



Welcome to the January 2020 Issue of The Voice

A Word from AER's Executive Director

Dear AER Members,

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season has been a good one and that you are refreshed and ready to take advantage of all that 2020 has to offer. I am excited about the coming year and continuing to grow AER into the kind of association our profession needs and deserves. I know that resolutions often don't last past the month of January, but I am determined that 2020 will be a sensational year for AER. Here are some of my resolutions for AER this year:

We will host an outstanding conference in St. Louis in July, with record attendance, amazing learning opportunities and sensational networking.

We will build on the good work done by our chapters over the last few months by continuing to increase membership.

Our divisions will continue to offer remarkable professional development experiences that are timely, relevant, and thought provoking!

We will persist in adding value to AER membership through continuing education, publications, discounts, and resources.

AER will continue to support and empower ALL professionals in our field through advocacy, information, knowledge sharing, recruitment and more.

It's going to be a busy year, but it's going to be a great one. What are your professional resolutions? How can AER help you keep them? *Let's talk!*

Janie Blome, Executive Director, AER

President's Corner

You may have heard about the Braille Uno cards in Target created in partnership with the National Federation of the Blind. I went to my neighborhood store and picked it up right off the

shelf. Of course, for years we've been able to find this product through specialty websites, and even created our own sets, but to have it sitting amongst the other games means something more. It means that others will be introduced to braille, which could spark greater interest in braille literacy, and more engagement in our field.

Recently, while recording a podcast episode for the TSBVI show, "*A Sense of Texas*," a Canadian AER member, Dr. Adam Wilton, talked extensively about the benefit of products "*Born Accessible*." The context of our talk was mainly textbooks, but the greater hope is that this concept extends beyond school and works itself into mainstream culture. My wish for the New Year is finding more products in every store born accessible for every person.

I realize this ambition is lofty, but it's a good one. As professionals, we are constantly advocating for accessibility for our students and clients, but wouldn't it be great if we find more and more items without the need for adaptation...or explanation. One of the benefits of AER is the collective knowledge and goals we share, and the opportunities to collaborate. Individually, we can set lofty goals, but only together, will we achieve them.

Emily Coleman, *President, AERBVI*

AER Member Spotlight

William "Bill" Wiener, Ph.D., AER Members since 1984, *Lifetime Member*



Meet outstanding AER member Dr. Bill Wiener! Dr. Bill Wiener serves as the Brenda Brodie Endowed Chair and Professor at the North Carolina Central University program in Visual Impairment. He holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision, as well as a master's degree in audiology, and a master's degree in vision rehabilitation. After serving as chair of the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies at Western Michigan University (WMU), he served as Graduate Dean at WMU and later at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He also served as Vice Provost for Research at Marquette University.

He is currently a member of the Editorial Advisory Board and an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, a Vice Chair of the Hall of Fame Board for the American Printing House for the Blind, Chair of the Higher Education Accreditation Commission for the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER), and a

member of the AER Accreditation Council. Dr. Wiener has numerous publications including serving as the chief editor for the *Foundations of Orientation and Mobility* textbook.

Dr. Wiener has served as the chair of the Orientation and Mobility Division of AER and as the national president of AER. He is the recipient of the Blaha Award, the Shotwell Award and the Migel Metal for his service to people with visual impairment. He is currently working with co-editors on a fourth edition of *Foundations of Orientation of Mobility*, and with AER on the establishment of a practice-based journal. Dr. Wiener is strongly committed to AER and the success of our profession.

Meet New Member Kailee Kamps, AER Member since September 2019



Kailee Kamps, a recent graduate from Northern Illinois University, finished her Master's degree in Orientation and Mobility. Originally from Belmont, Wisconsin, Kailee completed her undergraduate degree in Kinesiology from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in 2017 where she was also an athlete on the Gopher Track and Field Team. Kailee recently joined AER as a way to obtain support and network with other colleagues, as well as, to grow and develop as a professional through the many opportunities that AER provides. After graduating in December, Kailee will be started her career as an Itinerant Orientation and Mobility Specialist for CESA 10 in Chippewa Falls,

Wisconsin. Kailee is very excited to get to work and to continue growing and learning with the help of AER and all the great vision professionals working in the field.

Meet New Member Susanna Muradyan, AER Member since September 2019



Susanna Muradyan works at Armenian State Pedagogical University as an Associate Professor of the Faculty of Special and Inclusive Education from which she is also a graduate and Chair of Special Pedagogy and Psychology. Susanna is trained as a teacher and speech therapist and has her PhD in Pedagogy.

Welcome AER New Members who Joined in December!

As the year comes to an end, we are thrilled to have welcomed so many new members to AER! Let's welcome these colleagues who joined in December 2019. Read fully the list and feel free to personally welcome them to AER! **New AER Members**

What's Cookin' AER

Start the new year off on a healthy note. This **Apple Cider Chicken Skillet** recipe is a healthy, simple meal that takes just one pan and is ready in 30 minutes!

Ingredients

- 4 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil — *divided*
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken thighs — *(about 8, depending on size)*
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt — *divided*
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper — *divided*
- 1/2 cup fresh apple cider
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 3 medium firm — *sweet apples, cored and cut into 1/2-inch slices (I used Gala)*
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary — *plus additional for serving*

Instructions

1. Heat 2 teaspoons of oil in a large skillet over medium high. Sprinkle the top of the chicken evenly with 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Once the oil is hot and shimmering, add the chicken to the pan, top-side down. Let cook 4 minutes, then flip and continue cooking until the meat is cooked through and reaches an internal temperature of 160 degrees, 3 to 4 additional minutes. Remove to a plate and cover with foil to keep warm.
2. In a small bowl or large measuring cup, stir together the apple cider and mustard. With a paper towel, carefully wipe the skillet clean. Add the remaining 2 teaspoons of oil to the pan over medium high. Once the oil is hot, add the apple slices, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and rosemary. Cook for 5 minutes, until the apples are lightly tender and begin to turn golden. Return the chicken to the pan and pour the cider mixture over the top. Let cook for 4 to 5 minutes, until the liquid is reduced by half. Serve warm, sprinkled with additional chopped rosemary as desired.

Submitted by AER Staff, Michele Basham

Employment Opportunities

Looking for a new job? Employment opportunities are available for you! Here are some of the exciting jobs that are available:

Regional Director- Northeast Iowa

01/02/2020 | Northeast Iowa- office location negotiable, Iowa

Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

12/29/2019 | Aberdeen, SC

South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Vision Services Program Director

12/16/2019 | Cincinnati, OH

CABVI (Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired)

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

Way To Go!

Kimberli Maruna and Lisa Milliron were the winners of the \$500 Visa gift cards for the ***More than Ever Before!*** membership *campaign*. Congratulations and thanks for outstanding contributions to AER!

What's New?

NEI SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON FUTURE RESEARCH GOALS

The National Eye Institute (NEI) is developing new plans for vision research over the coming decade. The NEI is asking the vision research community, patients, caregivers, clinicians, and advocates to comment on two Requests for Information (RFIs): a strategic planning initiative, the 2020 Vision for the Future, and a new research program, the Anterior Segment Initiative (ASI).

[NEI's 2020 Vision for the Future](#) will define the institute's research opportunities and goals for 2020 and beyond. The strategic plan will be organized around several cross-cutting areas of emphasis that encompass the broad scope of the NEI mission. Input from the vision research community, as well as key stakeholders in vision health education and other fields, will be crucial for generating a comprehensive strategic plan. For more information about NEI's 2020 Vision for the Future, and to respond to this request for information, visit <https://nei.nih.gov/form/rfi>. Responses regarding the 2020 Vision for the Future are due January 8, 2020.

The ASI is a new research program aimed at tackling difficult-to-treat diseases of the anterior segment (front) of the eye, including the cornea, iris, ciliary body, and lens. Some diseases that affect anterior parts of the eye include dry eye, ocular pain, uveitis, and a variety of genetic conditions. The ASI will complement the existing [Audacious Goals Initiative](#), which is focused on the back of the eye. NEI is seeking information from the vision research community regarding current gaps in our knowledge about the anterior segment, barriers to research, and emerging tools, techniques and model systems that may catalyze research progress in this area. For more details about the ASI and to submit responses to this inquiry,

visit <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-EY-20-001.html>. Responses regarding the Anterior Segment Initiative are due January 9, 2020.

News You Can Use

Member Winter Travel Savings

You will have extra money to spend this Winter Season when you book your reservations through the AER car rental and hotel discounts program! You can receive up to 20% off on car rentals from Hertz, National, Alamo, Avis, Budget and Payless. And, you can save up to 50% on hotels worldwide with Marriott, Wyndham, Radisson, Sheraton, Hilton and many others. Visit the [AER website](#) to make your reservations and receive your discount.

Member Profile Updates

If you need to update your membership information and need assistance, please send an email to michele@aerbvi.org or contact her via telephone at (703) 671-5875.

AER International Conference 2020: Proposal Deadlines

The deadline to submit a proposal for the AER Symposium Day to be held during the AER International Conference 2020 is 1/15/2020. The deadline to submit a proposal for a breakout session is 2/3/2020. For more information, visit <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/conferences/aeric2018/> or send an email to conference@aerbvi.org

Chapter Events

Chapter conferences provide a great opportunity to connect with your peers and to gain approaches, information and techniques that advance your knowledge, skills and abilities.

[“Technology” Georgia AER Conference 2020](#)

March 16-17, 2020

RT Jones Memorial Library, Canton, GA

[Virginia AER 2020 Conference](#)

March 30-April 1, 2010

DoubleTree Hilton, Charlottesville, VA

[Michigan AER Conference 2020](#)

April 23-24, 2010

The Marriott at Laurel Park, Livonia, MI

Visit <https://aerbvi.org/event/> for more information about these and other upcoming chapter conferences and events.

AER International Conference Information 2020

Conference Hotel Information

Book your hotel for the conference today!

The St. Louis Union Station combines historic elegance with modern and stunning detail. Luxury hotel rooms, breathtaking decorations as well as expansive and modern conference areas, the hotel leaves nothing to be desired. Union Station will provide the finest in hotel accommodations for AER International Conference 2020 attendees.

Discounted conference rate per night: \$159 plus taxes

Discount ends: 6/21/2020

Click here to: [Book Your Hotel Room](#)

Conference Registration

Conference registration will open on January 31, 2020.

Topics and Interests

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

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. Deadline for the February issue is 1/27/2020.



Physical Address Zone - If your physical address is not being appended to your messages (this is an account setting that can be enabled by contacting support@realmagnet.com

