

## **American Council of the Blind of Minnesota**

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The American Council of the Blind will be holding their annual national convention in Minneapolis MN June 30th through July 7th, 2007. There will be approximately 2,000 visually impaired members and guests in attendance. The convention will be held in downtown Minneapolis. There will be two hotels involved, the Hyatt regency 1300 Nicollet Ave, and the Millennium Hotel 1313 Nicollet Ave.

People who are blind as with any other group of individuals have varying mobility issues. Even the best traveler will need some assistance in a new city and some of us take longer to learn a route than others. We also have several tours scheduled which will require sighted assistance.

We'd like to make this convention as easy and fun for the attendees as possible. That's where we'd like your help.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Meeting guests at the airport to assist through luggage collection and to find either a taxi or the light rail station whichever the guest prefers.
- Meeting guests at the light rail station to assist them to the hotel.
- Being available at the hotel for registration to assist guests in finding their rooms and giving them a tour of the room. When you check in to a strange room it is always nice to have someone show you how the TV, and cooling system work, what's in those little bottles on the vanity, and where the emergency exit is.
- Each state has a block of seats for their attendees at the convention sessions. We need volunteers to assist in locating seats, help in locating restrooms, assistance in obtaining beverages etc. The sessions are Sunday evening, Monday through Friday morning and if needed on Saturday the seventh.
- There will be several tours during convention week. The tours have not all been decided upon but visiting the Mall of America, a possible trip to a casino, and the broadcasting museum in St Louis Park will most likely be among the events. These tours are most successful if there are enough volunteers to assist the guests, preferably one volunteer for every 2 to 3 participants.

Please contact us if your group is willing to participate as volunteers. A brief overview will be provided to volunteers when they arrive at the convention. Also there will be a training class on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Hyatt Regency conducted by members of the convention committee. If you would like to send a representative from your group to attend the training session we will provide additional information when it is available.

To volunteer your services, or for additional information please

Contact:

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**ACBM Info Express (651) 642-5003**

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