

The AER Voice



Welcome to the July 2022 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 4, Issue 7

Sponsored By:



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy July 4th! God Bless America! Hooray for AER, we have our new Executive Director on board! If you missed the announcement, Lee Sonnenberg of Lubbock, Texas has been working hard on your behalf since June 15th. He will be at the AER International Conference in St. Louis later this month along with Michele and our other new staff member Tiffany. I am excited to introduce them to all of you.

The members of the 2022-2024 AER Board of Directors are ready to take on new roles after the Business Meeting July 24th. AER is so grateful that all of you are willing to serve. I also want to take this opportunity to say a huge Thank You to the outgoing Board for their dedication to AER over these past two years. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve with these extraordinary people. It goes without saying, I learned so much and got much, much more from being President of this fine association than I gave. Happily, I have two more years on the Board and I look forward to planning the 2024 AER International Conference as Past President.

See you in St. Louis, Louis!

Neva Fairchild, President, AERBVI
nfairchild@afb.org

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello AER! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July weekend. Today is my 21st day with AER. Within those 21 days, I have observed two Independence Days: Juneteenth National Independence Day, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, and Independence Day,

commemorating the Declaration of Independence. Oxford dictionary defines independence as the fact or state of being independent. Independent is defined as free from outside control, or not depending on another for livelihood or subsistence. As professionals, the members of AER provide the training and supports for their students and clients to obtain independence, to not depend on others for livelihood or subsistence. AER's role on this journey to independence is to support you, the professionals, in your work, professional growth and career development.

For the last three weeks, I have met with many of AER's volunteer leadership; members of our Current Board of Directors, members of the 2022-2024 Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents and Division Chairs. My goal is to meet with 100% of volunteer leadership before the International Conference in St. Louis. I have currently met with about 70% of the leadership. These meetings have been extremely beneficial as I learn about AER's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth and specific needs of the membership, plus the added benefit of learning the depth and breadth of the professional field.

As a member of AER, I need your input as well. I have created [a short survey](#) that should take no more than 10 minutes. Plus, I'm giving away conference swag to a few lucky participants. All the information gathered from surveys and conversations will be used to help formulate my goals and priorities as ED of AER.

Thank you for your help with this project, and I'll see you in St. Louis!

Lee Sonnenberg, Executive Director, AER
lee@aerbvi.org

CONFERENCE CORNER!



Are You Ready?

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

This is it! The AER 2022 International Conference is just two short weeks away! If you haven't registered yet, please do so as soon as possible. We have received an overwhelming response, and this is an event that you do not want to miss!

<https://s5.goeshow.com/aerbvi/bic/2022/index.cfm>

With this overwhelming response to the first AER conference since 2018, the Union Station Hotel is now fully booked. But no need to worry, the [Drury Inn St. Louis](#) (select the Drury Inn St. Louis at Union Station) is next door and can accommodate you.

See you in St. Louis!

[2022 AER International Conference Website](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The AER eLearning Center



Keep your summer going strong with CEs and AER!

Looking to stay inside from the heat and earn some CE credits? Check out the AER eLearning Center for all your elearning needs! Earn credits and learn from colleagues from some of our courses below:

- [Videos & Presentation Slides in the Classroom](#)
- [CVI Companion Guide Implementation](#)
- [O&M College in South Africa: A Vision for the Future](#)
- [Work Smarter, Not Harder: Tips, Tricks and Resources for Assistive Technology Assessment](#)

While you're online, make sure to [register for our upcoming in-person conference](#) – we can't wait to see you all again!

Students with Vision Loss, College, and Transition – Where We Are and Where We Are Going

[College Success @ Perkins](#) is leading the way to systemic change in our education system for students with vision loss.

Why? Because the college landscape has changed dramatically in the last 20 years — and so has the high school experience. The skills required to attend college and the expectations for students have evolved.

This summer, we invite you to join the conversation in our Summer Learning Series webinars. In these sessions, leading experts will come together to investigate the state of college readiness for students with vision loss, to examine best practices, explore areas for growth and offer fresh approaches for students, their families, and educators.

Want to learn more? Join us for these free sessions.

Your contributions are critical in keeping the college readiness conversation moving forward.

Over the course of four webinars, we will begin to unpack the meaning of college in 2022: identifying essential skills that students need to be “college ready,” providing ideas on how students can learn those skills, discussing how educators can better support this growth, and focusing on growth opportunities for students with vision loss.

[Register now to join us for one or all four of these sessions.](#)



TNR Is Ready For YOU!

After three years of intense planning and “construction,” AER’s new practitioner-focused journal—*The New RE:view*—is ready for your participation! Please don’t be shy!

Article genres in *The New RE:view* (TNR) include *practice reflections* and

practice reports that detail successful strategies and promising instructional techniques; *applied research reports* that share data and findings that have direct application for practitioners; *book reviews* with an emphasis on new publications; and opinion pieces for our *Views from the Field* segment. We encourage you to share your best ideas by authoring a potential article or to support the publication of articles by serving as a peer reviewer. And always, we encourage you to become a reader of TNR's content!

TNR's **Call for Papers** can be found on the TNR page of AER's website at [TNR Call for Papers](#).

The **Submission Guidelines for TNR** are located at [TNR Submissions Process](#) on the AER website.

Our **Invitation to Be A Peer Reviewer** is also on the TNR page of AER's site at [TNR Invitation to Be a Peer Reviewer](#)

TNR follows in the footsteps of the historic journal *RE:view*, which was discontinued in 2008. With YOUR HELP, *The New RE:view* will become a dynamic professional resource that helps us all address key questions of our work.

We hope you will join us in making this happen!

Honoring Those We Have Lost

Submitted by the 2020-2022 History and Memorial Committee

One of the most significant traditions that AER inherited from our predecessor associations was the inspirational and reverent reading of a Necrology List, which was presented at each conference of AAWB—the American Association of Workers for the Blind. For decades, AAWB respectfully read a list of members and colleagues who had died since the association's previous gathering.

AER continues that tradition and will present the 2020–2022 Memorial List in the opening session of AER's international conference in July. As in the past, AER's History and Memorial Committee depends on your assistance in identifying those in our "professional family" who have died during this biennium.

We invite you—indeed, we encourage you—to submit names of our colleagues who have passed away since January 2020. If you know of colleagues who died during this timeframe, please submit their names using this link: [AER 2020–2022 Memorial List Submission Form](#).

The submission form will ask you for the following information:

- Your email address;
- Deceased colleague's name;
- Phonetic pronunciation of colleague's name
- The colleague's state or province and country of residence;
- A brief statement of her or his role in the education or rehabilitation of people who are blind or visually impaired;
- An obituary or a link to an obituary or tribute, if available.

A list of names previously submitted for the [2020–2022 biennium can be viewed here](#).

We need your submissions by July 10, 2022, in order to include them in the list to be presented at the AER conference in St. Louis. If you have questions, contact us by email at AERHistory.Memorial@gmail.com.

With your help, we will honor our colleagues who have left us. We truly hope that the Memorial List we present at the 2022 conference will be a short one.

Thanks in advance for your help,

2020–2022 AER History and Memorial Committee
Julie Hapeman, Co-Chair, Wisconsin
Mary Nelle McLennan, Co-Chair, Pennsylvania
Billy Brookshire, Texas
Rod Kossick, Minnesota
Lacey Long, North Dakota
Lauralyn Randles, Illinois

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.

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

Join us in welcoming the newest members, who [joined AER in June 2022](#). We are glad to have you!

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:

[Outreach Regional Specialist – Southwest Region](#)

Southwest: Remote with preference to candidate located near Arizona, California, or Nevada,
American Printing House for the Blind

[Outreach Regional Specialist – Southcentral Region](#)

Southcentral: Remote with preference to candidate located near Texas,
American Printing House for the Blind

[Outreach Regional Specialist – Northcentral Region](#)

Northcentral: Remote with preference to candidate located near Chicago,

American Printing House for the Blind

[Early Childhood Classroom Teacher](#)

Alamogordo, New Mexico

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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 August issue is 8/25/2022.



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