

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

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AER Individual Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in AER! We look forward to your active membership. To apply, complete the six sections of this form and return it to AER. Your AER membership automatically qualifies you for chapter membership. Division memberships have a modest additional charge. **Membership is for a full year** and is non-transferable.

Application Date _____

1. PERSONAL DATA (Please print. Provide home and/or work info) **Contact Preference Home or Work or Both**

Name (____ Mr. ____ Ms. ____ Dr.) _____

Home Mailing Address _____

Home City _____ State/Province _____ Zip + 4/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Home E-mail _____

Organization (if applicable): _____ Title: _____

Work Mailing Address _____

Work City _____ State/Province _____ Zip + 4/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Work Phone _____ Work Fax _____ Work Toll-Free _____

Work E-mail _____ Web site _____

Your Primary Occupation _____

2. MEMBERSHIP DATA (Check the appropriate membership category. All funds are in U.S. dollars. NOTE-All membership categories have access to AER listservs. Some divisions require division membership for listserv access.)

_____ **Regular Member** (\$162/year or \$42.00/quarter*) - A full-voting membership open to anyone living in the U.S. or Canada, and includes all AER periodicals. **Quarterly option for online PayPal credit card payment only.***

_____ **International Member** (\$162/year or \$42.00/quarter*) - A voting membership open to persons living outside the U.S. or Canada, and includes all AER periodicals. **Quarterly option for online PayPal credit card payment only.***

_____ **Same Residential Household Member** (\$136/year) - A voting membership open to an additional member residing in the same residential household as a current Regular AER member. The household receives one copy of all AER periodicals. Provide the name of the AER member residing in same household _____

_____ **Retired Member** (\$87/year) - A voting membership for anyone who has retired from a career in the field and includes all AER periodicals.

_____ **Support/Clerical Member** (\$87/year) - A voting membership category for individuals who are working in positions of paraprofessional or clerical support, and includes AER periodicals.

_____ **Student Member** (\$87/year) - A full-voting membership open to students in the U.S. or Canada, and includes all AER periodicals.

University/College attending _____ Expected graduation date: _____

_____ **Transition Member** (\$132/year) – Upon graduation, current student members are eligible for a one-year Transition Member category, which provides the same member benefits as the Regular Member category.
Date graduated _____ Provide current member number _____

_____ **Associate Member** (\$87/year) - A non-voting membership category for anyone who is not employed in the field or who is preparing for employment in the field. Includes AER Report only.

Office use: Date Rec'd. _____ Member ID _____

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LABEL POLICY: AER occasionally rents our mailing list to organizations that provide services or products that may be of interest to members. If you **do not** want your name released, please indicate by checking here _____.

3. PUBLICATIONS (Please select format)

AER members receive two quarterly publications free with their membership. Please indicate the type of format you want for each of these publications.

AER Report _____ E-mail _____ Braille _____ CD (text) _____

Insight: Research and Practice in Visual Impairment and Blindness (formerly AER Journal) _____ Print _____ E-mail _____

4. DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

AER has 13 Divisions that support and represent discipline-specific interests and are open to membership at an additional fee. Visit www.aerbvi.org for more information about Division missions and activities. If you wish to join multiple Divisions, check one or more boxes below and add the fee(s) under Investment Calculation.

- _____ \$10 – Administration (Div. 1)
- _____ \$10 – Rehabilitation Counseling, Employment and BEP Services (Div. 2)
- _____ \$10 – Multiple Disabilities & Deafblind (Div. 3)
- _____ \$10 – Psychosocial Services (Div. 4)
- _____ \$10 – Information & Technology (Div. 5)
- _____ \$10 – Low Vision Rehabilitation (Div. 7)
- _____ \$10 – Infant & Preschool (Div. 8)
- _____ \$10 – Orientation & Mobility (Div. 9)
- _____ \$10 – Education Curriculum (Div. 10)
- _____ \$10 – Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (Div. 11)
- _____ \$10 – Division on Aging (Div. 15)
- _____ \$10 – Itinerant Personnel (Div. 16)
- _____ \$15 – Personnel Preparation (Div. 17)

5. CALCULATE YOUR INVESTMENT

AER Membership Dues	\$ _____
Chapter Membership	\$ <u>Free</u>
Total Division Dues	\$ _____
Total Amount Remitted	\$ _____

6. PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to AER for \$ _____

☐ Please charge _____ VISA _____ or MASTERCARD \$ _____

(Note: Credit card funds will be charged in U.S. dollars)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC Code: _____

Cardholder Name (please print) _____

Cardholder Address _____

Signature _____

If paying by check or money order mail to: AERBVI, P.O. Box 6212, Merrifield, VA 22116-9712 USA.

If paying by credit card fax to: (703) 671-6391, mail to above address, or call (877) 492-2708 or (703) 671-4500.

***Quarterly payment option available for a one-year Regular or International Membership for those paying online at www.aerbvi.org by credit card only via PayPal (call a Member Services Representative for details).**



GRIDER AWARD 2011

Dr. John Mascia is presented the 2011 Grider Award. John has served the Alabama AER Chapter in a Presidential capacity for the past five years, currently serving as immediate Past-President, and continues to be a strong advocate for the Alabama AER Mission.

The Grider Award is presented to a person who has made a significant contribution in working for persons who are blind or visually impaired to promote an understanding of blindness and visual impairment in the mainstream of society. The recipient of this award must be or have been actively involved in helping persons who are blind or visually impaired have fuller, more meaningful, productive, and independent lives.

John has well exemplified the pioneer spirit, dedication to service, and quality of direct services to persons who are blind or visually impaired as shown by the life and reputation of Charles B. Grider. **Congratulations John!!!!**

Paraprofessional/Worker of the Year Award

Shelia Pennington, long term contributor and supporter of the Alabama AER Chapter, is honored with the Paraprofessional/Worker of the Year Award.

This award honors a full-time paraprofessional or worker who is a member of the Alabama AER Chapter, who has been employed at least three years, has performed duties conscientiously, has taken pride in the work performed, has shown initiative, has assumed additional responsibility when called upon, and has demonstrated a good working relationship with supervisors, co-workers, and the public. Shelia exemplifies all of the above traits and has contributed greatly to the success of the Alabama Chapter.

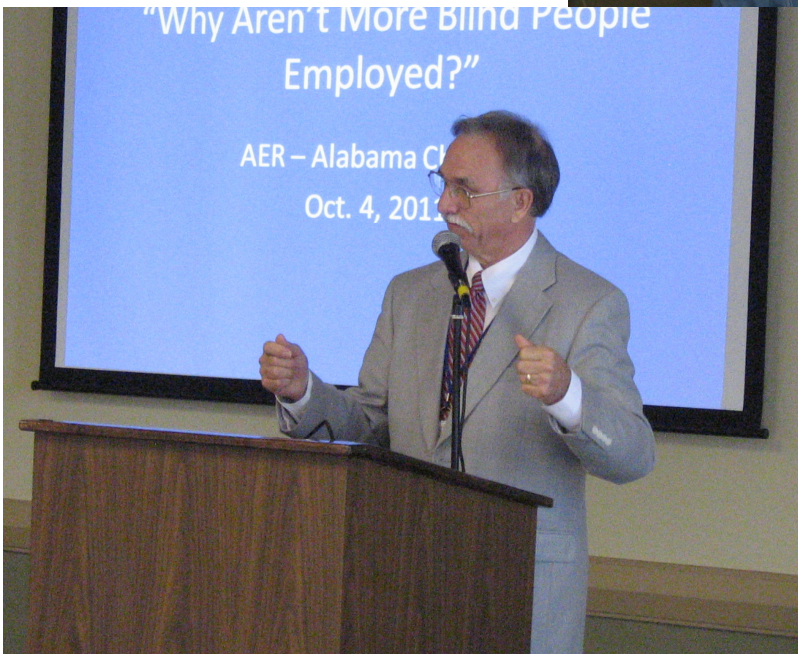
Congratulations Shelia....well deserved!!!



Conference Pics.....
Registration where it all starts....

AER Board Member Darryl McCaul models fishing gear during the AER Business Meeting! The door Prize included a Lake Eufaula fishing trip, can of worms, and a \$100 bill.

**Dr. J. Elton Moore, (below)
Associate Dean for Research and
Assessment, College of Education,
Mississippi State University makes
a great point.....!**



Everyone is SWINGING at AER!!!!



AER BDS Scholarship Recipient

Alabama AER Chapter is proud to present Brianna Jeffrey as the 2011 AER "Billy Don Sims" Scholarship recipient. Brianna is a Cum Laude graduate of the University of North Alabama. She is pursuing a Master's degree in order to travel her chosen career path of working as a professional in the field of blindness. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA in her graduate work.

Brianna expressed in her scholarship application that she feels fortunate to have discovered an area of professional work about which she is passionate. It is her wish to make a lasting and significant impact in the lives of those with whom she will work.

And to quote Brianna "I am so much looking forward to making a powerful impact on the world in which we live through my career as a blindness professional. As a practitioner it is possible to make a significant and lasting impact in the lives of one's consumers."

Brianna is a resident of Killen, Alabama. She has participated in the summer internship program with ADRS in the Muscle Shoals office. She has also worked with the Muscle Shoals blindness support group which she credits with filling her with a great sense of purpose and meaning.

Congratulations to Brianna on her academic and professional achievements. The Alabama AER Chapter is delighted to support her in continuing her education by awarding her the 2011 AER "Billy Don Sims" Scholarship. As this year's recipient Brianna will receive a \$2000 scholarship award and a one-year Student Membership in AER International.

AIDB Golf Team

John Kelley's Golf Team



Billy Don Sims Scholarship Update!

Thank You ...Thank You...What a GREAT team effort in 2011! I am pleased to report that the results of the 8th Annual BDS Golf Scramble and other fund raising efforts were a fantastic success in 2011! As many of you know, since its inception in 2004, the Alabama Chapter through its scholarship committee has now provided scholarships to nine recipients totaling \$8,700. Information about the 2011 winner Brianna Jeffery is featured in this newsletter.

I want to personally say **Thanks to all of YOU**, both individuals and organizations, for your generous support and effort given to this year's events. This year's golf scramble collected \$3,565.00 from players Thanks to the generous contribution of long time player and supporter Mr. Howard Burt who contributed \$1,000.00. Individuals and organizations from all over Alabama contributed \$8,410.00 resulting in a total of \$11,975.00. Expenses related to the golf event and awarding the 2011 scholarship of \$2,000.00 totaled \$3,638.87 resulting in a net growth to the fund of \$8,336.13.

Thanks to Julie Brock and Caitlin Simpson for spear heading the silent auction. Their effort produced \$705.00 towards the fund's growth. Thanks to Greg Rowe who handled the 50-50 raffle which produced \$237.50 towards the fund's growth. Congratulations to Johnny Boshell the 50-50 winner! The "Tip of the Hat" award goes to Curtis Glisson for his vision and effort to replace "Lights Out Bowling" due to the closure of the bowling alley in Eufaula with the 1st ever "BINGO BLAST". This effort generated \$1,521.08 in revenue for the fund. The net across all events resulted in a gain of \$10,799.71 for 2011!

The current BDS CD of \$61,600 will mature March 16, 2012, at which time the interest earned will be \$1,373.08, and the 2011 gain of \$10,799.71 will be added resulting in \$73,772.79 in the fund. As the AER board well knows I disdain odd numbers and will be asking for an AER general fund contribution of \$1,227.21 to renew the CD at \$75,000.00! With two successful years in 2012 and 2013 we can reach the BDS fund GOAL of \$100,000.00.

Since its inception in 2004 the scholarship mission of assisting persons who want to work in the field of blindness and to celebrate the professional contribution that Don Sims made to the field of blindness has resulted in raising \$82,479.79. **Thank you for your continued support!** Joe Helm

Rod Harrell, Bob Owen, Julie Brock, and Joe Helm

Julie has retired, Rod and Bob have since retired, and yours truly who continues to work is the one smoking and drinking!

**We hope you enjoyed this AER Newsletter!
Publications Chair.....Joe Helm!**



NEWS from Mississippi State University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision (MSU-RRTC)

RRTC Research Project in Alabama is Underway

Our current NIDRR-funded RRTC on Employment Outcomes for Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired includes a research project developing, implementing, and evaluating an innovative transportation intervention intended to improve employment outcomes for state vocational rehabilitation (VR) consumers who are blind or visually impaired. This project is being conducted in conjunction with Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. All referrals are through area counselors. Read more about this and other current RRTC projects on our website: <http://www.blind.msstate.edu/research/projects/>.

New! Participant Registry for Blindness and Low Vision Research

Are you or is someone you know interested in participating in blindness and low vision research conducted by MSU-RRTC? In late October, we launched an online participant registry. We invite all who are interested to visit this link to sign up: tiny.cc/participant-registry. This registry will help us with recruitment for current and future research, and will be used to inform individuals about projects at the RRTC that may be of specific interest.

Mentee Eligibility Recruitment Criteria Expanded

MSU-RRTC is continuing active, nationwide recruitment of legally blind college students and professionals for "[An Employment Mentoring Intervention](#)," one of six research projects under our current NIDRR RRTC on Employment Outcomes for Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Mentees must be undergraduate or graduate students under the age of 35 who are legally blind. They must expect to seek employment after graduation, and have basic computer literacy and ability to access online materials. New guidelines expand eligibility to include students who will graduate between April 2012 and December 2014.

Mentors must be legally blind, currently employed or retired from a professional career, and must have basic computer literacy and ability to access online materials. To volunteer for participation in this project, please complete an online eligibility survey for students at <http://tiny.cc/mentor-students> or for professionals at <http://tiny.cc/mentor>. For more information, please contact Dr. Jamie O'Mally by email at rrtc2@colled.msstate.edu or by phone at 662-325-2001.

Career Advantage Online Now

MSU-RRTC is happy to announce that we have gone live with our online employment preparation program, [Career Advantage for V.I.P.s!](#) This program offers eight self-paced modules of instructional materials and activities to guide job seekers, step by step, from exploration of interests and abilities, through the application and interview processes, to the optimal goal of employment. *Career Advantage* was developed and tested with youth and young adults who are blind or visually impaired under our recent NIDRR-funded grant, DRRP on VR: Transition Services that Lead to Competitive Employment Outcomes for Transition-Age Individuals with Blindness or Other Visual Impairments.

"Like" the RRTC on Facebook!

This summer, MSU-RRTC has joined the trend toward social media by designing a [Facebook page](#). Visit us, "like" us, link to new publications, and follow the most current news at the Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University!