

Viewpoint

Spring 2011 Newsletter



Cincinnati Association for the
Blind & Visually Impaired

A MEMO FROM JOHN MITCHELL



On April 26, 2011, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired hosted the 100th Annual Meeting of the Association. It was a very exciting day as over 90 members joined together to share the common purpose of this great organization. The first annual meeting was held in April 1912 and each April thereafter as required in the agency's by-laws. In preparation for this historic milestone, I decided to revisit the stated purposes of this organization 100 years ago when Barney Kroger and other pillars of the Cincinnati community, including Julius Fleischmann, Harry Levy, Nicholas Longworth, Henry Moeller, Mrs. Bernard Pollak, Louis Stricker and others, joined together to form the Cincinnati Association for the Welfare of the Blind. The original Articles of Incorporation, which were approved and signed by the Ohio Secretary of State on May 4, 1911, stated that the corporation was formed for the purposes of:

1. To Prevent Blindness.
2. To Educate and render aid and assistance to the blind.
3. To provide a workshop for the Blind where they may be taught successful art, trade or occupation, with a view thereby of becoming self-sustaining and useful members of society.
4. To interest and enlist the public in the welfare of the blind and do and perform all acts and things which tend to relieve, improve and advance the general welfare and conditions of the blind.
5. To purchase and acquire property, real and personal, and accept and receive gifts, subscriptions and donations, testamentary and otherwise, for the purpose of this corporation.

In reviewing these original articles of incorporation, it is quite remarkable that CABVI is still true to these 100 years later. I believe it says a great deal about the basic human needs that this

association was formed to address as well as the excellent people who have led and guided the agency since its formation. From the first four Board Presidents, Barney Kroger, James Orr, Charles Kuhn and William Beiser, who led this agency for the first 50 years, from 1911 to 1961; to recent Board Presidents Robert Eagen, Paul Silverglade, Ralph Waldvogel, Steve Eberly, Brad Kindem and Michael Lichstein, all told, 17 generous, compassionate and committed Board Presidents have furthered this Association and its intended purposes through their leadership.

As you read this Spring 2011 *Viewpoint* and its coverage of our Access Technology Service, our Base Supply Center anniversary, our Volunteer Appreciation event and coverage of our Centennial celebrations, please keep in mind the continued leadership of CABVI's current Board in developing and approving our new 3-year Strategic Plan that will guide the agency through 2013. The key elements of this plan include:

- Continuing to align CABVI's programs and services with the findings of the Community Needs Assessment that was completed in 2009.
- Assessing organizational effectiveness and efficiency to assure good use of agency resources in performing our mission.
- Updating, strengthening and expanding the agency's technology infrastructure.
- Making investments in our business development function within CABVI.
- And, finally, continuing to invest in the marketing of the agency to get the word out to the people who can benefit from our services and to "interest and enlist the public in the welfare of the blind."

Having these five new strategic initiatives as our focus combined with our legacy of the five stated purposes will combine to allow us to be even more effective at performing our mission of *Offering blind and visually impaired people the opportunity to seek independence.*

Happy 100th Anniversary to CABVI!!

AGENCY NEWS

2011 ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT CABVI

The 100th Annual Meeting of the Members was held at CABVI on April 26th, 2011. The meeting recognized the efforts of volunteers, board members and staff who contribute to the overall success of CABVI serving people with vision loss in our community. National Volunteer Week was April 10-16 and CABVI is grateful to our 545 volunteers who contributed more than 38,000 hours in 2010.

CABVI board member, **Norma Rashid**, hosted this special Centennial Annual Meeting and **Dan Hurley**, Director of Leadership Cincinnati, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, was the speaker. He presented an informative historical perspective on philanthropy in Cincinnati at the turn of the 20th century. He described CABVI as part of “a story that is fundamental to understanding the character of American society.” CABVI began with a group of citizens who saw a need in the community and created an organization to meet the need.

At this meeting, the Bradley L. Kaylor Blind Employee of the Year Award was presented to **Michael Palmer**. As a machine operator, Michael makes rolled paper and adhesive tape products that CABVI sells to the U.S. government. Michael’s supervisor describes him as “spectacular, outstanding, a rare find.” He has demonstrated natural leadership during his six years of service at CABVI and has a solid reputation for being reliable, personable and industrious. Michael’s wife of eight years, **Phyllis**, is also employed at CABVI and was there to see him receive his award.

Trustee awards were presented by **John Mitchell**, Executive Director, and **Michael Lichstein**, Board President. **Stephen S. Eberly** was recognized as a returning board member. He was first elected to the board in 1985 and, in his 26-year tenure, has served on many committees of the board. Steve served as



Dan Hurley, director of Leadership Cincinnati

Board President from 2000-2005 and is currently a member of the Personnel/ Industries Program Committee and Program Services Committee.

The following new board members were welcomed:

Patti Weller Bresler, Creative Director at Brandimage, brings 25 years of design experience to CABVI. Patti has been a member of the Marketing Committee since 2003 and led the creative team that helped CABVI change its name and update its logo in a 3-year process from 2004-2007. Patti leads fundraising efforts and volunteers for several local non-profits and is also involved in professional organizations and her church.

Steven T. Kenat is a Principal at GBBN Architects and the Director of the Community Development Team. Steve has served on CABVI’s Building and Grounds Committee since 2004 and works extensively on projects and capital campaigns for several local non-profit organizations. He is an alumnus of the Business Courier’s “Forty Under Forty,” Leadership Northern Kentucky, and Leadership Cincinnati.

Gail A. Moore was employed with Procter & Gamble for 30 years and held various management positions in the Human Resources area. Gail has served on CABVI’s Board Personnel/Industries Program Committee since 2000. She is past President of the Princeton City Schools Music Boosters Program and volunteers in the tutoring program at Lincoln Heights Elementary School.



Left to right: Patti Weller Bresler, Stephen S. Eberly, Gail A. Moore and Steven T. Kenat, AIA.



Fred Newman, director of Industries Program, and Michael Palmer



Left to right: Michael Lichstein, Deborah Kendrick and John Mitchell

A special thank you was offered to board members rotating off the board: **Richard J. Delewski**, board member since 2002 and a member of the Finance/Investment Committee; **James A. Murray**, board member since 1992 and member of the Personnel/Industries Program Committee; **Glen G. Vogel**, board member since 2000 and member of the Finance/Investment Committee as well as Vice President/Treasurer from 2005-2010. Also leaving the board is **Bradley A. Kindem**, board member since 1995, who served as Board Vice President/Treasurer from 1996 until he was elected president in 2005. He served as board president from 2005 to 2010.

Deborah Kendrick, CABVI board member, was honored for her 25th anniversary as a board member. Deborah is currently an active member of the Information Services, Program Services, and Strategic Planning Committees. Deborah was presented a silver charm bracelet with CABVI's logo, her name, 25 years and the Annual Meeting date of April 26, 2011.

NEW STAFF AT CABVI

CABVI welcomes three new staff members to our team. **Kelly Wills** and **Mandy Van Cleave** have joined the Access Technology Service as access technology specialists. **Theresa Yost** has joined Social Services as an outreach social worker.



Pictured left to right are Mandy Van Cleave, Kelly Wills, and Theresa Yost.

CABVI BASE SUPPLY CENTER CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

CABVI recently hosted AbilityOne partners and other base officials to an anniversary event to celebrate ten years of employment opportunities to people who are blind or visually impaired through CABVI's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Supply Center, *OFFICE RUNWAY*.

At the event, **Col. Richard 'Duke' Hazdra**, vice commander, 88th Air Base Wing; **Randy Parker**, vice director, 88th ABW; **Col. Timothy Donohue**, commander, 88th Mission Support Group; and **Richard Henterly, Jr.**, director, Logistics Readiness Division, helped CABVI executive director **John Mitchell** cut a ribbon for the grand opening of *OFFICE RUNWAY*'s new furniture showroom.



One of OFFICE RUNWAY's new furniture showrooms.

OFFICE RUNWAY carries more than 3,000 competitively priced, quality items including more than 1,000 SKILCRAFT items produced by more than 70 blindness and disability agencies (including CABVI's Industries Program) across the United States.

Federal purchasing of SKILCRAFT® and other products and services under the AbilityOne Program (formerly the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program) from AbilityOne associated agencies like CABVI employs more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or severely disabled across the nation. In 2010 *OFFICE RUNWAY* sold more than \$1 million in AbilityOne products, with each sale promoting employment for Americans who are blind, visually impaired or who have another disability.



CABVI staff and Wright-Patterson AFB officials cut the ribbon.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE: ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SERVICE



Twenty-five years ago there was no such thing as Facebook, a laptop computer or even e-mail. Computers were in their infancy. Still, CABVI was at the forefront in realizing that technology was going to be increasingly important to people in maintaining their independence. In 1986 the Computer Training Program was launched to help meet a demand that was sure to come.

Since then more than 2,500 people who are blind or visually impaired have successfully relied on CABVI for consultation, comprehensive evaluation, and instruction on the continually expanding list of state-of-the-art mainstream and adaptive products that are available.

A quarter of a century later, CABVI's newly renamed Access Technology Service (ATS) is respected locally and nationally as a premier program providing one-on-one as well as group services to consumers and professionals within the rehabilitation and vocational fields. Highly qualified specialists work with individuals of all ages at CABVI and in their homes, school or work environments to help them meet their recreational, academic and employment goals.

CABVI also provides consultations with businesses wishing to hire or retain employees who are blind or visually impaired. Consultations include recommendations on selecting access technology compatible with a company's existing systems, and fitting job sites and workstations with that technology.

What is access technology? It includes software that enlarges text and can read it aloud; Braille displays that provide tactile feedback; optical character recognition products that scan printed materials into a computer and convert them into a medium best suited for a person's needs and more. This past year ATS added an increasing number of notetakers, electronic book readers, smart phones and tablets to its inventory of products to address popular trends.

"Technology is increasingly important to everyone and we give them the tools to be successful with any of their technical goals," said **Mark Foersterling**, manager of the Access Technology Service.

CLIENT PROFILE

When **Karen Garner** used to hear her great aunt Gertrude talk about experiences working for CABVI, Karen never dreamed she would one day find herself in need of services where her aunt had spent so many years. A diabetic since she was 10, Karen began having vision issues in her late 20s; and then, in 2000, a steroid treatment following a kidney transplant caused her to lose much of her eyesight.

CABVI has had an important role in helping Karen maintain her level of independence. Through an orientation and mobility specialist and a vision rehabilitation therapist, Karen learned how to navigate her neighborhood using a cane. She uses many adaptations received through CABVI to assist in everyday tasks.



Among the items most useful to her are the color detector that helps ensure her clothes are coordinated; buttons to mark settings on appliances; a digital recorder where she stores information such as appointments, recipes, and phone numbers; a talking book machine and her Pen Friend that allows her to create talking labels for kitchen spices, CDs and more. Access Technology Service specialists also provide her with continued training and support on adaptive computer software. CABVI volunteers assist her with reading, transportation and other needs.

Still, with all the ways in which CABVI has impacted her life, Karen said what she appreciates just as much is the friendship and encouragement she has received from staff. "Anytime I have questions or just need support, I know I can count on them," said Karen. "The biggest thing for me from CABVI is the encouragement that I can still do what I want to do. I just need to learn a new way."

VOLUNTEER NEWS

VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED ON THE RIVER!

Each year hundreds of generous people help us help others lead independent lives. Collectively CABVI volunteers gave nearly 39,000 hours in 2010; more than 24,000 hours alone were dedicated to Radio Reading Services. That is a lot of dedication.

To celebrate our volunteers with a special centennial appreciation event, CABVI hosted a sightseeing Volunteer Appreciation Event on a BB Riverboat cruise down the scenic Ohio River. **Bill Favret** and **Jerome Manigan** were honored for 30 years of service and **Mark Beckman** was recognized for logging the most volunteer hours in 2010 – 595 hours.

Other volunteers who were honored were:



John Mitchell, David Schuler and Paula Jordan

Angie Heiman – Fibbe Award given to a Radio Reading Services volunteer. Angie has been a reliable Tuesday morning WRRS reader for over 20 years, and can be counted on to train new readers or work seamlessly with a sub if needed. She also reads the comics and Nature

David Schuler – Sheffield Award for a non-Radio Reading Services volunteer. CABVI Early Intervention/Music Specialist Paula Jordan has a great ability for bringing out abilities in children who are blind or visually impaired. And she travels a lot of miles to do her job. David knows this first hand because he has been her one-on-one volunteer and staff driver since 2005. David has also provided clients with transportation to appointments at CABVI or a doctor's office. His dedication has spread to his wife and mother-in-law who also volunteered for several years.

Conservancy for Personalized Talking Print. Nearly as long as she has read on air, her thoughtfulness has extended into CABVI's One-on-One program where she has been individually matched with clients. Most recently she enjoys gardening, sharing books and shopping with Carol whom she has been visiting since October '09.

Paul Feller – Moser Award given to a Radio Reading Services volunteer. A board operator for WRRS since 1989, Paul fully understands the importance of his role and takes that responsibility seriously. Every Monday morning he is the first to arrive at 6:15 a.m. to prepare the studio for its first live reader. Listeners of WRRS are the first to hear his voice giving the weather forecast and preview of the day's programs. In 2006 Paul took his job one step further by joining the Information Services Committee that continually monitors and evaluates WRRS for quality management.



Mark DeWitt, RRS broadcast manager, and Angie Heiman



Kole Ross, RRS broadcast assistant, and Paul Feller

Jeannie Ronald – Ron Ott Award given to a Personalized Talking Print volunteer. Since becoming a PTP reader in 1999, Jeannie has consistently been eager to help however she can. Her regular assignments are to read the *Cincinnati Enquirer* death notices on Wednesdays and a variety of other articles on Saturdays. While not an official substitute reader, she is always just a phone call away whenever a need arises; and has come to the rescue on many last minute occasions.

Jeanne Haungs – One-on-One Award. While Jeanne was first matched with Paul and Bernie Dressell in 2001 to provide individualized reading, their relationship has evolved into so much more. In addition to reading the



Janet Papin, Personalized Talking Print coordinator, and Jeannie Ronald.



Jennifer Holladay, One-on-One volunteer coordinator, Paul Dressell, and Jeanne Haungs



Abby Bolling and Paula Jordan

Dressells their mail and other materials, Jeanne has helped solve computer and color coordination issues, and assisted with shopping and check writing. However, just as important Jeanne, Paul and Bernie have grown to be great friends. When they aren't together, the Dressells can hear Jeanne on WRRS where she reads a weekly Consumer Reports Magazine show.

Abby Bolling – Paul Silverglade Award given to a volunteer between the age of 12 and 18. Abby was 4 when she was first introduced to CABVI's music program – as a client. Since then she developed her talents through hours of practice and performances before school and church. An empathetic student who relates

well to everyone, she came back to CABVI two years ago as a volunteer. Her enthusiasm has inspired music students with multiple disabilities to play instruments and sing alongside her. CABVI 2010 5K participants will know her as the singer who kicked off the race with the national anthem.

CENTENNIAL

CABVI DAY AT FOUNTAIN SQUARE

It is not every day that an organization has a chance to invite an entire community to its 100th birthday. The hub of downtown Cincinnati was brimming with activity on May 4 when several hundred people joined us on Fountain Square to celebrate our special event.

Norma Rashid kicked off the presentations, which included welcomes by **Michael Lichstein, Ph.D.**, president of the CABVI Board of Trustees, and **John Mitchell**, executive director of CABVI. **Reuben Shaffer**, CABVI Board Trustee and Vice President-Operations of The Kroger Company, and **Kay Geiger**, Regional President for PNC Bank, were present on behalf of their companies for recognition as corporate sponsors.

Official proclamations were presented by: **Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls** for the City of Cincinnati; **County Commissioner Todd Portune** for Hamilton County; **Jan Michael Kearney**, representing her husband, Ohio State Senator Eric Kearny; **Katie Streicher**, a representative for Congressman Steve Chabot; and **Sara Dreier**, a representative for Congresswoman Jean Schmidt. Also, a proclamation signed by



Roxanne Qualls, John Mitchell, Reuben Shaffer, Michael Lichstein, Jack Rentz and Kay Geiger

Ohio Governor John Kasich and a congratulatory letter signed by Senator Sherrod Brown were read.

Former executive directors, **Carl Augusto** and **Hank Baud**, were present to share their thoughts on CABVI's 100 years. Speakers' comments were interspersed by musical performances by **The Clark Montessori Steel Band** and **The Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band**, which kept a very festive atmosphere going throughout the 90-minute celebration. It was truly a grand day and celebration!



Michael Lichstein, Todd Portune and Norma Rashid



The Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band and their director, Dan Kelley.



CABVI's Paula Jordan performed with the bands on the Square.



The Clark Montessori Steel Band in action!



Carl Augusto, John Mitchell and Hank Baud



The video board atop Macy's played a slide presentation of CABVI's history.



Hank Baud, Sue Friedlander and Rosemary Bloom

CABVI IN REDS' OPENING DAY PARADE

CABVI staff, volunteers and the CABVI van participated in the Reds' Opening Day Parade on March 31, 2011. This event was sponsored by CABVI Volunteers.



MANY THANKS TO OUR CENTENNIAL SPONSORS!



CABVI
Volunteers



SAVE THESE DATES!

August 7, 2011

CABVI'S "Know You Can" 5K
Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum

August 31, 2011

CABVI Night at the Reds

September 11, 2011

Program Services Presentation

October 20, 2011

Centennial Celebration Dinner
The Hyatt Regency

December 8, 2011

Holiday Open House

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

A RICH HISTORY OF PLANNED GIVING TO CABVI

We continue honoring some of our earliest donors who made planned gifts to our organization as we celebrate CABVI's Centennial in 2011. Over the years, simple gifts from the heart of so many individuals have become an amazing expression of our community's dedication to our mission of "Offering blind and visually impaired people the opportunity to seek independence."

Throughout the historical documents of CABVI we see frequent but often brief mention of gifts made by generous donors who cared deeply about the ongoing success of our organization:

- Notes from the Annual Meeting in 1930 "reported a gift of \$2,000 under the will of Agnes Moore and a gift of an unknown amount under the will of Emil A. Mente."
- In 1936 notes from the Annual Meeting refer to the "Margaret Kyle Fund for the assistance of soldiers blinded during the World War."
- The Annual Report for 1951 reads, "material relief is not a primary function of our agency but the Clara M. Olden Clothing Fund has been a great benefaction as administered by our social worker."

Sometimes these gifts were designated for specific purposes but, even more often, planned gifts have been used to solidify the financial strength of this organization through the agency's endowment to continue the long-term success of CABVI in serving our Greater Cincinnati community.

We encourage you to notify us if you have made arrangements for a planned gift. We want to thank you for your gift, clarify your full intentions, and demonstrate good stewardship. Please call Kathy Gottschlich at 513-487-4233 to become a member of the Visionary Society.

CABVI's Board of Trustees created the Visionary Society as a way to thank our donors for planned gifts during their lifetime. Members of the Visionary Society are listed in the Annual Report and on the donor wall at CABVI with the donor's permission.

Suggested wording to remember CABVI in your will or estate plan: *"I give to the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired the sum of _____ dollars (\$_____). This bequest is unrestricted and the Board of Trustees or other governing body may use and expend the same for the benefit of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in any manner it deems appropriate."*

CABVI'S "KNOW YOU CAN" 5K

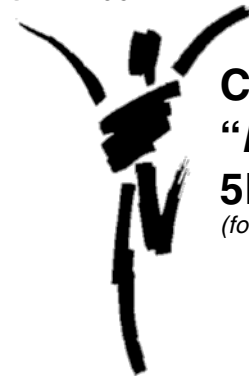
CABVI invites you to participate in our 12th Annual 5K (3.1 miles) held in Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum on Sunday, August 7th at 8:30 a.m. We are celebrating our Centennial year of services with a new name for the event -- CABVI's "Know You Can" 5K (previously Spring Light 5K). Everyone is welcome to participate and the event benefits CABVI's services for people who are blind and visually impaired. Preregistration is \$20 and includes a T-shirt. Register online at www.sprunning.com.

Registration the day of the event is \$25 and includes a T-shirt (while supplies last). Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. just inside the Spring Grove entrance.

Many thanks to our 2011 5K sponsors: Barnes, Dennig & Co.; Burrows Paper Corporation; Cincinnati Bell Technology Solutions; Cincinnati Eye Institute; Federal Supply LLC; Frost Brown Todd LLC; Kemba Credit Union; Kohl's For Kids; Messer Construction; Miami Valley Paper Tube Co.; Milford Printers; OXO International; PNC Bank; Shurtape Technologies, Inc.; Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum; Sunrise Advertising; Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP and Zeta Sigma Chapter of Delta Gamma at Northern Kentucky University.

For more information about services or to volunteer, call 513-221-8558.

12th Annual



CABVI's
"Know You Can"
5K
(formerly Spring Light 5K)

LISTENERS' CORNER

The Listeners' Corner is news and helpful tips for the listeners of Radio Reading Services (RRS) radio broadcasts, Ohio Telephone Reader, Personalized Talking Print service (PTP) and One-on-One clients. Services and equipment offered through RRS programs are free of charge to people who are blind, or visually or print impaired. For more information about RRS programs, please contact Sheryl Rottenberger at CABVI, 513-487-4245.

Did you know? The WRRS Broadcast schedule and the Cincinnati local television listings (Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.) is also available now on Ohio Telephone Reader.

WRRS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Prepare to be mystified, maybe even a little spooked, if you tune into the 'Mystery & Imagination' show. You will hear about unusual phenomena, ghost stories, UFO sightings, Big Foot, the Bermuda Triangle, monsters and more. A writer and director of radio plays, volunteer Rick Young uses his theatrical voice to share these vivid real life stories. His program was selected as Program of the Year by the International Association of Audio Information Services. You can hear 'Mystery and Imagination' every first and fourth Thursday at 2 p.m., and repeated every first and fourth Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

PTP UPDATES

Please note: there are two new additions to the Magazine Table of Contents mailbox 5400. *Scientific American* is being read by Dave Abbott mailbox 3011 and *The Atlantic* is being read by Charlotte Fairlie mailbox 3196.

Information from *Soap Opera Digest* magazine (weekly) is being sent directly to the personal mailboxes of interested listeners. If you would like to receive this information in your personal mailbox, please contact Janet Papin at mailbox 1019 or at 513-221-8558 ext. 400.

Baseball standings for the American League and National League are being read daily in the sports mailbox 5136. PTP tip: When forwarding a PTP message, press 6-6 (six six) to remove all previous introductions.



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513-221-8558

Toll free: 1-888-687-3935

www.cincyblind.org

Email: info@cincyblind.org

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call 513-221-8558 and ask for the *Viewpoint* editor.

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Viewpoint is available in Braille, large print, CD and at www.cincyblind.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

CABVI's "Know You Can" 5K (formerly *Spring Light 5K*) will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2011 at Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, 4521 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.; the race begins at 8:30 a.m. The event also features a short KIDS' FUN RUN after the 5K for children to age 8 (no registration, no fee), as well as music and door prizes. For more information call Steve Prescott at 513-777-1080. Pre-register online at www.sprunning.com.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Telephone solicitation campaigns claiming to benefit persons who are blind are being conducted in our community by other organizations. CABVI is not involved in these solicitations, does not condone the methods used, and does not accept money raised through these campaigns. If you have questions about a telephone solicitation call, contact your state's Division of Consumer Protection.