



## Welcome to the November 2020 issue of the Voice

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### President's Corner

Dear AER Members,

I was overwhelmed by the turn out at our first Community Reunion on October 22. I was honored to introduce one of AER's top awards, dedicated to Mary K. Bowman, but with about 100 people in attendance, and even as the Think Tank went well into the second hour of the event, to still have 25 or 30 of you with us, I just have to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. If you missed the first opportunity, or even if you were there, on November 10 we are going to present 3 more AER Awards, offer a second panel discussion focused on adult issues for Continuing Ed Credit or just plain edification, and give you and anyone you can possibly invite, to share your thoughts on the "blind biz" and what you think AER's role in today's environment should be. I'm eager to hear what you have to say and we are positioned to make some adjustments so that AER can thrive and be the support you need right now as a professional in our field. That may be doing things we used to do that you found useful, but it may also be not doing some things and adding new things. Bring your ideas. Brain storming means there is no wrong answers...just ideas to kick around and think about as we chart the way toward the future for AER.

The AER office staff, led by Mark, include Michele, Megan, Elly and Christa. None of what you see in your inbox, experience during a Zoom presentation, learn about in a newsletter or an email message on a listserv would be possible without these dynamic, hardworking individuals. They care about you and your success. They will help you with AER related questions or challenges. It's as simple as reaching out. Mark or Michele are your best resource at the start and if they can't help, they'll find the right person who can. Do not sit back wishing you knew who to ask or what to do...reach out!

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I am sad to report that 3 members of the AER Board have had to step down from their positions. Emily Coleman, Past President; Kristy Probst, Treasurer and Rebecca Sheffield, District 6 Rep have family, health and/or work-related issues that have caused them to resign from the AER International Board. I want to say “thank you” to all three of you for your willingness to serve AER, and to extend special appreciation to Emily for her contributions to AER as president in 2019 & the first 8 months of 2020 as well as a relatively short time to prepare for that role as President Elect in the last half of 2018. Her guidance and experience will be missed by this Board, but I learned a great deal from her and treasure the time we worked together and the friendship we forged. The Board will be appointing members to fill these three roles in the next few weeks. If you have interest in serving, please reach out to me. You are not too young, not too old, not too busy, not too tired if the passion burns within you to help. That’s what fuels me, and I suspect it’s burning in many of you who might feel the time is right in your life. If nobody has asked you to help AER, yet, I’m asking...Will you help? If not at the International level, then how about the Chapter level or the Division level or the Committee level? There’s lots to do and more hands make the work easier. Working alongside colleagues like you makes the work fun. Thanks for what you do every day to bring knowledge and growth to those you serve. Keep up the good work and may I say, I am grateful for each and every one of you. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Stay well and keep safe.

**Neva Fairchild, *President, AER***

214-438-5316, [nfairchild@afb.org](mailto:nfairchild@afb.org)

## News You Can Use

### Continuing Ed Corner

Since joining the AER team a few months ago, I’ve been struck by how strong this community is and how welcomed I’ve felt. Thank you for making me feel so connected and welcome right off the bat!

We have thus far had a busy continuing education schedule! Over the last three months, AER offered 27 webinars for members to attend for free. These were held at various times and days of the week, to try to fit into as many schedules as possible. By the end of October, AER



member webinars were attended by around 850 unique users, with many participants joining for multiple sessions! Members were able to request CE credit for each session, and many of you have received certificates throughout our webinar series. A giant “Thank-You!” to all our presenters, who volunteered their time to create, share and present these webinars for our membership; we could not have done this without you!

I am also excited to share that we have started work on the build of our new continuing education website! This site will allow members, nonmembers, and community partners to view live and recorded webinars, earn CE credit, and provide feedback to AER all from the comfort of your living room! All the recordings of the webinars from this fall will be available on this site, as well as other submitted content from presenters and vendors. We aim to launch the new site around the beginning of 2021- be sure to keep up with emails from AER to be the first to try it out!

Again, thank you so much for making me feel quite at home in AER. If you are interested in presenting a session, either live or prerecorded, or have any continuing education questions, please feel free to reach me at [megan@aerbvi.org](mailto:megan@aerbvi.org).

*Megan Doty, eLearning and Professional Development Program Manager, AER*

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### **AER’s Autumn Community Reunions**

We hope you had the opportunity to join us in our very first AER Autumn Community Reunion that took place on October 22. If you missed it, no need to worry, we are holding two more sessions!

Come celebrate the triumphs and achievements of some of our community’s most accomplished leaders. Come learn something new about the most critical issues in the education and adult services arenas and how you can help. And come make your voice heard to help all of us chart the course of our community’s future, our field’s vibrancy, and AER’s place in it. **The additional sessions will take place:** Tuesday Evening, November 10, 7pm Eastern; and Monday Evening, November 30, 7pm Eastern. Everyone is invited to attend – the more the merrier. We welcome everyone! And a bonus is you will earn one CE hour by attending these free sessions! Check out your email for registration information.

### **Update from the Peabody College at Vanderbilt!**

The Peabody College at Vanderbilt is excited to announce the revitalization of the master’s level Program in Visual Disabilities! While we are currently recruiting for a new cohort of

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prospective TVIs for Fall 2021, we also are looking to reconnect with PVD alumni. If you are a graduate of our program and haven't yet been in touch with our new program coordinator and professor of the practice, Dr. Rachel Schles, please reach out to her at [Rachel.schles@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Rachel.schles@vanderbilt.edu).

## Updates from Older Individuals Who are Blind – Technical Assistance Center (OIB-TAC)

### Upcoming Forum:

To highlight National Diabetes Awareness Month, the IL OIB-TAC is hosting an online forum, "Managing Diabetes with Vision Loss," on Monday, November 16, at 2:00 pm (Central). This [forum](#) will be centered around the discussion of diabetes management and creating independence. Consider taking our course, [Diabetes & Visual Impairment](#), to help inform this discussion.

### Upcoming Webinar:

The IL OIB-TAC is hosting an "Audio Description: If Your Eyes Could Speak" webinar on November 20 at 2:00 pm (Central) to discuss audio description. The session will introduce the principles of audio description, a narrative technique that conveys visual images on behalf of people who are blind or have low vision; an overview of how quality description is produced; and how description can boost literacy and social interaction. For more information or to register, visit the [events page](#) on the IL OIB-TAC Community of Practice. **Registration is required.**



Have you registered for the 2020 Virtual Executive Leadership Conference yet? AER members receive a special discount, so don't hesitate -- [register today!](#)

### AER Member: Special Offer

Thanks to a special partnership between VisionServe Alliance and AER to further development opportunities for emerging leaders, VSA is offering a special registration rate of \$75 (regularly

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\$195) to active individual AER members who are not yet members of VSA to attend this year's virtual conference. Enter promo code: **AERIND1** when you purchase a **General Registration** ticket.

**And don't miss out on the AER member-lead session, Managing from the Middle, on Tuesday, November 3 at 3:30 pm.**

This virtual event is being held on November 1-5, 2020 for the #VSAELC. More than just another virtual conference, the ELC is a social networking conference to connect leaders from around the blindness and low vision field together for a shared mission. [Register Now!](#)

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### **Personnel Preparation Division: Call for Nominees!**

The AER Personnel Preparation Division is currently seeking nominations for the Board. Open positions include: **Chair-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer**. This is a two-year term, which will conclude at the 2022 AER International conference. This is a great way to get involved in your division and in AER! If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please contact Tessa McCarthy, [tessam@pitt.edu](mailto:tessam@pitt.edu), no later than **November 12, 2020** and include the nominee's bio.

## **Committee and Division Updates**

### **Accessibility Committee**

**Committee Chair:** Allie Fitty

**Major Goals:** Improve accessibility across all areas of AER

**Update on Committee/Division Plans or Projects to achieve goals:** Since our last board report, we have created a new partnership with the American Anthropological Association (AAA). AAA has an incredible resource they have created around accessible in-person and virtual events. We have met with Nell, the Accessibility and Meetings coordinator at AAA who created this resource. We have also connected her with Megan Doty, AER's eLearning and Professional Development Program Manager. Our hope is to somehow feature this resource to our membership because it is so well done, rather than reinventing the wheel. The resource can be [viewed here](#). Nell is also presenting as a part of the AER fall learning series.

Committee member Rachael Sessler-Trinkowsky is also presenting as a part of this series on the topic of basic document accessibility.

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Finally, we met with the Pen-Del AER conference planning committee to help them talk through some of the accessibility concerns they had regarding hosting a fully virtual chapter conference.

**Committee/Division Concerns:** We noticed that the Accessibility update to the Policies and Procedures document which the board approved last meeting is still not available online. Is there any update on when this will be ready?

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## **History and Memorial Committee**

**Committee Chair(s):** Co-Chairs: Mary Nelle McLennan and Julie Hapeman

### **Major Goals of the Committee:**

- Document and compile a memorial list of individuals who have passed away during the current biennium and prepare the biennial Memorial List to be read at the opening session of AER's 2022 international conference.
- Assist the organization and its chapters and divisions in communicating historical information to the membership.
- Organize and manage the content and presentation of history segments at the 2022 international conference.
- Maintain a Facebook page—recently retitled *AER Tapestry: Commemorating Our Past, Inspiring Our Future*—for materials and news related to the history and activity of AER.

### **Report of the 2020–2022 AER History and Memorial Committee:**

#### **History Articles in *AER Voice* in 2019 and 2020**

We are exceptionally pleased that AER leadership invited us to author and publish a series of history articles in AER's new newsletter, *The Voice*. To date, our committee has written and published over ten articles for the newsletter: Additional articles are in the works for future issues.

**AER Memorial List, 2018–2020:** Several years ago, we established an online reporting form using Google Docs to allow AER members to notify us of the passing of individuals who have contributed to the work of our field. We will continue to maintain careful documentation of the individuals added to the resulting list and construct the biennial AER Memorial List that will be presented at the opening session of our next biennial conference, which, we trust, will be in 2022 in St. Louis.

Our committee is now finalizing the Memorial List for 2018–2020 and will provide it to the AER office for the archives and to the Board of Directors when the documentation is complete. We will present it at AER's special virtual event on November 30.

**History Segments at the 2022 AER International Conference:** The History and Memorial Committee will continue to research and assemble ideas for history segments to be presented

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at the general sessions of the 2022 AER Conference. Our plan had been to use the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of AER as the context for the 2020 segments; we will retain those drafts and determine an approach as the 2022 conference develops.

**H&M Facebook Page:** With the “blessing” of AER leadership, our committee has refocused the Facebook page that had been established to commemorate AER’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The goal is to give it a broader focus, sharing the history of our profession and of AER specifically and remembering those who helped make it great. In addition to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary photos, the site will host important historical photos and documents and recognize the shoulders on which we stand. We will continue to add current info and images as well.

Now that the refocused page is up and running, we invite AER members to submit photos (with permission of the subjects) and anecdotes. The H&M Committee will manage the posts, including alt-tagging every photo, so that people will get new posts in their newsfeeds. If you—members of the AER Board of Directors—have a photo, a story, or an idea, please share it with us at [AERHistory.Memorial@gmail.com](mailto:AERHistory.Memorial@gmail.com)!

**Committee Concerns:** Members of the 2020–2022 History and Memorial Committee are dedicated to the work of documenting and sharing the rich and respected history of AER and of our profession. One of our members stated in her acceptance of the invitation to serve on the committee, “I hope to continue to document and share our rich history for years to come.” Another committee member wrote, “This is, indeed, important work for our organization. It is so important to remember the shoulders upon which we stand.” We are committed to these tasks.

**Committee Motion(s):** The AER History and Memorial committee is passionate about documenting and sharing the rich history of our association and our professions. For several biennia, we have expressed a desire to develop and maintain content for a history segment on the AER website. We envision a small portion of the website as an accessible repository of H&M articles, photographs, and videos; history reflections presented at AER’s international conferences; our biennial Memorial Lists; and other significant pieces that document the history and progress of our association as well as of the professions it serves. The 2020-2022 committee continues to pursue this as a resource and a repository for our members and colleagues. Therefore, we request that the AER Board of Directors move to establish a History and Memorial section of the AER website to be populated with content curated, developed, and maintained by the AER History and Memorial Committee.

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## **International Services and Global Issues Division**

**Division Chair:** Belinda Rudinger

**Major Goals of the Committee/Division:**

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- Become the source for AER members to learn about worldwide issues related to blindness and low vision
- Form relationships with rehabilitation/education professionals in different countries
- Create connections between international organizations in different countries

**Update on Committee/Division Plans or Projects to achieve goals:**

- Completed new officer transition
  - Created a directory of core team members and their interests, experience in other countries, and foreign languages spoken
  - Conducted survey of core team members to examine division priorities
  - Created shared online collaboration drive
  - Held 2 monthly core team meetings each in August and September
  - Published September newsletter
  - Division members Kevin McCormack (past chair) & Belinda Rudinger (current chair) accepted to present at the International O&M Online Symposium: *An International Resource Hub: AER's Global Issues Division*
  - Division members submitted two different presentation proposals to the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) Conference
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## **Itinerant Personnel Division**

**Division Chair:** Tommie Roesch

**Major Goals of the Division:**

- To get a quarterly newsletter out to our division members.
- To give more opportunities for our division members to have professional development opportunities.
- To get more members involved in our division as well as increasing our membership numbers

**Update on Division Plans or Projects to achieve goals:** We are working on our next newsletter to come out in the next month or so. We are working on another professional development opportunity through zoom to help improve the training of our members. We have a new chair elect.

**Division Concerns:** Our division concern is the number of AER members in our division. We would like to get more members involved in our division.

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## **Multiple Disabilities and Deafblindness Division**

**Division Chair:** Hillary Keys

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**Major Goals of the Division:**

- Create and disseminate at least 1 survey for Division 3 membership to determine current needs and expectations
- Use survey data to inform additional goals/activities
- Offer professional development opportunities such as webinars, watercooler conversations
- Disseminate information about existing opportunities for pertinent professional development
- Monthly (minimum) post on AER MD/DB Facebook page
- Consider additional social media outlets (include in survey)
- Update division mission statement
- Update existing and create new MD/DB documents based on survey data and assure accessibility
- Collaborate with other divisions or organization where missions dovetail

**Update on Division Plans or Projects to achieve goals:**

- Partnered with CEC to offer webinars to combined membership
- Continued, consistent postings on AER MD/DB Facebook page

**Committee/Division Concerns:** MD/DB Mission statement needs to be reviewed and possibly updated as per AER guidelines and procedures

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**Orientation and Mobility Division**

**Division Chair:** JoAnne Chalom

**Major Goals of the Division:**

- Publish OM Division Newsletter
- Division Email Blast to membership
- District Direct Email Blast to membership
- Environmental Access Committee members registration to attend Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board Meeting Early Bird by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>
- Update/Revise Position Papers
- Update/add to website
- Submit/Collaborate for presentations of O&M Sessions for AER Learning Series
- Present information gathered from Professional Issues Committee on Support Canes

**Update Division Plans or Projects to achieve goals:**

- Articles have been submitted to the OM Division Newsletter for an upcoming edition.
  - OM Division Newsletter was published on October 19,2020
  - The EAC has communicated with members to determine interest in virtually attending TRB.
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- A contact at Polara Engineering has been contacted to request continuation of long-standing support.
- Supporting documents have been submitted to the AER Board for consideration of continued support of registration fees
- The chair-elect is leading the charge by contacting authors and people who were involved in the revision of the position papers in 2013.
  - Division Executive Committee members have been asked to recommend potential committee members that have expertise in each area.
  - All of the above have been contacted and revisions and updates will move forward.
- The AER O&M page has been updated to reflect current O&M EC members and contact information.
- O&M Division members have presented on a variety of topics such as “Support Canes: Where Do You Stand”.
  - Information has been presented at MAER, AER Learning Series and is planned for IAER and SOMA.
  - They have also provided guidance to help individuals that developed Risk Assessment, Safety Supervision, and Liability (RASSL) connect with staff in charge of AER Learning Series.
  - Individuals presented Risk Assessment, Safety Supervision, and Liability twice through AER Learning Series.

**Division Concerns:** A consistent stream of funding for members of the EAC to attend committee activities.

Suggested fundraising options have been presented to AER for consideration by the AER Central Office and the Continuing Education Committee.

**Division Motion(s):** Madame President, I move that the AER Board of Directors support the Environmental Access Committee of the O&M Division and provide full funding at early registration rates for the Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board.

## **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Division**

**Division Chair:** Kathleen Spengler

**Major Goals of the Division:**

- quarterly newsletter and webinar, updating AER VRT website to include more resources, revitalize recruitment:
  - We need more people interested in our field.
  - We need more people in our field to become certified
  - We need greater diversity in our field.
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- We need a better understanding of what our field does among our peers
- We need employers to desire to hire certified VRTs.

**Update on Division Plans or Projects to achieve goals:**

- Possible ways to reach out to these Audiences
- Create a library of social media that targets the above audience from each content area of the body of knowledge. For example: A separate video that addresses how awesome it is for children who are blind to learn how to cook, another video that addresses how awesome it is to teach college students who are blind how to cook, again another video about how awesome it is to learn how to cook after losing your sight when you are 30, 70, etc. Videos need to be diverse in messaging.
- VRTs need to present at conferences
- VRTs need to publish
- VRTs need to take on leadership roles
- Check in with AER on the tool kit instruction on how to do an in-service to promote recruitment and share this broadly.
- Leverage AVRT & AER to promote the proactive recruitment steps we are taking.
- Partner with Success Beyond Sight, especially in the targeting of employers to hire certified staff & promote diversity in our field through their channels of outreach an influence.
- Come up with a mission statement or sorts from these notes that guides our next steps.
- Create a shared Google Drive account for us to begin housing our efforts and tracking our progress. (Dan will create and share access)
- Talk to APH about creating online content to compliment and supplement the new Foundations Textbook.

## Chapter Updates

The Dakotas AER Chapter has been busy recently. Our Chapter has had three Board members who have been recognized for the following achievements!



**Lanna Slaby**, longstanding member of the Dakotas AER Chapter as well as Board member and previous President, became the second endorsee from North Dakota of the Perkins-Roman CVI Range Endorsement.

Lanna has been an Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired for North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind for 20 years serving in the

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Jamestown region. She has had numerous opportunities to work with individuals ages 0-21 with the diagnosis of Cortical Visual Impairment. During her career, she says she has developed her professional knowledge of CVI by attending workshops, webinars and taking on-line classes. Her first workshop with Dr. Roman was in 2004, and last summer, she heard her at the 2019 Summer Institute: CVI – Education Strategies: Cortical Visual Impairment: Education Strategies – Phase II & III in Maryland. Lanna lives in Jamestown with her husband Shawn. She has 2 daughters and a new granddaughter!



**Lacey Long**, Dakotas AER Board Member at Large, recently received an award from the North Dakota University System. Lacey, adjunct instructor of special education at Minot State University for SPED 202: Intro to Sensory Disabilities, has been awarded a North Dakota University System (NDUS) stipend for open education resources. The North Dakota University System Open Education Resources Faculty Stipend supports expansion of open education resources (OER) within the NDUS to reduce student debt and enhance learning experiences. Lacey was one of five faculty members to receive stipends to adopt, adapt, create, or reuse OER resources as alternatives to high-cost textbooks and course materials.

Lacey also works for the Morton-Sioux Special Education Unit (MSSEU) in Mandan, ND as a Teacher for Students with Visual Impairments and a Teacher of the Deaf. She is a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS) and Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist (CATIS) with an interest in working with students with dual sensory loss. Lacey is an adjunct instructor for the "Open Hands, Open Access" modules from the National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) offered by the ND Dual Sensory Project. She is married to Jackson, a 7th grade Life Science Teacher, and has a 19-month old named Reuben.



**Amy Scepaniak**, from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Aberdeen, SD, was appointed to the AER Board of Directors as a District 2 Representative, which includes the states of AR, DK (North and South), IA, KS, LA, MB, MO, OK, SK, TX.

Amy has been employed at the SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired for 27 years working as the Outreach Vision Consultant in the northeast part of the State, and most recently as the Low Vision Specialist (CLVT®) and Orientation and Mobility Instructor (COMS®). She received her Master's degree in Low Vision Rehabilitation from the Pennsylvania College of

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Optometry (now Salus University) in 2004. and most recently became endorsed in Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI). She has been married to her husband Justin for 27 years and have three beautiful daughters ages 24, 21, and 17.

## AER Board Member Spotlight

In this issue of The Voice, we want to continue our introductions of the newly elected Board of Directors by introducing you to our Division Representatives.



**JoAnne Chalom**

### **Large Division Representative**

Thank you for the opportunity to share a bit about myself. I have been in the field, working with individuals with disabilities for over thirty years including individuals with visual impairments. Over a decade ago, I founded In Focus Mobility, Inc. My company assists organizations and their clients with vision loss expand their ability to travel within their environments. We provide expert consultation to organizations focusing on equity, accessibility, and empowerment.

At a variety of venues, I have presented on many topics to international audiences from varied professional backgrounds. My presentation style is focused around engaging the audience in organic activities: ranging from discussions, hands-on activities to answering questions.

I have endless enthusiasm when advocating for greater accessibility in the built environment. I strongly believe that the built environment should be born accessible. For some time, I have been a member of the Environmental Access Committee of the Orientation and Mobility Division of AER. My involvement includes presenting accessibility and equity concepts to engineers, local, state, and federal officials.

Over the past several years, I have attended the Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington DC as an attendee, presenter, and committee member to raise awareness of accessibility challenges for vulnerable road users in emerging topics. I have had the pleasure of sharing my expertise as an accessibility expert and panel member through the National Academies of Sciences.

I have been continuously and actively engaged with the Orientation and Mobility Division as a district director and chair elect. I was recently honored as the 2020 recipient of the Newcomer-Hill Service Award. It is a great honor and it has been a delight to serve.

I am continuing my engagement in leadership as the current chair of the Orientation and Mobility Division and as the Large Divisions Representative on the AER Executive Board.

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**Samantha Green**

**Related Services Representative**

I have been a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist for 25 years! I became interested in the field after shadowing another VRT in college. I traveled with her for a day and knew immediately that this was what I wanted to do.

I graduated from Western Michigan University with a MA in 1995, and since then have worked as an itinerant VRT in Arizona and Maine.

Five years ago, I became a supervisor, overseeing community VRT services in northern Maine, in addition to delivering VRT services for The Iris Network. Even though I've been in this field a quarter of a century now, I feel the same way about it as I did the day I shadowed that VRT as an undergrad.

**Tommie Roesch**

**Instructional Services Representative**

My name is Tommie Roesch and I am a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Instructor. I have been a TVI for the past 25 years and a COMS instructor for the past 5 years. I am currently employed at Zionsville Community School District and I do contract work after school for Orientation & Mobility for districts that need help. I have two children and 2 grandchildren. My favorite things to do is to swim and read Braille. In addition, I love to work with children of all enjoy and great pleasure from doing my job. I run a Braille club at one of my elementary schools that allows sighted children to learn Braille alongside one of my Braille students. In addition, I volunteer at Braille challenge and Cane Quest in Indiana.

I have been a member of AER for 15 years and I have been very active in the past 4 years. I am currently the IN-AER president elect and the National AER chair for the itinerant division. In addition, I oversee this year's IN-AER conference and I helped in the Zoom training on Functional Vision assessment that was presented by the itinerant division of AER. This is my first year on the board of directors and I am looking forward to this new challenge.

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**Ian Shadrick, Ed.D., CVRT, CRC, FNRC**  
**Adult Services Representative**

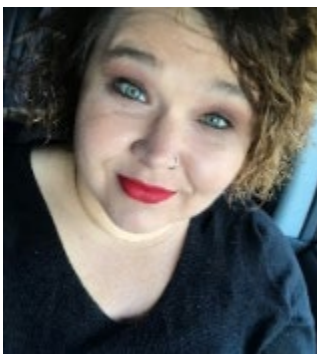
Ian Shadrick is a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist with Chenega Healthsystems, at the Vision Center of Excellence, at Walter Reed national Military Medical Center. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Program at Hunter College (CUNY).

Most recently, he was a state administrator for transition and children's services for Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. His prior work also includes serving as university faculty and graduate program coordinator blindness and low vision, rehabilitation counselor and vision rehabilitation therapist, international educator, private consultant, federal consultant to the DoD and VA on blindness and vocational rehabilitation, and research associate at a national technical assistance center on post-secondary transition.

Ian is a past chair of the VRT division, and AER board member for adult services, and is currently the Chair Elect of the Rehabilitation Counseling and Employment Division. His research focus is on factors affecting employment for those with blindness or dual-sensory loss, access/assistive technology, transition services, personnel preparation, and legislation.

## **AER New Member Spotlight**

**Welcome new AER member, Kyrstin Price, who joined us in January 2020!**



Hello! My name is Kyrstin Price and I am currently working on my doctorate in education from the University of Louisville. My program focuses on languages, literacies, cultures and communities and my specific research interests are related to systems of oppression, equity in education, social justice, poverty, student/teacher relationships and student trauma. Currently I am a vision teacher in the short course program at The Kentucky School for the Blind.

**Welcome AER New Members who Joined in October**

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Join us in welcoming the newest members, who joined AER in October 2020. We are so glad to have you! [October 2020 New Members](#)

## Employment Opportunities

Check out the new positions that are available in the field. Here are some exciting jobs that are posted via the AER Job Exchange:

### [Orientation and Mobility Specialist](#)

Seattle, Washington

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

### [Accessibility Manager](#)

Seattle, Washington

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

### [Teacher of the Visually Impaired](#)

Portland & Calais, Maine

Catholic Charities Maine Education Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children

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

## What's Cookin' AER

### Super Easy Cookie Bars

Ingredients:

1 cake mix of your choice

12 ounces of yummy stuff (see below)

1 egg

1 stick butter-use margarine if you like to eat plastic

Melt the butter in the microwave in a large glass mixing bowl. It only takes about one minute. Dump the cake mix into the melted butter and then add the egg. Start to stir with a fork to mix dry and wet ingredients. Dough will be stiff. Add the yummy stuff and continue to stir. Use

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parchment paper in a 9 x 13 baking pan to save washing time later or just press dough evenly in the pan. Place on the middle rack of a preheated oven for 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Do Not Overbake! Cut into squares and stand back, as they will not last long.

**Examples of cake mix and yummy stuff to try:**

Yellow cake mix with chocolate chips

Chocolate Cake Mix with peanut butter chips

Spice cake mix with raisins

Nuts

Coconut

Toffee Bits

Dried Fruit

I think you get the idea! Enjoy...

*Submitted by AER member (and Board President) Neva Fairchild*

*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, recipes 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 December issue is 11/23/2020.*

