



Arizona VIEW

JANUARY 2008

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

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

INSERTS

*-Registration
form and program
for AZ-AER's
Spring Workshop
"Transition
Through The
Lifespan: It Goes
Beyond Ages 13-
18!"*

*-Registration
form for AZOOM,
Arizona's
Orientation and
Mobility
Workshop!*

*-Application and
Information on
PROJECT
FREEDOM.*

*-Student Merit
Scholarship
Application!*

*-Newsletter
advertisement
purchase form!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Venetia Hayden

Dear AZ-AER Membership:

I hope everyone had a happy, safe and restful winter break. As always, a new year brings new adventures and new challenges. Your AZ-AER board members have been hard at work planning this spring's one day workshop, "Transition through the Life Span: It Goes Beyond Ages 13-18!" I hope each of you received a "save the date" postcard in the mail. If you did not, and wish to be on our mailing list please contact a board member. We hope to see many of our members and their associates at the workshop. Please bring a colleague and show them the educational opportunities that AZ-AER has to offer.

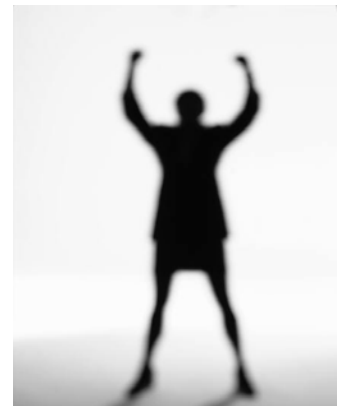
I have come across two new pieces of information that are of importance to many of our members. One is concerning the accommodations that can be made for students with Visual impairments on standardized testing and the other regarding new BANA regulations that took effect on January 1, 2008. Please look for more reference to these two issues in this newsletter.

Keep in mind that board member elections will be made at the Spring workshop. Please consider putting your name on the ballot or nominate someone you think would be a good addition to the AZ-AER governing board. The board members meet approximately six times a year and after each conference/workshop. We operate on the premise that, "many hands make light work." Come and join our team!

I wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year. Let us each enter this year with renewed dedication to our profession and the clients we serve. We are so few, and yet we do so very much to better the lives of many.

Respectfully,

Venetia Hayden



MARK THOSE
CALENDARS!

AER-LIFT 2008,
March 26-30,
Dallas, Texas!
Chapter officers
are especially
encouraged to
attend!

AER
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE,
CHICAGO, IL

July 22-27, 2008
"Chicago: My AER
Kind of Town."
Also, featuring
the Orientation
and Mobility
Division
"conference
within a
conference."

For more information
visit
www.aerbvi.org/conference. Online
conference
registration will be
available in early
February.

Congratulations to
AZ-AER's Secretary,
Newsletter Editor,
and TVI **Mark Brady**,
who achieved
National Board
Certification in
November in the area
of Exceptional Needs
Specialist/Early
Childhood through
Young Adulthood
(ENS/ECYA)!

**ARIZONA AER CONGRATULATES DORINDA RIFE
2007-2008 RECIPIENT OF THE MARGARET BLUHM
"WORKER OF THE YEAR" AWARD**

Dorinda Rife, Principal of the Arizona School for the Blind (Tucson Campus) was awarded the Margaret Bluhm "Worker of the Year" Award for her excellent contributions to the field of visual impairment. She was nominated by the Vision Teacher Preparation Program Team at the University of Arizona. The award was presented to her by last year's winner, Ken Kalina, during the AZ-AER Fall Conference at Gold Canyon Resort in Apache Junction, AZ in November 2007. Among a multitude of positive attributes noted by the University of Arizona Vision Teacher Preparation Program, they also cited Dorinda's "excellent professional judgment, and her ability to build consensus among staff members [which make] her a truly remarkable leader. She encourages all staff to participate in planning to achieve the best quality of education for all students." The award was presented to Dorinda by last year's winner, Ken Kalina. Congratulations, Dorinda! (pictured from l. to r.: Pamela deSteiguer, Dr. Penny Rosenblum, Dorinda Rife, Dr. Jane Erin and Dr. Irene Topor).



A book / manual called "An Illustrated Guide to Cane Repair and More" by Lynn Gautreaux, MS, COMS, is still available for those that are interested. The guide is a fully illustrated how-to, step-by-step procedure for re-stringing canes, re-gripping, general repair tips, and making/modifying canes and AMDs. The 43 page manual contains 165 color digital pictures along with step-by-step instructions that helps to simplify the repair and modification procedures. This wonderful resource costs i\$24.00 plus \$6.00 S/H in the USA. Cane repair need not be that difficult, some just need the "pictures and instructions" to help boost our less than mechanically minded confidence levels. The author of this manual can be contacted at lamapower@aol.com.

JUMP-DRIVE AND WAIL!!

Terrific AZ-AER logo jump-drives are still available for sale! They cost **\$25.00** if mailed to you and **\$22.50** if delivered to you. They are **128mg** drives with the **NEW AZ-AER logo** proudly displayed! Contact Board Member Deb Duby to order yours now at dduby@asdb.state.az.us.



*FREE BRAILLE
CALENDAR
RESOURCES:*

*1. American
Action Fund
18440 Oxnard St.
Tarzana CA
91356.*

*2. Michigan
Braille
Transcribing
Fund:
3500 N. Elm Rd.
Jackson MI
49201
517-780-5096
FAX: 734-668-
1094 Small purse
size includes
large print with
Braille.*

*"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*

We are diving into the spring semester with classes for TVIs in Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff. About 15 people in our Phoenix group will be finishing their TVI certification in May or August. Thus, we're beginning to make plans for what we hope will be a new cycle of future TVIs who will attend Phoenix courses. We're early in the planning stage but are hopeful the Arizona Dept. of Education will provide grant funding. We could use your help.

If you know a strong general or special education teacher who has the skills, motivation, and commitment to become a TVI, please encourage the individual to contact Penny Rosenblum (rosenblu@u.arizona.edu, 520-621-1223). Certification courses will be held in Phoenix and internship will be individually arranged.

In anticipation of this new grant, we are planning to offer **Introduction to Visual Impairment and Deafblindness** and **Orientation and Mobility for Classroom Teachers** in Phoenix during June and early July 2008. Tentatively the Intro. course will be June 9, 10, 11, 30, July 1 and July 2. The O&M course will be June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. More information on these course offerings will be forthcoming through the AZAER listserv and posted on the Visual Impairment Program web site at <http://www.ed.arizona.edu/vi/>. People who are interested in either course or who want to join our future TVI Program in Phoenix should contact Penny Rosenblum at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu or 520-621-1223.

Dr. Topor will be offering the **Advanced Low Vision** course over three weekends in May 16/17; 23/24; 30/31. Some weekends will be in Phoenix and others in Tucson. The tuition for the course is \$580. If you are not currently a University of Arizona student, there is an additional \$25 fee. This is a great course for both professionals new to the field and seasoned professionals who would like the most up-to-date information. Contact Dr. Topor for more information at ilt@u.arizona.edu or 520-626-3863.

Our new **orientation and mobility program in Phoenix** will begin this spring, and it will include six TVIs who will add an O&M credential as well as one or two rehabilitation professionals. Sandra Stirnweis and Kartar Khalsa will instruct the first course this spring. Dr. Stewart is anticipating retirement from his position as orientation and mobility coordinator following the spring semester but will continue to work with four students in Tucson through a summer-only program. We will continue to prepare four full-time O&M students in Tucson each year, but are working to prepare professionals in other parts of the state where the needs are greater.

We have on-campus stipends and tuition for a few more full-time TVI students on our federal grant for 2008-2009. If you know someone who can come to Tucson for at least a year, this is a great opportunity. The federal grant ends after this year, so we do not know whether there will be future support for full-time students. Interested individuals should contact Dr. Erin at jerin@u.arizona.edu or 520-621-0945.

Thank you to all of you who share your expertise with our students. Many of you have worked with interns or practicum students, guest lectured, or recruited someone to join the field. Our program is stronger because of you, and we appreciate your time and efforts. We enjoy hearing from all of you and seeing you at our AZ-AER annual conferences.

**VISIONAWARE.ORG ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PUBLICATION ON
DIABETES & DIABETIC RETINOPATHY**

VisionAWARE is pleased to present Are You AWARE? A Special Newsletter Issue on Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy with Debbie Sokol-McKay, OTR/L, CVRT, CDE, CLVT as guest author in various accessible formats. For more information, visit www.visionaware.org or e-mail Maureen Duffy, AWARE's Editorial Director, at maureen.duffy@visionaware.org.

A Note From Our President:

Dear November Conference Attendees,

If you have not yet received your CEU certificate from the November AZ-AER conference held at the Gold Canyon Golf Resort, and you turned in your punch card, PLEASE CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY!! I have sent out all of the certificates, most by snail mail and some by email (those who made a special request that I do so).

To all of you that attended, a heartfelt thank you. I hope you enjoyed the educational content, networking with peers and the beautiful view at the resort. I hope to see you at our April one-day workshop and our November 2008 conference.

SPE 697 Technology for Students with Visual and Multiple Disabilities

by Sandy Smith - M.Ed., C.A.E.S.

Professional Development Curriculum Coordinator

The Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education/Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts – Boston is pleased to offer this new open enrollment course on-line Spring 2008! This course starts week of February 4, 2008. The cost of this course is \$850. Please contact Sandy Smith for more information.

Course Introduction

<<http://media.umb.edu/speg697/>>

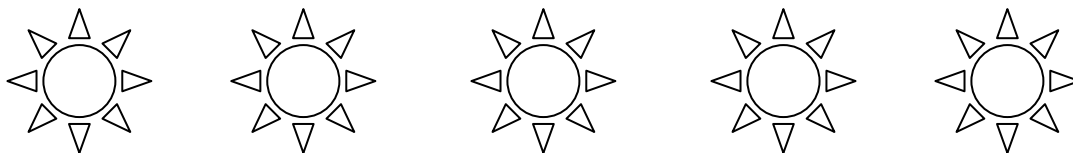
Course Syllabus

<http://www.faculty.umb.edu/wendy_buckley/speg697/speg697syllabus.html>

Wendy L. Buckley, M.Ed., Ed.S. EMAIL: wendy.buckley@umb.edu

This course will assist students in understanding how technology can provide access to communication and to the curriculum for children who are visually impaired with additional disabilities including deaf-blindness. Students will explore a spectrum of assistive technology from simple technology to high tech and develop a framework to identify features to meet the educational needs of this population. Methods of using assistive technology to support curriculum will be explored and demonstrated through the creation of customized computer activities using current multimedia authoring programs. Strategies for integrating assistive technology into the classroom in both self-contained and inclusive settings will be discussed. Registration: <http://www.nercve.umb.edu/regform2.html>
<<http://www.nercve.umb.edu/regform2.html>>

**Please fill out the registration form provided and email to: Sandy.Smith@umb.edu
Or mail to: Sandy Smith, Professional Development Curriculum Coordinator, UMass-Boston, GCOE/ICI, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125.**



CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK FOCUSES ON STUDENTS WITH LOW VISION!

by Edie Glaser

This long-overdue storybook, entitled "All Children Have Different Eyes," models for children with low vision how to confidently and competently play and make friends while facing difficult social challenges, such as answering questions about their condition, dealing with bullies, entering play groups, and handling limitations responsibly. Every page is a conversation starter and learning opportunity for the visually-impaired child. Parents and teachers will learn a lot, too, with over 40 examples and activities that transform the stories into an interactive workbook. In addition, reading the book to classmates is a great way to help them understand why a peer with low vision sees and plays in different ways.

This picture book, a 2007 USA Best Books Finalist, is written primarily for ages 4-8 and is co-authored by Edie A. Glaser who has lived with low vision since infancy and by Dr. Maria Burgio, a child psychologist who specializes in developmental and behavioral issues. With their combined efforts, the characters and illustrations present appropriate models of social competency for children with low vision while also providing an informative and entertaining story for all readers.

The book's website offers a free Teacher Guide, supporting resources, games, reviews, excerpts and an online order page at www.lowvisionkids.com. You can also call 1-800-409-7170 National or 1-562-307-3790 Los Angeles.

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

HEY, MEMBERS!

Check out our new and improved AZ-AER Website at <http://azaer.aerbvi.org> ! Features include full accessibility to people with visual impairments, plus it is connected to the AERBVI National website. See how your AER works for you!

The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness is pleased to present our newest publication, NCDB e-News.

We invite you to subscribe and stay up-to-date on information and events in the world of deaf-blindness.

*Available online at:
<<http://nationaldb.org/ISeNews.php>>*

To subscribe to this publication, send a blank email to ncdb_e-news-subscribe-request@tr.wou.edu

Call for Artists for "Shared Visions 2008-2009"

by Rebecca L. Kammer, O.D.

Assistant Professor

Chief, MaryAnn Keverline Walls Low Vision Center Eye Care Center Southern California College of Optometry: Phone: (714) 449-7473 Email: rkammer@scco.edu

On behalf of the Southern California College of Optometry we are delighted to share the following announcement with our low vision and blindness community: The Eye Care Center at the Southern California College of Optometry announces the "Call for Artists" for "Shared Visions 2008-2009", the fourth annual juried art exhibit by artists who are blind or legally blind. Works selected will be exhibited in the Eye Care Center for a period of one year. **The deadline for entries is May 14, 2008.**

For application and information on entering the fourth annual exhibit (September 2008-August, 2009), please visit:

<http://www.scco.edu/Shared%20Visions/Call%20for%20Artists%2008.pdf> or email ocusource@ocusource.com

***Expanding the Core in New Mexico:
New Mexico AER Conference 2008, Marriott Uptown,
Albuquerque, February 21 and 22, 2008***

Main Conference Venue: Thursday, February 21st 8:30 am-4:30pm and Friday, February 22nd 8:30am-1pm. Pre-Conference: Wednesday February 20, 2008 9am-4pm hosted by the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI). For more information, visit the New Mexico AER website, or contact NM-AER, c/o Secretary/Treasurer, Tracy Mosbarger. 25552 CR N6 Loop, Cortez, CO 81321

An Expression of Gratitude to Arizona AER

Arizona AER,

Thank you so much for awarding me the five hundred dollar student scholarship. I used the scholarship for the High School Student Summer Program at Columbia University. I really appreciate your financial assistance with that wonderful opportunity.

At Columbia University the class that I enrolled in was *New York City: An Urban Case Study*. This curriculum offered insights into city planning, self-sufficiency on a citywide level, and the history of New York City. This class helped me realize my interest in Urban Studies and assisted me in gaining knowledge about the topic. During the summer program I lived on the Columbia University's campus in a dorm. This level of independence improved my personal responsibility. Learning to get along with all of my roommates has also helped my personal growth in terms of appreciating diverse backgrounds. I am grateful for the opportunity to experience a different way of life and learn more about myself.

I plan to continue my education at Arizona State University after I graduate High School at the end of this academic year. I plan to major in Spanish and take the opportunity to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking nation. Thank you again for helping to spark my interest in furthering my education and traveling.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Taylor

Check out this article that talks about the Prison Braille Programs.
http://www.apf.org/ap_hnew/scoop.html

A student and VI teacher use the famous YouTube to demo the new Braille+Mobile. Take a look!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjQSU88j1kg&feature=related>

HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!

The January 2008 revision of the

Testing Accommodations Guidelines for 2007-2008

ARE NOW AVAILABLE
From the
From the Arizona Department of Education!

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/AMS/Administering/TestingAccommodations2007-2008.pdf>

***** OFFICIAL AZ-AER BUSINESS *****

Proposed Resolutions from 2007 General Meeting

In AZAER, resolutions don't happen on January 1st. At our business meeting in November 2007, three resolutions were proposed by members. Here is the text for each resolution and the results of the votes:

07-01

Whereas, IEP Teams are composed of professionals, students, and family members, and Whereas the IEP Team designs the IEP in order to allow equal access to education for students with visual impairment,
and
Whereas, AZAER membership believes in IDEIA and the use of non-standard accommodations,

Therefore, be it resolved that AZAER write a letter to Tom Horne stating that non-standard accommodations as outlined on the IEP may be used by students with visual impairment in high-stakes state testing.

This resolution was passed by the membership at the AZ-AER Business Meeting.

07-02

Whereas, AZ AER believes that students with visual impairments have the right, under ADA law to utilize calculators, abacus, scribes, typewriting, and extended time to access standardized testing.

Therefore, be it resolved that the President of the AZ-AER board write a letter to the chairman of GCBVI and Tom Horne, Superintendent of Education, in support of the use of appropriate technology by students who are visually impaired, deaf-blind, or have multiple disabilities for taking standardized testing.

Note: This proposed resolution generated a lot of discussion from the membership. Since its content is so similar to that of 07-02, it is proposed that one letter be written to Tom Horne and GCBVI stating AZAER's position on this issue.

07-03

Whereas, the deaf-blind citizens of Arizona are often times not able to access the community to meet their independent living, business, leisure and recreational and self-advocation needs without the assistance of trained others and whereas as the services, which has been identified by the deaf-blind community as Support Service Providers for the deaf-blind (SSPs) are not available or funded for most deaf blind citizens of AZ yet greatly needed.

Therefore, be it resolved that AZ-AER will write a letter in support of the advent and existence of these services on a statewide level.

This resolution was passed by the membership at the AZ-AER Business meeting.

BECOME AN AZ-AER BOARD MEMBER!

DID YOU KNOW?

The BRAILLE
AUTHORITY OF
NORTH AMERICA

has issued revisions
to the Braille code
that
took effect on
January 1, 2008

The revised code can
viewed online at:

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/update07.html>

then click on the
appropriate format
PDF or BRF.

**Duxbury Systems
has produced a new
braille chart for
North American
braille.
It is available as a
pdf file. The link to
the actual pdf is:
http://www.duxbury.com/image/s/bana_black.pdf**

**It is intended to be
printed on 11x17
inch paper or on
8.5x11 inch paper.**

Good news!
www.brl.org is back
up and running! See
what's new!

Attention AZ-AER Members:

If there's anything I've learned from my years in this profession, it's that many hands make light work. I've not held a position that keeps me busier than Principal, but I derive additional energy and satisfaction in working behind the scenes with professionals and consumers all over the state.

If you are looking for something that will make you feel new vitality and satisfaction, look no further. Volunteer to become an AZ-AER board member. Each position holds a term of two years, and the board typically meets four times a year, often from remote locations. We delegate and support and manage to attract great numbers to our conferences and workshops.

If you are interested in joining a diverse and motivated board, please consider putting your name on the ballot for one of these positions:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director
- Director
- Director

We are in particular need of representation from adult services and geographic areas outside of Phoenix and Tucson.

Please indicate your interest in any of these positions by e-mailing Dorinda Rife at drife@asdb.state.az.us and dorindadie@cox.net. You may also leave a message at 520-770-3213. You may nominate someone else for one of these positions; be sure you have his/her permission to nominate! **Nominations should be received by April 1st, 2008.**

Thank you!

Dorinda Rife, Past President

***The Seeing Eye and The Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired present:
'Harness Up,' a Satellite-GPS-The Future of Independent Travel***
by Patty Arnold

On February 15, 2008, The Seeing Eye and The Arizona Center for the Blind will co-host a one-day workshop in Phoenix, AZ. The sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. You will meet representatives from The Seeing Eye and from three top manufacturers of accessible Global Positioning System equipment: Sendero Group, HumanWare, and Freedom Scientific. You can experience simulated dog guide travel and learn through multiple practice sessions how to integrate GPS technology into independent travel. Space will be limited, so you must register in advance, by January 28th please. The workshop will take place at the facilities of the Arizona Center for the Blind, located in Phoenix at 3100 East Roosevelt Street. For travel directions you can call Frank Vance at 602-273-7411, Ext. 109.

When you arrive at the door, you will need to present \$ 10.00 in cash to cover registration, snacks, and lunch. VI professionals, consumers/students, parents of VI students, and other interested parties are invited to attend. Come and take advantage of this great hands-on opportunity to experience the fun and freedom of independent travel.

Please register by calling 800-539-4425, and ask for David Loux.

You may also register by e-mail. Please include your name, position, preferred mailing address, e-mail address, and phone numbers. The email address is dloux@seeingeye.org.

JOB OPENING NOTICES IN ARIZONA

AZOOM FOCUSES ON YEAR NUMBER THREE!

Save the date of Friday, March 7th for the third annual AZOOM Workshop to be held on the campus of ASDB. Running simultaneously will be all-day trainings through Guiding Eyes for the Blind open to eight COMS each day. Flyers for both of these events are included in this newsletter. Thank you to Milo Borich, Tom Brew, Becky Hole, and Lana Rich for their footwork in making these two events a reality!

The AER Strategic Planning Task Force has recommended that AER update its mission statement to align with the planning you've helped us accomplish to date.

The mission of AER is to support professionals who provide education and rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments, offering professional development opportunities, publications and public advocacy.

1. The Rehabilitation Services Administration, Services for the Blind, currently has vacancies for certified, itinerant O&M and VRT specialists serving the Phoenix area and surrounding counties. The positions involve teaching adults who are either Vocational Rehabilitation or Independent Living clients. These are full-time positions with competitive salary and benefits. Qualified O&M and VRT specialists are invited to inquire or apply and to pass along this announcement to any certified O&M specialist and VRT who may be interested.

Further information is available by calling Joan Ellis, Supervisor, Rehabilitation Instructional Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired at 602-266-9286 ext 7303, or by emailing jellis@azdes.gov. You can post your resume at www.azstatejobs.gov.

2. The Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI), a private non-profit agency in Phoenix, Arizona is seeking an Orientation and Mobility Specialist to join our staff. This full-time position would provide assessment and instruction for vocational rehabilitation clients and work in an interdisciplinary team. Individual must be a graduate of an orientation and mobility program and be able to be certified through ACVREP. The agency is a modern facility and provides health benefits and a retirement plan. Salary is commensurate with experience and education.

Requests should be sent to:

Attn: Frank Vance

Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired 3100 East Roosevelt Phoenix, Arizona 85008

(602) 273-7411 X 109

fvance@acbvi.org

Something to Think About:

"A person who is severely impaired never knows his hidden sources of strength until he is treated like a normal human being and encouraged to shape his own life." ---Helen Keller

From:

Mark A. Brady

AERizona View

6639 E. Broadway Blvd. #207

Tucson AZ 85710-3524

MAIL TO: