

# Orientation & Mobility Division

## **Mid-Winter 2014 Newsletter Update**

Winter is definitely upon us! As you know, the Division has been working diligently for the past 18 months and I am happy to announce that we have met all our established goals. The most recent is the Division Executive Committee's approval of the O&M Division Policy & Procedure Manual. In accordance with direction from the AER Board, the Division Executive Committee forwarded the document to the AER Bylaws and Structures Committee for review and we have posted a link to the manual in the ABOUT O&M DIVISION section our website (<http://oandm.aerbvi.org/aboutOandM.htm>). The Division EC also provided a set of recommendations to the Bylaws and Structures Committee regarding suggested changes to the AER Bylaws and AER P&P Manual.

The Division EC is still looking for a member who is willing to serve as the Newsletter Editor. Please contact Division Chair, Kevin Hollinger ([kjhollinger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjhollinger@sbcglobal.net)), if you are interested!

The Division EC will have their next meeting in Mid-March and the confirmed date will be posted on the Website at least two weeks in advance. An update of the Division finances, summary of the O&M Conference, and Committee Updates will be discussed.

## **O&M DIVISION ELECTIONS**

The Division's District Directors and Nominations Chair, Dr. Tanni Anthony, are actively pursuing and recruiting members to serve on the Division's Executive Committee. In order to nominate yourself or another member, you must: 1) Be an active member yourself, and 2) contact Dr. Anthony. You can utilize the attached form or retrieve it from our website. Remember the deadline for nominations is March 7, 2014.

## **O&M DIVISION AWARDS**

It's time to award our deserving O & M professionals with our division awards for this biennium! So read this message and nominate your friends and coworkers!! Nominations and letters of support shall be made by members of the O&M Division with a letter of up to two pages in length. The number of letters submitted shall not influence the decision one way or the other.

Below are the procedures and qualifications for the awards. You must email your nomination to Dr. Kathy Yale, Awards Chair, by March 7, 2014.

### **Nomination Procedures**

In order to make submissions accessible to all members, AER's accessibility policy now requires that all submissions be submitted electronically – therefore, your nomination should be in Microsoft Word.

### **Blaha Award**

Selection Criteria:

1) The individual must have had at least ten years experience in the field of blindness and must have distinguished himself or herself in activities related to orientation and mobility such as:

- Contributing to the body of knowledge/literature;
- Excelling in a leadership manner in the provision of O&M services to the blind and visually impaired;
- Has recruited or otherwise impacted on the decision of a large number of individuals to enter the field of orientation and mobility;
- Has served in a "mentor capacity" to a significant number of O&M professionals.

2) The achievements being recognized must have had a significant impact upon the field of orientation and mobility.

3) The individual must be an AER O&M division member and have ACVREP certification unless retired or out of the field (administration).

4) Nominations and letters of support shall be made by members of the O&M division with a letter of up to two pages in length. The number of letters submitted shall not influence the decision.

### **Sandy Kronick Distinguished Service**

Award criteria:

The recipient should:

- Have worked in the field of O&M ten years or more;
- Be a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist unless retired or out of the field (administration);
- Have spent the majority of professional career in direct service, teaching O&M to visually impaired people;
- Exemplify the standards outlined in the O&M Code of Ethics;
- Have been a long-standing member of AER's Division Nine (majority of career);
- Have demonstrated distinguished service by doing one or more of the following:
- Extend beyond the usual job requirements by using talents and expertise to enhance the field of O&M;
- Initiate innovative or unique programs;
- Serve as a mentor to other O&M specialists;
- Present at local, regional, or international conferences;
- Publish work in a professional journal.

### **Orientation and Mobility Citation of Excellence for Direct Service Criteria:**

The recipient must be:

- In direct service the year preceding the conference;
- A member in good standing of the AER O&M Division;

- A Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist;
- In the field of O&M for 5-10 years;
- Involved in teaching children and/or adults.