

APPROVED April 25, 2013

April 19, 2012: Penn-Del AER General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn

Meeting called to order at 10:45 AM by Christie Peel, President.

Jerry Kitzhoffer named to serve as Parliamentarian.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

President, Christie Peel:

- Opened with a general welcome and introduction of the Board members

Secretary, Lynn Fox: Reviewed the minutes from April 2011's General Assembly Meeting, highlighting last year's nominees to the Board of Directors. Shelly Rhodes made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted, the motion was seconded by Rick Welsh; call for vote; motion approved.

Treasurer's Report, Lynn Murphy: Reported the Chapter continues to operate with a balanced budget. The motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted; the motion was seconded; call for vote; motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee – Brenda Egan: Introduced the 2012 Slate of Nominations to the President and General Membership by presenting the bios of each nominated Executive Officer and Director-at-Large:

Treasurer: Dr. Lynn Murphy

Secretary: Bonnie Dodson-Burk

Director-at-Large West: Debby Holzapfel and Rachelle Rectenwald

Director-at-Large Central: Kay Masci and Don Sundell

Brenda presented the 2012 Slate of Nominations to Christie Peel, Chapter President. A call for nominations from the floor was then made. Vince McVeigh made the motion to close the nomination from the floor and to accept the slate of nominations as presented. Tracy Whitehead seconded that motion. A call to vote on the entire slate as presented was made, all approved, the motion carried.

Bylaws and Structure Committee

Rick Welsh, Chair, presented the proposed bylaw changes highlighted with rationale statements in General Assembly PowerPoint (see appendix 1)

1. Item 1 – **Article IV: Officers, Section 4 – Terms of Office:**
Clarification of the requirement for hiatus in office for officers

2. Item 2 - **Article V: Section 2**
Clarification regarding the opportunity for Directors to stand for re-election

Rick made the motion to the President, Christie Peel, to accept the approved Bylaws changes. Shelly Rhodes seconded the motion. A call to vote was made, no discussion. All approved, the motion carried.

3. Item 3 – Editorial changes to point out. Vote not required to make the changes.
 - a. **Article VII – Nominations and Elections, Section 2.4:** The phrase “provided both” is misplaced.
 - b. **Section 1 of Article X – Committees:** Correct Location of the descriptions of the standing committees (moved from Article XI – Parliamentary Authority).

Communications Committee

Focus on improving free means of electronic communication. Sub-committee activity highlighted on General Assembly PowerPoint – see appendix 1:

1. Public Relations
2. Newsletter/e-Blasts
3. Website – Holly Russell presented the new web site.
4. Legislation

Professional Development Committee

Sub-committee activity highlighted on General Assembly PowerPoint – see appendix 1:

1. Spring Vision Conference
2. Leadership
3. Scholarship – Kiriam Peters, University of Pittsburgh
4. District Meetings – Held four district meetings across the Chapter this past year.

Membership Committee

Committee activity highlighted on General Assembly PowerPoint – see appendix 1. Tracy Whitehead reviewed the membership benefits initiatives happening at the conference: baskets to give-away to new and current members and current AER members to get \$20 for a new member referral. She also presented AER membership recognition certificates for 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of continuous AER memberships.

Awards Committee

The following two awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet this evening:

- Penn-Del AER Service Award: Sandy Finkel
- ELEY Award Presented Posthumously: Harry Lasky

Christie recognized the following exiting Board members with a certificate and gift:

Lynn Fox
Jerry Kitzhoffer
Lori Love
Holly Russell
Mary Tolbert
Tracy Whitehead

Lou Tutt, Executive Director of AER, presented highlights regarding AER International (See Appendix 2)

Discussion included: Introduction of the staff at the AER office
 Report of current membership numbers/totals
 Discussed the goals of AER: establish and maintain a
 balanced budget and to increase membership

Vince McVeigh made the motion to adjourn. Rick Welsh seconded the motion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:45 am.

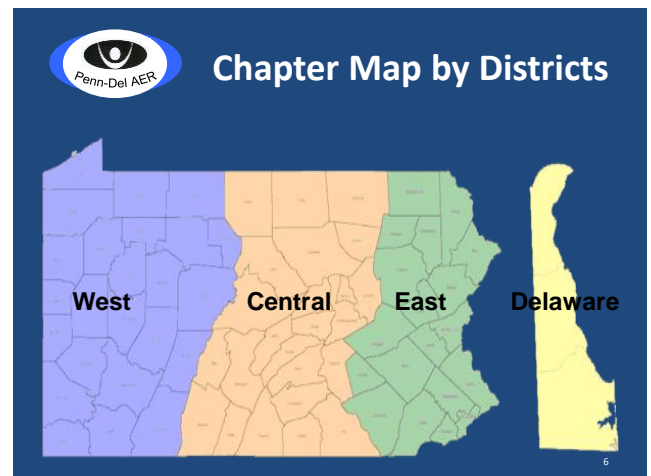
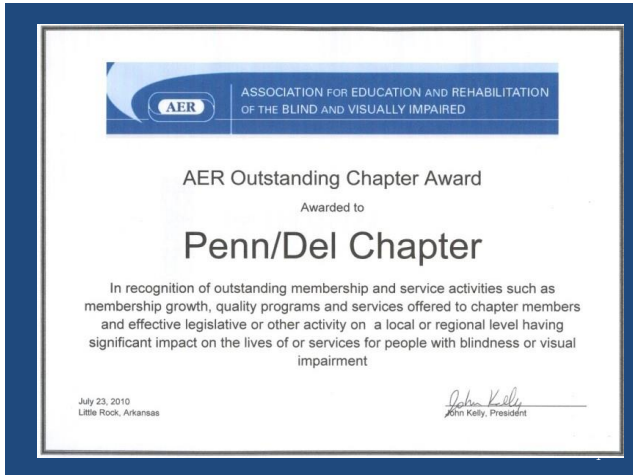
Next Penn-Del AER General Assembly Meeting: April 25, 2013 at the Eisenhower Conference Center, Gettysburg, PA.


Next Penn-Del AER Board Meeting: Time and location for the summer meeting:
July 16, 2012 at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel in Harrisburg from 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Fox
July 10, 2012

Appendix 1

Penn-Del AER General Assembly Meeting April 19, 2012 PowerPoint Presentation





Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Lynn Fox
 General Meeting Minutes, April 2011
 Call for a Vote

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Murphy
 Review of the Budget

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Nominations Committee

Brenda Egan, Chair
Committee Members
 Lynn Fox & Rick Welsh



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Slate of Nominations

<p>Executive Officers</p> <p>Treasurer Lynn Murphy</p> <p>Secretary Bonnie Dodson-Burke</p>	<p>Directors-at-Large</p> <p>Western District Debby Holzapfel Rachelle Rectenwald</p> <p>Central District Kay Masci Don Sundell</p>
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Bylaws Committee

Rick Welsh, Chair
Committee Members
 Jerry Kitzhoffer, John Hofmeister, Mark Steciw



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Proposed Bylaw Changes

CHANGES OF INTENT

Item 1 – Clarification of the requirement for hiatus in office for officers

The purpose of this change is to add clarification of the requirement for hiatus in office for officers. The current language of the Bylaws would seem to prevent an officer from standing for election for the next office up the line after completing a term in the previous office. This is not a desirable limitation for the organization. The intent of the Board is to interpret the need for a hiatus as applying to a person spending more than one term in the same office only after a hiatus of two years.

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

Article IV: Officers, Section 4 – Terms of Office
 currently reads: "After a hiatus of two years, Officers shall be eligible for re-election."

This language will be modified to add the phrase **"...to the same office."** The sentence would then read:
"After a hiatus of two years, Officers shall be eligible for re-election to the same office."

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

CHANGES OF INTENT

Item 2 – Clarification regarding the opportunity for Directors to stand for re-election

An additional clarification of similar language has to do with the wording related to the opportunity for Directors to stand for re-election. The intent of the Board is to interpret the need for a hiatus as applying to a Board member spending more than one term as a Director. However, it is not the intent to prevent a Director from being considered for election to an Officer’s position.

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

Article V: Section 2 – Directors currently reads:
 “After a hiatus of at least two (2) years they shall be eligible for re-election as Directors.”

This language will be modified to add the phrase:
“...however they may be considered for election to an Officer’s position without a hiatus following a term as a Director.”

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

EDITORIAL CHANGES

The Bylaws Committee is empowered to make editorial changes to the Bylaws when such changes are required to clarify the established intent of the Bylaws. Accordingly, the Committee has made the following editorial changes.

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

EDITORIAL CHANGES

Item 1 – Article VII – Nominations and Elections

Section 2.4 currently reads “Whenever additional nominations for any officer or director position are made from the floor, the nominating committee provided both shall record such nominations the nominator and the nominee are members in good standing...”


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Proposed Bylaw Changes

The phrase “provided both” is misplaced. The corrected sentence will read: **“Whenever additional nominations for any officer or director position are made from the floor, the nominating committee shall record such nominations provided both the nominator and the nominee are members in good standing...”**

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

EDITORIAL CHANGES

Item 2 - Location of the descriptions of the standing committees

Currently the standing committees of the Board are listed in sections 1.1 through 1.6 of Section 1 of Article XI – Parliamentary Authority. These sections were misplaced when the Bylaws were revised in 2011. Their proper location is as subsections under **Section 1 of Article X – Committees.**

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Communications Committee

Holly Russell, Chair

Subcommittees:

Public Relations – Justin Kaiser

NewsFlash/E-blast – Brenda Egan

Website – Christine Snellman & Holly Russell

Legislation – Mark Steciw



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Public Relations

Goal:

To promote AER and the professions it encompasses through website, e-blasts, and work with other organizations

Activity:

Work collaboratively with other committees to achieve the goals of the Chapter

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NewsFlash/E-Blast

Goal:

To be the primary vehicle for the flow of information to and from the membership

Activity:

E-Blast events and announcements

Contact: began@wpsbc.org

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Website

Goal:

The primary goal for the Penn-Del Chapter of AER for the year ending June 30, 2012, is to improve its “**virtual footprint**” through an improved website, consideration of the use of Facebook, twitter, and other social media such as a wiki site to promote the purposes of the Chapter.

www.penn-delaer.org

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Website

www.penn-delaer.org

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Legislation

Goal:

To monitor and respond to current legislative activity at a state and national level

Activity:

Disseminate information to the Board and general membership (new legislation and proposals) in a timely manner

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Professional Dev Committee
Vince McVeigh, Chair
Subcommittees
SVC – Vince McVeigh
Leadership – Brenda Egan
Scholarship – Lynn Fox
District Meetings – Lynn Murphy



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Spring Vision Conference

Goals:
To host a quality annual conference to support on-going professional development and networking

Activity:
Call for presentations to develop and offer a variety of concurrent topics
Invite vendors to highlight current technology and services

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Leadership

Goal:
Penn-Del AER will commit our time to identify and grow leaders to carry the torch for the Chapter

Activity:
Establish mentorships
Continue to identify future leaders
Provide leadership opportunities

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Student Scholarship

Goal:
To oversee the student scholarship procedures to reward deserving applicants

Activity:
Announced scholarship mid-January
Merit award expanded
Will present award this evening to **Kiriam Peters, University of Pittsburgh**

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District Meetings

Goal:
To host effective and productive district meetings to increase contact with membership

Activity:
Four districts hosted events this year

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Membership Committee

Lori Love, Chair

Committee Members:
Christine Snellman, Tracy Whitehead,
Dorothe Mumford, & Jennifer Throop

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Membership Committee

Goal:
To increase chapter membership and AER

Activity:
Contact lapsed members to encourage rejoining
Membership table at conference to field questions
and encourage membership registration
Redesigned website targeted to better meet
membership needs

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Membership Recognition

Penn-Del AER Members are recognized for
continuous AER membership and
professional involvement

Individual certificates presented from
AER International for
5, 10, 20, and 25 year membership

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Awards Committee

Brenda Egan, Chair

Committee Members:
Lynn Fox, Debby Holzapfel, & Rick Welsh

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Awards Committee

Goal:
Penn-Del AER Service Award and the ELEY Award
recognize and highlight the achievements of
deserving professionals within this chapter

Activity:
Call for nominations made in January
Will present awards this evening

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Award Recipients

**Penn-Del AER Service Award:
Sandy Finkel**

**ELEY Award Presented
Posthumously: Harry Lasky**

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AER International Update
Lou Tutt,
Executive Director



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Upcoming AER Events


AER International Conference 2012
Bellevue, Washington
July 18-22, 2012

Penn-Del AER Conference
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
April 24-26, 2013

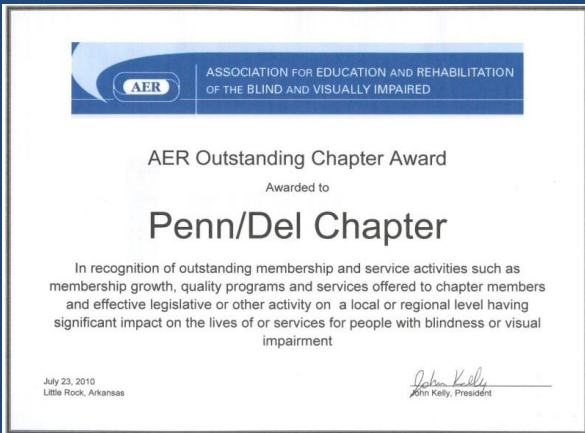


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Call to Adjourn
Christie Peel



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AER ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION
OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

AER Outstanding Chapter Award
Awarded to
Penn/Del Chapter

In recognition of outstanding membership and service activities such as membership growth, quality programs and services offered to chapter members and effective legislative or other activity on a local or regional level having significant impact on the lives of or services for people with blindness or visual impairment

July 23, 2010
Little Rock, Arkansas

John Kelly
John Kelly, President