



# AERizona View

JUNE 2007

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

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## President's Message

*It's all good.* That's what my 21-year-old daughter says while we are making amends for a misunderstanding. When I think about the last six months of AZ AER activity, I reflect on research, preparation and planning... all of which came to a screeching halt three days before our spring workshop. We had 113 participants registered for the action-packed day; participants had made plans, reserved cars and processed POs. The AZ AER board worked tirelessly to regroup, rethink and finally communicate to attendees the decision to cancel the workshop. Can I really say, six weeks after this non-event that was so eventful, *It's all good?*

The answer is a resounding yes! Enclosed you will find an **Annual AZ AER Meeting-In-Writing**. It is my sincere hope that in reading the information, you will take to heart the progress we have made as an organization and start planning for our two-day fall conference to take place at the Gold Canyon Golf Resort in Gold Canyon, AZ, November 8-9, 2007. Plans are in the works for the state's deaf-blind conference to piggy-back with AZ AER, and we will expand on the conference topic *Multiple Abilities/Multiple Disabilities: Programming for the Consumer with Multiple Needs*. **In a separate mailing, AZ AER members will receive a ballot for Spring elections.** We hope you will take the time to participate in the election process.

Read on, my friends, colleagues, mentors, and fellow AZ AER members. Enjoy the summer days, rays, va-cays, plays, filets, haze, opportunities to laze, chances to amaze, hopefully limited use of flo-nase, anticipated raise (okay, so I'm an optimist...), and all the rest of summer's ways. See you in November.

*Dorinda*



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. Due to the cancellation of our April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will hold our next election via mail-in ballot. Watch your mailbox for ballots!*

*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*

## MEETING IN WRITING:

### The Vice President's Report

#### Consumer Grants

Since our last full membership meeting in November 2006, two consumer grants have been awarded. The recipients were **Ashleigh Gonzales** and **Scott Marlow**. Ashleigh, a high school student sponsored by AZ AER member Karen Aron, will use her \$100.00 award to attend the National Federation of the Blind Youth Slam in Baltimore, MA from July 30-August 4, 2007. Have a great time Ashleigh! Scott, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader sponsored by AZ AER member Connie Ellis, was awarded \$25.00 for registration to attend the SHARP summer program at FBC.

#### Professional grants

Two professional grants in the amount of \$250.00 each were awarded to members Karen Aron and Debbie Sellers as partial payment of tuition to attend a workshop at Freedom Scientific in St. Petersburg, FL entitled "Supporting and Teaching Windows with JAWS". The workshop is in June and lasts five days.

Two additional grants were requested and denied as they did not fall within AZ AER Policy and Procedures guidelines. The professional mini-grant does not cover tuition for higher education, books for personal educational use or expenses to attend an educational program that is not specifically registration or tuition. The mini-grant is not intended to cover travel or transportation costs. When in doubt, submit a grant for the activity of your choice! We love the requests and will grant them if at all possible within our budgetary and regulatory guidelines.

#### Vice-Presidential Note:

After the cancellation of the spring workshop, I arranged with ACVREP to apply the \$125.00 fee for CEU approval to our fall conference as the program had not yet been reviewed. The CRCC CEU approval had already been received for the program, so I was unable to recoup the CEU fee (\$100.00). Thank you to all who were so kind in accepting the news of the workshop cancellation. You can look forward to a great Fall Conference!

Venetia Hayden, VP AZ AER

## UPCOMING!!!

### NAPVI: FAMILIES CONNECTING W/ FAMILIES

Omaha, NE  
July 13-15, 2007  
[www.napvi.org](http://www.napvi.org)

### ENVISION 2007

Aug 9-12, 2007  
Kansas City, MO  
[www.envisionconference.org/](http://www.envisionconference.org/)

### AZ AER FALL CONFERENCE

Nov 8-9, 2007  
Gold Canyon Ranch  
Gold Canyon, AZ  
[www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/](http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/)

### GETTING IN TOUCH WITH LITERACY

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

### VISION 2008

July 7-10, 2008  
Montreal, Canada  
[www.vision2008.ca](http://www.vision2008.ca)

### AER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 22-27, 2008  
Chicago, IL  
[www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)

### IMC 13

Marburg, Germany  
Summer 2009

## CREATING AER'S FUTURE: Summary of AERLift

Holly Lawson ~ AZ AER Board of Directors



AER-Lift was held in Alexandria, VA on April 13-15, 2007. The theme of the conference was strategic planning, with the title "Creating AER's Future." We delved into questions that relate to the purpose of AER, how AER is perceived, trends within the field, and our hopes for the future. Those present highlighted the need to recruit members from diverse backgrounds, including those within the medical and public health fields. A key vision for the future is that of AER being the leader in the field of visual impairment by building a strong community of professionals through greater member benefits. These include on-line courses and conferences with distinguished experts. It was truly humbling and exciting brainstorming ideas with many experts like Karen Wolffe, Michael Bina, Gregory Goodrich and Norma Griffin-Shirley.

Other promising goals are on the horizon to build better communication between Chapters and Divisions. Jim Gandorf, Executive Director, noted that he is working on a project that would link all AER websites together through one server. Calendar events could be streamlined on both the Chapter/Division sites and National website. In addition, training in how to set up websites would be made available though an accessible web cast. The National AER headquarters is also offering assistance with newsletters and will print, mail and e-mail them to members.

Last, but not least, plans for AER International in Chicago are underway! The conference will be held July 22-27, 2008, in the Marriott Chicago Downtown. This conference will combine the international conference with the International Orientation & Mobility conference, so it should draw a large group of participants and cover a diverse range of topics. A highlight of the program will be the MacFarland Seminar on prosthetic vision. Several companies that specialize in prosthetic vision will be in attendance to share information about this recent medical breakthrough. Submissions for presentations will take place in September 2007.

I had a great time meeting with the AER staff. These folks are working hard to make AER stronger. Paul Stanley has been instrumental in increasing AER membership nationally. Jim Gandorf has made it a priority to learn about our professions and clients. He is inquisitive and forward thinking, qualities that will support a bright future for AER!

## GRATITUDE CURRICULUM

*The GRATITUDE CURRICULUM was created by Meggie Rempe, COMS, of the Living Skills Center for the Visually Impaired in San Pablo, CA. Meggie created it as a format to assist her students to discuss and realize how important it is to express gratitude and be thankful.*

*The curriculum defines gratitude and gives creative ideas for how to express it. Meggie also expresses her own gratitude to Jane, Irene, Penny, and Ian for teaching her to be a teacher! To request a copy of the GRATITUDE CURRICULUM in electronic format, email Meggie at [meggie@livingskillcenter.org](mailto:meggie@livingskillcenter.org) or Kartar at [KartarK@cox.net](mailto:KartarK@cox.net).*

*Thanks!*

## **BRaille LITERACY ~ A FUNCTIONAL APPROACH: Report on Dr. Diane Wormsley's Workshop**

*Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum ~ University of Arizona*

Did you know that AFB's Literacy Center periodically sponsors workshops for professionals that focus on topics of importance to our field? Sign up for the free e-newsletter, "Dots for Braille Literacy", at [www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org) for future announcements!

I attended my second AFB workshop February 22-24, 2007, in Atlanta at the AFB Literacy Center. The topic, "Braille Literacy: A Functional Approach", intrigued me. The presenter, Dr. Diane Wormsley, author of an AFB book by the same title, is well known for her knowledge on the topic of Braille literacy. I highly recommend the book if you provide Braille instruction to any individual of any age or ability level.

I should tell you that when AFB sponsors these workshops, they seek grant funding to offset the costs by offering participants travel stipends. The stipend paid for 3 hotel nights, so I still had to purchase my plane ticket and meals. The financial investment was well worth it as I now have knowledge I can share with our future teachers here at UofA and others in the field with whom I come in contact.

What did I learn? First and foremost, for anyone to learn Braille there must be MOTIVATION. Dr. Wormsley reiterated that she should not have called her approach a functional approach, but rather an individual meaning approach. People are motivated to learn when the material has meaning to them. For example, when selecting beginning words for your Braille reader, pick words that are meaningful and motivational for the individual. If you were teaching me Braille, one of my beginning words would be chocolate! When selecting words to begin with, you want to have ones that are tactually different. One of my other words might be bike. When you look at bike and chocolate, it is easy to tell them apart by the length and the beginning configuration. Thus I can quickly learn to read two words without actually decoding the words.

Dr. Wormsley gave us many good ideas for building our Braille users' initial vocabulary, phonics skills, reading skills and writing skills. She outlined a 12-step process she has developed to support the development of Braille skills by a wide array of individuals, including visually impaired adults and children with cognitive, physical, and sensory disabilities. She showed us some wonderful video clips to illustrate how her approach was used over a period of time to promote the development of literacy skills. As I watched the video clips I couldn't help but think of many students I have met in our state who would benefit from this approach.



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY,  
MATILDA  
ZEIGLER!

*The ZIEGLER MAGAZINE commemorated 100 years of services to blind and visually impaired readers in March 2007. The Zeigler Magazine for the Blind is a general interest monthly that Helen Keller was said to have called a "Godsend". Matilda Zeigler was the mother of a blind son who recognized the need for affordable Braille reading material. The Zeigler Magazine now goes to readers in 91 countries and is published in contracted Braille, on cassette or by email. Go to [www.matildaziegler.org](http://www.matildaziegler.org) for a text version of the commemorative issue. Subscribe by writing to Gregory Evanina at [blind@verizon.net](mailto:blind@verizon.net).*

One young lady, a "life skills student", was a teenager who had been receiving Braille instruction for several years. Dr. Wormsly called her an "a to j" kid, because in spite of some wonderful teachers, this young lady never seemed to get beyond the alphabet. When the functional Braille approach was used, the changes were spectacular. Not over night, but in about 2 years, she was really reading – song lyrics (she was in the choir), stories she wrote, recipes, etc. When the topics were meaningful and motivational, she clicked into Braille.

I'd be glad to talk with any of you individually about how you might use Dr. Wormsley's methods with your clients and students. Her book is an easy read and packed full of great ideas. It would be wonderful if we could bring Dr. Wormsley to Arizona to do a workshop like the one I attended. If your agency or school would like to work with me to do this, let me know. And think about going to a workshop sponsored by AFB! They're great for not only learning new material, but making connections with others around the country!

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## SAVE THE DATE!

AZ AER's Two-Day Fall Conference will be held at the Gold Canyon Golf Resort, 6100 South Kings Ranch Rd, Gold Canyon, AZ 85218. Visit this beautiful site at [www.gcgr.com](http://www.gcgr.com). The dates are November 8-9, 2007. Rooms have been reserved for Wednesday and Thursday nights, with great rates continuing into Friday night for those who want to extend their stay.

Our theme, Multiple Abilities/Multiple Disabilities: Programming for the Consumer with Multiple Needs, will expand the offerings of the cancelled Spring workshop and add O&M, Preschool, and other threads. See the Call for Papers in this mailing!

The resort offers casitas, spa amenities, a golf course, and the gorgeous Superstition Mountains as a backdrop. The AZ AER board hopes members and guests will stay at the resort and enjoy two days of training, sessions, networking and fun.

**Watch for registration materials in early September!**



The LOUIS BRAILLE TOUCH OF GENIUS PRIZE FOR INNOVATION will be awarded to an individual or group of individuals who contribute to innovation in the field of tactile literacy for blind people. The Prize can be granted for a new educational method, tactile literacy product, or technological advance demonstrating some aspect of tactile literacy. These may include the creation of tactile graphics, other tactile reading codes, and other tactile innovation that promotes literacy. The \$20,000 prize is provided through The Gibney Family Foundation and National Braille Press. Visit [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org) or contact Stephanie King at 617-266-6160 X 47 for information and to obtain an application.

## AZ AER CLASSIFIED ADS

### REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The Rehabilitation Services Administration has positions open for itinerant Rehabilitation Teachers and Orientation & Mobility Specialists working with blind and visually impaired adults.

Requirements are: Master's Degree in each field or related, ACVREP certification or certifiable. If interested, please contact: Joan Ellis at 602-266-9286 x7303 or email [jellis@azdes.gov](mailto:jellis@azdes.gov).



### ARIZONA CENTER FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

ACBVI, a private non-profit agency in Phoenix, is seeking an Orientation & Mobility Specialist to join our staff. The full time position would provide assessment and instruction for vocational rehabilitation clients working in an interdisciplinary team. Individual must be a graduate of an Orientation & Mobility program and be able to be certified through ACVREP. Agency is a modern facility and provides health benefits and a retirement plan. Salary is commensurate with experience and education. If interested, contact Frank Vance at 602-273-7411 or email [fvance@acbvi.org](mailto:fvance@acbvi.org).



### DO YOU KNOW THIS GUY?

The staff of AERizona View is happy to announce that our own Mark Brady will take over as newsletter editor beginning with the Fall 2007 edition! Mark, a TVI with Tucson Unified School



District, brings his own brand of talent, humor and skill to newsletter publication. Can't wait to see what the future holds! It has been my great pleasure serving the AZ AER chapter in this capacity for these past five years. I plan to continue as a regular contributor. Thank you all for your service to children and adults with blindness and visual impairment in Arizona!

*Kartar Kaur Khalsa ~ Outgoing AERizona View Editor*

ARIZONA HOUSE  
BILL 2251

AZ HOUSE BILL 2251 was signed into law by the Governor on 5/11/07. The amendment reads, "The governing board of each school district shall: 1. Provide special education and related services for all children with disabilities and make such programs and services available to all eligible children with disabilities who are at least three years but less than twenty-two years of age, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON WHO IS BEING PROVIDED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AT THE TIME THE PERSON REACHES TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF AGE SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FROM THAT SCHOOL



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

[www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org) National Braille Association offers a new "Ask An Expert" feature where you can post questions to Braille transcription experts

[www.visionaware.org](http://www.visionaware.org) Self-help for vision loss. Offers a free publication on macular degeneration

<http://www.bittybraille.com> Bitty Braille ~ A product line of 100% cotton tees for infants and toddlers featuring simple Braille words

[http://sun1.aph.org/edresearch/braille\\_rap/index.html](http://sun1.aph.org/edresearch/braille_rap/index.html) Free download of a Braille rap song from APH

[www.dcmp.org](http://www.dcmp.org) Described & Captioned Media Program (DCMP) provides services to support and improve academic achievement for blind/VI students

<http://www.sauerburger.org/dona/cane.htm> Dona Sauerburger's illustrated cane page describing the importance various cane techniques

[www.gamesutouch.com](http://www.gamesutouch.com) Games You Touch ~ Educational fun for kids with visual impairment

<http://power.listentoamovie.com/> Movies and TV programs in audio format

<http://www.gh-mathspeak.com/examples/NemethBook/> "Green" Nemeth book circa 1972

<http://www.CrashingThrough.com> Mike May's story in multiple formats

<http://www.disability.gov> Comprehensive online resource to disability-related information and programs, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, housing, health, technology and transportation

[www.Eyescreamshades.com](http://www.Eyescreamshades.com) Eyes Cream Shades ~ Sunwear protection for kids 6 months and above

[www.prematurity.org](http://www.prematurity.org) Information about the long-term impact of prematurity

<http://www.hentermath.com/vparithmetic.asp> Virtual Pencil Arithmetic ~ Software used to interactively solve math problems for those who are "pencil" impaired

[www.ropard.org](http://www.ropard.org) Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and related diseases

<http://www.instituteforfamilies.org/books.html> Source for the publication "My Fake Eye"

[www.teachersaidsforblindchildren.org/](http://www.teachersaidsforblindchildren.org/) Oakmont Visual Aids Workshop provides free handmade tactile/Braille books

[WWW.VISIONAWARE.ORG](http://WWW.VISIONAWARE.ORG) VisionAWARE self-help for vision loss

<http://www.checkwritingguide.com/> Keitzer Multi-purpose check-writing guide

<http://www.google.com/help/features.html#spell> Google's spell-checking intelligence

[www.afb.org/seniorsite](http://www.afb.org/seniorsite) AFB Senior site

<http://www.maparentsupport.com> MAPS ~ Microphthalmia and Anophthalmia Support Group

*(read on...)*

*DISTRICT UNTIL THE END OF THAT SCHOOL YEAR. Prior to this legislation, special education students no longer attended the school from the day they turned twenty-two.*

*THANKS, YA'LL!*

*AERizona View appreciates Holly Lawson, Penny Rosenblum, Venetia Hayden, Meggie Rempe and Bonnie Gursh. What a newsletter, thanks to you!*

*Kartar Kaur Khalsa  
AERizona View  
[KartarK@cox.net](mailto:KartarK@cox.net)*

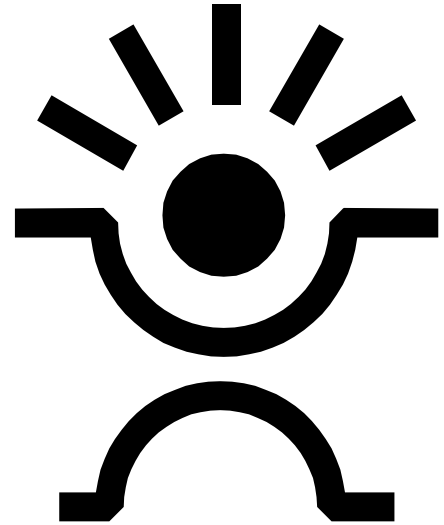
*TO DO:*

☞ *Mark your calendar and put in for the time to attend the AZ AER Fall Conference on November 8-9, 2007!*

☞ *While you're at it, submit a paper! Present at the Fall Conference!*

**If a blind person is your teacher, then do your homework.  
If a blind person is your doctor, then take your medicine.  
If a blind person is your minister, then take their advice.  
If a blind person is your lawyer, then take her advice.**

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