

# NE/AER NEWSLETTER

## Northeast Chapter

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

website: [www.neaer.umb.edu](http://www.neaer.umb.edu)

*The Northeast Chapter Newsletter is published 3 times a year by NE/AER: Nancy Milczanowski, Editor;  
Lisa Pruner and John Reilly, Printing and Email Distribution; Cindy Reed-Brown, Stamping and Mailing*

### **President's Message:**

*Hello Members of NE/AER!*

*I am writing this greeting (at the end of March) wondering where is spring? I hope everyone survived the long winter! I am looking forward to the warmer weather! Your board of directors met at the Carroll Center on March 7, 2014. See board meeting summary for details.*

*I wanted to provide everyone with an update on our chapter as I know this is a major concern. All financials from 2008-present were compiled and sent to the accountant. The accountant and lawyer report that they are working together and hope to submit to the IRS within the next couple of weeks. I contact them weekly as we are all very eager to facilitate the IRS submission. In January the IRS recognized that private non-profits, like ourselves, were still struggling with the process of becoming re-instated. They have extended their deadline and have made some additional allowances. We are optimistic about these changes! Once the application is with the IRS we will eagerly await their reply. I will keep the chapter posted as things progress. I will send any updates via e-blast. Please feel free to call me or email me with any additional questions.*

*This will be my last newsletter as president. I will transition to past president on July 1, 2014. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be president of NE/AER. I want to especially thank the board of directors for everything they do.*

*Thank you!*

***Kelli M. Jarosz, President***

*Northeast Chapter /AER  
2013-2014*

#### ***Officers:***

***President: Kelli Jarosz ([Kelli.jarosz@va.gov](mailto:Kelli.jarosz@va.gov))***

***President-elect: Bernadette Kern  
([Bernadette.Kern@va.gov](mailto:Bernadette.Kern@va.gov))***

***Past President: Sherryl Glinsky  
([Sherryl.glinsky@va.gov](mailto:Sherryl.glinsky@va.gov))***

***Secretary: Yvonne Locke ([Yvonne.locke@ct.gov](mailto:Yvonne.locke@ct.gov))***

***Treasurer: Faith Horter ([Faith.Horter@ct.gov](mailto:Faith.Horter@ct.gov))***

#### ***Board Members-at-Large:***

***Laurie Anderson***

***Paul Barber***

***Kerry Clifford***

***Rishi Connelly***

***Adele Geringer***

***Lauren Goldsmith***

***Aisha Hixon***

***Chris Jarosz***

***Mary Quinn***

***Meg Robertson***

#### ***International District 4 Representative:***

***Tim Hindman***

#### ***Committees:***

***Awards and Recognition: Donna Mitchell***

***Bylaws: Cammy Holway-Moraros***

*Continuing Education: Kimberly Stumph  
Legislative: Kathleen Turner  
Membership: Nancy Druke  
Newsletter: Nancy Milczanowski  
Nominations: Cindy Reed-Brown  
Recruitment, Training and Retention:  
Kathy Clarrage*

*Student Representative:  
Nalida L. Besson*

*Division Chairs:  
VR and Employment: Tim Hindman  
Multiple Disabilities/BD/Infant/Preschool:  
Gail Johnson, Dennis Gallant, Mary Quinn  
Psychosocial Services: Adele Geringer  
Information and Technology: Drew Metzger  
Low Vision: Mimi Flanary, Donna LeBlanc  
Orientation and Mobility: Claudia Libis  
Education Curriculum and Itinerant Personnel:  
Catherine Summ, Cheryl Brown  
VRT/Aging: Cammy Holway-Moraros  
Personnel Prep: Laura Bozeman*

#### *From the Recruitment and Retention Committee:*

*THEY'RE FINALLY HERE!!! The brand-new, hot off the press recruitment brochures for O&M, TVI, VRT, and LVT are waiting for you to view & print/distribute to any and all who might want to learn about the wonder of our fabulous professions! Merely go to [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) and you too can view/print as many copies as you need (\*in color or black/white).*

*We here in NEAER are so "cutting edge", I'd actually contacted National AER a while back regarding the professional brochures and was put in touch with Audrey Dannenberg (retired O&M & VRT) who has made it her business to work with AER on recruitment! Audrey was thrilled to learn that NEAER ALREADY had a recruitment/retention committee contact...this is her next step with AER...to get/find a contact in every chapter/state that would be willing to help pull the recruitment efforts forward and to know their local universities that have special ed/rehab programs that we could tap-into/make a contact with.*

*NEAER is always so cutting edge...Proud to say I'm from here! Stay tuned for more exciting news and in the meantime, please view, print, and distribute!!*

*Kathy Clarrage,*

*Recruitment/Rentention Committee Chair*

*\*\*\**

#### *District 4 Representative's Report*

*Highlights of the AER Board of Directors Meeting, February 7&8, 2014:*

*AER Financials: 2013 was a good year with 86K + by the end of the year due to the VANDA Pharmaceutical (their non-24 hour sleep disorder drug just recently approved by USDA) donation and the O&M conference in New Orleans. Although this is the first time since 2007 that AER has 21K in assets, ideally we should have six month's reserve, which would be 500K or more. Membership is down 1.4% from last year but division numbers are up, probably due to the O&M conference. There is a Membership drive set for June and the fall. The Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee is charged with developing a network of committee liaisons at the chapter level to work on establishing and tracking volunteers within the chapter who are doing presentations/vendor fairs, etc. aimed at recruiting individuals into the vision professions. Recruitment fliers for general use are now on the website.*

*AER Database: AER office staff worked with the accessibility committee and two companies, ASGI and JL Systems, were recommended. ASGI would cost 100K. JL Systems would have annual costs of 22K with up to 7.5K each year for support. AER also has had positive experience with JL Systems who are supporting the current system. For any sections that are difficult it is believed there are “workarounds”. With accessibility in mind and striving for the best system we can afford, the Board voted to enter negotiations to purchase a new database system with JL systems.*

*Canadian Report: There are 109 current Canadian members. There are 594 lapsed members. Closer attention needs to be paid to them to enhance AER connections. Since Mohawk College closed in May 2013, University of Montreal has not taken over the teaching program. A program is being developed in English for September 2014, but it is not a diploma program. The University of British Columbia teaches O&M instruction. The Northern US state chapter chairs could try and reach out to enhance Canadian attendance at chapter conferences.*

*Licensure: NYVRA and ACVREP agreed on a licensure bill that was sent to legislation in New York. It is occurring right now and things look positive for passage. Carl Augusto- AFB, Nancy Miller-NYVRA, Garrett Holmes-ACVREP all deserve our thanks for all their hard work. The CCP Chair, Matt Hogel, is working on a procedures manual on licensure for other interested states to use.*

*International Chapters: AER needs to discuss the direction it wants to take to consider the possible benefits and drawbacks of establishing international chapters. New Zealand has 32 AER members and a group in Australia has 20 members all potential chapter members. Possible questions AER needs to consider: What are pros and cons of individual members versus chapter? How would it be organized? What would we offer? When do we offer a board position like in Canada? Follow up discussion on International Chapters will take place at AERLift.*

*2014 International Conference: AER’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be celebrated at the conference and a logo has been created. Five different pre-conferences are being discussed: McFarland, AERLift, Fitness (Liebermann) UEBC (and a learning lab during the conference) and Trekker-Breeze. A possible tour at the San Antonio Lighthouse is also being considered. Sessions will include technology, sleep disorders, licensure, O&M, accessibility, Multiply Handicapped, low vision and aging. There isn’t a post conference planned at this time. Ronnie Millsap will give the opening. There will be time for division meetings and Town Hall for chapters, at which awards and recognitions would occur. The McFarland Seminar is considering the topics of recreation & leisure skills and prosthetic vision. The location for the 2016 International Conference will be announced.  
(cont’d on page 4)*

\*\*\*

### ***Report of the District 4 Representative (cont’d)***

*O&M Division: Overall, the New Orleans O&M conference was a great success. The AER board approved exploration for a potential O&M conference in 2017. Several Division position papers needed to be updated (There are no longer O&M assistants, there are out-of-date citations and language isn’t person first). The following 6 position papers were presented to the Board, accepted, and will be posted on the website.*

- 1. Teaching O&M in a Naturalist Environment*
- 2. Teaching Street Crossing at Signaled Intersections*
- 3. University Trained O&M Specialists*
- 4. Use of Visual Occlusion in O&M Training*
- 5. Teaching O&M in Individual and Group Lessons*
- 6. Teaching Street Crossings at Streets and Lanes with No Traffic Control*

*The University Review Committee: This committee requested a change in the status of the University Review Committee from an ad hoc committee to a standing committee of the association. The Board approved the process to show it is committed to the university process and licensure. This action will involve a by-laws change.*

*The next AER Board meeting will take place May 2-3, 2014. Strategic planning will be a major focus. Please send your issues, questions or concerns before that time to [Timothy.Hindman@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Timothy.Hindman@doe.nh.gov).*

*Timothy Hindman, District 4 Representative*

*From the Continuing Education Committee*

*Sustaining Braille Proficiency: This is an independent, self-paced study designed to help dedicated vision professionals maintain their skills with the Literary and Nemeth Braille Codes.*

<https://www.nercve.org/professional-development/sustaining-braille-proficiency>

*AER International Conference 2014 - Celebrating AER's 30th Anniversary*

*Jul 30 – Aug 3, 2014*

*Grand Hyatt - San Antonio, TX*

*List of CEU web resources*

<https://www.nercve.org>

<http://www.perkins.org/professional/ptc/>

<http://carroll.org/online-courses/>

<http://www.hadley.edu/hspas.asp>

<http://mangold.aerbvi.org/index.htm>

*Kimberly Stumph, Chair*

\*\*\*

### *Division reports*

*Division 2: Rehab Counseling, Business Enterprise Program and Employment Services*

*Division 2 continues its plans for updating the division website to include a link to the International Division 2 site. Transition and employment-themed links and articles will also be posted.*

*Timothy Hindman, Chair*

*Division 15: Aging*

*As a reminder, I have created a NE/AER division list serve of sorts. If you are a member of this division and have not been receiving my emails, please email me at: [cmoraros@theiris.org](mailto:cmoraros@theiris.org) and indicate that you would like to be added to the list. If you have questions about receiving these emails even if you are not a member of this division, email me and we can “talk” about this option.*

*Cammy Holway-Moraros, Chair*

*Division 16: Itinerant Personnel*

*Division 16 is planning on doing a pre-conference related to consultation skills at the 2015 NE/AER conference. This is a pre-conference topic that was generated by the division members at one of our annual meetings. We have a tentative speaker planned who is knowledgeable in this area and we are excited to address this high interest topic as a pre-conference.*

*Catherine Summ, Chair*

### *NE/AER Board of Directors Meeting Summary, March 2014*

*The NE/AER Board of Directors met on March 7, 2014 at the Carroll Center in Newton, MA. The secretary's report and all of the treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted by the board.*

*The process continues to move forward with our tax exempt status. The accountant has all of the information needed to submit to the IRS. Account feels they will be able to submit to the IRS by April 1, 2014. Once the documents are filed we are on the IRS timeline (which could be 6-12 months).*

*Kathleen Turner and Claudia Libis reported on the NE/AER Fall Conference. The conference was a success. Participants responded favorably to both the location and the sessions.*

*In addition, Rishi Connelly reported on a new initiative to increase the communication with the membership. Chris Jarosz will be working with Rishi to develop means to use current technology for member benefits. Several ideas are being explored as this is in the beginning planning stages. More information will be forthcoming.*

*As noted previously, NE/AER will not be hosting a 2014 fall conference while we are in the process of resolving our status. At this time, a 2015 conference is being tentatively planned at Sea Crest in Falmouth, MA November 3<sup>rd</sup> through November 6<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming as the conference is confirmed and planned.*

*Yvonne Locke, Secretary*

*\*\*\**

*News from Connecticut Childrens' Services:*

*We would like to make our BESB BUZZ parent newsletter available to families outside of the state of Connecticut. Our fall edition, available now on our website ([www.ct.gov/besb](http://www.ct.gov/besb)), features several articles that may be of interest to NE/AER members and parents from other states including orientation & mobility tips, information on helpful apps, and recent/ongoing field trips.*

*Please feel free to link our newsletter to your website or put an announcement on your website to direct readers to our newsletter. To view our newsletter, go to [www.ct.gov/besb](http://www.ct.gov/besb), click the "ENTER SITE", scroll down to "BESB DEPARTMENTS" and locate "Children's Services", then click on "Children's Services Newsletters". You will see the latest version listed first and can also view past issues by clicking on them.*

*Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information about the BESB BUZZ newsletter.*

*Nieves Sauerbrunn, Jan Erikson, Co-Editors*

*From Camp Inter-Actions*

*A traditional summer camp for boys and girls ages 8-15, who are blind or visually impaired. Through challenging and rewarding experiences the campers will make new friends, learn new skills, gain self-confidence, and develop independence. All program activities are designed in a safe and fun environment for children who are blind or visually impaired.*

*Camp Inter-Actions is located on 200 acres with secluded shorefront on a crystal clear pond. Campers and their counselors sleep in screened cabins. Camp activities include; music, swimming, boating, fishing, adapted sports and games, arts and crafts, pottery, woodworking, camping, nature activities, leadership skills, and daily living skills. All activities are incorporated into fun-filled days!*

*Counselors-In-Training ages 16-18, will have a daily schedule similar to the camper schedule. In addition to their regular camp activities, they have daily responsibilities to help gain self esteem, a positive work ethic, problem solving skills, and safety awareness. CIT's serve as role models for the younger campers.*

*2014 Camp Sessions*

*One-Week Session:*

*July 20-July 26, 2014*

*Tuition: \$700*

*Two-Week Session:*

*July 27 -August 10, 2014*

*Tuition: \$1,200*

*Three-Week Session:*

*July 20-August 10, 2014*

*Tuition: \$1,675*

*Scholarship information available upon request.*

*For a registration form and additional information please contact:*

*Debbie Gross*

*Inter-Actions*

*909 Islington Street, Suite 7*

*Portsmouth, NH 03801*

*603-319-6120*

*[campinfo@inter-actions.org](mailto:campinfo@inter-actions.org)*

*[www.inter-actions.org](http://www.inter-actions.org)*

