

VAAPVI  
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# VAAPVI

Virginia Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments



SPRING 2010

MARCH 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Join us on Facebook



Join our list serve VA-BVI on yahoo groups



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## SPRING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED

After an unusually snowy winter here in Virginia - Spring is finally here! Warm weather and fun in the sun is just around the corner.

And of course it just wouldn't be right to kick off spring without an Easter Egg Hunt and especially a Beeping Easter Egg Hunt.

Everywhere you turn there are Easter Celebrations with egg hunts for the kids. The kids love to race to find the eggs with all the goodies inside and then swap candy and play with their friends. Our children who are blind or visually impaired love it just as much, but have a harder time finding those eggs.

Beeping Eggs are just that, eggs that have a device inside that emits various beeps that help children locate them.



**Beeping Eggs were made and donated by Hampton Roads Metropolitan Regional Bomb Squad for the Hampton Roads Egg Hunt**

For years Linda Jackson has been hosting a beeping egg hunt in the Richmond area for children who are blind or visually impaired. Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, in the Washington D.C. area hosts one as well - this year it is to be held at the White House!

The 1st beeping egg hunt in Hampton Roads is being kicked off by VAAPVI of Hampton Roads. Thanks to the Hampton Roads Chapter, Thalia Lions Club, local teachers for the blind and visually impaired and the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Regional Bomb Squad.

Bring your family out and join in the fun and build new friendships! Sighted Siblings will be included. In the Richmond and the Hampton Roads Hunts.

## Locations for Beeping Egg Hunts

Hampton Roads Area  
**Saturday 3/27/10 3pm - 6pm**  
Bayville Farms Park  
4132 1st Court Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA  
**RSVP to:**  
Irene Conlin 757-478-0335 or  
Lee-Ann 757-523-2708

Northern Virginia/DC Area  
**MONDAY April 5th**  
White House Egg Roll,  
Only open to children who are  
blind or visually impaired 12yrs  
or younger.  
**RSVP to:** Andrea Noel for more  
details at 240-737-5171 or email  
at : arnoel@clb.org

Richmond Area  
**Saturday 3/27/10 Starts 12Noon**  
Meadowood Church of God  
325 Azalea Ave  
Richmond, VA 23227  
Questions call Linda Jackson at  
434-589-3998

## Allied Instructional Services

Providing qualified teachers for services in Vision, Orientation and Mobility, and services for the Hearing impaired

With a shortage of highly qualified Teachers for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired, Allied Instructional Services, AIS, is based here in Virginia to implement a staffing solution for your school division needs.

AIS is currently working with 13 school divisions within the state and provide qualified teachers for services in Vision, Orientation and Mobility, and services for the hearing impaired. They provide services to all ages: infants, children,

adolescents, adults and the senior population; through private contract and/or public programs and services.

They understand wanting to be compliant with Virginia State and Federal Regulations and staff is well trained and adheres to these regulations.

Allied Instructional Services knows that budgetary times are tough and it may be impossible to keep a full time Teacher for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and/or Hearing Impaired on your

staff so they can certainly work with you on the best possible solution for you or your school division. Based on your student and service needs, AIS will set up an economic staffing solution. Lastly, they are looking for the best talent in Virginia and are interested in Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Teachers for the Blind and Visually Impaired or Hearing Impaired.

Let them work with you! Please contact Karen Walker, CEO at (804) 244-2000 or email [alliedVA@aol.com](mailto:alliedVA@aol.com)

### NOAH's National Conference

July 15-18th 2010

Crystal Gateway

Marriott

1700 Jefferson

Davis Hwy.

Arlington, VA

22202

## 2010 NOAH Conference

World's most comprehensive collection of educational sessions on albinism including:

- research,
- social skills/self esteem
- low vision driving
- Careers
- parenting,
- Educating
- discussion groups
- social gatherings
- networking opportunities and more.

Included is a school-aged kid's conference and a separate pre-teen and teen conference and professional child care for preschoolers.

There will be an optional D.C. Tour offered as well.

Room rates at Crystal Gateway Marriott are \$149 per night Wed-Sat July 14-17th for conference attendees. Call 1-800-266-9432 for Rooms.

Conference Registration Fees for members begin at \$150.00 ages 5 and up and \$75.00 for 4 and younger.

Personal Grants are limited but available to assist members in attending the conference.

For more information go to [www.albinism.org](http://www.albinism.org) or call NOAH at 1-800-473-2310

Register to play ball at

[www.miracleleagueofrichmond.com](http://www.miracleleagueofrichmond.com)



## Miracle League Ball Games

Spring season is just around the corner! Season Starts April 10th and runs through June 26th.

Located at L.C. Byrd Sports Complex in Chesterfield County, Miracle League has a fully accessible rubberized field.

Players are teamed up with volunteers who serve as batting and running buddies - or parents or siblings can be the buddy if they choose.

Players can choose to use a Tee or have the ball pitched to them and can choose from a variety of baseballs including a BEEPING Ball.

Beeping indicators for bases are also available if desired to help children locate the bases!

The Newest addition that will be ready for Spring Season is a newly built accessible playground that will be located right next to the Miracle League field!

Register Now for Spring Ball!

# Partners in Policymaking



Recruitment of individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities for the 2010-2011 Virginia Board for People with Disabilities' (VBPD) Partners in Policymaking (PIP) advocacy training program is currently underway.

**Program sponsored by VA Board for People with Disabilities**

Partners graduating with the Class of 2011 will join over three hundred current alumni of the Virginia PIP program, and thousands who have graduated from similar programs across the country, who have learned how to make a difference every day for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Individuals participating in PIP attend advocacy training, resource development, and skill building workshops led by state and national experts. Topics covered include the history of the disability movement, self advocacy, independent living, supported employment, building inclusive communities, natural supports, legislative advocacy, assistive technology, communication, team building, and much more!

**Graduates have learned how to make a difference every day for themselves, their families and their communities.**

**APPLY ONLINE or download an application at:**

<http://www.vaboard.org/policymaking.htm>

## PIP Cont. Become a Partner!

*VBPD covers all expenses for participants' training, lodging, meals, and travel.*

Partners in Policymaking participants are people who live in Virginia, have a developmental disability or are parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Individuals attending the program will participate in advocacy skill workshops, resource development, and leadership training.

Application and selection as a participant for the program requires a substantial commitment of time, motivation and energy. If accepted, the Partners in Policymaking program requires attendance and participation in eight two-day sessions in Richmond, Virginia between September and May. Each session begins on Friday afternoon and concludes Saturday afternoon.

The group will build networks with state and national leaders - educated on current issues and state of the art approaches and best practices in many areas including history of disability movement, self advocacy, supported employment, inclusive education, personal future planning, natural supports, legislative process, community and team building and more.

## SSI/SSDI & Work Incentives

**FREE TRAINING**

Understanding the rules governing SSI/SSDI & Work Incentives.

- March 18-18, 2010 - Harrisonburg
- April 8th - 9th, 2010 - Danville
- May 20-21, 2010 - VA Beach/Norfolk
- June 10-11 2010 - Lynchburg
- August 12-13, 2010 - N. VA
- October 21-22, 2010 - Williamsburg
- November 4-5, 2010 - TBD

For more information on SSI/SSDI Workshop

Contact: Marilyn Morrison,  
vaACCSES,  
Training/Membership Services  
Dir., Call: 571/339-1305

Or register at [www.vaaccess.org](http://www.vaaccess.org)

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## VAAPVI

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**VAAPVi's Mission is to empower families, professionals and the community to meet the needs of families and their children of all ages and ranges of visual loss, including those with multiple disabilities. The purpose of this organization is to promote and provide information and education regarding raising and educating a child with vision loss, provide emotional support, increase public awareness and foster communication and coordination of services among state and local agencies and organizations involved with providing services to children with visual impairments. VAAPVi is a state affiliate of NAPVI, the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments.**



# Post your technology, toys, book & stories

Do you have used technology, toys or books that you no longer use?

We are adding a section to our newsletter where families can post these to share items with other families.

Maybe you have been looking for something but can't afford to buy it new - we can post it in our newsletter under a "Wanted" section.

Let us know about your wanted and shared items by sending an email to [info@vaapvi.org](mailto:info@vaapvi.org)

## We want to hear from YOU!

**Send us information on your Braille Books, Technology, Sensory based Toys, Educational Books for Parents - Whatever!**

**Send us your Stories too!**



**Send stories and items to [info@vaapvi.org](mailto:info@vaapvi.org)**

Do you have a story that you would like to share? We're sure most of you do. Why don't we start with stories that have a collaboration theme. We have all found ways for our children/ students to be included in activities -

Send us a story on how you as a parent or as a teacher found a way to collaborate with a parent, teacher, school or community activity.

Stories can be posted anonymously if you so choose.

If you don't mind your name being in the newsletter then make sure to send a photo along with your story!