



Association for Education and Rehabilitation  
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

BTF: Jefferson City  
5-13-2014

## History and Mission

- ▶ AERBVI formed from merger of two professional organizations in 1984
- ▶ The mission of AER is to support professionals who provide education and rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments by offering professional development opportunities, publications, and public advocacy.

• Link:

## Structure

- ▶ Governed by a Board of Directors from US and Canada: 17 members serve 2 year terms
- ▶ AER Executive Committee:
- ▶ AER has 43 Independent Chapters in the US and Canada.
- ▶ AER Membership: \$167 per year plus cost of division membership.
- ▶ AER has 13 divisions, not independent

## Divisions

- ▶ Administration and Leadership
- ▶ Rehabilitation Counseling and Employment
- ▶ Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind
- ▶ Psychosocial Services
- ▶ Information and Technology
- ▶ Low Vision Rehabilitation
- ▶ Infant & Preschool
- ▶ Orientation & Mobility: **Chair – Kevin Hollinger**
- ▶ Education Curriculum
- ▶ Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
- ▶ Division on Aging
- ▶ Itinerant Personnel
- ▶ Personnel Preparation

## Purpose of AER

- ▶ (1) Offer PD through conferences, seminars, publications, and leadership training experiences;
- ▶ (2) Promoting professionalism
- ▶ (3) Work to improve and expand services for individuals with visual impairments

## MO AER Chapter Board

- ▶ President: Julie Anderson-Ituarte
- ▶ President Elect: Doug Pappert
- ▶ Past President: Ian Shadrick
- ▶ Treasurer: Aundrayah Shermer
- ▶ Secretary: Ashley Bement
- ▶ Board Member at Large: Christy William
- ▶ Board Member at Large: Jennifer Coy
- ▶ Board Member at Large: Candy Hickerson

## Why AER Membership?

- › **Networking**
- › **Professional and Career Development**
- › **Publications**
- › **Insurance Programs**
- › **Special Discounts**
- › **Professional Recognition**
- › **Scholarships**
- › **Recruitment**
- › **Advocacy**

## ACVREP

- › Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals formed in 2000.
- › Provide high-quality and rigorous professional certification process in the disciplines of low vision therapy (CLVT), orientation and mobility (COMS), and vision rehabilitation therapy (CVRT).
- › Maintains a Directory of Certificants

## ACVREP Certification Process

- › Official Transcripts with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in any field of study and
- › Program of study documenting Core domain areas of certification area.
- › Proof of 350 hour internship
- › Clinical Competency Evaluation
- › Pass the ACVREP Exam in certification area

## Cost of Initial Certification

- › **Eligibility Application Fee:** \$115.00
- › **Certification Examination Fee:** \$375.00 [up to two (2) administrations of the exam]
- › **Certification Fee (5-year term):** \$100.00

## Recertification Process

- › Recertification is required every 5 years.
- › Application must include a total of 100 points covering 4 areas.
- › Costs: \$300.00

## Recertification Category Areas

- › Category 1: Continuing Education- Minimum 25 points. Must be ACVREP Approved
- › Category 2: Professional Experience - Maximum 50 points. 360 direct service hours = 50 points.
- › Category 3: Publications and Presentations- Maximum 50 points. (author article, newsletter, lecture, presentations)
- › Category 4: Professional Service- Maximum 50 points. (service on boards, committees, supervision of interns)

## Why ACVREP Certification is Critical?

- › In education, teachers are certified by State Departments of Education to insure that they demonstrate the knowledge, competencies and skills to teach.
- › Demonstrates individual met standards, competencies and skills essential to the job.
- › Demonstrates individual met basic and ongoing requirements of professional and ethical practice.
- › Demonstrates individual has passed a rigorous certifying examination and
- › Certification also assures that a teacher's credentials are recognized from state to state. (COMS)