

April 23, 2009

Penn-Del AER General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Approved April 22, 2010

Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn

Meeting called to order at 11:10 am by Brenda Egan, President.

ATTENDANCE

- Penn-Del AER Board Members and General Membership
- Quorum established for voting members

(See Appendix 1: General Assembly PowerPoint Presentation to support all details reported below)

OFFICERS REPORTS

President, Brenda Egan: Brenda began the General Membership Meeting by establishing the agenda and then introducing the Board Officers and the Directors-At-Large. In the Message from the President, Brenda highlighted this past year's efforts and activity which include:

- Penn-Del AER being more than just the Spring Vision Conference
- Unanimous Board response to the proposed changes from ACVREP
- Watched our budget to bring the Chapter back into the black, indicating that the Board is committed to achieving a balanced budget
- Board was thrilled to launch the Regional Meetings
- Made efforts to improve communication with the general membership
- Board's commitment to improve through self-assessment – demonstrated by their attendance at the four annual Board meeting and completing work in between meetings

Brenda acknowledged our two existing members: Jennifer Edgar and Dr. George J. Zimmerman and thanked them for their contributions as Directors-at-Large.

Addressed the Goals for 2010:

- Continue to work on meeting the goals of the revitalization plan that was started in the fall of 2006 – which includes being recognized as the Chapter of the Biennium at the 2010 AER International Conference
- The Board has a presence in Pennsylvania and Delaware and we are here to represent the general membership.

Secretary, Lynn Fox: Read the minutes from April 2008's General Assembly Meeting. John Ford made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Debby Holzapfel seconded the motion; motion approved.

Treasurer's Report, Vince McVeigh: Vince reported that the combined account has a balance of \$43,293.21 as of 3-31-09. Once all of the expenditures for the conference are paid, the budget for the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2009, will be posted on-line.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee – Sandy Finkel: Presented the goals and activity of the committee and presented the Slate of Nominations to the President and General Membership. The nominations

slate included: Holly Russell, Lori Love, Tracy Whitehead, Gerald Kitzhoffer, and Mary Tolbert. Brenda Egan opened the slate for additional nominations. None were made from the floor. Vince McVeigh made the motion to accept the slate as presented. Gary Nuss seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote to accept the slate of nominations to the General Membership. All affirmative votes. The motion carried.

Bylaws and Structure Committee, Vince McVeigh, Chair:

The Bylaws and Structure Committee was charged to review the Bylaws to look for any corrections and inconsistencies. The Board approved the proposed changes to the Bylaws on February 19, 2009. The proposed changes were submitted electronically to the General Membership through e-Blasts and web site postings. The proposed changes were read during the General Meeting. Vince moved to submit the committee report to the President. Jennifer Edgar made the motion to accept the Bylaw changes as presented. Debby Holzapfel seconded the motion. Discussion addressed the wording changes in Article I. Agreed to accept wording as is. Brenda called for the vote to accept the proposed Bylaws changes. All affirmative votes. The motion carried.

Special Report: ACVREP, Dr. George Zimmerman:

(See Appendix 2) Provided overview of the December 16, 2008 announced ACVREP changes to the certification policies for Track 1 and 2. Due to national response to not implement these changes, ACVREP announced on January 14, 2009 to postpone the March implementation. On March 5th, various stakeholders met with ACVREP to discuss their various perspectives. The result is that ACVREP has rescinded their proposed changes – voted on April 6th and announced on April 13th. There is the need to have transparency between ACVREP and stakeholders. George also addressed certification requirements specified from the federal and state levels to emphasize the vague language to provide O&M services from certified specialists.

Communications Committee, Sandy, Chair:

Focus on improving free means of electronic communication.

1. Public Relations – Jen: presented slide content: goal and activity of the sub-committee
2. Newsletter/e-Blasts – Charlotte: highlighted slide content. Discussed approach to improve e-communication to transmit information to the general membership through the use of a new server called School Wires hosted by the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children.
3. Website – Sandy: presented slide content and highlighted the web address and homepage content.
4. Legislation – Marla: presented slide content: goal and activity of the sub-committee. Briefly discussed the laborious process that bills undergo.

Professional Development Committee, Sister Meg, Chairperson:

1. SVC, Sister Meg, Chair: presented slide content: goal and activity of the sub-committee
2. Leadership – George: presented slide content: goal and activity of the sub-committee. Emphasized Board's need to look for new, up-and-coming leaders.
3. Scholarship – Lynn: presented slide content: goal and activity of the sub-committee

4. Regional Meetings – Gary: presented slide content: goal and activity of the sub-committee

Membership Committee: Rebecca, Chair

1. Presented slide content: goal and activity of the committee, emphasizing membership drive

Ad Hoc Awards Committee: Amy, Chair:

1. Barbara presented the goals and activity of this committee, highlighting the responsibility shift for selecting recipients of the ELEY and the Service Awards from the SVC to the Penn-Del Chapter.

Gerald Kitzhoffer presented Jackie Brennan with the AER International Samuel C. Howe Award.

AER International Update: Debby Holzapfel, District 6 Representative:

Highlighted the mission of AER International and the key strategies currently being employed:

- Improve communications
- Ensure financial stability and a balanced budget
- Grow membership numbers significantly

Vince McVeigh made the motion to adjourn. Debby Holzapfel seconded the motion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:00.

Next meeting: General Assembly Meeting at the 2010 Penn-Del AER Spring Vision Conference. Time and location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn Fox

June 24, 2009