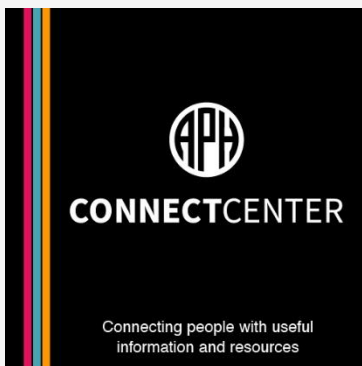


The AER Voice



Welcome to the July 2021 issue of the Voice Volume 3, Issue 7



APH ConnectCenter

AER and the APH ConnectCenter have partnered during the month of July to help support our efforts to provide you with continued professional development opportunities and to help spread awareness of the exciting projects that APH ConnectCenter has in store for you. We encourage you to visit them at

<https://aphconnectcenter.org/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here we are, halfway through 2021, and I still can't wrap my head around the start of another New Year. My thermostat says it's summer. FaceBook is full of graduating Seniors and my fourth-grade granddaughter is already at summer camp, so it must be true.

Speaking of summer camp, don't miss the 3-day event AER has planned for you to relax and recharge with our version of summer Camp 2021. It's going to be great content and great fun for all. Save August 3, 4 & 5 and invite a friend along. Summer camp is always more fun when you have a friend to go with.

About a year from now, we will be starting to pack our bags and frantically putting final touches on our presentations for the AER International Conference in St. Louis, MO. I cannot wait to hang out in-person with all of you. July 21-25, 2022 are the dates, and St. Louis is the place. Watch for the Call for Presentations soonish. It's not

too early to start talking with your colleagues about attending, presenting, and networking.

You have access to great content now through AER eLearning. Brush up on a topic, Dig deeper into a subject or get practical tips from your colleagues to help you prepare for a new role, a student with different needs, or a subject you have always been curious about. Registering is easy and available on the AER website. Browse through the topics and see what I mean. Got an idea for a topic you'd like to present? Think about putting it together with the help of megan@aerbvi.org or save it for St. Louis next year. Share your talents.

Neva Fairchild, President, AER
nfairchild@afb.org

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Save the Date: AER School Year Start-Up Summer Camp!

"Outdoors, Indoors, and Opening Doors"

Join AER on August 3-5, 2021 for the School Year Start-Up Summer Camp! Get set for a new year, gather virtually with colleagues, earn continuing education credit and have fun! This three-day virtual conference will include four sessions per day, organized with the ECC in mind.

Our days will begin with the Camp Counselors welcoming all and gathering us around the virtual campfire. In between each session, you'll find fun activities to keep you smiling. At the end of each day, gather around the virtual campfire again to wrap up the day and prepare for the next.

You won't want to miss this! Further details on sessions, presenters, and pricing soon to come.

AER eLearning Center

The AER eLearning Center – Something for Everyone!

Check out the most popular courses within the AER eLearning Center:

Collaboration: The Final “C” for Strengthening Management Skills and Thinking Like a Leader presented by Kevin O’Connor

Support Canes: Who is in Support of Them? Presented by JoAnne Chalom and Margaret Winn

HTML as a Gateway to Braille for Professional Development Environments presented by SarahElizabeth Baguhn

[Pediatric Belt Canes](#) presented by Dr. Grace Ambrose Zaken

[What's in Your Emergency Bag? Preparation and Survival](#) presented by Mark Armstrong and Kendra Farrow

During the month of July, the AER eLearning Center is being sponsored by the APH ConnectCenter. Visit their website at www.APHConnectCenter.org.

Updates from OIB-TAC!

Registration Open for Free Virtual IL OIB-TAC Conference

The Independent Living Services Older Individuals who are Blind Technical Assistance Center's (IL OIB-TAC) third annual Technical Assistance Conference is open for registration. It will be held virtually September 13-16 on the Community of Practice website with the theme "Empower, Educate, and Engage."

Sessions were created from attendance feedback at last year's conference. Topics include assistive technology, community outreach, self-care, and support groups. For more information and to register, visit the Community of Practice at www.oib-tac.org/trainings/conference/2021/. Please email info@oib-tac.org with any questions.

White Cane Awareness Day Information

The National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision created a new free resource, [Community Outreach Guide: How to Host A White Cane Awareness Day Celebration \(October 15\)](#), that references AER BVI with links to your website for resources as well as discussion of volunteers.

This Community Outreach Guide introduces the reader to the history of White Cane Awareness Day, provides inspiration for activities (from a signing ceremony to a large, public event), and offers general event tips for a successful celebration. From links to resources to sample invitations and press releases, the guide is full of great information!

ACVREP and Google launch free the Chromebook Accessibility Training Program

Successful completion of the 8-module training program will result in you being awarded the Chromebook A11Y Expert digital badge that can be displayed on your emails, social media, and personal website.

Professionals will be able to hone their skills in using and teaching use of the Chromebook and consumers can expand their professional opportunities and be more skilled in using this well-priced computer with built-in accessibility.

[Download and view the instructions for the Chromebook Accessibility Expert Training in a PDF file format.](#) (Please open this in Adobe Reader or another accessible PDF viewer.)

Perkins E-Learning

AER members receive a 20% discount on the total cost of Perkins self-paced tutorials. Each provides an opportunity to enhance your knowledge, skills and abilities and job performance! AER members only may use the voucher code 20aer20 to take advantage of this member benefit and earn CE hours. Click here to get started: [Perkins Discounts](#)

Instructions: Select the tutorial. Add to your cart and when checking out enter code 20AER20 in the Voucher Box. Enter re-calculate and the discount will appear. On the next screen, sign in (if you already have an account with Perkins Learning Center or Register if you do not yet have a Perkins Learning Center account. On the final page, enter your AER member number in the Phone Number field. Your AER member number will be verified. If you encounter any problems or have any questions, please email perkins.elearning@perkins.org.



CHAPTER UPDATES

Arkansas AER Chapter

Arkansas AER Roundtable Discussion: Technology for Individuals who are Blind/Visually Impaired

Date: **July 7, 2021**

Time: **1:00 pm-3:00 pm (2 CEUs available)**

Please join us via Zoom for a presentation by Macy James and Caitlyn Laster as they discuss what technology they use daily and the tools they find most useful as college-age students who are blind. There will be ACVREP credits available for attending!

Register today at <http://bit.ly/ARaerSummer!>

Members: free

Non-members: \$10

Northern Rockies AER Chapter

Save The Date! The Northern Rockies AER Chapter Conference will be held in Cody, Wyoming on October 26-28, 2021. Stay tuned for more information.

DIVISION UPDATES

Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind

Session: The Impact of the Need for Closure for Students and Youth Who are Deafblind

Date: October 21, 2021

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm EDT

Register here: <https://aerelearning.org/courses/32835>

Earn 1.5 CEs! All are welcome to attend! This session will answer the questions:

- What is closure?
- Why do we want and need closure?
- What happens if we do not get closure?
- Why might lack of closure be a significant source of stress for children and youth who are deafblind?
- What can we do to provide closure for children and youth who are deafblind?

Description:

Join us as we continue a conversation begun during the 2021 Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education. Maurice Belote will share his thoughts on the basic human need for closure, the impact of lack of closure on individuals who are deafblind, and ways that service providers might reduce stress, identify motivators, and increase active engagement. A panel discussion featuring David Brown, Mary Gyori, Adam Graves, and Linda Mamer, and a member of the deafblind community will follow. Stay after the formal presentation for an opportunity to chat about this topic more informally.

Humans have a need for clear endings or closure. Most humans are uncomfortable when things remain unfinished. We have all just lived an excellent example of the feelings evoked by lack of closure. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-2020 school year essentially stopped without a proper ending. Seniors did not have prom

and virtual graduation ceremonies did not provide the long-anticipated pomp and circumstance and did not provide closure as students ended their high school careers. Other students were isolated at home and suddenly had no face-to-face interactions with the adults and classmates that peopled their worlds before the day they went into lockdown. Students who are deafblind may experience a lack of closure throughout each day which could contribute to high levels of stress. Constant high levels of stress and anxiety are incompatible with learning readiness and active engagement. Recognizing how students who are deafblind may experience barriers to learning due to lack of closure creates the possibility for solutions. Strategies can be easily integrated into classrooms to mitigate the negative effects of constant ambiguity and uncertainty and instead provide elements of closure to support this basic human need.

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:

[Assistive Technology Specialist](#)

The Carroll Center for the Blind, Newton, Massachusetts

[Special Schools Teacher-Alternative Academic Program](#)

Tennessee School for the Blind, Nashville, Tennessee

[President and Chief Executive Officer](#)

Florida Agencies Serving the Blind, Florida

[Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments / Orientation and Mobility Specialist](#)

Washington State School for the Blind, Spokane, Washington

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 August issue is 7/25/2021.**



[Visit our website](#)