

**January 2025 Volume 28 No. 1**

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

[aer@aerbvi.org](mailto:aer@aerbvi.org) ■ [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) ■ [https://aerbvi.org/oandmdivision](https://aerbvi.org/about/divisions/orientation-mobility-division/)

Happy New Year!

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.”

– [**Seneca**](https://somethinkofvalue.com/seneca-quotes/)

Editor’s note: If reading on a cell phone photos may show up sideways!  
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From the Chair:

Dear O&M Division 9 Members,

Happy New Year! It has been a great opportunity to serve as your Division Chair over the past six months. There is so much happening at AER to be excited about. The O&M Division 9 Board is looking forward to membership being positively impacted by the process improvements coming to fruition.

Thank you to AER members who joined us on December 4th for the live event with ACVREP “Navigating Certification & Recertification: A Guide to ACVREP and the Orientation & Mobility Profession.” It was wonderful to collaborate with ACVREP President/CEO Kathie Zeider and Tracy Green, the new Certification Services Specialist. Kathie gave learners a website tutorial, walked us through the certification and recertification process, and fielded questions from the floor. If you missed the live event, AER members can access the webinar, on the [AER ELearning Platform.](https://www.aerelearning.org/) Members can receive 1 ACVREP credit, as this is an AER membership benefit.

An ACVREP comment period is open through January 30 for the proposed criteria for Certified Vision Rehabilitation Occupational Therapist (CVROT) Certification. It is vital that the professionals who are certified through ACVREP provide any needed feedback on the proposed criteria. The proposed criteria is available for download on the [ACVREP website.](https://www.acvrep.org/newsitem?id=96)

Be on the lookout for Blasch Scholarship announcements to be distributed in late January via O&M Division E-Blast. Send questions to Eric Shaw, Blasch Scholarship Chair at [BlaschScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:BlaschScholarship@gmail.com).

The O&M Division will provide an E-Blast on the results of the proposed position paper “Model Program for Use of Paraeducators in Orientation and Mobility Instruction” after the January 24, AER Board of Directors Meeting. Thank you to the writing team and those who provided thoughtful comments and feedback throughout the writing period, open comment period and vote.

The O&M Division is grateful for the dedication and commitment of our Environmental Access Committee. The following members of the Environmental Access Committee contributed their expertise to the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. Thank you to Beezy Bentzen, Linda Myers, Lukas Franck, JoAnne Chalom, Claudia Libis, MaryBeth Cleveland, and Raychel Callary.  A special edition of the AER O&M Division 9 Newsletter from the Environmental Access Committee will be distributed in early spring.

The O&M Division continues to operate at the hands of the dedicated volunteers who lend their time, expertise, and passion for our profession. As we work to strengthen our division and grow our membership, we ask you to get involved by joining one of our committees.

The following committees are in need of additional members:

* Continuing Education Committee
* Communications (Newsletter/Social Media)
* Nominating and Elections (Spring 2025)
* Scholarship Committee
* Membership Committee

For inquiries regarding joining a committee, please reach out to us at [AEROMDivision@gmail.com](mailto:AEROMDivision@gmail.com).

Margaret “Maggie” Winn  
Chair, Orientation and Mobility Division 9  
2024-2026

From the Past Chair:

Dear Division Members,

It was very exciting to attend the [Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting](https://trb-annual-meeting.nationalacademies.org/) with members of the O&M Division Environmental Access Committee at the beginning of the year. This is attended by transportation planners and researchers from across the globe. Members provided education and advocacy for accessible infrastructure and learned about upcoming trends. Watch for a special newsletter edition in the next month.

The O&M Division Board has been working to restart our continuing education committee, and has begun to provide webinars that will be available in the AER eLearning center. AER members can receive ACVREP credits included in their membership. Special thanks to our chair-elect and chair of the continuing education committee Alexa Poynor, and to AER Executive Director Lee Sonnenberg for the invaluable collaboration.

Best wishes for a happy 2025!

Raychel Callary

AER O&M Division Chair, 2022-2024

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**Updates from Districts**

**District 1: Autumn Booths-Speers** (Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Northwest Territories, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Yukon Territories.)

[Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC)](https://na.eventscloud.com/website/78425/) will be held in Anchorage on Feb. 3-5, 2025, with a pre-conference, happening Feb. 1-3. The theme is ***“Interstellar Inclusion Breaking Barriers to the Future”.***

The **California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired/**CTEBVI 2025 Conference ***“Unlocking Opportunities”.***is celebrating its 65th year of being one of the most inclusive event, encompassing transcribers, teachers, paraprofessionals, rehabilitation specialists, orientation & mobility specialists, students, parents and all other advocates for K-12 blind and low vision students, both nationally and internationally. It will be held in San Francisco CA., April 10-13. [CTEBVI Conference](https://www.ctebvi.org/conference/)

**The CA STEAM Symposium** will be held on Feb.7-8, in San Diego. It is co-hosted by the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation (CDEF), the CA Department of Education, and the CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. This Symposium convenes STEAM education enthusiasts annually who believe in the power of active, joyful, and engaging exploration and learning for all California students, especially those in traditionally marginalized communities. For more information go to [CA STEAM Symposium](https://web.cvent.com/event/c045dcf9-8172-4253-a8f0-28d665b95fe9/summary)

The **40th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity “***By Us and For Us: Legacy and Future of Our Movement*”will be held onApril 15 – 16, In-Person with virtual options, in Honolulu. For more information go to [Pac Rim Conference](https://pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu/).

The **Center for Assistive Technology Training/CATT** serves a six-state region, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. Trainers travel throughout the region to meet the needs of providers, specializing in training and educating on assistive technology for the Blind and Low Vision community. Click here for [CATT Events](https://seeitourway.org/services/catt/catt-events/).

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**District 2:**  Debbie Fussell (Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Manitoba, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, Texas)

Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER) Annual Conference, which will take place in Corpus Christi on March 20-22. <https://www.txaer.org/conference.html> Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired (TSBVI) offers a variety of up-to-date training and collaboration opportunities through weekly [Coffee Hour and Tech Tea Time](https://www.tsbvi.edu/events). ACVREP & SBEC credit available. Visit the [TSBVI Events](https://www.tsbvi.edu/events) page for more details.

**District 3: Jennifer Duncan** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Wisconsin)  [JDuncan.visionom@gmail.com](mailto:JDuncan.visionom@gmail.com)

* **Illinois: The 2025 IAER Conference** will take place on February 6th & 7th in Naperville, Pre-conference begins on February 5th. [www.iaer2025.com](http://www.iaer2025.com)
* **Wisconsin: *The Collaborative Vision Conference*** will be back in Stevens Point on May 8-9, at the [Mid-State Technical College LEAD Center](https://www.mstc.edu/lead-center), Stevens Point.
* The University of Illinois/NIU’s O&M program is coming to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to assist increasing the number of COMS within the State.  This Fall, an O&M certification program will be offered in Wisconsin. One must have a TVI, CVRT, CATIS and/or CLVT certification. In-person classes will be required in the Milwaukee area, one or two Saturdays a month for three semesters plus complete online lecture/learning components. The O&M internship can be customized to allow one to continue working in a current job. For more information check out their online info session, [go.niu.edu/om-certification-info](http://go.niu.edu/om-certification-info) or contact the Program Director, Stacy Kelly, Ed.D., [skelly@niu.edu](mailto:skelly@niu.edu),
* **Michigan: Leader Dog has** expanded their free Guide Dog & Orientation & Mobility (O&M) programs to people residing in the United States & Canada who prefer receiving training in Spanish.

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**District 4: Eric Shaw** (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Hampshire, New York, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Rhode Island, Quebec, Vermont)

The NEAER Fall 2025 Conference will be held in Warwick RI November, 5th -7th .

Congrats to Erin Buckley, COMS who was elected as the NEAER O&M Chair at the Fall NEAR O&M meeting.

**District 5:** **Jennifer Thurman** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Tennessee)

Kentucky AER's 2025 Conference - ***"A New Era"*** – will take place on Thursday, March 13, & Friday, March 14, at the University of Pikeville. Submissions are now being requested by January 31st. There are two ways to participate, either via a Presentation track and/or an Interactive Showcase. Please submit a proposal at [KAER 2025 Proposal Submissions](http://clicks.memberclicks-mail.net/ls/click?upn=u001.zQMtDyzPkxw9dikwotiInngMXfx-2BuCFdy4Zx8aSE9r-2Ft0vy1eIV2uHSRYUh86OLZPqS4XGwyyFMmn623-2BAV2RCxPQN0EIMYyMLyPtbbAaeapMsfC8zXyQEA7R6zwvDZf0hYL_eaQI6Vk6Mu3M5bY0QfW57PLWbqYZIdqiMRDcx73RcSS-2BIHty3p2SivjvIT1M1c9O8Lf4jvrC-2BFDpWZU0LiERm5X4YHq59gxy4UfGlZRMM14op-2FVBY7NHpyANQufxO5U9ES1VTmRYuTcA5-2BHDnn0rpFL1D0ypctQpwapz4H4pvXEaZyAwaa9rFGijikBM01JZYeAJabdqZh9K4CxQYPYLM8sciP-2FUogS70cZp6aNFz-2By2KwnYbjtaVO-2FyUrXyqOX2hdt8tjJgAu0dFUOkgjqaLL-2BJYwtcZB2ZkIQ2AYqFy8Yi-2BlZRxJxnl28pIAjMQvcH). Or form more information contact to [Amanda.Lannan@uky.edu](mailto:Amanda.Lannan@uky.edu).

2025 Tennessee AER Conference **“Outstanding Together: Celebrating Unity & Achievement”** will be held on April 5-6 in Lewisburg Tenn. From more information join their facebook page at *Tennessee Chapter AER*.

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**District 6:** Joseph A. Greene (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington D.C.)

**Penn-Del AER**-April 30-May 2, 2025, **“Sharing Our Stories & Continuing our Legacy**”. Harrisburg, PA.

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**O&M Division Awards Committee**

Thanks to the Awards Committee for their time in soliciting nominations, making challenging choices, and arranging recognition for the recipients. The O & M Division Awards Committee still needs additional members for the committee, so please email [nickleon86@gmail.com](mailto:nickleon86@gmail.com), if interested in joining the committee or have any questions or comments.

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**Environmental Access Committee Updates**

Some EAC members attended the Transportation Research Board Meetings in January 2025 to advocate for the needs of pedestrians with vision loss. Without AER’s funding support this would not be possible.

EAC members participated on a project called “Empathy at the Intersection”. This project asks participants to step in the shoes of pedestrians of different abilities and other road users. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a final rule adopting the US Access Board’s [Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)](https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/) as part of its Americans with Disability Act (ADA) **standards for new construction and alterations of transit stops in the public right-of-way.** As of January 17, 2025, new construction and alterations of transit stops in the public right-of-way will be required to comply with technical accessibility specifications. These include requirements for boarding and alighting areas, boarding platforms, transit shelters, and accessible connections to existing pedestrian circulation paths.

We are still waiting for the Department of Justice/DOJ to issue a final rule adopting the Access Board’s [Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)](https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/).

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Book Recommendation: “***TRAFFIC, How and Why People Drive the Way They Do”*** by Thomas Vanderbilt. It's full science, insights, & information relevant to a pedestrian.

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On-line Free Training: ***Reapplying the Americans with Disabilities Act to Work Zones*** | ARTBA Online Learning Center   
<https://artba.ispringmarket.com/content/638/info/2024_Applying_the_Americans_with_Disabilities_Act_to_Work_Zones?use_referrer=1>

**White Cane Day Resources**

For additional planning ideas for **2025 White Cane Day**, which will fall on Wednesday this year. Go to the National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision [www.blind.msstate.edu](http://www.blind.msstate.edu/) . The [Community Outreach Guide: How to Host a White Cane Awareness Day Celebration (October 15)](https://www.blind.msstate.edu/our-products/professional-resources#the-nrtc-community-outreach-guide-how-to-host-a-white-cane-awareness-day-celebration-october-15) will introduce you to the history of White Cane Awareness Day, provide inspiration for activities (from a signing ceremony to a large, public event), and offer general event tips to support you as you create a successful celebration.

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**Cane Quest Events**

Cane Quest, developed by the Braille Institute in California, is a challenging, fun orientation & mobility contest for students in grades 3-12, who use a white cane. For more state event updates go to <https://www.brailleinstitute.org/find-services/youth/cane-quest/>

**Arizona:** Foundation for Blind Children, February 1st.   
Contact: Cody Alvarez | [calvarez@seeitourway.org](mailto:calvarez@seeitourway.org)

**California (SoCal)** [Braille Institute](https://www.brailleinstitute.org/find-services/) – San Diego, January 25th

**Indiana:** Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis. January 26th. Contact: Cara Burchett,  [cburchett@isbvik12.org](mailto:cburchett@isbvik12.org)

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**Conferences/Workshops/Webinars**

***Beyond Compliance: Equity, Access, and the ADA! Virtual Conference* 2025,** March 11-12, 2025.The Pacific ADA Center will be presenting an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) event. Registration will open soon, [subscribe to our mailing list](https://www.adapacific.org/subscribe/) to receive an email notification. <https://www.adapacific.org/>

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The ***AAA Safe Mobility Conference*** will take place on April 7-9th in Madison WI. This event is an opportunity for professionals and students from industry, academia, government, and advocacy organizations to connect, share information, and identify challenges, solutions, and best practices geared toward achieving safer mobility for all road users. For more information or to submit a presentation go to <https://aaafoundation.org/smc> .

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A blue and white logo

Description automatically generatedThe ***IMC19*** will be held in Gujarat, Ahmedabad, India, **November 16-19, 2026.** Ahmedabad, in western India, is the largest city in the state of Gujarat. IMC19 will be hosted by The Blind People’s Association & ICEVI India. [www.bpaindia.org](http://www.bpaindia.org) IMC19 website: imc19wc2026.org. For more information contact Eileen Siffermann, IMC Executive Committee Chair at eileensiffermann@comcast.net.

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***This and That***

For more information in preparing for winter weather, check out this resource: <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

From the FEMA’s website: Sixty-three percent of temperature-related deaths are related to the effects of cold exposure, while home heating is the second leading cause of home fires. (Please remind clients also of these suggestions.)

**Sign up for local emergency alerts from your state and local public safety officials.**Download the [FEMA App](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.ready.gov%2Ffema-app/1/01010194523aee0b-16ce6586-a9e4-4839-9dbb-b8edaaefc35c-000000/_HNwn38G1Ij1E9blLJ3fBk2Oj3GsDe2DOB7QcQorsjc=387) to receive real-time weather and emergency alerts for up to five different areas nationwide, locate emergency shelters in your area, etc.

**If planning to travel by car**, check local weather & traffic reports before heading out. Tell others your route and anticipated arrival time. If your roads are not in good shape, consider postponing non-essential travel until the roads are cleared. When driving, increase your following distance to other vehicles from 3-4 seconds to 5-6 seconds and watch for icy conditions on bridges and overpasses. It takes longer to slow down on icy roads. Make sure you have your auto insurance provider and a towing company number in a place that’s accessible.

* **Call 211**for information related to warming centers and safety resources in your area.
* **Power outages**can impact communications, transportation, utilities and much more. If experiencing an outage, keep freezers and refrigerators closed. Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
* **Prevent house heating fires**by keeping anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, portable heaters or candles. Always plug space heaters directly into an outlet and make sure its cord isn’t damaged.
* **Never use generators indoors** or use a gas stove or oven to heat your home. Doing so can put you at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. (Editor’s note*: Please be sure that a generator is not placed inside a garage connected to the house as fumes can leak into the house. This happened to a family member, luckily the carbon detectors did go off but they were on the 1st floor so the family member did have some carbon monoxide poisoning but was ok*.)

Visit [ready.gov/winter-ready](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.ready.gov%2Fwinter-ready/1/01010194523aee0b-16ce6586-a9e4-4839-9dbb-b8edaaefc35c-000000/2mvClBS4JchcoJuJIo7Q0GVgSIjrRcMSAQZj090ekjs=387) or [ready.gov/es/winter-ready](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.ready.gov%2Fes%2Fwinter-ready/1/01010194523aee0b-16ce6586-a9e4-4839-9dbb-b8edaaefc35c-000000/f8EyOdbfIEMBvtOyKKCbyEamOC1KdHfzR-R28J7A414=387) (Spanish) for more information on how you, your family, and community can stay safe from the effects of extreme cold weather and winter storms.

FEMA released the ***“Planning Considerations: Putting People First” guide.*** This document aims to assist emergency managers & planning partners at all jurisdiction levels in identifying & understanding the interests & needs of populations throughout their community, particularly those that are disproportionately impacted by disasters and mayhave been historicallyunderserved populations:<https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_npd_planning-considerations-putting-people-first_2024.pdf>

Our thoughts are with those who have been impacted by the California fires. For information on how to assist, check out these resources:

American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org>

Baby2Baby: <https://baby2baby.org>

Calfund Wildfire Recovery Fund: <https://www.calfund.org/funds/wildfire-recovery-fund/>

CA Fire Foundation Wildfire & Disaster: <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/what-we-do/for-communities/disaster-relief>

Relief Fund Habitat for Humanity of Greater LA:

<https://www.habitatla.org/how-to-apply/disaster-relief/>

LAFD Wildfire Emergency Fund: <https://supportlafd.kindful.com>

La Food Bank: <https://www.lafoodbank.org>

The Braille Institute's Wildfire Relief Funds will go directly to individuals with vision loss impacted by the fires, ensuring they receive the help they need to recover and rebuild their lives. Donations can be made online at [brailleinstitute.org/la-wildfires](http://brailleinstitute.org/la-wildfires) or by contacting Braille Institute directly at 1-800-272-4553.

*“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”* — Desmond Tutu

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From ACB: Please pass along**:** Join the ***2025 Descriptathon*** to help make national parks more accessible! ACB, the National Park Service, & UniDescription (UniD) are recruiting volunteers sighted and those on the blindness spectrum to create audio descriptions for selected national park brochures. Teams are composed of people who are sighted & people who are blind or have low vision, to collaborate describing maps, paintings, and visual images within park brochures. All meetings will be held remotely.

The Descriptathon will take place February 25–27, 2025. Volunteers are expected to attend all three full-day sessions and spend ten hours of prep time in the five weeks before the kick-off on February 25 (approximately two hours a week). During this prep time, team members will learn about audio description, how to use the UniD tool to describe their brochure and get to know their teammates. Volunteers should have solid computer skills and be comfortable learning new technology.

If interested, complete this short online form: [**D11 Registration form**](https://4eqo4f5ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yQMf0yzY1BHAv1bTOa8_o-6Yk7fjqS4tp1VgPoBlhcT0i9TAwEonaiyqhZjZamMuxmdVbdu2sW4284DWPgXsHcXRpCPddt8TA1KrvJVqOuB_S0zwiLI-CZuHmWqpofJu2fAcIhQMHagubYVltRCXk34gsuzC5vSq_nHcFuN3X_V23uQa8NOTKGRub_XkAswdiENq4QUQRNGZnzyVw2S9i8U8X7ZA4Y-46RXzG8r90Ip-D26vs8A-rB6oJsfp-MdYFvBW_Bm4E6GEYkZ5XDlFa1gafnC1_YMqusZeZ9ntsld-zG5t6tPJD1Dg8OzWkxjDv1vXLqdrSKx20HaxqYoqHXUDackcut4g7F8b-nEyqD-yZGQ4_slGk3ySeOXM7zrztAenbUKIDBjPvZxuG2n7W0fn_Jk_miOr3npE4jYrcs1J4ksiXJSSOdClByY36pT_X0TqzCFYNEUwKYMKLE0AKqa0kN-KxzvTM0lTs0xLXMHntXKYTZQnm-kd1nOnVClGQ51dxMudsYiTumkKv0ZVYdUCdnEB2Sv0y11v_saTBmYpcz6-vEaYS0eySYW3QWqo154Mknw3WlLBFfn5NBCz6_y9gS82JX0kHI-mt3ac1KHBlSTcMeeuRddY-0pjBHOSpqjnSfE39NBNKiTdBFWnNJKPHjyEcMWlJnqXALXsyCFQQCdz1wfMFecTOzrYY1XsQd_psvsF4KAGb6E9Bf6sm-z2Pu_pmdAjUY_WWQSa99J0C0oBEs9JNOP7QdQ2BUlSroV8c_ekkjhMxAcodnF3TJ_NvABRPkSuF_7PBCAl0UzpKSNhWVBQ_1qHw2nfE3Ge7x8jN5ZXgdwyd8-wGxKqi4FzlWxTirLJVP58usX1Vnh6dPGfu4qkaPmanl1uayDsML5VauAyz2sumWlxcb5vULBI3oO2qKmpZr1b4IYw_zr3_493XYPXUOOndm3kbiZTsewD9Dq7j_Y-ClKyiL0MM2uS1Lcw9E1NXGg__gfEnhBqwIdK0BsVQZ8TiK_pxj9RmNXNjKyR9GG-599y9PEjcSsi7FJfWl2W&c=cQeC-E54R04TmBJ29-lcHSo4iDPH71q_hYEADDqNlIgF1MCzf8oAKg==&ch=4c-TIEMol4K2SfxSXHLsvpf6lKTa-UTcgf3RsKNruqrEFTwGQn8jNw==) or email  [**brett.oppegaard@hawaii.edu**](mailto:brett.oppegaard@hawaii.edu) **.**

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**Save the Date: Blind Birder Bird-a-Thon 2025**: The **Blind Birder Bird-a-Thon** is a 24-hour birding event designed for participation by birders who are legally blind. This inaugural event encourages participants to identify as many bird species as possible by sound (or sight, as able), celebrating accessibility and the joy of birding. Any legally blind individual in the US - of any age and any level of experience - is welcome to participate. The event takes anywhere one birds on **Sunday, May 18, 2025,** 12:01 A.M. to 11:59 P.M. (local time). Participants can bird solo, with a team, or alongside a sighted assistant. Backyard birding, traveling teams, an outing on a trail and more are all welcome! To foster community, increase participation in birding for people who are legally blind, and embrace birding by ear—a skill that often makes legally blind birders exceptionally adept. No experience necessary! Whether an experienced birder or new to birding, this event is for you. Registration is free! For more details, including the registration link, will be available soon go to the website at <https://www.birdability.org/blind-birder-birdathon> and sign up & receive updates.

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***AmericanWalks***, coordinates an annual event called a ***Week Without Driving***. This year’s dates are **Monday, September 29th - Sunday, October 5th.** For more information about this event or to find out how you and/or your community can participate, contact **Ruth Rosas,** at [www.americawalks.org](http://www.americawalks.org).

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***Traveleyes*** is the world’s first commercial tour operator providing independent group travel for people who are blind or partially sighted based in the UK. Blind travellers who travel solo no longer have to depend on family members or friends to accompany them. Sighted travellers help in making the world a more accessible place by guiding and describing the sights to the blind travellers. In return, sighted travellers benefit from a discount of up to 50% on each holiday. Each itinerary is carefully hand-made by an expert team, with a focus on stimulating all of the five senses. Holiday destinations cover Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia & the Americas. <https://www.traveleyes-international.com>

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***The 2024-2026 Division Nine Executive Committee***

Chair: Maggie Winn Chair Elect: Alexa Poynor

Past Chair: Raychel Callary Secretary/Treasurer: Linda McFall

Student Representative: Kristal Alvarez

Email the Committee at [aeromdivision@gmail.com](mailto:aeromdivision@gmail.com)

**District Directors**

**District 1: Autumn Booths** (Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Northwest Territories, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Yukon Territories.)

**District 2: Debbie Fussell** (Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Manitoba, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, Texas)

**District 3: Jennifer Duncan** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Wisconsin)

**District 4: Eric Shaw** (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Hampshire, New York, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Rhode Island, Quebec, Vermont)

**District 5:** **Jennifer Thurman** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Tennessee)

**District 6**: **Joe Greene** (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington D.C.)

Newsletter editor Meg Robertson:

[Mobilitymeg@aol.com](mailto:Mobilitymeg@aol.com) or [aeromdivision@gmail.com](mailto:aeromdivision@gmail.com).

Please report any errors to the Newsletter Editor.

**Next newsletter deadline: March 1, 2025,** however submissions are welcomed at any time!