



# Hot AER

July/August/September 2018

Publication of Indiana AER Chapter

<http://in-AER.net>

1

## Message from the President

July 2018



This month we welcome several members to the IN-AER Board. New to the Board are Tommie Roesch, Jill Pangle, Bianca Gerena-Perez, Marsha Egan, and Katrina Anderson. John Trueblood is a returning member of the Board. Our officers are: Char Maternowski-Paul - President; Becky Deerr - President Elect; Tommie Roesch - Secretary; Marsha Egan - Treasurer; and Krysti Hughes - Past President. On behalf of our membership, I offer our thanks and best wishes to departing Board members Becky Smallwood, Jim Powell, Don Koors, and Shelly Meyer Ragains. Thank you for your many years of service to IN-AER and our profession.

Your IN-AER Board has been very busy planning our conference. The theme is IN-AER Navigating Life Together. We chose this theme because it highlights the need for all of us to work together to serve our students/clients. Regardless of our profession, we hope to help those we serve successfully navigate life's challenges. Please join us at McCormick Creek on September 13 and 14. We have a diverse group of presenters and our keynote speaker will inspire you to new heights. We are adding a new and exciting opportunity to share ideas this year. You are invited to create a poster board to share with your colleagues during the Vendor session on Thursday. We hope to expand our Silent Auction. If you wish to donate an item, please turn it in when you arrive at the conference.

We have been discussing some issues and we would appreciate your input. We would like to explore some ways to increase our membership, particularly with professionals new to the field. Do you have any ideas to increase attendance at the conference? Finally, we would appreciate some ideas of how IN-AER can make high school students aware of the opportunities in our field. We will hold a brief general membership meeting at the end of the conference to discuss these issues.

Best wishes for a safe summer. Take care and I look forward to seeing you in September.

*Char Maternowski-Paul*

## **Welcome to the Board!**

Congratulations to the newly elected and returning board members!

President Elect: *Becky Deerr*

Member at Large: *Katrina Anderson*

President: *Char Maternowski-Paul*

Member at Large: *Bianca Gerena-Perez*

Past President: *Kristi Hughes*

Member at Large: *Jill Pangle*

Secretary: *Tommie Roesch*

Member at Large: *John Trueblood*

Treasurer: *Marsha Egan*

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.

## **Supporting You**

What benefits do you feel the chapter should provide to support you? What would encourage you and your colleagues to attend professional development and events the chapter provides? We want to hear from you! We want to hear about your ideas and concerns, so we can best help you teach your students and clients, as well as, provide awareness within our communities.

Go to the website to find ways to communicate to your board: <http://in-AER.net>

## **Member Benefit**

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

Most of importantly, we support change and progression for our students and clients with visual impairment.

## **What's happening**

### **AER Board Meeting**

Next board meeting is Thursday, August 2, 2018, 3:30p

Bosma Enterprises  
7225 Woodland Dr  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Members are welcome to attend meetings. Meeting notes and reports will also be available on the website: <http://in-AER.net>

### **IN-AER Annual Conference:**

*IN-AER Navigating Life Together*

September 13-14, 2018.  
McCormick Creek State Park  
Canyon Inn  
451 McCormick Creek Park Rd  
Spencer, IN 47460



2017 IN-AER Conference  
Photo Courtesy of Becky Smallwood

Registration includes an overnight stay at Canyon Inn, Thursday evening dinner, and Friday morning breakfast. Meet with professionals across the state and learn what's happening in the field. Earn ACVREP credits for attending.

Go to the website to find out more information and register <http://in-AER.net>

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

January 30-February 1, 2019

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

### **Other Events?**

What have you seen that's going on across the state, in the district, nationally, and internationally? Conferences? Professional development? Advocacy? Legislation? Let us know what you have seen! We want to add it to IN-AER publication. Contact Jill Pangle at [jbpangle@gmail.com](mailto:jbpangle@gmail.com) to add your event or piece to the publication.

## **What's Going on In the Field?**

### *A Review of Technology: Seeing AI*

Technology as we know it is changing so fast that it can make it difficult for us to learn or know about it. But these pieces of technology can change the lives of the people we work with every day. Accessible technology can give our clients and students a way to greater independence and integration in society.

*Seeing AI* is an application for iPhone users that has been out on the market for just over a year and has made big changes since it's initial release. The great part about this application is that it provides a lot of features within the application while remaining free. It can read handwritten and print material, assess lighting, distinguish color, assess environments, and help identifying currency. The newest feature provides audio description for photos that are in your phone.

*Seeing AI* can give individuals with visual impairment the ability to read printed mail and handwritten letters or notes. As well, many products we purchase have such fine print that it becomes difficult to read what an item is, nutritional facts, or what it is made of. The app gives greater detail than in recent versions, but also having access to this feature can help an individual with visual impairment when assistance is not available.

With every pro there is a con. *Seeing AI* isn't always completely accurate on the details it provides. Colors may be skewed, people and their features might not be correct, or environmental attributes may not be correctly identified. When using the short text feature, lighting, glare, and contrast of the words may cause the app to read the wording incorrectly. Also, if moving too much, the application may restart reading in the incorrect location. To make it a smidge more difficult, the app may not completely and accurately read handwritten items.

Although it has some negative aspects, it is still highly useful. This application can be very versatile in various environments and accessible for a person that has limited sight or blindness. This gives individuals more independence in knowing what is going on in a given environment and help to assess a situation with minimal assistance.

Have you tried this application? What are your thoughts? What AT have you used to teach your clients and students? Let's talk about it! You can submit your review of different Assistive Technology to Jill Pangle at [jpangle@gmail.com](mailto:jpangle@gmail.com)

## **Making a Change for People with Visual Impairment**

### *Legislation, Policies, and Current Events*

What changes have you seen on the horizon for rehabilitation and education of the blind and visually impaired? We want to know about it! Submit your piece for this publication to Jill Pangle at [jbpangle@gmail.com](mailto:jbpangle@gmail.com)

## **IN-AER Awards**

Do you know someone deserving of recognition for their hard work in field? Nominate them! 2018 nominations are open and will be recognized for their efforts in making a difference and change in our 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.



Photo Courtesy of Becky Smallwood



Photo Courtesy of Becky Smallwood

### **Past Award Recipients**

#### **Outstanding Professional Award**

- 2017 Becky Smallwood
- 2016 Kathy Nimmer
- 2015 N/A
- 2014 John Trueblood (education)  
Dr. Richard L Widsor (Rehabilitation)
- 2013 Margo Strodtman

#### **Outstanding Employer Award**

- 2017 N/A
- 2016 N/A
- 2015 N/A
- 2014 N/A
- 2013 Hartford Insurance

#### **Outstanding Volunteer Award**

- 2017 Lions International & Lions Of Indiana
- 2016 N/A
- 2015 N/A
- 2014 N/A
- 2013 N/A

**Outstanding Student Award**

2017 N/A  
2016 N/A  
2015 N/A  
2014 Jessee Hinshaw  
2013 N/A

**Outstanding Parent Award**

2017 N/A  
2016 N/A  
2015 N/A  
2014 N/A  
2013 N/A



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

If you have suggestions or articles for ***Hot AER***, please email Jill Pangle at [jbpangle@gmail.com](mailto:jbpangle@gmail.com)