Arizona Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Fall Conference
November 5-6, 2015
Tucson, Arizona

The AZ AER Board of Directors welcomes you to join us as we celebrate 50 Golden Years!

Here's what's inside:

- Program
- Conference Center Map
- Business Meeting Agendas
- Vendor List
- Restaurants
- Our Panelists
- Our Keynote Speaker
- Braille Challenge

NOTE: Presenter handouts and presentations can be found at azaer.aerbvi.org or directly at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6w7rt0kwaf1rc4s/AADWrKOALdh83UmfxAicMiTla?dl=0

Documents will be on a USB drive in each session or at the Registration Desk.
Exhibitors are in the Coyote Room
Registration is in the foyer of the Sonoran Ballroom
Thursday's breakfast is in the Javelina Room
Thursday lunch and reception are on the Sonoran Terrace (above the Sonoran Ballroom)
Friday breakfast is in the Sonoran Ballroom
7:30-8:30 REGISTRATION (SONORAN BALLROOM FOYER)
Vendors Open - Coyote Room
Continental Breakfast - Sonoran Ballroom

8:30-8:45 Welcome — SONORAN BALLROOM

8:45-9:45 GENERAL SESSION - SONORAN BALLROOM
Carl A. Augusto — The Present and Future Challenges Confronting the Blind Biz

This presentation will review the present challenges confronting the blindness field and will look forward to emerging challenges in the future. Participants will be challenged to cite additional present and future challenges and to recommend solutions.

Carl Augusto Ph.D. is a preeminent leader in the field of blindness and visual impairment. He has guided the American Foundation for the Blind in addressing critical issues facing the field of blindness since 1991. He holds a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from New York University, a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Connecticut, and was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Saint Peter's College in New Jersey. Mr. Augusto has received numerous awards throughout his distinguished career in the field of blindness.
9:45-10:15 Networking and Vendor Visits
(Vendors close at 5 p.m.)

10:15-11:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

A. JAVELINA: Carl Augusto My Struggle with Adjusting to Blindness
The presenter began losing his vision when he was eight and became totally blind fifteen years ago. He will describe his struggle with his emotional and functional adjustment to vision loss, and he will highlight his views of the keys to success for people with vision loss.

B. QUAIL: DeEtte Snyder
Routine Based Early Intervention
This presentation is an introduction to the principles of routine based early intervention (RBEI). The focus will be on teachers of the visually impaired (TVI) using routine activities to provide vision/sensory specific services to support families in the natural environment.

C. MESA: Kevin Hughes & Mike Tindell
Quietly Learning Braille; The New Mountbatten Whisper, IOS and Braille Literacy Coming Together
This session will emphasize the feature and benefit set of the new Mountbatten Whisper along with its IOS/IPAD/Android interface.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Business Meeting
SONORAN TERRACE

- BANQUET LUNCHEON
- BUSINESS MEETING
- MARGARET BLUHM WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD
1:30-2:00 p.m. Networking and Vendor Visits

2:00-3:00 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS II

D. MESA: Ed Gervasoni and Mirea Sharifi
The Impact of Pilates Equipment Classes on Orientation and Mobility and Other Expanded Core Areas for Students at the Arizona School for the Blind
Through the presentation of several case studies, this presentation addresses the impact of Pilates equipment classes on Orientation & Mobility skills as well as other Expanded Core Areas. The presentation will also include hands-on activities for educators to use with their own students.

E. QUAIL: Megan Mogan
Using Original Chants and Rhythms to Build Early Communication and Literacy Routines: A Practical Approach
Music and rhythm are often a motivating topic for B/VI students with additional disabilities. In fact, music can often be a shared mode of communication for even the earliest of communicators. This session will offer several ways to build communication routines using hands-on, “touchable” patterns to rhythm and chants. Participants will learn how to use these patterns to help students build new motor plans, learn early literacy skills, and actively participate in their environment while having a lot of fun.

F. JAVELINA: Mark Nelson
The Use of Google Apps is a Growing Reality and Coming to You Soon!
Schools and colleges across the country and beyond are adopting the Google Apps platform and moving away from the familiar Microsoft Office environment. There is much confusion about accessibility to these apps. This presentation will cover what these apps are, why they are being used, accurate information as to how accessible they are, and open dialog between education and VR non-profit and state agencies regarding these changes.
3:00-3:30 Networking and Vendor Visits

3:30-5:00 CONCURRENT SESSION III

G. MESA: Sandra Stirnweis
Highlights from the International Mobility Conference 15
This program will highlight trends and training in Orientation and Mobility around the world as presented at the International Mobility Conference (IMC15) held in Montreal in July 2015.

H. QUAIL: Irene Topor and Faye Gonzalez
Sharing Millie Smith’s University of Arizona Workshop with AZ AER Members: What We Learned Last Summer to Broaden Our Scope of Work with Visually and Multiply Impaired Students
Ms. Faye Gonzalez and Dr. Irene Topor will summarize Millie Smith’s informative presentation about Sensorimotor Learners with Visual and Multiple Impairments from July 2015. Additionally, audience members who attended the summer workshop will be able to share their experiences of using these strategies and materials as well as get feedback and ideas from presenters and other audience members.

I. JAVELINA: Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum
UEB: It’s More Than Nine Contractions Going Away
Yes indeed, UEB is almost here and it is here to stay! You've heard that o'clock and 8 other contractions including those cute (yet confusing) hitchhikers, to, into and by have gone away. But there is more to UEB you need to know and to share with students/clients. Bring your braille writing device and let's get down to business with typeform indicators, new capitalization indicators, and a few other things that you need to know. We'll read, we'll write and we may even play a game!

5:00-7:00 p.m.
50th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
(SONORAN TERRACE)
7:00 - 7:30 a.m. MESA - MEMORIAL SERVICE
Share memories of Arizona vision professionals who have passed away in the last year

7:30-8:30 a.m. BREAKFAST BUFFET in the Sonoran Ballroom
Vendors Open - COYOTE
Registration - FOYER

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. BUSINESS MEETING PART II
(Elections and Resolutions) - SONORAN BALLROOM

9:00-10:00 PANEL GENERAL SESSION in the Sonoran Ballroom

PANELISTS: Ray Mungaray, Elaine Baldridge, Ed House and Ken Kalina

In honor of Arizona AER’s 50th anniversary come learn about the history of education and adult services in Arizona from four of our Arizona legends.

Please see the special insert for more information about our honored panelists.
10:15-11:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV

J. MESA: Cody Franklin and Amy Lewis
Cane Quest
We will provide information on our regional Cane Quest event. This event will be held on January 30th 2016 at the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, Arizona. For the last five years Braille Institute has been hosting CANE QUEST®, a fun, annual orientation and mobility contest open to eligible blind and visually impaired youth in grades 3-12. Cane Quest® is not a race- it's more of a rally. It is a fun opportunity for students to practice their skills for possible prizes. We are hosting our 2nd annual regional Cane Quest event and expanding the event to include middle school and high school students.

K. QUAIL: Bonnie Gursh
One Teacher’s Student … Using 3D Printed Materials in Experience/Concept Books
A personal presentation of how a project developed that includes 3D printed objects for the creation of individual student books with severe-profound challenges.

L. JAVELINA: Deb MacIlroy and Karla Rivas-Parker
Vision Loss? What’s Next?
Every day adults are diagnosed with an eye condition that will lead to vision loss or blindness. If one of your parents or adult siblings was diagnosed with an eye condition leading to vision loss, what would you recommend to them? Would you think of rehabilitation services to help them to learn how to live independently with their vision loss? This presentation will discuss blind rehabilitation services available for adults in the state of Arizona for both individuals who want to be employed and those who have retired and just want to maintain their independence.
11:30-12:30  CONCURRENT SESSIONS V

M. MESA: Lori Moroz-White and Jeannette Bennett
Student Transition and Enrichment Program (STEP)
The Student Transition and Enrichment Program (STEP) is designed to provide lifelong recreational, social and occupational opportunities as a spiral curriculum. Many visually impaired students leave school without having mastered the skills or knowledge essential for further education, gainful employment, and independent living at home and in their communities. The unemployment rate of individuals who are blind exceeds the rate of persons with disabilities, which greatly exceeds the rate of the general population. It is on these premises that the Vision Services department has developed the needs based, data driven “STEP” to lessen the gap amongst the population we serve.

N. QUAIL: Jenny Wheeler
Collaboration: Going the Extra Mile
"Collaboration" is a familiar, even routine, word for vision professionals. We collaborate daily with families, classroom teachers, related service providers, administrators, and rehabilitation teams, all for the purpose of giving better direction to and enhancing our students' and clients' progress. Are there other enriching opportunities to collaborate, of which we might take greater advantage? What do other professionals outside of our sphere have to contribute to our professional experience? This summer I spent a month meeting and collaborating with exceptional professionals at the University of Edinburgh, Scottish Sensory Centre. I look forward to sharing with you what I discovered there.
O. JAVELINA: Dr. Sunggye Hong
Unified English Braille Math: Focused on Differences with Nemeth Code
This presentation will review the primary differences between UEB math and Nemeth code. Basic UEB math braille signs along with operations, comparisons, and fractions will be discussed, and comparisons will be made between UEB math and Nemeth code. The provisional guideline for using Nemeth code within UEB context will be discussed. Resources in learning UEB math will be included.

AZ AER General Business Meeting Part I Agenda

November 5, 2015
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Location: Sonoran Terrace

I. Call to Order — President Tamara Bishop-Amavilah
II. Adoption of the Agenda
III. President’s Report — Tamara Bishop-Amavilah
IV. Vice President’s Report — Diane Shifflett
V. Past President’s Report — Rajiv K. Panikkar
VI. Secretary’s Report — Anna Miller
VII. Treasurer’s Report — Jenny Wheeler
VIII. Nominations for Elections
IX. Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum — Arizona Braille Consortium
X. Call for Resolutions
XI. Adjournment

Presentation of the Margaret Bluhm Worker of the Year Award will take place after the conclusion of the General Business Meeting Part I.
AZ AER General Business Meeting Part II Agenda
November 6, 2015
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Location: Sonoran Ballroom

I. Committee Reports
II. Elections
III. Resolutions
IV. Announcements
V. Adjournment

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION
OF THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

RESOLUTION PROPOSAL

The AZ AER board* is proposing a change to the chapter bylaws to address the election process of officers and board members. AER members will be asked to vote on this proposed amendment at the second general session of the AZ AER Fall 2015 annual meeting, to be held November 6, 2015. To take effect, it must be approved by two-thirds of AER members present at the session.

These changes are being proposed to:

• include all members of AZ AER, not just those who can attend the annual meeting;
• provide AZ AER members with adequate time to review and become familiar with each proposed slate of potential board directors and officers;
• allow candidates time to review duties of AZ AER board membership;
• provide a more secure and private ballot;
• encourage more effective access for members with visual impairments;
• create a more forward-focused and thoughtful elections process that maintains pace with improvements and changes in technology.

The AZ AER board proposes the following change to Section 3 (in red):

Section 3. Elections shall be held at the annual meeting two months prior to each annual meeting of the membership, using electronic means to solicit nominations and elect officers and directors. The officers and directors shall be officially installed at the last business session of the annual meeting at which they were elected that immediately follows the elections.

If this change to the AZ AER By-Laws is adopted, electronic voting utilizing the National AER process will replace paper ballots. The first electronic elections will be held prior to the AZ AER Fall 2016 annual meeting and conference.

*2015 AZ AER Board: Tamara Bishop-Amavilah, President; Diane Shifflett, Vice President; Anna Miller, Secretary; Jenny Wheeler, Treasurer; Rajiv Panikkar, Immediate Past President; Directors-at-Large: Jean Green, Becky Hole, Sunggye Hong, Christine Moreno, Ruth Parsons, Joanne Szabo
Thank you Vendors!
Be sure to visit ALL the Vendors so you can be in the special drawing!

Arizona Talking Book Library
Representative: Christine Tuttle
Phone: (602) 926-3354
Fax: (602) 286-0444
Website: www.azlibrary.gov/talkingbooks
Email: ctuttle@azlibrary.gov
Address: 1030 N. 32nd St.
Phoenix, AZ  85008

Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
Representative: Jocylin Cunningham
Phone: (520) 770-3245
1200 W. Speedway Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 85745

Arizona Regional Braille Challenge
Chair: Christine Moreno; Deb Hartz, Elizabeth Webb, Diane Shifflett, Penny Rosenblum
Phone: 520-770-2097
c/o ASDB
1200 W. Speedway Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 86745

Foundation for Blind Children
Representative: Cody Franklin, Vivian Seki, Joanne Lysinski, Norma Begay
Phone: (602) 678-5817
Fax: (602) 678-5803
Website: www.seeitourway.org
Email: cfranklin@seeitourway.org
Address: 1234 E. Northern Ave
Phoenix, Arizona  85020

HumanWare
Representative: Kevin Hughes, Dominic Gagliano
Phone: (800) 722-3393
Website: www.hims-inc.com
Email: kevin.hughes@humanware.com
Address: PO Box 800
Champlain, NY 12919

Desert Low Vision Services
Representative: Janet Dylla, Thomas Northrop
Phone: (520) 881-3439
Website: www.desertlowvision.com
Email: janet@desertlowvision.com
Address: 1645 North Alvernon Way Suite 2
Tucson, Arizona 85712

Digital Apex, LLC
Representative: Mark Nelson, Julie Nelson
Phone: (480) 286-6537
Website: mydigitalapex@gmail.com
Email: mark@mydigitalapex.com
Address: 837 E. Spanish Moss Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85022

Raising Special Kids
Representative: Kathy Gray-Mangerson
Phone: (602) 242-4366
Website: www.raisingspecialkids.org
Email: kathygm@raisingspecialkids.org
Address: 5025 E. Washington St. Ste. 204,
Phoenix, Arizona  85034

Rehabilitation Services Adminstration
Representative: Diane McElmury
Phone: (602) 542-1228
Email: DMcElmury@azdes.gov
Address: 1789 W. Jefferson St. 2NW
Phoenix, AZ  85007

Viewfinder Low Vision Resource Center
Representative: Yvonne Lagazo, Elizabeth Evans
Phone: (602) 617-6978
Website: www.viewfinderlowvision.com
Email: ylagazo@viewfinderlowvision.com
Address: 10001 W. Bell Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85351
AREA RESTAURANTS

These restaurants are within a three-mile radius of the Westward Look Resort. There is complimentary shuttle service. (subject to availability)

**Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar** (520) 529-5017
6360 N Campbell Ave.

**Pei Wei – Asian** (520) 297-3238
633 W. Ina Road

**Macayos – Mexican** (520) 742-2141
7360 N. Oracle Road

**Sauce – Pizza & Salads** (520) 297-8575
7117 N. Oracle Road

**Wildflower – American Cuisine** (520) 219-4230
7037 N. Oracle Road

**North – Italian Cuisine** (520) 299-1600
2905 E. Skyline

**Blanco – Authentic Mexican Cuisine** (520) 232-1007
2905 E. Skyline

**Tavolino – Northern Italy Cuisine** (520) 531-1913
2890 E. Skyline

**Vivace – Italian Cuisine** (520) 795-7221
6440 N. Campbell Avenue

**Acacia – New American Cuisine** (520) 232-0101
3001 E. Skyline Drive
Bring your students to the Braille Challenge!

By Diane Shifflett

Do you know a braille user between the ages of 6 and 19? Bring them to Tucson on Monday, February 29 for a full day of fun braille challenges, camaraderie with other braille users, and a host of hands-on experiences for students who are blind or visually impaired!

The Arizona Regional Braille Challenge® is one of the numerous contests sponsored by the Braille Institute’s North American braille literacy program. The 2016 Braille Challenge event will be held at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB), 1200 West Speedway Boulevard.

The Braille Challenge® is designed to celebrate braille literacy. It is the only academic competition for blind students in the United States and Canada. Participants as young as six years old and up to 19 years old will compete in challenges requiring them to read, write and type braille. They will be tested on reading comprehension, spelling, braille charts and graphs, proofreading, speed and accuracy. Top contenders will compete in a national competition in Los Angeles in June.

The Braille Challenge® event highlights the importance of braille reading and writing for individuals who are visually impaired. Students will use devices such as a Victor Reader Stream, as well as the Perkins Braille. Advances in technology have not replaced the need for blind individuals to learn to read braille.

The event is sponsored by the Braille Institute Auxiliary. For information and registration, contact Christine Moreno, Braille Challenge Chair, at christine.moreno@asdb.az.gov.

Arizona Braille Challenge
February 29, 2016

Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
Tucson, Arizona

All Braille! All the Time!
Committees of the Arizona AER

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
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 COMMITTEE
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 COMMITTEE
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.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
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.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
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.

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 AZAER President Tamara Bishop-Amavilah to join a committee today!
CONSUMER GRANT:
AZAER will award up to $200 for an activity or event that will enhance an individual with a visual impairment’s quality of life. This could include, but is not limited to, participating in a workshop or conference, taking a class, traveling, or purchasing technological equipment or other products. The applicant should either be a member of AZAER or nominated by a member.

STUDENT MERIT SCHOLARSHIP:
AZAER offers a $500 Student Merit Award recognizing an outstanding student with a documented visual impairment who is between the ages of 4-22 and enrolled in a primary, secondary or post-secondary educational program. The application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the student’s Teacher of of the Visually Impaired (TVI), who is a member of AER. This one-time scholarship may be used to attend educational programs outside of the current educational setting or for college education expenses such as tuition, travel, books, and supplies.

PROFESSIONAL MINI GRANT
The Arizona chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AZAER) offers a Professional Mini Grant of up to $500 for an AER member in good standing. The grant may be used by an AZAER Division to host a workshop or conference, send a division member to a conference, publish a newsletter, or purchase books or equipment that will benefit division members.