



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

## **Proposed 2023 Nominations Slate** **Penn-Del AER Officers and Board of Directors**

The 2023 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 Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 11:25 AM.

The 2023 Nominations Slate has a vacancy for President-Elect one year earlier than expected as Erin Weaver stepped down from her role as President. In the 2022-23 interim, Holly Russell graciously stepped back in as President from Past-President and Maria Lepore-Stevens remained as President-Elect. Maria graciously agreed to begin her term as President one year early. The term for both Maria Lepore-Stevens as President and Holly Russell as Past-President will be June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

### **Nominated Officer — President-Elect**

#### **Greg Lazur, Western Pennsylvania District**



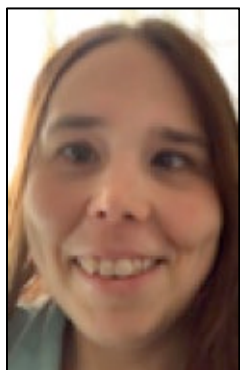
Greg Lazur is an educational consultant with the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) and is assigned to the West Office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He joined PaTTAN after starting his career at Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, where he served multiple roles as a behavior specialist, teacher of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialist, and an administrator for the residential program. He holds multiple degrees from the University of Pittsburgh including a master's degree in early intervention and special education, certification as a teacher of the visually impaired and is a certified orientation and mobility specialist. He is the current chair elect for AER International Division 1, Leadership Division. He considers it an honor to serve the field of blindness and visual impairment and believes that AER's core values of compassion, diversity, independence, and integrity set our field apart from others.

# Nominated Directors-at-Large

## Term Ending June 30, 2026

- **Western PA District:** No nominations
- **Central PA District:** [Becky Knaub](#)
- **Eastern PA District:** [Lachelle Smith](#) and [Jamie Maffit](#)
- **Delaware District:** No nominations
- **Student Representative:** [Matt Love](#)

## Becky Knaub, 2nd Term, Central Pennsylvania District



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 programs for Transition aged students and training BEP clients in both VRT and

Assistive technology.

In 2021, Becky began working as a VR specialist temporary work out of class assignment. Her focus became supporting blind/visually impaired staff who use AT and assisting in all content being accessible before being distributed to OVR staff. Additionally, Becky is often asked to test the accessibility of websites that are being considered by OVR for customers or staff or by other agencies collaborating with OVR.

In July of 2022, Becky received a promotion to a VR Specialist. Her title is VR specialist for Accessibility Support. She continues to support staff who are blind and visually impaired who use AT, ensure document accessibility, and test website for accessibility as needed.

## Jamie Maffit, Eastern Pennsylvania District



Jamie Maffit is an Assistant Professor in Salus University's Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and Director of the graduate personnel preparation programs in Orientation and Mobility. She is a certified Low Vision Therapist and Orientation and Mobility Specialist and works with individuals of all ages in the Philadelphia Metro region. She currently practices at the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Clinic. Her areas of interest include

working with patients with visual field loss and the use of mobile, assistive technology for individuals with low vision.

### **Lachelle Smith, 2nd Term, Eastern Pennsylvania District**



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.

### **Matt Love, Student Representative**



Matthew "Matt" Love is from Smyrna, DE. He is currently a sophomore at Kutztown University studying Special Education: Visual Impairments and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics. His goal academically is to receive a PhD. in Special Education. One of his biggest achievements was being a Keynote Speaker/ Student Leader for the Kent County Transition Fair and Delaware Transition Conference respectively in 2019 and 2021.

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the Association for 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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