



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter

Association for the Education and
Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually
Impaired

www.penn-delaer.org

Proposed 2020 Nominations Slate

Penn-Del AER Board of Directors

The 2020 Nomination Slate of Officers and Directors-at-Large details are included in this document. Nominations from the membership floor will be accepted via email sent to Angela Humbertson, humbertson94@rcn.com, no later than end of business day on Wednesday May 20, 2020. The Penn-Del AER members will vote at the General Membership Meeting which is scheduled virtually on Thursday May 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Officers

Term Ending June 30, 2022

President: Holly Russell

Treasurer: Vince McVeigh

President-Elect: Erin Weaver

Secretary: Melodye May

Directors-at-Large

Term Ending June 30, 2023

Western PA District	Central PA District	Eastern PA District	Delaware District
	Becky Knaub. BBVS, VRT	Jeanne Aaron, Delaware County IU, TVI, VRT	Amber Gedeon, DBVI, VR Counselor
		Kelly Lauer, Montgomery IU, TVI	
		Lachelle Smith, Salus, VRT, Personnel Prep	

Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) supports professionals who provide education & rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments.

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Officers

President: Holly Russell (no vote needed)



Holly Russell is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, and Certified O&M Specialist, who has worked in the field for over 25 years. She is currently working with Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children in the Outreach Department, servicing children from kindergarten to high school in a variety of school districts. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Vision Studies Program, and has a bachelor's degree in Child Development, and a master's degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Holly has been a member of Penn-Del AER for over 20 years. She has been serving on the Communications and Conference Committees for the past 10 years. Holly has served on the Penn-Del Board of Directors from 2009-2012. In 2016, Holly was honored to receive the Penn-Del AER Richard L. Welsh Service Award.

President-Elect: Erin Weaver



Erin Weaver is the Statewide Coordinator of Education Services for the Visually Impaired, Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired. She earned her A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education at Villa Maria College of Buffalo, B.S. at Michigan State University in the areas of Elementary Education, Special Education, and Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired, and an M.S.E.D. at St. Bonaventure University in Childhood Literacy. A few highlights of Erin's career include her involvement with Camp Abilities where she received the Jim Burch Above and Beyond Award, Camp Abilities

Saratoga Above and Beyond Award, and had the opportunity to work on the following publications: Visual impairment and physical education: Steps to success, Gross Motor development for Children With Visual Impairments, Teaching Gross Motor Development to Children With Visual Impairments, and Staff Training for Physical Education for Children With Visual Impairments. Erin worked in the Western New York area as a Teacher of the Blind & Visually Impaired, Special Education and Elementary teacher for 25 years. Vacationing on the beaches of Delaware with her husband and three children encouraged Erin's relocation to Delaware.

Secretary: Melodye May



Melodye May is a social service administrator for the Independent Living Services program at the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI). She received her bachelor's degree in Family and Child Development/Human Services from Virginia Tech in 1995. She joined DVI in 1998 and spent 15 years training consumers who are blind and visually impaired how to use assistive technology to accomplish their goals. During her tenure as a trainer, she introduced several new programs to the agency, including a

sensory garden program, workshop series and a monthly assistive technology e-newsletter. She is interested in the Penn-Del AER Board to have the opportunity to network with other professionals in the field of visual impairments and have a positive impact on consumers that are blind and visually impaired. She believes that board membership will provide her with invaluable leadership experience and the privilege to serve on a board that supports a mission that she is devoted to. She enjoys gardening, leading a wonderful group of Girl Scout Brownies and spending time with family. She currently resides in North Wilmington with her husband, Demond, and daughter, Lauryn.

Treasurer: Vincent McVeigh (2nd term)



Vince McVeigh has been involved providing both educational and rehabilitative services to persons with visual impairments for over forty years. Throughout much of that time he has been actively involved in professional organizations serving these populations including AER and CEC. He has served as an officer at the national level for CEC-DVH, the state level for Pennsylvania CEC and have been an active Penn-Del AER member for many years. Vince retired from Chester County Intermediate Unit.

Directors-At-Large

Eastern Pennsylvania District: Jeanne Aaron



Jeanne Aaron has been working with blind and visually impaired persons from birth through adulthood for over 25 years. As a teacher of the blind and visually impaired, she has provided services to infants, toddlers and preschoolers through early intervention programs and school-age students through the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. She educates families, professionals and the public about the abilities of children and adults living with visual impairment and advocates for their independence. She has been an effective facilitator of teamwork among parents, teachers, therapists and colleagues to continuously work to determine needs and develop strengths of individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

She received her bachelor's degree from Kutztown University in Education of Students with Visual Impairments. She began working as a PA Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired in October of 1994 for the Delaware County Intermediate Unit delivering instruction and consultation to teachers to ensure equitable education for visually impaired students. She received her master's degree in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy from Salus University in October 2019; Magna Cum Laude.

She completed her Vision Rehabilitation Internship at the Montgomery County Association for the Blind to maximize the independence of adults who are blind/visually impaired. During that internship, she also worked at the IDEAL summer camp teaching students age 14 – 21 adaptive skills of daily living at the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She is currently working on a certificate

in Low Vision Rehabilitation at Salus University with an internship at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center during the summer of 2020.

Central Pennsylvania District: **Becky Knaub**



Becky Knaub has worked for the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services since 2013. Her career began in the Wilkes-Barre District Office as a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist.

In 2017 Becky was transferred to the Special Programs Division, where she assists in creating instructional materials, checking for accessibility on websites and documents, training staff on the use of assistive technology, assisting with the development of Assistive technology and VRT curriculums for Summer programs and training BEP clients in both VRT and Assistive technology.

Becky also works the Summer Academy and Junior Summer Academy programs teaching both VRT and assisting with the instruction of Assistive technology. Becky is currently working towards her certification as a teacher of the visually impaired.

Becky has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a minor in Spanish from Edinboro University and a master's degree in Vision rehabilitation Therapy from Salus University. She received her Vision Rehabilitation Therapy ACVREP certification in early 2013.

Eastern Pennsylvania District: **Kelly Lauer (2nd Term)**



Kelly Lauer is currently working as a Teacher for the Visually Impaired for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Prior to that she held a variety of instructional roles within Overbrook School for the Blind, most recently as Technology Specialist for 14 years. Following her completion of Kutztown University's TVI program, Lauer received a master's in Educational Learning Differences from Cabrini College, in 2016 completed an Assistive Technology Certification from California State University Northridge (CSUN), and currently obtaining her Special Education

PreK-8 Certification from Cabrini University. Additionally, she is an Apple Certified Teacher, OSMO Certified Ambassador, Certified Microsoft Innovative Educator, and Google Educator. In February of 2017, Lauer was appointed to a district-wide Website Redesign Committee by the Superintendent of the Marple-Newtown School District, the district of residence for her four sons.

Eastern Pennsylvania District: Lachelle Smith



Lachelle Smith is currently an Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Professional Preparation Program for Vision Rehabilitation Therapy in the College of Education and Rehabilitation at Salus University. She is also the founder and sole proprietor of InSights Vision Rehabilitation Services; the practice consisting of clients referred from State, non-profit agencies, and private clientele who seeks her trademark holistic approach to rehabilitation services. Lachelle continues to operate in her practice while teaching at Salus ensuring to bring pragmatic experience to the classroom. In addition, Lachelle is the founder and president of Blind Blessings, Inc., a 501(c) 3, not-for-profit organization created to meet the vision rehabilitation and spiritual needs of those seeking vision rehabilitation services.

Lachelle is a 2003 PCO alumni (now Salus University) graduating with a M.S. in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy while achieving the highest honors possible. She holds her certification in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy through ACVREP. Lachelle is committed to the advancement of all individuals who live with disabilities and dedicates her time to serving on Boards and Committees that share that vision, including ACVREP, VRT SME, AER Recruitment and Retention Committee, and Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (AVRT) to name a few. She is enthusiastic about the opportunities available to her in making a difference in the lives of those she serves, whether in the vision rehabilitation field or in the classroom.

Delaware District: Amber Gedeon



Amber Gedeon is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor providing vocational support to teens and young adults who have visual impairments since 2019 at the Division for the Visually Impaired in Delaware.

Amber is a native of New Jersey and has worked in the adult education, developmental disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse communities in Trenton, New Jersey and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received an A.S. in Cultural Anthropology from Community College of Philadelphia; B.S.W. in Social Work from Temple University, and M.H.C. in Mental Health Counseling from Capella University.

Amber's work experience is varied and includes time spent working in nonprofit psychiatric and education facilities, working in a methadone clinic, providing habilitation services for the NJ Department of Developmental Disabilities, and locating housing for homeless children and families in Pennsylvania. She has received specialized training in Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Naloxone training, Anger Management, Sexual Trauma, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling, Disaster Relief/Crisis Intervention, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Grief Counseling.

Amber's earliest involvement with vocational support services started in 2007 at the Employment, Advancement and Retention Network (EARN) Program in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She supported the needs of welfare and low-income individuals with serious barriers to gaining and maintaining employment. Amber guided consumers through employment process, assisting with all facets of job search, placement and employment. Amber also assisted consumers with developing appropriate social skills and work habits.

Amber's background enables her to be an extremely effective counselor who is comfortable counseling diverse groups of people. She is also continuously seeking to gain more skills and broaden her education in vocational rehabilitation. Amber believes that change happens when people are given the guidance they need to draw on their own strengths and realize their potential to live fulfilling, happy lives. Amber provides an environment of kindness and support to help visually impaired individuals and families overcome obstacles to move forward and thrive in today's society.