



The AERial View



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

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March 2004

Pat Leader, Editor

From the President's Desk .

Once again, I am pleased to report that our chapter has been successful in providing continuing education for our members. On February 7, the 8th annual Lowenfeld-Akeson Early Years Symposium was held with an outstanding turnout. This collaborative effort with Blind Babies Foundation and the California School for the Blind continues to be a wonderful venue for updating our skills and knowledge of intervention strategies, family perspectives, and medical information. This year, the focus was cortical visual impairment (or insufficiency), with Dr. Bill Takeshita delivering the main address. Other highlights included a parent/educator panel with questions from the audience, and small groups to address various age groups of children with CVI needs. In addition, CAPVI (California Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired) held a meeting. The conference was informative, and well-received by the attendees.

2004 is an election year and an awards year for NCAER. Give some thought to joining our Board and increasing your voice in your organization. Also, consider nominating a colleague in recognition of outstanding service. Look for both "calls" for nominations within this newsletter.

Details of the biennial awards banquet are enclosed. Do not miss this chance to honor your colleagues, and to get together with other NCAER members to recognize accomplishments of the past year!

Stuart Wittenstein, Ed.D.

NCAER President 2002-2004

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Open Board Position
Your Name Here!

Volunteer TODAY! ... or place your name on the ballot for the 2004-2006 term

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Student Representative: Open Position - Will You Join Us?

Spotlight on Excellence

CTEVH Celebrates 45th Year of Excellence

By Stuart Wittenstein, NCAER President

The California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped (CTEVH), in its 45th remarkable year, is a unique organization of professionals. Members include transcribers, both volunteer and professional; educators, including resource teachers, itinerant teachers and Orientation and Mobility Specialists; rehabilitation counselors and counselor teachers; administrators, both school and agency; parents of visually impaired children; librarians; paraprofessionals; students (both those learning to work with visually impaired and those who are visually impaired themselves) and all others concerned with the special needs of visually impaired individuals. A recent census of the CTEVH membership shows that there are over 1300 members. The roster includes 173 life members, although California members predominate (76%), CTEVH's members hail from 47 states, 7 Canadian provinces, and 5 other nations!

The CTEVH purposes are:

- To promote acceptable practices and technology to enhance the total educational program for the visually impaired
- To establish and delineate common transcribing procedures
- To coordinate the work of volunteer and career transcribers

CTEVH provides a forum where the widely diverse membership can share and learn from each other's experience, develop friendships and gain access to the most current information in the field. CTEVH provides regular news updates to members through a quarterly journal (published in print and Braille) and through an annual three-day conference featuring over 80 workshops conducted by speakers of national and international repute regarding the varied interests of the membership. Other services provided by CTEVH include:

- The Katie Sibert Scholarship Fund helps educators receive basic or advanced training courses, and helps transcribers attend the annual conference or enhance their skills through specialized workshops or training sessions.
- The Donna Coffee Youth Scholarship provides funding for a special project from a blind student
- ACCESS, a basic guide to visual impairment resources, which is currently being updated. ACCESS is provided free of charge to 11th and 12th grade students, and is available at a fee to all others.
- Financial support to voluntary groups who do tape recording and braillewriter repairs in institutions.
- Free multi-area workshops to introduce new techniques and technology.

For additional information check out CTEVH's new website: <<http://www.ctevh.org>>

ELECTIONS

Congratulations to us! We have a full slate of individuals nominated for positions as Officers and Board members.

GREAT NEWS

There is still time left to add individuals to the slate. Nominations must be received no later than April 2, 2004. The following is information from the NCAER By-Laws:

BOARD DUTIES

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Chapter shall consist of five officers... and seven members at large, one of which shall be a student representative.

Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. No two offices may be held concurrently by the same person.

Qualifications

Only members of the Chapter with previous experience on the Chapter Board of Directors shall be eligible to serve as Vice-President or President. Any member in good standing will be eligible for any other office.

Terms

The term of office for all Board shall be two years commencing July 1 and ending June 30. No person may serve on the Board of Directors more than four consecutive terms.

Mail Nominations to:

Stephen A. Goodman
500 Walnut Avenue
Fremont, CA 94536

Awards

At our biennial Officer Installation Dinner, we have a tradition of recognizing individuals in our field who have made significant contributions and are deserving of recognition. Our awards have included:

Educator of the Year-Those we have honored as Educator of the Year have demonstrated exceptional commitment and service to the field. They have shown leadership in working with students, families, and colleagues.

Paraprofessional of the Year-Those we have honored as Paraprofessional of the Year have demonstrated commitment and excellence while providing support to students and teachers.

Parent of the Year-Those we have honored have been individuals we have seen as models in advocating for the education of students and supporting programs and who have been role models for others.

Student Scholarship-Our last scholarship was awarded to student for pursuit of further formal education. Scholarships may be used for further education or training.

Awards may be given every two years.

To nominate an individual for an award or scholarship, the Awards Committee must receive a letter outlining qualifications and achievements no later than April 2, 2004. The committee will be responsible for selecting the award recipients.

Nominations should be addressed to:

Stephen A. Goodman
Chairperson, Awards Committee
500 Walnut Avenue
Fremont, CA 94536
FAX (510) 794 3993
Sgoodman@csb-cde.ca.gov

Join the JAC/LIDAC Annual Public Input Meeting on Saturday during the CTEVH Conference. Be a part of change in the field and make your voice heard. Check your CTEVH Conference Program for details.

Call for Participants in Research Survey

The goal of this survey is to identify areas of training interest or need among parents and professionals involved with 0-6 yr.-olds with visual impairment or blindness throughout our diverse state of California. It also seeks to gather tips from each region as to local resources that have been exceptionally helpful. The results of the survey could lead to recommendations for tailored and region-specific in-services, workshops or web-based resources for families and the professionals involved with these children.

The study is based on the knowledge that as members of this profession, we are often scattered throughout the state. In addition, by sharing data, information and resources, we will improve our chances to best serve our students.

Mariah Roberts, Home Counselor with Blind Babies Foundation and Master's candidate at San Francisco State University, under Dr. Amanda Hall-Lueck, will be conducting this needs assessment. The survey is anonymous and free to those participating. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is available in various languages. AER members can help both by completing the questionnaire themselves and/or distributing the questionnaires to those families they serve with children in this age-range. Families will be provided pre-stamped return envelopes and will not be asked any identifying information other than basic demographics.

You are essential to the process of this survey. Thank you for taking the time to help.

Please contact Mariah Roberts at mariahbbf@yahoo.com for further information, and to obtain surveys for distribution to families in your area.

JAC
Joint Action Committee of Organizations Of
and For the Visually Impaired

is sponsoring a reception for CAPVI
California Association
Parents of Visually Impaired

Hospitality Room Suite 1701
Saturday, March 13th 5:30 pm
Following the Annual Meeting of JAC/LIDAC

Calendar of Events

March

12 – 14 - CTEVH 45th Annual Conference to be held in the LAX Marriott. For further information contact CTEVH 323-666-2211

www.ctevh.org/conference.htm.

13 – JAC/LIDAC Annual Public Input Meeting as part of the CTEVH Conference. Held during the last session on Saturday. Check your CTEVH Conference Program for details.

15 – 18 - California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Center on Disabilities' 19th Annual International Conference in Los Angeles, CA. Contact: 818-677-2578; ctrdis@csun.edu or www.csun.edu/cod.

14 – 17 - Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Exposition in New Orleans, LA. For information contact CEC at 800-CEC-SPED or 703-620-3660; web: www.cec.sped.org

15 – 18 – CCB Spring Convention at the Hilton Newark/Fremont Hotel. For reservations call 510-490-8390 or 1-800-445-8667.

22 – Fitting and Prescribing Telescopes is designed to demystify selecting and fitting telescopes for your low vision patients. This hands-on workshop will be held in San Francisco, CA. Call 800-829-0500, or e-mail education@lighthouse.org.

24 – 27 - AERLift, AER's Leadership Training Conference, to be held in Alexandria, VA – Contact AER 877-492-2708

29 – May 1 – National Braille Association Spring Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Website: www.nationalbraille.org

April

14 – 17 – Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Exposition in New Orleans, LA. Contact Program Chair, Scott Sparks at 888-CEC-SPED or www.cec.sped.org for further details.

May

10 – 14 – Guide Dogs for the Blind **Free** Seminar for Orientation and Mobility Instructors, in San Rafael, CA. Contact Leslie Edmonds at 800-295-4050 or ledmonds@guidedogs.com

11 – 13 - Low Vision Therapy Course, in New York, NY. Designed to expand the knowledge of vision rehabilitation professionals. Contact: Lighthouse International at 800-829-0500 or www.lighthouse.org.

21 - NCAER Biennial Awards Banquet, honoring local educators, rehabilitators, parents and volunteers. Further details and location will be announced.

June

1 - Lions Clubs International Helen Keller Day held at various locations throughout the country. Contact: Lions Clubs International 630-571-5466 or the website www.lionsclubs.org

3 – 5 – Conference on Low Vision and Blindness in Infants and Children: special emphasis on CVI. Contact: Department of Continuing Medical Education 412-578-6927 or wphcme@wpahs.org.

5 – JAC Meeting to be held in Northern California, from 10:00 – 4:00. Meeting location will be announced at a later date.

8 – 18 – China-U.S. Conference on Educating Students with Special Needs, in Beijing, China. Sponsored by CEC, Global Interactions and the China International Conference Center for Science and Technology. Contact: Global Interactions 602-906-8886 or by email: <educ@globalinteractions.org>

10 – 13 – Guide Dogs for the Blind **Free** Seminar for Orientation and Mobility Instructors, in San Rafael, CA. Contact Leslie Edmonds at 800-295-4050 or ledmonds@guidedogs.com

23 – 27 – 107th Annual American Optometric Association Congress, in Orlando, FL. Contact AOA703-739-9200 or the website <www.aoa.org>

29 – July 5 – NFB Convention at the Marriott Marquis, in Atlanta, GA. Contact NFB at 410-659-9314 or www.nfb.org.

July

3 – 10 – ACB National Convention at the Sheraton, in Birmingham, AL. Contact Cynthia Tower at 800-424-8666, or the website <www.acb.org>.

13 – 18 - AER International Conference, “Where Dreams Come True,” to be held in Orlando, Florida at the Hilton, Walt Disney World. Contact Barbara Sherr, CMP, at AER, toll free 877-492-2708 ext. 201.

The AERial View is now distributed electronically. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail (we have obtained e-mail addresses from central office), please advise Pat Leader, Editor, 408-266-6163 or pleader@comcast.net, and we will send you a print copy. If central office does not have your e-mail address, or it has changed, please send it to the above e-mail address. Thanks for helping NCAER to reduce paper waste and save on mailing costs!