



## Welcome to the October 2019 Issue of The Voice

### A Word from AER's Executive Director

Dear AER Members,

More than ever before. Several weeks ago your Board of Directors chose this phrase to be the tagline for our new membership campaign. Hopefully you've seen it on the membership campaign materials, on our social media posts and on other communications from AER. They chose this phrase for a number of reasons, but partly because they felt like it reflected AER's new directions and sense of purpose, the passion our members have for the work that they do and the opportunities available for our members and for the student and clients they serve.

More than ever before, I am excited about the future of AER. As I talk to members about the good, the bad and the ugly of our association, I see a passion for the field, a commitment to professional development, and a hunger for AER to be the professional organization we all need and want it to be. More than ever before, we are poised to make that happen. It's going to take a lot of hard work from the office staff and from our members, and we're going to make some mistakes and learn as we go, but I promise you that, more than ever before, we are determined to offer you a professional association that is what you want and deserve. More than ever before, AER is becoming a recognized community of excellence, advocating for our members and the field, recruiting new professionals into the disciplines of our profession and actively building new leadership.

We are here to help you – as individual members, as chapters and as divisions. What can AER do to become that organization we all want and need? Let's talk!

**Janie Blome, Executive Director, AER**

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### President's Corner

We'd agree that no matter the topic, there is always room for improvement. I'm coming to think about the process of creating change in two different ways. One way is to find a need, decide not to "reinvent the wheel," and put previously proven practices into place. This often brings success. Another way is to find a need and construct a new solution.

As I watch AER create new materials and appeal to new audiences, I see new ideas. We're recognizing that our measurement of success is tied to member satisfaction and engagement.

We are addressing concerns through new platforms and modalities...more than ever before. I'm grateful to all the members, leaders, and staff on our team making it happen.

So, the next time you're facing a challenge, try a new angle. Where there is room for improvement, there is room for innovation. If your innovation improves outcomes for students or clients, make sure you share it with all of us...St. Louis in 2020 may be the perfect place.

**Emily Coleman, *President*, AERBVI**

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## What's New AER

Want to win a \$500 Visa gift card? Be an AER Champion! All members that refer a new or returning individual who joins AER will be entered to win a \$500 Visa gift card. AER is thrilled to launch the *More than Ever Before!* membership campaign. As we look at where we are as a professional association and the important work ahead of each of us, we know now is the time to increase our membership. Our work is done by our members; and a growing membership helps us to continue to have resources, research and training opportunities; and to be the "voice" that's needed for our field. **You are the Champions.** AER members are the "heartbeat" of it all. Please take a moment to review the membership toolkits that explain and guide the process. Increase your chances. Get started today! If you have any questions, email us at [aer@aerbvi.org](mailto:aer@aerbvi.org).

[Toolkit AER Champion - Word](#)

[Toolkit AER Champion - PDF](#)

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## AER Member Spotlight

### Introducing Kelli Jarosz, MA, CVRT/COMS

Kelli earned her Bachelor of Science in Movement Science Sports and Leisure Studies from Westfield State College in May 1997 and her Master of Art Degree from the University of Arizona in 1999. At the University of Arizona Kelli's concentration of study was Special Education Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Orientation and Mobility. From August 2000 - May 2007 she worked as a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist at the West Haven VA Medical Center, Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center. In May 2007 she was hired by the Northampton VA Medical Center as the Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator. Kelli holds certification with the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals and is certified in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Orientation & Mobility. Kelli has been a member of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired since 1998. She is a member of the Northeast Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, 2000-present, and has served on the board of the Northeast Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind Rehabilitation Division (November 2003 - present). Kelli

has served on many local, regional, and national VA and community committees and has attended and presented at local, regional, and international conferences for vision professionals as well.

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## What's Happening?

### **AER Power-Ups! Session**

#### **Using a Positive Approach to Dementia Care**

October 16<sup>th</sup> 12:30-1:30pm Eastern

Presenter: Teepa Snow

Earn 1 CE Hour

Care partners and service providers often struggle with how to best interact and communicate with individuals who are living with dementia. Because the disease appears to cause changes in behavior from one moment to the next and can vary widely between individuals, it may seem like the person living with dementia is deliberately choosing their behavior. The goal of this session is to help individuals with healthy brains manage their own behaviors for improved outcomes and interactions. This session will provide attendees strategies and methods of providing help to people with dementia that recognize losses and use retained abilities to promote positive outcomes in interactions. Overall, this virtual educational session will provide knowledge, skills and attitudes that will improve the ability to assist and interact with those living with dementia.

Registration is required to process the CE hour. Click here to register: [Session Registration Form](#)

***Note: This virtual session will be presented via Zoom.***

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## Did you know that AER is on Social Media?

Connect, follow and have a conversation with us! We want to hear from you. You can find us easily:

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AERBVI/>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AERBVI>

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aerbvi/>

And add us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aerbvi/>

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**Welcome AER New Members!**

These are exciting times! Join us in welcoming the following members to our community of excellence. These colleagues joined in September: [New AER Members](#)

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## What's Cookin' AER

### Sara Holbrook's Chocolate Pound Cake

½ lb butter or 2 sticks margarine

½ cup shortening

3 cups sugar

5 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

3 cups flour

¼ tsp. salt

½ tsp. baking powder

½ cup cocoa

¼ cup milk

Mix butter, shortening, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Sift together flour, salt, baking powder and cocoa. Add to butter mixture alternately with milk. Pour into cake pan and bake 90 minutes at 325. Cool and ice with the following:

2 cups sugar

1 stick butter or margarine

2 squares chocolate

2/3 cup evaporated milk

1 tsp. vanilla

Combine all ingredients. Bring to a boil; cook for 4 to 5 minutes (soft ball stage). Beat until stiff enough to spread over cake.

*Submitted by long time AER Member, Cay Holbrook*

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## Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities are available for you! Here are some of the exciting jobs that are available:

### **Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS) (Itinerant, part-time & per diem)**

#### **Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments**

09/13/2019 | Newton, MA  
Carroll Center for the Blind

#### **Transition Coordinator**

09/09/2019 | Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Lighthouse of Broward

#### **Orientation and Mobility Specialist**

09/05/2019 | Philadelphia, PA  
Overbrook School for the Blind

For more jobs that are available, please visit: [Job Exchange](#)

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## Way to Go!

Congratulations to the colleges and universities that have recently received funding for their Personnel Prep projects through various grants. This is a huge accomplishment and will allow them to continue to do the great work and research that is desperately needed. Way to Go!

Thank you and congratulations to the Wisconsin AER Chapter for their support of the “More Than Ever Before” membership campaign. Their work to advance AER is truly a reflection of their support for the field of education and rehabilitation – and will allow AER to support you to the fullest!

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## Chapter Highlights

### **NYSAER Conference**

We are so close to the 35th Annual NYSAER Conference in Syracuse, NY. If you've already registered, please use this Google form to choose, and then sign up for your workshops: [Workshops Sign-Up](#)

If you haven't already signed up for the conference, the NYSAER website link can be found here: [Conference Registration](#)

*Looking forward to seeing you in October!*

### Scholarship Available in Virginia

Virginia AER is pleased to announce the [Barbara McCarthy Scholarship 2020 application](#). It is available through the Resource tab link on our Virginia AER website. The McCarthy scholarship amount has been **increased** to \$1500. *Application deadline is January 17, 2020.*

Please click on the link for the Virginia AER Resource page: [Resource](#)

The 2020 Virginia AER Conference will be here before you know it! Please click on the following link for more information: [2020 Virginia AER Conference Info](#)

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## Save the Date!

### Save the Date: July 22-26, 2020 St. Louis, MO Union Station Hotel

Themed “Gateway to Community,” the AER International Conference 2020 is sure to be AER’s best conference ever! We want a conference that reflects your needs and interests. Are there topics that you want to have covered during the AER International Conference 2020? Is there something that you would like to learn more about during the conference? Click “*Topics & Interests*” and tell us your needs and every effort will be made to have it covered! [Topics & Interests](#)

To learn more, send an email to [conference@aerbvi.org](mailto:conference@aerbvi.org)



*The AER Voice is a monthly newsletter that serves as an information hub for members; and offers an easy and dependable way of keeping current. This electronic newsletter includes AER updates, events, special announcements, useful tidbits and so much more. If you have news, resources, information or*

*any updates that you would like to share with the membership, please send it to AER at [news@aerbvi.org](mailto:news@aerbvi.org). Deadline for the November issue is 10/25/2019.*



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