



November
2013



Phoenix

Please Welcome Keynote: Lou Tutt

Bio: Lou was educated in the Washington, DC public school system having graduated in 1960. Lou attended Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA where graduated with a B.S. Degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1965. Lou taught and coached in the Gloucester County School System in Gloucester, VA from 1965-1969. Lou entered graduate school at Michigan State University in 1969, receiving two Master's Degrees, one in Special Education with and emphasis Visual Disabilities, 1971 and in 1974 received his Master's in Kinesiology.



Lou began his career in the blindness field as a motor skills teacher of Rubella deafblind children at the Michigan School for the Blind in 1971. He taught these deafblind students for three years before becoming a teacher of upper school blind students with additional disabilities', for one year, at the same school.

In the late Fall of 1974, Lou became assistant principal at the Michigan School and in 1978, he became principal at the same school. Lou also coached track & field and wrestling during his tenure at the Michigan School.

In 1981, and for the next nine years, Lou served as superintendent of the Missouri School for the Blind. From 1990 to 2003, Lou was the president of The Maryland School for the Blind. Lou retired from The Maryland School for the Blind in 2003, he thought. He moved to Colorado Springs where the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind is located. They needed a principal, so Lou unretired and served as principal for the next eight years at the Colorado School, before becoming the fifth Executive Director of AER in April 2011. But Lou says, "Once a teacher...always a teacher."

Please seek out one of the board if you need assistance!

President: Sandra Stirnweis

Vice President: Tracy Mosbarger

Treasurer: Jenny Wheeler

Secretary: Colleen Oakes

Past President: Rajiv Panikkar

Members at Large:

DeEtte Snyder

Lenetta Lefko

Susan Greer

William Koehler

Becky Hole

Anna Miller

What's to Eat?

Thursday Breakfast includes:

Continental Breakfast- fruits, breads, muffins, juices, tea, coffee, etc

Thursday Lunch Includes:

Salad, bread, dessert

Non-Vegetarian Selection:

Sonoran Chicken (tequila marinated chicken topped with tomatillo salsa)

Vegetarian Selection:

Wild Mushroom Raviolis (served w/ pesto cream, roasted red pepper coulis)

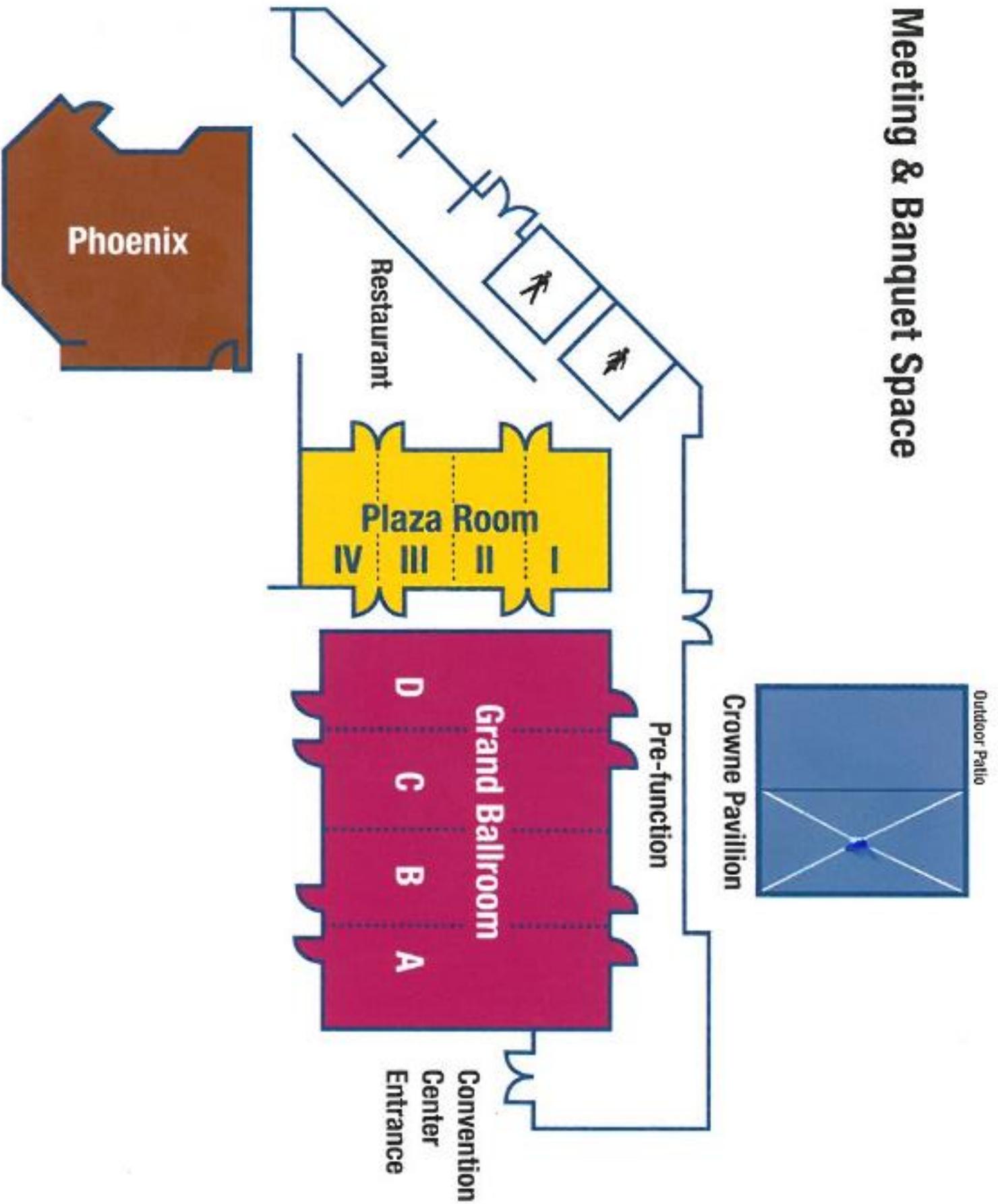
Thursday Reception- Cash Bar:

Fruit platter, cheese platter, veggie platter. All h'orderves will be vegetarian: crudite, cheese and crackers, sliced fruit, cherry tomato with Boursin Cheese on Focaccia, Jumbo spinach and feta stuffed mushrooms, spanakopita, portobello mushroom empanada.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST Buffet:

cold cereal, fresh fruit, breakfast breads, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, breakfast potatoes, juice, coffee, tea

Meeting & Banquet Space



Thursday, Nov. 7th

7:30am - 8:30am Registration
Continental Breakfast
Visit Vendors

Ballroom 3 & 4

Ballroom 1 & 2

8:30am - 8:45am Opening Remarks/Housekeeping

8:45am - 9:45am *Keynote: Lou Tutt*

Where Are We (AER) Headed? Life's Transitions, From
Matures to Millennials and Minding the Gap

Today's multi-generational workforce: the Matures (born between 1932-1945); the Baby Boomers (born between 1946-1964); the Generation Xers (born between 1965-1981); and the Millennials (born between 1981-2000), can be found employed in most occupations across the board. Just as employers are adapting the work place to accommodate this multi-generational workforce, AER finds itself in a similar position. How do we (AER) recruit, retain and regain our multi-generational membership and members-to-be in this day and age to remain a vibrant, vital and vigorous association in the field of blindness, low vision and visual impairment? I will provide what I think are the answers.

8:45am-3:45pm *Special Session*

Overview and Field Practice Using Trekker Breeze (Part 1)

Craig Phillips

Meet in Plaza 1

Does learning new technology intimidate you? Would you like see how the Trekker Breeze works but just didn't know where to start? Are you interested in learning how to integrate GPS information into your O & M lessons? Do you have a Breeze but find it spending more time on a shelf or in a drawer than hanging around your students'/clients' necks? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this feet-moving, hands-on, brain-expanding, ACVREP approved (6 CE hours) all-day seminar that will provide you with the basics of GPS and how to use the Trekker Breeze just might be for you. You will learn how to travel through the environment as our students/clients do by listening, learning, and walking 3-4 miles. Each participant will be provided with a Trekker Breeze to use for the day or bring your own. Updates to the current operating system and maps will be provided if needed. Teaching materials and the tips and traps from over ten years of teaching GPS usage will be shared.

This seminar is limited to ten (10) participants.

9:45am-10am *BREAK*

***10:00am-11:30 am* 90 MINUTE BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Making Literacy Materials Together: Improving Engagement for Students who are B/VI

Megan Mogan

Plaza 3 & 4

Preparing literacy lessons that address language arts objectives while keeping students with significant needs motivated can sometimes feel daunting. Selecting literacy materials that engage (especially older) students at the appropriate reading and interest level presents yet another challenge. This session will outline ways in which educators can plan early literacy and language instruction for students who are deafblind or visually impaired with multiple disabilities. Participants will be introduced to a basic lesson-planning framework that considers individual students' intense interests, background experiences, and communication needs in order to create a library of classroom materials that are original, functional, accessible, and meaningful!

Dispelling the Myth about Our Role as "Vision Therapists": What Should our AZ State Position Statement Look Like

Irene Topor and Rajiv Panikkar

Ballroom 1 & 2

Last year, there was a lively discussion about vision therapy on the AER state listserv. We invite anyone interested in continuing the discussion of vision therapy and the role of TVIs is or is not in working with school districts, families and other professionals to this cracker barrel session. Ultimately, we want to propose a consensus/position statement to give to the AZ. Dept. of Education to post on their website that distinguishes our role from that of a developmental/behavioral optometrist. Presenters will facilitate discussion and provide samples of position statements from other states.

Ballroom 3 & 4

***11:30am-1:30pm* Lunch & Margaret Bluhm Award**

***1:30pm-2:00pm* Visit Vendors**

***2:00pm -3:00pm* 60 MINUTE BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

That All May Read

Christine Tuttle

Ballroom 1 & 2

Talking Book Library, www.azlibrary.gov/braille, provides free library service to all Arizona residents who are blind, visually impaired, or physically disabled. Applications for individuals and facilities are completed and signed by a certifying authority. Books are available in audio book and Braille formats. All materials are mailed and returned through the postal service and there are no additional costs with the public service.

Cooperation, Coordination, and Collaboration: AER Needs to Do All Three!

Lou Tutt

Plaza 1 & 2

Professional associations need to work collaboratively, not just cooperatively and in a coordinating way. No matter what a member's role is in AER, members need to seek out the expertise and feedback of their fellow members. They must be particularly attentive to the cultural insights that members of diverse backgrounds bring to bear on the problems/issues at hand. Members share with one another, solve problems together, and support each other to perform high quality service to AER, be it chapter, division, committee, and/or board(s).

Tele-O&M: Exploring new ways to provide O&M services to Infants and Toddlers

Nana Phangia Dewald and Cathy Smyth

Plaza 3 & 4

The increasing demand for orientation and mobility services for young children with visual impairments and their families, and the limited availability of qualified orientation and mobility specialists, requires innovation in service delivery models. This presentation will discuss the feasibility and protocols of using effective, technology-based consultation in Early Intervention.

Ballroom 3 & 4

***3:00pm -3:15 pm* Break and Visit Vendors**

3:15pm-4:15pm 60 MINUTE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

When to Refer Your Student for an O&M Eval

Jennifer Wheeler and Alli Ryndak

Plaza 3 & 4

Building on our experience with many of your viewpoints and questions at the spring workshop, this interactive discussion is designed to provide specific answers, address concerns, and share perspectives on referring students for orientation and mobility evaluations. Participants will enjoy an in-depth dialog on this topic that focuses on what to look for when referring a student, how to receive qualified assistance with a referral, and how the process of evaluation is conducted. All specialists who work with students with visual impairments are welcome to participate.

Animal Watch Suite: Check Out the App and the Graphics

Penny Rosenblum, Carole Beal, and Jane Erin

Ballroom 1 & 2

AnimalWatch Vi Suite is a federally funded project. We have developed an iPad app and accessible graphics for use by youth doing math at the 5th - 9th grade level. We'll demonstrate the app, show videos of students using it, and talk about our current training of TVIs in how to use the iPad and its accessibility features in the general ed. classroom.

VoiceOver for the Sight Dependent

Sandra Stirnweiss and Amy Lewis

Plaza 1 & 2

Have you ever wanted to better understand how people use Voice Over, even if you don't plan to intensively teach it? Then this session is for you! Learn the difference between Siri and Voice Over. Walk away with the knowledge of flicks and swipes and how many fingers you need to make the motions. We'll even discuss why motions are different when Voice Over is on than when it is off. So, all you beginners - come join us and bring your iPhones (and headphones!)

4:30pm-5:30pm 60 MINUTE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Creating Instructional Cohesion for Your Assistive Technology Training Program

Mark Nelson

Plaza 1 & 2

In this lecture and audience interaction -based session, Mark Nelson of Digital Apex LLC will, based on years of experience in starting, managing, growing and innovating assistive technology training programs, outline the need for putting a standardized assistive technology training curriculum in place. He will focus on the benefits and challenges of using such a tool when used across the instructional team and throughout an organization to achieve consistency and cohesion in all aspects of assistive technology training programs. He will also share anecdotes of his own mistakes, failures, and successes as well as stories of successes and mistakes he has seen throughout his career. Next, Mark will present the TrainingWare® assistive technology curriculum, a nationally recognized collection of instructional curriculum tools to be used to achieve the above goal. Finally Mark will engage the audience in active dialog, so each participant can learn from he, the presenter, and one another, through discussion about their own situations and experiences as to how having a standardized set of tools and curriculum would benefit their own training program and/or organization.

The Inside Scoop on Premies: The Unexpected Events of June 2011

Kartar Khalsa and Kerry Duncan-Marcano

Ballroom 1 & 2

"THE INSIDE SCOOP ON PREEMIES" is a presentation designed to provide factual information regarding the characteristics, health concerns and developmental challenges associated with premature birth. The presentation is research-based in content, but also contains anecdotal information describing life in the NICU and care of premature newborns.

4:30pm-8:30pm Special Session

COMS Ride the Sky Train

Jay Taska and Sandra Stirnweiss

Meet in Plaza 3

Orientation and Mobility Specialists learn the routes from bus to light rail, light rail to the airport sky train. Come out for a fun evening exploring the route under blindfold. O & M specialists need to bring a cane, eye-covering, exact fare to buy a ticket and maybe some extra change for refreshments.

Ballroom 3 & 4

5:30-7:30 Margaret Bluhm Reception and Vendor Prizes

Friday, Nov. 2nd

7:30am-8:30am

Registration
Breakfast Buffet
Division Meetings

Ballroom 3 & 4

8:30am-9:30am

Opening Remarks and Housekeeping
Business Meeting II – Elections

Ballroom 1 & 2

9:45am-10:45am

60 minute breakout sessions

Professional Learning Opportunities

Lou Tutt

Plaza 1 & 2

A few years ago, Professional Learning Communities burst on the education community around most of the country. The Defours, a wife/husband team, edited a book, *On Common Ground*. They traveled around the country presenting to school districts this new way of improving learning on the part of the student via PLC's. What they and their book were attempting to get across to teachers and administrators was that "collaboration" was the way to go. In this presentation I will show the differences between cooperation, coordination and collaboration and why collaboration is the way to improving student learning.

21st Century Strategies for Effective Braille Literacy

Jennifer Wheeler

Ballroom 1 & 2

Vision professionals and state and federal policy-makers agree: In a world of technological marvel and innovative individualized educational development, braille has not diminished in importance as a primary literacy medium for students with severe visual impairments. At the same time, technological literacy becomes ever more critical in providing students with full access to general educational curricula and academic/professional opportunities. This presentation workshop examines the combination of braille literacy instruction with individualized technological preparation to offer strategies well-suited for 21st century needs.

Global Positioning Systems and the Traveler

Craig Phillips

Plaza 3 & 4

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Orientation and Mobility are made for each other. By providing a "virtual doorway" to the environment, the traveler with a visual impairment now has more opportunities to interact with the environment and develop "environmental literacy." It is a technology that should be an essential part of Orientation and Mobility instruction. However, many questions need to be addressed to integrate electronic "orientation" information effectively into "mobility" for students, clients, and instructors. Frequently asked questions are:

- "Who are the best students?"
- "What is the best device to use?"
- "Where do I find support for purchasing a device?"
- "Why is it a necessary part of instruction?"
- "How do I integrate GPS effectively in my Orientation and Mobility instruction?"

The parameters of GPS for the traveler with a visual impairment, examples of how to effectively use the information to nurture the development of travel confidence and experiential knowledge, and tactics to foster the development of control in the environment will be discussed in this presentation.

10:45-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:00

60 minute breakout sessions

iPad Use with Students who are B/VI

Danielle Cummings and Susan Blue

Ballroom 1 & 2

Participants will see videos of visually impaired students using the iPad and the many uses of the iPad in teaching. Students in the videos are in preschool through high school and include students with multiple disabilities. Additional videos will be presented to demonstrate teaching techniques using the iPad.

Blending Content Based and Sheltered Instruction Approaches to Teach

Pepper Moore

Plaza 1 & 2

The Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired is creating a diverse and innovative curriculum for teaching English to visually impaired and blind emerging bilinguals. Non-native speakers are currently overlooked in terms of ESL instruction. Many non-native English speakers use the "by any means necessary" approach to acquire English communication skills; but watching television and listening to the radio will no longer be the only way to learn English for visually impaired and blind second language learners.

Parent Perspectives of Parent to Parent Support

DeEtte Snyder

Plaza 3 & 4

This presentation includes the results from a recent qualitative phenomenological study examining the perspectives of families of children with B/VI who received support from other parents of children with B/VI. This presentation will introduce participants to the method of qualitative research, the phenomenon of parent to parent social support from the view of the parent, and inform practitioners how to assist families accessing this beneficial form of support.

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and orange. The city lights are visible, and the buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. A text box is overlaid on the image.

*Thank You for
Attending!*