President's Message

Surf's up and the sun will be shining. I hope you will all hop on board and sign up for the Annual AER/ADRS Blind Training Conference to be held in Gulf Shores. Mark your calendars! The 2003 Alabama AER Annual Conference _AER Waves_ will be held at Beachside Resort in Gulf Shores on October 27th, 28th, & 29th, 2003. I know many of you requested that it be held at another hotel, but due to limited accommodations in the area and higher lodging rates, the Beachside is our best bet. At least we are right on the beach!

The Alabama AER and Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services are continuing their partnership and are working together to develop a comprehensive three day fun filled training opportunity.

Mark you calendars for the Conference and start making plans to attend. Look for additional information in the next newsletter. I am pleased and honored to serve as your president. Please feel free to contact me @ mligsson@rehab.state.al.us

Mimi Glisson
AER Waves 2003 Annual AER/ADRS Training Conference
October 27-29, 2003
Registration Form
Beachside Resort Hotel
931 West Beach Boulevard
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
City: __________ State: ___________ Zip: ____________
Telephone: ____________________Fax: __________________________
E-mail __________________________

Name for Badge (Please print)

Registration for: Pre-Registration Fees On Site Fees

_____ AER Members $100.00 $110.00
_____ Non Members $110.00 $120.00
_____ Retirees $ 55.00 $ 65.00
_____ First Time Attendees $90.00 $100.00
_____ Banquet (extra tickets) $25.00

Preferred format for conference materials: _______Large Print _____Braille

Please make registration checks payable to:
AER
Attn: Ms. Julia Bline
AIDB/E.H. Gentry Technical Facility
PO Box 698
Talladega, Al 35160
Beachside Resort Hotel Toll Free Phone Number: 1-800-844-6913
Rates are: Gulf Doubles- $72.00
Gulf King $72.00
Gulf King Suite $82.00
Gulf King Kitchen $92.00
Deadline for reservations is September 30th, 2003

Proposed AER/ADRS Training Program (subject to change)
Day Time Presentation/Event
Sunday 11:30 AM Golf Scrabble
7:00 PM AER Board Meeting
8:00 PM Ice Breaker Social

Monday
8:00 AM Opening Ceremonies and David Brock
9:00 AM Alabama Eye Injury Registry
9:45 AM Break
10:15 AM Medical Update - Dr. Scott Parma -UAB
12:00 PM Lunch (on your own)
1:00 PM ADRS - Agency update
3:00 PM Break (on your own)
3:15 PM Dog Guide Panel
4:30 PM AER Division Meetings
6:30 PM President's Reception
Tuesday
7:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM RRTC MSU Update - John Mason - MSU RRTC
8:30 AM Employment Update - Mimi Glisson/Stella Pelham
9:00 AM Employment Update - Dr. Adele Crudden - MSU RRTC
10:00 AM Break
10:15 AM AIDB/ADRS/SDE Leadership Panel
11:30 AM Lunch (on your own)
1:00 PM Aging and Vision Issues - Alberta Orr - AFB
2:00 PM Education Issues - Dr. Sandy Lewis - FSU
3:00 PM Break
3:15 PM Helen Keller National - Paige Berry
4:15 PM NAPVI - Rachael Sanspree/Josh Allen
6:00 PM Luau (Banquet) - Dr. Bob Couch

Wednesday
7:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM Academy Certification - Gale Watson
9:00 AM UAB Graduate Student Presentations
10:00 AM AER Business Meeting

AER Golf Scramble
Date: October 26, 2003
Where: Craft Farms Woodland Course
Gulf Shores, Alabama
Highway 59
Tee Time: 12:00 sharp (Arrive by 11:30am)
Cost: $49.00 Green/cart fees
$5.00 Tournament fee
RSVP by: October 3, 2003
Call: Lori Brady (334) 566-2491
Call for Awards Nominations
Deadline for nominations: August 29th, 2003

Grider Award: The Grider Award, named after Charles B. Grider, 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.

Cox Award: The Cox Award, named after Hezz Cox, is presented to an Alabama Chapter member who has been a member for at least three years. The award represents personal commitment to the goals and principles of this chapter and commitment to persons who are blind or visually impaired in the quest for acceptance in their community.

Paraprofessional/Worker of the Year Award: This award honors an Alabama Chapter member who has been employed full time for at least three years and exemplifies job dedication within the field of blindness. Examples of contributions to the understanding of blindness and commitment to AER are encouraged.

Employer of the Blind Award: This award will be presented to an employer who has given an individual who is blind the opportunity to work in business or industry, thereby showing that the employee who is blind has been accepted by his employer because of his ability. Examples of willingness to implement modification and changes to enhance employment are required.

Please submit nominations to:
Lee Berdinski
SBRC (124)
VA Medical Center
700 S. 19th Street
Birmingham, Al 35233
lee.berdinski@med.va.gov