

The AER Voice



Welcome to the October 2022 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 4, Issue 10

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fall has arrived. The summer heat is fading, pumpkin season began, and several AER chapters are preparing for their annual fall conference. These past few weeks have also seen the development and catastrophic results of Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian, both systems impacting regions where AER members live and work. I have received several emails asking how AER can help those impacted by the storms. I am connecting with AER leadership in these areas to offer assistance and determine needs. Once I have information, I will share this with the full membership.

Last month I asked for words of wisdom for students enrolled in one of the personnel preparation programs. Thank you to those who emailed me. Here are portions of two that I received focusing on planning and communication, areas I continually strive for improvement.

- Plan well but be prepared to pivot at a moment's notice. It's called a weather forecast for a reason, be prepared for the unexpected. Have a plan A, B, C, through Z. A back up plan to your back up plan is always a good idea. ~ JoAnne Chalom, COMS.
- When you are feeling tired and terribly busy, but the voicemails and emails are stacking up, view the world from your client's perspective. Imagine you are the one waiting to hear back. Don't let them wait to hear from you. Make the phone call and respond to the emails as soon as possible. ~ Polly Abbott, CVRT.

By now, accredited organizations and schools will have received an invoice for their Annual Accreditation Dues. The form has been revised to remind you to attach your organizations' most recent 990 and to ensure your accounts payable or financial officer calculates the dues independently. These dues are integral to the cost of maintaining the accreditation program and continued accreditation is based on submission of the annual dues by all accredited organizations.

My thoughts and prayers for those impacted by the recent hurricanes. I will keep you updated on needs and plans for assistance.

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Fall to all!

As we are an international organization, I wanted to start out by recognizing the many national and international holidays: 471 holidays according to holidayscalendar.com in the month of October. Trying to help AER become a more diverse and inclusive organization is an important goal of mine as your President for the next two years. So, Happy Holidays to our members who are celebrating this month. We value you and recognize you!

Our many committees are ramping up and I am hoping to include a list of committees and their Chairs in November. Stay tuned! As always, feel free to reach out to me with any question, comments or concerns.

Olaya Landa-Vialard, President, AERBVI
olvialard@aph.org

NEWS YOU CAN USE

AER Accreditation Volunteer Opportunities

The AER Accreditation program currently have several volunteer opportunities available to you.

The Chair of the AER Accreditation Council (AERAC), Lee Sonnenberg, announces a call for nominations to fill the following openings on AERAC:

- **Representative of Organizations and Schools.** This position is usually filled by a person from a non-profit organization providing direct services to people who are blind/visually impaired, or in a school for the blind/visually impaired who is either an administrator or provider of direct services.
- **Field Related Professional (2 openings)** This position is filled by a professional working in a Higher Education personnel preparation program or in an Organization or School either in administration or direct service.

[Description](#) [Application](#)

- **Representative of Consumer Organization.** This position is filled by a person from a non-profit organization of the blind with primary purpose of advocacy, raising public awareness, and promotion of opportunity and improved lives of people who are blind/visually impaired.

[Description](#) [Application](#)

Also, the Chair of AERAC's Organizations and Schools Accreditation Commission (OSAC), Paul Olson, announces a call for nominations to fill these openings on OSAC.

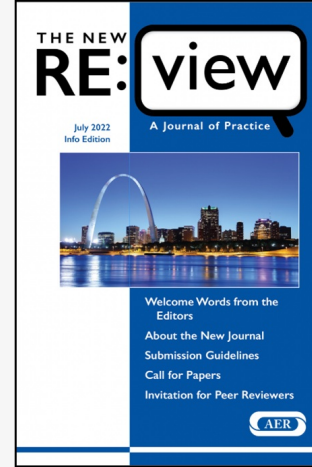
- **Representative of an Accredited Organization.** This position is usually filled by a person who is either an administrator or provider of direct services at a non-profit organization providing direct services to people who are blind/visually impaired.
- **Field-Related Professional.** This position is filled by a professional who has experience working in an Organization or in a School for the Blind, either in administration or direct service. This person may be retired or working in another capacity at this time.

[Description](#) [Application](#)

**Becoming an Author in The New RE:view:
Why Me?**

When was the last time you witnessed someone teach a new skill to someone else? Perhaps it was a new way of tying shoes, stepping on and off an escalator, planting a garden, baking a casserole, or riding a bike. Maybe you watched the instruction and thought "What a great approach! Why didn't I think of that?"

That same kind of "Aha!" can happen when you publish your successful ideas in *The New RE:view*. By publishing a practice piece, you give several thousand readers the chance to exclaim, "What a great idea!" Or perhaps some will say "That's just the way I do it!" or "I use a different approach; maybe I can incorporate the two."



Although our own parents, university teachers, and older siblings like to think they taught us all we know, the world is also full of opportunities for learning from friends and strangers, teachers and mentors, supervisors and neighbors, and people sitting next to us on the bus. Learning includes a range of experiences that goes far beyond Tuesday afternoon's lesson plan.

Some of you will read this and think, "I don't have time to write" or "I don't have anything new to say." But stop for a moment and imagine that a news reporter is following you throughout your work day. What do you do that is distinctive when you are teaching or training or counseling? How do you build interest and confidence in the adults or children you teach? How do you increase independence, assess progress, and build learning into routines? And how do you determine that your work is successful? By sharing your approaches in *The New RE:view (TNR)*, several thousand readers can learn from your experiences!

It's true that becoming an author in *The New RE:view* requires time and ideas, but it's also a rewarding way to add to our profession's literature. To start your ideas flowing, begin by free-writing a paragraph or two, perhaps with your computer....or, if you are really old school and like the feel of paper, you can begin with a pen and paper or slate and stylus. Visit [the TNR page](#) on the AERBVI website and read **Share Your Best Ideas** and look over the submission guidelines. What kind of article will yours be? Is it a practice reflection, a practice report or an applied research report? Or perhaps you prefer to submit an opinion for Views from the Field or a book review?

Next, build a framework for your article using main headings to create a structure for what you have to say. Now, start writing! Your manuscript should include an introduction, its main sections, and a strong conclusion that revisits the ideas presented. Like mortar between bricks, your ideas should stick together to create a solid structure.

After you have written the draft, it's time to ask for the opinions of a few trusted colleagues. Choose people with experience and professional knowledge; ask them to read and comment on the draft of your manuscript. Ask more than one person so that you will get several reactions. When you have made changes according to the feedback you receive, then you are ready to submit. You can visit TNR's submission process at [The New RE:view](#) and follow the steps toward becoming an author. Congratulations! You are on the way!

Questions about submissions or manuscript preparation can be addressed to *The New RE:view* at tnr@aerbvi.org.

Tennessee Visual Impairment Virtual Academy

We are excited to announce the Tennessee Visual Impairment Virtual Academy

(TN VIVA) 2022-23 school year offerings! TN VIVA is a professional development learning series for all school educators, community stakeholders, and families looking to learn about best practices, supports, and resources for students with visual impairments (blindness, low vision, and deafblindness). Attendees can earn ACVREP credits or a general certificate of attendance to use towards renewal of their teaching license.

TN VIVA is collaboratively coordinated by the Tennessee School for the Blind, Peabody College's Program in Visual Disabilities, and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Learn more about this year's events and register here:

<https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/tn-viva>

TVI Research Study

We are conducting a brief research survey asking Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI), Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), and Severe Disabilities Teachers to share their experiences working with students with visual impairments (including suspected visual impairments) who used tactile augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

Who should participate in this research study?

- Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI), Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), and Severe Disabilities Teacher (SD teacher) are all eligible
- TVIs, SLPs, and/or SD teachers who has worked with a student with visual impairments (including suspected visual impairments) who used tactile augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- Participated in the initial selection of tactile AAC for a student with visual impairments or suspected visual impairments during the 2020-21, 2021-22, or 2022-23 school years
- Participants may or may not currently be a TVI, SLP, or SD teacher to participate

You can access the survey here: <https://redcap.link/tactileAAC>
Please consider forwarding this survey opportunity with colleagues in the field! Questions about the survey can be directed to Dr. Rachel Schles at rachel.schles@vanderbilt.edu

OIB-TAC Updates

OIB-TAC October Webinar

The next OIB-TAC webinar is Friday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. Central. The topic is [Orienting Rehabilitation Professionals to Options for O&M](#). In this webinar, a panel of professionals will discuss O&M certification options and how to talk with clients who are reluctant to use a white cane. For more information and to register, visit our [website](#).

New OIB-TAC Course

The vision rehabilitation field is experiencing a shortage of qualified professionals. Our new course, [Strategies for Mentoring Interns: Developing Qualified Professionals for the Future](#), was created to assist those tasked with overseeing the important final training step for a new Vision Impairment Rehabilitation Specialist. The course will guide you through an organizational assessment and self-assessment to determine if you are ready and able to host an intern. The course is available on the OIB-TAC [Continuing Education](#) page and offers 1 hour of ACVREP or NBPCB credit.

For questions about this and other NRTC courses, visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

AER Members are eligible to receive deep discounts!

Included with your membership, you qualify for discounts on insurance, car rentals, and hotel stays. The insurance discount program includes professional liability insurance and more.

Discounts at Hotels and on Car Rentals

- Hotels: Hyatt, Marriott, Hilton, Holiday Inn, Omni, Drury, Westin, and Choice Hotels
- Car Rentals: Alamo, Auto Europe, Avis, Budget, Hertz, National, and Payless

Click here to start saving: [Auto Rentals and Hotels](#)

Member Insurance Program through the Forrest T. Jones

Visit www.ftj.com/aer to learn more.

Professional Liability Insurance

- Educators Professional Liability Plan Safeguard your career and personal assets from a costly work-related lawsuit with insurance dedicated solely for your protection. Our plan for employed educators pays all defense costs in addition to the liability limit you choose, and it features job protection benefits if you're subject to administrative action.
- Private Practice Professional Liability Plan Protect your career and your personal assets against a broad range of claims with liability coverage for self-employed educators or those engaged in partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations. Choose from three liability limits and three deductibles for economical protection that meets your needs.
- Student Educator Professional Liability Plan Young educators doing student teaching, internships and practicums face many of the same risks as licensed instructors. Our student plan costs \$25 a year for \$1 million in coverage and pays all defense costs over and above the limit of liability.

Life Insurance

- Group Term Life Insurance Help protect your family's future with our most basic and competitive term life coverage from New York Life. Members and their spouses can request up to \$1,000,000 of insurance, and spouses qualify at the member's rate, regardless of age. Coverage for dependent children is also available.
- 10-Year-Level Group Term Life Insurance This New York Life coverage combines the utility of term life insurance with rates guaranteed to remain the same for the first 10 years. Up to \$1 million in coverage is available for members and their spouses at group rates specially designed for TIE association members.
- Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance How would your family cope if you suffered a disabling injury or were in a fatal accident? This competitive coverage pays up to \$300,000 in benefits in addition to any other life, health or disability insurance you may own, and it features double benefits for school-related or common-carrier travel accidents.

Auto & Home Insurance

- LegalShield & IDShield Have you considered what would happen if you need legal counsel? Or what it would cost you to restore your identity if it were compromised? Worry no more. As an association member, you can save up to 36% off regular monthly rates for LegalShield legal services and IDShield for identity protection.
- GEICO Auto, Motorcycle, and Boat Insurance Save even more car insurance when you buy through your professional association. As a member of a TIE association, you may qualify for additional discounts on top of the savings GEICO already provides to its customers.
- Homeowners, Renters, and Condo Insurance GEICO is synonymous with

car insurance, but the company provides even more ways to save. Whether you own a home, rent an apartment or live in a condo, having coverage to protect your personal property is critical. Get a quote and find out if GEICO fits your residential insurance needs.

Disability Insurance

- Group Disability Income Protection Insurance Get replacement income up to \$5,000/month in case you can't work due to a disabling illness or injury. Choose a benefit amount, waiting period, and benefit duration to fit your needs with benefits paid directly to you.

Health Insurance

- Individual & Group Health Insurance Compare health insurance plans from leading insurers side-by-side, and purchase and enroll in coverage online through eHealth, a leading private health insurance exchange. eHealth features educational resources and licensed agents to help consumers select coverage.
- Educators Dental Plan This simple, economical plan pays up to \$1000 per person per year to a participating dentist of your choice after an annual deductible (\$50 Individual, \$150 Family) and applicable co-payments. Preventive care is covered immediately at up to 100% with no waiting period. Basic Restorative care is also covered with no waiting period. Major Restorative procedures are covered after a six-month waiting period.
- Educators Vision Plan Help lower your and your family's out-of-pocket costs on eye exams, glasses, lenses and more with MetLife Vision Insurance. With affordable co-payments and nationwide access to discounts, you'll be seeing your way to clear savings in no time.
- International Travel / Medical Don't put your health at risk when traveling outside the U.S. Our plans cover foreign health care costs that standard medical plans or Medicare don't. Choose from more than a dozen plans for every type of travel – individual or group, short-stay vacations to foreign study / cultural exchange programs.
- Long Term Care Your association membership comes with complimentary access to LTCRplus, a new program to deliver a more personal and customized approach to long-term care services. LTCRplus provides powerful tools and advice to help you find the best and most cost-effective care for you or a family member.
- Medicare Supplement Insurance Retirees can view rates and benefits for multiple plans offered by leading insurers, then enroll for coverage online through eHealth, a leading private health insurance exchange. eHealth features educational resources and licensed agents to help consumers select coverage.

www.ftj.com/aer

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 NEWS

Accepting submissions for DC-MD AER Spring Conference

You have **just over two weeks** to submit your presentation proposal for our DC-MD AER Spring Conference, **ShAERing the Road: An Interdisciplinary Approach**.

Do you collaborate with an OT, PT, speech therapist, job counselor, teacher, parent, spouse, audiologist, autism specialist? Tell us about it. Do you do assessments together? Plan goals together? Do lessons together? What works well? Where have you experienced difficulties? Bring your collaborator along to share in the experience. We want this to be a truly collaborative conference.

Of course, if you have other issues to present on, we would love to hear about those as well.

Our one-day conference will be held at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum, MD on Friday, March 10, 2023. It will also include our awards luncheon. For all accepted presentations, one person from the presentation will receive free admission to the conference (if there are two of you presenting, you may choose to collaborate and both pay half).

We will be accepting presentation submissions up through Friday, October 14th.

Presentation submissions are on the chapter activity page of our website, right here:

<https://www.dcmdaer.org/chapter-activities/>

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

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

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Alamogordo, New Mexico

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Teacher – TVI (Teacher of the Visually Impaired)

Baltimore, Maryland

Maryland School for the Blind

High School Math Teacher

Baltimore, Maryland

Maryland School for the Blind

Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Baltimore, Maryland
Maryland School for the Blind

Check out these jobs and more by visiting the [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 November issue is 10/25/2022.



[Visit our website](#)

AERBVI | 5680 King Centre Dr., Ste 600, Alexandria, VA 22315

[Unsubscribe aer@aerbvi.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by news@aerbvi.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!