



AERizona View

FEBRUARY 2007

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

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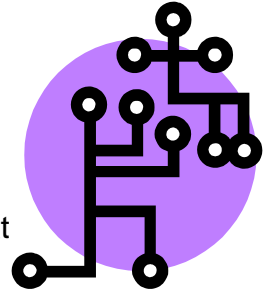
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AZ AER SPRING CONFERENCE INFO

AZ AER MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

President's Message



Greetings! The New Year has dawned with the usual tangle of personal and professional challenges. I am in awe of what we accomplish each day in spite of and because of the things we call "details." In my position at ASDB, I have watched as the community rallied around a family whose visually impaired son died over the holiday and as we have welcomed additional students who are facing a recent change in vision. Some of you have heard me say, "Everybody's got a story," and my head is full of them right now.

Don't worry; I'm not going to unravel all of these on this page. It's just that that's how I learn: by listening to and sharing stories... about street corner dilemmas, brain tumors that led to CVI, houses that won't sell, aging parents whose needs are changing, income that doesn't rise with the cost of living, new technology to learn and equipment to fix. Our stories make us individuals; sharing them makes us a team. My challenge to you this winter is to talk to each other, to share the funny and the sad, the complex and the simple. That's what I observed you doing in November around the tables at Hon-Dah (I was thinking of the banquet room, not the casino tables...), and that's what makes this state organization so strong.

On the business side, AZ AER was asked to participate in meetings related to need for increased funding for independent living services for persons who are blind or visually impaired. Updated information on SB1264, which is requesting \$1,000,000 additional funding, can be found at http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1264&image.x=10&j. The first committee hearing is February 1st at 9:00 AM in SHR 3 for the Senate Public Safety and Human Resources Committee.

After an overwhelmingly well-received two-day technology conference in the beautiful white mountains, your board is busy planning our next gathering for Friday, April 27, 2007, at Mesa Public Schools in Mesa, Arizona. The workshop will include a variety of topics centering on multiple impairment and should offer something for everyone. Mark your calendars now!

In addition, your board will be sending two representatives to AERLift leadership training in Alexandria, VA April 13-15th. Our international office

AZ AER
ELECTION OF
OFFICERS &
BOARD
APRIL 27, 2007

Our elections have moved! We will now elect our officers and directors at our annual spring 1-day meeting! A quorum of the membership is required. Come to the Spring Conference April 27th and participate in the democratic process!

Here's the slate:

President:
Venetia Hayden

Vice President:
Holly Lawson
Rob Schulenburg

Directors:
(elect three)
Mary Boegemann
Debra Duby
Milo Borich
Christina Schoch
Sarah Johnson
Kerry Duncan

has changed as we welcome the leadership of Jim Gandorf, AER's Executive Director. Among others, the office has added a Director of Affiliate Affairs, whose mission will be to support chapters.

Be sure to visit the AZ AER website over the next weeks and months at <http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/>. Changes to the bylaws and resolutions voted on in November will be posted there, and Board Member Holly Lawson is engineering changes to make the site more attractive and informative.

Please, if you have a story you want to share but lack an audience, send your muses to me, Dorinda Rife, at drife@asdb.state.az.us or patch@theriver.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

All the best, Dorinda



MARGARET BLUHM
AZ AER WORKER
OF THE YEAR 2006!



Congratulations to Paradise Valley TVI Ken Kalina, most deserving recipient of the Margaret Bluhm AZ AER Worker of the Year Award 2006! Previous recipients gathered to celebrate with Ken. Pictured from left to right: Patty Arnold 2004, Jane Erin 2000, Tom Brew 1991, Kartar Khalsa 2004, Joan Ellis 1997, Ken, Penny Rosenblum 2005 and Irene Topor 2001.

UPCOMING!!!

CTEVH

Santa Clara, CA
March 2-4, 2007
www.ctevh.org

AZ AER SPRING WORKSHOP

Mesa Schools
April 27, 2007

ENVISION CONFERENCE 2007

Aug 9-12, 2007
Kansas City, MO
www.envisionconference.org/

NAPVI: FAMILIES CONNECTING W/ FAMILIES

Omaha, NE
July 13-15, 2007
www.napvi.org

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH LITERACY

St. Pete Beach, FL
Nov 29-Dec 2, 2007
<http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>

VISION 2008 Int'l Conference

July 7-10, 2008
Montreal, Canada
www.vision2008.ca

IMC 13

Marburg,
Germany
Summer 2009



HONG KONG AND BACK: REPORT ON IMC 12!

Kartar Kaur Khalsa COMS, CLVT.
Washington Elementary School District

The 12th International Mobility Conference convened on November 27, 2006, in the Mongkok district of Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR. Thanks to the generosity of AZ AER in the form of a mini-grant, I financed registration! The trip had been in the works for a couple years, so saving and planning covered the rest! I'm a girl who likes to see the world and meet its inhabitants, but nothing could have prepared me for Hong Kong!

The streets of Hong Kong are the most crowded I have ever experienced! Wall to wall people, all moving with speed and purpose, and nary a leisurely stroll! I'm told that there are some 50,000 people per square kilometer in Hong Kong, and they all come out at night! However, once you figure out how to go with the flow, it's a breeze! I have spent little time in places that have good public transportation systems, but that all changed with Hong Kong! The HK MTR moves people quickly and safely, and it was a pleasure to utilize! The routes are color-coded and accessible via blinking systems maps and announcements in 3 languages. I am now all about the subway!

Oh, yes, the conference... There were 343 delegates representing 34 countries. The Arizona contingency consisted of Sandra Stirweis, Lohren Caceres, Mike Kloosterman, Eileen Siffermann and me. Quality time spent with my "homies" was a joy! Too bad we have to go all the way to Asia to find the time! Lohren, Sandra and Eileen presented, and all were well-received. Did I mention that Sandra is an intrepid traveler who never met a form of transportation she didn't want to try?

I attended several excellent sessions. Of particular interest was a session by Dr. Laura Zarate of Spain on using the drawing features of Microsoft Word to create tactile maps. I'm working on mastery of the technique and will share when I am able. The structure of the sessions is such that each presenter has a bare 20 minutes to hit the high points of their program or research. It is left to you to chat up the presenter for details, read the paper in its entirety, follow up with internet research, and practice applying what you have learned. Sort of like a conference with homework!

An afternoon spent at the Hong Kong Society for the Blind, our host agency, gave insight to the efficiency with which services are provided to consumers of all ages. HKSB did an amazing job with all aspects of the conference. Visit them at www.hksb.org.hk.

The IMC offers opportunities to network globally! IMC 13 is scheduled for summer 2009 in Marburg, Germany, and I am saving my Euros! Why not join Sandra, Lohren and me on the Orient Express or a riverboat cruise of the Rhine?

PROJECT FREEDOM

Project Freedom is a 14-day residential program for visually impaired teens ages 16-21. It is designed to give participants skills in career and scholastic readiness as well as practical skills in money management, travel, self-care and independent living skills, including planning and participating in recreation activities with peers.

Project Freedom will be held July 1-14, 2007, on the AZ Schools f/t Deaf & Blind campus in Tucson.

Applications are available on the AZ AER website at <http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/>.

Contact Director Holly Lawson at 520-808-5262 or hollyml@yahoo.com

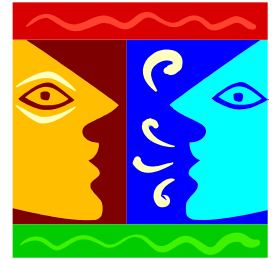
Hurry up now! Deadline for applications is April 20, 2007!

LINGUISTIC CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Matthew Hogel ~ University of AZ student

Last Fall (2006) at the AZ AER conference in Pinetop, a resolution was passed to start a special interest group that addresses issues and challenges of linguistic and cultural diversity in the classroom.

The group's name: LCD, proposed by yours truly, Matt Hogel. I am hoping to organize a group of interested and experienced people who could network their energy and skills to assist teachers that are working in culturally complex environments: ESL learners, Native American reservations and economically "underdeveloped" regions. That seems like a lot to swallow on a state-wide level, so we developed three subcommittees that address smaller snap-shots of the big picture. They are the following:



- 1) Emergent English Language Learners and Bilingual Education
- 2) Multicultural Education and Issues of Race and Ethnicity in the classroom
- 3) Professional Development and education service in politically or economically "underdeveloped" regions

LCD, short for LINGUISTIC CULTURAL DIVERSITY, is still in the planning stages, but as our subcommittees consolidate and organize, we hope to share and make available resources and personal experiences that could help a teacher find and use effective ESL teaching strategies, develop relationships between Native American students and non-native students (or any other dissimilar cultural groups), or assessing a small community's professional needs to educate their students effectively. These are just a few examples. If you are TVI or vision rehabilitation professional in Arizona that has experience, knowledge, or training with these topics, please email me at unmalpescado@hotmail.com to become part of the team. I look forward to learning from all of you.

RESOLUTION 2006-1

Whereas, in Arizona many Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments meet many challenges in the classroom that do not have to do with the visual impairment but with the students' home language and culture; And Whereas, Arizona Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments need support to help meet the needs of students with non-English speaking backgrounds and cultural differences; Be it resolved that Arizona Chapter of AER establish a special interest group named "LCD - Linguistic Cultural Diversity" to work to aid teachers with these challenges.

RESOLUTION 2006-1 was passed at the general meeting of the AZ AER Membership on November 3, 2006.

HADLEY
COURSE FOR
PARENTS

Our own Dr. Penny Rosenblum has collaborated with the Hadley School for the Blind to develop a course to assist parents of children with visual impairment and multiple disabilities approach their child's learning needs. "Parenting Children with Multiple Disabilities" is formatted in seven lessons and is available in large type and online.

Topics include basic concepts of learning, a description of VI professionals; communication, social development, and behavior issues; and an exploration of self-help skills and O&M.

Enroll at www.hadley.edu or call 800.526.9909.

SPRING 2007 AT UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

During June, the UofA Vision Program will offer two TVI courses needed for certification. These are SERP 520 Low Vision and Visual Functioning and SERP 524 Methods of Teaching Students with Visual Impairments. Both courses run June 4-22, and tuition is approximately \$875 per course. Individuals interested in taking either course can contact Dr. Penny Rosenblum at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu or 520-621-1223.

Dr. Irene Topor had an article published in the recent special issue of JVIB. The article is entitled "Indian Health Services: Creating a Balance Between Federal Legislation and the Vision Care Needs of Sovereign Nations".

Many UofA students throughout the state are participating in job shadowing, observation and participation or internship this semester. We'd like to thank all the professionals who welcome our students and provide them these opportunities. We'd also like to thank the many individuals who guest lecture each semester. Recent lecturers include visits to the Methods class by Christina Schoch and Faye Gonzales and to the Braille 2 class by Mark Brady, John Corrin and Jenny Wheeler.

This semester Suzi Newbold, who retired from the FBC preschool, is assisting Dr. Rosenblum with intern supervision in Phoenix. We are pleased to have her join our team.

Have a great spring semester!
Penny, Irene, Jane and Ian
UofA Faculty



WE LOVE OUR OPTOMETRISTS!

Dr. Lori Grover, Director of the FBC Vision Rehabilitation Service, received the 2006 Ability Counts Aldrich Advocacy Award in October 2006! Lori is recognized for her life-long commitment to advocacy for individuals with disabilities. Congratulations, Lori, on this well-deserved recognition!

Dr. Lynne Noon, of ViewFinder Low Vision Resource Center, has been named President of LowVision.com! LowVision.com was founded in 2007. It was created to become an online resource center for Low Vision. The purpose is to give patients, friends and family of patients, and doctors a forum to find answers and solutions to low vision questions. The full website is www.LowVision.com. Congratulations, Lynne, on this outstanding achievement!

NEW STUFF OUT THERE!

The Perkins School f/t Blind has developed a guide for training public school personnel and families about the needs of students with vision loss. The program is entitled "Welcoming Students with Visual Impairment to your School". It contains training modules and PowerPoints in the areas of Social Skills, O&M and Low Vision.

This 2006 publication is available from Perkins Publications at www.perkins.org. As of this writing, Perkins is still offering single order copies at no charge to the first 500 who request it. Waste no time! I got mine! KK

AZ AER CLASSIFIED ADS

CARTWRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment

<http://www.cartwright.k12.az.us/>



PARADISE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(2) Teachers of Students with Visual Impairment

Job posting: <https://apps.winocular.com/pvUSD/reports/JobPost/CurrentJobPost.pdf>

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment

Contact: Aileen Tiras 602-370-2212 (cell) or 480-607-3384 (home)

Job posting: www.phxhs.k12.az.us

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment (O&M credential appreciated)

Contacts: Dr. Patty Vogel 480-839-0292 X3706 or Ron Popko 602-840-8919

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Contacts: Dr. Craig Carter 602-347-2632 or Amy Hyman 602-347-2649

Complete application online at www.wesd.k12.az.us

LION'S CAMP TATIYEE

Opportunities to be a camper at the Lion's Camp Tatiyee in Pinetop, Arizona in the White Mountains are available. VI students in Arizona are invited to apply for the 2007 summer camp. Sessions run from Sunday through Friday. Applicants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis beginning January 2nd, 2007. Download the application at <http://www.arizonalionscamp.com/>, complete it and other paperwork, and submit to the camp. Twenty-six slots are available for each session. No fees or costs for the camp are charged. For more information, contact Pam Swanson, Executive Director of the camp, at arizonalionscamp@cox.net.

Sessions for different age groups:

June 10-15, 2007: Primary age 7 – 12 years.

June 17-22, 2007: Juniors/Seniors 13 – 21 years.

(Guide Dogs from San Rafael will attend and introduce campers to some dogs at this session and discuss owning a guide dog).



MORE NEW STUFF!

Through the Looking Glass National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities has released first comprehensive resource guide for parents who are blind or have low vision. Entitled "Hands-On Parenting: A Resource Guide for Parents who are Blind or Partially Sighted", the 212 page publication provides a wide range of practical information, adaptations and resources. The Resource Guide was developed by blind parent specialist Debbie Bacon, who is also a blind mother of three adult children. The publication is available at www.lookingglass.org for the cost of \$40.00.



SET YOUR SITES: VI, O&M, Low Vision, Technology, Early Intervention Websites of Interest

- http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~edin/secure_docs/documenti/FCP2.cfm Early Intervention Training Center for Infants & Toddlers with Visual Impairments
- <http://www.visionre.net/index.html> Too young for glasses... Ideas for getting little ones to tolerate glasses, patching, etc.
- <http://www.ski.org/Colenbrander/index.html> Dr. August Colenbrander's homepage
- <http://www.good-lite.com/support.cfm> Instructions for administration and interpretation of all LEA testing materials
- <http://www.loc.gov/nls/bds/bana/index.html> NLS English Braille Manual
- http://www.csb-cde.ca.gov/Documents/orientation_&_mobility.htm "Finding Your Way: A Curriculum for Teaching and Using the BrailleNote GPS" from the California School for the Blind
- <http://www.somerwood-walking-aids.co.uk/somerwood-vizcane.html> Viscane - inventive walking cane that is illuminated by light-emitting diodes (LEDs)
- http://www.affiliatedblind.org/Training.php#O&M_Wheelchair Scott Crawford's techniques for wheelchair O&M training
- www.aerbvi.org/OandM O&M Division position papers on group O&M instruction, night and community-based instruction, street crossings at signalized intersections and use of O&M assistants
- www.chargesyndrome.org CHARGE Syndrome homepage
- <http://www.nystagmus.org/> American Nystagmus Network
- <http://www.infolink.com.au/Companies/Pictobraille> Australian company specializing in tactile and Braille Signage
- <http://labs.google.com/accessible/> Google Labs product designed to identify and prioritize Web search results that are more easily usable by blind and visually impaired users
- <http://www.bridges4kids.org/IEP/iep.goal.bank.pdf> Bridges 4 Kids IEP Goal Bank, many of which are appropriate for VI
- <http://www.lightupyourbrain.com/audio-stories-for-children.html> Audio books for children
- <http://tinyurl.com/yfr7ou> Dora the Explorer Talking Crayons (mixed reviews)
- <http://www.hicom.net/~oedipus/blind.html> Blindness-related web resources
- http://www.bibliovault.org/BV_accessibility.epi BiblioVault Accessibility Services – Electronic files of books provided to institutions of higher learning with permission of publisher
- <http://www.hesperian.org> Non-profit publisher of books & educational materials, some related to VI, translated into more than 17 languages
- <http://www.brightfeetslippers.com> BrightFeet lighted slipper night lights for the feet – You just never know...

THANKS,
FOLKS!

AERizona View appreciates Matt Hogel, Penny Rosenblum and Kartar Khalsa for chipping in! Our chapter newsletter thrives, thanks to YOU!

Kartar Kaur Khalsa
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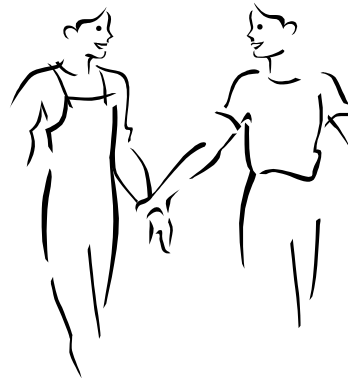
TO DO:

☞ Register for the Spring 1-day Conference! It's April 27, 2007! Do it now!

☞ Nominate a deserving student or client for the AZ AER \$500 Merit Scholarship! Application within!

"Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it; if unfair, keep from irritation; if it is ignorant, smile; if it is justified, it is not criticism - learn from it."

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



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