

Alabama AER Election Results for 2016 and Information about Officers and Board Members

The AER Board and membership extends its congratulations to the persons below who have been elected or appointed to serve as an officer or board member. The terms for the newly elected officers and board members will begin with their installation at the 33rd Annual Training Conference, Mobile, Alabama. Congratulations to all who are willing to serve Alabama AER and welcome to newly elected President Lenore Dillon and Board Member Melody Brown.

Information about Officers and Board Members

President 2016-2018, Lenore Dillon: Lenore was elected as a Board Member for a three year term in 2015 and was elected as President-Elect in 2016. The board position vacated by Lenore will be appointed by the Board of Directors. Lenore will begin her term as President in October of 2016 thru October 2018. Lenore works as Coordinator of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists and Orientation and Mobility Specialists for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. Lenore has over 30 years of experience in all aspects of Rehabilitation Teaching. Her experiences include both direct service provision (itinerant and center-based), administration of Rehabilitation Teaching Programs, and serving as an instructor at a university preparation program. Lenore received her Bachelor's Degree in Rehabilitation Teaching from Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida in 1976. She served as both an Itinerant Rehabilitation Teacher and as a center-based Rehabilitation Teacher in Indiana from 1976-1979. From 1979-1984 her center-based experience was as a Personal Management Instructor at Bosma Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis. She spent 14 years as the Director of Indiana's Itinerant Rehabilitation Teaching Program, 1984-1997. During this time she received her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Administration from DePaul University, Chicago, IL in 1992. Lenore served as a faculty instructor, 1997-1998, working with students that were earning a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Teaching at Northern Illinois University. She also spent two and a half years as an associate professor at Korea Nazarene University in Chonan City, South Korea (2002-2005).

President-Elect 2016-2018. This position is currently vacant due to the resignation of Jennifer Stephens. A new President-Elect will be elected in the 2017 nominating and election cycle.

Past-President 2016-2018, Caitlin Simpson: Caitlin works as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services in the Huntsville office. She received her undergraduate degree in English from the University of Alabama. She completed a master's degree at Florida State University, double majoring in Rehabilitation Teaching and Orientation and Mobility. Her internship was completed at E.H. Gentry and in the Gadsden ADRS office. She worked for five years in the Mobile area as an O&M instructor, and then transferred to Huntsville where she has served the mobility needs of north Alabama for the past four years.

Secretary 2016-2018, Julia Brock: Julie is retired from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services with over 29 years of service and is currently a consultant with the American Foundation for the Blind and also with Disability Rights and Resources of Greater Birmingham. She earned the Bachelor of Science from Jacksonville State University and the Master of Arts from the University of Alabama. She is a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist and a longtime member of AER.

Treasurer 2016-2018, Joe Helm: Joe retired from his position of Assistant Commissioner with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services in April 2014. He currently serves as a consultant and trainer for various organizations and serves as an administrative surveyor for CARF the Accreditation

Commission for Rehabilitation Facilities. Joe has served as AER Treasurer since July of 2012, filling the unexpired term vacated by the unexpected passing of Rod Harrell. He was elected to serve a treasurer in 2014-2016, and was reelected to serve a two year term from 2016-2018. Joe has served the Alabama Chapter as President-Elect, President, Past President and Treasurer. Additionally Joe served as the District V representative to the AER International Board 2008-2010.

Board Member 2015-2017, Lori Brady: Lori works as the Director of Alabama's Business Enterprise Program a joint service program with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. Previously she worked as a BEP Representative for 27 years and has been associated with and or a member of AER all of those years. Lori earned her B.S. degree from Auburn University. She is a member of Randolph Sheppard Vendors of America, the Pike County Cattlewomen Association. Lori and her husband Tim have been married for 27 years and they have one son, Justin.

Board Member 2015-2017, Susan Harrell: Susan is retired from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services where she was employed as a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, serving persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and blind. Susan served in this capacity for 16 years. Susan joined AER in 1999 and since that time she has served on the Alabama Chapter of AER Board of Directors for the past eight years in the capacities of Board Member, President-Elect, President, and Past-President.

Board Member 2016-2018, Dawn K. DeCarlo: Dr. DeCarlo is director of the UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation (CLVR), where she treats patients with decreased vision that cannot be corrected medically or surgically. She is a Diplomate in the Low Vision Section of the American Academy of Optometry. She earned her Doctor of Optometry and two Master of Science degrees (physiological optics and public health) UAB. She completed residency training in rehabilitative and hospital based optometry at the Hines Central Blind Rehabilitation Center and the Chicago West Side Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. DeCarlo has received National Eye Institute, National Institute for Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research and EyeSight Foundation of Alabama funding to study vision impairment due to age-related macular degeneration as well as pediatric vision impairment. Dr. DeCarlo previously served on the board from 2012-2014.

Board Member 2016-2018, Vacant: This board position will be filled through selection and appointment by the Alabama Chapter board of Directors. This board vacancy resulted from Board Member Lenore Dillon being elected as President in 2016.

Board Member 2016-2019, Dana Barber: Dana serves as the State Coordinator of blind Services with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) – vocational Rehab. She is formerly an Employment Specialist and Vision Rehabilitation Therapist with ADRS and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB). Dana's primary goal is to ensure that Alabamians with vision loss are treated with respect and dignity when receiving rehabilitation services resulting in independence and employment. Dana has an AA degree from Central Alabama Community college, a BS in Management of Human Resources from Faulkner University in Montgomery, and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation counseling from Auburn University. Dana and her husband Phillip have been married for 36 years and they have two daughters, April Riddle and Heidi Lee, and 3 grandchildren, Blair and Hadley Riddle and Barrett Lee.

Board Member 2016-2019, Melody Brown: Melody has worked for AIDB since 2005, as the Orientation & Mobility Instructor at the Helen Keller School of Alabama. Melody graduated from Florida State University earning a Master's degree in Visual Disabilities with specializations in Rehabilitation Teaching

and Orientation and Mobility. Melody has also served clients in ADRS's Vocational Rehabilitation and OASIS programs. Melody has used her experiences to teach at SOMA and other regional conferences, the most recent being the Alabama Department of Public Health, Are You Ready? Emergency Preparedness Training. Melody completed a two year term as the District V Representative for AER International. As an AER member she has worked on fund raising, university program review, personnel preparation, recruitment, and membership. Melody's most recent project is participating on a statewide committee to develop standards and guidelines for hiring and educating TVIs and O&Ms in Alabama. Her professional passion is teaching people how to teach people, in line with their respective gifting and goals.