

**Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
(AERBVI)**

**Division 18 - International Services & Global Issues**

**Newsletter - Spring 2024**

Welcome to the Spring edition of the AER International Services and Global Issues Division newsletter! I'm excited for all the new year brings, especially for our division.

It's hard to believe that the 2022-2024 term is wrapping up! I want to thank Belinda Rudinger and Janet Cloaninger for all they've done for the division, and I look forward to welcoming Spencer Churchill and Patricia Camarillo to the board. You can read more about our new officers below.

We're looking forward to meeting many of you in person at this summer's AER International Conference in Charlotte, NC, USA. The AER Conference is a fantastic opportunity for learning and networking, and I hope you'll consider joining us there.

We always welcome suggestions for improving the division. Please email us with your thoughts, comments, and questions at [aer.global.division@gmail.com](mailto:aer.global.division@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

Katie Ericson, Chair, TVI/COMS

**Division Elections**

The Division would like to congratulate our incoming leadership!

**Spencer Churchill** (TVI, O&M) has been elected Chair-Elect and is honored by the opportunity. Spencer is the Director of Transition and Itinerant Services at the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, Arizona. Spencer believes all students deserve equitable access to education and employment, regardless of circumstance. "This is accomplished by empowering students, families, and educators with knowledge and resources. My favorite part of working in the field is seeing the confidence gained from students through real world experiences. Whether it's hiking

the Grand Canyon, sailing the Caribbean, or flying across the country, I believe giving students the opportunity to overcome challenges brings out their best.”

**Patricia Camarillo** was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Patricia works for a large urban school district in Central California as a teacher for students with visual impairments, a role she’s worked in for 18 years. She achieved national board certification in exceptional needs, emphasizing visual impairment in December 2021, and she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Global Leadership and Change at Pepperdine University. She has been a division member since 2020 and looks forward to this opportunity to increase her involvement in the division.

**Callie Brusegaard** will be transitioning from Chair-Elect to Chair. Dr. Brusegaard is an Assistant Professor of Vision Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has been a TVI in Minnesota and Vermont. She has worked internationally researching and supporting inclusive education for children with visual impairments. Her current research focuses on removing barriers to education in developing countries and digitizing assessments for children with visual impairments. She currently lives in rural Vermont with her husband, daughter, dog, 15 chickens, and one duck.

**Katie Ericson** will be transitioning from Chair to Past-Chair.

We also want to recognize the continuing hard work of **Janet Cloaninger**, who served as Secretary (2022-2024), and **Belinda Rudinger**, who served as Chair (2020-2022) and Past-Chair (2022-2024), and thank them for all they’ve done for the division!

### **Upcoming Division Events**

Jay Whipple will be joining us on 1 May at 7pm US Eastern time to share more about his experiences teaching O&M in Egypt. If interested in attending this webinar, please contact us at [aer.global.division@gmail.com](mailto:aer.global.division@gmail.com) for registration information.

Jean-Bosco Ntakirutimana will (tentatively) be joining us on 1 June at 11am US Eastern time to talk about his work at The Blessing School for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) and services in Rwanda. More information will be shared soon.

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please email either Kevin McCormack or Katie Ericson at [aer.global.division@gmail.com](mailto:aer.global.division@gmail.com).

### **Other Important Dates**

- The Council for Exceptional Children's Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) will be holding their International Conference 26-28 June, 2024 in Panama City, Panama. Registration is open. Learn more at the DISES [website](#).
- AER's International Conference will be held 24-28 July, 2024 at the Le Meridien/Sheraton Hotel in Charlotte, NC, USA. Registration is now open. More information, including the tentative schedule, can be found at the conference [website](#). Additional conference information for international attendees can be found on the ISGI [website](#).
- The 2024 Online TVI Symposium will take place 19-20 September 2024. Sessions will be recorded and available to watch later. Sign up to receive more information at their [website](#).
- The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) will hold the next ICEVI World Conference and General Assembly in Ahmedabad, India on 14-17 November, 2024. For more information, please visit the ICEVI Conference [website](#).
- The South Pacific Educators in Visual Impairment (SPEVI) will be holding their 2025 conference as a hybrid event, online and in-person in Brisbane, Australia from 13-15 January, 2025. This year's theme is EmPOWERment through Connection, Inclusion, and Education. Updates can be found at the conference [website](#).
- The 2025 International Online O&M Symposium will take place 29-31 January 2025. Sessions will be recorded and available to watch later. More information can be found on their [website](#).

- Save the date for the first regional conference of Deafblind International in Asia. The conference will take place in Pokhara, Nepal, 1-3 March 2025 and will feature an inclusive trekking event.
- The third International Symposium on Physical Activity and Individuals with Visual Impairments or Deafblindness is tentatively scheduled for June 2025. It will be held in conjunction with the International Symposium on Adapted Physical Activity ([ISAPA](#)) at Munster Technological University in Kerry, Ireland. More information to come.

### **Job Postings**

**Vision Australia** is currently seeking expressions of interest with Orientation & Mobility positions available in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. Please see [this link](#) for more details.

### **Other Opportunities**

Applications are now open for Fulbright Teacher Exchanges taking place in 2024-2025. Learn more at the Fulbright Teacher Exchanges [website](#).

Peace Corps Response is looking for a Visual Impairment Support Teacher Trainer to work with teachers in Dominica. More information can be found on their [website](#).

### **Articles of Note**

**Next newsletter deadline: July 31, 2024 – submissions are welcome at any time!**