



Arizona VIEW

MARCH 2011

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

MARK THOSE
CALENDARS!

**ANNOUNCING
2011's AZ-AER
Spring Conference!**

When: Friday, April
8th

Where: The
Foundation for Blind
Children (FBC)
Fountain Plaza, 1235
E. Harmont Dr.
Phoenix, AZ

Go to the link below
and then click on the
link to register:
<http://azaer.aerbvi.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Rajiv K. Panikkar

Dear Arizona-AER Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope most of you are enjoying your spring semester. Our Fall Conference in Rio Rico this past November was very successful. The Board would like to thank all the speakers and vendors that gave up their valuable time to support AZ AER. A special thanks to the staff of the Esplendor resort who were very accommodating to our needs. Also, a very special thank you to Dr. Penny Rosenblum and Pam DeSteiguer who worked tirelessly on the program.

We received many positive comments about the conference:

- It was well organized, and it flowed well.
- Sessions were very informative.
- Good use of colors with handouts and name tags.

Some of the areas that the Board needs to work on:

- Meal selections, especially with the vegetarian selections.
- Rooms were too close together, and voices carried from one room to another.
- Some hotel rooms were inadequate, and hotel layout was difficult for some to navigate.

We recently have had a change on our Board. Suzi Gunn, who was elected as Board Member at Large in April 2010, has decided to step down due to her current work load. The Board decided to leave her position open until April 2011, when we have nominations for the Board. On the same note, Matt Hogel will be leaving the Board at the end of his term in June. Matt has taken a position with the VA in Puerto Rico. We wish him all the best on his adventures! I encourage you to be involved with AZ AER as a Board Member, so that we can continue to bring you conferences and workshops that you have grown to expect.

The Spring Workshop will be held on Friday, April 8th at The Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix. The Board is busy planning for this Workshop and details will be posted on the AZ AER website as well as sent to you through the listserv. If you or you know someone that has an interesting presentation topic, please contact one of the members of the Program Committee: DeEtte Snyder, Kartar Khalsa Kaur, Rajiv K. Panikkar or Venetia Hayden.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the scholarships and grants available to our members. I encourage you all to go to the AZ AER website to view these scholarships and grants to determine if they would benefit your students/clients or you as professionals. Attached below is an overview of the scholarships and grants available. The following grant was awarded to Karen Aron – Professional Scholarship for the U of A Orientation and Mobility Program.

The board has started planning for our Fall Conference for November 2011. Details will follow as soon as we confirm a location and Speaker. In closing, I would like to add that I continue to be extremely proud to be a member of AZ AER and to have the opportunity to work with so many outstanding and dedicated professionals.

Respectfully,

Rajiv K. Panikkar

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW AND RETURNING AZ-AER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011!**

PRESIDENT RAJIV K. PANIKKAR was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Rajiv has been working with students with visual impairments and additional disabilities since 1987. He started at the Perkins School for the Blind as a houseparent (residential manager) and teacher aide. He received his Master's degree at the University of Northern Colorado. He has had numerous experiences in residential schools, public schools and at the University of Colorado as an Assistive Technology Specialist. He is certified as a CLVT, COMS and TVI. He is currently serving as a CLVT with the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind. He has been an AER member since 1990. In his spare time he enjoys time with his wonderful wife-Kirstin; two sons- Jaron and Devin; and dog- Copper. He also enjoys golf, tennis and tending to his vegetable and herb garden.

CONTACT INFO: 8157 N. Torrey Pl., Tucson, AZ 85743, (work) 520-770-3730 (c) 520-481-8356, (email) oandmguy@comcast.net; rajiv.panikkar@asdb.az.gov

VICE-PRESIDENT KERRY DUNCAN kndunc@gmail.com;
kerry.duncan@prescottschools.com

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

TREASURER BEVERLY BENJAMIN bbenjamin@azdes.gov

SECRETARY DEETTE SNYDER is a certified teacher of the visually impaired for Infant Family Services at the Foundation for Blind Children and acts as the department's service coordinator for ASDB. She is primarily responsible for new referrals, evaluations for eligibility for the AZ Early Intervention Program (AZEIP), as well as coordinating all vision services provided in the department. She was previously a preschool teacher at FBC for 10 years. She received her certification and Master's degree in the field from Portland State University in 1996 as well as her undergraduate degree in psychology specializing in child development from PSU in 1992. On the personal front she enjoys quilting, traveling with her husband, and playing with her 4-legged children.

CONTACT INFO: 1297 E. Alameda Circle, Tempe, AZ 85282
(h) 480-775-3830 (c) 602-332-5083
dsnyder@seeitourway.org

BOARD MEMBER KAREN ARON is currently a part-time TVI in the Chandler USD. She graduated from the U of A VI master's program in 2001. Karen worked with the SER Coop in Sierra Vista for three years. There she met her wonderful husband and relocated to Phoenix in 2004. She has been a TVI in Chandler for the past 6 years and an active member on the AER board since 2003. Karen's full-time job is raising her two boys (ages 2 and 3).

CONTACT INFO: itinerantvi@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBER SUZANNE CANOLE was born and raised in a small town on the northern Oregon coast. Through the end of her eighth grade year, she was a student at the Oregon State School for the Blind in Salem, Oregon. After high school graduation with her non-disabled peers, she attended the University of Oregon where she majored in French and Secondary education. It was not until she moved to Yuma, Arizona with her

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 Matt Hogel for this newsletter and let AZ-AER know what you are up to!

mhogel@gmail.com

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

NOAH Now! is a new electronic newsletter to help NOAH stay in touch with the albinism community between issues of their **quarterly full color member magazine, *Albinism InSight***.

Enjoy this full color, informative e-newsletter by visiting their website at <http://www.albinism.org/publications/2009/pdf/NOAHNowApril09.pdf>.

Remember, only NOAH members receive the full color magazine *Albinism InSight*. Join NOAH or renew your dues today by visiting <http://store.albinism.org>. NOAH membership is key to ensuring that you receive *Albinism InSight*, member only mailings, member discounts, and more!

military husband and 3 sons that she began her career as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. During that time, she has worked with students of all grade levels and disability types. She loves empowering students by teaching them assistive technologies that will increase their level of independence and participation in their community.

CONTACT INFO: suzanne_canole@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBER SUZI GUNN graduated from the University of Arizona with an M.A. in Special Education, December 22, 2009 and is dually certified as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and an Orientation & Mobility Specialist. She completed her internships working at the Veterans Administration, Southeastern Regional Cooperative, Foundation for Blind Children, and also Camp Abilities. She has lived in Tucson for 16 years and is the parent of an adult daughter who is multiply disabled and visually impaired. Suzi is currently working for the Southeastern Regional Cooperative as an itinerant teacher and mobility specialist. Her caseload includes students ages 3-22 in the public schools in Pima County. Her special interests currently are learning about communication systems, working with persons with multiple disabilities and applied technology.

CONTACT INFO: suzigunn@earthlink.net

BOARD MEMBER CAROLYN CHENAULT carolynchenault@msn.com

BOARD MEMBER DEB DUBY has been a teacher for over 28 years (18 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. I received my Master's Degree from the U of A in Visual Impairment and started working for ASDB (Southeast Regional Cooperative) while living in Safford. For the last 5 years I have worked in the Phoenix area and work for the Desert Valley Cooperative.

CONTACT INFO: (e-mail) Deb.Duby@asdb.az.gov

BOARD MEMBER MATT HOGEL graduated from the University of Arizona in December 2006 with his EdS from Dr. Erin's VI program. He has 1 years experience as a RT at the VA and 6 years experience at the Arizona School for the Blind which includes residential, academic TVI, living skills TVI and transition TVI. Matt's BA is in Spanish and has given him many opportunities to work on special projects for the visually impaired in Mexico, Peru and Puerto Rico. He currently provides O&M services for SAAVI in their recently opened Yuma office.

CONTACT INFO: (e-mail) mhogel@gmail.com

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

2011 Regional Conferences

**Featuring the AER Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Division
Conference Within a Conference
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts ~ August 12-14**

And

**Featuring the AER Information & Technology Division
Conference Within a Conference
Crowne Plaza City Centre, Cleveland, Ohio ~ October 28-30**

It's that time again!!!

NOMINATIONS

are needed for the following positions
to serve from July 1, 2011-June 30,2013

1. President:

2. Vice President:

3. Director at large:

4. Director at Large:

5. Director at Large:

Please send you nominations for any and all
positions to Venetia Hayden, AZ-AER Past
President
at venetiahayden@hotmail.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Wake County Public Schools in Raleigh, NC, has an immediate opening for an itinerant teacher of the visually impaired. Wake County is one of the largest schools systems in the state, with an itinerant staff of 14 serving over 200 students with visual impairments. Come and work in the capital of NC. We are two hours from the beach and three hours from the mountains. If interested, please contact Kathy Davis at mdavis7@wcpss.net or 919-417-7793.

*Looking for a Job?
Here are some
helpful websites-
GOOD LUCK!!!*

-AER Job Listing at,
aerbvi.org and click
"view job listings"

-Special Education
Exchange Job Listing
at,
spedex.com and click
on the "job exchange"
menu and then "view
jobs"

-Northeast Regional
Center for Vision
Education at,
Nercve.org



**SPACE CAMP/
AVIATION
CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!!!!**

Dear AZ-AER Members,

AZ-AER has two scholarships to offer for Space Camp or the Aviation Challenge program that will take place from September 24-29, 2011 in Huntsville, Alabama for students in 4th thru 12th grades. There will be an application process to apply for the scholarships and the details will be available at our Spring workshop at the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix on Friday April 8th and on the AZ-AER listserv after the workshop. This week at Space Camp is tailored for students with visual impairments.

A special thank you is extended to **Dan Oates** from the **West Virginia School for the Blind and Space Camp coordinator** for one scholarship and to **Tom Northrop** from **Desert Low Vision Services** for graciously offering to provide a scholarship for a second student.



Get your students started with advocacy and developing leadership skills!!!

National Federation of the Blind offers leadership workshops, opportunities in travel and scholarships and they even offer 1 free cane per student.

Check out the NFB national website at, www.nfb.org

AZ AER LICENSE PLATE FRAME ORDER INSTRUCTIONS

Prices include Shipping and Handling

“Driver Reads Braille” License Plate Frames. Plastic license plate frames in choice of black or blue. (\$8.00 each)



(Picture above is an Arizona license plate with the AZ AER license plate frame that says “Driver Reads Braille”)

Make checks payable to AZ AER and send your order to:
DEB DUBY
8335 PERSHING AVENUE
PEORIA, AZ 85381