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The AERizona View is the official publication of the Arizona Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AZ AER).

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AZ AER Current Board Members

President
Tamara Bishop-Amavilah

Vice President
Becky Hole

Secretary:
Danielle Cummings

Treasurer
Julie Rock

Board Members at Large
Ken Ball
Pam Gottard
Ruth Parsons
Sunggye Hong
Cody Franklin
Cecilia Onaiyekan
AZ AER Board Member Information

PRESIDENT: TAMARA BISHOP-AMAVILAH is an Arizona native, raised mostly in Tucson. She is a teacher of the visually impaired and a certified orientation and mobility specialist. She received her Master’s degree at the University of Arizona. She has worked as a TVI in a variety of positions at the Foundation for Blind Children since 1993, as well as at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind for three years before that. She likes to do O&M with adults, and is also an O&M contractor with Rehabilitation Services Administration. She has mentored many TVI student teachers over the years. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Voxi, and daughter, Madie; reading; watching movies; traveling; and watching soccer, especially her daughter’s teams and the English Premier League.

VICE-PRESIDENT: BECKY HOLE is originally from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. She is the youngest of 4 girls and was raised by her mom. She credits her mother for her interest in working with students with disabilities because she was an instructional assistant in special education. Becky has been a teacher for 24 years. She received her undergraduate degree in Physical Education and Adapted PE from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. In 1991 she moved to Yuma and worked as an Adapted PE teacher for 8 years in the Crane School District. After becoming certified as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, through the University of Arizona in 1999, she began working for ASDB/Southwest Regional Cooperative as an itinerant TVI. In 2003 Becky became a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist from the University of Arizona. Then she earned a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership/Principalship from Northern Arizona University in 2009. Becky currently works as a CTVI, COMS and Supervising Teacher at the Southwest Regional Cooperative. She has been an AER member since 2002. She enjoys spending most of her free time at home with her “furry kids”- 2 dogs, Bosko and Bentley and 6 cats. Becky also loves traveling across the country to spend time with friends and family.

TREASURER: JULIE ROCK was born in Phoenix, Arizona and is a graduate of ASU with a Bachelor degree in Agribusiness. She received her Master’s in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy from Western Michigan University and re-certified in March, 2015. Julie celebrated 5 years with AER this past year. She has been an independent contractor for the State and is currently working for the Foundation for Blind Children as the Team Leader of the Adult Comprehensive Program. Julie has been instructing, assessing, and making equipment recommendations for the ADL and Technology components of the Adult Program since 2011. On her time off, Julie trains and competes with dogs and enjoys spending time with her many animals. She and her husband of 33 years have two wonderful daughters.
SECRETARY: DANIELLE CUMMINGS began working as an itinerant Teacher of students with Visual Impairments for the North Central Regional Cooperative of Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind in 2013. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and Biology from Oakland University in Michigan and began my career as a high school math teacher. She received her Master’s Degree in Special Education with emphasis in Visual Impairments in December 2014. She recently began supervising for the NCR cooperative and has TVIs and Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing on her team. She has two sons, both with foveal hypoplasia, which originally got her interested in this field. She loves spending time with her boys and her dog, Star, and they all love to travel and explore new places. She was originally born in New Jersey and spent 6 years overseas during middle and high school in Switzerland and Hong Kong. She then moved to Arizona then Michigan then back to Arizona. She has been living in various parts of Arizona for 14 years.

BOARD MEMBER: CODY FRANKLIN was introduced to the field of blindness in 2005 when she started at the Foundation for Blind Children as a para-educator. Her previous work experience was for the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation department which helped her to become the coordinator of the SHARP Program (Sports, Habilitation, Art and Recreation Program). She completed her bachelor’s degree in Special Education in 2010 at Arizona State University. After 11 years at FBC, she is now the Youth & Family Services Director and oversees the Parent 2 Parent program, SHARP program, Teen to Work Program, College Readiness Program and family events.

BOARD MEMBER: PAMELA GOTTARD has a rich and varied educational and professional background: She attended Northern Illinois University graduating with a BS in Elementary and Special Ed.; Texas Woman’s University, obtaining a MS Ed in Educational Diagnostics and Special Education; CSUS – Stanislaus, securing a certification in Administration; and finally, U of A, finishing her TVI certification. Pam has taught in several states, including Illinois, Washington, Texas, California and Arizona, and in many different populations which include learning disabled, cognitively impaired, emotionally disturbed, autistic, visually impaired, and hearing impaired. Pam has been employed with ASDB since 2004 and a member of AER from 2003 to the present. She was listed in Who’s Who Among American Teachers, 1996.

BOARD MEMBER: KEN BALL is a Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired. He is originally from Girard, Illinois. He has been a teacher of the visually impaired for over 30 years. He received his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale in 1981. Ken worked as a Rehabilitation Teacher for the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services in Northern Illinois for about two years. He moved to Tucson and started working for the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in 1986. Ken graduated from the University of Arizona with a Master’s of Arts in Vision/Rehabilitation Education in 1991. He worked on the Tucson campus in a variety of positions for 26 years. He retired from ASDB in August of 2012 to return to Illinois to assist his father on the family farm. Upon his father’s death he returned to Arizona and accepted a position as an Itinerant Teacher, working for the Eastern Highlands Regional Cooperative in Holbrook. Ken enjoys returning to Illinois for the summer to work on the farm and spending time with his two grandchildren, Ethan and Madison, who live in Tucson.
BOARD MEMBER: SUNGGYE HONG Dr. Sunggye Hong is an Associate Professor of the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies and the program coordinator of the visual impairments teacher training program. He received both his master’s and doctoral degrees from The University of Arizona in Special Education/Education of Students with Visual Impairments. He has conducted research in the areas of braille reading, assistive technology, and expanded core curriculum of students with visual impairments. His research agenda is aimed at promoting equal access to educational opportunities including curriculum materials, classroom activities, and other school programs of students who are blind or visually impaired with or without additional disabilities. Dr. Hong teaches classes on braille, literacy development, Nemeth code, and instructional strategies and adaptations of educating students with visual impairments. He has been an active member for AER from year 1999 and served for Northern California Chapter Board member for the last 3 years. He is affiliated with AER DIV17, CEC and CTEBVI.

BOARD MEMBER: CECILIA ONAIYEKAN was born and raised in Nigeria along with her seven siblings. She relocated to Arizona in the early 1990s and has called Arizona home since then. She is married and blessed with three sons and four grandchildren. Cecilia completed her BS in Education at the U of A in 1996. In the following year, she completed the Master of Arts degree in Visual Impairment from the same university. In 2007, she became certified as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. She topped this up the following year with an Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree at the U of A. Cecilia has many years of experience working with children with visual impairment. This career path started in Nigeria. After relocating to Arizona, she joined the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB) as a teacher assistant in 1995. Upon the completion of her Master’s degree, she worked as an itinerant teacher in Yuma and Tucson. Since 2005, she has been working with the “Birth to 3” population. Cecilia has been a member of AER since 2005 to present. She likes watching news, playing Scrabble, traveling, and spending time with her family.

BOARD MEMBER: RUTH PARSONS is Certified Teacher of Visually Impaired students, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, and a certified Supervisor. She started volunteering at ASDB in 1981 and was hired in 1987. Ruth has had many different positions during her time with ASDB and is currently the Director for Eastern Highland Regional Cooperative.
It is almost the end of my daughter’s senior year in high school, and as she is receiving the last of her acceptance emails and has to decide where she will go to college by May 1st, beyond feeling extremely proud of her, I am thinking about scholarships. She has received several university specific ones and they will be very helpful. This makes me think about our AZ AER merit scholarship, and the fact that we currently have $2004 in the fund or $500 for four of our students. No one was nominated to receive it last year, but there must be students out there who would benefit! The merit scholarship fund has a base of $500 with a maximum of $1000 from roll-over. But we have had $1004 in donations to the fund, so that amount does not affect the fund maximum.

You must have students who can use these funds! Most of our students do receive a lot of help from vocational rehabilitation, but there must be some expenses that aren’t covered. The merit scholarship as it is currently described in our policy and procedures manual can be used for program tuition, books, registration fees, or other expenditures specifically related to the educational program, travel or lodging to the program, and cost of meals during travel to, from and during the program. So just some thoughts on how the funds could be used. Is the student considering attending a college out of state? The funds could be used to cover the cost of a college visit to make sure the school is a fit for them. Since voc rehab does often cover the dorm and a meal plan, a case could be made in an application for everyday living expenses that a meal plan doesn’t cover.
Another thing to consider is that the scholarship does not only have to be used by high school seniors transitioning to college. It can be used by any student with a visual impairment between the ages of 4-22 to attend an educational program offered outside his/her current educational setting, and the program/learning opportunity does not need to be related to the enhancement of blindness or low vision skills. Once a student receives a student merit scholarship though, they cannot apply for another one. So the funds could be used to help your student attend an educational summer program or get tutoring for an AP test.

Food for thought for all of you! If you have an outstanding student(s), please consider telling them about the scholarship and having them fill out an application available on the AZ AER website:

http://azaer.aerbvi.org/scholarships.htm They will need two letters of recommendation, one of which needs to come from you.

Hope to see you at the spring workshop on March 31st!

Tamara Bishop-Amavilah
AZ AER President
Congratulations to our first Mary Jo Martinez Outstanding Professional Award winner, Vicki Numkena!

Ms. Numkena is a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment currently working in Northern Arizona with school age children on the Native American reservations. She has been a Teacher of the Visually Impaired for over two decades (and has served children of all ages during this time, from preschool to high school.)

This award is inspired by the life and work of Mary Jo Martinez, an Early Interventionist, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility Specialist who passed away in 2015, but left behind a legacy that includes her work with Native American infants/families, students and adults, in particular, the Navajo students.
Congratulations to Jeanne Neumann
2016 Margaret Bluhm Worker of the Year

Picture: Past Recipients of the award (and Jeanne) from left to right- Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum, Deb Duby, Jeanne Neumann (holding her award plaque), Jenny Wheeler, Sandra Stirnweis, Tamara Bishop-Amavilah, and kneeling in front, Ed Gervasoni.
AZ AER COMMITTEES ARE ALL THAT!

ARCHIVES
Members procure and collect materials and information relating to the business of Arizona AER and its precursor organizations; plan activities to commemorate important dates in the Chapter history (such as the 50th Anniversary and the Bluhm Project!) and disseminate information to the membership about Chapter history through the newsletter, programs and special events.

FINANCE
Members prepare an annual budget, meet at least two times per year to review the financial status of the Chapter; review the audit report sent to AER International; make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the level of existing balances, investments, and expenditures.

MEMBERSHIP
Members maintain Chapter records on membership and provide written reports to the Board of Directors and membership at meetings; develop annual plan of activities for recruitment of new members; contact lapsed members; develop a welcome packet for new members; write newsletter articles on new members.

PROGRAM
Members plan two conferences annually – a one-day conference and an Annual Meeting/Conference for 1½ to 2 days planned in conjunction with business meetings; submit budget requests to Board of Directors for approval; coordinate all aspects of the program and facilities before and during the programs; evaluate programs and develop recommendations for future programs.
ADVOCACY
Connect to and link with local, state, and national blindness and visual impairment organizations, agencies, advocacy groups, private individuals, and others who serve infants, primary/secondary-aged students, and adults; address educational and community issues that affect individuals with visual impairments and the professionals who serve them.

MEMORIAL
Maintain a current list of deceased individuals who have served children and/or adults with visual impairments in the state of Arizona; create an annual list of, and conduct a roll call at each annual meeting for, those individuals who have passed away since the previous annual meeting; organize the memorial service for deceased members at each annual meeting; communicate information about deceased individuals via email and/or the AZ AER member list-serv as appropriate; organize and direct other memorial activities as appropriate.

SCHOLARSHIP
Members maintain records and solicit applications for annual Student Merit Scholarship, Consumer Grants and Professional Mini Grant. Members will also revise grant and scholarship applications as needed and make recommendations as to procedural changes for grants and scholarships.

NOMINATIONS
Members coordinate and procure nominations for officer and director positions for the Annual Meeting elections; present the slate to the membership at the first business meeting at the Annual Meeting; accept nominations from the floor; conduct the election, count ballots and present the results of the election to the membership during the second business meeting at the annual meeting.

The important work of the Arizona AER is done by an all-volunteer board and committees. Have you considered serving on a committee? Please contact President Tamara Bishop-Amavilah to join a committee today.

tbishop-amavilah@seeitourway.org
University of Arizona News

We hope that our update finds everyone having a great start to their spring. As always we have been busy at the U of A! We’d like to take a few minutes to share our news with all of our AZ AER colleagues.

Program Updates
U of A has had ongoing projects with the Arizona Department of Education to train teachers of students with visual impairments. Nine students who are funded by this grant or by the Foundation for Blind Children are on track to be TVI certified by Spring 2017. During this semester, Dr. Sunggye Hong has nine students in his Braille II class. In this class, students are introduced to Unified English braille math, Nemeth code, and other braille codes and rules. They will meet on two combination Friday evenings/all day Saturdays at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Desert Valley Cooperative. They have multiple meetings during the new U of A web conferencing tool, Zoom conference. This is the final course for this cohort.

At the U of A we are busy training a new group of future teachers. In December, four graduate students walked in the University convocation. Congratulations to Kate Wahl, Spencer Churchill, Garrett Pendergast, and Crystal Cote. All of them already begun their career as a TVI. Amber and Dhanya have been busy during the spring semester finishing up the program with their internship. The U of A faculty members all enjoyed working with these very fine graduates.

Technology Updates
Dr. Topor and Dr. Hong have been busy over the Fall semester to test and to evaluate a new device called Kubi. The Kubi, a device that has a motorized platform where an iPad is mounted, shows great potential to actively engage remote students. The Kubi is controlled directly by a remote user via internet and can transmit real-time video
and audio bi-directionally. With the Kubi, an iPad can become an avatar of a remote student and he/she can control the Kubi’s movement by mouse click. With the Kubi, the remote student can participate in a small group activity, turn his/her attention to an instructor or to different classmates, be engaged in observing hands-on activities more closely, and most importantly, get the sense of belonging through the Kubi’s telepresence. We plan to offer all of our visual impairments courses through the hybrid mode from this fall semester.

University of Arizona collaborates with ASDB Staff for ASDB Braille Challenge

Collaboration allowed for a parent workshop at the ASDB Braille Challenge. Monday, February 13, 2017, was a different sort of day for some parents and grandparents of children participating in the braille challenge at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind. For most, this was the first time any of them had worn low vision simulators. Take a look at some of the pictures where a dad is spreading jelly on a cracker wearing a low vision simulator at the activities of daily living station.

Figure 1 - A man spreads jelly onto a cracker wearing a low vision simulator
Figure 2 - A mother is working hard to keep her blocks from falling onto the table.

These are some pictures of some of the parents and activities that they were engaged in on that “different” sort of day.

Dr. Irene Topor, faculty at the U of A, Rajiv Panikkar, ASDB certified low vision therapist, Andrea Cook, ASDB educational assistant, and Colin Grande, U of A graduate student, organized this workshop so that parents/grandparents could experience some of the ways their loved ones experience the world everyday with their low vision.

After the hands on activities at three stations, participants were led in a discussion to reflect about how they felt and what they learned at the different stations. Teachers from the Northern Arizona cooperative led the discussion where many individuals expressed their amazement about what it was like to wear the simulators. One father commented that he now understands why his daughter takes more time to retrieve something that has fallen to the floor. Another mom said that she will be more descriptive when teaching her daughter how to cook. Before the workshop, she just assumed that her daughter was “taking it all in” but is now not so sure about it. Finally, several parents said that this was a one of a kind experience where they now understood more about how their children use vision. Congratulations to all who participated in the workshop and especially to the families that took the time to have a “different” sort of experience.
There are people who are visually impaired and are my role models," an 8th grader from southwestern Arizona shared as she read in braille an excerpt she had written about Harriet Tubman.

She then went on to tell the judge information about the tools she uses to access the curriculum and her plans for the future. Across the room a third grader was showing another judge his refreshable braille display and explaining how he uses it to read and write. In the next room an eleventh grader talked with two puppy raisers from Paws for the Cause about her plans to become a dog guide user while another teen was learning how to play the guitar from John Corrin of Tucson Music Instruction for the Blind. (Photo 1) These glimpses into a very busy day at the Educational Vision Fair just begin to paint a picture of the variety of activities happening in a 4 hour period.

The Educational Vision Fair was sponsored by the Abilities Optimist Club of Tucson and was held at Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind on Saturday, March 4. Nineteen students from across the state entered the competition. The topic for their presentation was "Advocate for Yourself and Prepare for Your Future." Some students prepared a poster, others a Power Point (Photo 2) presentation, and others a speech. Three judges: Annette Reichman superintendent of ASDB, Dr. Irene Topor faculty member at the University of Arizona, and Dr. Jordana Smith a Tucson pediatric ophthalmologist, were the judges. (Photo 3)
Eighteen students were on-site and shared their presentations with the judges, while one student's TVI from northern Arizona had his presentation on a computer and played it for the judges. (Photo 4) Students were divided into three groups: 3rd-5th graders, 6th-8th graders, and 9th-12th graders. First place winners in each group received $50, second place winners $30, and third place winners $20.

Several companies made donations for the event. Lunch was donated by Giuseppe's Ristorante Italiano in Tucson. Drinks were donated by Eegees and Costco. Big Frog donated t-shirts that the students received. Each student was given a tote bag that was discounted from Everest Products of Soady Enterprises. The bags included some fun items the Abilities Optimist Club purchased from Oriental Trading Company.

Students, family members, vendors, judges, and Abilities Optimist Club members enjoyed the opportunity to meet others during the event. A grandmother of a seventh grader had driven her grandson and his sister 5 hours to get to the Educational Vision Fair. She shared how valuable the experience was for not just her grandson, but for her and his sister. While visiting the vendors they all learned about services from RSA and about Camp Abilities. Trying beep baseball under blindfold was not only fun, but gave them insight into how the seventh grader can use his hearing when participating in sports. Christine Griffin, the mother of Michaela an eleventh grader, who participated along with two of Christina’s students, shouted "We'll definitely be back next year!" as she bid everyone goodbye.

The Abilities Optimist Club was proud to organize and sponsor the event. They especially appreciate the 11 vendors who shared their services, resources, and tools with all participants. The Club plans to sponsor the Educational Vision Fair for a second time in 2018.
Photo 1: Michaela Griffin learns about playing the guitar from John Corrin of Tucson Music Instruction for the Blind.

Photo 2: Michaela Griffin uses her smartphone with screen reading technology to move through her Power Point.
Photo 3: Judge Annette Reichman, ASDB Superintendent, listens to Isaac Zwinger-Nathanson’s presentation. Isaac uses his refreshable braille display to move through and read his slides.

Photo 4: Erin Humphreys from ASDB’s NCR had one of her students put together a video of his presentation. She shared it with the judges along with others including Melinda Roth, a volunteer with the Abilities Optimist Club.
Meet Kate Jahaske

Kate Jahaske recently joined the vision specialization program as the new administrative coordinator. She previously worked at the U of A’s medical school and we are fortunate that she decided to join our team. She is also a student at the U of A and hopes to major in linguistics with a minor in computer science. Her computer skills have been very helpful to us all and she is quickly learning the many tasks required to keep our program running smoothly. If you haven’t already communicated with Kate, she can be reached at 520-626-3580 or kejahaske@email.arizona.edu. Kate is working part time so, if you call or email when she is not in the office, she will return your call or email as soon as she can.

Thank You and Thank You

We would like to say thank you to the many people who have worked with our faculty and students during the past year. Without the support of the community, we would not be able to do what we do here at U of A. Many of you are already scheduled to serve in a variety of roles this Spring semester and we thank you ahead of time for your continued support of the program, as a guest speaker, an intern supervisor, a cooperating teacher, a panel member, a mentor, and more. Your contributions are invaluable for the successful implementation of our program. Again, thank you.
FBC News
By Cody Franklin
Director of Youth and Family Services, FBC

SHARP SUMMER CAMP

Once again, the Foundation for Blind Children will be offering the Sports, Habilitation, Art & Recreation program (SHARP) Summer Camp. The program is from June 5th-June 29th, Monday-Thursday from 9am to 2pm. The summer camp is a four-week long program that focuses on the following areas:

SPORTS- We utilize the FBC Pulliam Gymnasium for rock climbing, sports, fitness and games!

ART- Be creative in making art projects by exploring different art materials.

ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING (ADL)- Learn about money and ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY &

SCIENCE- Explore the technological world from iPads to computer braille and participate in exciting science experiments!

EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM (ECC) & ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING (ADL) - Advocacy, career exploration, braille time management, cleaning, party planning, hygiene, cooking and O&M instruction through fun, hands on activities!

The cost of the program is $125 per week and financial assistance is available for qualified families. SHARP Summer Camp is also a DDD & ESY qualified program.

Registration will be available March 1st - May 1st online www.seeitourway.org or by phone 602-337-8258. For more details on SHARP Summer Camp, including participant criteria, please visit our website www.seeitourway.org or contact Celeste Teply, Youth & Family Services Coordinator, by phone 602-337-8258.
(Phoenix, Ariz.)—For years, the white cane has been a symbol of independence and mobility for children and adults with visual impairments. But on Saturday, January 28th, this special cane became a tool in a trailblazing competition—the 3rd Annual Cane Quest® Phoenix Regional Orientation & Mobility Challenge. The event was held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Foundation for Blind Children, Phoenix, Ariz.

Cane Quest® was created by Braille Institute of America, Inc., as a part of its expanding National Programs initiative. It is the first national competition that tests the ability of blind and visually impaired children and teens to navigate the world around them independently and safely. The competition began in Southern California, but has seen growth and expansion into new states such as Oklahoma and Florida, with more states participating each year. This was the third time the event took place in Arizona. Cane Quest® takes participants on an obstacle type challenge that tests specific navigation skills with the white cane—residential, business and transportation. The 15 participants were divided into 3 competition levels; Scouts (3-6 grades), Explorers (7-9 grades) and the Trailblazers (10-12 grades).

The purpose of this event is to emphasize the importance of successful travel techniques in children and teens who are blind or visually impaired. The skills practiced during this competition will help ensure contestants are prepared to face the world with confidence. The event educates families and the community on how people who are blind or visually impaired travel independently.

Karina, one of the Trailblazer participants, reported, “I think Cane Quest is fun because of the stations and the awards. I liked being able to do the route by myself. The lunch tasted so good and I really had fun in the bounce houses. It was nice seeing friends and teachers; I hope we get to do Cane Quest again next year!”
Cane Quest® seeks to motivate students to master their mobility skills, while also educating the sighted public about the abilities of blind youth to travel independently. The participants were awarded special prizes at an awards ceremony at the end of the competition, including iPad minis, talking watches, amusement park and movie tickets.

Student listening for traffic before crossing street
Student traveling down sidewalk with a cane.

Students receiving medals and participation certificates
I am thrilled to be a part of the FBC team and am looking forward to help usher the Educational Services Department into a new era. I have spent most of my career in education, with a recent stint as the Executive Director of the Legacy Foundation Chris-Town YMCA. I was a principal for an alternative high school here in Phoenix for seven years and a superintendent of 19 schools for just under two years. My role here is going to be to support and develop the very best educational staff in the country for Visually Impaired. In the short amount of time that I have been here I have met educators that have a passion that you simply cannot teach. There is a great team here that will only continue to get better. I am looking forward to meeting and working with other leaders of AER.
SAVE THE DATE!

Foundation for Blind Children

Will be hosting an

I-M-ABLE

Two-day workshop!

Presented by Diane Wormsley

September 28-29, 2017
You are invited to be a part of something special – the AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference 2017, scheduled for July 19-22 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA.

This event, brought to you by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER), offers an unsurpassed opportunity to learn and network with the best of the best.

The conference will help you achieve excellence in service delivery and professional growth while you rub shoulders with O&M Specialists from around the world.

Explore critical topics in the field and join conversations that will shape the future of Orientation & Mobility. Register today!

**General Topics**
- Administrative/Management
- Adult Rehabilitation
- Assessment
- Children, Infants and Youth
- Dog Guides
- Environmental Access
- International Services & Global Issues
- Multiple Disabilities
- O&M Techniques
- Personnel Preparation
- Physical Activity & Movement
- Sensory Development
- Technology
- Transitions
- The O&M Profession

Register Today: www.aerbvi.org
This Year’s Must-Attend Event for Orientation & Mobility Specialists and Other Vision Professionals

Register Today
For More Information:
www.aerbvi.org

Accommodations

The AER International O&M Conference 2017 will be held at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh, where the Pittsburgh’s famed three rivers meet soaring skyscrapers. AER is pleased to offer a special group rate for attendees:

Single/Double: $145 plus tax

Reservation deadline is June 25, 2017. Make reservations online at www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham-grand.

Preliminary Conference Schedule

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
8:30-10am Opening General Session
10-10:30am Networking/Break
10:30am-12pm Educational Sessions
12-1:30pm Lunch on Your Own
1:30-3:30pm Educational Sessions
3-3:30pm Networking/Break
3:30-5pm O&M Business Meeting
5:00-7:00pm Welcome Reception

Thursday, July 20, 2017
7:30-9am Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)
7:30-5pm Exhibit Hall
9-10am Educational Sessions
10-10:30am Networking/Break
10:30am-12pm Educational Sessions
12-1:30pm Lunch on Your Own
1:30-3pm Educational Sessions
3-4pm Exhibit Hall Break
4-5pm Educational Sessions

Friday, July 21, 2017
7:30-9am Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)
7:30-5pm Exhibit Hall
9-10:30am Educational Sessions
10:30-11am Networking Break
11am-12pm Educational Sessions
12-1:30pm Lunch on Your Own
1:30-3pm Educational Sessions
3-3:30pm Networking/Break
3:30-4:30pm Educational Sessions
TBD AER Board Meeting

Saturday, July 22, 2017
7:30-9:30am General Session (Breakfast Event)
9:45-10:45am Poster Session
11am-12pm Educational Sessions
12-1:30pm Lunch on Your Own
1:30-3pm Educational Sessions
3-3:30pm Networking/Break
3:30-4:30pm Educational Sessions

Registration

Register online at www/aerbvi.org or call 703-671-4500.

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<td>Non-O&amp;M Division Member Daily Rate</td>
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<td>Guest</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$125</td>
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Mark your calendars

AER

FALL 2017

Conference

in beautiful

Sedona, Arizona

November 2-3, 2017
For your continued support of AZ AER
We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Workshop on Friday, March 31st