



## **Message from the President**

Think Spring my friends, it's only a week or two away! The weather has certainly been a challenge this winter. Fortunately, as vision professionals we are familiar with overcoming challenges. In fact, we "Gear Up for Success" every day, which is the theme of the upcoming IN-AER annual conference. The Board and Program Committee have redesigned the conference. This year it will be held on June 19 -20, 2019 at BOSMA Industries in Indianapolis. In cooperation with ACVREP, Jack Chen who completed the 2018 Race Across America, referred to as the "world's toughest bicycle race" will be our keynote speaker. Please join us in June for our newly revamped conference. More details about the conference and registration and lodging information will be available soon, so please check the website in the near future.

We are looking for presenters, so if you have a presentation that you would like to do, please contact either Becky Deer or myself. If you know of a speaker or topic that might be of interest to our membership, please let us know. We appreciate your input as we continue planning our conference.

Although you will notice several changes with the conference, the most important components remain the same. We hope to provide a high-quality professional development opportunity for our members, while welcoming other vision professionals. We look forward to attendees meeting new colleagues and/or reconnecting with old friends and exchanging ideas. We hope our keynote speaker will both inspire and challenge you. Finally, we will continue to recognize outstanding individuals in our field.

Please plan to attend the IN-AER conference in June and "Gear Up for Success."

I hope you enjoy the coming Spring.

Best Wishes,

Char Maternowski-Paul  
President, IN-AER

## **Race Across America: Sea to See** **Cycling with a Vision**

Jack Chen has a vision to raise awareness of the staggering 70% unemployment rate among people who are blind or visually impaired. Chen, who was born blind, is among the few to rise above this overwhelming rate. He is a successful attorney for the multi-million dollar company Google. Not only is he a distinguished attorney at law for the multi-million dollar company, he is among the few as an ultra-athlete.

Jack Chen took it upon himself to document this journey in effort raise awareness by riding tandem in the toughest cycling event, Race Across America (RAAM). RAAM is a 3,080 mile coast to coast cycling race beginning in Oceanside, California and finishing in Annapolis Harbor, Maine. Chen completed this event with 3 other tandem cyclists called Team Sea to See.

Join IN-AER for the 2019 annual conference June 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. As the keynote speaker, Jack Chen will share about Team Sea to See's journey and documentary of the Race Across America. This initiative was designed to raise awareness of the unemployment rate among educated men and women who are blind and visually impaired.

## **Gear Up For Success** **IN-AER 2019 Conference**



June 19-20, 2019

Bosma Enterprises  
7225 Woodland Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

### Call for Conference Presenters

The program committee is calling for presenters for the 2019 Indiana AER conference, Gear Up For Success. If you have something you would like to present, let us know!

Go to [www.in-aer.net](http://www.in-aer.net) or email [inaercommunications@gmail.com](mailto:inaercommunications@gmail.com) to make your submission of presentation draft. Presentation length must be no less than 45 minutes.

## Meeting IN-AER Members

Name: *Jessica N. Hunt*

Where are you originally from?

*I mostly grew up in Little Rock Arkansas. We lived there since I was 10. I moved to Indianapolis, as an adult, in 2011.*

Where do you currently work?

*I have been working at the Indiana School for the Blind for over 7 years. I started as an intervener for a deaf-blind student.*

What is your occupation?

*I have been working as an ACVREP certified O&M specialist for about 3 years. I also am fluent in American Sign Language, so, I specialize in deaf-blind O&M.*

What brought you to becoming an orientation and mobility instructor?

*I was taught in my undergrad deaf-blind classes by a COMS on how to guide and work with a deaf-blind individual. After 3 years of being a service support provider (SSP) for deaf-blind adults in Arkansas, I became an intervener at ISBVI. The blindness side of deaf-blindness always interested me when I was in school, but I never got any more training on that end of it. I became friends with Megan DeWester, a COMS at the school. She asked me if I would be interested in teaching O&M, and then gave me contact information for Western Michigan University's Orientation and Mobility program.*

Why did you become an AER member?

*I was suggested by a few fellow professionals to join. The rest is history!*

What benefits do you find for yourself becoming an AER member?

*It gives me an opportunity to have a community of other professionals in the field. It also has education benefit. I can get continuing education credit, learn new techniques and technology that is available, and learn hot, new topics in the field.*

What do you enjoy to do during your free time?

*I like playing soccer! I am in a few adult soccer league here in the Indy area. I enjoy coaching here at the school, specifically swimming and cheerleading. I like to knit and paint...artsy things.*

## **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**

Once again, the new 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

### AER Board Meeting

Next board meeting is

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 4:30p

### Committee Meetings

Membership Committee TBD	Communications Committee TBD Phone conference
Program Committee April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019 4:30p 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)

#### **Michigan AER Conference**

April 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

More information: <http://aerbvi.org/about/chapters/michigan/conferences-event/>

**Guide Dogs for the Blind  
O&M Seminar**

April 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
8:30-3:30 @ Bosma Enterprises

**Intro to the Guide Dog Lifestyle**

Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
9:00a-12:30p

Bosma Enterprises  
7225 Woodland Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

[More Details](#)

Do you have clients or students that might be interested in guide dog life?  
RSVP by March 18<sup>th</sup> to Jane Flower Outreach Manager at [jflower@guidedogs.com](mailto:jflower@guidedogs.com)

## **Put it into Practice: Daily Living Skills**

By Tommie Roesch

Do you have time to teach ECC?

As a traveling blind and low vision teacher I find it hard to teach the entire common core curriculum, let alone adding in teaching the expanded core curriculum (ECC) that our job expects us to do on a daily basis. So, I wanted to share a set of activities that I have learned. These activities only take a few minutes of the day, and will greatly improve your student's ECC abilities. The activities can be completed at the beginning of the session, or during a break. The activities are fun and made into games that the children will love to play. I personally enjoy using them for my student's break time activities, and when given an option to do other things he chooses to do these fun activities instead.

### **Knife Soccer**

You need:

1. 1 ball, either a pom pom or a ball that rolls
2. two chips or something small to mark a goal spot
3. 1 plastic knife or spoon (spoon is better as a starter tool)

How to play

1. First, set up the game with the two markers on one end like a soccer goal.
2. Then have the student hold the spoon or knife like he/she would be spreading something on a piece of bread.
3. Have the student practice the spreading technique back and forth across the table for practice.
4. Place the ball in front of the student and him/her put it in front of the knife and line it up to the field goal.
5. The student will use the spreading motion to hit the ball into the goal.
6. You can take turns with the student and see who get the most points or they can play by themselves against a clock.

Benefits:

1. The student learn to spread without having to spread something and get messy.
2. The student learns how to hold a knife correctly.
3. The student can learn turn taking.

### **Knife skills**

You need:

1. 1 plastic knife
2. 1 Ziplock bag
3. 1 container of peanut butter

How to play:

1. Place some peanut butter into the Ziplock bag

2. Have the student hold the knife as if he/she is spreading the peanut butter in the bag
3. Have the student spread the peanut butter within the plastic bag and feel the bag to see how it turned out.

Benefits:

1. The student will learn how to spread without making a mess
2. It helps students that are tactile sensitive

These are just a few activities to get you started on including ECC in your daily lessons with your students. Please be on the lookout for more activities in the next newsletter.

### **INvestAble: Saving For the Future**

Did you know that individuals with disabilities, their family members, and others can contribute money to a tax-exempt ABLE account without limiting the individual's ability to benefit from SSI, Medicaid, and other federal programs?

The **A**chieving a **B**etter **L**ife **E**xperience Act of 2014 makes this possible. You can find more information on <https://savewithable.com/in/home.html>, call 1-888-609-3457, or email [in.clientservice@savewithable.com](mailto:in.clientservice@savewithable.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 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 suggestions or articles for inclusion in Hot AER please submit them by April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to: [inaercommunications@gmail.com](mailto:inaercommunications@gmail.com)