



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter
Association for the Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Penn-Del AER General Assembly
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2020
DRAFT

Location: Zoom

Meeting called to order at 4:02 Pm by Angela Humbertson, Board President

Parliamentarian: Vince McVeigh

Attendance

Penn-Del AER Board Members and General Membership (on Zoom)

Officers' Reports

President: Angela Humbertson

Opened with a general welcome and introduction of Board Members and Directors-at-Large.

Secretary: Kerry Lueders

The minutes from the April 25, 2019 General Assembly Meeting were presented to membership. Vince McVeigh motioned to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Brenda Egan. Membership voted (using the Zoom Participant Yes and No features) and accepted the minutes.

Treasurer: Vince McVeigh

Vince McVeigh presented the current balance of the Penn-Del AER account. Cancellation of the 2020 conference due to COVID-19 did not result in any significant impact.

Year In Review

Angela Humbertson presented an overview of the previous year, including updates from membership, leadership development and mentoring, advocacy for the field, non-profit status, professional development and conference, and board improvement.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee – Ashley Popojas, Committee Member

An overview of the Membership Committee and members was presented. The current number of Penn-Del AER Chapter members was reported to be 172. Strategic planning discussions have focused on member recruitment and member retention. We will continue to reach out to lapsed members and near-lapsing members to encourage them to rejoin. 2019 incentive winners for the 2020 Penn-Del AER Conference and 2020 International AER Conference will be granted their award for the 2021 and 2022 conferences, respectively. 2020 incentives for Penn-Del AER members include two drawings for the 2021 Penn-Del AER Conference (registration and \$100 travel expenses and \$25 O'Reilly's gift certificate) and one drawing for a \$100 Visa Gift Card for new recruits and recruiting members.

Nominations Committee – Angela Humbertson, Chair

Angela Humbertson reviewed the goal and members of the Nominating Committee to fill positions on the board, terms beginning July 1, 2020.

Nominations for seven Directors-at-Large

Western PA District: Gregory Lazur (nominated from the floor)

Eastern PA Region: Kerry Lueders (nominated from the floor), Jeanne Aaron,
Lachelle Smith

Central PA District: Rebecca Knaub

Delaware: Amber Gedeon

Nominations for Officers:

President: Erin Weaver

Secretary: Melodye May

Treasurer: Vince McVeigh

Angela Humbertson asked for nominations from the floor. Membership voted to accept the slate of Officers and Board of Directors as presented.

By-Laws and Structure Committee – Vince McVeigh, Chair

A review of the committee, goals and members was presented to the membership. By-laws changes were proposed this year for Section 3.1 Eligibility, Section 5.1 Authority, Section 10.1 Standing Committees, including Section 10.1.2, Section 10.1.5, and Section 10.1.6, and addition of Section 10.1.7 (new). Marla Moon motioned to vote on individual by-law changes separately as opposed to collectively. Melodye May seconded. The motion passed. Membership addressed on each by-law individually and discussed by-law 10.1.6 for further clarification. Membership voted on each by-law individually and accepted all by-law changes.

Communication Committee – Holly Russell, Chair

A review of the committee, goals and members was presented to the membership, including a review of Survey Monkey, website/social media, Dropbox, archives, documents and accessibility, and MailChimp/eblast list.

Professional Development Committee – Rebecca Renshaw, Chair

Conference Planning Committee – Angela Humbertson and Holly Russell, Co-chairs

A review of the conference subcommittee was presented to the membership and committee members were recognized. The decision to cancel the conference was made in March 2020.

Leadership Subcommittee – Mary Nelle McLennan, Chair

A review of the leadership subcommittee and members was presented to the membership, highlighting the three-part webinar series, “Building Resilience: Leading and Learning Our Way Through 2020 and Beyond,” on May 19, June 3, and June 17, 2020 at 4:00 pm Eastern.

Awards Committee – Brenda Egan, Chair

The goal and members of the committee were reviewed and a call was made to nominate fellow members for next year's awards. The awards were presented via Zoom on April 23, 2020.

2020 Award Recipients

Penn-Del AER Richard L. Welsh Service Award: Shelley Faust-Jones

Elinor Long Educator of the Year (ELEY) Award: Stacy Howard

Student Scholarship Awards: Patty D'Ascenzo, Laura Przybyla

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Announcement of Drawing Winners

Ashley announced the drawing winners for the 2021 Penn-Del AER Conference: Lachelle Smith and Doug Williams. The winner of the \$100 Visa gift card: Lindsey Palumbo Gifford.

New Business

Penn-Del AER was nominated for the AER Outstanding Chapter Award in 2020. Task force members were acknowledged. AER is still considering when the recipients of the award will be named. Mary Nelle acknowledged Angela Humberston for her service.

Conclusion

The 2021 Penn-Del AER Conference will be held April 21-23, 2021.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Submitted by Kerry Lueders, 5/23/20