
The AER Voice



Welcome to the June 2021 issue of the Voice

Volume 3, Issue 6



Sponsored by Freedom Scientific

AER is pleased that Freedom Scientific, a Vispero brand, has collaborated with us during June to help support our efforts to provide you with continued professional development opportunities. As always, Freedom Scientific furthers its commitment to being the world's leading assistive technology provider for the visually impaired!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Even if the calendar doesn't agree, it feels like Summer, now that the Memorial Day weekend is behind us. If you're wrapping up the school year, the fiscal year, or just another month on the calendar, I hope your future plans include renewal and relaxation. It's hard to imagine traveling after so many months in quarantine, but it seems like we are slowly but surely getting back to it, depending on your level of comfort and where you live. My husband and I have scheduled a week in Florida in September and I am very much looking forward to pool and hot tub time, depending on the temperature. Please continue to be careful and stay well.

What do you think when someone asks you to do something for a student/consumer/person that you were not specifically trained to do? How do you

feel? Are you a person who jumps in and learns it so you can teach it? Do you feel inadequate to meet the person's needs? Is it stressful for you? Scope of Practice is an ongoing debate within our field that needs our attention. Divisions have addressed this issue in Position Papers over the years, and if you are ACVREP Certified, it's spelled out very carefully, and yet...I'm opening this topic to spark your involvement at the Chapter, Division, and International level to throw open the doors and windows and shed some light and clarity on this topic. Reach out to your leadership and join the discussion. Start the discussion if no one is talking about it yet. Volunteer to work on illuminating your sphere of influence on the issues surrounding Scope of Practice and let's make some waves!

I've signed up for AER eLearning and guess what? It wasn't as complicated as I feared. As a screen reader user, signing up, logging in, making a selection, paying for something, and then actually accessing that something isn't always a walk in the park. I'll admit, I delayed joining out of fear of frustration, but it was misplaced fear. Accessing the recorded Continuing Education offerings on AER eLearning is very straight forward and despite the fact that I have no certifications to keep current, I do have a need to keep current and learn new things. I'm especially interested in the needs of people at the international level and my thirst for assistive technology knowledge can never be quenched. What do you need more information about? You just may find it on AER eLearning. What do you have to share? We want you to give others a chance to learn from you. Contact Megan (make her name a hyperlink to her email, please) to brainstorm your idea for contributing to the wealth of knowledge now available online, anytime.

Here's to a safe, fun, reinvigorating Summer, and a month filled with activities we've been missing.

Neva Fairchild, President, AER
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Vispero Survey

Vispero would like to invite those that use, teach, or sell digital magnifiers and head-worn digital magnifiers to participate in a 30-minute survey. All those eligible to participate will receive a 20% off coupon upon completion of the survey that can be redeemed for any Freedom Scientific, Enhanced Vision, or Optelec hardware or software product (expires October 2021). They will also be entered into a drawing to win the choice of a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, a one-year software license, or a free

product valued at 1500 dollars (OR 1500 dollars off a product) in our online store. We hold drawings each week for the entire month of June (four drawings total).

You are eligible to take the survey if you personally use, teach someone how to use, teach someone that uses, or you buy, sell, and distribute any of the following products.

- Pocket video magnifier: a 4 inch or smaller electronic LCD pocket magnifier.
- Handheld video magnifier: 5 inch or larger electronic LCD magnifier
- Desktop video magnifier: Has camera mounted on an adjustable arm. May include larger LCD monitor (e.g. Vario Digital, LifeStyle HD, Merlin HD).
- Transportable video magnifier: Portable version of the desktop video magnifier, typically folds up for enhanced portability.
- Wearable video magnifier: Head-mounted electronic video magnifier (e.g. NuEyes, Jordy, eSight).

Your answers will help to improve these products, create new features, teach people to integrate the device into their lives, and help to bridge the gap in the current technology. This is your chance to tell us your opinion of these products. [Click here](#) to begin the survey. Feel free to share this invitation or link with anyone you feel would be eligible.

If you have any questions or technical problems, please email Joel Persinger (jpersinger@vispero.com). You may only take the survey one time per household.

[Click here](#) to see the official statement regarding the sweepstakes rules.

Thank you very much for helping us create innovations that change lives around the world!

AER eLearning Center

[The AER eLearning Center](#) is excited to announce that for every weekday in June, there will be something new added to our library of professional development opportunities! This includes prerecorded sessions from other AER members, live webinars by AER Divisions, and many chances to continue to earn your continuing education credits! Keep up with the latest by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

[View our entire calendar](#) of upcoming live events and [search for recorded courses](#) to fit your needs.

Join us for these live events this month:

[Global Issues Speaker Series: Ben Clare](#)

[Collaboration: The Final “C” for Strengthening Management Skills and Thinking Like a Leader](#)

[Neurological Visual Impairment Division Webinar: CVI Companion Guide Implementation](#)

[Contact Megan Doty](#) for any questions or if you’d like to present a webinar.

During the month of June, the AER eLearning Center is being sponsored by Freedom Scientific, a Vispero brand. Visit their website at <https://www.freedomscientific.com/>.

Updates from OIB-TAC!

Upcoming Webinar: Partnering with Senior Service Providers to Reach Low Vision Consumers (June 18, 2021, 2:00 p.m. CST)

Website: www.oib-tac.org/events/2021/04/partnering-senior-service-providers-reach-low-vision-consumers/

This webinar will detail how Minnesota has drawn on a wide variety of senior service providers across Minnesota in a partnership to reach and serve seniors who are newly experiencing vision loss. This webinar will describe the funding mechanisms, coordination, partner recruitment, client tracking, and outcomes. Register online through our Community of Practice.

New course: An Overview of Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind

Website: nrtc.catalog.instructure.com/courses/an-overview-of-il-oib-tac

This course is designed to help those new to the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program to become acquainted with basic history, program requirements, factors that affect OIB programs, critical issues in service delivery, best practices, and the Independent Living Older Individuals who are Blind Technical Assistance and Training Center (IL OIB-TAC). Participants will learn terminology, acronyms, and issues common to OIB programs. Additional IL OIB-TAC resources are suggested throughout the course.

New Course: The Process of Teaching Art

Website: nrtc.catalog.instructure.com/courses/the-process-of-teaching-art

Individuals who are blind or have low vision may feel hesitant to create art but can be successful when given the opportunity to participate. Working on creative projects helps program participants learn organizational strategies, develop tactile and spatial concepts, and practice problem-solving. The process can also build an individual's confidence and provides a unique way to practice new skills to help them in other parts of their lives. In this course, staff from the Braille Institute guide discussions about art, define the terminology used by artists, discuss adaptations to help those who are blind or have low vision to participate, and provide demonstrations of two art projects.

IL OIB-TAC Virtual Conference Save the Date (September 13-16).

We have three session types each day:

1. Empower sessions are keynote sessions that are open to all. These sessions will be at 11:00 a.m. CST.
2. Educate sessions are presentation sessions that are open to all. These sessions will be at 1:00 p.m. CST.
3. Engage sessions are breakout sessions that are closed. These sessions are available only to OIB state program managers. They will be at 3:00 p.m. CST. Registration will be available in June.

New Resource: Healthy Aging Video Series

We have a new video series resource. These videos provide information on the use of smart speakers, discuss devices that are helpful in the kitchen, and more. These videos are available on our [Community of Practice resources page](#).

CHAPTER UPDATES

Arizona AER Chapter

The Arizona AER board, and especially its president, are so grateful to all of the presenters from summer 2020 and the 2020-2021 school year who have made our professional development webinar and conference program so successful and enjoyable. It has been a great pleasure and honor to work with you! We also thank all of you so much who have joined us at our webinars and conferences, whose attendance and participation have been invaluable to us.

We are planning now for summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year and would like to invite each of you to consider presenting at a fall or spring conference or webinar. Is there a topic that particularly interests and excites you, and about which you would like to share your expertise with our talented colleagues in visual impairment around

the world? Please complete the form below and I will look forward to talking with you more about it.

<https://forms.gle/17GMyQYVPREahquf8>

Our very best wishes to all of you for a wonderful end to the school year and happy, restful summer.

Northeast AER Annual Conference: Navigating Our Way Together

November 4 - 5, 2021, Virtual Online Conference

The conference committee is currently working on putting together a 2-day unique virtual conference full of engaging sessions with a virtual evening opportunity. Stay tuned for information on registration!

Northern Rockies AER Chapter

Save The Date! The Northern Rockies AER Chapter Conference will be held virtually on October 26-28, 2021. More information is coming soon!

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

Join us in welcoming the newest members, who joined AER in May 2021. We are glad to have you! [Newest AER Members!](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

O&M Supervisor

The Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

Special Education Teacher

The Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland

Residential Counselor-BVI 4PLUS program

Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Council Bluffs, Iowa

[Art Teacher](#)

The New York Institute for Special Education, Bronx, New York

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

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 them to AER at news@aerbvi.org. **Deadline for the July issue is 6/25/2021.**



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