



Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter

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

www.penn-delaer.org

Penn-Del AER Chapter Presents

The 2022 Penn-Del AER Conference April 27 - 29, 2022

Adjusting Our Sails: Charting a New Course

Best Western Premier Central Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of AER invites you to participate in our annual conference, which will be a hybrid event. All general and concurrent presentations will be delivered in person and will also be available virtually.

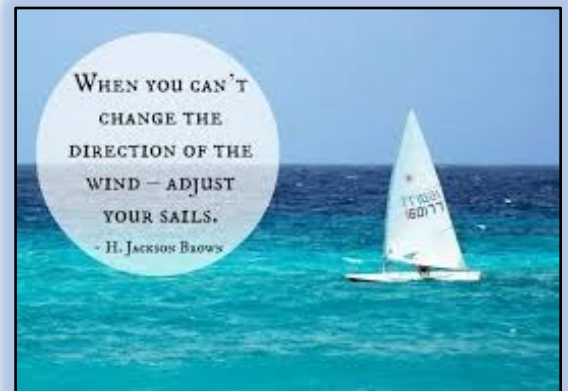
Our conference theme will focus on **Adjusting Our Sails: Charting a New Course**.

Penn-Del AER's nationally respected conference will offer 3 general sessions, networking opportunities, the Penn-Del AER Awards Event, and an in-person exhibitor event!

We will also offer 15 concurrent sessions spanning topics including adult services, orientation and mobility, education, assistive technology, cortical visual impairment, low vision, and transition.

Our 2022 Conference will return to the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA. The Conference Sessions and the Awards Event will be hybrid being available both in-person and virtually.

The conference committee is reviewing safety and health measures needed for COVID-19 and will update protocols as the pandemic situation changes. Conference updates will be posted on the [Penn-Del AER website](http://www.penn-delaer.org).



General Sessions

Our three general sessions are presented by experienced, nationally respected leaders whose sessions provide inspiration and insights as we adjust our sails and chart new courses in the face of change and challenge. These are hybrid events and you may register to attend either in-person or virtually.



Opening Session and Keynote Address on Thursday April 28 at 10:00 AM

“Adjusting Our Sails: Charting a New Course”

Dr. Rebecca Renshaw, Executive Director at Lavelle School for the Blind, New York, NY

Dr. Rebecca Renshaw, currently the Executive Director of the Lavelle School for the Blind and a former Penn-Del AER President, has worked in the field of visual impairment for the last 20+ years. She is passionate about making a difference in the lives of individuals with visual impairments. Over the years, she has served in a number of roles—teacher of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialist, professor, advocate, and education administrator. Previous to her current position, Rebecca served as the Education Director at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children.

Dr. Renshaw received both her PhD and Master of Education from the University of Pittsburgh’s Vision Studies program and is a certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired and an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. For her doctoral program, she was selected for a federally funded doctoral fellowship through the National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment. Dr. Renshaw also holds a Master of Studies in Law degree from the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law School. Additionally, she earned an Executive Certificate in Non-Profit- Leadership from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business.



Midnote Address Thursday April 28 at 1:30 PM

“Ocular Pathologies and Their Low Vision Management”

Dr. Christin DeMoss, Assistant Professor Salus University

Dr. Christin DeMoss received her Doctor of Optometry degree from Salus University’s Pennsylvania College of Optometry. While completing her residency at the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center at The Eye Institute (TEI), Dr. DeMoss also worked as a consulting optometrist at TEI’s various locations. She now works full time as an Assistant Professor at Salus University’s The Eye Institute and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Dr. DeMoss guest lectures in the low vision rehabilitation course, teaches clinically in the low vision rehabilitation service, and serves as the low vision rehabilitation residency coordinator.

In 2018, Dr. DeMoss received the William Feinbloom Low Vision Award in recognition of her outstanding performance in providing quality care to low vision patients.



Closing Session and Footnote Address on Friday April 29 at 12:15 PM

“Off the Charts: A Salty but Seaworthy Sailor’s Odyssey to Find the True Meaning of Blindness-Field Professionalism”

Mark Richert, Esq., International Program Coordinator, Overbrook School for the Blind

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 Vision Serve 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.

Concurrent Sessions



Concurrent Sessions will occur Thursday April 28 and Friday April 29.

Participants will have opportunities to attend a wide array of 15 concurrent sessions in which professionals in the field of visual impairment provide information about new programs, products, research, methods, and other current topics. Participants will be able to choose from sessions focused on education and rehabilitation, including Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT), Orientation and Mobility (O&M), Technology, Early Intervention, Transition, the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), and many other areas of interest.

- Using Technology to Increase Time with Students — Alicia Blevins
- A BROS (Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist) Collaborative Approach to Completing a Home-Based Rehab Evaluation — Jill Feigelis
- Orienting Guide Dog Users to New Environments: A Multimedia Approach — Lukas Franck, Kristen Oplinger
- Evidence-Based Best Practices in Deaf-Blindness — Tina Hertzog

- Accessibyte Overview: Totally Audible, Highly Visual, Fully Remote Apps for Typing, Study, and Games — Joe Jorgenson
- Overview of Code Jumper — Greg Lazur, Jennifer Edgar, Gregory Gerhart
- Considerations for Creating an Assistive Technology Assessment Tool — Jule Ann Lieberman
- Transitioning Beyond High School: Blindness and Visual Services — Jamie Pressmann, Michael Corbett
- Step by Step: Systematic Cane Instruction — Dona Sauerburger
- Ensuring Meaningful Access for Students with CVI — Stephanie Steffer
- Make and Take Materials for the TVI — Lisha Yochimowitz
- Round Table Sessions
 - Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments — Dr. Lynn Fox
 - Orientation and Mobility — Doug Williams
 - Adult Services — Maureen Army

Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet, Thursday April 28 at 6:30 PM



Penn-Del AER is proud of its members and service providers. Each year we highlight and recognize the professional achievements of outstanding Chapter members and university students for their contributions in the field of vision education and rehabilitation.

The 2022 Penn-Del AER Awards Event will recognize and honor the recipients of the highly regarded Penn-Del AER Richard L. Welsh (Welsh) Service Award, the Elinor Long Educator of the Year (ELEY) Award, and the Student Scholarship.

The Penn-Del AER Richard L. Welsh Service Award was established to recognize a professional who serves the education and/or rehabilitation needs of individuals with visual impairment in Pennsylvania or Delaware, and who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and performance to the field.

The Elinor Long Educator of the Year (ELEY) Award was established to recognize a professional in the field of education of students with visual impairment in Pennsylvania and is now extended to those in Delaware who have demonstrated outstanding contributions and performance.

The Student Scholarship is granted to an outstanding university student who is pursuing certification in the field of blindness and visual impairment. The applicant must be a Pennsylvania or Delaware resident and a member of the Penn-Del AER Chapter.

The Awards celebration is open for all AER members and other professionals in the field of vision education or rehabilitation, for the families of the award recipients, their families,

and guests. The 2022 Awards Presentation Ceremony, immediately following the dinner, will be celebrated both in-person and streamed for virtual attendees.

We hope you plan to attend and help us recognize the accomplishments of our colleagues!

Penn-Del AER Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday April 27 at 6:30 pm



The Penn-Del AER Annual Membership Meeting is a wonderful way for Chapter members to hear about the work of the Penn-Del AER Board and Committees. We will also be able to thank those Board members who are rotating off the Board and welcome the new Directors-at-Large. There will also be opportunities to participate with prizes with membership drawings.

Penn-Del AER Annual Membership Incentive Drawings

Penn-Del AER Membership Committee is excited to announce its annual membership incentives! Current and new members who attend the 2022 Penn-Del AER General Business Meeting may be eligible for the following prizes.

Drawing 1: \$25 Gift Card (One Winner)

Four names will be randomly selected to receive gift cards from Target, Amazon, and Michael's. Recipients must be Penn-Del AER members and must be present at the General Business Meeting, either in-person or virtually, on Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

Drawing 2: 2023 Penn-Del AER Conference in April 2023 (Two Winners)

The winners of this drawing will receive complementary Early Bird registration and \$50.00 travel expenses for 2023 Penn-Del AER Conference. The winner will be announced at the end of the General Business meeting and winners will need to be present at the business meeting to win.

If you are interested in having your name entered in this drawing, please email your name, contact information and AER Membership Number to Maria Lepore-Stevens at marialepstev@gmail.com by Wednesday, April 21st, 2022.

All prizes are non-transferrable. Winners will also be announced on the Penn-Del AER web site, through e-blasts, and on social media.

Not a Penn-Del AER Member? [Join AER or renew your membership \(aerbvi.org\)](http://aerbvi.org) for a chance to win!

Networking Opportunities



Meet-the-Board Reception – Wednesday April 27 at 7:30 pm

Get to know your Penn-Del AER Chapter Board of Directors at this “end of the day café”!



Alumni Reception (University Socials)– Thursday April 28 at 5:15 pm

Our three-university personnel prep programs will host alumni/student receptions on Thursday afternoon. More detailed information will be coming from both Penn-Del and the respective universities. Come join current and former students and faculty!



Awards Reception – Thursday April 28 at 8:30 pm

Join us immediately after the Awards Banquet to recognize and celebrate our Award winners.

University Showcase Poster Sessions



On Friday, April 29 from 8:00-9:15 am, student presenters will exhibit poster presentations on new programs, innovative techniques, research, and more. Poster presenters will be on hand to answer questions and provide additional detail.

A complete list of poster sessions will be available on the Penn-Del AER website annual conference tab in the near future.

Exhibit Hall



Exhibitors from across the country will exhibit their products and services in-person on Thursday, April 28 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come in-person to see the latest in assistive technology, training programs, adapted products, available services, and much more!

This session will also include a streamed/recorded component for virtual attendees.

Silent Auction



There’s a spot at the Silent Auction waiting for you! If you are interested in donating an item, please send an email to Dael Cohen at cdael@aol.com telling her what the donated item will be with the approximate value and then simply bring the item to the Penn-Del AER registration desk at the conference.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution that will be used to purchase items to be auctioned, please include that on your registration form. Make the check payable to Penn-Del AER and note that it is for Silent Auction. Thanks, in advance, for your help in making the Silent Auction a success!

Conference Materials



Conference materials will be available to all attendees in electronic format via Dropbox link. In person attendees will also receive conference materials on a USB drive.

Professional Development Credits



Penn -Del AER offers Certificates of Completion for conference participants to apply for 8.25 professional development credit hours. ACVREP approval is pending.

Registration Information

Register for in-person or virtual participation.

This year's conference is a hybrid event, and you may register to attend virtually or in-person. There will be separate links for each format. You may only register for one.

Participants can register via Google Forms for one of the two formats shown below.

- [In-person Registration Link](#)
- [Virtual Registration Link](#)

Your AER membership number is required for discounted registration fee. For your convenience, we have included a direct link to the AER membership website.

[Join AER or renew your membership \(aerbvi.org\)](http://aerbvi.org) to take advantage of member rates!

The conference registration fee is based on participation format, the type of membership, and the postmark date.

We are excited to offer two payment options for registration:

- Check: make check payable to Penn-Del AER. Please inform your business office to send your payment to: Helene Marano (Hmarano@obs.org); Penn-Del AER Conference; 75 Belmont Station; Southampton, PA 18966
- Venmo: @PennDel-AER

Cancellations made between April 1 and 14, 2022 are subject to a \$50.00 administration fee. NO CANCELLATION REFUNDS AFTER April 15, 2022. Mail cancellations to Helene Marano Penn-Del AER Conference, 75 Belmont Station, Southampton, PA 18966.

Hotel Accommodations

Book your room now online or via phone. The conference room rate is \$120.95 plus 11% tax.

- Online: [Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center](#) (use this link for special conference room rates)
- Phone: 717-735-9397 (indicate that you will be attending the Penn-Del AER Conference)

Penn-Del AER will follow all CDC and Hotel requirements regarding COVID precautions. Details will be provided on the Penn-Del AER website prior to the start of the conference.

Contacts

Angela Humbertson, Conference Chair and Past-President, Penn-Del AER Chapter, humbertson94@rcn.com

Erin Weaver, Assistant Conference Chair and President-Elect, Penn-Del AER Chapter, eweaver439@gmail.com

Holly Russell, Penn-Del AER Chapter President, russell.hm@comcast.net

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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