



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter

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

www.penn-delaer.org

Proposed Penn-Del AER Board of Directors 2021 Nominations Slate

The 2021 Nomination Slate of Officers and Directors-at-Large details are included in this document. Nominations from the membership floor will be accepted at the business meeting. The Penn-Del AER members will vote at the General Membership Meeting which is scheduled virtually on Thursday April 22nd, 2021 at approximately 10:45 am, directly after the General Session II.

Officers

No nominations needed for officers this year.

Directors-at-Large

Term Ending June 30, 2024

Western PA District	Central PA District	Eastern PA District	Delaware District
Brenda Egan, 2 nd Term	Tracy Whitehead, 2 nd Term	Alexis Morrison, Student Ambassador (no vote needed)	Oluyomi Koya
Mary Nelle McLennan, 3 rd Term			Maria Lepore-Stevens, 3 rd Term

Directors-at-Large Bios and Pictures

Brenda Egan, 2nd Term, Western Pennsylvania District



Brenda Egan earned a master's degree in education for students who are blind and visually impaired and supervisory certification from the University of Pittsburgh. Her undergraduate degree is from Slippery Rock State College in Special Education/Elementary Education. She retired from the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children where she had been the Director of the Early Childhood Program for 24 years. Prior to her current position she was a classroom teacher, and a project coordinator for a federally funded deaf-blind

grant. She was also employed by Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 as a classroom teacher and was instrumental in launching the Orientation and Mobility Program at the IU. Brenda is an active member of the Penn-Del AER Chapter.

Oluyomi (Yomi) Koya, Delaware District



Yomi Koya is a certified teacher of students with visual impairments. Originally from Nigeria, Yomi earned his Master of Education in educational management. Yomi started his career in the field of blindness and visual impairment working at Overbrook School for the Blind as a one-on-one support staff. This position inspired him to further his education at Salus University to obtain his Master of Education in blindness and vision impairment. While completing his

degree, Yomi began working as an itinerant teacher for the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI). Yomi has worked at DVI for five years where he had the opportunity to mentor new teachers and assisted with planning and leading youth programs. He was a pioneer member of the National Federation of the Blind, Teacher of Tomorrow program.

This summer, Yomi will begin his course of study at University of Massachusetts, Boston to obtain a certificate in Orientation and Mobility. He currently resides in Philadelphia, PA with his wife, three children, and a dog.

Maria Lepore-Stevens, 3rd Term, Delaware District



Maria Lepore-Stevens has worked as a COMS for the Division for the Visually Impaired in Delaware and Chester County Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania. In addition to her work as a COMS, Maria is dual certified as a Certified Adapted Physical Educator and is a professor of adapted PE in Rowan University's in teacher prep program. Maria spends her summers directing Camp Abilities educational sports camps for athletes with visual impairments in Delaware,

Pennsylvania, and Arizona. Maria earned her BS in Health and Physical Education (concentration in Adapted PE) from West Chester University, her MA in O&M from the University of Arizona, and her EdD in Educational Policy, Planning, and Administration from West Chester. Her dissertation research focused on using summer sports camp programming to foster self-determination skills in youth with visual impairments.

Mary Nelle McLennan, 3rd Term, Western Pennsylvania District



Mary Nelle McLennan holds a M.A. from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and retired as the Executive Advisor to the President of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). As one of her responsibilities in that role, she serves as APH's representative to the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and holds the position of BANA's Vice Chair. Before moving into her current position, Mary Nelle served as the APH's Vice President of

Products and Services. Earlier, she served as the Braille Editor at APH after fifteen years as a classroom teacher at the Tennessee School for the Blind. Mary Nelle is

active throughout the vision field in state, national, and international arenas. She served as President of the Kentucky Chapter of AER, Chair of AER's Division 12, and Chair of international AER's Council of Division Chairs. In addition to chapter and division leadership, she served six years on the AER International Board of Directors, four of those as AER Secretary. Mary Nelle has served on the Penn-Del AER Conference Planning Committee as Conference Presenter Coordinator since 2007. Mary Nelle's contributions have been recognized by her peers through a number of awards, which include the Mary K. Bauman Award, AER's highest award for leadership in education of students who are blind or visually impaired. For her 16-years of work as creator and editor of the quarterly column "SPRINGBOARD" in the professional journal RE:view, she was awarded the 2010 C. Warren Bledsoe Special Recognition Award for excellence in writing and publication. She also received the 2011 Pennsylvania-Delaware AER Chapter's Outstanding Service Award and earlier the Exceptional Service Award from the Kentucky Chapter of AER. In 2011, Mary Nelle was honored by her colleagues and friends with a stone on the Wall of Tribute which is associated with the Hall of Fame housed at APH.

Alexis Morrison, Student Ambassador (no vote needed)



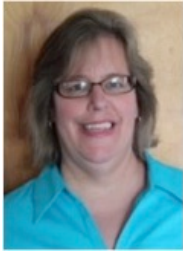
Alexis Morrison was born in Manhattan, New York. She graduated from Berks Catholic High School in Wyomissing, PA. She attended Hampton University, a Historically Black University, as a Nursing major for two years before entering the United States Air Force (AF) in 1994 at the age of 21. In the AF Alexis spent 10 years at Travis Air Force Base (AFB) in Northern California serving as a dental specialist. After her first 10-year tour Alexis decided to enter into the Air Force Reserve as a military recruiter. Alexis recruited for 5 years while stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, NV. In Las Vegas, Alexis placed over 100 civilians into the AF Reserve in under 4 years allowing her to rank as one of the Top Fifty Reserve recruiters in the country. After her recruiting tour Alexis served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Dental Services at Horsham Air National Guard Base in Willow Grove, PA which led her to her retirement after 21 years of honorable service.

Upon retirement Alexis was accepted into the Rehabilitation and Human Services program at Pennsylvania State University in which she graduated Summa Cum Latte with a 4.0 GPA in August 2020. After graduation Alexis decided to pursue her passion to work with disabled veterans along with wanting to give back to the military community.

In August 2020, Alexis was accepted into the Blindness and Low Vision program at Salus University. Alexis is projected to graduate in 2023 with a Master of Science in Low Vision Rehabilitation and with a certificate in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy which will allow her to work at the Veterans Administration fulfilling her passion.

Her hobbies include yoga, meditation, hiking, and cooking. She has one son who is a Psychology major at Pennsylvania State University main campus. Alexis resides in Montgomery county, PA.

Tracy Whitehead, 2nd Term, Central Pennsylvania District



Tracy Whitehead is currently working as an itinerant teacher of students with visual impairments for BLaST Intermediate Unit #17, teaching in all of the school districts in Bradford and Tioga Counties. She has been in this position for 33 years. Her passion is keeping up with the newest technology for students with visual impairments. She is also serving on the Penn-Del Conference Planning Committee since 2011 where she chairs the Handout Committee, and she sits on the Presenter Committee. Tracy received the Elinor H. Long Educator of the Year Award in 2013. She is a proud graduate of Kutztown University. She resides in Canton, PA with her husband Ned. Together they raised 4 boys, have 2 grandchildren, 2 dogs and 20 llamas.

The 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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