



AMESVIEW

website: www.amesvi.org

The AMESVI 2014-2015 Board Members

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2014 ISSUE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Welcome to **Amesvi's 17th year!** Many thanks and appreciation for the contributions and dedication of our 2013-2014 Board Members: Past President Josée Klentak, who is our current Website coordinator and conference committee member; Eileen Curran, past Corresponding secretary and current list-serve manager; Michelle Antinarelli, Ex-Officio; Laura Koester, Central MA Representative; and Nalida Besson, Greater Boston Representative. Your efforts continue to enhance the education of all our students and keep Amesvi strong through collaboration and professional support.*

As educators of students with visual impairments we find ourselves working during formidable times. Proposed and current federal and state mandates, reforms, and proposed policy changes affect how we all provide services to each one of our students. The current standard has become fewer resources to address increased caseloads with many more multi-challenged students. In addition, the prolific advances in technology have significantly increased print accessibility, but requires intensive education and training for educators and families prior to offering these skills to our students.

***Amesvi** members must determine and integrate appropriate resources and supports for more and more challenges. The new initiatives of District Determined Measures, the Educator Evaluation System, licensure, and professional development, all have to be implemented concurrently with our principal responsibility for curriculum access and instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum.*

*The **Amesvi** listserve has been a lifeline for information and support and our new website will be another tool to add to our repertoire. Whether working part-time or full-time, and no matter the number of employers, **Amesvi** is here to serve all of our membership. The **Amesvi** Board keeps current with new policies and advances and will continue to look to members for ideas to increase support to become more of a relevant voice serving our students with visual impairments.*

*One goal I have, as president is for **Amesvi** to develop a membership directory highlighting the skills and resources we have to offer. The strength of the membership our work and networking will not only help **Amesvi** grow, but to flourish. I look forward to working together as we educate and prepare all of our students with visual impairments to thrive in the present and the future!*

*Pamela S. Sudore
TVI/COMS*

WWW.AMESVI.ORG

Our new website was launched in April 2014 and we will continue to expand and improve our including regular updates and expansion which we hope will make [amesvi.org](http://www.amesvi.org) your go-to place for all things vision related.

REGIONAL UPDATES

*Regional Representatives serve a two-year term on July 1st (fiscal year). Number of meetings, location, and topics are determined by the regional rep and their members. *Note: all **Amesvi** members are welcomed to attend any of the regional meetings. Check with the reps for schedules and topics.*

Central MA Representative Laura Koester (past), Charlene Laferrera worked on developing a *Survey Monkey* to send to members to determine how to best serve **Amesvi** members of the region.

Greater Boston Region

Regional Representative Nalida Besson (past) Cheryl Cumings and Jessica Erlich have been planning sessions be hosted at Carroll Center and Perkins on various topics that will including using Apps with your students.

Western Region Representative Ann Barber organized monthly meetings to talk about *Bookshare* and new technologies and services to students. In the Fall, members become reacquainted and determined a list topics they would like to address throughout the school year.

North Shore Representative Kathy Graham hosted a great meeting at the *Northshore Education Consortium*, Beverly, MA with Tom Miller, Program Director. Jen Dougherty of *Learning Ally* presented the new features of their program and how to navigate the website.

South Shore Representative Nicole Hemmer hosted a small meeting in the spring to determine the needs of the region and develop a meeting schedule for the 2014-15 school year.

CONFERENCES

AMESVI 2014 Spring Conference

When: Friday, April 11, 2014

Where: Grousbeck Technology Center, Perkins School for the Blind

Topic: CVI: What is it? what do we know? What do we do?

Speaker: Mary Morse, Ph.D.

Audience: Anyone working or needing to learn about students with CVI.

Mary Morse gave an in-depth presentation complete with videos, resources, checklists and handouts. to attendees. Here are some resources available to all:

1. Educational Techniques Overview

http://tech.aph.org/cvi/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Morse_SomeEdTechniques.pdf

2. Environmental Consideration Checklist

http://tech.aph.org/cvi/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Morse_EnvironmentalChecklist.pdf

AMESVI 2014 Fall Conference

The AMESVI Board voted to change the Fall conference to January since the fall months have been requiring even more time than usual for teaching when beginning a new school year. This includes the new teacher evaluation system, District Determined Measures, more mandated professional development and time needed to transition the new AMESVI Board.

The *Department of Elementary and Secondary Education* (DESE) is making changes to the IEP forms and is asking for feedback. Our conference will highlight the best tools and tips to make the IEP work for your students. SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2015

RESOURCES

Overview of Organizations. Please check the websites for more detailed information.

Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu>

Special Education, Educator Evaluation, Licensure, MCAS, PARCC

Perkins

<http://www.perkins.org>

I. Perkins Libraries

Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) catalog:

<https://webopac.klas.com/ma1aopac>

Samuel P. Hayes Research Library Catalog

<http://dbhost01.inmagic.com/dbtw-wpd/perkins/index.htm>

II. Perkins eLearning

<http://www.perkinselearning.org>

Tutorials, Webinars, Webcasts. Perkins Training Center, Perkins Scout, Teaching Resources

III. Perkins Products

<http://www.perkins.org/products>

IV. Low Vision Clinic (New England Eye Low Vision Clinic)

<http://www.perkins.org/school/community-programs/low-vision-clinic>

The Carroll Center for the Blind

<http://carroll.org>

I. Education and Youth Programs

II. Technology Services

III. Low Vision Assessments These organizations offer newsletters

IV. Online Learning, Video Tutorials

AIM (Accessible Instructional Materials) Library

<http://www.aimlibrary.org>

The Massachusetts **AIM Library** acquires, maintains and distributes specialized instructional materials, coordinates textbooks in Braille and Large Print, to assist school districts and educators to provide blind and visually impaired students with an appropriate education and equal access to the core curriculum.

CAST: Center for Applied Special Technology

www.cast.org

40 Harvard Mill Square # 3,
Wakefield, MA 01880
(781) 245-2212

Opportunities for individuals with disabilities through the development of and innovative uses of technology.

TSBVI (Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired)

<http://tsbvi.edu/>

- I. Expanded Core Curriculum
- II. On-The-Go-Learning
- III. Guidelines
- IV. Orientation & Mobility
- V. Assessments
- VI. Technology
- VII. Instructional Strategies

APH (American Printing House for the Blind)

<http://www.aph.org>

- I. APH Catalog
<http://www.aph.org/catalogs/>
- II. Louis Database
<http://louis.aph.org/catalog/CategoryInfo.aspx?cid=152>
- III. CVI Resources
<http://tech.aph.org/cvi>
- IV. Orientation & Mobility

NERCVE (Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education) Improving Education for Individuals with Visual Impairments

<http://www.nercve.org/professional-resources>

- I. University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Education-Teacher Prep for TVIs and Coms
- II. Online Courses
- III. Multi-Media Presentations
- IV. Braille Proficiency

NEWSLETTERS/BIOGS

These organizations offer newsletters, and/or new product info and reviews.

<http://www.flying-blind.com>

<http://www.blindbargains.com>

AFB AccessWorld Magazine

<http://www.afb.org/aw/main.asp>

<http://www.applevis.com>

Dialogue Magazine

<http://www.blindskills.com/dialogue.html>

DeAnn Elliott's Blog

<http://carroll.org/news-events/deanns-blog> Visually Impaired and Blind User Group

<http://www.vibug.org>

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Helpful Tools/Tips Survey From Pamela Sudore and April 2014 Conference Attendees:

Favorite New Devices

- iPad 3, iPad Mini, iPad Air
- Airbender (NewTrent) Wireless Keyboard for iPad
- Portable Video Magnifiers-VisioBook, Pebble
- Blaze EZ (Multi-player with OCR)
- Light-Aide
- New Victor Stream
- Water Dancing Speakers
- Everest Embosser (Index)
- Braille Sense U2
- APH Refreshabraille 18

Recommended Apps

Productivity/Reading:

- KNFB Reader, (snap a picture of text using iPad or iPhone and VoiceOver reads it!)
- Voice Dream
- Quizlet (flashcards to create/share)
- Type on PDF
- Evernote
- Jobnot
- Notability
- Scanbot
- Pocket News
- ABC Magic Phonics
- Phonogram Sounds
- Educreations Interactive Whiteboard
- Sight Words, Sight Words 2
- Sounds for Fun, s b m t h c
- Little Stars Word Wizard
- Book Creator Free
- My Story-Storybook and Ebook Maker for Kids
- Stack the States
- GeoExpert Lite
- Map Puzzles for Kids (World)
- I Spell My First Words

Math

- AB Math
- Times Tables
- Amazing coin
- Hungry Fish
- Math Party
- My Math App
- Shapes 3D Geometry Learning
- My ScriptCalculator
- Talking Scientific Calculator

Vision/Braille

- Fireworks Lite
- Magic Matrix, Matrix Game 3
- Color ID Free
- EasyOn the Eyes
- Vision Sim
- VizWiz
- VIA
- LookTel Money Reader
- What You See
- eyeSnellen
- Eye Movement Training
- Tap n See Now
- Pocket Pond Lite, Pocket Pond2
- Bike Race TFG
- Braille Now
- Braille123
- BrailleEye
- PBLite
- iBrailler Notes

Mobility

- Taxi Magic
- Tap Tap See
- Ariadne GPS
- VM Alert-Video Motion Detector
- Awareness! The Headphone App
- Walk Smart
- Survival Signs & Words
- Pocket Map
- Practice Street Crossing
- Map Draw-Route tracking and Annotation

Concepts

- Tiny Hands Sorting
- Animal Sounds-iTots
- Free Animal Sounds
- Little Reader abc
- Candy Count
- Baby flash

Cause Effect/CVI

- SoundingBoard
- ChoiceBoard-Creator
- Photo Design (moris balahsan)
- Big Bang Pictures
- Easy Board
- Fun Bubbles
- Baby View Lite
- Infant Zoo
- Fisher Price black & white, contrast color

Music-PreK

- Xylophone
- Sound Touch Lite
- Edu Cards for Pre-School
- Music ColorLite
- I Hear Ewe
- Fisher Price Laugh & Learn
- Peek A Boo Barn, Peek A Boo Kids,
- Animal Friends
- Fisher Price Apps
- Touch the Sound
- Magic Piano
- Sorting 1
- HelpKidzlearn Apps
- Video Touch
- 123 Kids Fun Flash Cards

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS SUMMER CAMPS

Perkins School for the Blind

175 North Beacon St., Watertown 02472 (617) 972-7434; (617) 972-7586 FAX

Email: outreach@perkins.org For New England residents. Referral required; Outreach Programs and summer programs. Welcome Kids with Blindness or Visual Impairments and other disabilities.

Carroll Center for the Blind

Summer Youth Programs

770 Centre Street

Newton, MA 02458

617-969-6200

617-969-6204 (fax)

karen.ross@carroll.org

Easter Seals Massachusetts

484 Main Street

Worcester, MA

800-922-8290 (voice) 800-564-9700 (tty)

508-831-9768 (fax)

info@eastersealsma.org

For over 50 years, Easter Seals has specialized in finding appropriate summer programming for children and young adults with disabilities.

Camp Inter-Actions

Camp Location: Plymouth, MA

Camp Inter-Actions is a traditional summer camp experience for children who are blind or visually impaired.

(603) 228-2803

Website: www.inter-actions.org

Camp Jabberwocky (Special Needs)

200 Greenwood Ave

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1357

Vineyard Haven, MA

02568

Phone: 508-687-0967

Email: info@campjabberwocky.org

Camp Allen

56 Camp Allen Rd., Bedford 03110

(603) 622-8471; (603) 626-4295 FAX

Website: www.campallennh.org

Email: campallennh@aol.com

Easter Seals New Hampshire Camping Program

200 Zachary Rd., Bldg. 2, Manchester 03109

(603) 206-6733

(603) 669-9413 FAX

(603) 623-8863 TTY

Website: www.eastersealsnh.org

Integrated program for children of all levels of ability.

New England Disabled Sports at Loon Mountain

Lincoln 03251

(603) 745-2651, (603) 387-2484

Website: www.loonmtn.com/info/winter/adaptive.aspx

Email: info@loonmtn.com

4-H Camp Howe - Echo Program

PO Box 326

Goshen, MA 01032-0326

Tel: (413) 549-3969

Fax: (413) 268-8206 (summer months only)

office@camphowe.com

This program is for youth ages 7 to 20 with a disability. The youth are fully integrated into every aspect of the camp program from cabin living to every activity. More information is available on the Echo Program link [here](#).

Abilities Unlimited: Kamp for Kids/Camp Togowauk

61 Union St

Westfield, MA 01085

(413) 562-5678

(413) 562-1239 FAX

Integrated Day Camp for residents of Western Massachusetts. They provide services for persons of all ages with a primary focus on individuals who have a disability. These services are tailored to the changing needs of individuals and families for the purpose of enhancing their experiences, skills and abilities.

East Boston Social Center

68 Central Square

East Boston, MA 02128

(617) 569-3221

(617) 569-9862 FAX

Email: social.centers@ebsoc.org

For local area residents; Westford camp location; no wheelchair access. Welcome Kids with Blindness or Visual Impairments and other disabilities.

Greater Waltham ARC: Inclusive Summer Day Camp Program

56 Chestnut St.
Waltham, MA 02453-4033
(781) 899-1344
(781) 899-2197 fax
(781) 899-8555 TTY
Email: gwarc@gwarc.org

Handi Kids

Jane M. Pariseau 470 Pine St
Bridgewater, MA 02324
(508) 697-7557
jpariseau@handikids.org

Ironstone Farm

450 Lowell St.
Andover, MA 01810 -~~4056~~ 475
(978) 475-4046 fax
Email: ironstonefarm@challengeunlimited.org

For New England residents. Therapeutic riding program for children with special needs.

Natick Recreation and Parks: Camp Arrowhead

179 Boden Lane
Natick, MA 01760 -~~6500~~ 647
Email: info@camparrowhead.us

Located in the beautifully wooded shores of Lake Cochituate, Camp Arrowhead is a day and residential camp that serves children and adults with disabilities.

Newton Parks and Recreation: Newton Therapeutic Recreation Program

70 Crescent St.,
Newton 02466
(617) 796-1527
(617) 796-1500
(617) 796-1512 FAX
Email: mkelly@ci.newton.ma.us

For local area residents.

Recreational programs for children with special needs.

Contribute to AMESVIEW

*Please share your professional experiences, tools, resources, and best practices at anytime for publication in the **Amesview** newsletter to: president@amesvi.org*

Prior to publication, you will have the opportunity to update or add additional information to any items contributed to our newsletter.

Thank you!