



Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter

Association for the Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

www.penn-delaer.org

Proposed Penn-Del AER Board of Directors 2022 Nominations Slate

The 2022 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 Business Meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Nominated Officer — President-Elect

Maria Lepore-Stevens, Delaware District



Maria Lepore-Stevens (Term 2022–2024) is the program coordinator for Rowan University's Certificate of Graduate Study in Adapted Physical Activity. Maria is dual certified as a COMS and a Certified Adapted Physical Educator and has worked as a COMS for the Division for the Visually Impaired in Delaware and Chester County Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania. 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.

Nominated Officer — Secretary

Ashley Popojas, Western Pennsylvania District



Ashley Popojas (Term 2022–2024) is a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist at Western PA School for Blind Children, Outreach Department in Pittsburgh. She provides services to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers through early intervention programs and to school-aged students within Westmoreland, Allegheny, and Indiana counties. Prior to joining the Outreach Department, Ashley served as a childcare teacher and classroom teacher at WPSBC. Ashley also provides

instruction for the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, and is an Independent Evaluator for the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers in Allegheny County. Ashley proudly earned her Bachelor's Degrees in Corporate Communications and Business Management from Carlow University, followed by an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Ashley graduated from the University of Pittsburgh's Vision Studies Program with dual TVI and COMS certifications. Ashley resides in Greensburg, PA, an eastern suburb of Pittsburgh with her husband, son, daughter and two puppies.

Nominated Directors-at-Large

Term Ending June 30, 2025

Western PA District: no nominations

Central PA District: [Mary Daubenspeck](#);
[Doug Williams](#)

Eastern PA District: [Nancy Ashley](#); [Mark](#)

[Richert](#); [Mark Steciw](#); [Evangaline Worsley](#)

Delaware District: [Sue Barton](#)

Nancy Ashley, 2nd Term, Eastern Pennsylvania District



Nancy Ashley is a retired Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired, employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 for almost 37 years prior to her retirement in 2015. Nancy "enjoyed" her students who varied in age from Early Intervention to 21 years old, learning more from her students than she was ever able to teach them. Nancy developed pertinent ties with Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, PaTTAN, and Blind Association. She encourages those now in the field to form the same valuable connections. Nancy received her Bachelor's degree from

Kutztown State College (now University) and her Master Equivalency Degree through IU and Wilkes University graduate level courses. In wanting to remain connected to the field of visual impairment upon retirement, she successfully pursued becoming a member of the Penn-Del AER Board. This has been a very positive venture and her only regret is that she did not pursue it sooner. Nancy wants to share one of her favorite Bible verses with you: 2 Corinthians 5: 7 "We walk by faith, not by sight."

Susan Barton, Delaware District

Susan Barton is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked for the Department of Veteran Affairs for 13 years in Wilmington, DE. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has been in the Social Work field for over 20 years. She considers herself as fortunate to have been introduced to the world of blind rehabilitation and to Veterans who are visually impaired during her tenure as Chief of Social Work. She found the mission to help Veterans with visual impairments to be rewarding in ways not experienced before. When the opportunity presented itself, Susan took on the full-time role of the VIST (Visual Impairment Services Team) Coordinator for the Wilmington, VA, and has been working as a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist for the past 4 years, loving every minute. Susan resides in Delaware with her husband, daughter, dog, and 3 cats.

Mary Daubenspeck, 2nd Term, Central Pennsylvania District



Mary Daubenspeck is currently certified through PDE and ACVREP as a TVI/COMS. She is a graduate of KSU with a BS in El Ed and BVI Ed. O&M Certification from Pitt 1984. Mary retired in 2019 from the Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit system where she worked as a TVI/COMS for 32 years. She worked closely with BSO and the Optimist Olympics to promote and develop sports and activities to develop skills and provide recreational opportunities for children, adults and their families. She served as a member of the board to the Pennsylvania Association of Blind Athletes, the Penn-Del AER and Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania where she is currently a member of the Programs and Services Committee working with other members to continue and develop programs for the visually impaired population in the Central Pennsylvania area.

Mark Richert, Eastern Pennsylvania District



Mark Richert recently joined the Overbrook School for the Blind as its International Program Coordinator. From March of 2020 through the end of December 2021, Mark served as Interim Executive Director for the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER). He previously served as AER's Executive Director from 2001 to 2005.

Over the course of his career in the vision loss and broader disability communities, Mark has successfully championed many of the significant public policy achievements in our field. He helped enact the landmark Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, which began a revolution in mainstream technology usability, audio description, and availability of assistive technologies for specific populations and helped establish the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) to support K-12 students with print disabilities. He has been instrumental in drafting the historic Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act to drive fundamental systems change in special education for students with sensory disabilities and has promoted prescription drug labeling accessibility.

In addition, Mark has served numerous mission-aligned organizations, including: VisionServe Alliance, AER, the National Disability Institute, the American Foundation for the Blind, the American Council of the Blind, and the National Industries for the Blind.

Mark received his Juris Doctor from the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington DC and his Bachelor of Arts from Stetson University in Florida.

Mark Steciw, Eastern Pennsylvania District



Mark Steciw has worked in the field of blindness and visual impairment for over forty years. He began his professional career as a teacher of students who are blind and visual impaired with additional significant disabilities. He was also an administrator for programs serving this population. Mark has worked as a pre-school itinerant for the School District of Philadelphia. He has had the unique experience of being the low vision educational specialist at the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center at the Eye Institute in Philadelphia. While in that role, Mark was involved in various research projects including contributing to various

publications and the development of the Pepper Visual Skills Test for individuals with macular degeneration. He was an adjunct faculty member at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now Salus University) where he taught courses in the TVI Preparation Program.

Mark served as an educational consultant in visual impairments at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) for almost thirty years. During this time, he served on a panel that was responsible for developing the national certification test for teachers of students with visual impairments through the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Mark was the recipient of the Eleanor Long Educator of the Year (ELEY) Award in 1997. Mark has presented at various national, state and regional conferences. He was one of the “founding fathers” of the Summer Academy for Students with Visual Impairments. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Overbrook Friedlander Programs and has previously served as a board member of Penn-Del AER. He has been actively involved as a member of the Penn-Del AER conference planning committee for many years.

Doug Williams, 2nd Term, Central Pennsylvania District



Doug Williams was an Educational Consultant with Vision specialization in the Harrisburg Office of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN). He has worked as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist with the Nevil Institute in Philadelphia, (later ASB), and at the Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 in south central Pennsylvania as an O&M Specialist.

Evangaline Worsley, Eastern Pennsylvania District



Evangaline Worsley is a certified teacher of students with visual impairments. She earned her B.S. in Secondary Education with a focus in English and Communications from Penn State University. In the fall of 2012, she began her career teaching English in the high school program at Overbrook School for the Blind. Evangaline later secured her vision certification and Master of Education through the University of Pittsburgh and her special education certification through West Chester University. In 2021, Evangaline was honored to receive the Elinor Long Educator of the Year Award. She resides in Philadelphia with her husband.

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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