



## Message from the President

October 2018



As we look forward to November and celebrating Thanksgiving, it is appropriate to say “thank you” to everyone who worked to make our annual conference a success. Thanks to all who attended the conference. In addition, we owe our award winners, Lou Moneymaker and Don Koors, our gratitude for their many years of service to our field. Finally, thank you to the many vendors who supported our conference and provided the wonderful door prizes.

The Board and Program Committee are already planning our 2019 conference. The upcoming conference will have several exciting changes. We hope these changes will revitalize interest in participating in the conference. Our membership Committee is active and exploring ways to attract new members and reach out to students in the field. The Finance Committee is getting organized and will prepare a budget to present at the next General Membership Meeting. Thank you to all the members who volunteered to serve on these committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me.

On behalf of the In-AER Board, thank you for your continued support of IN-AER. Most importantly thank you for all you do to promote, develop, and improve all phases of education and rehabilitation of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Best Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,

Char Maternowski-Paul,  
President, IN-AER

## **New Website...Check it Out!**

Same name, new great website. The chapter has been working to revamp the website and make it work better for you. If you have content you would like to see on the website, let us know. Email us at [inaercommunications@gmail.com](mailto:inaercommunications@gmail.com)

You will find newsletters, past award recipients, meeting minutes, and any information you need to know about Indiana AER Chapter. To see our new website you can go to <http://in-AER.net>

## **IN-AER Navigating Together**



Lonnie Bedwell  
Blind Extreme Sports Athlete  
Photo Courtesy of  
<http://www.lonniebedwell.com>

The 2018 Indiana AER conference, IN-AER Navigating Together, was a success. Thank you to all the presenters, attendees, and vendors for joining us for another year of successful conferences. From the presenters providing us all with new and helpful information, to vendors with the new and up to date products, and those that put their time and expertise to make it a successful conference, we appreciate all the support. Thank you to Lonnie Bedwell for his words of inspiration for us to thrive as professionals in the field of blindness and low vision, as a community, and also as individuals. His story of trials and triumph inspired us to look within and to do something bigger and “riskier” to change the way other perceive the world.

A big congratulations to Lou Moneymaker and Don Koors. Your dedication to serving people who are visually impaired and supporting fellow professionals has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your attention and your service!

## **Mark Your Calendars**

The Indiana AER Chapter has already begun the preparations for the 2019 Indiana AER Conference. Be on the lookout for more conference details as they become available.

## **Become A Member**

There are benefits to becoming a member. If you know someone in the field that isn't a member, here are a few perks!

- Discount to the IN-AER Conference
- Discount to national and international conferences
- Access to professional development
- Access to current and past publications
- Access to fellow professionals in your state, region, and occupation
- ACVREP credit
- Advocacy at local and national levels
- Low cost professional insurance

Most importantly, we support change and progress for our students and clients with visual impairment!

## **\$75 off For Membership**

Join or Renew Today and Receive a \$75 discount! Offer Good until 12/01/2018.

Thanks to a generous offer from Barbara McCarthy, former AER President and longtime AER member, you can receive a \$75 membership discount if you renew by telephone and provide the promotional code BMC! All individual membership levels are welcome to take advantage of this offer. Act quickly: **promotion ends December 1, 2018.**

Some restrictions apply.

**Call 703-671-5874** to join or renew today! Provide the promotional code BMC. Offer not valid with mail in, faxed or online membership processing.

## **What's happening**

### **AER Board Meeting**

Next board meeting is Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:45p

### **Committee Meeting**

Membership Committee will meet on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:45p

Program Committee will meet on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:45p

Note that Indiana AER meetings are held at Bosma Enterprises, unless otherwise noted.

Bosma Enterprises  
7225 Woodland Dr  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

All are welcome to attend meetings. As well, meeting notes and reports can be found at the Indiana AER webpage: <http://in-AER.net>

### **Other Events**

#### **International O&M Online Symposium**

January 30-February 1, 2019

To learn more, go to <https://www.orientationandmobilitysymposium.com>

#### **Connecting the Dots 2019 Vision Conference**

##### **Basic Information**

February 14, 2019 to February 15, 2019

Chicago Marriott Naperville

Naperville, Illinois

##### **More Details**

The Illinois AER Board invites you to mark your calendar for the 2019 Vision Conference. Our theme this year is “Connecting the Dots”. As a professional community we are always “Connecting the Dots” through collaboration and sharing knowledge.

Jennifer Duncan, Program Chair, at [ilaer2019@gmail.com](mailto:ilaer2019@gmail.com)

## **From Grief to Empowerment**

By Jill Pangle

When becoming a first time parent, I imagined in my mind all the fun and most memorable things that I would do with my child. I imagined playing basketball in the backyard with him, toting around the 50 kids to make it to soccer practice on time, and sitting at the kitchen table tearing my hair out trying to teach him algebra! Life changes as a parent when you learn that your child has a disability. That you, as a parent, cannot change it to make life a little easier for that little one.

In 2011 I became a parent, and in 2012 I became a parent of a child with a disability. The trajectory of our lives was forever changed. My son was diagnosed with Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, blindness, and I could not change anything about it. I'd be a liar if I told you I wasn't scared or a little angry at that time. I still feel it now and again.

As a parent it's hard to cope with the grief of losing everything that you expect, and now the new and difficult obstacles to come for your child. I've been living with a child with blindness for almost 7 years (3 of those year was with a second bundle of blessing, his sister), and it's still difficult. No matter how long you live with it, it is still difficult.

As professionals, we have to remember that our clients, our student, and the parents and family members that come with them can continue to grieve in some way. We as professionals need to have the empathy to meet our clients where they are at in this process. We can provide information, access to support, and help provide a greater understanding of how a client or student can live as a capable and independent person. Grief isn't always linear, we don't always progress in sequence, and sometimes we revisit some of the steps. We can take those stages of grief to make empowered people and encouragement to change the way other perceive a person with visual impairment or blindness, and see abilities instead of disabilities.

I cannot thank the number of people I have come into contact with, contact that has helped me to use my grief to empowering other; some with a gentle push, some with a little patience, and with a few brief words of kindness. Don't pity, don't be sour, rude, and impatient. Let's help teach others that blindness is not a curse or plague; it's an opportunity to teach others that individuality comes in many different shapes and forms.

How do you help to empower your clients and students? What type of supports and information do you give to help in the grieving process? Let's continue this discussion on our social media.



## **IN-AER Awards**

Do you know someone deserving of recognition for their hard work in the field? Now is the time to start making that list for nominations. Nominate someone that you feel is deserving and he may be recognized for his efforts in making a difference and change in the field.

- Outstanding Professional Award
- Outstanding Employer Award
- Outstanding Volunteer Award
- Outstanding Student Award
- Outstanding Parent Award

Go to <http://in-AER.net> to obtain documents for nominations.

Submissions can be sent to [inaercommunication@gmail.com](mailto:inaercommunication@gmail.com)

## **Past Award Recipients**

### **Outstanding Professional Award**

2018 Lou Moneymaker  
 2017 Becky Smallwood  
 2016 Kathy Nimmer  
 2015 N/A  
 2014 John Trueblood (Education)  
 Dr. Richard L. Windsor (Rehabilitation)

### **Outstanding Employer Award**

2018 N/A  
 2017 N/A  
 2016 N/A  
 2015 N/A  
 2014 N/A

### **Outstanding Volunteer Award**

2018 Don Koors  
 2017 Lions International & Lions of Indiana  
 2016 N/A  
 2015 N/A  
 2014 N/A

### **Outstanding Student Award**

2018- N/A  
 2017- N/A  
 2016- N/A  
 2015- N/A  
 2014- Jesse Hinshaw

### **Outstanding Parent Award**

2018- N/A  
 2017- N/A  
 2016- N/A  
 2015- N/A  
 2014- N/A

## 2018-2020 Board Members



From left to right, front row: Kristi Hughes, Becky Deerr, Char Maternowski-Paul, John Trueblood, Marsha Egan, Katrina Anderson  
Back row: Bianca Gerena-Perez, Jill Pangle, Tommie Roesch

President Elect: Becky Deerr

President: Char Maternowski-Paul

Past President: Kristi Hughes

Secretary: Tommie Roesch

Treasurer: Marsha Egan

Member at Large: Katrina Anderson

Member at Large: Bianca Gerena-Perez

Member at Large: Jill Pangle

Member at Large: John Trueblood

We are thriving to provide quality professional support and development to the Indiana AER Chapter members, so that we can better teach and assist our students and clients to be self-sufficient, independent, and successful in present and future endeavors.

**Hot AER is published by the Indiana AER Chapter (IN-AER).**

If you have suggestions or articles for inclusion in Hot AER please submit them by December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to: [inaercommunications@gmail.com](mailto:inaercommunications@gmail.com)