

The AER Voice



Welcome to the March 2022 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 4, Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March madness has little to do with basketball for me. It has more to do with weather, is it winter or summer; conferences, Will I go or will I stay home; and vacation, When do I get to take a Spring Break again? Seriously, so many decisions to be made, but I for one am keeping a jacket near and enjoying the beautiful days when they occur, making plans for in-person conferences, and trying to carve out a little time for me to read, knit and relax soon.

I will be attending the Texas AER conference at the end of March, and the Vision Serve Alliance Executive Leadership conference at the beginning of April, as well as the AFB Leadership Conference at the beginning of May. From Austin to Tampa to DC within 33 days is exciting because I will finally get to be with some of you after two years of being in my home office and connecting with you only by phone or video conference. Most exciting of all, is the AER International Conference in St. Louis in July! Maybe you have heard, we had almost 200 presentation proposals and they have been in the review process for the last several weeks. Registration will open soon and you will be amazed by what is in store for those of you who will attend July 20 – 24, 2022. If you are on the fence, not quite sure if you want to attend an in-person conference yet, keep an open mind over the next few months. The AER International conference registration fee will stay the same until June 19, 2022, so as the pandemic risks hopefully go down, your comfort level will have time to go up. I'll be there, wearing my mask, and I will be cautious, but I'm feeling safe enough to venture out to these important conferences. I hope you will join me. Let's rock St. Louis!

During these first days of war between Russia and Ukraine, it's hard not to despair. Where will this conflict lead? Will it spread to other countries? How can I help the ordinary citizens caught up in the path of war? You may even have family or friends trapped in the middle of this contest of wills. I have no answers except to pray. I'm praying for a miracle; or truth be told, several million miracles. In whatever way you can, however you choose, please join me in asking for an end to conflicts everywhere. They inevitably hurt the people caught in the middle most.

If you will be at any of the conferences listed above, I hope you will reach out so we can connect. Don't forget, on March 17, everyone can claim to be Irish!

CONFERENCE CORNER!



Join AER in St. Louis, Missouri from July 20-24, 2022 for the 2022 AER Biennial International Conference! There will be tons of breakout sessions, division breakfasts, and fun evening events await – we hope to see you there!

Registration will open in March!

NEWS YOU CAN USE



The 2-22-22 Mystery is Revealed!

So, you have solved the mystery of 2-22-22. Now you know that a new journal will be making its debut this

summer. *The New RE:view* (TNR) is intended for professionals, people with visual impairments, their families, and anyone who works with them. It follows in the footsteps of the historic journal *RE:view*, which was discontinued in 2008. In its new incarnation, the new journal will focus on building a dynamic professional resource as it addresses key questions of our work.

- How can we facilitate successful learning by children and adults who have visual impairments?
- What resources and tools have been effective in promoting learning?
- How do we determine that learning has been successful?
- How do we transfer that knowledge to others?
- How can AER members ensure that well-qualified people are available to support learning of people with visual impairments?

The New RE:view will offer opportunities for learning and problem solving among professionals. This journal of practice will highlight the work of practicing professionals who can offer their experiences to others who seek solutions for learning challenges. Although *The New RE:view* is not a research journal, articles considered for publication must demonstrate evidence that supports the author's work.

If you have good ideas for learning but have never put them into writing, this

is the time and the place! Reviewers from the field will provide feedback to ensure that your writing is effective. If your work is accepted for publication, an Associate Editor will work with you in making your message clear.

Soon, we will issue a Call for Papers so start now thinking of practices and topics you could—and should—share with your colleagues. Perhaps you already have an article or an idea that you would like to submit. TNR will be the place to publish them, and your work might be featured in the very first issue of *TNR*!

To learn more about this new journal of practice and how you can become a published author, visit the AER website at

<https://aerbvi.org/resources/the-new-review/>.

The AER eLearning Center

“March” into Spring with Courses in the AER eLearning Center

This spring, get set for success with professional development available in the AER eLearning Center. Earn ACVREP credits and learn from some of your favorite leaders in the field! Check out the titles below to get started:

[Project INSPIRE: Teaching Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts](#)

[Recruit, Re-brand, Re-focus, Re-energize: Let’s Fill the Gap by](#)

[Following in Michigan’s Footsteps](#)

[Following in the Footsteps on Helen Keller and Harry Truman: My](#)

[Father’s Path to Becoming a Change Agent](#)

Save today when you purchase our latest bundle of the [AER Question the Authorities Series!](#) This bundle includes two question-and-answer discussions with leading researchers and published authors in the field, and more will be added throughout the year. Purchase today to save when new recordings are added!

[Email Megan Doty](#) with any questions about webinars or the AER eLearning Center.

Stakeholder Input Needed for Research into the Accessibility Challenges of Digital Instructional Materials in K-12

The Purpose:

The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) is working with Vision for Independence, LLC to conduct interviews and focus groups to better understand the current level of accessibility of digital instructional materials in K-12, the experiences of students who are visually impaired or print disabled when using these materials, and the challenges involved in making materials accessible to all students.

Participant Criteria: Individuals from the six groups below will be selected to take part in a 1:1 interview or focus group. All activities will occur online using Zoom.

Groups will be comprised of individuals from the United States or its territories:

- Individuals at K-12 publishers and educational technology companies that supply digital instructional materials and are knowledgeable about accessibility issues
- Procurement personnel from school districts, state departments of education, or schools for the blind
- Braillists/transcribers who prepare braille versions of K-12 instructional materials
- Ex Officio Trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind
- Teachers of students with visual impairments
- Special education teachers who work with either students with print disabilities or students with physical disabilities who require instructional materials in an alternative format

How to Participate: Complete the consent form and brief demographic survey at:

https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2t6ovViIhC2IW0q.

What Will Occur: Individuals selected for an interview will meet with a researcher for approximately 1 hour via Zoom.

Individuals who are invited to join a focus group will meet with researchers and a small group of individuals in the same role as themselves. Focus group meetings will run approximately 90 minutes and occur on Zoom.

What You Will Receive if You Participate: Each person interviewed or who participates in a focus group will receive a \$25 Amazon or Target gift card.

The Researchers: Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum and Dr. Kathryn D. Botsford, are conducting the research study.

Who to Contact: If you need additional information, please contact Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum at rosenblu@email.arizona.edu.

This research was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the American Foundation for the Blind.

AER Member Benefit Spotlight!

Did you know that your membership with AER provides you with discounts on insurance, car rentals, and hotel stays?

Whether you're in need of insurance (life, auto, health, liability, pet, etc.) or planning your next vacation, members can save money on these purchases thanks to AER's exclusive Member Discount Program!

When it comes to your bottom line, your membership in AER pays dividends. We have partnered with some of the best companies to give you the most for your money. Log into your AER members-only page and learn more by clicking here:

<https://aerbvi.org/membership/auto-hotel-and-insurance-discounts-members/>

Webinar: Walk Your Own Path, A Mobility Mural to Start a Conversation

A Mobility Mural to Start a Conversation

An Online Webinar with: *Shelby Glass, COMS* from The Vermont Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Date and Time: March 25, 2022 1-2pm

Cost: Free

ACVREP Credit = 1 hour

Come together to learn how to make a *Walk Your Own Path* mobility mural—made from cane strokes and guide dog pawprints— in your community. The presentation objectives include: the evolution of the project concept, identifying supplies used, identifying costs of the project, learning how to facilitate the creation of the mural, and identifying the impact the mural is having on others. By creating public art that is celebratory and accessible, this project creates a gateway to connect sighted and visually impaired worlds.

To register and obtain the Zoom link, contact: Shelby Glass,
sglass@vabvi.org

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.

2022 AER IMPORTANT UPDATES! **Time Sensitive**

Executive Director Search

As you may have heard, AER is seeking a passionate and dedicated professional to assume leadership for the organization by serving as our next Executive Director. This position leads all aspects of the organizational activities and is responsible for building and managing critical relationships with a wide range of constituencies.

This is a full-time remote work position reporting to the president of the board of directors. Please refer to the [job description](#) for full details and how to

apply.

The deadline to submit your resume/CV is March 21, 2022. Questions should be addressed to: aerbvi.ed.search.committee@gmail.com

2022 AER Awards: Nominations are now Open!

AER recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals working in our field through our biennial Awards program. We are pleased to announce the 2022 AER Awards nomination process is now open!

The deadline to submit your nomination is April 15, 2022. Any additional documentation must be emailed to aer@aerbvi.org, with the name of the award and the nominee in the subject line.

Please use the links below to complete the nomination form and return to AER.

- **[Alfred Allen Award](#)**

Honors professionals who have spent their careers in direct service to people with visual impairments. Through the extent and quality of the services that they have provided, these professionals exemplify the character, dedication, insight, and sharing that epitomize the spirit of and commitment to direct service.

- **[Mary K. Bauman Award](#)**

Honors an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the education of children and youth who are blind or visually impaired.

- **[C. Warren Bledsoe Award](#)**

Is given in recognition of a particularly noteworthy piece of literature in the field of blindness.

- **[Douglas C. MacFarland Award](#)**

Honors an individual who has provided leadership in the field of blindness and visual impairment and who made innovative, significant, or outstanding contributions to the education or rehabilitation of people who are visually impaired through either direct service, professional organizations, research, literature and/or preparation of professionals and is retired from the field. These contributions should have had an impact on a national or international level.

- **[John H. McAulay Award](#)**

Honor professionals who have contributed outstanding efforts and achievements leading to the placement of people with visual impairments in productive employment.

- **[Outstanding Chapter Award](#)**

Recognizes a chapter whose membership efforts have been outstanding. Criteria includes: increase in the number of members; the number and quality of services and/or programs offered by the chapter; and legislative activity significantly affecting the lives of blind people.

- **[Ambrose M. Shotwell Award](#)**

Was established to honor an individual who has made significant outstanding

contributions to the personal adjustment or rehabilitation of adults who are blind or visually impaired.

- **[Richard L. Welsh Chapter Leadership Award](#)**

Was established to recognize professionals who have contributed outstanding efforts in AER chapter leadership. Nominees will demonstrate activity and achievement, either past or current, in the role of AER President-Elect, President, Past-President, Secretary, or Treasurer at the chapter level.

2022 AER William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship!

AER proudly offers educational scholarships for individuals continuing their education in the field of providing services to the blind and visually impaired. The William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship is awarded every other year in even years to two selected applicants who are legally blind and are studying for a career in the field of services to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The letters of recommendation and signed Certification of Visual Status must be emailed to aer@aerbvi.org with the name of the applicant in the subject line.

[William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship Application](#)

2022 Donald Blasch Scholarship

The Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Division of AER has begun accepting applications for the 2022 Donald Blasch Scholarship. AER's O&M Division presents an annual scholarship competition for students enrolled in an AER-approved O&M program. The scholarship recognizes the vital contributions of the late Donald Blasch to the profession of O&M during his long tenure at Western Michigan University.

Individuals selected for the scholarship receive an unrestricted award of \$1,000.00. Two scholarships are awarded each year (depending on the availability of funds). Please access the application by clicking the link below.

Visit <https://aerbvi.org/about/divisions/orientation-mobility-division/> to download the scholarship application.

The deadline is March 11, 2022.

All O&M students enrolled in AER-accredited programs are encouraged to apply. For questions, contact Margaret Winn, Chair of the Blasch Scholarship Committee, at MargaretKWinn@gmail.com

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.

Texas AER Chapter

Join us for the TAER 2022 Conference at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in Round Rock, TX!
A Whole New World: Renew, Recharge, Refocus
March 31- April 2, 2022

Click here to learn more and to register:
<http://www.txaer.org/conference.html>

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

Join us in welcoming the newest members, who joined AER in February 2022. 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:

[Executive Director](#)

Alexandria, Virginia (VIRTUAL/REMOTE OFFICE)
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

[Low Vision and Orientation & Mobility Specialist](#)

Aberdeen, South Dakota
South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

[Development Associate: Development Services & Donor Engagement – Full Time](#)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Overbrook School for the Blind

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 April issue is 3/25/2022.



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