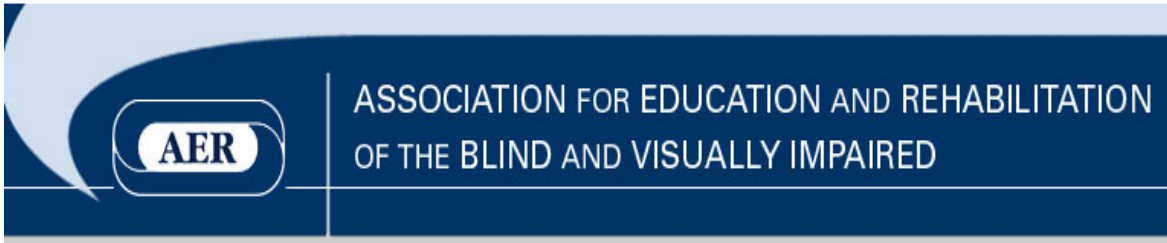


The Arkansas Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

February 2008 Newsletter

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The Arkansas Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

February 2008 Newsletter

P.O. Box 7248

Sherwood, AR 72124

www.ARAER.org

Notes From Our Chapter President

Jo Ellen Croft

This is an exciting time for our Arkansas state chapter of AER! For those of you who may not have received the news, Arkansas has been selected as the site for the 2010 AER International Conference. Colleagues from around the nation and world will be gathering in Little Rock for several days of training sessions, networking opportunities and, of course, Arkansas hospitality. This is indeed an honor for our state chapter.

Why was your Arkansas Chapter chosen over others who desired to host the conference? Simply stated – because we have a strong, active chapter that is nationally recognized. Every organization is a reflection of its membership. Although we have a relatively small membership compared to other chapters, our members are dedicated to high standards for their professional organization. This commitment to excellence has garnered national recognition for our chapter, as we continue to strive to meet the ever-changing needs of all our members.

What an outstanding time to be a part of AR-AER! Have you allowed your

membership to lapse? I encourage you to reintroduce yourself to AER. Have you never joined AER, your leading professional organization in the field of visual impairment and blindness? I encourage you to become involved with our organization and let us be a support to you in your chosen profession. Whether you have been in this field for a long time or are just beginning, take advantage of the opportunities to participate in AER through annual conferences, professional trainings, membership on one of our committees, or even running for a position on the board. AER has a lot to offer, but only if you take advantage of it.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express what a great pleasure it has been to serve as your president these past two years. My life has been enriched on both a personal and professional level as a result of my experience. It has indeed been an honor to represent such an exemplary chapter. I look forward to seeing each of you at our annual conference in May at the North Little Rock Wyndham.

Life Transitions

DSB Director Jim Hudson

Jim Hudson, the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Services for the Blind, passed away suddenly on Saturday, November 24, 2007. He served as the one and only director of the division of Services for the Blind since 1984. After achieving a Bachelor's Degree in Social work from ASU in Jonesboro, and a Master's from the University of Arkansas, he worked tirelessly on behalf of those who were blind or severely visually impaired as well as other disabled people in our state and across the country.



Mr. Hudson was the first chairman of the Arkansas Board of Social Work Registration and served as the Governor's advocate for the developmentally disabled in Governor David Pryor's and Governor Bill Clinton's administrations. He served as Executive Director of Advocacy Services; served several terms as the president of the National Federation of the Blind of Arkansas; and he was a member of the National Association of Social Work.

He was a classically trained musician, and played keyboards with Little Joe and the BK's Band. He also played part-time for many years at the Flaming Arrow Supper Club in Quapaw Towers.

Condolences have been received from all over the nation, and hundreds of expressions of grief from consumers whose lives he changed forever. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at St. Edward's Catholic Church where DHS Director, John Selig read a proclamation sent by Governor Beebe honoring Mr. Hudson's lifetime service.

The Division of Services for the Blind Board appointed Mrs. Katy Morris as Interim Director and voted to begin accepting applications for the permanent position in 3 months. As Interim Director, Mrs. Morris pledged to move forward on a number of initiatives Mr. Hudson had pending and to pursue these plans toward the goals for services to our consumers that Mr. Hudson had put in place. A Memorial Table was on display in his honor at the December DSB Board meeting to reminisce on his many accomplishments as DSB Director. He will be missed!

AER Social Committee

Sharon Niemczyk, Social Committee Chair

The AR-AER fall social was held on Thursday, October 18th at Burns Park. Many of you remember that AER rented the Eldor Johnson Pavilion last year, but the weather did not cooperate for an outdoor social. The park allowed AER to cancel the social, and gave us the option to use the pavilion another time. This year the weather was beautiful and we were able to hold the social as planned. Over 20 members and guests were in attendance and it was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship. There was lots of good food, including hot dogs generously donated by ASB. To top it all off, there was a special 60th birthday cake for Bill Johnson. It was quite a celebration! Please join us at our next social on Monday, May 12th during the annual conference.

2008 Annual Arkansas AER Chapter Conference

Looking Good and Feeling Good with AR-AER!

Kathy Brown and LeAnn Nannen, Conference Committee Co-Chairs

The AR-AER Conference committee is working hard to plan a spring event full of excellent professional development as well as opportunities for networking within our field and having fun.

The Arkansas State conference this year will again be held at the beautiful Wyndham Hotel in downtown North Little Rock. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on May 12 and 13 for “Looking Good and Feeling Good with AR-AER!”

This year, we have a very exciting motivational keynote speaker, Emma Lee. There will be hands on sessions for both Rehabilitation and Education Vision professionals, numerous technology vendors, panel discussions, and much more. Be sure to plan to attend the “State of Our State” continental breakfast, Tuesday morning, to hear all the exciting news our agencies from across our state have to share about the 2007-2008 year and what lies ahead for each. Representatives from the Arkansas School for the Blind, Lions World Services for the Blind, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Division of Services for the Blind, The University of Arkansas at Little Rock O&M, VRT and CRC

departments, and The VA will speak. Do not miss the annual business meeting on Tuesday morning, the fun-filled social Monday evening, or the awards luncheon at the conclusion of the conference on Tuesday afternoon. (Details about each award and how to nominate a candidate to be an award recipient are included in this publication.) A registration form is also included in this publication or can be downloaded from our web page at www.araer.org.

Continuing education credit will be offered to members of the Academy for the Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, ACVREP. If you have questions regarding your ACVREP CE hours, contact Lis Geoghegan at Lgeoghegan@asb.k12.ar.us or 501-454-1554. Also, most schools allow educational and administrative staff to use AR-AER conference training hours toward required ADE professional development hours. (Consult with your supervisor regarding documentation of this training for ADE.)

Please feel free to contact LeAnn Nannen, 501-766-0018 or Kathy Brown, 501-247-1192 the Conference Committee chairs for further information. We look forward to seeing you in May.

AR-AER CONFERENCE 2008 Registration Form

Looking Good and Feeling Good with AR-AER

Wyndham Hotel, North Little Rock

May 12 – 13, 2008

Name: _____

School or Agency: _____

Email Address: _____ When did you join: AER _____ AAWB _____

_____ Please check here if you will need ACVREP CE credit for the conference.

Registration Fee:

Pre-registration (Before April 15, 2008):

Member: \$70.00 _____ Non-member: \$90.00 _____ Student/Retiree: \$25.00 _____

After April 15, 2008:

Member: \$80.00 _____ Non-member: \$100.00 _____ Student/Retiree: \$35.00 _____

Conference Materials:

I would like to receive conference materials in the following format: (choose one)

Standard Print _____ Braille _____ Large Print _____ CD _____

_____ Please check here if you would like an orientation to the hotel when you check in for the conference.

_____ Please check here if you would like an orientation to the meeting area.

_____ Please check here if you need a sign language interpreter.

_____ Please check here if you need assistance at the buffet line.

_____ Please check here if you do not give your consent to have any photographs of you taken at the conference to be included in future AER publications or web site postings.

Special Needs: If you are entitled to any special needs as defined by the ADA, i.e. interpreter, and you opt to forego AR-AER providing this accommodation, attach a signed and dated written waiver clearly stating your decision. If you decide you do need special accommodations, please contact Lis Geoghegan at 501-454-1554 or lgeoghegan@asb.k12.ar.us. **IF SPECIAL NEEDS ARE TO BE MET THEY MUST BE CONVEYED BEFORE APRIL 1, 2008.**

Please mail your completed registration form and payment (checks made payable to AR-AER) to:

**Luanne Blaylock
3 Hornrimme Court
Maumelle, AR 72113**

For additional information, please contact:

Luanne Blaylock	501-831-6300	leblaylock@yahoo.com
Lis Geoghegan	501-454-1554	LGeoghegan@asb.k12.ar.us
Kathy Brown	501-447-7424	kkmbrown@sbcglobal.net
Leann Nannen	501-871-8035	nannen@sbcglobal.net

Important Fundraising News

Luanne Blaylock, Treasurer

Your fundraising committee is back in the swing of things again! As everybody knows, raising money is an important activity for all non-profit organizations...without funds the loftiest mission goes unfulfilled. It is always challenging to find the right project for your organization. When looking for a fundraising project that will generate the most bang for the buck an organization must consider the number of people available to do the work, how much time it will require, how much return is gained from time spent, and any expense required to launch the project.

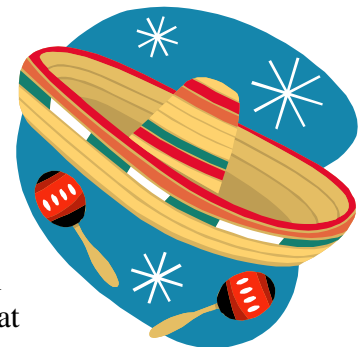
Every year your Fundraising committee looks at these issues when deciding on what projects to undertake. For the last 7 years our chapter has held an annual prize drawing as our “big” moneymaker. This drawing has yielded an average \$5000 in profit for chapter use with an average expense of only \$200. Of course all monies raised go directly into our treasury and are available for scholarships and professional growth activities. The steady increase in our treasury balance over the past 7 years is due primarily to the success of our prize drawing. Over the years we have collected a number of generous patrons who donate items annually giving us a core of prizes to start with. The committee has considered other ideas as our primary moneymaker and rejected them because they did not meet the needs of our organization: too much chapter expense required, too much time needed, etc. The Fundraising Committee

considered all these factors again this year and decided that the annual prize drawing is a good fit for our chapter. It has become an annual event that many folks ask about and look forward to.

Many of you know this, so you ask, “Why is she telling us this?” The answer is simple: AR AER needs each of you to make this prize drawing a continued success. Last year tickets were distributed to several folks yet only a few sold most of the tickets. If each of us commits to selling the 40 tickets we get think of the possibilities! Our chapter is fortunate to have so many talented, dedicated people supporting it...so much that we were given the honor of hosting the 2010 International AER Conference! This will be an exciting opportunity for our chapter and one that will require money on the front end for making the necessary preparatory arrangements. So I ask all members to renew their efforts this year to help make this year’s drawing another success. We have already begun collecting prizes so if anyone has something they would like to donate or has an “in” with some business and can get us a prize please let me know. If you have a good idea and feel uncomfortable contacting a source, call me and one of our committee members will be happy to do it. Thanks to all of you who read this. I will do everything I can to help make our chapter’s moneymaking endeavors a success!

El Fundraising

Thanks to everyone who participated in the El Chico Fundraising event on February 4th. It was a great success and good fellowship. AER will be receiving a check soon for 10% of the evening’s earnings. It was so much fun that we may try to do this again in the future. Also, we are currently working with Lighthouse for the Blind on a design for a new AER t-shirt. Look for them at the conference in May! AER hoodies are also still available. Contact Luanne Blaylock at leblaylock@yahoo.com for more information.



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

International Conference - July 22-27, 2008

At the Marriott Chicago Downtown, Chicago, IL
Contact AER Central office for additional information.

www.AERBVI.org

(703) 761-4500 or (877) 492-2708



**Register by April 18th for the Early Bird rate and
save up to \$100!**

Preliminary Program

The 2008 International Conference, to be held July 22-27, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, is shaping up to be one of the best conferences ever. You won't want to miss it! The program is in the process of being developed. Here is some preliminary scheduling:

Tuesday, July 22
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
MacFarland Seminar

Wednesday, July 23 Division Day Activities
Orientation & Mobility Conference within a Conference begins
AER Opening Ceremony and reception
Exhibit Hall opens (evening)

Thursday, July 24-27
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
All Conference Programming

Need Help Paying for the International Conference Expenses?

Scholarships may be available to AER members to help defray the costs of attending the International conference this summer. Scholarships will be awarded based upon the availability of funds in the AR AER treasury. Applications should be submitted to the Scholarship Committee for review.

Contact Jo Ellen Croft, AR-AER President, for additional information.

- Total maximum amount available: \$1000.00
- Maximum amount available per person for international conference is the price of registration fees.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1. The person must be an active member of AER for at least 1 year.
2. One of the following criteria must also be met:
 - a. The person must have been a previous board member.
OR
 - b. The person must have been an active member of an AER committee.
OR
 - c. The person must have actively participated in AER in some other related area.

Update from Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

Kara Aaron

After 28 years of service as Visual Impairment Service Team Coordinator for the VA in Little Rock, Buddy Spivey retired and Kara Aaron was hired. Any honorable discharged veteran in Central Arkansas who is legally blind or functional visually impaired and eligible for VA health care is eligible for VA Visual Impairment Services. Please contact Kara Aaron if you have any questions at kara.aaron@va.gov or 501-257-5070. Her office is in the Little Rock VA around the corner from the eye clinic on the first floor.

The VA currently offers eligible veterans hearing aids, low vision exams with Dr. Harper, low vision magnification devices, blind rehabilitation prosthetics including reading machines, and even an auditory device to read VA prescription bottles. In 2008, the VA plans to open a new Advanced Ambulatory Low Vision Clinic in North Little Rock. A Certified Low Vision Therapist and a Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor will be hired to provide up to a week of training to veterans with low vision.

Guests from NIB and DSCP Help Open Navy T-shirt Line

Bill Johnson, Executive Director

Officials from the National Industries of the Blind (NIB) and the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) joined employees of Lighthouse October 29 to mark the opening of a new manufacturing line and the creation of additional jobs at the Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind.

“The Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind shines as an example to all organizations in our country who work diligently to promote employment and independence for people who are blind and visually impaired,” said NIB President and CEO Jim Gibbons.

Gilbert Montoya, Deputy Commander of the DSCP– which annually buys over \$12.4 billion worth of food, clothing, textiles, medicines, medical supplies and construction equipment items for the U.S. armed services – enthusiastically praised employees of the Lighthouse for their production not just of T-shirts for the Navy, but of T-shirts, nylon supply belts and Bandoleer pouches for the U.S. Army.

The new line will produce navy cotton T-shirts for the U.S. Navy. Start-up plans for the new U.S. Navy T-shirts include

production of 20,000 shirts a month for the first three months of 2008 at a contracted amount of \$187,000. Afterward, production should move to 40,000 U.S. Navy T-shirts per month.

The Lighthouse already produces about 60,000 T-shirts a month for the U.S. Army; so the plant will be manufacturing about 100,000 shirts per month for armed services personnel beginning in second quarter of 2008. This will create an estimated 62 full time employment opportunities for individuals in Central Arkansas with 65-70% direct labor being visually impaired

Board members and community visitors including Jim Hill, Superintendent, Arkansas School for the Blind; Sharon Berry, Principal, Arkansas School for the Blind; Jim Hudson, Director, Division of Services for the Blind; Ramona Sangalli, Executive Director, Lions World Services for the Blind; Art Stokenbury from the office of U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor and Mike Coulson, CEO of Coulson Oil also attended the festivities.

AER Membership: Why Join or Renew?

Charlene Ware, Membership Chair

Our chapter membership remains steady at approximately 90 members. We lose a few and gain a few. A goal of the AR-AER board is to have at least 100 members and to increase the active involvement of all of its members.

As members, I hope you will all tell others about AER. It is because of our members that we are able to offer an annual state conference that is vital to keeping our

organization going because of the social and professional development it offers.

If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed, please contact Charlene Ware at Cware@lwsb.org, 501-664-7100 or the AER central office at www.AERBVI.org for more information.

For your convenience, the AER Membership application is on pages 9-10 of this newsletter.

Educational Services for the Visually Impaired

Barbara Kemp, Educational Vision Consultant

Educational Services for the Visually Impaired is proud to be providing regional workshops for Teachers of the Visually Impaired and other staff who work with blind and visually impaired children. Two workshops have been presented this school year. The one and one-half day workshop in September was called Tools for Teachers and was held in Little Rock. The one-day December workshop, Tools in the Toolbox, was presented at the Harrisburg Educational

Co-operative. Both workshops were well attended. ACVREP credit was issued for several of the workshop hours.

It is our plan to continue these workshops in other areas of the state as a convenience for those who live so far away from the Little Rock area. More workshops will be held during the second semester of this school year. The dates will be posted on the ADE/SPED website.

News from the AER International President

Sandy Ruconich, AER International President

I'm writing to let you know that the special election for AER President-Elect is now over. We had a record participation rate of over 31%; a more typical response for this kind of special election would be between 12% and 18%, so Executive Director Jim Gandorf and I are thrilled with our members' interest in the leadership and future of AER! We attribute this active participation to the resurgence in AER's membership numbers as well as to the quality of both candidates who ran for this office.

I'm delighted to announce that John Kelley is now AER's President-Elect, soon to be President (July 2008). I look forward to his participation on the International Board of Directors and to his liaison work with AER's committees and task forces.

Thank you to all who cast ballots in this special election. May our future elections continue to display the caliber of nominees and member participation so evident during this vote!



Association for Education and Rehabilitation Of the Blind and Visually Impaired

1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 440 • Alexandria, VA 22311-1744 • (877) 492-2708 • (703) 671-4500 • Fax (703) 671-6391
aer@aerbvi.org • www.aerbvi.org

AER Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in AER! We look forward to your active membership. To apply, complete the six sections of this form and return it to AER. Your AER membership automatically qualifies you for chapter membership. Division memberships have a modest additional charge. Membership is non-transferable.

Application Date _____

1. PERSONAL DATA (Please print. Provide home and/or work info) **Contact Preference Home Work**

Name (___ Mr. ___ Ms. ___ Dr.) _____

Home Mailing Address _____

Home City _____ State/Province _____ Zip + 4/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Home E-mail _____

Organization (if applicable): _____ Title: _____

Work Mailing Address _____

Work City _____ State/Province _____ Zip + 4/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Work Phone _____ Work Fax _____ Work Toll-Free _____

Work E-mail _____ Web site _____

Your Primary Occupation _____

2. MEMBERSHIP DATA (Check the appropriate membership category. All funds are in U.S. dollars.)

_____ **Regular Member** (\$135/year) - A full-voting membership open to anyone living in the U.S. or Canada, and includes all AER periodicals and *JVIB* on-line.

_____ **International Member** (\$135/year) - A non-voting membership open to persons living outside the U.S. or Canada, and includes all AER periodicals and *JVIB* on-line.

_____ **Same Residential Household Member** (\$109/year) - A voting membership open to an additional member residing in the same residential household as a current AER member. The household receives one copy of all AER periodicals and *JVIB*. Provide the name of the AER member residing in same household _____

_____ **Retired Member** (\$60/year) - A voting membership for anyone who has retired from a career in the field. *JVIB* online is available to this membership category for an additional fee of \$15.

_____ **Support/Clerical Member** (\$60/year) - A voting membership category for individuals who are working in positions of paraprofessional or clerical support. This category does not include *JVIB*.

_____ **Student Member** (\$60/year) - A full-voting membership open to students in the U.S. or Canada, and includes all AER periodicals and *JVIB* on-line.

- University/College attending _____
- Expected graduation date _____

_____ **Transition Member** (\$105/year) - Upon graduation, current student members are eligible for a one-year Transition Member category, which provides the same member benefits as the Regular Member category.

- Date graduated _____

_____ **Associate Member** (\$60/year) - A non-voting membership category for anyone who is not employed in the field or is preparing for employment in the field. Includes *AER Report* and access to *AER Job Exchange* only.

Office use: Date Rec'd. _____ Member ID _____

US/intlapp1-08

LABEL POLICY: AER occasionally rents our mailing list to organizations that provide services or products that may be of interest to members. If you **do not** want your name released, please indicate by checking here _____.

3. PUBLICATIONS (Please select format)

AER members receive three publications free with their membership. Please indicate the type of format you want for each of these publications.

AER Report (quarterly) _____ Print _____ Braille _____ CD (text) _____ E-mail

AER Journal (quarterly) _____ Print _____ E-mail

JVIB* (monthly) _____ Online _____ Print (extra fee applies)

*Current qualified members may purchase a print subscription to *JVIB* at the discounted price of \$35/year (USD). Include additional fee below for subscription.

4. DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

AER has 13 Divisions that support and represent discipline-specific interests and are open to membership at an additional fee. Visit www.aerbvi.org for more information about Division missions and activities. If you wish to join multiple Divisions, check one or more boxes below and add the fee(s) under Investment Calculation.

- _____ \$10 – Administration (Div. 1)
- _____ \$10 – Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling & Employment Services (Div. 2)
- _____ \$10 – Multiple Disabilities & Deafblind (Div. 3)
- _____ \$10 – Psychosocial Services (Div. 4)
- _____ \$10 – Information & Technology (Div. 5)
- _____ \$10 – Low Vision (Div. 7)
- _____ \$10 – Infant & Preschool (Div. 8)
- _____ \$10 – Orientation & Mobility (Div. 9)
- _____ \$10 – Education Curriculum (Div. 10)
- _____ \$10 – Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (Div. 11)
- _____ \$10 – Division on Aging (Div. 15)
- _____ \$10 – Itinerant Personnel (Div. 16)
- _____ \$15 – Personnel Preparation (Div. 17)

5. CALCULATE YOUR INVESTMENT

AER Membership Dues	\$ _____
Chapter Membership	\$ _____ Free
Total Division Dues	\$ _____
Add \$35 for JVIB Print Subscription	\$ _____
Retired members add \$15 for online <i>JVIB</i> , if desired	\$ _____
Total Amount Remitted	\$ _____

6. PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to AER for \$ _____
 - Please charge _____ VISA _____ or MASTERCARD \$ _____
- (Note: Credit card funds will be charged in U.S. dollars)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name (please print) _____

Cardholder Address _____

Signature _____

If paying by check or money order: **Mail to: AER, 1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 440, Alexandria, VA 22311-1744.**
If paying by credit card: **Fax to (703) 671-6391**, mail to above address, or call (877) 492-2708 or (703) 671-4500.

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing the application. For more AER membership information, call toll-free (877) 492-2708, ext. 202, or (703) 671-4500, ext. 202, visit www.aerbvi.org, or e-mail aer@aerbvi.org.

Mark your calendar for the AER International Conference, July 22-27, 2008, in Chicago.

Office use: Date Rec'd. _____ Member ID _____

US/intlapp1-08

Professional Development

Ronnie Hallsell, Professional Development Committee Chair

Please keep your eye out for upcoming fliers regarding a professional development opportunity that will be officially announced very soon. In April, Calvin Churchwell and Craig Phillips will present “Changes in Environmental Access Issues for a Visually Impaired Traveler” at Lions World Services for the Blind in Little Rock.

Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Leonard Ogburn

On the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 A.M. retirees of the blindness field get together for lunch at the Brave New Restaurant.

Members of the lunch bunch are Nell O'Neal, Leonard Ogburn, John Ed Chiles, Judith and Ray Stewart, Diane Woolly, Helena Ward, Roy and Carolyn Nash, Ernestine Jones, Virginia Battles, and Mary Ann Tomlin.

The Brave New Restaurant, located at 2300 Cottdale Lane, Suite 105 in Little Rock, is a superb space with a deck that overlooks the river. The food is great, portions huge, prices reasonable and with AER friends to dine with, what else could you ask for?

Anyone is welcome to join the group. Contact Leonard Ogburn at 501-834-8311 or suog03@sbcglobal.com for more information.

Nominations Needed

Barbara Kemp, AR-AER Nominations Committee Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 AR-AER elections. All agencies are encouraged to nominate employees in order that the chapter Board represents our entire state's vision field. We rely heavily on the active participation by our retired members as well. Nominations are now being accepted for secretary, treasurer, President-Elect and five at large board positions.

All AER members are urged to consider running for the AER Board in the spring of 2008. It would be a wonderful opportunity for you to get to

know and work with AER members from other agencies across the state. You have the ability to make a difference and bring new ideas to our state chapter. Arkansas AER has an excellent reputation nationally. Arkansas has been chosen to host the International AER Biennial Conference to be held in Little Rock in 2010. This will be an exciting time for our Chapter and a chance for you to make a contribution to the success of our state organization.

Please send your nominations to Barbara Kemp at barbarak@esvi.org or call 501-835-5448.

Arkansas School for the Blind

Sharon Niemczyk, Fifth Grade Teacher

This year at the Arkansas School for the Blind, it is "The Year of the Master Teacher." When the staff met together to begin preparing for a new school year, we heard a presentation by superintendent, Mr. Hill, entitled, "The Year of the Master Teacher. Each week we are given a pamphlet to read over. Each pamphlet discusses a different topic and they are designed to help the teachers and in turn help the students. We at ASB are striving to offer our children an excellent education so that each child can reach his or her potential.

The students at ASB came back enthusiastic about beginning a new school year. We welcomed new staff and students and this seems to be shaping into a great year.

In the area of athletics, we are pleased to report that our boys and girls track seasons went well. Recently, we have been celebrating an exciting opening to a highly competitive wrestling season. Nobody in the state is more excited about Arkansas high schools adding wrestling back as a competitive sport. We offer wrestling, track, cheerleading and swimming. The excitement felt when ASB students are competing is electrifying.

Very recently, Homecoming was a wonderful time spent with staff, students, parents, alumni and the community! The festivities kicked off with the crowning of the king and queen and a pep rally, then gave way to a cold, but wonderful parade and culminated in an enormous wrestling meet where 18 schools participated.

Our ASB "family" was pleased to honor the memory of student Harry Arteburn, at the homecoming coronation ceremony. Sadly, Harry, an ASB junior, loved by all, unexpectedly passed away this January. He will be sorely missed by all of us, but the ASB homecomers proudly wore "Remember Harry, '08" stickers to honor him at the events.

Our babies program is growing. The consultants in this area keep the road hot, by providing direct services to babies and preschool aged children in their homes and preschools. We still have parents bring in their babies to the ASB campus every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Some important dates for you to remember are:

Talent Show:
Thursday, February 28, 2008

Spring Concert:
Thursday, March 22, 2008

6th Grade Graduation:
Thursday, May 29, 2008

Graduation: Friday,
May 30, 2008

Alumni Weekend
Friday, May 30- Sunday, June 1

Watch our website for more information:

www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org/

At ASB we believe that when you have a great staff and a great group of kids it has to be great!

Lions World Services for the Blind 2007 Overview

Submitted by Shelby Brewer

This year has been full of outstanding achievements and new beginnings for the staff and clients at Lions World Services for the Blind. In our 60th year, we have successfully upheld our mission of preparing individuals who are blind and visually impaired to function independently and to live full, productive lives in today's sighted society.

During fiscal year 2007, LWSB has helped build new lives for 285 blind and visually impaired adults from around the world. Since we opened our doors in 1947, we have served more than 9,200 people from all 50 states and 58 foreign countries. The number of clients we serve continues to grow as the need for our comprehensive services grows.

Listed below are just some of the highlights of 2007:

- Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe declared June "Lions World Services for the Blind Month" in Arkansas in honor of LWSB's 60th anniversary.
- LWSB received a \$700,000 bequest from the estate of the late Mildred Bryson Lang, the single largest donation ever received.
- LWSB provided training for two individuals from Iraq, who were both blinded as a result of the war in Iraq.
- LWSB was named "Organization of the Year" by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's College of Professional Studies.
- LWSB launched a new and improved website. The site is still at the same address, www.lwsb.org, but it now offers the ability to donate online and it's easier for users to navigate.
- World Services for the Blind Foundation, a fundraising arm for LWSB, held the first ever Sidney McMath Lifetime Achievement Award luncheon. The fundraiser honored Dr. Mary Good, founding dean and Donaghey Professor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology. First Lady of Arkansas Ginger Beebe presented the award to Dr. Good. The event was a success, raising \$55,000 for the training and rehabilitation programs at LWSB.
- LWSB started an alumni association, which will give graduates the chance to network, support LWSB, stay up-to-date with new happenings, and get back in touch with old friends. Scott Jones, a graduate of LWSB, will serve as chair.
- LWSB's President and Chief Executive Officer, Ramona Sangalli, was named a finalist in the Nonprofit Executive of the Year category of the 20th annual Arkansas Business of the Year Awards. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony on February 26.
- Although LWSB is still years away from moving to its new location in downtown Little Rock, progress is being made every day on the campus campaign to raise funds for the construction costs. The estimated cost for construction is \$31 million.
- LWSB started an art class for clients, which is taught twice a week by an art student from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The class is part of LWSB's recreational program.

Who Are You and What's the Best Way to Reach You?

Lis Geoghegan, Newsletter Chair

Every year we strive to update our database of addresses for our AER members and for those working in our field that are not yet AER members. We use electronic communications to contact most of our members. We also send materials via U.S. post to those members who do not have e-mail addresses. The fact that you are reading this publication is evidence that we are reaching at least some of the professionals in our state. Our goal is to be certain that we are not missing anyone, who should be part

of our contact list. You can play a vital role in spreading the word about AR-AER. Please pass this publication and other AER information you receive to your colleagues and associates who might benefit from having it. Go ahead and share it; they may already have it or you may be the one who gets them connected with the field. To update your information, please contact Lis Geoghegan via e-mail at LGeoghegan@asb.k12.ar.us or by phone at 501-454-1554.

Lighthouse for the Blind: Executive Director's Report

Bill Johnson

The Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind experienced a significant increase in total sales during fiscal year 2006-2007 with actual sales of \$6,820,093 exceeding budgeted sales for the fiscal year by 23%. The increase in sales was primarily in Government Sales and specifically in the Apparel Department with the Moisture Wicking T-shirt for the US Army leading the way with over 60,000 T-shirts produced each month, and some months reaching as high as 70,000 in production.

The US Military Equipment Belt production also increased during the year and exceeded expected sales levels. 121,156 equipment belts were sold in Fiscal year 2007.

The ALB produced line of Skillcraft paper products continues to be steady with General Services Administration orders holding at projected levels. A significant increase in paper product sales was recorded in Base Supply Store sales as well as Multiple Award sales. Liberty Office Supply

continues to serve our Federal customer base with 2006-2007 sales of \$588,601.

The mission of the Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind is to provide blind and visually impaired individuals the opportunity to improve their quality of life and independence by providing employment. During FY 2006-2007 fifty two (52) blind or visually impaired workers were employed by ALB and received a competitive wage while producing quality products. In addition to wages earned, ALB also provided Health, Dental and Life insurance as well as paid Holidays, Personal Time Off and 401K benefits.

During this past year ALB received three awards from the National Industries for the Blind for employment growth, retention and upward mobility.

The Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind blind/sighted direct labor ratio ended the year at 76% blind and 24% sighted.

Support Group for Parents of Students with Special Needs
in the Bentonville School District

&

Arkansas NAPVI

Presents:

A Parent Training Series

Featured Speaker: Lynn Donald
Family Resources Coordinator
Arkansas Support Network

Topic #1: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): The Law and Students'/Parents' Rights

When: Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Time: 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.
Where: The Sunshine School – Community Room
3400 N. Woods Lane
Rogers, AR 72756

Topic #2: The IEP Process

When: Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Time: 6:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Where: The Sunshine School – Activity Room

Please RSVP to:

Dave Bushland, Arkansas_napvi@earthlink.net or 426-0605
Amy Williams, scottandaj@gmail.com or 899-6165

Congratulations to the following 2007 AR-AER award recipients:

J Max Woolly Award:	Sharon Niemczyk
Joyce Ogburn Award:	Judy Jewell
Tom Phifer Award:	Kara Aaron
Bill Tomlin Scholarship:	Joanna McCauley
Arkansas Distinguished Advocate (Business):	Conway County Center for Exceptional Children
Arkansas Distinguished Advocate (Individual):	Dave and Patty Bushland (AR-NAPVI)
AR Wall of Legends:	Bill Tomlin

AR-AER Awards

Judy Jewell

The Arkansas AER Awards Committee presents awards on an annual basis to recognize outstanding professionals and advocates within the field of blindness and visual impairment. Nominations for each of the following awards and scholarships are considered: APH Hall of Fame Legends, J. Max Woolly Award, Joyce Ogburn Award, Tom Phifer Award, Arkansas Distinguished Advocate Awards and the Bill Tomlin Scholarship. The criterion for each award is listed below. Please note that the APH Hall of Fame Legends is a recently established honor, which must be voted on by the entire AR-AER Board. Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2008 awards, which will be presented at our annual state conference on Tuesday May 13, 2008. Nominations and support letters will be accepted through April 15, 2008. Nominations for Hall of Fame must be received by March 1, 2008. All correspondence should be sent to:

Judy Jewell
AR-AER Awards Committee Chair
Arkansas School f/t Blind
2600 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72203

J. Max Woolly Award

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of work for people with visual impairments. The award may be given to an AER member for the following reasons:

1. Efforts far in excess of those of similar professional rank.
2. Professional excellence or accomplishment and outstanding achievements in one's own profession.
3. Personal intervention, which has directly helped a visually impaired client who was classified as difficult with the assistance changing the client to a successful orientation.
4. Research or literature accomplishments.
5. Development of a new technical adaptation or strategy that will benefit the consumer.
6. Accomplishments in the area of organization of and for the blind.

This award is not necessarily given each year, but only when the awards committee feels it has been earned. Nominations should refer to the specific criteria met by the nominee and should be accompanied by letters of support. Letters of nomination must be from current AER members.

Joyce Ogburn Memorial Award

The Joyce Ogburn Memorial Award is dedicated to the memory of Joyce Ogburn, a teacher at the Arkansas School for the Blind from 1971 to 1985. The dedication she showed to her students, school and colleagues was an inspiration to all who knew and worked with her. This award is meant to inspire others to walk in her footsteps and will honor only those who aspire to her ideals. The award will be made when deemed appropriate by the AER Awards Committee on the basis of the following:

1. Nominations may be made by AR-AER members only.
2. Recipients must be AR-AER members.
3. The recipient must be an instructor/teacher of visually impaired persons.
4. The award will be presented to a person who had rendered outstanding service in the field of education or rehabilitation of the visually impaired as demonstrated by:
 - a. Willingness to work beyond usual job requirements;
 - b. Concern for individual needs of students or clients
 - c. Involvement in professional organizations;
 - d. Dedication to the highest professional ideals.

Tom Phifer Award

This award is in recognition of Tom Phifer, an Arkansas rehabilitation counselor who worked tirelessly to improve and enhance employment opportunities for persons who are blind and visually impaired. The award is to be given to an individual working in the field of blindness who has made significant contributions toward the independence of blind and visually impaired persons living in the state of Arkansas. Contributions may be made in the following areas:

1. Professional excellence or accomplishment in the area of rehabilitation teaching or vocational rehabilitation.
2. Utilization of new strategies, techniques, or equipment to achieve the independence goals of individuals with visual impairments.
3. Promotion of a positive image for potential employment of individuals who are blind and visually impaired.
4. Promoting the transition of persons who are blind or visually impaired into an independent lifestyle.

Recipients of this award must be members of AR-AER and the award will only be given when an individual with significant merit is nominated. Nominations must refer to specific criteria and should be accompanied by letters of support. Letters of nomination must be from current AER members.

Arkansas Distinguished Advocate Awards (For Groups and Individuals) ("ADAA Boy Awards")

These two awards are designed to honor individuals and organizations, groups, or businesses outside our "traditional" professional field. Contrary to other established awards, these will be announced prior to the state conference. The criteria for the awards are as follows:

1. Nominations for either award can come from any source.
2. Awards recipients are NOT limited to citizens of Arkansas or AER members.
3. The nominated person or group must demonstrate outstanding contributions to the dignity, independence and/or advancement of persons who are visually impaired in Arkansas.
4. The person or group efforts should benefit Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired.

APH Hall of Fame Legends

Guidelines for the AER Board to place individuals on the Hall of Fame Legends Wall at American Printing House for the Blind:

1. The AR-AER Board will vote on who should be honored for the Wall of Legends Plaque.
2. The Honor will not be a yearly award, but will be made at the discretion of the Board.
3. The dollar amount to be paid for the plaque will be determined by the AR-AER Board
4. Any AER member in good standing may submit a nominee to a current AR-AER Board member.
5. Board members may also nominate individuals for this award.

Criteria: In order to be considered for this nomination the chairperson of the Awards Committee should verify the following:

- The nominee must have been retired from his or her primary work in the field of vision for at least five years.
- The nominee's career should have been for at least twenty-five years in duration in the education or rehabilitation fields.
- A nominee should have been a twenty-year active member of AEVH, AAWB, or AER (combinations of these organizations is acceptable).
- An active member is an individual who has attended or presented at state and international conferences on a regular basis, has served on committees, held an office, or served on the Board of AEVH, AAWB, or AER.

**Bill Tomlin Scholarship Award
Application Form
Page 1 of 3**

This award was established by the Arkansas Chapter of the Association for Rehabilitation and Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AR-AER) to honor the memory of long time AR-AER member and past-president Bill Tomlin. A monetary award will be made each year to a student who is blind or visually impaired and who will be enrolled in a post-secondary educational or vocational training program for the 2008-2009 school year. Funds will be awarded for the purchase of textbooks, specialized materials or adaptive equipment. The award this year will be in the amount of \$1,000.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applicant must be legally blind and enrolled or planning to enroll in a post-secondary or educational program.
2. Applicant must currently be a legal resident of the state of Arkansas.
3. Applicant must submit a signed application with required supporting documents to the AR-AER Awards Committee Chairperson by April 15, 2008.

Personal Data:

Name: _____ **D.O.B.:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____

Other: _____

Cause of Visual Impairment:

Visual Acuity:

**Bill Tomlin Scholarship Award
Application Form
Page 2 of 3**

Method of Reading (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Braille | <input type="checkbox"/> Recordings | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Print | <input type="checkbox"/> Live Readers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If other, please explain _____

Educational Background:

Current or most recent school or training facility attended:

Name of School:

Address

Proposed or Current Field of Study:

Cumulative Grade Point Average, if applicable _____
(Based on four point scale)

Submit Application and Materials to:

Judy Jewell
Awards Committee Chair
Arkansas School for the Blind
2600 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72203

**Bill Tomlin Scholarship Award
Application Form
Page 3 of 3**

Supporting Documentation

References: Two letters of recommendation from instructors/counselors at schools or facilities, which you have attended.

Autobiography: Include no more than one to two type written pages listing personal goals, perceived strengths and needs, hobbies, honors, extra-curricular activities, achievements, etc. If you have decided upon a field of study or a particular area of training, indicate why you are interested and your reasons for choosing that particular field of endeavor.

Transcript: A certified transcript of your grades from the school you are presently attending, or have most recently attended if applicable.

Conditions for Award

- 1. Proof of acceptance from applicant's choice of post-secondary training site is required before the monetary award can be made.**
- 2. Scholarship recipients will be notified of the award prior to the annual state AR-AER Conference. Public announcement and acceptance of the award will take place at the conference awards luncheon, May 13, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.**
- 3. Monetary awards will be made by AER directly to the post secondary educational or training facility indicated by the applicant. Awards may also be paid directly to specified vendors or agencies for the purchase of adaptive equipment.**

Applicant's Signature:_____ Date:_____

Two Giants Entered the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field in the 2007 Induction

The Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field, founded in 2001, is housed at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in Louisville, Kentucky. The Hall, which belongs to the entire field of blindness, is dedicated to preserving the tradition of excellence manifested by specific individuals through the history of outstanding services provided to people who are blind or visually impaired in North America. The Hall is guided by a nine member Advisory Board.

To date, forty outstanding professionals who made significant contributions to the field of blindness in the recent and distant past have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. Now joining those legends is the Class of 2007, made up of two remarkable individuals who were inducted in October at a ceremony that was held in conjunction with APH's 139th Annual Meeting of Ex Officio Trustees and Special Guests.

Charles F.F. Campbell (1876-1935)

Charles Campbell led the development of modern vocational rehabilitation for blind adults through the establishment of work stations that demonstrated to blind people and the public the many and varied jobs that could be done without sight. In 1907, he launched a journal which has become the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness, and he led the creation of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) to continue the journal and to take on other projects of national significance. He then persuaded Helen Keller to dedicate her life to the support of AFB.

"While I was still at Radcliffe College, his eloquent pleadings convinced my teacher and me that there was something we could do to better the condition of the adult blind."

-- Helen Keller, 1936

"The modern conception of work for the adult blind throughout the entire country owes more to his inspirational, vivacious initiative than to any other single factor."

-- C. W. Holmes 1936

Everett "Butch" Hill (1943-1994)

Dr. Hill's significant contributions to our body of literature include his work in spatial positional concepts, preschool orientation and mobility, and the classic textbook: Orientation and Mobility Techniques: A Guide for the Practitioner, co-written with Purvis Ponder. For the last 14 years of his life he served as Professor at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University where his teaching and mentorship of O&M practitioners was legendary. As recognition to his competence in this area, he received the first Outstanding Teaching Award from Peabody in 1986.

"In his all too short 28 years with us, he single-handedly accomplished what he set-out to do when he entered the field of O&M, which was to heighten the awareness and recognition of the field of O&M by creating a well defined base of research literature."

-- George Zimmerman

"Through his early work on concept development with children who were congenitally blind, Dr. Hill helped to build the bridge between the approach to the systematic delivery of orientation and mobility training as it was developed for adventitiously blinded adults and O&M services for congenitally blind children."

-- Rick Welsh

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<p>President-Elect Bill Johnson Executive Director Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind bjohnsonalb@arkansaslighthouse.org Work: 501-562-2222 Home: 501-227-7221 Cell: 501-416-5358</p>	<p>Bob Connell Division of Services f/t Blind Bob.Connell@arkansas.gov arkrazorbkar@yahoo.com Work: 870-534-4200 Ext. 221 Cell: 501-337-2589</p>	<p>Charlene Ware Membership Chair Coordinator of Rehabilitation Teaching and Low Vision Lions World Services for the Blind cware@lwsb.org Work: 501-664-7100 Home: 501-565-4390</p>
<p>Past President, Parliamentarian Social, 2010 Host Chair Sharon Niemczyk, COMS Fifth Grade Teacher Arkansas School for the Blind sniemczyk@asb.k12.ar.us Work: 501-296-1810 Home: 501-315-0738 Cell: 501-231-5115</p>	<p>Bill Jacobson Political Action Chair University of Arkansas at Little Rock whjacobson@ualr.edu Work: 501-569-8505 Home: 501-224-8925 Cell: 501-247-4049</p>	<p>Diane Woolly Retired, ASB woolly@windstream.net Home: 501-664-4435 Cell: 501-804-4436</p>
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	<p>Minnie Raspberry DSB – Pine Bluff minnie.raspberry@arkansas.gov Work: 870-534-4200 Ex. 228</p>	