

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 8, 2007

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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ACVREP’S New Board of Directors For 2007

Martin Yablonski, COMS, NY, **Chair**
Judy van Naerssen, CLVT, PA, **Vice-Chair**
Tom Miller, Washington, D.C., **Secretary**
James Kracht, FL, **Treasurer**
Anita Aaron, CA
Anita Arakawa, CVRT, CLVT, CA
John Ford, COMS, CLVT, PA
Dr. Kathy Huebner, COMS, PA
Barbara Hunt, CVRT, IL
Ken Rosenthal, MA
Dr. Gwen Sterns, NY

New board members John Ford and Barbara Hunt are highlighted below. Anita Aaron and Ken Rosenthal will be highlighted in the next email newsletter.

Meet New ACVREP Board Member, John Ford

John Ford is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist and a Certified Low Vision Therapist. He currently works at the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He is also an adjunct professor for the Graduate Studies program at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and does contract work for schools. He enjoys this work for a number of reasons, with the main one being the variety of wonderful people it brings him in contact with. John's hobbies include hiking, running,

photography, bell ringing, and paying too much attention the trials and tribulations of the Boston Red Sox. He lives in the Allentown area with his wife and two children.

John is also the Chair of ACVREP's O&M Committee. If you have any questions or concerns related to O&M certification or recertification or the O&M field in general, please contact Sharon L. Mikrut at smikrut@acvrep.org. She will forward your questions/concerns/issues to John.

Meet New ACVREP Board Member, Barbara Hunt

Barbara Hunt is a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. She received her introduction to blind rehabilitation when she worked at the School for the Blind in Marburg, Germany. There she met Pam and Dennis Cory who had just graduated from training programs at Western Michigan University (WMU). Barb applied to and graduated from the WMU Rehabilitation Teaching program and began working for the Department of Veterans Affairs at Hines VA Hospital in 1978.

Throughout her 29 year VA career, Barb worked as a VRT, supervisor for the VRT staff, and currently as a Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator. She has been actively involved in professional activities, such as serving as Secretary for the Illinois chapter of AER, Chair of the Rehabilitation Teaching Division of AER, Chair of the Council of Division Chairs, member of the International Board for AER, and member of the taskforce appointed by AER to identify an agency for external certification of vision blindness professionals (which became ACVREP).

Barb's personal interests include watching the Bears and White Sox, traveling to summer Olympic games (she has been to 5 of them), card making and scrapbooking, and assisting with activities at her church. Her husband Jim is a Pharmacist whom she met on the softball field at Hines. They have a new dog, Marley, who is in the process of learning to be a good girl.

ACVREP Says Thanks And Farewell To Four Former ACVREP Board Members

As of 12/31/06, the terms of the following four ACVREP board members expired:

David Ekin, MO
Marshall Flax, CLVT, COMS, WI
Judy Kuskin, NJ
Gina Palmer, CVRT, AL

ACVREP wants to extend its appreciation and thanks to these former board members for their wisdom, hard work, energy, dedication, experience, and expertise. They worked tirelessly to develop ACVREP and bring it to where it is today. No words will ever be able to adequately thank these individuals for everything they did and will continue to do on behalf of ACVREP. Dave, Marshall, Judy, and Gina, you will be greatly missed by all of us. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Attention Continuing Education (CE) Providers

Last year, a couple of CE providers requested that ACVREP revisit its policy requiring them to submit learning goals and objectives for each specific workshop/breakout session versus the entire conference. At the request of the ACVREP board of directors, ACVREP's CE Committee researched this issue. We checked with other certification bodies to assess what they require in terms of CE providers submitting learning goals and objectives. The majority of these certification bodies stated that they require CE providers to submit learning goals and objectives for each workshop/breakout session versus the entire conference. In keeping with industry standards, ACVREP will continue to request that CE providers submit learning goals and objectives for each workshop/breakout session versus submitting goals and objectives for the overall conference.

One method to solicit this information from presenters would be to request it in your call for papers or at the time you contact individuals to be potential presenters.

To assist CE providers in this area, ACVREP will be developing an appendix for its CE application that provides samples of learning goals and objectives. You could include this appendix in your call for papers or share it with individuals who might be potential presenters.

Please don't hesitate to contact the ACVREP office at 520-887-6816 if you have any questions.

Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project – "Plan of Care" Webcast

The webcast that was conducted on November 15, 2006 by Annie Riddering, OTR and CLVT, and hosted by Johns Hopkins University Medical Center is now archived on their website, www.lowvisionproject.org. Go to the link, "Medicare Updates," then locate the archived webcasts. This discussion is very helpful in assisting vision rehabilitation professionals (and/or eye doctors) to write a Low Vision Rehabilitation "Plan of Care." Key questions and their answers are also archived. Further dialogue can take place if you have other questions, by submitting your questions or comments on the website.

The National Vision Rehabilitation Organization Supports Court Ruling

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Roxann Mayros
December 12, 2006
rmayros@agenciesfortheblind.org
(314) 961-8235

St. Louis, Mo. (December, 2006) -- The National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCPABVI) applauds and supports the recent ruling by a federal judge that the U.S. Treasury must join 180 other nations in producing paper currency that can be easily identified by blind and visually impaired people. NCPABVI supports any action that allows people living in the United States with the same rights and possibilities that numerous people around the world already appreciate. NCPABVI also applauds the American Council of the Blind and its members for initiating this ruling and for understanding that a change in U.S. currency will benefit all Americans, including those with a visual impairment, other disabilities, and aging adults. This ruling will help ensure that all Americans and visitors to the United States will be able to easily identify and use money without assistance and without expensive special equipment. Such independence from others, and from technology, helps everyone to live more independently.

NCPABVI members represent a diverse range of services to over 100,000 individuals annually who are blind and visually impaired, including low vision clinics, adult rehabilitation centers, dog guide schools, early intervention programs, advocacy and membership organizations, and private schools for the blind. NCPABVI networks and advocates for quality services, focusing on public policy, education, and professional growth on behalf of its members and the people they serve.

Teacher Of The Visually Impaired Job Openings – Honolulu, Hawaii

The Department of Education presently has positions available within the State of Hawaii.

Prefer dual certified teachers: 1) Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) provide specialized instruction to blind and visually impaired students, ages 3-21, at school and provide on campus mobility instruction, 2) Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists (COMS) provide specialized instruction (Braille, Nemeth, abacus, safe cane travel skills) to blind and visually impaired students, ages 3-21, at their home, schools, and neighborhoods. COMS extend instruction off campus, to neighborhoods and bus routes.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in Special Education with emphasis on Visual Impairment (must include student teaching in a K-12 setting).
2. Authorized to work in the U.S.
3. Proficient in Braille.

Salary: \$39,901 - \$52,924/year

Licensing: Anyone hired must be committed to getting a valid Hawaii teacher license. For more information on licensing requirements and procedures, please visit the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board website at <http://www.htsb.org>

Incentives and Bonuses: A relocation bonus is available for qualified special education teachers and ranges from \$1,500 to \$4,500, based on the applicant's current address. For more information, please see http://rrsc.k12.hi.us/jobs/inc_reloc.htm

Application Procedures: http://doe.k12.hi.us/personnel/teachers_applying.htm

Additional information: <http://doe.k12.hi.us>

Contact:

Stephen Miyasato, Personnel Specialist

Teacher Recruitment

Department of Education

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 490

Honolulu, HI 96817

1-800-305-5104 Toll Free

(808) 586-4050 Fax

stephen_miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – East Peoria, Illinois

TCRC Sight Center, a not for profit Social Service Agency, is seeking a dedicated individual to fill a part-time Orientation and Mobility Specialist position, working with individuals who are blind or have low vision. The individual must possess an undergraduate or graduate degree in orientation and mobility as well as be certified or be able to be certified by ACVREP. This individual will be responsible for providing orientation and mobility training to children and adults who are blind, visually impaired, and/or have multiple disabilities throughout Central Illinois. Salary is competitive and commensurate with training and experience. If interested, please send resume, along with letter of interest, to: TCRC Sight Center, 111 W. Washington, Suite 410, East Peoria, IL 61611 Attn: Jennifer Lee or email at lee@tcrcorg.com.

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Overbrook School for the Blind is seeking a Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructor (with a VI teaching certification preferred) to provide O&M instruction to students, ages 3-21, who are blind and visually impaired and may have additional disabilities.

This position functions as part of the education team and works with other Therapeutic Specialties to provide a comprehensive program for the student.

Position is 20 hours per week and includes a part-time benefit program during the 10-month school year. Salary is based on education and experience. Interested applicants can send their resume to

HR Manager Overbrook School for the Blind

6333 Malvern Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19151
Or e-mail Bill@obs.org or fax to 215-878-8294.

Quote Of The Day!

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.” – Norman Vincent Peale