



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

www.penn-delaer.org

2020 Penn-Del AER Proposed Bylaw Revisions

The following revisions (amendments) to the Penn-Del AER Bylaws were recommended by the Bylaws Committee and approved by the Board of Directors on April 22, 2020. They are offered for your consideration in preparation for the membership vote at the virtual 2020 General Membership Meeting. The Bylaws were last amended April 26, 2018 and are available on our website.

The seven proposed amendments are organized by listing the bylaw article and section followed by the current language, the proposed language and the rationale and intent. If just a piece of the bylaw language is revised in the proposed area it has blue font emphasis.

Article III. Membership

1. Section 3.1. Eligibility

1. Current:

Section Membership in the Penn-Del AER Chapter shall be open to all persons living or working within the states of Pennsylvania or Delaware interested in service provided to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

1. Proposed:

Membership in the Penn-Del AER Chapter shall be open to all persons interested in providing service to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

1. Rationale and Intent:

This would allow any person who selects Penn-Del as their AER chapter of choice to participate fully as a Penn-Del member including the potential to be elected to a position within the organization. As an example, a current member who moved from the area but desires to remain an active Penn-Del member would be able to do so by notifying AER of their desire to do so. However, it is not the intention of the chapter to actively recruit persons from surrounding chapters where other chapters are viable options. This rationale would be described in other chapter documents (i.e., Chapter Manual) to provide future guidance to the chapter leadership.

Article V. Board of Directors

2. Section 5.1. Authority

2. Current:

The Board of Directors of the Penn-Del AER Chapter shall consist of the five (5) Officers of the Chapter, one (1) elected member from each of the four (4) districts which make up the Penn-Del AER Chapter and which are defined in Article VIII of these bylaws and from eight (8) to

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.

twelve (12) Directors at Large who will be selected to represent the interest of those who provide education, independent living, employment, and rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

2. Proposed:

The Board of Directors of the Penn-Del AER Chapter shall consist of a minimum of 17 and a maximum of 21 persons who are members of the Penn-Del chapter including: five (5) Officers of the Chapter, one (1) elected member from each of the four (4) districts which make up the Penn-Del AER Chapter and which are defined in Article VIII of these bylaws and from eight (8) to twelve (12) Directors at Large who will be selected to represent the interest of those who provide education, independent living, employment, and rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

2. Rational and Intent:

Clarifies that all elected directors must be Penn-Del (not merely AER members), defines the size of the Board and would allow for a person living and working in an area other than PA and Delaware to be elected to the board.

Article X. Committees

3. Section 10.1. Standing committees

3. Current:

The standing committees of the Penn-Del AER Chapter shall be the Nominating Committee, the Communications Committee, the Professional Development Committee, the Bylaws and Structure Committee, the Awards Committee, and the Membership Committee. Each of the six Standing Committees will be chaired by one individual appointed by the President to lead that Committee. The chair of each Standing Committee will then appoint an individual Coordinator to lead the work of the Sub-Committees. The Chair for each Standing Committee will provide information, updates and results to the Board of Directors.

3. Proposed:

The standing committees of the Penn-Del AER Chapter shall be the Nominating Committee, the Communications Committee, the Professional Development Committee, the Bylaws and Structure Committee, the Awards Committee, the Membership Committee and the **Legislative Committee**. Each of the **seven** Standing Committees will be chaired by one individual appointed by the President to lead that Committee. The chair of each Standing Committee **may** then appoint an individual Coordinator to lead the work of Sub-Committees **where they exist**. The Chair for each Standing Committee will provide information, updates and results to the Board of Directors.

3. Rational and Intent:

Establishes the Legislative Committee as a distinct committee and adjusts the number of committees to reflect the additional committee. It recognizes that not all Committees have sub-committees and therefore no need for an additional appointment. It also establishes the appointment of sub-committee chairs as an option available to the Committee chair but not a requirement.

4. Section 10.1.2.

4. Current:

Section 10.1.2. The Communications Committee shall consist of the following four Sub-Committees: Public Relations, Information, Website, and Legislation. The Communications Committee includes the Chair plus four Coordinators. The Chair of the Communications Committee shall appoint Coordinators for each of the four Sub-Committees. Each Sub-Committee will consist of as many members as necessary to carry out their function. The Public Relations Sub-Committee will be responsible for preparing informational materials highlighting the organization. The Information Sub-Committee will prepare and disseminate news to chapter members. The Website Sub-Committee will update and maintain all information relevant for membership. The Legislation Sub-Committee shall keep the Board of Directors informed of all proposed legislation at the state and federal levels, which is of significance to the membership of the Penn-Del AER Chapter.

4. Proposed:

Section 10.1.2. The Communications Committee responsibilities shall include accessible document preparation, file management, information dissemination, and website and social media development and maintenance.

4. Rational and Intent:

Removes the reference to Legislation as a sub-committee assuming another section of revision establishes it as a separate Committee. It removes some of detail in current Bylaws to allow for more flexibility to the committee and its chair to accomplish goals.

5. Section 10.1.5.

5. Current:

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for developing membership campaigns and identifying and communicating with key persons to assist in the recruitment of new members in specific locations and populations.

5. Proposed:

Section 10.1.5. Proposed: The Membership Committee shall be responsible for membership retention through the use of targeted public relations campaigns and recruiting new members by developing and implementing strategic recruitment strategies.

5. Rational and Intent:

This adds Public Relations as focus of membership campaigns.

6. Section 10.1.6

6. Current:

Section 10.1.6. The Awards Committee shall define and refine the Penn-Del AER awards procedures in order to recognize the achievements of deserving professionals and highlight professional achievements. The Awards Committee will be responsible for developing and carrying out the Awards Banquet.

The Awards Committee is comprised of:

- one Penn-Del AER board member who will chair the committee
- one member of the Penn-Del AER Conference Planning committee
- one additional Penn-Del AER member will be invited to participate on this committee
- additional members may be invited to participate on this committee

The Scholarship Sub-Committee is responsible for developing scholarship opportunities for Penn-Del AER members who live or work in Pennsylvania or Delaware and who are enrolled in university personnel preparation programs in a related field of study that addresses the educational and rehabilitation needs of persons with visual impairments.

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The Scholarship Sub-Committee is responsible for developing scholarship opportunities for Penn-Del AER members [who live or work in Pennsylvania or Delaware](#) ~~[delete geographic requirement for Pennsylvania or Delaware]~~ who are enrolled in university personnel preparation programs in a related field of study that addresses the educational and rehabilitation needs of persons with visual impairments.

6. Rational and Intent:

Assuming expansion of eligibility to those who do not live or work in PA or DE this would open all Penn-Del AER members to all perks of memberships.

Section 10.1.7

7. Current:

7. Proposed:

Section 10.1.7. The Legislative Committee shall keep the Board of Directors informed of pertinent legislative activity at the state and federal levels which has significance to the membership of the chapter.

7. Rational and Intent:

[Formerly subsumed under Communication committee]