Welcome to Your AZ AER Spring Conference!
We hope you enjoy this workshop. If there is anything we can assist you with please seek out a Board Member.

The Board would like to extend a special thanks to the following people:

Katy Porras, from ASDB Tucson Campus for her energetic and efficient collating and stapling skills! Thanks for all the copies, Katy!

Suzanne Canole, for making sure the materials were brailled in time!

Weyland Chumley -- for his 'go to' attitude, willing to do any job with enthusiasm! Thanks for keeping the workshop running smooth!

Your Board:
President: Rajiv Panikkar
Vice President: DeEtte Snyder
Treasurer: Jennifer Wheeler
Secretary: Colleen Oakes
Board Member Suzanne Canole
Board Member: Deb Duby
Board Member: Lenetta Lefko
Board Member: Amy Lewis
Board Member: Tracy Mosbarger
Board Member: Todd Steen
Welcome to our 2013 Spring Workshop in Phoenix. This is a time to take in some great presentations, network with your colleagues, and re-connect with friends. Thanks to all of you that have taken the time out of your busy schedules to attend this workshop. We hope that the information you gather here will assist you in providing information to your students, clients, and families that you work with.

It is hard to believe that this will be my last workshop as president of AZ AER. I consider myself fortunate to have been given an opportunity to serve such a great group of dedicated professionals over the last 4 years.

Please take a moment to thank the AZ AER Program Committee: DeEtte Snyder, and Lenetta Lefko for all their hard work on the program for our Spring Workshop. We could not have done it without their efforts. I would also like to thank the Board for their encouragement and support, although at times they thought I was a “couple of tacos short of a combo plate”. They have been simply amazing in getting this event to where we are today.

A special thanks goes out to the Foundation for Blind Children for offering us the use of their facility for our Spring Workshop.

AZ AER Needs You! Please consider volunteering some of your time (a few hours approximately once a month) to one of the many committees available. Please seek out a Board Member for more information. Our hope is to get involvement from all of you so that we can keep bringing you the great conferences and workshops that you have come to expect. This can only be achieved through your involvement on the Board and the various committees. Involvement on any of the committees would be a good start if you are considering becoming a Board Member. Once again, AZ AER Needs You!!

Please take some time to thank the outgoing Board of Directors for all of their dedicated work, and welcome the in-coming Board of Directors.

We hope you enjoy this workshop. If there is anything we can assist you with please seek out a Board Member. Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of AZ AER!

Rajiv K. Panikkar
President- AZ AER
Business Meeting Agenda
Friday March 22nd, 2013

10:15 Meeting Commences

President’s Report
• Introduce outgoing Board of Directors
• Introduce incoming Board of Directors
• Updates from National
• Committee Reports
  o Membership- Kartar Khalsa Kaur
  o Fundraising- Deb Duby
  o Vendors- Suzanne Canole and Todd Steen
  o Conference Program- DeEtte Snyder, Lenetta Lefko, Deb Duby, and Rajiv K. Panikkar
  o Newsletter- Lenetta Lefko
  o Space Camp- Amy Lewis
• Location and dates for the November AZ AER Conference
  o TBD
  o November 7th and 8th 2013
  o Keynote: Lou Tutt, Executive Director, AER
  o Theme: TBD

Vice-President’s Report
• Program Committee- Need comm. members
• Call for Papers for November conference.
• Other

Secretary’s Report
• Grants awarded since November Conference.
• Grants offered and how members can access and take advantage of these funds.
• Other

Treasurer’s Report
• Update on financial status of AZ AER
• Budget
• Other

New Business from the membership and discussion

11:15 Meeting Adjourns
SCHEDULE

8:00-8:30am  
Registration and Continental Breakfast in the Front Lobby of FBC

8:30-9:00am  
Welcome and Opening Remarks in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Main Bldg

9:00-10:00am  
Concurrent Sessions (60 minutes)

A. O&M and Goalball  
**ACTIVITY ROOM AT FOUNTAIN PLAZA**

**Presenter’s Name:** Jay Whipple  
**Abstract for the Presentation:** This presentation will introduce the history and rules of Goalball and how the game of Goalball can be used to teach and improve Orientation and Mobility skills. The presentation will also discuss health and wellness in the visually impaired population and offer recommendations to O&M specialists working in the field on how to include Goalball activities in their instruction.

B. Disability Resources at the University Level:  
Supporting Students in Transitioning out of high school  
**BOARD ROOM IN MAIN BLDG**

**Presenter’s Name:** Shannon Mandadi  
**Abstract for the Presentation:** When students who are blind or visually impaired transition from high school to college, there is often an assumption that their disability accommodation plan will remain the same. In many cases this is not true. In an effort to prepare students for the competitive job market, university disability offices encourage students to be as independent as possible when setting up accommodations. In this presentation we will discuss how K-12 staff can support students in understanding what their new role will be in their accommodation plan in college and some of the differences they can expect.

C. O&M Referral for VI Teachers: Specialist Collaboration  
**MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM IN MAIN BLDG**

**Presenter’s Names:** Jennifer Wheeler and Ali Ryndak  
**Abstract for the Presentation:** How do you know when a student would benefit from orientation and mobility services? More importantly, when would it be appropriate to refer a student for an evaluation from a certified O&M instructor? Despite their interrelated nature as special educators for children with visual impairments, TVIs and O&M instructors often have few opportunities to work together and guide their students in collaborative and mutually beneficial ways, beginning “at the beginning” with the referral and evaluation process. This hands-on, highly interactive session is offered as an opportunity for TVIs and O&M instructors to come together and share experiences and perspectives, learn from each other, and provide a basis for future discussions which will help foster communication and develop active collaboration between TVIs and O&M specialists.
10:00 to 10:15am
BRAIN

10:15 to 11:15am
Business Meeting and Elections in Multi-Purpose Room in Main Bldg

11:15 to 12:30pm
Lunch, Poster Sessions and Networking at the Outside Patio

12:30 to 3:15pm

D. What’s New in Optic Nerve Hypoplasia Research: What we know now.
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM IN MAIN BLDG

Presenter’s Name: Dr. Mark Borchert

Abstract for the Presentation: Dr. Mark Borchert will present the findings of his recent research on optic nerve hypoplasia including the links of this disorder to other neurologic and endocrine conditions as well as the potential causes of this disorder.

3:15 to 3:30pm
Closing Remarks

What’s to Eat?

Lunch is provided by Wynot Cafe

Non-Vegetarian Selection: Turkey Wrap, Chips and a Cookie.

Vegetarian Selection: Vegetable and Hummus Wrap, Chips and a Cookie.
Jay Whipple is a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist and Academic Services Coordinator at The Southern Arizona Association for The Visually Impaired in Phoenix Arizona. He has taught O&M for 8 years in the Phoenix area in a variety of settings including nonprofit organizations, Public School Districts and as a private contractor to both children and adults. He is a member of the ACVREP O&M Subject Matter Expert Committee and is a Goalball enthusiast.

Shannon Mandadi is a trained Marriage and Family Therapist. She is currently working as the counselor at the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) Phoenix office. Prior to her work at SAAVI, she served as a disability consultant at Arizona State University’s Disability Resource Center. While serving in that position, she gained a working knowledge of disability accommodations approved at the college level and how these often differ from those approved in the K-12 system.

Alli Ryndak (previously Alli Noe) received her Master’s degree at in orientation and mobility from the University of Arizona. She completed her internship with Foundation for Blind Children, as well as an externship with Jay Whipple and Kim Cooper at Mesa Unified School District. Alli worked for FBC as an O&M Specialist for 3 years and is now in her 4th year at ASDB-DVR as an itinerant O&M specialist.

Jennifer Wheeler has worked in education and materials production for individuals with visual impairments for 8 years. She currently serves as a TVI, COMS, and assistive technology specialist for ASDB-DVR, and contributes to braille transcription, student support, and technology training with the Foundation for Blind Children. Jennifer received a Master’s degree in teaching children with visual impairments from the University of Arizona and is taking continuing education courses in Special Education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Dr. Mark Borchert is director of the Eye Birth Defects Institute and Eye Technology Institute in The Vision Center at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, where he is head of its Division of Ophthalmology. Dr. Borchert is associate professor of clinical ophthalmology and neurology at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. After receiving his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine, he completed his residency at the Doheny Eye Institute of the University of Southern California and a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, Harvard University. Dr. Borchert, who has been listed in “Best Doctors in America,” also has received honors from the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and Society of Heed Fellows, as well as several teaching awards from the Keck School of Medicine. He directs the world’s largest study into optic nerve hypoplasia, now the single leading cause of blindness in infants in the United States and Europe.