



AERizona VIEW

OCTOBER 2007

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

*"In The
Peripheral
Field: AZ-AER
BITS &
PIECES"*

*Remember to
register for the
Fall Conference
by OCTOBER 15,
2007! Don't miss
out!*

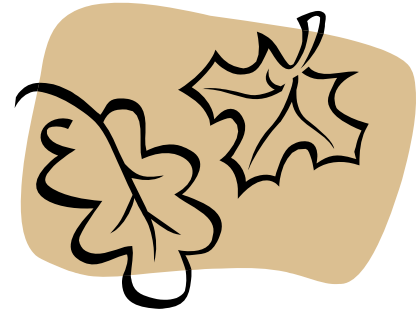
INSERTS

*- AZ AER ANNUAL
FALL
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
and CURRENT
PROGRAM INFO.*

*- MARGARET
BLUHM AWARD
NOMINATIONS
FORM*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Venetia Hayden



Dear AZ AER Members & Friends:

As your newly elected president, I would first like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your membership and support. I would especially like to thank those who were so understanding when our Spring workshop had to be cancelled. It was unfortunate that our guest speaker was unable to travel to Arizona at that time. If, for some reason, you did not receive your registration refund, please contact an AZ-AER board member. The GOOD NEWS is that Kathee Scoggin has agreed to participate in our fall conference this coming **November 8th, 9th & 10th**.

Now, on to this Fall's conference. I hope that everyone is planning to attend. The conference will be held at the **Gold Canyon Golf Resort, 6100 S. Kings Highway, Gold Canyon, AZ, 85218**. (Transportation from the Phoenix airport can be arranged by calling 480-982-9090. The rates are \$50.00 for the 1st person and \$35.00 for each additional person with 24 hours' notice. The rates are slightly higher for less than 24 hours' notice.)

From the pictures on the internet, the resort looks like a beautiful and peaceful place (visit www.gcgr.com for a sneak-peek!). Our theme will carry over from the Spring Workshop with the program titled, "**Multiple Abilities/Multiple Disabilities: Programming for the Consumer/Student with Multiple Needs, Including Deafblindness.**" We will be teaming with the Arizona Deafblind Project to offer attendees an opportunity to expand their conference to encompass three days of learning.

For the fall conference our guest speakers will be Kathee Scoggin and Barabara Miles, both noted professionals in the field of deafblindness. Ed Gervasoni will deliver a keynote with reference to the legislative issues and services in the deafblind community. Please see the Program Description, the tentative Program, and the registration form included in this newsletter. All of these can also be viewed on the AZ-AER website www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/.

I encourage all of you to register soon for the November conference. The conference rates will still be available after October 1st. The rooms are a little more "pricey" this year, so room with a friend. Bring your expertise, bring your smile, bring your bathing suit, bring your hiking boots, bring your golf clubs and enjoy a few days reconnecting with your colleagues. I look forward to serving the needs of the membership and hope you will all contact me without reserve.

Most Sincerely,

Venetia Hayden

MARK THOSE
CALENDARS!

AZ AER FALL
CONFERENCE

Nov 8-10, 2007

www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/

GETTING IN
TOUCH WITH
LITERACY

St. Pete Beach, FL
Nov 29-Dec 2, 2007

<http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>

AER-LIFT 2008,
March 26-30.

Location to be
determined.
Chapter officers
are especially
encouraged to
attend!

AER
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE,
CHICAGO, IL

July 22-27, 2008

"Chicago: My AER
Kind of Town"

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW AND RETURNING AZ-AER BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2007-2008!

PRESIDENT VENETIA HAYDEN has her certification as a TVI and COMS. She has been in the field of teaching those with visual impairment for seven years, having been a critical care and emergency nurse in her first career. She has worked primarily with young children through the Arizona Early Intervention Program and at the Visually Impaired Preschool Center at ASDB (Tucson). She is the parent of a visually impaired teenager, and a board member of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) as the region 5 representative.

Contact Info: Venetia Hayden, 6525 N. Longfellow Drive, Tucson, AZ, 85718
(h) (520) 498-1753, (c) (520) 405-2543, venetiahayden@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT HOLLY LAWSON, TVI, CLVT, and COMS, has been working with students with visual impairment since 1994. She started at the Texas School for the Blind as a residential instructor and teacher's aide. After getting "hooked" on teaching youth with visual impairment, she pursued a Master's degree at the University of Arizona. She is a member of several professional organizations, including the Council for Exceptional Children, The American Educational Research Association, and AZ-AER. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of Arizona specializing in special education/visual impairment. Her areas of interest are public policy, transition and low vision.

Contact Info: Holly Lawson, 1103 W. Huron St., Tucson, AZ, 85745
(c) (520) 808-5262, (e-mail) hollyml@yahoo.com

PAST-PRESIDENT DORINDA RIFE is a native Californian who loves sunshine and beaches. She is certified as a COMS and CLVT with 25 years in the fields of education and special education. Dorinda serves as Principal of the Arizona State Schools for the Blind on the ASDB Tucson Campus. In her spare time, she loves to read, garden, walk and play the hammered dulcimer.

Contact Info: Dorinda Rife, ASDB, 1200 W. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ, 85754
(w) (520) 770-3213, (c) (520) 971-5219, (e-mail) drife@asdb.state.az.us

TREASURER KAREN ARON was raised in western Pennsylvania. She moved to Arizona in 1996 to study special education at ASU. In 2000, she enrolled in the TVI program at the University of Arizona. Karen spent her first three years teaching with the ASDB Southeast Regional Cooperative in Sierra Vista. She got married in 2004 and moved to Mesa. She is currently teaching in the Chandler School District. Karen has been an AER member since 2000 and was elected Treasurer in 2003. Karen handles bank accounts, accounts payable, accounts receivable, conference registrations, and purchase orders.

Contact Info: Karen Aron, 2248 S. Saratoga, Mesa, AZ 85202
(c) (480) 221-7666, (e-mail) itinerantvi@yahoo.com

SECRETARY MARK BRADY, originally from the 'burbs of The Windy City, graduated with his Master's Degree in 1995 from the University of Arizona Vision Teacher Preparation Program. He has worked as a CBI High School Teacher at ASDB (Tucson), an itinerant TVI for the ASDB SER Cooperative, and is currently an itinerant TVI in Tucson Unified School District. His interests include movies, reading, singing, and writing. He is in his thirteenth year working with wonderful kids! Mark is a Continuing Candidate working on his National Board Teaching Certification, so wish him luck!

Contact Info: Mark Brady, 6639 E. Broadway Blvd. #207, Tucson, AZ, 85710-3524
(c) (520) 360-0642 (e-mail) Mark.Brady@tusd1.org

BOARD MEMBER MILO BORICH was born and raised in Iowa. He has lived in Tucson since 1973. He worked at ASDB (Tucson) for 17 years, both in the classroom and in the residential program. He also coached junior high basketball. Milo received his Master's Degree in Special Education and Rehabilitation from the University of Arizona in 1997. He has been working as a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist at the Southwest Blind

Do you have an amusing story or anecdote? Is your team or agency doing something exciting for individuals with visual impairment? Don't be shy! Send them to Mark Brady for this newsletter and let AZ-AER know what you are up to!

Mark.Brady@tusd1.org

Rehab Center at the VA Hospital in Tucson for the past ten years. He has a wonderful family including his lovely wife, Barb, and his two children, Meggie and Grisha. His interests include golfing, cycling, and making beer. Milo has been a member of AER for over ten years, and would like to become more involved in this professional organization. He feels that he can provide a good perspective from his experiences working with adult services.

Contact Info: Milo Borich, 8721 N. Myrtle Drive, Tucson, AZ, 85704-3339
(h) (520) 575-0468, (c) (520) 603-9344, (e-mail) Milo.Borich@va.gov

BOARD MEMBER DEB DUBY has been a teacher for 24 years (14 years working with VI and multiply impaired students ranging in age from 3-22). The first ten years she worked as a self-contained teacher in a classroom with students with various disabilities. She received her Master's Degree from the U of A in Visual Impairment and started working for ASDB (Southeast Regional Cooperative) while living in Safford. Last year Deb's family moved to the Phoenix area and now works for the Desert Valley Cooperative. Deb has a husband and an eight-year-old daughter.

Contact Info: Deb Duby, 8335 W. Pershing Avenue, Peoria, AZ, 85381
(c) (623) 692-4044, (e-mail) DDuby@asdb.state.az.us

BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL GORDON has over twenty years experience in the administration and management of government and not-for-profit human service agencies in both Arizona and New York State. He has held positions as executive director, area manager and program director. Since March 2005, Michael has served as Executive Director of Southern Arizona Association of the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) in Tucson. Prior to this position, Michael worked for Arizona DES/DDD as District II Area Program Manager of Support Coordination for Adults. In New York, Michael directed a rural Community Action Agency and the Poverty Services and Vocational Assessment and Employment programs for Unity House of Troy, a human service agency located in Renesselear County. Michael has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the State University of New York in Psychology, and a Master of Science degree from the College of Saint Rose in Education. He lives in Tucson with his wife and four children.

Contact Info: Michael Gordon, SAAVI, 3767 E. Grant Road, Tucson, AZ, 85716
(w) (520) 795-1331 X222, (e-mail) mgordon@saavi.us

BOARD MEMBER SARAH JOHNSON was born and raised here in Arizona and attended college at the University of Arizona. She received her Master of Arts degree in Special Education, Rehabilitation, and School Psychology from the U of A in 2005 and has been working for the Southwest Blind Rehab. Center since. She is a COMS but also teaches GPS and Low Vision. She is working towards her CLVT and TVI certifications. She works for the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) and volunteers for the Arizona Association for Athletes who are Blind or Visually Impaired (AAABVI) and CampAbilities. In her spare time, she enjoys long walks on the beach and happy hour.

Contact Info: Sarah Johnson, SWBRC (3-124), 3601 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson, AZ, 85723
(w) (520) 792-1450 X5495, (e-mail) Sarah.Johnson1@va.gov

BOARD MEMBER CHRISTINE POWERS is serving her third consecutive term on the AZ-AER board; acting as a Director in 2002-2003, Secretary in 2004-2005, and again as a Director for the 2006-2007 term. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona VI Teacher Training Program, and has been working in the Prescott area as a TVI for ASDB North Central Regional Cooperative. Christine strives to combine her skills as a TVI and VRT to maximize her students' learning experiences.

Contact Info: Christine Powers, 11 Wineglass Drive, Prescott, AZ, 86301
(w) (928) 443-3232, (e-mail) nebulus@cablone.net

BOARD MEMBER CHRISTINA SCHOCH is married with two children and several pets. She has been teaching for 25 years in LD, MR and the past 11 years in VI as an itinerant teacher for Marana Unified School District. She is currently working toward a doctorate in visual impairment.

Contact Info: Christina Schoch, 8491 N. Redstone Place, Tucson, AZ, 85743
(h) (520) 579-7448, (c) (520) 490-9795, (e-mail) csschoch@comcast.net

"You Don't
Need Water
To Go Surfing"
WEBSITES OF
INTEREST...

A website provides a great hands-on way for kids with VI to learn about circuit boards! Check out <http://www.evilmadscientist.com/article.php/circuitsnacks/index.html> and see what's new!

Check out this catalogue showcasing talking products for consumers with visual impairments. Go to Speak To Me at <http://www.speaktomecatalog.com>

AZ-AER Board Meeting minutes are available online at the AZ-AER Website! See how your Board works for you!

**NOW ACCEPTING MARGARET BLUHM
WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS!**

Nominate a colleague for the **Margaret Bluhm Worker of the Year Award**. Let all the members of AZ-AER know who the movers and shakers are in the field here in Arizona. The nomination form is included in this newsletter and the information is also posted on the AZ-AER website. Ken Kalina, our winner from last year, will be accepting nominations until **October 15th**. So, get those nominations submitted and recognize someone special whose contributions to the field of visual impairment have been remarkable!

**AFB RECOGNIZES CELL PHONE
ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS FOR VI CONSUMERS**

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has launched a Cell Phone Accessibility campaign called "255Action," named for the section of the law that requires telecommunications access for people with disabilities. In the first phase of the campaign, AFB assisted 14 consumers in filing informal complaints about cell phone accessibility with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Individuals with visual impairments can file their own complaints or are invited to supply AFB with information about your accessibility concerns. AFB will compile and share responses directly with cell phone service providers and manufacturers. AFB invites concerned individuals to fill out a form at <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?Mode=Survey&SurveyID=36> so they can compile consumer feedback to encourage action by cell phone companies. To follow the progress of this campaign and for further research on cellphone accessibility for individuals with disabilities, log on to <http://www.afb.org/cellphones>. AFB assures they will be updating this site regularly with up-to-date information on this campaign.



**POSTER SESSIONS FOR AZ-AER FALL
CONFERENCE REQUESTED!**

Poster sessions are an easy, creative way to inform others about your specialized events, programs and agencies that benefit people with visual impairments. If you wish to submit a Poster Session for the fall conference, please let Board Member Sarah Johnson know. The Board will need to know how many tables to reserve for these submissions. There is no charge, but please make sure you provide a backboard and materials you wish to make available (handouts, forms). THANKS!

A website created by nine dedicated mothers of children with microphthalmia and/or anophthalmia offers support to other parents meeting the challenges associated with these visual impairments. Visit their website at <http://www.maparentsupport.com>

USER-FRIENDLY GOOGLE PAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH VI!

Google has a home page designed to be more accessible for the visually impaired. There are no advertisements and less graphics that might interfere with speech readers. The shortcut is: <http://labs.google.com/accessible/> . Check it out!

MathTrax is a graphing tool for middle and high school students to graph equations, physics simulations or to plot data files. The graphs have descriptions and sounds so you can hear and read about the graph. Blind and low vision users can access visual math data and graph or experiment with equations and datasets. The website offers both visual and text formats and works with screenreaders. Visit <http://prime.jsc.nasa.gov/mathtrax/>

<http://www.e-advisor.us/> provides good information for professionals and parents. Take a look!

"WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S SPECIALIZATION IN VISION PROGRAM?"

Submitted by Dr. Jane Erin, Dr. Penny Rosenblum and Dr. Irene Topor

U of A had a busy summer offering the Methods, Low Vision, and Assistive Technology courses in addition to Internship opportunities throughout the state. A new cohort of four Orientation & Mobility students began their coursework in Tucson. Thanks to all the instructors, mentors, and support staff for making those whirlwind months a success!

Classes at the U of A resumed August 20, 2007 with the faculty providing instruction in Tucson, Phoenix, and Flagstaff. Dr. Erin is serving as coordinator of special education programs in the department as well as teaching the Introduction to Visual Impairment and Deaf-Blindness course. The on-campus courses are also being covered by Dr. Ian Stewart (Seminar in O&M), Dr. Irene Topor (Low Vision and Visual Functioning), and doctoral students, Beth Harris (O&M Blindfold Practica), and Deb Rooks (Literary Braille). Dr. Penny Rosenblum is teaching literary and Nemeth Braille courses in Phoenix (with assistance from Rachel Jones and Connie Ellis) and Flagstaff this semester. Pam de Steiguer, Administrative Program Coordinator, has assisted everyone in preparing for their courses and keeping track of new and graduating students.

Welcome to Kartar Kaur Khalsa as she begins her new role as internship supervisor in Phoenix! We didn't really think that she would stay retired very long when given an opportunity to work with aspiring teachers in the field!

Also, see the additional articles which spotlight our exciting new O&M program, and Dr. Rosenblum's video presentation!

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA ANNOUNCES NEW ORIENTATION & MOBILITY PROGRAM IN PHOENIX!

Submitted by Dr. Jane Erin, University of Arizona

The University of Arizona has received funds from the Arizona Department of Education to support a two-and-a-half year program for the preparation of Orientation and Mobility specialists in Phoenix and Central Arizona. The program will admit six teachers of visually impaired students who want to add a credential in O&M. We are also anticipating funding from Rehabilitation Services Administration to support two rehabilitation professionals who are preparing to become O&M Specialists. Classes will begin in the Spring of 2008, and students will complete their credentials for ACVREP certification in O&M by Spring, 2010.

Class will take place on four to five weekends (Friday evenings/Saturday days) during the Fall and Spring semesters through Spring of 2009. Intensive summer sessions (three to four weeks) will also be included during the Summers of 2008 and 2009.

Applicants should submit a) a letter of interest that describes the applicant's professional background and experience, reasons for applying to the program, and specialized professional skills and accomplishments, b) transcripts from the applicant's most recent college degree, and c) a letter from a current supervisor supporting the need for additional orientation and mobility services in the employing school or agency. In the review of applications, preference will be given to applicants who have experience in teaching or rehabilitation with visually impaired individuals AND who work in school districts or agencies that have a need for services in O&M.

Letters should be submitted to Dr. Jane Erin by October 20, 2007. Mail to: Dr. Jane Erin, Department of SERSP, P.O. Box 210069, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721. Applications will be reviewed between October 20 and November 15, 2007. Questions about the program should be directed to Dr. Erin at jerin@u.arizona.edu .

ATTENTION! CALL FOR PAPERS! for presentation at the 2008 AER International Conference in **CHICAGO** at the **DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT** on **July 22-28, 2008**. Submit your paper online at www.aerbvi.org (<http://www.aerbvi.org>). Please call (877) 492-2708 or email them at abstracts@aerbvi.org for more information or questions.

OCTOBER 2007 – ART BEYOND SIGHT AWARENESS MONTH

Organized by Art Education for the Blind, Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month provides an opportunity for professionals and institutions to raise public awareness about making art and culture a part of life for individuals affected by vision loss.

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO PREMIERE!

Dr. Penny Rosenblum, University of Arizona, announces the Tucson Premiere of Reclaiming Independence: Staying In The Driver's Seat When You No Longer Drive, a 40-minute video she produced in cooperation with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Three years in development, this video introduces you to Syd, Wilbert, Josephine, Blanche, Gary and Johnny – six individuals from six different backgrounds – who gave up their drivers' licenses because of vision loss.

Follow them as they talk about adjusting and developing strategies for maintaining their independence and community involvement as non-drivers. A screening takes place in Tucson on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 from 4-6 PM at the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) on 3767 E. Grant Road. The video will be shown from 4:30-5:15. Come mingle and enjoy refreshments! Don't miss it! Good news for those unable to attend the Tucson screening: Dr. Rosenblum will be showing the video at the annual AZ-AER Fall Conference. Check your conference materials for details! Also, the video is available to teachers on Federal Quota. Contact Dr. Rosenblum at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu for details.



PROJECT STEPPIN' OUT INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM

For Young People with Visual Impairments

Project Steppin' Out is a Tucson-based independent living program for young people transitioning from High School to College. Students begin with a 4-week orientation program for easy adaptation to their new environment and the program. Supporters of this program include the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) and the Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, Inc.

With the supervision of an on-site Life Coach, students get day-to-day assistance and training with cooking, O&M skills, budgeting, safety, shopping, life-skills, enrolling in community resources, and tutoring, to name a few of the many areas of support. Students must be enrolled or seeking enrollment in Vocational Rehabilitation Services in order to qualify for the program, and participate in SAAVI Comprehensive Day-Based Services a minimum of two days per week.

The studio apartments available are located at the Sahara Apartments at 919 N. Stone Avenue in Tucson. It provides students with a convenient location to the University of Arizona and Pima College Campuses, shuttles to and from the campuses, not to mention shopping and social opportunities near downtown. Tours are available by appointment for students, families and professionals working with these students.

For more information on Project Steppin' Out or to enroll in the program, contact Amy Murillo-Hicks of SAAVI at 3767 E. Grant Road, Tucson AZ 85716, call (520) 795-1331, or visit the SAAVI website at www.saavi.us.

**FREE DIRECTORY
ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION**

For free directory assistance, try out 1-800-FREE411 (1-800-373-3411) for both residential and business listings, or 1-800-Goog-411 (1-800-466-4411) for business listings only. Both systems are computer-driven, so they get you the information you need in a timely manner!

Special
Thanks to
Kartar Kaur
Khalsa for her
years as
AERizona
VIEW's
dedicated
reigning
newsletter
diva! We
appreciate
your work,
"Special K!"

TECH-NEWS!

New Products from HumanWare

HumanWare has released KeySoft 7.5, making your BrailleNote more useful and efficient. Whether you have a BrailleNote or VoiceNote mPower, a BrailleNote PK, or a BrailleNote or VoiceNote Classic, there is a version of KeySoft 7.5 for you!

Also, HumanWare is also introducing its most compact, most powerful DAISY player to date, the Victor Reader Stream. Individuals with visual impairments can comfortably hold this new player in the palm of their hands (4.6 inches X 2.6 inches X 0.9 inches). Consumers will have flexibility in quickly and accurately accessing content from digital audio books.

For further information on these and other HumanWare products, contact Mike Gibson, Blindness Product Specialist or Dan Brown, Blindness Sales Representative at 1-800-722-3393 (Mike is X264, Dan is X272) or e-mail them at mike.gibson@humanware.com or dan.brown@humanware.com. Also, you can access us.info@humanware.com.

**INTRODUCING NEW TIGER BRAILLE SOFTWARE
FROM VIEWPLUS**

ViewPlus Technologies, Inc. announces the release of a new version of the Tiger Software Suite (TSS), powerful Braille translation software for MS Word and Excel. The new version, TSS 4.0, includes a new user interface to make Braille and graphics printing on Tiger embossers even easier. The newly formatted Tiger menu gives users access to all document settings in one easy-to-use location. Here users are able to save preferred Braille, ink, document, and printer settings one time and reload them with the touch of a button creating greater efficiency and saving valuable time in the future. TSS 4.0 also offers one-touch printing with the new quick emboss feature. It gives users the most readable and durable Braille while providing high resolution tactile graphics. Visit their website at www.viewplus.com for further product information.

LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

Lighthouse International's Advocacy Network will provide consumers with periodic legislative updates on important state and federal issues facing Lighthouse International and people with visual impairments. When a matter arises where they want to influence legislators, they will send out an "Action Alert" asking for those interested to contact elected officials. They are initiating an online advocacy program which will allow people to send e-mails to legislators with ease. Contact advocacy@lighthouse.org for questions or to sign up for their e-mail mailing list.

Something to Think About:

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach a student to learn by creating curiosity, s/he will continue the learning process as long as s/he lives.”

-- Author Unknown



Mark A. Brady
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