

# The AER Voice



## Welcome to the May 2022 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 5, Issue 4

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am getting excited about the 2022 AER International Conference in St. Louis this July. Have you taken a look at the training and networking opportunities? If not, visit [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) and check out the agenda. Starting with Symposium Day on Wednesday, July 20, you will be able to access information on topics near and dear to your heart and your special interests within our field. The conference continues through Sunday, July 24 with hundreds of break out sessions to choose from and hundreds of people to talk to about everything that is important to you.

The search for an Executive Director for AER is moving forward. Second interviews will take place in mid-May and I sincerely hope to have an announcement for members in June. It is our goal to have the new Executive Director at the 2022 AERIC in St. Louis to meet all of you and start their adventure with our most spectacular event of the biennium.

Our staff members, Michele and Megan, have worked super hard to get the conference registration as well as exhibit and sponsor platforms up and running as well as accessible. My hat is off to them and so many volunteers within AER for making this happen and keeping things going this year. They say it takes a village. Well, it really takes a bunch of villages and AER is so fortunate to have hardworking, caring and skilled staff members and volunteers from among our membership. As president, I have not done a good job of filling committees, but we keep going and I'm sure Olaya will do better on this front. If you have a burning desire to work on an aspect of our association, especially if you see a need for improvement, I encourage you to reach out to me. Without our dedicated staff, AER would be adrift, in other words, up a creek without a paddle! I can attest to the fact that they cannot do everything to support a 3000+ member organization on their own. We need you to grab an oar and pitch in.

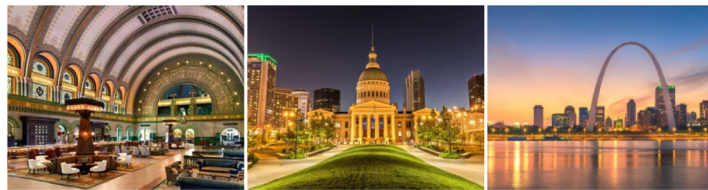
Have you chosen your three FREE Division memberships included with your AER membership? If not, your missing out on great opportunities to connect with and learn from others who have similar interests as you. Divisions are electing new leaders to serve between July 2022 and July 2024 and I can confidently say that if they haven't already held their elections, they will be soon. Reach out if you're looking for a way to get involved at the international level. Division information can be found at [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) or you can call Michele at 703-672-4500.

Several Chapters have worked with Megan to hold virtual conferences over the past few weeks. This means new content will be available to all of us through AER eLearning soon. Watch for emails or visit the site to see what's new. Except for "Question the Authorities", this will be the only new content going up before the conference. Fill up your gas tank with lots of great information anytime through AER eLearning. It's not just for CEUs, it's professional development for everyone.

I just can't wait to see y'all in July!

**Neva Fairchild, President, AERBVI**  
[nfairchild@afb.org](mailto:nfairchild@afb.org)

## CONFERENCE CORNER!



### Are You Ready?

**Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO**  
**July 20-24, 2022**  
**Gateway to Community**

AER's premier event will return in-person in St. Louis this summer with a full slate of Symposium Day, concurrent sessions, networking opportunities, and activities.

Early bird prices are in effect until June 19, but don't wait until the last minute.  
[Visit the conference website today](#)

#### **Join or Renew Your AER Membership and Save**

Join AER when you register for the Conference and receive an instant \$200 savings on registration fees. [Renew or join here](#):

**Want more information on Exhibiting or Sponsorships?**  
[We've got you covered!](#)

**See you in St. Louis!**

2022 AER International Conference Website

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

# The AER eLearning Center

## New Bundled Offerings in the AER eLearning Center

Would you like to earn multiple CEs and view similar sessions as a group? AER has new bundled programs that help you earn more credits without breaking the bank! Check out the bundles below to see what all you may be interested in.

[Question the Authorities Series](#), Discussions with leaders in the field  
[Northern California Bioptic Driving Series](#), Three-part discussion on driving with bioptics, assessment for prescription of a bioptic, and a consumer panel discussion

[Other Product Bundles in the AER eLearning Center](#)

Want to find something specific? [Email Megan Doty](#) for tailored assistance.

## OIB-TAC

The Older Individuals who are Blind Technical Assistance Center is offering **scholarships to qualifying individuals to attend the 2022 AER International Conference.**

Qualified applicants will be an administrator or direct service providers of older blind services with a state program or a subcontractor of the state agency receiving RSA funding. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come basis.

Please [click here to download](#) and complete the Scholarship Application.

## AER Member Benefit Spotlight!

### LegalShield & IDShield

AER members have access to professional legal advice on a broad range of legal issues, plus comprehensive identity protection services, including consulting, monitoring, alerts, and restoration, when you bundle LegalShield and IDShield.

Individuals can save 13% to 29% off regular pricing, while family discounts range from 23% to 35%. Savings vary based on the services selected.

- For nearly 50 years, LegalShield has built long-standing partnerships with high-quality law firms across the U.S. Today, its network includes more than 900 lawyers with an average of 22 years of experience.
- IDShield protection offers comprehensive protection against the ever-growing crime of identity theft, from monitoring to detection to resolution. You'll feel empowered knowing that for a small monthly fee you have the expertise you need to help protect yourself against identity theft and resolve issues related to it.
- LegalShield and IDShield include the MemberPerks program, which offers valuable discounts at hundreds of merchants. Members can save on apparel, food, travel, entertainment, electronics and more at local and national merchants that include Office Depot, AMC Theatres, Holiday Inn and Chewy.com, and many more.

To learn more, contact the Business Solutions Department (800-972-9272) or email [groupbilling@legalshield.com](mailto:groupbilling@legalshield.com).

## **The World Blind Union Stands with Ukraine and is taking action to help**

Like nearly all governments, organizations, and concerned individuals around the world, the WBU condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This pointless war will cause tremendous suffering for people all over the world, particularly for those in Ukraine, and especially for Ukrainians who are blind or partially sighted.

War and disability are tragically linked together. This war will inevitably result in people acquiring impairments that lead to disability. How many people with disabilities will this war create? How many lives will be forever transformed due to the suffering of needless injuries?

And not only does war cause disability, but people with disabilities always suffer more during times of emergency and conflict. Today in Ukraine and surrounding countries, those who are blind or partially sighted are experiencing unimaginable challenges, challenges that are intensified by barriers to transportation, communication, and access to information.

The WBU calls on all governments and aid organizations involved in relief efforts to develop a disability inclusive strategy to ensure Ukrainians who are blind or partially sighted are not forgotten. We are working with our partners in the region to support all those involved in the relief efforts.

Since the start of the invasion, the WBU has been in touch with blindness organizations and blind individuals and has been exploring options to provide support to people who are blind or partially sighted in Ukraine and surrounding countries.

In the short term, the WBU has established the Ukrainian Unity Fund. Through this fund, the WBU will collect donations and work with partners such as the European Blind Union to direct resources where they are most needed. For any individual or organization wishing to provide financial support, please contact our office at [info@wbu.ngo](mailto:info@wbu.ngo). Donations to the Ukrainian Unity Fund can be made via credit card, wire transfer, or PayPal.

In the medium and longer term, the WBU will work with partners to identify needs and provide appropriate supports. This conflict will no doubt have a negative impact on Ukrainians who are blind or partially sighted for years to come. We can expect significant needs in areas like access to assistive technology, blindness skills training, and of course mental health supports. In the coming months, the WBU will be forming partnerships to address these and other needs that will arise.

If you're looking for ways to help, please consider donating to the Ukrainian Unity Fund. Every dollar raised will go directly to supporting relief efforts and helping blind and partially sighted Ukrainians get back on their feet after the crisis is over.

Contact:  
Martine Abel-Williamson  
President, WBU

To donate:

<https://worldblindunion.org/blog/news/wbu-stands-united-with-ukraine-and-is-taking-action-to-help/#:~:text=In%20the%20short%20term%2C%20the,where%20they%20are%20most%20needed.>

## **ACVREP**

ACVREP publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Constituency*.

[Click here to read the Spring 2022 issue](#)

## **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](mailto:perkins.elearning@perkins.org).

## **15 Years Later: A National Survey of Current Perceptions and Practices of Teachers of the Visually Impaired in Self-Determination**

Are you a teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI)? What is your opinion on the ECC? Do you purposefully include the nine areas -assistive technology, social skills, compensatory skills, sensory efficiency, rec & leisure, self-determination, independent living skills, career education- in all your instruction and IEP goals for all your students?

Due to his involvement with the National Agenda (Corn et al., 1995) and his experience as a TVI, Phil Hatlen curated the original eight areas of the ECC (1996) which in 2003 were revised and self-determination added. He recognized, that academics alone are not enough to ensure lifelong success and a enviable quality fo life for our students with sensory impairments. Still, it appears as if we have a ways to go.

My name is Erika Fundelius. I am a TVI, COMS, as well as a doctoral candidate at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. I am working on my dissertation

and conducting a survey study to examine current working knowledge of TVIs' on self-determination. Based on my experiences in the field and continued conversations with colleagues, I discovered that we are still challenged to truly implement the ECC, and more specifically, the area of self-determination.

TVIs in the United States and its territories are invited to complete an approximately 15-25 minutes long online survey. Twenty-five (25) participants -who elect to enter a random drawing- will receive a \$20 electronic Amazon gift card. If you have any questions, please email me at [efundelius@fsu.edu](mailto:efundelius@fsu.edu). For questions related to the rights of research participants, please contact the Florida State University Human Subjects Office at 850-644-7900 or [humansubjects@fsu.edu](mailto:humansubjects@fsu.edu).

To participate in this study, simply visit the following LINK:  
<https://bit.ly/15YearsOfSD>

Thank you for your assistance in advancing our collective understanding and knowledge of instructional practices of TVIs.

## **What's Your Why for Becoming a TVI?**

What's your why for becoming an educator for students with visual impairments? Everyone has their own unique story for how they found this profession and we want to hear your story!

We're recruiting teachers of students with visual impairments who graduated from U.S. university TVI programs between 2000-2021. You do not need to currently be a TVI to participate.

This anonymous survey will take about 10-20 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey participants can enter a raffle to be randomly selected for a \$25 gift card to Amazon or Target.

You can access the survey here <https://redcap.link/WhyTVI>

Questions? Email [rachel.schles@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:rachel.schles@vanderbilt.edu)

The survey will remain open through May 15, 2022.

## **AER Book Store**

AER publishes and distributes several books that help practitioners work more effectively and contribute to the understanding of the field of blindness and visual impairment. Please visit the **AER Store** to purchase these books. AER members receive substantial discounts.

**[Orientation & Mobility: Techniques for Independence 2nd Edition](#)** (Cat. No. A005.1)

By Steven J. La Grow and Richard G. Long

The skills, techniques, and sequence of instruction presented in this book may be required by individuals who have experienced a loss in independence following significant vision impairment and wish to regain the ability to travel independently in many environments. Human guide, self-protective, directional, familiarization, and cane techniques are described, as are

strategies for indoor and outdoor travel, including those required for crossing streets, planning routes, and using public transport. (c) 2011

**[Study Guide for the Low Vision Therapist Examination](#)** (Cat. No, A006)  
Prepares test takers of the ACVREP Low Vision Therapist Examination with the material found in the Body of Knowledge developed by the Low Vision Division of AER. (c) 2008

**[Preschool Orientation and Mobility Screening 2nd Edition](#)** (Cat. No. A008)

By Bonnie Dodson-Burk and Christine Roman-Lantzy

This resource is designed to catalog a child's current level of function in a basic O&M task, identify areas in need of further assessment, recognize basic programming needs, and serve as a source in providing information to identify the need for services. (c) 2012

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### **Wisconsin AER**

#### **Collaborative Vision Conference, May 5-6, 2022 Virtual Event – all are welcome!**

WAER is excited for the second virtual Collaborative Vision Conference! You can find the registration form [here](#). CVC 2022 will take place on Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th.

You can find the official program for CVC 2022 linked in the registration form or at [aerwisconsin.org](http://aerwisconsin.org).

Pricing for the conference can be found within the registration form, on our website or listed below:

- \$90 (AER Member)
- \$90 (Joining WAER at the time of registration, this includes \$25 off your WAER membership. You must sign up through us and not on the AER website to get this discount! \*For WI residents only)
- \$100 (Non AER Member CVC Presenter)
- \$135 (Non Member)
- \$75 (Student)

There will be a virtual silent auction again this year to benefit the WAER scholarship fund and more information on items and how to participate in the silent auction will be posted on WAER's facebook page. If you do not want to partake in the silent auction but would like to support the scholarship fund, you can do so on your registration or by clicking on the link at the end of this email. If you would like to donate a basket or item for the silent auction, please contact Jessie Grober via [jegrober@gbaps.org](mailto:jegrober@gbaps.org).

## WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

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

### [Orientation and Mobility Specialist](#)

Seattle, Washington  
The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

### [Residential Counselor-BVI 4PLUS program](#)

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

### [Workforce Development Manager](#)

Seattle, Washington  
The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

### [Computer and Assistive Technology Instructor](#)

Spokane, Washington  
The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

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](mailto:news@aerbvi.org).

**The deadline for the June issue is 6/25/2022.**



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