**This is the GUIDE PAGE MAGAZINE web-text edition for September 2020.**

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**Phone (304) 522-6991, Fax (304) 522-6924**

**e-mail:** [**cwabadm@cabellwayne.org**](mailto:cwabadm@cabellwayne.org)

**Internet:** [**www.cwab.org**](http://www.cwab.org)

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind, Inc.**

**Executive Officers:**

**Joann Wallace - President**

**Joanna Holbrook – Vice-President**

**Leah Thompson - Secretary**

**Laundle Powers - Treasurer**

**Board Members:** **Wanda Annis, Mike Fitzpatrick , Trish Walker, Mark Oldaker, and Kim Blake.**

**Emeritus members: Ken Hicks, and Ernie Golder**

**Toni Walls, Executive Director**

**Jerry Crabtree, GUIDE PAGE editor**

**Major funding provided by the Teubert Foundation,**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind**

**Mission and Vision Statements**

**OUR MISSION: Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind is committed to promoting and advocating the economic, educational, and social welfare of the blind and visually impaired of all ages so that they can maintain a lifestyle comparable to other members of society.**

**OUR VISION: CWAB® (registered trademark) will be seen nationally as a model for organizations and agencies that help blind and visually impaired persons achieve maximum independence. CWAB® will be known for timely and appropriate state-of-the-art responses to the changing needs of consumers throughout the Tri-State area and beyond.**

**Due to circumstances surrounding the ongoing risk of COVID-19, the Association’s 45th Anniversary Celebration originally scheduled for October 9th,**

**has been postponed until 2021.**

**We look forward to a grand celebration at that time!**

**In this issue: Mission and Vision Statements,**

**Table of Contents, From The Director’s Desk, Rummage Time!, COVID-19 Risk Questionnaire For Building Entry, Notes From The Editor, A Word Search For September!, Sweets for Sight Virtual Edition Details, Sweets For Sight Sponsors & Supporters, Beanie Baby Basket Fundraiser, T-shirt Fundraiser, Cabell-Wayne Fundraiser: AmazonSmile®, Cabell-Wayne Fundraiser: Kroger®, Cabell-Wayne Fundraiser: Rada Cutlery®, Website Update!, Guidelines for Rehab Services, Shopping Opportunity, Virtual Event Offers Option For Blind or Visually Impaired, GUIDE PAGE By Email, Planned Giving, CWAB® Services.**

**ON THE COVER:**  **The, “Sweets For Sight”, logo. Event details, sponsors, and supporters can be found beginning on page 14.**

**From The Director’s Desk**

**Hello all,**

**I pray this issue of the Guide Page finds you well.**

**As COVID-19 continues to be a very real and dominating issue in our world today the staff continues to adapt and work toward providing the services CWAB® Services Division is known for.**

**Recreation Coordinator, Linda Worthy is working on a plan to make crafting available and doable for those who are interested. Feel free to give her a call to get the details.**

**Sweets for Sight, the Virtual edition, continues to be a focus of the agency right now. It is promising to be a very successful event. Call to speak with Zach for more details.**

**Unfortunately the Board President and Vice President made the very hard but wise decision to postpone the celebration of the Association’s 45 years in existence. We look forward to holding a celebration in 2021 to commemorate this notable milestone.**

**I am always open to a conversation with any of you regarding the decisions that have been and will continue to be made on a daily basis. If you can’t reach me immediately please know that I will return you call as soon as I can.**

**Thank you all for staying safe!**

**Until next month**

**There are two images with this article. The first photo appears in the corner of the left-hand page, and is a portrait of Walls. She is seated with her torso turned slightly toward the camera. She is wearing a black sweater over a floral print blouse. She has below the chest brown hair, and is slightly smiling. The background is totally black. The second image is a very large agency loco at the end of the article and at the bottom center of the page.**

**Rummage Time!**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division is currently preparing for our annual Fall Rummage Sale.**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division is currently preparing for our annual Fall Rummage Sale.**

**We have a LOT of stuff to sort through and prepare for safe shopping opportunities for our consumers and the public as well. We will be scheduling visits to the sale, using the best advised practices to promote safety to all.**

**We are scheduling shopping times continuing every Thursday and Friday through September 4th.**

**There is a dedicated Facebook® page for larger sale items. That can be found by signing in to Facebook® and searching for Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division 2020 Rummage Sale, (https://www.facebook.com/cwab.org)**

**Please contact Danielle or Toni to schedule a time.**

**Thank You!**

**Toni I. Walls, COMS, CVRT**

**Executive Director**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division**

**There are five photos with this article. These five pictures feature items, and groups of items for sale during the Fall Rummage Sale.**

**COVID-19 Risk Questionnaire For entry into**

**COVID-19 Risk Questionnaire For entry into**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Buildings or Vehicles Based on prevailing information from WV DHHR and CDC**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Yes No Please sanitize thermometer before using with wipe.**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Temperature Check \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\***

**Do you currently have any of the following symptoms:**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Cough**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Chills**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Fatigue**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Muscle or body aches**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Headache**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ New loss of taste or smell**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Sore throat**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Congestion or runny nose**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Nausea or vomitingDiarrhea**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Have you traveled in the last 14 days to an area known to have a high incidence of COVID-19 positive cases?**

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Have you been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division, Board of Directors, and Association membership have only the best interest and concern for consumers and staff alike. COVID-19 has presented a challenge world- wide. To respond to the challenge of COVID-19 these are few of the steps CWAB® Services Division has taken:**

**Developed a COVID-19 Risk Assessment for entry into CWAB® facilities. This form is completed each day by staff and served consumer alike.**

**Gathered personal protection equipment and supplies to provide for staff and consumer. These include masks, face shields, and hand sanitizer.**

**Gathered antiseptic supplies for building and vehicles. These include Lysol®, bleach, and other anti-viral supplies.**

**Outfitted each vehicle with plexiglass to cut down on consumer exposure.**

**Limiting the number of consumers transported to promote social distancing.**

**Limiting entry into CWAB® buildings to the CDC guidelines or better.**

**Notes From The Editor**

**Hello, and welcome to the September issue of the Guide Page Magazine!**

**A few things to draw your attention to this month:**

**The format for this year’s, “Sweets For Sight”, has changed. Details on page 14.**

**Ongoing fundraisers for AmazonSmile®, Kroger®, and Rada Cutlery®, as well as for the Beanie Baby basket, and Cabell-Wayne t-shirts, continue. information on these can be found beginning on page 24.**

**Several weeks ago I participated in a virtual convention for amateur radio operators. This was a worldwide event. Of particular note was the event’s attention to blind and visually impaired hams. Read about it beginning on page 38.**

**On the next page of the print edition is a word search puzzle specifically for the month of September. This puzzle will bot appear in the braille, email, or audio edition of the Guide Page Magazine.**

**Sweets for Sight Virtual Edition Details**

**Due to COVID-19, Sweets for Sight had to be changed once again with safety in mind. We have decided to do it virtually. What that will look like is outlined below.**

**New Dates September 21st-25th, 2020**

**Starting on Monday, September 21st at 8:00 a.m. pictures of desserts from our vendors will be posted online through the Sweets for Sight Facebook® event page and located on the CWAB® web page. People can then place a bid through Facebook® for the dessert they wish to have recreated. On September 25th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., the bidding will close. The highest bidder on each dessert will be provided a certificate to place an order through the vendor at their convenience for the dessert bid on.**

**How the bidding works:**

**Bidding is open to everyone wishing to participate. There will be a minimum bid amount on each item to start the process. Those wishing to place a bid may do so in at least $1.00 increments. Those bidding will simply do so in the comments on our Sweets for Sight Facebook® page under the picture of the item they are bidding on. If unable to access through Facebook bidder may call the office and have Zach or Pam enter their bid.**

**We also have a few packages available as well to bid on such as hotel stays, gift certificates, and various products. More information to be announced soon.**

**Those who have purchased tickets already can ask for a refund, or allow purchase to be a donation. All requests for refunds must be received by September 14, 2020. Those who leave it as a donation will be selected to receive box sets of items from the dessert vendors that we will create and set up for pick-up or delivery. These box sets will be limited to what our venders submit to us.**

**This format is different, but hopefully fun in its own way. We cannot do this without the support of our wonderful vendors, amazing consumers, and dedicated staff as well as our consistent supporters.**

**Alcon**

**Alcon is the global leader in eye care, dedicated to helping people see brilliantly. With their 70-plus-year heritage, they are the largest eye care device company in the world – with complementary businesses in Surgical and Vision Care. They manufacture contact lenses, implant lenses, surgical tools and devices, as well as eye care solutions. Alcon has helped Cabell-Wayne for many years by funding our 5-K runs, in the form of grants. So many things would not be possible if it were not for this grant, and we appreciate Alcon’s continuing support of our agency.**

**Dutch Miller**

**Dutch Miller is more than just the name of a business; it's also the name of the founder, H.D. (Dutch) Miller, who opened the first Dutch Miller dealership in 1961. Today they employ around 300 people, and they proudly serve the tristate region with dealerships in Charleston, Huntington, and Barboursville. Dutch Miller Kia began their support of Cabell-Wayne last year when they became the first company to sponsor Sweets for Sight. We are excited to have them onboard and want to express our gratitude for supporting us for the second year in a row.**

**Valley Health**

**Valley Health got its start in 1975, and by 1978, opened three health centers in Barboursville, Wayne, and Milton. Since founding those original health centers, Valley Health has seen great success and an increased need for primary care in rural West Virginia. Today, Valley Health operates over 30 health centers and public health programs in West Virginia and southeastern Ohio. We would like to extend a thank you to them for their sponsorship of Sweets for Sight this year. We appreciate their support of Cabell-Wayne Association of The Blind.**

**Huntington Federal**

**Huntington Federal received its first federal charter as Huntington Federal Savings & Loan in 1934. At that time, the bank was restricted to offering personal savings accounts and home mortgages. In 1995, all of that changed when the bank dropped ‘Savings & Loan’ from its name and officially became chartered as Huntington Federal Savings Bank. We’d like to thank them for Sponsoring Sweets for Sight this year and appreciate them for supporting our agency.**

**Pro Wash**

**Charlie McCoy**

**Pro Wash has been in business since 1990, Charlie McCoy is owner and operator. Mr. McCoy travels the state, providing both commercial and residential power washing services. Mr. McCoy washes buildings, houses, and fleets. He has been a supporter of Cabell-Wayne for several years and we thank him for seeing the importance of what we do.**

**Premier Therapy**

**For over 35 years, Premier Physical & Occupational Therapy has been providing the best in physical therapy to their patients in northeast Kentucky and Southern Ohio. At Premier, they are committed to helping you get results! That is why they have been voted the #1 physical therapy provider in the region for over 20 straight years. Cabell-Wayne could not thank them enough for their sponsorship of Sweets for Sight, it is greatly appreciated.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**We would also like to thank a private donor who wishes to stay anonymous, their generosity and not gone unnoticed.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**We would also like to thank our donors who supplied items for the silent auction.**

**Advance Auto, Huntington, Lowes, Barboursville,**

**Home Depot, Barboursville, Bare Arms, Huntington,**

**Highland Museum, Ashland, Clay Center, Charleston,**

**Camden Park. Heritage Farms, Strike Zone, Huntington,**

**Kidaroos, Charleston, Pump-Up-The-Fun, Barboursville,**

**Roll-A-Rama, Huntington, Blenko Glass, Milton,**

**Safety Town, Huntington, Bellacinos, Huntington,**

**Outback, Barboursville, Foodfair, Barboursville,**

**O’Rielly’s, Huntington, Steak N Shake, Barboursville,**

**Central City Café, Huntington, Jim’s Steak and Spaghetti House, Huntington,**

**Texas Roadhouse, Huntington, Starbucks, Barboursville**

**Our newest fundraiser – a CWAB® hand-crafted basket filled with 31 classic Ty Beanie Babies®, and 25 miniatures!**

**Tickets are on sale now!**

**$1 buys one entry**

**$5 buys six entries**

**$10 buys 12 entries.**

**Good Luck!**

**There is a photo of the basket filled with the beanies and miniatures on this page. The agency loco also appears at the top of the page.**

**T-shirt Fundraiser Cabell-Wayne Association of the**

**Blind Services Division is selling t-shirts. These t-shirts come in a choice of colors (Navy, Royal, Red, Kelly, Purple).**

**For short sleeves they will be $15 a piece. For long sleeves they will be $20 a piece. All orders should be given to Danielle or Toni.**

**Call the Services Division at 304-522=-6991 for more details!**

**There are two photos with this article. They are of Hailey Tabor wearing a tee shirt as mentioned. The caption reads: Transportation team member, Hailey Tabor, shows the front and back of the Royal Blue t-shirt”**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind relies on multiple fundraisers, each serving as a means for the agency to connect with our community, while raising funds to support agency programs. Since the onset of COVID-19, our regular schedule of events has been adjusted, and re-adjusted. Despite these changes, there are still ways to assist with fundraising. The next few pages will show you how.**

**Cabell-Wayne Fundraiser: AmazonSmile®**

**What is AmazonSmile®?**

**AmazonSmile® is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile® is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon® Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile®, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile® will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.**

**How do I shop at AmazonSmile®?**

**To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile® on your Amazon® Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app). On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile®. When you’re using the app, always check for the “AmazonSmile®” logo to ensure you’re activated for AmazonSmile.**

**Which products on AmazonSmile® are eligible for charitable donations?**

**Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile® are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile® donation” on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.**

**Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile®?**

**Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile®. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.**

**How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile®?**

**On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile® will result in a donation. AmazonSmile® will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program.**

**Can I change my charity?**

**Yes, you can change your charity any time. Your AmazonSmile purchases after the change count towards your newly selected charity. To change your charity on your web browser, simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account." You can also visit AmazonSmile under settings on your Amazon Shopping app and select "Change your Charity."**

**What charities can I choose from?**

**You can choose from over one million eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.**

**How much of my purchase does Amazon® donate?**

**The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.**

**Can I receive a tax deduction?**

**Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.**

**Cabell-Wayne Fundraiser: Kroger®**

**The Kroger® Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives.**

**One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger® Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger® and swipe your Shopper’s Card. Here’s how it works:**

**1. Create a digital account.**

**A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger® Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper’s Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.**

**2. Link your Card to an organization.**

**Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Kroger® Community Rewards selection on your digital account.**

**1. Sign in to your digital account.**

**2. Search for your organization here.**

**3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support. Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division NPO number is PK519**

**4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click “Save”.**

**Your selected organization will also display in the Kroger® Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.**

**3. Your organization earns.**

**Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper’s Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger® donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger® Community Rewards organizations.**

**If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Center.**

**If you use a Kroger® card you can give back to CWAB® Services Division by linking your card to us through their Kroger® Community Rewards program. Our NPO number is PK519.**

**https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards**

**Cabell-Wayne Fundraiser: Rada Cutlery®**

**One of our new and exciting fund raisers is the Rada Cutlery fundraisers!**

**Rada Cutlery is 100% American Made - raw materials and construction. Rada Mfg. Co. has made and sold over 150,000,000 knives since 1948, earning the reputation for remarkable cutlery, service, and value.**

**Kitchen Knives. A variety of knives for all types of food preparation.**

**Cooking Utensils. Everything you need to cut, serve, spread and whip with these handy kitchen tools. Perfect for the experienced chef and the first-time cook alike.**

**Quick Mixes. Get a head start on making delicious cheeseballs, cheesecakes, dips, sauces and soups, and shake on extra flavor with marinades and seasonings.**

**Gift Sets. A variety of gift sets for all occasions. Give the gift of refined style with our classic gift set combinations. Ideal for young newlyweds or first-time homeowners, our gift sets are guaranteed to be a hit.**

**Recipe and Gift Books. Our library of recipe books will make for a lifetime of good eating for yourself or a loved one.**

**Rada Mfg. Co. will replace any product manufactured by our company returned to us due to defects in material or workmanship.**

**Please contact Toni or Danielle at the Services Division office if you need more information regarding placing an order. You can access our online catalog through our Facebook® page also.**

**There is a garge Cabell-Wayne agency logo at the end of this article.**

**Website Update!**

**Communicating has always been a priority for Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind. The agency provides many avenues by which consumers and the general public are able to reach us for services, donations, or general questions. Our website is primary example.**

**Recent circumstances deemed it necessary for the CWAB®.com website to be refreshed.**

**This update allows for easier access to key features: such as Donate and Chat buttons, quicker links to “Who We Are”, “Services”, “Guide Page Magazine”, and agency events, you can also sign-up for our Guide Page Magazine, email edition. Under “Services”, you will be introduced to the experienced staff, and learn of the many ways Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division serves the many blind and visually impaired consumers of Cabell and Wayne Counties.**

**Lastly, from its main page, we have provided phone, fax, and email information so you may easily reach us.**

**There is a graphic at the end of this article. The graphic is a screenshot of the new agency website. The graphic shows a small agency logo in the upper left, and a “Donate” button on the upper right. The accessibility widget also appears in the upper right corner. There is a photograph of a man and a woman walking through what appears to be a park setting. Their backs are facing the photographer. Beneath the copule are three separately colored “blocks”, or “sections”. In each section is a link for: “Who We Are{, “Services”, “Guide Page Magazine”, and “Events”.**

**Guidelines For Rehab Services**

**As Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind begins to gradually offer services again, certain policies and practices regarding services offered have changed to allow us to safely serve our consumers.**

**Zach Davis, VRT Assistant, will have limited in-office hours, and will be offering rehab and assistive services under special conditions. Those conditions are:**

**Arrangements to pick up or drop off aids can be made.**

**Assessments will be made by phone, ZOOM, or FaceTime**

**All assistive aids will be mailed to requesting consumers.**

**All low-vision aids will also be mailed.**

**In person visits may be scheduled at this time with attention to best practices for safety regarding the threat of COVID-19.**

**To schedule an appointment for assessment, or to request assistive or vision aids, contact the Services Division at 304-522-6991.**

**There is one photo with this article. The picture is of a 7x lighten Magno® (brand name), hand magnifier.**

**Shopping Opportunity**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division Transportation Department is offering individual shopping service. These shopping opportunities will be offered on a first come first serve basis, and scheduled dependent upon medical and work related transportation needs.**

**Consumers are encouraged to have a guide with them for these trips. Consumer and guide must wear a face mask and be screened for COVID-19 risk.**

**Locations for these opportunities will be Kroger® on 5th Avenue, Walmart on Rt. 60, the Huntington Mall, and Aldi's on Washington Avenue. These shopping opportunities will be limited to one stop. Consumer will be allowed up to 2 hours for shopping. You should call CWAB® Services Division prior to checking out to insure timeliness of ride home.**

**Limits to purchases are fully dependent on what you are able to carry into your home on your own. Drivers will assist in getting purchases to the door, but will not be able to carry items inside your home.**

**Call CWAB® Services Division at 304-522-6991, and ask for Toni, Jim, or Hailey for more information.**

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**JT Smith Departs Cabell-Wayne**

**JT Smith began employment with Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind Services Division on June 10, 2019, as a part-time, temporary driver. He soon proved his worth as a driver and was hired as a permanent, full-time employee. He provided assistance with the agency’s website as well since he has skills in that area. If you go to our website at www.cwab.org, you will see his work there.**

**As with many good things, his time at CWAB® has come to an end. JT is currently a graduate student at Marshall University and has decided that he wants to focus more fully on his studies there. We wish him all the best in his future.**

**There are two photos with this article. Both images appear at the bottom of the article page. The first, on the left, shows JT in the driver’s seat of a Cabell-Wayne Shuttle. He is wearing a navy blue CWAB® t-shirt, has his arms folded, and is broadly smiling. The second image shows JT dressed in a business suit, standing beside a stature of a buffalo.**

**RECREATION NEWS: Getting Crafty At Home!**

**It is time to start crafting! Unfortunately we will not be doing group meetings due to the State and CDC Guidelines for group gatherings, but that does not mean we can’t get crafty at home!**

**I am making 12 craft kits that will be available to the first 12 consumers who call in for them. You may only reserve these kits through Linda Worthy. If I am unavailable, leave a voicemail, I will return your call. If the demand seems to be higher than 12, I will adjust that number on any future kits to accommodate as many of you as possible. We will get the kits to you through delivery, by mail, or you can arrange to pick it up if you are by this way.**

**The first kit that will be available is a fall flower arrangement. Instructions will be included in each kit, and an email of those instructions can be made available as well. Other formats may be available upon request.**

**The craft schedule will look like this for the next couple of months:**

**September 2, 2020 – Flower Arranging**

**September 16, 2020 – “HOME” Signs**

**September 30, 2020 – Pumpkin Wreaths**

**October 14, 2020 – Pumpkin Carving**

**October 28, 2020 – Pony Bead Pumpkins**

**I will be available every Monday from 9:00 to 11:00, and every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 via the telephone for any questions you may have regarding the kits, any suggestions of future crafts, or anything else you would like to discuss about recreation.**

**We are all going through this difficult time and making adjustments as necessary. Thank you for being understanding and working with us. We will get through this together!**

**On a not so bright note, the Huntington Museum of Art pottery class that we usually do in the fall, has been cancelled. They will not be having any classes until after the first of the year, if then. I will keep you posted if we are able to reschedule in the future.**

**Virtual Event Offers Option For Blind or Visually Impaired**

**by Jerry Crabtree**

**I’m an amateur radio operator. I have mentioned this on more than one occasion.**

**Most amateur operators, myself included, enjoy the camaraderie of other operators – both long time friends, and new acquaintances. We like to talk about our gear, the antennas we use, and the contacts, (we call them QSO’s), we’ve made. For instance, a month or so ago, while operating digital mode – my computer was “talking” to my radio, which in turn, was “talking:, to another radio connected to a computer. This was special because that radio was in Australia! Within thirty minutes, I was making contact with another amateur operator – in Hawaii, and both from the West end of Huntington! Quite exciting stuff!**

**And, not only do we like to talk shop, we like to eat!**

**Now, since the coronavirus, (some of us call it, “Rona”, for short), we have not been able to gather much at all.**

**There are several major events throughout the year that amateur radio operators like to attend. HamCation is held in Orlando, Florida in February, Ham-Com is held each June in Plano, Texas, but the granddaddy of them all is Hamvention, which is held in Dayton, Ohio.**

**Each of these amateur radio related events can easily attract tens of thousands of amateur radio operators from all over the world. As a matter of fact, the Dayton Hamvention attracted 25,000 operators for its 2019 event – selling out area hotels and bringing in tens of thousands of dollars in revenue to the Dayton/Zenia, Ohio area.**

**The major draw for these highly attended events are the seminars, presentations, vendor booths, and flea market. Not to mention the varied food vendors and after convention party. They are truly a ham radio operators “candy store”.**

**Now since, “Rona”, everything has been cancelled, leaving operators biting at the bit for something to do.**

**Enter the “QSO Today Virtual Ham Radio Expo”!**

**The weekend of August 8th and 9th, Eric Guth, of KEG Media, Los Angeles, callsign 4Z1UG, of Israel, spearheaded the first ever, and historical, “QSO Today Virtual Ham Radio Expo”. The event was based on the podcast by the same name.**

**Why, you ask, is this a big deal? Mr Guth, with assistance from others were able to gather nine major manufacturers and distributors of amateur radio equipment – one of them was one of the “big three”, worldwide manufacturers, forty other manufacturers and business who deal in amateur radio gear, dozens of presenters offering a wide array of topics, as well as dozens, and dozens of representatives of these companies. We had to provide the food ourselves from home.**

**Chat sessions with company representatives, and individuals were also available, not to mention ZOOM Q&A sessions after each presentation.**

**It is estimated that 25,000 amateur radio operators from across the globe signed up for this event!**

**I sat in my comfortable chair at home and watched presentation after presentation. I downloaded a variety to literature to browse through at me leisure.**

**And something else …. The virtual expo did their best to include blind and visually impaired operators!**

**The expo was hosted by vFairs, a worldwide company that provides a platform for virtual fairs and expositions.**

**The blind operator portion was “off platform”, and those who chose to navigate there were not eligible for points needed to win prizes which were awarded by the expo itself.**

**Choosing the, “Blind/Vision Impaired”, button, (first clickable button in the blue navigational banner), brought you to a text-only page. I have a good deal of usable vision so I could tell right away that this page was not very user friendly for the visually impaired amateur radio operator. The text was not BOLD, and a lot of the information displayed was less than 16 point font. Only the page title appeared to be at least 24 point font, still it was not bold. No text on the page appeared to be Ariel – which is the normal fontset for the visually impaired.**

**Since I am not versed in the smooth use of a screen reader, JAWS, or VoiceOver, I asked Adaptive Technologist, Jeff Ball to check this page for ease of use.**

**“Using an iMac with VoiceOver, if I click on the “Blind/Vision Impaired link. It opens a new tab with links to the Q & A’s, and a list of presentations. If clicked on they then open as a YouTube video.**

**“VoiceOver will recognize most of the links, however for example, when looking through the list of ZOOM meetings, it only reads the web address to the meeting, and doesn’t tell you what meeting you are about to attend.**

**“For the most part it is pretty navigable with JAWS. The YouTube video that pops up when entering for the first time is almost impossible for the user to close.**

**“One of the tabs, “Swag Bag”, when filled with PDF’s, JAWS does not want to read or navigate. I’m not sure if that is a JAWS issue, or website issue.**

**“I would say for the most part, it is a pretty accessible event, be it using screen readers or with screen enlarging software. So my kudos to the event planners for their work on a pretty user friendly site.”**

**Than you, Jeff for your imput. There were a few bugs in the live event portion. I’m sure the event planners have a list and those issues will be addressed by the time they host their second such event in March of 2020.**

**There are two graphics with this article. The first is a screenshow of the virtual expo main page – which resembles the lobby of a movie theatre, showing main attraction billboards in the center, and two event entrances – one on the left, one on the right. The second graphic is a screenshot of the page set up for the blind or visually impaired. This screenshot is all text. The description reads, “This is the text-only screen for blind and visually impaired amateur radio operators during the QSO Today Expo.”**

**Guide Page by Email: Click, Open, and Read**

**For thirty years the GUIDE PAGE MAGAZINE has been made freely available in a variety of formats to suit the vision needs of Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind's consumers. Those formats have changed as technology has changed. We now offer large print, Braille, and audio CD. For our internet savvy consumers, audio, PDF, and text issues are available on cwab.org.**

**We produce over 600 copies of the GUIDE PAGE each month, with many formats requiring postage for delivery. The most cost effective issues we produce are email.**

**Email issues need no ink, paper, packaging, or postage. Recipients simply open their inbox and read or let their screen reader software read it for them.**

**By changing your current subscription to email only, you will greatly assist us in continuing to provide the GUIDE PAGE to you. For more information, please call 304-522-6991.**

**Planned Giving**

**So, what is planned giving?**

**Planned giving is sometimes referred to as “gift planning”, or “legacy giving”. It is a way to support non-profits that enable philanthropic individuals to make larger gifts than they could make from ordinary income. Some planned gifts provide life-long income to donor. Other gift plans use estate and tax planning to provide for charity and heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor’s estate.**

**Thus, by definition, a planned gift is any major gift, made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor’s overall financial and/or estate planning.**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind has had the good fortune to receive several such gifts.**

**These gifts will provide goods and services to the blind and visually impaired pf Cabell and Wayne Counties of West Virginia. They will also provide funding for operational expenses.**

**Planned giving is the most practical way to ensure your personal and financial wishes are fulfilled after you are gone.**

**Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind is more than happy to discuss with you the many ways the agency could benefit from your wishes. Contact the Services Division office at 304-522-6991, and we will make an appointment to meet with you to discuss youir wishes.**

**CWAB® (registered trademark) Services**

**TRANSPORTATION – Getting around is a major roadblock to the blind and visually impaired. Consumers are offered free transportation to work, doctor’s appointments, shopping, and group activities. Limited vision no longer means limited transportation.**

**ORIENTATION & MOBILITY – O&M’s goal is to train consumers with techniques of safe, efficient travel both in the home and into the community. Skills are taught that are vital for independence, confidence and self-satisfaction. Instruction is built around the goals and needs of the student.**

**REHABILITATION – Learning new skills to improve daily living enhances quality of life for the visually impaired. Magnifiers and talking devices are available. Instruction in Braille, cooking, and even simple tasks like phone dialing can lead to a more independent life.**

**COMPUTER TRAINING - Training is the key to computer technology. Utilizing keystrokes and enhancement software, the student learns to complete a variety of tasks sighted computer users take for granted. Limited vision should not limit your technical training.**

**ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY - A CCTV can be used to magnify books, newspapers, and magazine print to the size of a regular television screen allowing individuals the ability to enjoy reading again. Adaptive technology can bring you back to the world, and the world to you.**

**RECREATION – Everyone knows the key to success is the ability to play well with others. CWAB®’s recreational program offers a variety of activities for any age consumer. Both indoor and outdoor events are scheduled on a regular basis.**

**For more information on services, volunteering, and planned giving, call 34-522-6991.**

**This is the end of the GUIDE PAGE MAGAZINE web-text edition for September 2020.**

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