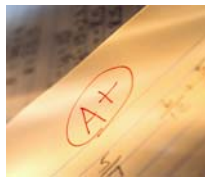


March 2009

President's Message



As a new year begins, so does a new era of officers and board members. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to those who have moved on for their dedication and A+ service to AERO.

As I took over the office of AERO President, we were faced with our first potential dilemma – the AER National Regional Conference and the AERO Statewide Conference being scheduled just two weekends apart in November 2009. As AER personnel and AERO Officers discussed the situation, four important points became very clear:

1. AERO is a very strong chapter (current membership - 167).
2. AERO has a strong board dedicated to serving the membership.
3. The annual AERO Statewide Conference is extremely important to our membership.
4. The AERO Board fosters a win/win mentality.

Stephen Covey describes win/win as: "Win/Win is a belief in a Third Alternative. It's not your way or my way; it's a *better* way, a higher way."

Based on these four points, the AERO Board adopted a win/win plan proposed by Danene Fast, our Past-President and current conference chair: a one-day conference on September 28, 2009 – "AERO → Pulling Together" instead of the three-day conference in November. You won't want to miss this exciting day! Additional conference information is included in this newsletter.

The AER' Regional Conference – "Opportunity Rocks in Cleveland" featuring COMA's O&M Conference within a Conference will be November 13-15, 2009. A Call for Papers will be available soon on the AER website and Conference Registration opens in April 2009. Information regarding the conference is available at <http://aerbvi.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=179>.

Comment [501]:

As I look forward to the year ahead, I am excited about the possibilities and the potential for success. This can be your *best* year and the most successful for our professional organization. Our membership is comprised of individuals with various talents, strengths, and capabilities and the potential for sharing is limitless! As professionals serving infants, children, youth, and adults who are blind and visually impaired, we must consider the importance of increasing AERO/AER membership in order to have local, statewide, national, and international impact in our field.

I have faith that our AERO membership can and will attain success! Let's get started!

Paula

ACVREP Certification Guidelines

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) had proposed changes to certification policies and procedures. On March 5, 2009, ACVREP met with stakeholder representatives at the Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute (JLTLI) to discuss the new policies. Below is an announcement of recommendations to the ACVREP Board of Directors in response to the collaborative discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Recommendations to the ACVREP Board of Directors in Response to Collaborative Discussion between ACVREP and Stakeholder Groups Regarding New Certification Policies

March 12, 2009

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) and stakeholder representatives met at the Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute (JLTLI) on March 5, 2009 to discuss various perspectives relating to new certification policies designed to provide additional pathways to professional certification. Stakeholders represented at the meeting included the American Council of the Blind (ACB), the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER), the Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Blind Rehabilitation Services*, and VisionServe Alliance. All parties are natural allies who share a common vision – providing quality vision rehabilitation and education services by qualified personnel. This vision serves to benefit not only those individuals seeking and receiving such services, but their families and the communities in which they live.

Motivating the proposed new certification and policies, in part, is a shortage of personnel in the fields of Orientation and Mobility, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy, and Low Vision Therapy and the impact of such a shortage on the provision of quality services. ACVREP maintains that all individuals in need of such services should have full access to quality services in a timely manner.

It is the role of ACVREP to serve as the gatekeeper to assure that consumers are receiving services from those who meet rigorous national criteria and practice with a foundation of identified competencies, and professional ethics. After studying the issues, the ACVREP representatives and its stakeholder representatives concurred that the ACVREP representatives will strongly recommend to the full board the following:

- ACVREP rescind the proposed certification policies and procedures.
- ACVREP develop and institute a transparent process that seeks input from stakeholders whenever modifications or changes in ACVREP professional competencies, certification criteria and/ or the code of ethics are to be considered.

- ACVREP will post all committees and the names and affiliations of all ACVREP committee members on its website.

In response to the recommendations made by ACVREP representatives, all parties pledged to work collaboratively to seek ways to address personnel shortages and other challenges facing the field in order to broaden the provision of quality services to include all individuals seeking and receiving services in a timely and complete manner.

ACVREP wishes to thank the stakeholders in attendance at the meeting for their input relative to this matter. Furthermore, ACVREP and its stakeholders wish to thank Carl Augusto, CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind for hosting and facilitating the discussion.

Meeting Participants:

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP):

John Ford
Garett Holm
Kathleen Huebner
Kenneth Rosenthal
Judy van Naerssen

American Council of the Blind (ACB):

Melanie Brunson
Penny Reader

Association for Rehabilitation and Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER):

Laura Bozeman
John Kelly
Pat Leader
Pat Smith
William Wiener
Grace Ambrose -Zaken

Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB):

Sally Giittinger

Blind Rehabilitation Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

Gale Watson

VisionServe Alliance (VSA):

David Ekin
Roxann Mayros

* The contents of this document are the opinions and recommendations of the representatives attending the meeting and do not represent the policy or procedures of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

2009 ~ AERO Board Member Directory

President:
Paula Mauro
pmauro@cisamoh.org

Past President:
Danene Fast
dfast@ossb.oh.gov

President-Elect:
Brett Page
bpage@ossb.oh.gov

Treasurer:
Kay Clarke
kclarke@ossb.oh.gov

Secretary:
Sue Drewette
qduzbraille@sbcglobal.net

Board Member:
Lori Board
lboard@stpaulsmaumee.org

Board Member:
Cheryl Boley
cboley@ossb.oh.gov

Board Member:
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hrader@bright.net

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Angela Petro
angela-petro@vip-rehabilitation-services.com

Board Member:
Bernadette Van Den Tillaart
bernadettevandentillaart@tiscalimail.nl

Board Member:
Mike Wigle
michael@waglefamily.net

Board Member:
Tiffany Wild
wild.13@osu.edu

2009 ~ Division Chairs

Division 3 & 8: Deafblind/Multiple Disabilities & Infant/Preschool
Kay Clarke and Bernadette Van Den Tillaart
kclarke@ossb.oh.gov
bernadettevandentillaart@tiscalimail.nl

Division 4: Psychosocial Services
Brett Page
bpage@ossb.oh.gov

Division 5: Information & Technology
James Duffield
jduffield@columbus.k12.oh.us

Division 9: O&M
Rachel Smith

Division 7: Low Vision
Angela Petro

rsmith@ossb.oh.gov

Division 10: Education
Jan Jasko
jjasko@cox.net

angela-petro@vip-rehabilitation-services.com

Division 11: Rehabilitation Teaching
Janet Silverman and Peggy Whipple
janet18@sbcglobal.net
Pm69wippel@yahoo.com



2009 Board Meeting Dates

June 4, 2009
September 3, 2009
November 5, 2009

All meetings begin at 10:30am and are held at:
Ohio State School for the Blind, Basement Conference Room
5220 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43214

All members are invited to attend!



ELECTIONS!!

It will be election time again in June! If you are interested in running for a position as an AERO Board member, candidates must be current members of AER and willing to attend quarterly business meetings. Interested? Contact Brett Page at bpage@ossb.oh.gov



Save the Dates!

2009 AERO Statewide Conference **“AERO → Pulling Together”**

When: September 28, 2009
Where: Worthington Holiday Inn,
Worthington, OH

~ AERO 2009 ~
Pulling Together
September 28, 2009



The Ohio Chapter of AER is pleased to announce that we will be holding a one-day conference entitled “*AERO → Pulling Together*” on Monday, September 28, 2009 at the Holiday Inn at 7007 North High Street in Worthington, Ohio. We have received several calls for papers and are in the process of developing a well-rounded program to meet the needs of our members. In addition to conference programming, we are in the preliminary stages of inviting organizations throughout the state to present posters at a collaborative session where professionals can meet and exchange information regarding services throughout Ohio.

Some of the topics that we are currently looking at include:

Technology Needs of Persons who are Visually Impaired

How to Obtain Accessible Materials

Transition Process and Self-Determination

Visual Impairments with Other Disabilities

Itinerant O&M for Seniors and Adults

Conducting a Community Needs Assessment

And several more...

Cost of the conference will include programming, poster sessions and vendors, as well as a continental breakfast, breakout sessions and a luncheon to recognize our 2009 Award Winners. Applications for awards can be downloaded from our website at www.aerohio.org.

Reduced rates for early birds will begin in June!
Look for your registration materials in upcoming correspondences!

Questions, Concerns and Interests?
Please direct them to:

Danene Fast, AERO Conference Chairperson
Ohio State School for the Blind
5220 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43214
614-995-0405
Fax: 614-752-1504
dfast@ossb.oh.gov

"We look forward to seeing you there!"

2010 AER International Conference

When: July 20-25, 2010
Where: Little Rock, Arkansas

Sponsored by CISAM

BrailleNote Training

Basic BrailleNote
When: April 21, 2009
Where: CISAM/Ohio State School for the Blind, Columbus OH

Advanced BrailleNote
When: April 22, 2009
Where: CISAM/Ohio State School for the Blind, Columbus OH

For Additional Information, go to the CISAM website at
http://www.ossb.oh.gov/CISAM/BrailleNoteTrainingBrochur%252004_21-22-2009.pdf

BEST Summer Institute on Sensory Disabilities 2009

Basic Braille

When: June 15-19, 2009

Where: Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus OH

Basic Nemeth

When: June 22-26, 2009

Where: Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus OH

Intermediate/Advanced Braille

When: July 13-17, 2009

Where: Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus OH

Intermediate/Advanced Nemeth

When: July 20-24, 2009

Where: Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus OH

Tactile Graphics

When: July 28-29, 2009

Where: Ohio State School for the Blind, Columbus OH

Scanning for Braille, Large Print, and Audio Output

When: July 30, 2009

Where: Ohio State School for the Blind, Columbus OH

For Additional Information, go to the CISAM website at
<http://www.ossb.oh.gov/CISAM/SummerInstitute2009.pdf>

Sponsored by Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Hail A Satellite

GPS - The Future of Independent Travel

Presented by

Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
and

The Seeing Eye

Experience simulated dog guide travel.

Learn how to integrate GPS technology into independent travel.

Open to all Consumers and Vision Professionals

Date: Friday May 8, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

(Registration, coffee and pastries start at 8:30 a.m.)

Location: Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
2045 Gilbert Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Meet representatives from

The Seeing Eye
Sendero Group
HumanWare

Pre-registration required. Complete the form below and return via e-mail to Jay Stiteley at JStiteley@seeingeeye.org. Any questions call 800-539-4425 and ask for Jay Stiteley or Ramona Ugalde.

Space is limited to 40 persons, so please register early.
Snacks and lunch will be provided.

ACVREP credit is being applied for in the area of Orientation & Mobility.

For directions, contact: Mark Foersterling, Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (513) 221-8558 ext. 232
(This event made possible by a grant from the John and Margaret Post Foundation.)

Registration form

Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Attendee name:

1. Are you a consumer who is blind or visually impaired or vision professional?
2. Are you a dog guide user?
3. For lunch purposes, are you a vegetarian?
4. What is your e-mail?
5. Preferred phone number to be contacted if necessary:

Return via e-mail to
jstiteley@seeingeeye.org



AEROGRAM ~ Spring 2009

If anyone would like to submit articles or information for upcoming AERO newsletters, please contact me, Paula Mauro, via e-mail at pmauro@cisamoh.org or mail them to me at:

CISAM
5220 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43214

The next issue will be published in June of 2009 - Deadline to submit information is June 1st 2009