



The
AERial View



Newsletter of the Northern California Chapter,
Association for
Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind
and Visually Impaired

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Tony Candela, Editor

In This Issue...

Welcome to the summer 2009 issue of The AERial View. In this issue, please enjoy articles on everything from NCAER events to honorifics for illustrious people in our line of work.

Your chapter Board wants to hear from you. We would like to know the problems you face in doing your jobs and also what makes doing your jobs a joy. What would you like your chapter to do for you?

We would also like your help in recruiting new members to NCAER. There are incentives for those who help us get new members and find old ones who have dropped off our roster. You can help us by drawing newcomers to our rolls. Tell your colleagues about AER and get them to sign up and join the division that best represents their professional specialties. Read in this issue about AER's membership recruitment program.

We need your contributions of articles or tidbits of information for this newsletter. Please feel free to send me your thoughts on any subject of interest to you as a blindness professional in northern California. If your organization has undergone a change, added a service, or plans to host a special event, let me know. If you believe there is room for improvement in any area of the business we are about, send me your editorial. Don't worry about the writing; we'll get it ready for publication for you.

Issues of this newsletter are archived on the NCAER web site, so, if you've missed an issue, go there and read to your heart's content. The address is

<http://ncaer.aerbvi.org/>

Enjoy the issue. Summer is upon us.

Anthony R. Candela
Editor

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From the President's Desk .

The news from AER's national office is about the same (somewhat dour) since the last issue. Membership which was on the rise for more than a year and recently dropped off, may be stabilizing, but the sagging economy has taken its toll. It caused a setback in AER's financial recovery to the point that the AER Board was forced to do something it has only had to do once before; drop the JVIB reduced subscription benefit to members. In its place is an offer from AFB directly to AER members to re-start their subscription directly with JVIB.

Revenues from last summer's International conference in Chicago surpassed expectations and AER hopes its regional conference this coming November will be a similar revenue-raiser.

AER's leadership knows it must be aggressive in saving money and raising funds. For this reason, the Board also reluctantly voted to raise dues while at the same time reducing staffing levels in central office and Board expenses by canceling all face to face meetings and going to a teleconference mode. A fund-raising task force has been set up and the Chapter Giving Campaign has begun to bear fruit. In fact, all of the steps AER's leadership is taking are geared toward retaining membership benefits as much as possible.

Since the last issue, NCAER held its annual spring event. President-elect Theresa Duncan headed the Program Committee. Read her summary in this issue. As we go to "press" the State of California is in dire financial straights. Neither education nor rehabilitation is being spared from budget cuts. I wish all of you good fortune during these tough times. Work hard and do your best and we will not only survive, but flourish.

Your NCAER Board does a great deal for you, but a dozen people can only do so much. If you are interested in helping your Board expand our chapter's services, please write me. We need a web master. Visit the NCAER web site and contact me if you would like the job.

NCAER members work and participate in programs ranging from early childhood development to assisting students in school, adult rehabilitation, job placement, and services to older blind persons. This newsletter and two conferences each year are ways our Chapter supports its members. NCAER also participates in events such as CTEVH scheduled in February and alternating between northern and southern California, and the annual Lowenfeld-Akeson Early Years Symposium.

Your Chapter is here to represent the professions in which you work and to preserve specialized services for blind and visually impaired persons. To that end, please feel free to call or write any of us should you need advice or assistance on any matter concerning your profession. It is our mission to be of value to you. We want to provide you the kind of service that makes a difference in your everyday working lives.

Membership in AER confers automatic membership in NCAER. It offers you a means to provide input and to shape the direction our field is moving. Please consider running for an NCAER office or participating on our committees. Of course, attending our workshops and conferences and encouraging others to enter our field is a lifetime responsibility we all carry.

If you would like to attend meetings of the NCAER Board, you have a standing invitation. We announce meeting times and places on the NCAER web site.

Anthony R. Candela  
July 2009

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NCAER Board Roster

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*Many thanks to Liz Barclay who left the Board in June and welcome to Alysa Chadow who recently joined.

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Raising Children: What Parents Tell Us and How TVIs, O&M Specialists, and CVRTs Can Prepare Children and Adults for Parenthood

Sunggye Hong

Becoming parents can be an exciting yet challenging experience for anyone. The same applies to people with visual impairments. When I had my first child, I realized, however, that there are additional dimensions for blind persons. Basic questions such as how do I feed my child to advanced topics such as how can I measure my child's temperature were not readily answered in reference books for sighted parents.

Children with visual impairments will one day grow up to become parents. Do they know about the tasks involved? Will they have the necessary skills?

In order to answer some of these questions and to find out how other parents with visual impairments have reacted to these challenges, Dr. Rosenblum and Ms. Harris at the University of Arizona and I conducted a study. Previous studies focused mainly on adaptations, public perceptions, and the lack of support and information available to parents with visual impairments. They noted that parents with visual impairments received little training and learned much through trial and error.

In order to substantiate the previous findings and to accumulate additional knowledge on this topic, we interviewed sixty seven parents with visual impairments. The interviews were conducted over the phone and later transcribed for analysis. The study was published in the February issue of the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness (Rosenblum, Hong, & Harris, 2009). I encourage you to read the full article.

In this article, I would like to suggest some tips and strategies for teachers of students with visual impairments, orientation and mobility specialists, and rehabilitation teachers to use when working with people with visual impairments and to provide resources that may be of help when discussing this topic.

There are numerous skills involved in performing parental duties. “There needs to be more awareness of this topic at conferences even in ones for transition for high school students. A lot of that comes back to roles and responsibilities of teenagers. Blind teenagers sometimes don’t get to baby-sit like sighted peers. Getting the word out to TVIs, O&M instructors, I think it [information about parenting] needs to be there.” - A 31 year old single mother who is Caucasian and blind raising a 21 month old.

We have identified four major areas of instruction that may help people with visual impairments to become better parents. They are orientation and mobility skills, social skills, assistive technology skills, and daily living skills.

\* Orientation and mobility skills: One of the biggest obstacles in rearing children for parents with visual impairments is the transportation issue. Arranging alternative means of transportation, planning for after school activities, seeking support from family and friends for visiting doctors are included in this issue. “The biggest challenge is probably transportation... One of the causes of anxiety for me is that I have had to arrange for transportation.” - A 52 year old married mother who is Caucasian and blind raising a 15 and 19 year old. Knowing various options and being able to travel independently seemed the basic foundation of performing all other tasks required for being parents.

\* Social skills: There were several factors identified within this skill domain. Many interviewees reported that they had to advocate skillfully for themselves with medical professionals, social workers, and the general public. Socializing with other parents, participating in after school activities, and becoming positive role models as parents with visual impairments were identified as critical social skills functions.

\* Assistive technology: Parents with visual impairments often have difficulty in assisting their children with school assignments and communicating with school professionals. Screen readers and screen magnification software provide a great deal of support in completing such tasks. Moreover, for those parents with low vision, use of optical devices successfully helps them in monitoring children’s safety from a distance.

- Daily living skills: This set of skills is critical especially when children are young. Cooking, cleaning, dressing, and bathing are common tasks for the care of babies.

In addressing the above mentioned critical tasks and to create effective training programs for people with visual impairments, I would like to suggest the following activities:

1. Provide babysitting experience with younger siblings, kids from neighbors, and babies of friends of parents.
2. Encourage young visually impaired persons to volunteer in childcare or teaching situations to gain valuable experience.
3. Promote their taking a child development course in high school or college.

4. Allow them to attend summer camps or youth programs with children of varying ages.

There are many other activities parents of children with visual impairments can do to better prepare their children to be future parents.

1. Share their home organization systems
2. Try various types of transportation systems
3. Allow children to take responsibilities for younger siblings
4. Model various strategies that they will need in the future
5. Use email when communicating with children

Having a child and becoming a parent should be an exciting moment for everyone. Our children with visual impairments will be much happier when they do so if they know how to handle the challenges and tasks associated with parenting. I have learned many things from the interviewees from practical strategies to underlying thoughts for being parents with visual impairments. The following are the three most significant suggestions I encountered.

\* “Raising a child shouldn’t be a fear just because of the visual impairment.” - A 37 year old married father who is Caucasian and low vision raising 2 children

\* “It isn’t the sight that helps you raise children, it is the love.” - A 49 year old single mother who is African American and blind raising 3 teenagers

\* “Just because we’re blind doesn’t mean we don’t have the same hopes and desires for raising children. It just has to be done a little differently.” - A 43 year old mother who is Caucasian and has low vision and is raising a 7 and 11 year old with a same sex partner

Will our students with visual impairments be ready to become parents? Here are some related resources to assure they do.

- Finding Wheels ([www.proedinc.com](http://www.proedinc.com))
- Companies that sell daily living aids (e.g., LS&S, Maxi Aids)
- CareerConnect from AFB ([www.careerconnect.org](http://www.careerconnect.org))
- Listservs for people with vision loss
- National Federation of the Blind ([www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)) has some free materials for parents who are blind (click on Publications link)
- Hadley School for the Blind [www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)
  - o Parenting Preparation
  - o Parenting: Infancy
  - o Parenting: The Early Years
- Consumer organizations
  - o ACB [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org)
  - o NAPVI [www.napvi.org](http://www.napvi.org)
  - o NFB [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)
  - o NOAH [www.albinism.org](http://www.albinism.org)

Reference

Rosenblum, P., Hong, S., & Harris, B. (2009). Experiences of Parents with Visual Impairments Who Are Raising Children. *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, 103, 81-92.

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Board Member Highlights: Richard Rueda and Sharon Hudson

Richard Rueda is a transition coordinator with the Dept. of Rehabilitation's Blind Field Services unit. He has worked there as a vocational rehabilitation Counselor since 2001. Richard is a graduate of California State University of Los Angeles. Working in the blindness community since 1992 from the time he graduated high school, Richard has worked with blind youth and their families, adults and seniors as well as working at camps for the blind both in Malibu and Ohio.

Richard is a member of the California Council of the Blind and supports the advocacy efforts of the organized blind in grass roots community organizing. Richard has traveled to many countries for both leisure and advocacy awareness expeditions. In 2008, Richard began serving on the board of NCAER and is presently working towards his Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at San Francisco State University.

Sharon Anne Hudson, M.A., COMS, CVRT has been a Rehabilitation Specialist for the Blind and Visually Impaired for 25 years. She received her MA at Western Michigan University in 1983 as a Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind. Then in 1990, she worked full time and attended SFSU to receive her teaching credential as an Orientation and Mobility Instructor. She is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT). Sharon has worked the last 24 years for Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in many capacities including Rehabilitation Specialist, Director of Rehabilitation Services and currently as Associate Director.

Other related activities – Sharon has been a member of our professional organization Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) since 1983, and NCAER's current Treasurer. She became an instructor for the American Red Cross in 1990, and modified the classes for the visually impaired.

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2009 Transition Summit – A Successful Collaboration

By Richard Rueda, Department of Rehabilitation

The third annual Transition Summit took place at Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa from April 24th through April 26th, 2009. The Transition Summit team took 20 blind and visually impaired teens and young adults to the camp grounds. Enchanted Hills is operated by the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired of San Francisco.

The third annual Summit was a direct result of exceptional collaboration among the Department of Rehabilitation's Blind Field Services unit and community partners including the Lighthouse, Society for the Blind in Sacramento and the California School for the Blind in Fremont.

Participants went through 2-1/2 days of extensive team building activities that included learning how to debate, self-presentation in public speaking venues, and learning the art of resume writing as well as how to "ham up" during interviews.

This was the third Blind Field Services sponsored Transition summit; the first was in 2007. Transition age blind young adults traveled from as far as Los Angeles, with the majority residing in the San Francisco and Sacramento areas. They came from a variety of backgrounds and ethnic groups, with several students speaking up to three languages. Many will be the first in their families to attend college.

Nineteen of the 20 participants are presently consumers of Blind Field Services and their Dept. of Rehabilitation counselor sponsored their registration for this enriching workshop retreat. Each year's summit has its own theme. This year's focus was not only employment but also Health and Wellness. We decided to tackle the widespread problems of adolescent and young adult obesity and poor physical fitness. We hoped to help ameliorate these problems, due mainly to sedentary lifestyle and poor eating habits, by providing discussions and a keynote presentation on the topic of making healthy choices, participation in sports and recreation activities and forming good nutrition and eating habits. We had a brief demonstration on Yoga and Rowing and some hiking was included among our several sessions.

To kick off the weekend, we had a keynote presentation Friday evening at the campfire where we heard from Joseph Hamilton, a former Paralympic athlete, who has played Goal ball around the world and has won several medals and awards. Aerial Gilbert from Guide Dogs for the Blind and a world-class rower, who is blind, was also on hand to talk about Guide Dogs as well as her sport. Finally, Meggie Rempe from the Hatlen Center (formerly the Living Skills Center) in San Pablo joined us on Sunday morning to talk to the youths about the Center's post high school program.

As you might imagine, the 48 hour experience in Napa was an exhausting one for staff and students. But it was well worth the funds, staff preparation time, and personal commitment from everyone involved. Students took their participation seriously in all of the activities throughout the weekend. Friendships were forged and a great deal of proactive social skills development and future career planning was facilitated. Some of the students even brought their business attire in preparation for the three-hour mock



interview session we held Saturday night. It also helped that we were out of reach of cell phone coverage!

I bring this brief summary to your desktops so that you know that your student truly invested their time in the Transition Summit and are healthier and enlightened from it. We are already gearing up for the 2010 Transition Summit, which will be held in late April. Again, thanks to the Blind Field Services counselors and community providers for their support.

Note: Our gratitude goes to the following staff and volunteer representatives who participated in the 2009 Transition Summit.

Tony Fletcher and VI Huynh of the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired;  
Michelle Bruns of the Society for the Blind in Sacramento,  
Ann Linville of the California School for the Blind;  
Joseph Hamilton of Sacramento;  
Nancy Yates of San Francisco;  
Aerial Gilbert of Guide Dogs for the Blind;  
And Meggie Rempe of the Hatlen Center for the Blind.

Editor's Note: Thanks also to Richard Rueda, NCAER Board member and the Department of Rehabilitation's Blind Field Services Transition Coordinator for his steadfast pursuit of excellence in transition services.

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The Sally Mangold Seminar Joins Getting In Touch With Literacy

By Liz Barclay

As most readers of AerialView know, and many personally remember, Dr. Sally Mangold was our extraordinary mentor, friend and treasure. Sally was a person whose ideas about braille literacy evolved and deepened throughout her long and distinguished career. It is in her spirit of creativity and inquiry that NCAER remembers and honors her yearly, through its literacy seminar co-hosted with the California School for the Blind (CSB). These seminars, in keeping with NCAER's commitment to high quality professional development, provide professionals in the field the opportunity to hear some of the foremost educators and scholars in the area of literacy development for blind and visually impaired students.

The first Sally Mangold Seminar was held in October 2007 at CSB, featuring Anna Swenson, who shared braille instructional strategies from her book, *Beginning with Braille*. In 2008 the Sally Mangold Seminar featured Cay Holbrook, who presented, *We Teach Reading: Literacy Strategies for Braille Learners*. Both of these seminars were very well attended and participants agreed that Sally would have loved them!

This year, instead of presenting the Sally Mangold Seminar at CSB, NCAER will join efforts with Getting In Touch With Literacy, which will be held from November 12 – 15, 2009. In honor of Sally, NCAER will sponsor one of the keynote speakers, Dr. Ray Reutzel, author and literacy expert, who will speak about reading fluency. This topic has heightened importance for teachers of students with visual impairments since the ABC Alphabetic and Contracted Braille Study found that the study participants lost ground with print reading peers as they became older (third and fourth grades) with regard to braille reading fluency. Dr. Reutzel’s comments about general reading fluency will be pertinent throughout the conference because Sally would agree with Cay Holbrook that “We teach reading!”

We have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Sally as we celebrate literacy this fall, because Getting In Touch With Literacy, a national conference held biennially, is in Costa Mesa, California. More information about the conference can be found at the following website:

www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.com

Sally’s work and memory will be kept alive at the conference and in future Sally Mangold Seminars.

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#### NCAER Spring Seminar – Cultural Competence

By Theresa Duncan

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Spring seminar; you helped the event be a great success! For those of you were unable to make it, here is a short synopsis.

Our meeting at OCB on June 18th started out with an informative and thought provoking presentation by Angela Bau. Through her interactive workshop titled “Providing Culturally Competent Services to Visually Impaired Persons”, Angela provided us with perspectives on how culture and values affect service provision and goal setting for clients. Following her workshop, we learned first hand from clients of differing backgrounds the significant impact culture has on their self image, and self and family expectations. They shared with us what works and what doesn’t when interacting with family and setting goals. We then heard from a panel of professionals who gave us tips on how best to work with clients from varying backgrounds.

The afternoon ended on a high note with a special tribute to Mike Cole who has just retired from his post as Administrator of OCB. Thanks for all you have done for our profession Mike, and enjoy your future endeavors!

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Reluctant Legend: Mike Cole Retires After Nearly 40 Years of Service

By Tony Candela

There were two celebrations of Mike Cole's career this June, one at our NCAER spring event and the other a few days later at OCB. The latter event was graced by a visit and short speech from a legend, Phil Hatlen, long time friend, mentor, and colleague of Mike's.

I introduced Phil, and in doing so, referred to him as the only person in the room who was a greater legend than Mike himself. This was calculated to embarrass Mike who is at best, a reluctant legend. However, since Mike would be loathe for anyone to extol his virtues to excess, I'll let his record speak for itself.

This is what a consummate professional looks like:

- *Graduated SF State 1972
- *Holds a Ba in psychology and VI
- *Earned a teaching Credential from SF State
- *Worked as a Living Skills Instructor at the newly formed Living Skills Center in 1972
- *Became Director in 1982
- *Became Administrator of OCB in 1995
- *Taught at SF State starting in 1980, off and on through 1994 working with Phil Hatlen, Pete Wurzberger, Sally Mangold, and Sandy Rosen

Mike has been involved with just about everyone. He is an Ex Officio Trustee for APH; on CSB's Community Advisory Committee; the Lighthouse Board of Directors where he served as President and chairman of the Program Committee; the Board of Directors of the Hatlen Center for the Blind; the Board of Directors of CTEVH where he chaired and co chaired CTEVH conferences for 1991 and 1997 and was the Program Chair for the 2003 program; and on the Board of NCAER where he served as Vice President, President and Past President.

Mike has also served on a Smith Kettelwell Advisory Committee; the Attorney General's Commission on Disabilities; the BART Accessibility Task Force; various San Francisco State Advisory Committees; the Lions Center Advisory Committee; the Alameda County Accessible Voting Task Force; and the AC Transit Advisory Committee.

Mike is married to Gina and has two adult children: Jamie who also works for the State and Peter who lives in New York. Mike and Gina look forward to lots of years of retirement together, Peter's upcoming wedding, and maybe some retirement work for DOR in behalf of his beloved OCB. (Or is this latter item just wishful thinking on my part, his former boss.)

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## Sam Genensky Dies

By Tony Candela

The father of the CCTV, Sam Genensky, died on June 26, 2009 having survived multiple cardiac bypass surgery 7 years ago and also an interview with this writer in 2004 for an oral history project on leaders and legends of blindness assistive technology. We so appreciated his work that in 2004 NCAER and SCAER purchased a stone in Sam's honor for the American Printing House for the Blind's Wall of Tribute. The stone came with a replica plaque which SCAER presented to Sam shortly thereafter.

Sam kept in touch with me for a few years afterward and never lost his spry and occasionally cantankerous approach to life, something that drove him as a teenager to invent his own binocular low vision device and later, while with the Rand Corporation as a research scientist and mathematician, to develop the prototype that became the first commercially marketed CCTV.

The industry has certainly come a long way since Sam's cathode ray tube monitors and manually focusable and very large cameras. Sam was aware of the progress, reveling, I'm sure in the use of digital technology to make his device so much "smarter."

LaDonna Ringering, Executive Director of the Center for the Partially Sighted in Los Angeles, founded by Sam Genensky and supported for more than 30 years, notified the world of Sam's passing. A recording of my interview with Sam is in the archives of the American Foundation for the Blind in New York.

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Visit to Berkeley

By Tony Candela

Helen Dornbush, the matriarch of low vision services in Berkeley, and Kathleen Anderson, one of the Lighthouse's most experienced O&M instructors run what can be described as an adjustment counseling and self-help group for around a dozen people with low vision. Most of the participants are experienced in life and new to visual impairment. They bring an interesting mix to the table, something I learned directly when I traveled from Sacramento to the U.C. Berkeley campus to spend an hour with them in March, 2009.

I sat at a long conference table, two types of cookies passing from member to member, seemingly lingering at each set of hands including mine. A half dozen cookies, a glass of water, and 60 very fast minutes later, I stood to leave wondering how I'd managed to

answer so many quickly rendered and intelligently piercing questions In so short a period of time.

The group consisted of Mildred, Jimmi, Pat, Mark, Jerome, Fred, Ruth, Anita, Jim, Dolores, Evelyn, and Katherine. Six had macular degeneration, two had diabetic retinopathy, one had Stargardt's, three had glaucoma, and the newest member's condition was unknown to us at the time. Two participants were African American and two were of Asian heritage.

The event was billed as a discussion with Tony Candela on the Department of Rehabilitation for which I work as head of the blindness and deafness division. The first question from a former attorney was, "Which legislative committee do you answer to?" Even though I am a deputy director, I didn't know the answer for it is usually not the case that field deputies talk to the Assembly or Senate, so the best I could do was answer that those committees concerned with health and human services would most likely be the ones interested in what the DOR does.

With an auspicious beginning under my belt, I held my breath as the next question rocketed from the other end of the table. "What is your annual budget?" My fingers and toes sprung into action as I added the sums comprising my 10 or so administrative budgets to the case services dollars allocated my field rehabilitation counselors. "More than \$30 million for sure," I said, but it really makes more sense to talk about the budgets allotted to each of my units, the ones you would be most interested in being the Blind Field Services (BFS) unit and the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) unit. They, respectively, have \$18 million and \$3.25 million allocated to them annually to provide services to vocational rehabilitation and independent living consumers."

"Suffice it to say," I summarized, "if you have a connection to one of my counselors or to one of the agencies in town that has an OIB grant, you will receive low-vision services if you need them."

Then it was my turn to engage the group. "Do you know what we mean by the term 'low vision services?'" Much to my surprise, despite the fact they were at the campus for that very reason, no one answered. Helen Dornbush jumped in. "Of course you do," she chided. "It is the special optometry services you are receiving here." While I leaned back and chomped on an oatmeal raisin cookie, deluding myself into thinking I was being healthy, Helen explained the difference between regular and low-vision optometry. I jumped into the conversation to describe some of the more amazing devices I'd seen including prism lenses for eccentric viewing. "Of course," I added (and the group agreed), "some of these devices are so hard to learn that most people end up putting them in the drawer." This is a long-standing problem in specialty areas like low-vision optometry and explains why over the past 20 years the discipline of Low Vision therapist has emerged on the scene. LVTs specialize in training consumers in how to use and flourish with complex low-vision devices.

I was glad that I was among a group of amiable people who appreciated the effort I'd made to be there. Unlike other experiences in different venues, this group did not barrage me with specific case complaints most of which I end up having to refer to the individual's counselor or supervisor anyway. When I receive these complaints, I always try to help the consumer understand what it might be about our system that is causing the problem and educate them to be a good self-advocate. Woe unto my staff that faces a consumer whom I've trained thus!

Thinking to expand the lesson of self-advocacy, I urged the group, "Remember, most sighted people you will encounter in the world have no clue about blindness and even less about low-vision. They will not perceive you have a visual impairment and, if you tell them you do, they may not believe you." The group nodded vigorously.

"What do you recommend?" asked the attorney, "Should we sue them?"

Chuckling, I said, "No. You would spend the rest of your life in a fruitless effort that you could not afford financially or emotionally." "No," I continued, "It is better to find the right words to say – words that people can understand, such as 'I can't see well.' And hope they will stop and give you a hand."

"Most people simply ignore me," one of the women said.

Taking a deep breath, I plunged into dangerous territory. "That's because, at heart, most non-disabled people would like us to go away."

Kathleen whispered loud enough for all to hear, "They are nodding in agreement and it appears they are breathing a sigh of relief."

Indeed, although sad and disheartening when you first hear it, there is nothing more validating and uplifting than to know that you are not alone in your experience of the world. The fact that someone in a position of authority who also has a disability uncovered the elephant in the room seemed to liberate the group. They became more animated and, to my delight, turned away from me and toward each other. Pats on the back were given, words of recognition spoken, and solidarity in their mission to adjust to the new world in which they find themselves, enhanced.

My work was done and I made a graceful if not speedy exit before I accidentally said anything to undo whatever good I'd accomplished that day!

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Calendar of Events

**August 2009**

**August 23: Georgia Chapter: Midnight Express Road Race to Benefit Visually Impaired** In conjunction with Country's Barbecue, GAER proudly announces

that they will be giving out one **\$1,000 scholarship** this year to qualified college students (both undergraduate and post-graduate) with visual impairments. Please complete the application and submit with all necessary documentation by **July 20, 2009**. Scholarship will be awarded on August 23rd at the Midnight Express Road Race! Visit the Georgia AER website at [gaer.aerbvi.org](http://gaer.aerbvi.org) for details. **Professional Award Nominations** are now being accepted - nominate your peer professional today!

### **September 2009**

**September 11 - 12: Tennessee Chapter Conference** at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The theme is Transition - Transitions for Students, Parents, and Teachers. We are looking for speakers and presenters. Call now to make reservations for lodging at the park (1-800-250-8610). Information regarding conference registration will be available at a later date. In the meantime, for information or inquiries about the conference, email Kim Mountjoy at [tnaerkim@bellsouth.net](mailto:tnaerkim@bellsouth.net).

### **October 2009**

**October 4 -6: SOMA Conference** - Charlotte, NC. Metrolina Association for the Blind will be hosting the 2009 SOMA conference from October 4-6, 2009. The 2009 SOMA conference will be held at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park, 5624 West Park Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217, (704) 527-8000.

Informational and registration materials will be posted on Metrolina's website at [http://www.mabnc.org/news-and-events/news-detail.cfm?news\\_id=54](http://www.mabnc.org/news-and-events/news-detail.cfm?news_id=54) in the near future as more specific details are determined. For questions, please contact Laura Park-Leach (704) 887-5100.

**October 5: Alabama Chapter's 26th Annual Training Conference: "Medical Aspects of Blindness & Low Vision"** at the Drury Inn & Suites Montgomery, 1124 Eastern Blvd., Montgomery, Alabama 36117. Visit the Alabama Chapter Website at <http://www.alabamaaer.com/Conference.html> for full details.

**October 25-27: New York State Chapter Annual Fall Conference: "Where we've been ... What we stand for ... Where we are headed!"**

Albany Marriott, Wolf Road, Albany, NY Toll-free: 1-800-443-8952

Refer to the chapter website at <http://nysaer.aerbvi.org/2009FallConference.htm> for

details. Have a topic that you are interested in presenting to your peers in the vision

profession? Contact Dawn Werner, Workshop Chair: [dawnfw@gmail.com](mailto:dawnfw@gmail.com)

Wish to share your products, buy advertisement space in the program, or offer a door

prize? ContactCarolynn Longuil, Chair - Vendors, Display, and Advertisements:

[cjlong77@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cjlong77@twcny.rr.com)

All other inquiries should be directed to Michelle Ruble, Conference Chair:

[mruble@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mruble@rochester.rr.com), or Sharon Schwalm, NYS AER Chapter President:

[schwalm1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:schwalm1@rochester.rr.com),

### **November 2009**

**Nov. 6: Ohio Statewide Business Meeting-** "AERO - Pulling Together" at J. Liu

Restaurant, Worthington, OH 43085. Early Bird Registration by August 15, 2009. \$25 for AERO Members, \$65 for non-members.

**Nov. 4-6: NE/AER Annual Conference** - Hartford, CT. Information about the conference can be obtained by contacting one of the co-chairs of the conference:  
Sherryl Glinsky – [Sherryl.Glinsky@va.gov](mailto:Sherryl.Glinsky@va.gov)  
Martha Delaney – [Martha.Delaney@va.gov](mailto:Martha.Delaney@va.gov)

**November 6 - 7: Arizona Fall Conference: Find Your Vortex in Sedona, Arizona** - Visit the Arizona Chapter website at <http://azaer.aerbvi.org/> for conference and Call for Papers details.

**Nov. 13-15: AER Regional Conference Featuring COMA's Orientation & Mobility Conference Within a Conference** - Cleveland, Ohio, visit the website. At <http://aerbvi.org/regionalconf/>

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## **2010**

### **March 2010**

**March 24-25: Kentucky AER Conference** - Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Lucas, KY

**March 25-27: Texas AER - TAER Conference** - El Tropicano Hotel, San Antonio, TX. More details to come!

### **April 2010**

#### **April 16-18: 2010 AER-Lift Leadership Training Seminar - Who should attend?**

All AER Chapter and Division Leadership including President, Chair, President-elect, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Presidents, Immediate Past Chairs, Secretary's, Treasurer's, Chapter Board Members-at-large, Chapter and Division Newsletter Editors, Chapter and Division Membership Chairs, and any members who would like to participate in future chapter or division leadership!  
More information will be available soon!

**AER International Conference - July 20-25, 2010** – Little Rock, Arkansas.

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For submissions to the AERial View, contact Tony Candela, [acandela@dor.ca.gov](mailto:acandela@dor.ca.gov), or call 916-558-5822. Next newsletter will be published in July 2009.

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Advertisements

AER Regional Conference 2009
Featuring COMA'S O&M Conference Within a Conference
November 13-15, 2009 - Cleveland, Ohio

AER International Conference 2010
July 20-25, 2010 – Little Rock, Arkansas

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SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY Department of Special Education  
Early Childhood Visual Impairments Project (ECVI)  
PROGRAM IS LOCATED IN BURK HALL, SFSU CAMPUS  
ECVI Project  
Personnel preparation grant funds awarded under the  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to the Department of Special  
Education, San Francisco State University.  
1600 Holloway Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
For program information contact:  
• Amanda Hall Lueck, Ph.D., Professor, Coordinator  
[amandal@sfsu.edu](mailto:amandal@sfsu.edu) /  
(415) 338-1080  
• Summer Hsia, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Coordinator  
[summerh@sfsu.edu](mailto:summerh@sfsu.edu) /  
(415) 338-2502  
For program related information, please visit:  
• Visual Impairments Program  
<http://www.sfsu.edu/~spedcd/vi.html>  
• Early Childhood Special Education Program  
<http://www.sfsu.edu/~spedcd/ecse.html>  
• Students can apply to either program based on interest and career goals

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For program information contact:

At San Francisco State University

Dr. S. Hong

415 338-3430

hong72@sfsu.edu

At California State University, LA

Dr. A. Lueck

415 338-1080

amandal@sfsu.edu

Dr. Cheryl Kamei-Hannan

323 343-6297

cherylkamei@hotmail.com

For more information about the TVI Programs go to the following:

SFSU: <http://online.sfsu.edu/~amandal/viwelcome.htm>

CSLA: <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/ccoe/>

Personnel preparation grant funds were awarded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education ACT (IDEA). Project Participants, upon exiting the program, must maintain employment on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis for a period of at least two years for each academic year, for which assistance was received.