart. We spoke for a moment, and I left him with the plane while I stepped inside.

On the stairs sat a teenage girl.

Pale skin. Black lipstick. Heavy boots. Piercings lined her ears. The full goth look—and a glare to match. Arms crossed. Completely shut off.

But she wasn’t just sitting there. She was focused...staring at the young man fueling my plane.

I sat down nearby and asked, “Is that your boyfriend?”

She fired back, “Does it matter?”

Eventually, she let her guard down.

“Yes. He is.”

I followed her gaze to the boy still actively fueling my plane. She held so much affection in her eyes.

The outfit, the attitude—it was a mask. A way to feel powerful. A

way to be somebody. It was her strategy to feel significant.

Then I noticed something that didn't match:

A bright orange Tigger keychain dangling from her all-black backpack.

I pointed to it. "Tigger, huh? He's the one who always bounces back."

That cracked her open. She smiled.

"My daddy gave it to me."

In that moment, everything shifted. Her posture, her tone—all the defenses dropped. She started telling me about her room, her wallpaper, and her life.

The mask was gone. The real person showed up.

Her #1 need was significance.
Her #2 need was connection.

The Same is True for You and Your Teams

This story isn't just about a girl at an airport. This story is a powerful lesson in leadership.

Because whether you're managing a team, leading a company, or navigating any relationship, the same principle applies.

If you want to influence someone, you have to understand what drives them.

We all have different patterns, personalities, and preferences. But underneath all of that, we're driven by the same Six Human Needs: certainty, variety, significance, connection, growth, and contribution.

When you understand someone's top two, you gain a deeper map of how they operate—what fulfills them, what stresses them, where they shine, and where they struggle.

This Summer Lead with Presence

Take an extra second to really pause and see those around you. The people on your team, in your family, in your life—they're always giving you clues.

A word. A reaction. A small mismatch, like a Tigger keychain.

Because when people feel truly seen, they open up. And in that space of trust, real growth and connection becomes possible for them and for you.

You have the power to see people clearly. And when you do, you'll change what is possible.

Let's all practice listening to each other and listen for the clues that will influence a more meaningful conversation with others.

Pearl Highlands Center Holo Holo Shoppers Event

Get your shop on with HAB's Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists. Pearl Highlands Center offers a food court, Sam's Club, Ross, Liliha Bakery, and the Pizza Press. Participants can enjoy social interactions and opportunities to practice O&M Skills.

Why:

To provide a supported social gathering in a community setting to strengthen shopping, communication and O&M skills

When:

Friday, August 8, 2025
4pm to 7pm

Where:

1000 Kamehameha Highway,
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
Handivan drop-off is the food court

RSVP

Troy Kato, COMS
Email: kato.troy@gmail.com
Phone: [\(310\)612-3163](tel:(310)612-3163)

Liability Disclaimer: All participants are responsible for their own safety throughout the event. Hawaii Association of the Blind shall not assume any liability resulting in injury or death

Ziplining Event

It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s an excited HAB member soaring through the air with the wind in their hair and a smile on their face. Join us for a ziplining event at the Bay View Mini-Pu5 and Zipline.

Members can enjoy the park with 3 rides on the 400 foot zipline. Addi-onal rides are available for purchase. Light snacks are also available for purchase. Zipline policy is as follows

* Waivers are required for all

riders. (All guests under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign a waiver for them.) Waiver is available at the event with QR code or download, and print the following pdf <https://bayviewminiputt.com/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4800/2021/04/BayViewWaiver.pdf>

- * Must be at least 6 years old.
- * Must weigh between 60-250 lbs.
- * Must have closed-toed shoes with a heel strap.
- * Must be able to carry 9 lbs. up a flight of stairs.
- * No high heels.
- * Must not be pregnant, have knee or back injuries, or have any heart conditions.

When:

August 23, 2025,
9:30 am-12:30 pm

Where:

45-285 Kaneohe Bay Drive,
Kaneohe Hawaii, 96744

RSVP

Nancy Parker, COMS
Email: nlpinhi@gmail.com
Phone [\(808\) 291-5390](tel:(808)291-5390)

Liability Disclaimer: All par-cipants are responsible for their own safety throughout the event. Hawaii Associa-on of the Blind shall not assume any liability resul-ng in injury or death.

Parents and Youth - STEAM Event Dolphin Quest

Come Explore with Us!

We are embarking on a captivating sensory filled adventure that involves hands-on lessons with Dolphin Quest Education Specialists on land and gently interacting with dolphins and appreciating their beauty. This enriching experience allows us to learn and connect with

these remarkable creatures in a meaningful way.

*Please note that we will not be swimming with them.

When:

August 31

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Where:

Kahala Hotel & Resort
5000 Kahala Avenue,
Honolulu Hawaii 96816

Liability Disclaimer: All participants are responsible for their own safety throughout the event. Hawaii Association of the Blind shall not assume any liability resulting in injury or death.