



Lori, Deborah, Dorothy, and PeggyPretty Is as Pretty Does!



Shelia Smiles while Darryl writes a bad check from the BEP Division Treasury!



Great job Susan!



Dr. DeCarlo

3rd Flight Winners, Julie, Dennis, Ashley, Joe & Jimbo





**Lights Out
Bowling
Made \$166 for the
Scholarship Fund!**

**Thanks to all who
participated!**

A Few Candid Photos from Lakepoint 2010



**John and Rita doing the New York Chair Dance!!!!
Real Popular Up North!!! Just Kidding John!**

Loretta Bryan AER BDS Scholarship Recipient

Alabama AER Chapter proudly announces Loretta Bryan as the 2010 recipient of the AER Billy Don Sims Scholarship. Loretta is well known to most of you. She has a long and successful history working in vision rehabilitation. Because of her love and commitment to the field of vision rehabilitation, she has worked tirelessly to further her education in order to realize her dream of becoming a Rehabilitation Teacher. She will graduate in May 2011 with a bachelor's degree from Athens State University.

For the past ten years Loretta has worked side by side with an ADRS Rehabilitation

Teacher and has been inspired by this Rehabilitation Teacher as her mentor. She has volunteered and worked with several vision loss support groups and consumer groups and has found these groups to be an important resource for consumers, their families, and their communities. She states that these experiences have been extremely rewarding for her and have fueled her drive to further her education and broaden her scope of work. With great determination she has pursued her studies at night on a part time basis. Eventually, her plans are to pursue a master's degree in Rehabilitation Teaching.

In addition to her full time job and studies, she most recently served as a researcher in an ADA compliance community participation research project through the Southeast DBTAC and Burton Blatt Institute of Syracuse University.



Julie Brock AER BDS Scholarship Chair presents \$1,000 Check to Loretta Bryan, BDS Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Loretta on her academic and professional achievements. The Alabama AER Chapter is delighted to support Loretta in achieving her dream by awarding her the 2010 AER Billy Don Sims Scholarship. As this year's recipient Loretta will receive the \$1000 scholarship award and a one-year Student Membership in AER International.

“Congratulations Loretta!”

Your AER Board and Officers for 2011

President	Susan Harrell	Term 2011 and 2012
President – Elect	Issac Beavers	Term 2011 and 2012
Past President	John Mascia	Term 2011 and 2012
Treasurer	Rod Harrell	Term 2011 and 2012
Secretary	Caitlin Simpson	Term 2011 and 2012
Board Member	Joe Helm	Term 2011
Board Member	Jennifer Stephens	Term 2011
Board Member	Dawn DeCarlo	Term 2011 and 2012
Board Member	Curtis Glisson	Term 2011 and 2012
Board Member	Julie Brock	Term 2011, 2012 and 2013
Board Member	Darryl McCaul	Term 2011, 2012 and 2013

Don't Let APATHY Catch YOU! Do Your Part!

During the 2010 AER Elections we received 22 ballots one of which was disqualified as it was not signed. Nine of the 21 votes were cast by officers and board members and the remaining 11 votes came from AER members.

About 26% of those eligible to vote actually voted! Don't let APATHY catch you in 2011! Support AER by getting involved in the nomination and election process! In 2011 two Board Member positions will be nominated

by April 1st with the election ballot being sent to the eligible voting members by June 1st. Dr. John Mascia will serve as the Chair of the Nominating/Elections Committee for 2011 and 2012.



**DO YOUR PART
NOMINATE....IN MAY 2011 and
VOTE In JUNE of 2011 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Tiny—News Bits!

The Alabama AER Chapter is on the WEB!.....<http://www.alabamaaer.com/>

John Mascia, Alabama AER Past President has been asked to serve on the AER International Legislative Committee

The Alabama AER Chapter has XXX active members and XXX lapsed members! If you are in the lapsed group please consider activating your membership!

AER Staff Member Ginger Croce has been appointed interim Executive Director of AER International while the International Board conducts a search to replace Jim Gandorf who recently resigned.

Lauren Houston a junior in the School of Pharmacy at Auburn University and daughter of Rita and John Houston is engaged to be married.... Congratulations the Houston family and especially to Lauren!!!!

Did you know that Executive Order 13513 “prohibits text messaging and emailing while driving during official Federal Grant business”. Simply put “ADRS employees are prohibited from text messaging while driving a government-owned vehicle or while driving their own privately-owned vehicle during official business or from using government-supplied electronic equipment to text message or email when driving”. This prohibition also extends to ALL individuals and organizations that have Contracts and/or Agreements with ADRS. Contractor’s must agree to prohibit their personnel from text messaging while driving a government-owned vehicle or while driving their own privately-owned vehicle during official business or from using government-supplied electronic equipment to text message or email when driving.

The Oregon Elected Committee of Blind Vendors recently invited and paid for Alabama’s BEP Director, Mr. Ray Dennis and BEP Vendor Charlie Carroll to attend their state training conference to discuss the topic of “Active Participation”. Great recognition for Alabama’s BEP program!

This is a new effort and format for the Alabama Chapter Newsletter if you have blindness or AER news or comments please email them to jpheagle@charter.net

Congratulations to Mississippi State University’s Rehabilitation, Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision

Winner of the highly competitive five-year, \$4.25-million federal grant will allow a Mississippi State center to initiate and expand research into systems change, education, training and outreach activities that foster employment of people who are blind or visually impaired.

The University Center will receive \$850,000 this year and annually through 2015 from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. The funding will support the center's efforts to increase competitive opportunities and outcomes for blind or visually impaired individuals in the job market. Again Congrats to interim director Brenda Cavanaugh and all the MSU-RRTC staff!

I Memoriam Vera J. McClain

Vera J. McClain died in January 2010, after several years of declining health and a career of working for the blind and visually impaired. Born in Cullman, Alabama, in 1927, she lost her sight to glaucoma. She learned blindness skills at the Alabama Training Center for the Deaf Blind in Talladega, AL. She went on to earn a BA in social work from Montevallo University, and her MA in Rehabilitation at Hunter College in New York. Ms. McClain spent 17 years working for the Alabama State Rehabilitation Agency, where she built a national reputation, and then moved to the Florida State University in 1972, where she taught Braille and communications skills to future blindness professionals. In 1982, she returned to Alabama as a Rehabilitation Teacher, retiring in 1995. During her life, she was an avid supporter of ACB, writing articles for "Braille Forum" and advocating on behalf of the blind. In retirement, she also joined the Silver-Haired Legislature, a group that lobbied the Alabama state legislature on behalf of senior citizens.