



## Welcome to the June 2023 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 5, Issue 6

### A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Hello AER! Summer is finally here, the end of the school year and the Spring semester. For some of you, it's the perfect time for outdoor training sessions with clients and an emphasis on the ECC with your students, and for others, like me, the time to commune in a heavily air-conditioned space. Summer is also the time for the American Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind conventions in Schaumburg, Illinois, and Houston, Texas, respectively.

I have been invited to attend the ACB Conference to participate in a forum on ACVREP's newly announced OT Certification to discuss the impact on services and provide a greater understanding of the AER Board Resolution for ACB members. I am looking forward to this opportunity. AER membership response to the Resolution has been overwhelmingly appreciative and supportive. I shared all the messages that I received from the membership with the Board. I will keep you updated on any developments.

AER's Strategic Planning process is in the home stretch. The Steering Committee meets this week to review draft documents of the plan, which will then be shared with the membership for public comment. After public comment closes, and any changes are made, a final draft will be presented to the AER Board of Directors for approval. Then the real work begins! Be on the lookout for an announcement of the time for public comment. Your input is greatly appreciated and valued.

The next session of AER LIFT will be June 26, 2023, presented by Neva Fairchild and Elly du Pré, and focusing on utilizing Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure to lead productive and efficient meetings. This will be the last session of the Spring 2023 series. We will return in September with the next series in the program. All sessions from this Spring are available on AER's eLearning website and free to AER members.

Finally, AER was the recipient of a very generous donation to fund a project that is over a decade in the making. The Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee has been working since 2012 to create a video that can be used to recruit new professionals to our field. With this donation, the PPRC will begin work this summer with Spotlight On, the National Public Television Series, to produce a recruitment video that will be aired this fall by the Public Broadcasting Service. Additionally, AER will receive raw and finished material from production to be used in our own recruitment efforts. If you are interested in financially supporting this, or other AER projects, please contact me to discuss further.

I hope your summer is off to a great start and don't forget the sunscreen and sunglasses when enjoying your time outside!

**Lee Sonnenberg**  
Executive Director, AER  
[lee@aerbvi.org](mailto:lee@aerbvi.org)

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Hello AER!! I send well wishes to all who are celebrating a holiday or special day this month. Follow this link for U.S. holidays <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/calendar-june-2023/> and/or this link: <https://www.wincalendar.com/Calendar-Canada/June-2023> for Canadian holidays to see what is being recognized and celebrated this June.

You spoke, we listened! Check out the AER Board Resolution 2023 Concerning ACVREP's OT Certification [AER Resolutions – AER \(aerbvi.org\)](#)

If you haven't done so, be sure to check out AER's e-learning offerings. There are great topics and trainings there just waiting for you!

**Olaya Landa-Viala**  
**President, AERBVI**  
[olvialard@aph.org](mailto:olvialard@aph.org)

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## AER LIFT

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### **More Than Robert's Rules of Order: How to Get Things Done Right June 26, 2023 - 7:00 pm (eastern)**

This meeting is for You IF: you hate Robert's Rules of Order! Who was Robert, anyway? You are sick and tired of meetings that never seem to end...or accomplish anything.

Presenters: Neva Fairchild and Elly du Pré  
Learning Objectives:

1. Use Robert's Rules of Order as their tools to impact the flow and focus of the meeting.
2. Adhere to principles of confidentiality and their responsibilities as members of a Board or committee
3. Understand their responsibility to participate fully.
4. In a role as leader, ensure that all attendees are invited to make comments.

Please click the button below to register now!

[Register for the June AER LIFT Here](#)

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## **AER ACCREDITATION COUNCIL MEMBERS Open Volunteer Position**

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**According to the AER Accreditation Council Policy and Procedures Manual**, Council members have two primary responsibilities, namely to:

1. Ensure that standards are current, relevant and reflect the highest level of quality.
2. Render final accreditation decisions.

Accordingly, Council members are required to:

1. Fully review the final reports of each pending accreditation in advance of casting an

- accreditation decision vote.
2. Ensure that policy and procedures are followed and announce any conflicts of interests that might exist prior to casting an accreditation vote and, if required, agree to be recused.
  3. Review, discuss, and uphold the integrity of each standard by casting an accreditation decision vote that merits and validates adherence to quality, continuous improvement and optimal client and student outcomes.
  4. Uphold the following guiding principles: accountability, transparency, outcomes focused, and provide fair and equitable consideration.

Term members serve a 3-year term and up to 2 consecutive terms. Term members must have a minimum of 2 years of experience in the related and respective classification.

Every effort will be made to identify individuals to serve on the Council who are blind and those with low vision having experience related to administration, program management, accreditation, or certification.

Please [complete the application form](#) and submit to [elly@aerbvi.org](mailto:elly@aerbvi.org).

For more information, see the link to the AERAC Policy and Procedures Manual on the website: [The Accreditation Program – AER \(aerbvi.org\)](#).



## HumanWare

Connect 12: The smart and portable low vision magnifier, from education to employment.

Looking for ways to engage your classroom. Our [enhanced Connect 12 tablet](#) accommodates low vision students and helps them succeed in any class. Get access to enhanced features and performance for only \$1,195.

You own a Connect 12? Receive a \$675 rebate. Don't wait, the offer runs through June 30.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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### **Congratulations to AER Member Nancy D. Miller, VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired's Executive Director, Recipient of AFB's Migel Medal Award**

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired's Executive Director/CEO, Nancy D. Miller, has been awarded the prestigious Migel Medal Award by the American Foundation for the Blind. The Migel Medal is the highest honor in the field of blindness and is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of people with vision loss. Established in 1937 by M.C. Migel, the first chairperson of AFB, the Migel Medal has been awarded to some of the most prominent advocates and educators in the field of blindness, including Helen Keller and Senator Tom Harkin.

Nancy is a deserving recipient of this award, given her unwavering dedication to VISIONS and her tireless work to improve the lives of people with visual impairments. As Executive Director/CEO, Nancy has been instrumental in expanding VISIONS programs and services to better meet the needs of its participants. Nancy's commitment to VISIONS mission and to the broader field of blindness has been evident throughout her career, and

has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, now including the Migel Medal.

Nancy's acceptance speech can be viewed by visiting <https://youtu.be/DRIk4doDdZ0>.

Submitted by AER Member Ryan Melendez

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## **"Simply the Best!"**

It's not too soon to start thinking about nominating a colleague or a Chapter for one of AER's 2024 prestigious awards!

Stay tuned for more information.

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## **Through the Looking Glass, in Berkeley, California**

We are conducting a federally funded national study which includes surveying and interviewing parents of young children (under age 6) to learn more about current parenting strategies and resources used or needed by parents with physical and visual disabilities. I am inviting and enthusiastically encouraging my fellow blind and visually impaired parents to participate in our study. Input from blind parents across the country will help our organization to develop and teach people about resources and educational materials for parents and caregivers, occupational therapists and other professionals and service providers.

Please help us spread the word about this important study! If any of you know of blind or visually impaired parents, grandparents or other caregivers of young children who might be interested, please share this information with them.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

### **PARENT SURVEY:**

Through the Looking Glass is conducting a NIDILRR-funded national survey of parents and caregivers with physical and vision disabilities as part of a larger Field-Initiated Project to improve web-based resources on services and equipment to support parenting. The survey is anonymous and should take between 15 and 30 minutes. Parents or caregivers of children ages 5 years and younger who are blind or have low vision or who have a physical disability (including health conditions that cause pain and fatigue) are invited to participate. The survey is available in English and Spanish. Please forward this to anyone in your network who might be interested in participating.

- Take the survey at <https://redcap.link/TLGParentSurvey>
- If you would like to take the survey over the phone, you can provide your contact information here <https://redcap.link/SurveyAssistance> or call Stacy Frauwirth at (510) 225-7519.

### **PROFESSIONAL SURVEY:**

Through the Looking Glass in Berkeley, CA is looking for assistive technology specialists and rehabilitation engineers to complete a survey as part of our NIDILRR-funded Field Initiated Project *"Increasing Adaptive Babycare Resources and Intervention Supports with Parents and Caregivers with Physical or Vision Disabilities."* Knowledge gained from these surveys will be used to 1) enhance our web-based resource on services and equipment to support parenting and 2) improve online resources and other educational materials for professionals.

Rehabilitation engineers and assistive technology professionals who have provided any assessment or intervention services to adults with physical or vision disabilities are eligible to participate. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

- <https://redcap.link/TLGATandRESurvey>

Through the Looking Glass has a 40-year history of providing services and resources to support families with disabilities across the lifespan, from infancy through grandparenthood. We are guided by personal disability experience and disability culture. You can learn more about our organization and this study by visiting our website

at [www.lookingglass.org](http://www.lookingglass.org) or by contacting our project manager, Stacy Frauwirth, at [TLGresearch@lookingglass.org](mailto:TLGresearch@lookingglass.org) or (510) 225-7519.

Submitted by AER Member Connie Conley-Jung, Ph.D.

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## **Environmental Access Committee Participates in Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting**

In January, several members of the Environmental Access Committee (EAC) attended the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington DC, which has many committees that work to shape transportation research and education on topics that impact people who are blind or have low vision. EAC members provided presentations and information and advocated for promoting accessibility in the build environment. This small group of O&M specialists is the only advocacy group for any disability that regularly participates in TRB. Much was learned about trends, and the EAC is planning a webinar in the fall to share information with the membership.

This relationship with the Transportation Research Board, whose annual conference attracts more than 10,000 transportation professionals from around the world, was forged by Beezy Bentzen, Lukas Franck, and the late Janet Barlow, whose efforts have led to the development and implementation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and a greater consideration among planners for the creation of accessible infrastructure. Beezy's work on [tactile walking surface indicators](#) is addressing wayfinding challenges in environments becoming increasingly complex. In one session, state department of transportation leaders discussed a shift in mindset in recent years from moving vehicles quickly to a multimodal focus, with major emphasis on walking and biking, and aimed at slowing and reducing the number of vehicles. Because of the active participation of members of the EAC, it is being recognized that all pedestrian projects impact people who are blind or have low vision and that they must be considered in research, construction and evaluation. Likewise for projects involved in passenger service aspects of public transportation, in research and development of connected and automated vehicles, and traffic control devices. EAC members included reports from the meeting in the March 2023 [O&M Division newsletter](#).

Submitted by the AER Environmental Access Committee

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Have you worked with students who are English Language Learners? Have you worked as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired or English as a Second Language Teacher between 2020 and today? Then we want to hear from you!

We're recruiting participants for a research study titled to better understand how prepared teachers feel to work with students with visual impairments (blind or low vision) who are also English language learners.

For teachers who have worked with students with visual impairments who are also English language learners, we also want to learn about your experience collaborating with your student's Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) or English as a Second Language Teacher as well as what instructional methodologies, approaches, and informal strategies you have used with students.

If interested, please complete this brief screener which will take less than 5 minutes: <https://redcap.link/56423lzp>

After reviewing your screener responses, we'll send you a link to complete the full survey. The full survey may take as little as 10 minutes or upwards of 45-90 minutes to complete depending on how much you choose to share with us.

At the end of the survey participants can enter a raffle to be randomly selected for one of ten \$25 gift cards to Amazon or Target.

Please consider forwarding this survey opportunity with colleagues who may be eligible to participate. We are excited to learn about your experiences!

Questions? Email Gabrielle Gosnell ([gabrielle.r.gosnell@Vanderbilt.Edu](mailto:gabrielle.r.gosnell@Vanderbilt.Edu)) or Dr. Rachel

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## Updates from the World Services for the Blind

World Services for the Blind has some exciting new developments as we head into the summer. We are revamping our curriculum and programming for our annual transitional aged youth program, opening dormitory space and offering services for a new population of clients, and launching a new vocational training program!

Our Beyond Your Limits program prepares transitional-aged youth for college and the workplace. Spanning 3 weeks of the summer, students in our transitional-aged youth program will learn the skills they need to lead independent lives after high school, whether that means going to college or joining the workforce. Students will hear from a variety of professionals in their field on topics such as college admissions and success, interviewing and navigating with Human Resources in the workplace, budgeting and financial planning, self-advocacy, understanding how vocational rehabilitation and Social Security works over the years, and even self-defense. Students will have the opportunity to practice these skills in real-world situations. Training in daily living activities such as planning for meals, grocery shopping, and cooking is also included. Students can also plan on some fun outings and group activities, including a trip to the Capital!

The five Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) focus areas include:

- Job Exploration Counseling to support a discovery process using customized tools that help students discover their skills, abilities, and interests
- Post-secondary Exploration to provide counseling on opportunities for enrollment in local community college / post-secondary education programs
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy to assist students in gaining the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate, convey, negotiate, or assert their own interests and/or desires
- Work-Place Readiness Training to develop social skills and independent living

The deadline for registration has been extended to June 20<sup>th</sup> and spots are limited, so get registered today!

World Services for the Blind is taking applications for a 25-bed dormitory that is open to intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals with visual impairments as well as older visually impaired persons. We are excited to offer case management and social work services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech language therapy. Please email [training@wsblind.org](mailto:training@wsblind.org) or call 501-664-7100 if you have questions or fill out an application on our website! [www.wsblind.org](http://www.wsblind.org)

WSB is also pleased to offer a new vocational training program for Accessibility Professionals! We are proud to offer pathways for the blind and visually impaired to become accessibility professionals. As companies strive to implement Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) efforts, the demand for individuals with first-hand lived experience and knowledge of accessibility software and hardware grow rapidly. Companies are searching for motivated individuals willing to share their first-hand lived experiences and are dedicated to leveling the field of access for all. Companies are now conscious that their products and services across all industries must be universally designed and accessible to all or they miss out on an untapped market—the Disabled. For the blind and visually impaired community, this means our skills are in demand. Companies choosing to create all-inclusive products are searching for accessibility professionals who are blind and visually impaired to work alongside their development teams, establishing a proactive, accessible content creation model that addresses the needs of all users.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) does not collect statistics on web accessibility specialists as the field is very new; however, they reported a 13% growth for web developers during 2020-2030. This job growth is faster than average for all occupations. In January 2022, PayScale.com reported a median annual salary of \$51,914 for web specialists.

Individuals wanting to complete the Accessibility Professional course will be exposed to a broad base of assistive technology software, including built-in accessibility features from mainstream products. Students will study some of the core software that allows access to information, earning their expert certifications in JAWS, ZoomText/Fusion, and NVDA. Students will also become proficient in accessibility features built into Windows, IOS, and Android devices.

Individuals who complete the Accessibility Professional course will learn to identify a variety of disabilities and challenges, use assistive technologies, compare and contrast accessibility and usability, identify local and international standards, laws, and management strategies in order to develop plans and actions resulting in products and services universally designed for all in mind. Students in this course will also take part in a small business management course aiding graduates in weighing their options in future employment. All students who have shown a commitment to working in this field will have an opportunity to shadow an accessibility professional in the field. Internships are highly promoted but not guaranteed.

**Check out [www.wsblind.org](http://www.wsblind.org) for a full look at our other vocational programs or to get more information on the three updates discussed above. You can also email [training@wsblind.org](mailto:training@wsblind.org) or call 501-664-7100. The mission of World Services for the Blind is to empower people who are blind or visually impaired in the United States and around the world to achieve sustainable independence. If we can be of service to you, please reach out.**

Submitted by AER Member Heather Miller, JD

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### **Survey exploring telerehabilitation for prospective and current guide dog users**

You are invited to participate in a study exploring the use of remote telerehabilitation services for prospective and current guide dog users that will be conducted by researchers at the University of Montreal. The goal of this study is to explore what client profiles and training tasks would be most suitable for the provision of remote services provided to members of the guide dog community, and to explore the advantages and challenges related to the use of telerehabilitation within this population. The results of this study will inform the development of recommendations and decision-making tools to help determine which clients, and which orientation and mobility (O&M) tasks, could be safely and optimally addressed through virtual support. In a previous study conducted by members of the current research team, it was found that guide dog users reported the most significant decrease in independent travel and in confidence during the COVID-19 pandemic. While these results will be especially helpful to address these gaps, research exploring the feasibility of telerehabilitation services, may also help to meet the needs of clients who live in remote and rural regions.

We are seeking participation from guide dog instructors and from Orientation and Mobility (O&M) specialists who are at least 18 years of age, can communicate in either English or French, have been working in their profession for at least one year, and who have had at least one prospective or current guide dog using client in the past. Experience with telerehabilitation services is not required. Participation will involve the completion of a short online survey (max 30 minutes to complete). The survey will be active until May 31, 2023. If you have any questions about this study or if you are interested in participating, you are very welcome to contact the research team using the below information. Many thanks for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you!

<http://ls.sondages.umontreal.ca/552758?lang=en>

Submitted by AERAC Board Member Natalina Martiniello

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### **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).

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## MEMBER BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

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Did you know that, as an AER member, you qualify for discounts on insurance, car rentals, and hotel stays? Summer is coming, so please take advantage of this member discount program for all of your upcoming travel plans!

### **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 - use this link to access big discounts here: [Auto Rentals and Hotels](#)

### **Discounts on Insurance**

Are you in need of insurance? AER also provide you with access to discounted insurance plans through our partnership with Forrest T. Jones! The insurance discount program includes professional liability insurance, health insurance, auto/home and more. They even can provide you with pet insurance, IDShield and LegalShield!

[Click here to access the FTJ informational flyer for more details.](#)

Visit [www.ftj.com/aer](http://www.ftj.com/aer) to get started.

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## CHAPTER NEWS

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### **Arkansas AER Conference**

October 26-27, 2023  
Bentonville, Arkansas

Save the Date – more info to come soon!

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### **Florida AER Conference: FAERing Well Together**

November 28-29, 2023  
TradeWinds Island Grand Resort  
St. Pete Beach, Florida

### **Save the Date!**

Call for Presenters:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScReW4qsJ-pt6WUAGJ6jeewL37ziyHV81K3u6JLJ3WvhNRBmg/viewform>

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### **New York State AER 2023 Conference, Harnessing the Power of Assessment**

November 5-7, 2023  
Holiday Inn

Our theme this year is Assessment. Concurrent session presentations are usually 90 minutes in length, but alternative session durations may be built into the schedule, as deemed necessary by the nature of the presentation.

Session formats include: lectures; demonstrations; reports of research design or results; hands-on workshops; a panel of speakers who provide views on a specific topic; or other presentation formats that focus on our theme of assessment.

Concurrent presentations will take place during all days of the conference. Some sessions are relevant to all areas of our field, while others may be targeted to a particular division (TVI, O&M VRT, or Vocational/employment groups). The Conference Workshop Committee will strive to offer a final schedule that is well-balanced that will meet the needs of all Chapter members.

The deadline for proposal submissions is May 15, 2023. Accepted presenters will be notified by May 31st, 2023.

To submit a proposal, visit our webpage at: <https://www.nysaer.org/2023Conference>

When completing the proposal form, be sure to include an abstract of the presentation and the primary learning objective(s) – these are required for ACVREP and CTLE approval. Only presentations that link directly to the assessment theme will be considered. Priority will be given to speakers who are able to present in person.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to reach out to the Conference Workshop Committee at [NYSAERConference@gmail.com](mailto:NYSAERConference@gmail.com).

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### **Northeast AER Conference: Strong Roots....Many Routes**

November 1-3, 2023  
Portland, Maine

Our Conferences always strive to provide exemplary professional development to all branches of our fields, and this year is no different. This year's theme, "Strong Roots... Many Routes", is the acknowledgment that with our strong professional foundations, we are all able to help our clients reach their ultimate goals even if we are coming from different directions. Ideally, we are seeking to hold sessions in the track areas: education, rehabilitation, technology, orientation & mobility, guide dogs, employment, and research. Consider topics such as assessment, teaching methods, transition, self-determination, and collaboration. This year's conference will reach out beyond our current limits and take our services to new heights!

We invite you to submit session proposals for breakout sessions or a poster session. Proposals should have a practical focus and may address a specific area of rehabilitation practices or principles. Sessions can be 60 minutes or 90 minutes in length. The conference will be designed to encourage participants to expand upon their techniques and resources.

Please consider submitting a proposal using the following google form: <https://forms.gle/pXHG3r35cUNZYEU97>. Additional information can be found at:

- [www.nercve.org/ne/aer](http://www.nercve.org/ne/aer)
- [www.avrt.org](http://www.avrt.org)
- Contacting us at [confprogram@neaerbvi.org](mailto:confprogram@neaerbvi.org)
- Contact conference program chairpersons directly (see below)

**Nominate, Nominate, Nominate!** Also open is the nomination packet for this year's awards which will be presented at the annual conference. It is important to celebrate the accomplishments of NE/AER members and community non-members who support our mission of supporting people of all ages who are blind or have a visual impairment. [Please click here to nominate someone deserving.](#)

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## Northern Rockies AER Conference

October 17-19, 2023  
Canyon Crest Event Center  
Twin Falls, Idaho

Session strands are focused on benefiting students and young adults who are transitioning to adult life, individuals who are blind or visually impaired, special educators, teachers of students with visual impairments, rehabilitation and transition counselors, families, and orientation and mobility specialists.

Group rates! Marriott TownePlace Suites (\$129) and Fairfield Inn & Suites (\$119):

Here's your reservation link your guests can use to make reservations:

[LINK for your group rate for Northern Rockies Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)

Conference Rates \$200 AER members/\$275 non-members (includes two lunches and Dinner Wednesday).

Exhibitors: Please email [tina.johnson@iesdb.org](mailto:tina.johnson@iesdb.org) to reserve space!

Schedule at a Glance:

- OCT 17th 4-7 pm Registration, with a social hour to follow.
- OCT 18th 8 am-5 pm Keynote and breakout sessions. 5 pm optional tour of Evil Knievel jump site.
- OCT 19th, 8-4:30 pm breakout sessions with an optional tour of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding Idaho with social/dinner to follow.

Other travel considerations: The nearest regional airport is Twin Falls, (TWF) and the nearest Int'l airport is Boise, Idaho (BOI) which is 115 miles away.

For all inquiries, please contact planning chair Tina Johnson at [tina.johnson@iesdb.org](mailto:tina.johnson@iesdb.org)

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## Oklahoma AER Conference

sOAERing to New Heights  
August 10-11, 2023  
Oklahoma School for the Blind  
3300 Gibson St,  
Muskogee, OK 74436

Click here to learn more: <https://sites.google.com/view/okaerbvi/professional-development>

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## South Carolina AER Conference

November 3-4, 2023  
Beach Cove Resort  
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Visit us here for more information: <https://www.scaer.net/>

Conference Lodging Reservations:

Conference rates per night (including sales tax and resort fee) are as follows:

- One-bedroom condo: \$91.84
- Two-bedroom condo: \$119.84
- Three-bedroom condo: \$145.60

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## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO YOU!

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Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

## Virtual Career Open House

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm PST

For more information and to learn more: [www.asdb.az.gov/teamworks](http://www.asdb.az.gov/teamworks)  
520-770-3019

Amazing People Wanted for:

Teachers of the Deaf

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- Generous Paid Time Off
- Eligibility for Student Loan Forgiveness

[www.asdb.az.gov/teamworks](http://www.asdb.az.gov/teamworks)

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### **OIB-TAC Monthly Webinar**

#### **Charles Bonnet Syndrom (CBS) & Why We Should Know About It**

July 21, 2023

2:00 pm CST

Presenter: Siobhan Midgley, CVRT, COMS

In recent years, research is finding the prevalence of visual hallucinations in people who are blind or have low vision to be much larger than previous reports. These visual hallucinations are due to CBS, and fear of judgement prevents people from discussing it. Vision professionals are in a unique position to educate and end the stigma. In this presentation, attendees will learn how CBS manifests and how to compassionately approach speaking with clients about it as well as research-based coping techniques and resources for further counseling.

[Click here to register!](#)

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### **Vision 2023 Denver International Low Vision Rehabilitation Conference**

July 24-27, 2023

[Registration](#) is Now Open

Vision 2023 Denver is bringing low vision providers from across disciplines and the globe to the US for the first time in 20 years. The International Society selected the University of Colorado Department of Ophthalmology [for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation \(ISLRR\)](#) to host the organization's long-standing low vision conference in partnership with Denver's [Anchor Center for Blind Children](#) from July 24-27, 2023.

Educators working with clients of all ages will benefit from a symposium on low vision and the brain with presentations on cognition, Cortical Visual Impairment, vision recovery, and restoration by [internationally recognized leaders in vision rehabilitation](#).

Stand-out courses include:

- "Low-Vision Reading Then and Now: Personal and Scientific Perspectives" [Gordon Legge, PhD](#)

- "Assessing Visual Perceptual Dysfunction in Early Brain-based Visual Impairment." [Lotfi Merabet, OD, PhD, MPH](#)
- "CellSight - Ocular Stem Cell and Regeneration Research Program" [Natalia Vergara, PhD](#) & M. [Valeria Canto-Soler, PhD](#)
- "Dry Eye and the Low Vision Patient - Maximizing Vision and Comfort" [Kaleb Abbott, OD, MS, FAAO](#) and [Darren Gregory, MD](#)

ACVREP CE's will be offered.

"The professionals who work with the visually impaired are very passionate about what they do. It will be exciting to gain different perspectives from across the world and professions so we can all do a better job of helping others," says [Kara Hanson, OD, FAAO](#), director of the [Low Vision Rehabilitation Service](#) at the [Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center](#) and project manager for the Vision 2023 conference. Find Additional details and registration information on the [conference's website](#).

Submitted by AER Member Erika Anderson Ko

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### **Functional Vision and Accessibility Conference**

Aug 3-4, 2023

San Francisco, CA

To celebrate our 60th anniversary, The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute is hosting a hybrid conference on Functional Vision and Accessibility, a 2-day international workshop on translational research to address visual impairment and accessibility. The conference will bring together stakeholders (those experiencing vision loss and blindness) and those doing translational research (scientists, clinicians, and inventors) to address long-standing and emerging vision problems with promising new approaches. Currently we have a limited number of travel grants for trainees and members of underrepresented groups to attend. We are waiting to find out whether we get funding for more travel grants.

More details of the meeting can be found at [www.ski.org/FVAconference](http://www.ski.org/FVAconference)

Submitted by AER Member John Brabyn

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### **APH's 155<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

October 4-6, 2023

Save The Date! The American Printing House for the Blind will hold their 155<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in October 2023. Visit their website to learn more and to submit your presentation.

<https://www.aph.org/annual-meeting/>

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## **WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!**

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Join us in welcoming the newest members, who [joined AER in May 2023](#). We are glad to have you!

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## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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Check out the new positions that are available in the field. There are many exciting jobs that are posted via the AER Job Exchange:

[Accessible Materials Specialist](#)

Alamogordo, New Mexico

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

[Teacher of Students with Multiple Impairments](#)

Alamogordo, New Mexico

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

[Developmental Vision Specialist – NMSBVI Infant Toddler Program](#)

Albuquerque, New Mexico

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Infant Toddler Program

[Adaptive Technology Instructor](#)

Kansas City, Missouri

Alphapointe

Check out these jobs and more by visiting the [Job Exchange](#).

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## RECIPES

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### Super Easy Breakfast Bread

One box cake mix (any flavor)

One 15 ounce can of pumpkin (not pie filling)

One egg

Mix well and bake in a loaf pan for one hour at 350°F.

Slice and enjoy with cream cheese or butter! Add nuts, seeds, chocolate chips, coconut, or any other good things to the batter, if desired.

Contributed by AER member Neva Fairchild

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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 article submissions is the 25th of each month.**



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