
The AER Voice



Welcome to the September 2021 issue of the Voice
Volume 3, Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Fall!

Well, almost Fall in Texas. Really it still feels like summer, but I'm pretending and turning the AC down a degree or two. Fall is truly my favorite time of year. The temperature change will happen eventually, the décor is so much fun, and the holidays can't be that far off. I don't want to scare you, but New Year's Day is only 4 months away!

The AER Staff and I met with the Council of Division chairs (CDC) and the Council of Chapter Presidents (CCP) this last week. Helping them to network and address topics of mutual interest prompted us to pull these leaders together. If you missed it, look for an invitation before the end of the year for another gathering of these two groups.

If you are a Division Chair, Elect, Present or Past you should be receiving communication from the Chair of the CDC. Please reach out to michele@aerbvi.org if you are not getting Doodle Polls or Meeting Invitations. Division leaders have a second level of support at the Board level in the four Division cluster Representatives: Large Divisions; Instructional Services; Adult Services and Related Services.

Likewise, if you are a Chapter President, Elect, Present or Past, a Chapter Secretary or a Chapter Treasurer and you did not get an invitation to the August 31 CCP meeting, please let Michele know. Chapter leaders have two levels of support at the AER Board level as well. District Reps and the CCP Chair are ready to support you; just reach out. Keeping track of our Chapter and Division leadership is of primary importance and we're counting on you to keep us on top of who is doing what.

Watch your inbox for a Call for Presentations this month, in preparation for the 2022 AER International Conference, July 20-24 in St. Louis, Missouri. I cannot encourage you enough to share with your colleagues what you do, how you do it, and what still needs to be done. Gather a group, go it alone, or better yet, find a buddy who isn't an AER member and invite them to present and attend with you. We need everyone's voice to be heard. You may have the exact answers that others are looking for. The Conference Committee is hard at work to bring us all together for a stupendous conference!

Stay well, be safe, and most of all thanks for all you do to serve people of all ages who are blind or have low vision. My 10-gallon Stetson cowboy hat is off to you.

Neva Fairchild, President, AER
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Checking Out the APH ConnectCenter

FamilyConnect and The APH ConnectCenter Have a New Look!

Welcome back to School! APH ConnectCenter is excited to reveal our rebranded websites ([FamilyConnect](#), [APH CareerConnect](#), and [VisionAware](#)). Our new look is dynamic, in high contrast with our websites still offering a wealth of curated resources on all aspects of living, learning, and working with vision loss.

Back to School with APH FamilyConnect!

FamilyConnect is a treasure trove of resources for families navigating school with a child with a visual impairment. **Browse by Age** or jump straight to **Education** on the home page tabs to find curated articles on the [Expanded Core Curriculum](#) and [Know Your Rights](#) to help you navigate IEPs and services for your child. By Age, families can find resources on Babies and Toddlers, [Grade Schoolers](#), and [Teenagers](#). Speaking of teens, the new school year is a great time to work on critical self-advocacy skills. For ideas, check out [Expect Your Teen to Dialogue with Teachers Prior to the School Year](#).

ParentConnect: A Parent Support Meeting – September 1 at 7:30 PM (ET)

FamilyConnect hosts a parent meeting on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:30 pm – 8:30 PM (ET). Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 7:30 – 8:30 PM (ET), APH FamilyConnect and the Chicago Lighthouse are pleased to offer this virtual support group for parents and families of children who are blind or visually impaired. These monthly sessions are for families to connect with and learn from each other about the joys, challenges, and adventures of raising children with visual impairments and blindness. These sessions are open to families and will meet on the first Wednesday of each month. **Please share with families** and have them visit the Webinars section on www.APHConnectCenter.org details.

APH CareerConnect and APH ConnectCenter Transition Resources for Fall

Just in time for the new school year, the new APH ConnectCenter Transition Hub is a one-stop, easy-to-use, searchable resource of transition programs across the United States available for school-age students, teachers of the visually impaired, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and families. Users can search for programs by state and program type; if a program has attendance fees, if a program is offered in languages other than English, or if a program is offered year-round or seasonally. Visit the APH

ConnectCenter main page to find the APH ConnectCenter Transition Hub and see the possibilities unfold at www.APHConnectCenter.org.

APH CareerConnect has lots of resources for teachers and rehabilitation counselors looking for Career Education curriculum for this school year. Be sure to check out the *For Teachers and Professionals* tab on <https://aphcareerconnect.org> for a host of resources ranging from [*Using FamilyConnect to Prepare Your Teen for Transition*](#) to curriculum to support critical transition skills like [*What is Work?*](#), [*Social Skills*](#), and [*Money Management*](#).

VisionAware Promotes Fall Prevention Month - September is fall prevention month! People with vision loss [“have a significantly greater risk of balance problems...”](#) With that in mind, VisionAware is hosting a webinar on Fall Prevention and the [Matter of Balance program](#) with adaptations for people with vision loss on September 14th from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm (ET). To register visit www.APHConnectCenter.org. If you don't have time to make the live webinar, you can watch the video on our YouTube Channel or check out VisionAware's article on [Preventing Falls](#) with tips and ideas for people with vision loss and low-vision adaptations.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The AER eLearning Center: Fall into Savings in the AER eLearning Center

All courses in the AER eLearning Center are \$10 for AER members and \$25 for nonmembers. Browse courses by topic to find exactly what you need:

[Orientation and Mobility](#)
[Physical Activity and Recreation](#)
[Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind](#)
[Information and Technology](#)
[Browse all courses and events](#)

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

AER 2022 Biennial International Conference: SAVE THE DATE!

AER is excited to announce that we will be holding our 2022 conference in St. Louis, MO, July 20-24 at the beautiful Union Station Hotel. The call for presentations will open in mid-September. Stay tuned for more information!

ATIA Survey on Assistive Technology Training Needs in Support of People who are Blind, Have Low-Vision, or are Deafblind

Do you train/support people who are blind, have low vision or are deaf-blind with their assistive technology? If you are a teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI),

orientation and mobility specialist, assistive technology instructor, teacher/special education teacher, occupational therapist, or another professional working with students or adults who are visually impaired, then we want to hear from you! Please complete our survey by September 1 to help us better understand your learning and continuing education needs. [Complete the Survey](#)

This survey was developed by a partnership of organizations trying to improve outcomes for children, youth, and adults who are blind, have low vision or are deaf-blind. That partnership includes the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA), the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP), VisionServe Alliance (VSA), The American Printing House for the Blind (APH), Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) and The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Updates from OIB-TAC!

IL OIB-TAC Virtual Conference Registration Open!

The virtual conference is, September 13-16. Visit our [Community of Practice](#) for information about each session and to register. Up to 8 CRC/ACVREP CEUs are available. When you register, please indicate which type you require. There is more information about CEUs for the Empower or Educate sessions on the conference website.

Conference Session Highlights

Does it feel like a struggle to get your message across? Like your messages are getting lost, overlooked, or even misunderstood? Despite your best efforts, the challenge to communicate with, influence, and inspire your colleagues, partners, and clients might seem unique and overwhelming, especially in our current reality of working remotely. Join us for Claudia-Jean Virga's [C.H.A.T Your Way to Success: Be an Influential and Inspiring Communicator](#). In this session, you'll learn how to maximize your communication, your marketing, and your presentations by leveraging four distinct communication styles. Curious to know your CHAT Communication language? After registering for the conference, take a quick quiz at www.thechatsystem.com/OIB-TAC2021.

White Cane Awareness Day

Are you or your organization considering hosting a White Cane Awareness Day Celebration in October? If so, check out our free [Community Outreach Guide: How to Host A White Cane Awareness Day Celebration \(October 15\)](#). This guide will introduce you to the history of White Cane Awareness Day, provide inspiration for activities, and offer general event tips to support you as you create a successful celebration.

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

Save the Date: AR-AER 2021 Annual Conference: “Hindsight 20/20: Refocusing Our Vision”

Join us for a virtual event, Thursday, September 23, 2021 (afternoon), and Friday, September 24, 2021 (morning)

Event details can be found at: ArkansasAER.org/2021-conference/

Contact ArkansasAER@gmail.com with any questions.

Mississippi AER Chapter

Mississippi AER 2021 Conference: Mapping Our Way Forward

October 7-8, 2021

More information coming soon.

Northern Rockies AER Chapter

October 26—arrival, check-in with sessions beginning at 1:00

Wednesday, October 27—conference sessions all day; dinner and silent auction

Thursday, October 28th—conference sessions until noon

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-rockies-aer-conference-tickets-161134905841>

Northeast AER Annual Conference: Navigating Our Way Together

November 4, 2021- November 5, 2021, Virtual Online Conference

<https://www.nercve.org/ne/aer-2021-conference>

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.

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

Join us in welcoming the newest members, who joined AER in August 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:

[Certified Vision Rehabilitation Specialist \(CVRT\)](#)

VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, New York

[Teacher of Visually Impaired Children – Sign-On Bonus!](#)

Catholic Charities Maine, Portland, Maine

[Teacher of Visually Impaired Children – Sign-On Bonus!](#)

Catholic Charities Maine, Brunswick, Maine

[Children and Youth Services Program Manager](#)

Center for the Visually Impaired, Atlanta, Georgia

[Orientation and Mobility Specialist](#)
Alphapointe, Kansas City, Missouri

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.

The deadline for the October issue is 9/25/2021.



[Visit our website](#)