



National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services Semi-Annual Meeting held at Miami Lighthouse

Miami Lighthouse was honored to host the semi-annual meeting of the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC) on January 9 and 10, 2015. The NAC Board of Directors is composed of heads of vision rehabilitation agencies, academics, and representatives of consumer agencies from throughout the United States and Canada.

NAC Mission: To promote and recognize high quality rehabilitation and education services for people who are blind or have low vision through a comprehensive accreditation process guided by contemporary service standards.

Miami Lighthouse has been continuously accredited NAC since 1978. This accreditation demonstrates our agency's leadership in the field of vision rehabilitation and dedication to improving the quality of life for people with vision loss.

NAC is the only international accrediting body devoted to serving organizations that provide programs for blind and low vision consumers. It is estimated that over 75,000 consumers annually received services from organizations accredited by NAC.

NAC was born in the mid-1960s from the efforts of the American Foundation for the Blind to bring structure and best practices to agencies serving the blind. The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was a major supporter of AFB's efforts and united leading professionals and industry sponsors who recognized that "standards" do increase the consistency and quality of services provided.



Left to right, front: **John Kelly**, MEd, CAS, Representative, Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Chester, NY; **Al Avina**, Executive Director, Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, DC; **Virginia A. Jacko**, President & CEO, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired; **Lylas G. Mogk**, MD, Director, Center for Vision Rehabilitation and Research, Henry Ford Health System, Grosse Pointe/Livonia, MI.

Rear: **Ann Plotkin**, Director, Centre for Sight Enhancement, Clinical Professor, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; **Strong J. Graham Strong**, O.D., Board Vice-President, Professor Emeritus, Center for Sight Enhancement, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; **J. Elton Moore** PhD, Associate Dean Research & Assessment Mississippi State University College of Education; **Laura Bozeman**, PhD, COMS, CLVT, Associate Professor & Program Director of Vision Studies, College of Education and Human Development, The University of Massachusetts- Boston, Boston, MA; **Bill Robinson**, Executive Director, NAC; **Tom Miller**, Retired Executive Director of Blinded Veterans Association; **Tara A. Cortes**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, Professor of Geriatric Nursing, New York University College of Nursing; **Lee Robinson**, EdD, Secretary/Historian, Pleasant View, UT; **R. Tracy Williams**, O.D., Board President, Executive Director Spectros Institute for Low Vision at the Deicke House, Wheaton, IL; **Denny Moyer**, BS, COTA, SCLV, Representing the American Occupational Therapy Association, Executive Director, Ensign Skill Center, Fort Collins, CO.