



LINKS

Learning • Innovation • Networking • Knowledge • Sharing



Executive networking at last year's conference in San Antonio, TX.

VisionServe Alliance – Empowering Your Team

As you know and value, VisionServe Alliance is the premier organization for leaders in our field. As a member, you know that we equip Executive Directors/CEOs with unparalleled connections, knowledge, career development opportunities, and professional tools to be even more effective. No other organization does what we do to help you succeed, which is why beginning January 2018, up to three additional staff leaders/managers/supervisors from your organization may join VisionServe Alliance **without additional dues!** We believe leaders can

exist within every role of the organization, and they can be continually developed when empowered to connect with the right people and to lead with the right knowledge. Imagine the success your nonprofit will realize if your top leadership staff had access to VisionServe's resources. For the cost of your regular dues, the top leaders in your organization will reap the rewards of a central source for resources, learning programs, and research. This new membership program will launch in November of 2017.



CEO Corner

Roxann Mayros, VisionServe Alliance, St. Louis, MO

In this 30th year of VisionServe's incorporation, discussions have centered on defining the next 30 years, focusing on the turnover of leadership, developing the next generation of leaders, forming strong bonds inside blindness and outside, the lack of awareness about vision loss and the services our members provide, and securing VisionServe's financial future. All of this could be a formidable task but for VisionServe's staff, board and you our members who are up to the task. The front page of this newsletter talks about a new membership benefit

that will connect your organizational leaders to VisionServe's networks. The wider VisionServe's circle becomes, the more impact we will have on long-term leadership, awareness, and financial security.



Chairman's Message

Mark G. Ackermann, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Lighthouse Guild International

As we look forward to the years ahead, I am privileged to be working with an incredible staff and a visionary group of board members. This year's Board is an impressive compilation of professionals who have coalesced into one of the most forward-looking teams I have ever met. I use the term "team" intentionally, because they have come together in a manner that is rarely seen. Every board member has taken time from their offices and families to expend enormous energy planning the future of your Alliance. They respect each other's opinions and work out differences through discourse and action. They follow up through committee meetings and telephone calls sometimes late at night or early in the morning.

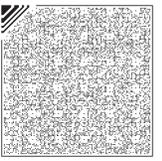
As impressive as this is, the efforts of the board members are surpassed many times over by our staff, which until recently numbered only two. Roxann, who has been the only CEO of this organization, works tirelessly, traveling around the country to be with our members and to assure the continued growth of the Alliance. To date she has added eleven new members this year (Meet them on Page 3).

Wendy Hymes, our Director of Operations, has been an enormously helpful addition to our team, taking over all the everyday operations of our home office. Soon you will hear a new voice when you call the office, Jen Mommens joins our team this month. Together these three staff members meet and exceed all the needs and expectations of our 109 members.



Our Alliance is blessed to have such an active board and a professional staff, working together seamlessly to guide the way to the future of YOUR Alliance. I encourage every member get involved and attend our conference in November. There will be multiple opportunities for your ideas to be heard and for each member to articulate their thoughts about our Alliance's future.

Meet Our New Members



This year, VisionServe Alliance has welcomed 11 new (or returning) members bringing our total number of members to 109! In order to get to know these organizations, here's a little more about them:



Center for Sight & Hearing (Rockford, IL)

Maureen Mall – President
Focus: Hearing and vision services to all ages, ASL, deaf/blind, low vision and hearing clinic.



Guiding Eyes for the Blind (Yorktown, NY)

Thomas Panek – President & CEO
Focus: Guide dogs.



Community Services for Sight (Hazleton, PA)

Lori Lesante – President & CEO
Focus: All ages, assistive technology, counseling, early intervention, living skills, O & M, social activities, veterans and more.



Lighthouse of the Big Bend (Tallahassee, FL)

Kim Galban-Countryman – Executive Director
Focus: Birth through life, daily living skills, assistive technology, O&M, leisure, vocational rehab, and more.



Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind (Dallas, TX)

Hugh McElroy – CEO
Focus: Adults, employment, daily living, assistive technology, employment skills, adaptive life skills, and more.



Nevada Blind Children's Foundation (Las Vegas, NV)

Emily Smith – Executive Director
Focus: Birth to 26, assistive technology, early intervention, living skills, recreation and social activities.



Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB) (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Elly du Pre' - Executive Director
Focus: Unifying voice and organizational support to 18 agencies serving the blind in Florida.



Outlook Nebraska (Omaha, NE)

Eric Stueckrath – CEO
Focus: Employment opportunities, assistive technology, summer camps



Florida Center for the Blind (Ocala, FL)

Anissa Brescia – President & CEO
Focus: All ages, assistive technology, counseling, early intervention, living skills, O & M, social activities and more.



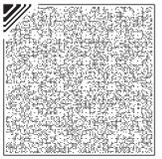
World Services for the Blind (Little Rock, AR)

Sharon Giovinazzo – President & CEO
Focus: 14 and older, residential life skills, career training, summer camp.



Xavier Society for the Blind (New York, NY)

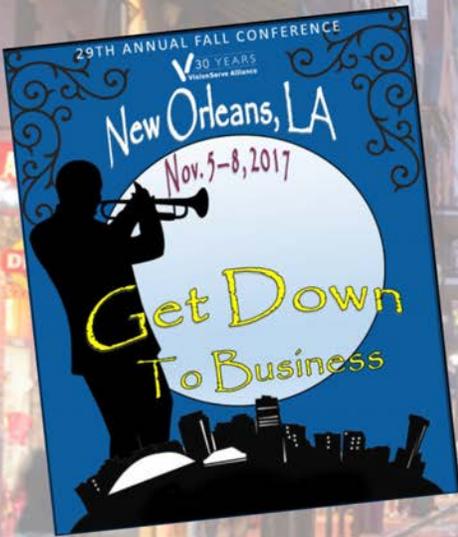
Malachy Fallon – Executive Director
Focus: Braille books on spiritual and religious topics.



VisionServe Alliance 29th Annual Executive Leadership Conference

Nov. 5 – 8, 2017

New Orleans, LA



Join us for our Executive Leadership Conference in New Orleans, Nov. 5 – 8

Spectacular Speakers



Marios Damianides, Cyber Security Practice Lead at Ernst & Young worldwide who will open our conference with essentials of protecting your organization from cyber threats in today’s world.



Marc Barnes, VP of Advancement at Dillard University presents “What Does Your Development Director Want the CEO to Know?”



Dianna Booher, international communications expert and author will open the second day with her presentation, “Communicate Like a Leader: Connecting Strategically to Coach, Inspire, and Get Things Done” on helping leaders prevent micromanagement before it happens.



Chris White, certified EOS Implementer presents “Do You Have a Grip on Your Business or Does it Have a Grip on You?” on secrets to strengthening your business.

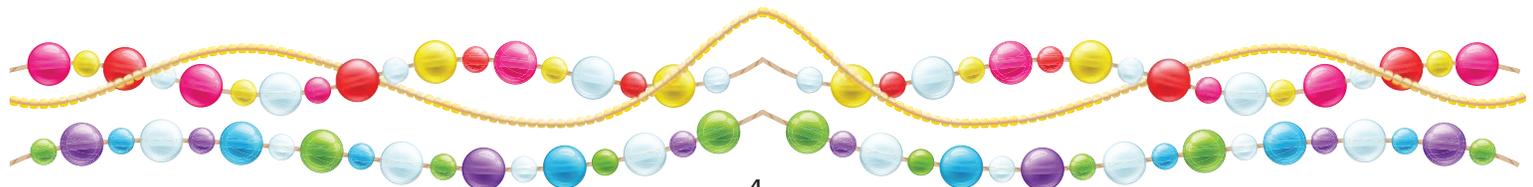


Mike Bina, President of The Maryland School for the Blind, presents, “Leadership Lessons Learned at Paralympians”



Elaine Welch, CEO/President of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind presents, “Developing and Implementing a Needs Assessment”

View the full Agenda at www.visionservealliance.org under “VSA Conference.” Conference App will be available for download soon. Watch your inbox!



Innovative Networking



Welcome Reception Sunday 11/5



Peer-to-Peer Sessions



Networking Dine-Around Monday 11/6



VSA Awards Night at Mardi Gras World

Vibrant French Quarter Setting



The Omni Royal Orleans



Legendary Cuisine



Historic, lively streets

MEMBER FOCUS



St. Louis Society for the Blind's "Leslie Dana Gold Medal"



Since 1925, St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SLSBVI) has awarded the prestigious Leslie Dana Gold Medal for "long meritorious service for the conservation of eyesight research and instruction in ophthalmology, social service for control of eye diseases, or special discoveries in the domain of general science or medicine of exceptional importance in conservation of vision."

This year, the Leslie Dana Gold Medal was awarded to

Rev. Father Thomas Carroll, founder of the Carroll Center, inventor of safe mobility skills, author of internationally acclaimed book on vision rehabilitation, and committed to blinded WWII veterans.

Dr. Arnall Patz, who discovered that oxygen caused Retinopathy of Prematurity. He is also the only Ophthalmologist to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Edward Jackson, who was the first recipient in 1925. The main lecture at the AAO annual meeting is named after him – the Edward Jackson Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Joel Schuman MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neuroscience and Physiology, NYU School of Medicine for his work in using CT scans, MRIs and laser imaging techniques to create three-dimensional analyses of ocular structures to increase insight into the functions of the eye without invading the eye.

Founded in 1911, SLSBVI employs certified and licensed vision rehab specialists and teachers of the visually impaired, focusing on low vision clinic services, daily living skills, O&M, Braille, support groups, leisure activities, and TVI and O&M services to rural school districts in Illinois and Missouri.

Other familiar and prominent Medal recipients have included:

Dr. Napoleon Ferrara, discovered Avastin as a treatment for macular degeneration, and spoke at VisionServe's La Jolla conference.

Lucien Howe, who in 1926 established the Howe Laboratory at Harvard for research and study of biochemistry, genetics, neurobiology and physiology of the eye.

And, **Dr. Jules Stein**. The renowned UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute is named after him.

New Member Benefit – Introducing Our Collaboration With ORCAM

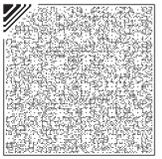


VisionServe Alliance and OrCam are collaborating to bring the latest portable assistive technology to our member organizations at a discount! OrCam will provide the OrCam MyEye

to all VisionServe Members at a 50% discount, will train your staff to become certified trainers, will organize and promote demo days at your agency,



5% on every demonstration in your agency, AND \$250 to train each client who purchases an OrCam MyEye! A second option is to become an OrCam distributor, purchasing a minimum number of units, with a 23% to 30% margin depending upon the first order. Watch for more information via special message, and plan to attend a special session on Sunday at our Executive Leadership Conference in New Orleans, November 5-8, 2017.



Q & A Member Spotlight: Eric Stuekrath, Outlook Nebraska

What do you do in your down time?

Family time and golf

What are you reading, watching and/or listening to?

Soccer, golf and business magazines

What is your best guilty pleasure?

Cigars and Scotch or Rum

Tell us about one item on your bucket list.

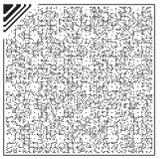
Going to the Ryder Cup and a Men's World Cup

My best childhood memory is...

Working with my grandpa for a couple summers in high school

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I love what I'm doing now, but growing up I always wanted to be a sports reporter.



Executive Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting

New Orleans, LA | November 5-8, 2017



VisionServe Alliance 3rd Annual CEO Summit

Portland, OR | April 29 -May 2, 2018



MISSION: To engage leaders in building a better world through services for people with vision loss.

VISION: To be a leader and a unified voice in the field of services for people with vision loss for advocacy, education, ethical management, professional growth, and enhanced services.

PURPOSE: To build and nurture a diverse core of future and current leaders within a healthy and vibrant network of private nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada whose commitment is to enrich the lives of those living with vision loss and to remove the barriers to the pursuit of opportunities.



8760 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 961-8235 • www.visionservealliance.org

