



President's Message

By Gary Ray

NCAER Newsletter

September, 2007

As is my custom, I will first give you a quick update on my move to the mountains. We finally sold our house in Raleigh and our house in Asheville bought at the end of June. When I left going to Atlanta for the NFB National Convention, I lived in Raleigh, but when I got back, my address was Asheville. What a frustrating whirlwind it all was. My wonderful wife Linda (and yes, she is a saint) spent much of the first week after the house was bought cleaning it up and getting it ready for occupancy. The house was built in 1955 so there was a lot of cleaning to do. When they retire, most people downsize, but not us. Our new house is more than double the size of the one in Raleigh.

At this writing, we have been in the house for just more than a month. We have had plumbers, electricians, and contractors getting the house so it is livable for us. We had to do major electrical work in the basement (dungeon) where I'll hang out (call me Igor). We love the house more each day. We have a grand guest room and we invite all my buddies to come visit us in the beautiful mountains.

It is not too early to start planning for the 2008 Super Conference. It will be held on the GMS campus on Thursday, April 24 through Saturday, April 26, 2008. This is later than we usually have it, but that is the way the calendar worked out.

field. We hear that this guy is the flower of our industry--a blooming idiot! We will do most of the welcomes and awards at lunch on Friday. Our session schedule will follow our traditional layout, with one cycle of workshops on Thursday, four cycles on Friday, and 2 cycles on Saturday. We are again working on CEU, CRC, and ACVRP certification this year. Information will be posted to www.ncaer.net as it becomes available.

Each year, the NCAER offers the Rachel Rawls Award to someone who has gone over and above his/her duty in our field. This year, we did not give a Rawls award because the only nomination was a sitting member of the board. You will find the Nomination Form later in this newsletter. Please take a few minutes and consider the information and start getting a nomination together. The forms will be on the NCAER website (www.ncaer.net).

Polo Shirts: Please remember that NCAER polo shirts are available for your purchase. Get caught wearing your shirt at an event !!! Contact Kathy Davis (mary.k.davis@ncmail.net) for purchasing information.

Help us save our trees....Your newsletter editor would like to save valuable trees. I encourage you to let me know that you will join me in this endeavor by having your NCAER newsletter *emailed* to you. Drop me a note at mary.k.davis@ncmail.net

Rachel Rawls: So who is this Rachel Rawls, and why the award? Here's a brief history of this notable professional.

Dr. Rachel Rawls, who died in 1999 at the age of 77, was a longtime advocate for children and adults with visual impairments in North Carolina. Although many of the younger consumers and professionals in the field have not had the opportunity to know her, the impact she has had on them and the profession is enormous. In 1992, on the occasion of her seventieth birthday, she was recognized for her unique contributions by a dinner in her honor with over 150 attendees. At this time the Rachel Rawls Award for significant contribution to the field of visual impairment was established. An educational fund was also created in her honor, in addition to one already established at NC State University, where she was Professor Emerita.

Rachel's career was long and distinguished. She joined the faculty of the Governor Morehead School in 1945, after a brief time with Wake County Public Schools and the State Department of Public Instruction. In 1949 she became psychologist and

counselor at the School and served in this capacity until becoming Director of Research in 1965. After obtaining a doctorate in psychology from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, she accepted a position as instructor in the Department of Psychology at NC State. In this position she was a consultant in psychological testing for the NC Division of Services for the Blind, and not only did psychological testing herself but trained many psychology students at NC State in psychological testing of children and adults with visual impairments. She became North Carolina's recognized expert in this field. After her retirement as Professor Emerita at NC State, she continued consulting, especially in the area of children with visual impairments, as she undertook a private practice.

Rachel's professional and special interest affiliations, spanning several decades, include the following: Board Member of the North Carolina Commission for the Blind; President and Board of the Sir Walter Lioness Club, Board of the Friends of the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; New Bern Avenue Day Care Center Board of Directors; President and Board of the Wake County Genealogical Society; Board of the Gamma Eta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International; and the Human Rights Committee of the Governor Morehead School.

Rachel organized a committee in the early nineties in an attempt to deal with the issue of Braille literacy in this state and reestablish a teacher-training program in visual impairments. She spearheaded the effort as she worked with other professionals, resulting in the teacher training program that is now operating at North Carolina Central University. In addition, she spent many hours over the years in the General Assembly, fighting for funds for the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and for specialized, trained staff such as rehabilitation teachers in the profession.

Through legislative contacts, Rachel advocated for other programs that would benefit people with visual impairments and strongly advocated against such proposals as "Turn Right on Red," which she felt would be detrimental to people who are visually impaired. She was a life member of the Association of Educators of the Visually Handicapped and AER. It was a great tribute to Rachel that the Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources and other leading state officials donated the book *North Carolina Women Making History* in her honor to the Library for the Blind with the request that it be taped for the patrons of the Library.

Whether she was known as Mrs. Rawls, Dr. Rawls, or Rachel, she is lovingly remembered by her friends and long-time associates for her keen

intellect and teaching ability, and her passion to improve the lives of North Carolina citizens with visual impairments. She loved children and animals, especially cats, and would put aside everything to help a friend. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know her recognize the legacy she leaves to all of us who follow in the love and work of education and rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired.

(Submitted by Gail Waters)

Upcoming Workshops

OutReach at GMS is pleased to announce that we are offering *free of charge* the following workshops. Please note that some of these courses have filled, but others remain for your staff development/CEU needs. Please contact mary.k.davis@ncmail.net for information and to register for these courses.

October 9-10: AT Assessment, taught by Cindy Booth, New Hanover AT Specialist, Carolina Beach Complex, Wilmington

November 8: Fundamentals of the Clinical Low Vision Evaluation, conducted by Dr. Elaina Scheiner, Cathey Building, GMS Campus

November 26 - 27: AT and the IEP, taught by attorney Carlton Walker, Royster Building, Dorothea Dix Campus, Raleigh NC

December 5-6: Braille N Speak, taught by Lusi Radford, Penland Building, GMS Campus (These are repeating workshops).

February 18-19: Make and Take Literacy, taught by Diane Brauner and Mary Sjogren, Penland Building, GMS Campus

General Calendar

September 28 - 30: Art Beyond Sight: Multimodal Approaches to Learning, Creativity, and Communication. New York. Conference sponsored by Art Education for the Blind; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and Teachers College, Columbia University. Contact: Art Education for the Blind; phone: 212-334-8721; email coordinator@artbeyondsight.ofg; website: www.artbeyondsight.org/change/aw-conference.shtml

October 11 - 12: Alabama AER Annual Conference. Huntsville, AL. Contact: Joe Helm. Email: jpheagle@charter.net; web site: www.aerbvi.org

October 18 -20: Closing the Gap, Minneapolis, MN. Contact Closing the Gap. Email: info@closingthegap.com; web site: www.closingthegap.com

October 28-31: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Fall Conference. Bethesda, MD: Contact: Council of

State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation; phone: 301-654-4885; web site: www.rehabnetwork.org

November 1 -2: SCAER Annual Conference. North Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Jody Floyd. Email: jodilynnfloyd@yahoo.com. Website: www.scaer.org

November 7 - 9: Ohio AER Annual Conference. Mt. Sterling, OH. Contact Sue Guagenti. Email: sue.guagenti@cincyblind.org; web site: www.aerohio.org

Check out these links for additional opportunities:

www.ncaer.net

Click on **News and Events** to find a list of events this coming year.

www.afb.org

Scroll down to **AFB Community**.

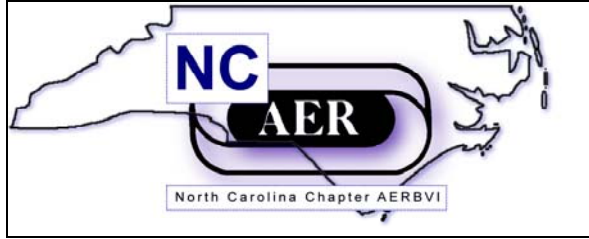
Click on **Calendar of Events**.

www.aerbvi.org

Click on **Conferences** on the left side of the screen.

Click on **Calendar of Events** at the top right.

<http://www.gdvi.org/schools.html> if interested in searching for training at a school of your choice. Just scroll down and click on the web site of the school you are interested in attending.



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August 2007

2008 Rachel Rawls Award

Nomination Form

All Nominations should be submitted by April 1, 2008. All nominations should be sent to Gary Ray, either electronically or in print. The email address is ggray@mindspring.com. The mailing address is 18 Sandon Drive, Asheville, NC 28804.

The Rachel Rawls Award was established by the NC AER in 1989 to honor Dr. Rawls and to recognize achievement in the field of work with the blind and visually impaired.

The Ground Rules:

- The person making the nomination must be a member of NC AER.
- The person being nominated does not have to be an NC AER member.
- Current NC AER Board members are NOT eligible for nomination.
- The Board of the NC AER grants the Rawls Award.
- The NC AER Board need not give the Rawls Award every year.
- Only one Rawls Award may be given each year.
- Each nomination must be made using the form provided and must be accompanied by at least two (2) letters of support from persons who have personal knowledge of the nominee and his/her achievement. Each letter of support must contain contact information for the author.

Award criteria

- A person whose unique achievements have benefited North Carolina citizens who are visually impaired
- A person whose achievements have exceeded the expectations of their particular job description
- A person who has been innovative in the field of education, rehabilitation or human services
- A person who has had an impact on the field that extends beyond current or former job placement
- A person who has positively altered attitudes toward visual impairment or the manner in which services are delivered to individuals who are visually impaired
- A person who has demonstrated extensive collaborations with other disciplines or organizations working with people who are visually impaired (including but not limited to the NCAER, Lions Clubs in North Carolina, the Division of Services for the Blind, the Governor Morehead School, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the NC Council of the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind of NC) in order to enhance the overall quality of life for individuals who are visually impaired

2008 Rachel Rawls Award Nomination

Name of Person Nominating:

(MUST BE AN NCAER MEMBER)

Address, including City, State, and Zip:

Phone number, including Area Code:

Email:

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Name of Nominee:

Address, including City, State, and Zip:

Phone number, including Area Code:

Email:

Please explain why this person should receive the 2007 Award. Pay particular attention to the criteria given above. Feel free to use additional pages for your answer.