



## **Message from the President**

**March 16, 2020**

Your IN-AER has been very busy since our annual conference. The biggest development involves our next conference. We have been discussing how to improve the conference and increase attendance. Our discussions have centered on why there are two conferences each year, sponsored by different organizations, that seek to attract Vision Professionals. This Fall we approached Project PASS of Indiana State University about the possibility of offering one joint conference. After months of discussion IN-AER and Project PASS have agreed to cosponsor a joint Vision Conference. The IN-AER board is very excited about this opportunity. The conference will be held at I.S.B.V.I. on October 26 and 27, 2020. This conference will retain the features of our conference that our members are accustomed to such as the awards, keynote speaker, vendors, the opportunity to network with Vision professionals from across the state, outstanding sessions on a variety of topics and the ability to earn CEUs from ACVREP. IN-AER will be offering a track of speakers of interest to O&M Specialists, Rehabilitation Teachers, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Low Vision Specialists. Project PASS will offer sessions of interest to Teachers of Students who are Blind or have Low Vision. More information will follow as the details are finalized.

If you would like to be a part of our Program Committee, please contact Char Maternowski-Paul at [inaer2018@gmail.com](mailto:inaer2018@gmail.com). The Program committee meets regularly since it is responsible for organizing and hosting the conference. If you have a suggestion for a topic or speaker for the upcoming conference, please contact any Board member. We hope to finalize our lineup of speakers before the summer.

We are reviewing our By -Laws and have found some areas that need to be updated. If you are willing to serve on the By-Laws Committee, please contact Krysti Hughes at [inaer2018@gmail.com](mailto:inaer2018@gmail.com).

This Spring we will have an election to fill all the positions on the Board. The Nominations Committee will be sending a Survey Monkey on April 4, 2020 for members to nominate officers and board members. If you know someone who would be willing to join the Board or if you are willing to serve our chapter as an officer or board member, you can offer your services by completing the survey monkey. The Nominating Committee will contact all nominees to confirm they are willing to be placed on the Ballot. The Survey Monkey Election Ballot will be sent to members in mid-April. Please take the time to complete these surveys. The Board meets once a month as a full board and most committees meet as needed, about three times per year.

Board News:

Becky Deerr, our President-Elect, informed the Board that she was resigning her position, effective immediately in early December and would not assume Presidency in July 2020. Becky has relocated out of state. She served our chapter as the Secretary and most recently as President-Elect. Her primary responsibility as President-Elect was to chair the Program Committee and the Board especially appreciates her efforts in this endeavor.

Finally, I hope this finds you and your family in good health. This Spring isn't what we planned, but I hope you are able to make the best of it and find some joy in each passing day.

Take care,  
Char Maternowski-Paul

## **Committee Volunteers needed!**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for any of the IN-AER committees, the chapter is looking for volunteers. The chapter is in need of volunteers to fill the By-laws Committee, Program Committee, and Nominations Committee. Interested members can inquire by emailing [inaer2018@gmail.com](mailto:inaer2018@gmail.com). Full committee descriptions can be found on the IN-AER website at <http://in-are.net>.

### *By Laws Committee*

*2.1 Bylaws Committee. The Committee will be composed of a minimum of three (3) members. It will review, draft, and submit to the membership proposed revisions and/or amendments to the Bylaws of the Chapter.*

*Section 3. Reports of Committee to Board. Each committee shall provide the Secretary with current list of its members, minutes of its meetings and any proposals that it makes.*

### *Program Committee*

*2.2 Program Committee. The Committee may vary in size, but shall not have fewer than five (5) members with the President – Elect serving as chairperson. The principal task of the Committee is to plan and prepare, with the full assistance of the Board, for the next annual meeting of the Chapter.*

*Section 3. Reports of Committee to Board. Each committee shall provide the Secretary with current list of its members, minutes of its meetings and any proposals that it makes.*

*2.3 Nominating Committee. The committee shall consist of a minimum of three members.*

## **Nominations for the Board**

We are looking for nominations for board members of our IN-AER. The board members will need to attend our monthly meetings via phone conference and help in the organization of our annual conference. Please review the following open positions for our IN-AER board. Please nominate no more than one person per office. You may nominate up to four people for the open board member positions. The nominating survey monkey that will be emailed soon.

1. **President elect**- This is a six-year commitment in which you will become the president elect for two years. Then move to current president for two years. Then move to past president for two years. If you want to nominate someone for this position, please fill out their name and contact information in the space below. You will be the chair of the annual conference committee, and be responsible for organizing all of the various items needed to make the conference a success. In addition, you will chair the communication committee and responsible for reporting back to the board on the progress of this committee.

2. **Current President**- This is a four-year commitment in which you will become the current president and take over the full responsibilities as a current present for the next two years. Then move to past president for two years.

3. **Secretary**- This is a two-year commitment in which you will need to take minutes and send out information to all of our members as needed. You will need to participate in the communication committee, help with the website, and send out the quarterly newsletter.

4. **Treasure**- This is a two-year commitment in which you will need to develop the budget, keep the bank accounts, pay the bills for the conference and other items, and report the balance at each of the board meetings. In addition, you will be the chair of the finance committee and schedule the meetings and report the information back to the board members.

5. **Board member**- This is a two-year commitment in which you will need to participate in all of our monthly board meetings and help with the planning of our annual conference. In addition, there are standing committees that you may choose from to chair as needed.

# Navigation with Technology: Google Maps Live View Review

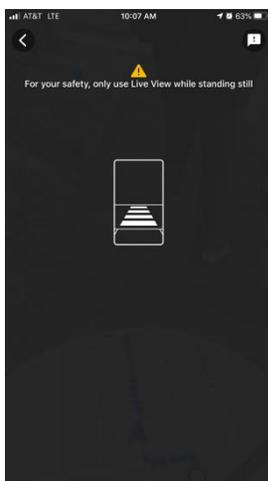
By Jessica Hunt

“With Live View, you can use augmented reality (AR) to better understand which way to go. Arrows and directions are placed in the real world to guide your way, helping you identify exactly where to make those tricky turns or which way to start your walking journey.

To use Live View, simply choose your destination in Google Maps and tap the Directions button. From there, make sure to choose the Walking tab as Live View is only available for walking navigation. Make sure you're outside in a well-lit area to get started. You'll see the Live View button next to the Start button. Go ahead and tap the Live View button and follow the onboarding tips.”

Quoted from online article : <https://support.google.com/maps/thread/11554255?hl=en>

Google Maps Live View is a game changer for our clients and students with low vision. There are many times we have used Google Maps and students become unsure if they are on the appropriate route, get too focused on their device, or miss crucial landmarks or clues. With the use of Google Maps Live View a user can travel routes with greater ease and clarity. The augmented reality can place critical information onto the screen to aid the user while traveling outdoors. The user is able to see enlarged street names and arrows pointing which direction to go while traveling along a route. At the bottom of the screen, it still displays the original “walking mode”



Google Map, making sure the user gets as much detailed information as they travel.

As we know as professional in the blind and low vision field, some students and clients get sucked into the technology, which puts them at more risk of misuse of their cane or missing environmental factors.

The app will black-out the screen while a user is moving, ensuring that the user is paying attention to the important details while on the move. A user can update their route or check that they are going the appropriate direction by standing still. If the app senses movement, the user will not be able to see the detailed information. This overlay helps the overly ambitious client

or student with low vision remain in tune with important details as they travel.





Verbal directions are still dictated while a user is traveling. Although the screen is blacked-out, the user is still able to receive guidance as they travel. Verbal directions remain simplified, and do not give direct information, like which side of the street to walk on to reach the destination.

At the end of the route, there is a large red marker, indicating the route has been completed and the user has reached their destination. This aids in ensuring the user arrives at the right place. This feature helps the user with low vision know they are at right place and have less error during travel.



Google Maps Live View is a great tool for any user to have more errorless travel, especially the students and clients we work with. Our clients and students can learn to better incorporate technology in their everyday navigation and travel, while remaining oriented and demonstrating safe orientation & mobility skills.

*Go to the website for a video to better understand how the application works and how you can incorporate it in your client/student lesson plans. <http://in-aer.net>*

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## 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!

### Up & Running

Reminder, the website is up and running. This is where you can find what you need for the IN-AER chapter. The chapter has revamped the website and made 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>



## **What's Happening**

### **IN-AER Board Meeting**

Next board meeting is

April 23, 2020 @ 5:30p

Phone Conference

### **Committee Meetings**

Membership Committee TBD	Communications Committee TBD Phone conference
Program Committee TBD Phone Conference	Finance Committee TBD

\*Note that Indiana AER meetings are held at Bosma Enterprises, unless otherwise noted. All are welcome to attend meetings. Updated chapter documents, meeting dates, and times can be found at the IN-AER webpage: <http://in-aer.net>

### **Location:**

Bosma Enterprises  
7225 Woodland Dr  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Conference phone number: 877-314-9891

No code needed

## **Other Events**

### **AER International Conference 2020**

July 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

St. Louis, MO

St. Louis Union Station Hotel

For More information go to [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)



## **Indiana Vision Conference**

October 26-27, 2020

Flyer is attached

## **From the “Eyes” of a Blind Infant**

By Tommie Roesch

*This is a story from the perspective of a blind child that is about 6 months old written by an Orientation & Mobility instructor.*

I am blind or so they tell me. They say this is a problem. My parents keep telling everyone that I am blind, but I don't know why that's so special. Aren't they blind too?

All I know is that my world is made up of lots of sounds around me and sometimes they really scare me. They sneak up from behind me and explode in my ear. My mom will tell me what the sounds are when I jump or cry after I hear them, but I really do not know what the sounds are unless you let me feel what made the sound.

For example, “That was dishes hitting it each other” my mom says, I have no idea what a dish is, nor should I since I am six months old. It is kind of annoying to hear all these sounds and not really understand what they are because I cannot see them. As I've grown, my parents have explained to me that most people use vision to identify what objects or people sounds from. For me to “see” these sounds, I need to feel, touch, smell, and maybe taste it to make a connection.

As an infant, I do know my mom and dad's voice and I can tell where they are by their voice. Sometimes, when they are quiet, fear strikes me again. I get scared because they disappeared. I wish that they would never stop talking until I am asleep so that I always know where they are. Maybe this would help stop my worries, but the world is a scary place and I can't help but worry. Sounds pop out of nowhere and thunderous roars shake the floor. When I try and feel around me, sometimes I touch something, hold or bump my hand against a table I didn't know was there.

I am told it is my six-month birthday today, whatever that means. Now there are new people coming and talk to me and my parents. My mom seems to be very excited for these new people to come but I am not sure because these voices are trying to get me to do things that I do not understand.

My mom says these people are here to help me learn things and to help learn to get around. I do not know why I would want to learn to get around though; mom and dad carry me everywhere or puts me in a stroller to take me places. Sometimes, they put me on the floor, and I can roll over which seems to be a big deal because pieces would ruffle my shirt and I'd be picked up into a warm embrace. I felt comfortable rolling over because I knew I was safe when my head touched the soft blanket that I slept on.

At least, I felt safe until these new people showed up. Now they want me to do more things and grab for toys and try to crawl (whatever that is).

They keep saying “Get on your hands and knees and lift your belly off the ground.” I do not understand any of these words and I do not know why I would even want to crawl to a toy, when I can just cry and have my mom or dad summon the magic that brings the toys to me. I do not know how or where the toys come from, I just know that they will show up when I cry. So, I think I will just cry instead because it seems much easier.

*To Be Continued...*

## 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: Vacancy

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 striving 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 newsletter submission suggestions or articles for inclusion in Hot AER please submit them to: [jbpangle@gmail.com](mailto:jbpangle@gmail.com)