

The AER Voice



Welcome to the January 2022 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 4, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New year! And, what a year it will be for AER. An International Conference, par excellence; a new Executive Director; and a new Board of Directors to lead AER into the future, with your help.

We have almost 200 presentation proposals to review and organize for the 2022 International Conference in St. Louis. You have a lot to look forward to when we are together again July 20 through 24. Watch for registration to open, and make your reservations at the conference hotel as soon as the information is shared. You don't want to miss what Jill Brown and her Conference Committee are designing...a conference that promises to be the best AER Conference yet.

The Executive Director Search Committee is seated and charged with the task of presenting the Board of Directors with a few highly qualified candidates from which your Board will choose the next head of staff for AER in the Spring. John McMahan (Chair), Tracey Wicken, Bill Wiener, Chris Tabb, Audrey Dannenberg, Carole Williams, and Jordi Stringer were chosen from the membership and Joanne Chalom and Kathryn Botsford were chosen from the current Board of Directors. The job posting will be announced soon. Please help us spread the word as we search for the next Executive Director of AER.

What? A new Board of Directors? It seems like we just seated a new Board yesterday. I cannot believe it either, but elections for the 2022 – 2024 Board of Directors will take place in the next few months. Division leaders, District representatives, and three of the five Officer positions are open. I will move to the Past President's role and Olaya Landa Vialard will step into the President's role. Some members of the Board are eligible to run again, and others will not due to term limits. I hope that those of you interested in serving AER will speak up to express your willingness and step up when asked to run. It is my hope that we can offer a slate of officers and board members during this election that gives you a choice. We need your enthusiasm, your creativity, and your energy to keep AER moving forward. Contact me directly if you have questions or would like to throw your hat in the ring. You will benefit and so will our association.

CONFERENCE CORNER!

Registration for the 2022 AER Biennial International Conference will be open in just a few short weeks. As you know, AER will be taking over the Union Station hotel on July 20-24 for what will be an educational and fun event.

We also recommend that you book your Union Station hotel room early!

Stay tuned...

NEWS YOU CAN USE

SAVE THE DATE! Webinar Follow up From NEAER Conference January 13, 2022, 1:00 pm EST

We are pleased to share with you a scheduled follow up to the NEAER 2021 conference presentation:

**Deep Dive: Unpacking and Analysis:
Dynamics Affecting the Role and Function of Teachers of Students with
Visual Impairment:
COVID Edition-2021 – Open forum for questions, and answers!**

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdumtrjotHNELErNGOMt4cwT1gESLLkJD>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We were very happy with the large number of participants in this conference session, and readily acknowledge the importance of continuing this conversation on the many topic areas presented. This is a ZOOM meeting and registration link/information to follow. It is open to interested individuals! You can ask specific questions and gain more detail about the Focused Core Curriculum and other analyses referenced. Send questions in advance and I will be sure to address those. See you soon.

William Koehler, M.Ed. COMS, TVI
President and Founder, Taking The Lead, LLC
[HTTPS://taking-the-lead.org](https://taking-the-lead.org)
Koehler.william@outlook.com

Colleagues and friends,

Please take a few minutes to help me in an ongoing process of review of training TVIs received and training needed. This is an extension of some research I have been conducting over an extended period of time; I have found the most useful information comes directly from teachers in the field. Your experiences and feedback are very much appreciated.

Results will be tabulated, analyzed, and reported back to you. Many of you are asked to complete surveys, and you do not often hear any of the results- I know this because you tell me! For those of you who have worked with me in the past, you know that results shared are actually used as basis for assisting in decision making, and those results are shared back with everyone. Type your responses directly on this form (it is WORD) and email back to me. There is no harmful effect to respondents anticipated in completing this survey. Thank you in advance for your help.

William Koehler, M.Ed.; TVI, COMS (ret)

Responses to: Koehler.william@outlook.com

Statement of assurance

Results will be seen only by me; no one will be named in any results; no district or employer will be named. Categories will be separated by work title. As with all previous surveys, there will be an option for individual conversations, at your request. Summary data will be shared after the date listed below.

Braille Experiences

What is the title of your current/historical position? More than one? Check all that apply.

1. Teacher of students with visual impairment (TVI)
2. Rehabilitation teacher (VI)
3. Orientation and Mobility Specialist
4. Administrator responsible for services/programs for individuals with visual impairment

How many years of experience in the field?

Your university training:

1. Bachelors in VI? When received _____
2. Masters in VI? When received _____
3. Certification in VI (not part of 1 or 2 above) When received _____
4. Higher degree in VI? (Ed.D.; Ph.D.; Ed.S.) When received _____

4. Your Training:

1. Braille courses in your preparation program: 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ More _____
2. Formal university training in Braille since your degree/certification? Brief description— if none, report “none.”

5. Your formal training in Braille UEB/UEB math:
1. University coursework? When? (year) _____
 2. Professionally recognized training?
 3. Other training?
6. Teaching/student caseload
1. Approximately how many students reading Braille have you had over your career?
 2. Have there been gaps in your teaching years where you had no students reading Braille?
 - i. Approximately how long were gaps- if there were more gaps than one, please report those to the best of your memory.
 - ii. After any gap(s), did you have access to formal training to maximize your proficiency?
 - iii. Informal training? In the form of...
7. High stakes testing: this is primarily for school-based professionals: High-stakes testing in the form of state-mandated literacy testing certainly has taken time to address and has been a legitimate cause for concern for teachers. Do you feel that your current level of knowledge in Braille (include UEB, UEB math; EBAE, Nemeth) is at a level of proficiency to teach Braille to students such that they will be proficient in their respective high stakes testing?
Absolutely ____
Maybe _____
Not really _____
I wish my students had several options for learning Braille:
Comments:

Thank you very much for your time. I will compile survey results and report back to everyone. If you have comments that you prefer sharing in person, please call me at the number listed above. Your responses are valued!

Responses to: Koehler.william@outlook.com

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

Georgia AER Chapter

Georgia AER has scheduled our 2021-2022 Conference! This year we are joining forces with the Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training (GVEST) to host a virtual two-day conference. The next session day will be on **Friday, March 11, 2022**.

We will offer concurrent sessions that will be recorded so attendees will have the ability to earn up to 21 CEU credits (ACVREP and CRC). The two-day conference is \$75 with a discount to all AER members at the rate of \$50.

Learn more by visiting gaaer.org or gvest.org website.

Kentucky AER 2022 Annual Conference

Back to Berea

We invite you to share your knowledge, skills, and creativity at the 2022 KAER Conference! We are looking for presenters with various backgrounds that will give insight into technology, K-12 education, vocational rehabilitation, early childhood, orientation and mobility, serving individuals with multiple or severe disabilities, DeafBlindness, or other topics related to working with those who are blind or visually impaired.

Due to Covid continuing to be a concern for our state, this conference may be held virtually instead of in person.

Selection:

Conference session proposals will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Does the topic present a practical application and demonstrate effectiveness for the education or rehabilitation of visually impaired individuals?
- Is the topic important and relevant to the needs of blind or visually impaired individuals or the professionals who serve blind and visually impaired?
- Does the topic provide significant or innovative ideas or research findings that bring fresh insight or approaches?
- Does the topic present a new or expanded perspective, practice, program, or innovation?
- Has the topic been presented at a recent KAER conference?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the submission process, please feel free to contact Janell Turner, KAER Past President, JanellK.Turner@ky.gov (Members)

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

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

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Speech Therapist

Alamogordo, New Mexico

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes – Vision Services

Adaptive Technology Instructor

Rochester, New York

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes – Vision Services

Orientation & Mobility Therapist

Rochester, New York

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

Superintendent

Great Falls, Montana

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 February issue is 1/25/2022.



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