



**AER Orientation and Mobility Division Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

**Raychel Callary called the meeting to order at 7:05 EST. Maggie Winn took attendance and notes.**

**1. Call to Order / Record of Attendance**

Officers and District Directors:

- Raychel Callary (chair) PRESENT
- Margaret Winn (chair-elect) PRESENT
- JoAnne Chalom (past chair) PRESENT
- Valery Kircher (secretary) ABSENT
- Megann Brousard (treasurer) PRESENT
- Angela Leavens (District 1) PRESENT
- Shay Utley (District 2) PRESENT
- Jennifer Duncan (District 3) PRESENT
- Eric Shaw (District 4) ABSENT
- Kevin McCormack (District 5) ABSENT
- Tessa McCarthy (District 6) PRESENT

**2. Select Parliamentarian- JoAnne Chalom**

**3. Consent Agenda- Tess moves to accept the consent agenda, JoAnne seconds.**

**Consent agenda is adopted.**

A. Approval of Meeting Agenda

B. Approval of December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

C. Treasurer's Report:

- i. Finance committee met on 1/20 and 2/24.
- ii. Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meeting attendees are in the process of submitting reimbursement forms and having these reviewed and processed by the AER international office. These are due 3/10/23. A final accounting of support received from

outside organizations and reimbursements paid by AER will be provided at the next executive committee meeting.

- iii. \$2000 for the 2023 Donald Blasch scholarship (\$1000 each for up to two recipients) was approved at the 2/24/23 AER board meeting.

#### D. Chair report

- i. Attended Transportation Research Board annual meeting in January with Environmental Access Committee.
- ii. Participated in the 1/23 division watercooler, 1/30 AER-lift, and the 2/23 AER town hall.
- iii. Participating in collaboration with personnel preparation division.
- iv. Co-chairing vision professions task force with Olaya Landa-Vialard and Elly DuPrè. Cochairs met 1/23, task force met 2/7.
- v. Assembled nominations and elections committee, met 2/28.
- vi. Met with Lee 1/23 and 2/13 to discuss AER and O&M division needs and activities. Met 2/17 to discuss the upcoming council of division chairs meeting.
- vii. Met with strategic plan committee 1/30 and 2/27.
- viii. Chaired council of division chairs meeting 3/2. Discussed ACVREP OT certification announcement, supporting practitioners in working within their scope of practice and according to their code of ethics, and increasing collaboration among divisions. Division updates were provided.
- ix. Attended 1/28 and 2/24 AER Board of Directors meetings. Presented division activity report (requested quarterly). Five locations are currently being considered for the 2024 conference. March meeting will be utilized for strategic planning.

#### E. Committee Reports

##### **Professional Issues:**

- i. Two meetings have been held with the personnel preparation division 1/17/2023 and 2/28/23. We have begun collaboration on the issues identified in the Strategic Plan regarding recruitment and retention, student participation and mentorship. We are working on creating a database that will foster mentorship for practitioners new in the field as well as identifying COMS who are interested in being site supervisors for internship placements. We are reaching out to Audrey Dannenberg to collaborate with the PPRC on updating content that can be used for recruitment in the field at career fairs/days focused on high school and university students.

- ii. Position paper update:[Text Wrapping Break]Creation of a paper on O&M assistants and role release was approved at the division business meeting in July, and a writing team will be identified soon.

**Program:** Will begin to meet when planning for 2024 conference begins. Maggie is on the email distribution list for conference planning meetings and will participate in this planning.

**Awards:** Will begin to meet in January 2024.

**Membership:** committee members needed. Request posted on Facebook 2/23/23.

**Nominating and Elections:** Met 2/28 to begin soliciting nominations for Student Representative. Plan to have application open 4/3 - 4/28. Application is being revised as a shared document; group will meet in the next few weeks to finalize and send to Michele at the international office with an announcement for dissemination. Mary Shore will chair.

**Scholarship:** We are in the process of fielding applications for the 2023 Blasch Scholarship. Applications will be accepted through March 10th. Judges will gain access to the applications in April and the 2 recipients will be notified on May 1st. We have 5 partial applications and 2 completed. Multiple e-blasts have been sent to Division 9 and 17. It has been shared on the Facebook group.

**Strategic Plan:** Committee met 1/30/23 and 2/27/23. Created spreadsheet to track progress of goals. January watercooler took place. This edition of the newsletter will focus on TRB. The group has begun reviewing community outreach resources available on the webpage. Maggie will reach out to Audrey Dannenberg as chair of the professional issues committee to establish a connection. Collaboration with the personnel prep division is on track. The upcoming April forum was discussed, as well as a professional development presentation to take place in or around September.

**Environmental Access Committee:** In January, seven members attended the Transportation Research Board annual meeting in Washington, DC. Opportunities were taken to provide education and advocacy about accessibility, and information learned will be shared with the membership through newsletter articles and presentations.

**Communications:** members needed for this committee. Meg Robertson edits the newsletter, and Maggie Winn has been posting on social media.

#### 4. DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS:

##### D. DISTRICT 1- Angela-

- Angela would like to connect with Tess about Cane Quest.
- Angela is the only O&M in Calgary
- First week of February is white cane week. Organizations for the blind did not get back to her. She spoke to local transit and high schoolers got to go on different types of trains to see how they work.

##### E. DISTRICT 2- Shay: hard to get feedback from District

##### F. DISTRICT 3- Jennifer-

- Illinois conference was held in February
- Michigan conference will be in April
- Wisconsin may and Indiana will be October.
- Illinois would have been a good opportunity to potentially have a division table.

##### G. DISTRICT 6- Tess-

- Penn Del conference coming up
- Cane quest -2<sup>nd</sup> annual coming up soon.
- Contacted both people involved with cane quest and the date had not yet been solved and PennDel didn't get back to her
- Virginia AER conference is coming up on March 13-14 in Natural Bridge, VA

#### 5. Action Items (information below agenda)

##### A. [O&M Outpost](http://aerom.org/) -- <http://aerom.org/>

The following comments and suggestions were made regarding the Outpost:

- Jennifer is willing to update scholarship winners but wondered if there was an interest in members
- It was suggested that the AER O&M website could be streamlined where people could be redirected from the website to the Outpost
- Will the AER website be updated?
- The annual fee to maintain the outpost is in the O&M budget worksheet.
- History behind the creation of the Outpost was discussed.
- **Maggie moved to table the discussion on the AER outpost until the AER Strategic Plan has been completed and yielded information on the direction of the website.**
- **Shay seconds the motion**
- **Motion passes**

**B. ACVREP announcement regarding new certification for OTs**

Reacting to this announcement was discussed, including the following:

- Requesting a forum with members and/or creating a written statement from the division
- Sending a message to ACVREP to request more information or presence at a forum to discuss the announcement with members.
- Board members stated that if we don't decide tonight, hoping we could follow up with a shared document or a special meeting in 6 weeks.
- Raychel suggested that the April forum could be used to gather information.
- A statement was discussed to support vision professionals, current certifications, recruitment efforts and opportunities for third party payment for vision professionals
- Referring to professional issues committee to consider
- **Maggie moved to request that the AER board host a virtual forum for members and request ACVREP participation, and that a survey be developed and sent to membership to assist with formulating questions to be presented to ACVREP**
- **Tess seconds the motion**
- **Motion passes.**
- **Maggie makes a second motion that the professional issues committee stays in communication with the AER board regarding the online forum that is requested with AER and that they provide communication to the AER O&M division board.**
- **Shay seconds**

- **Motion passes**
- C. **Special meeting to update the policies and procedures manual**
  - **JoAnne moved to revisit the PPM update after the AER Strategic Plan revision**
  - **Angela seconds**
  - **Motion Passes**
- D. **Requesting funding for table at Michigan AER conference**
  - **JoAnn makes a motion to request \$100 for a vendor table and banner shipment, but if that is not approved, we request \$50 for a vendor table and table materials.**
  - **Shay seconds**
  - **Motion Passes**
- E. **April forum**
  - **The Board determined that they would contact Tiffany McCoy at AER to request a virtual forum for April 24-26.**

#### **5. Information and Discussion Items**

- A. Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee Collaboration
- B. Utilization of the AER e-learning platform and the role of the continuing ed committee.
- C. Council of Division Chairs document supporting proper hiring and utilization of vision professionals

#### **6. Executive Session (if needed)**

- 7. Adjourn:** meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm EST

Valery Kircher - Recording Secretary

Information for 6/22/23 meeting topics:

#### **Student Representative Introduction:**

Hello! My name is Mickey Lorento, and I'm currently an Orientation and Mobility student at Northern Illinois University. I'm from Galena, Illinois, completed my undergraduate degree at Luther College, and I was first introduced to the field 5 years ago when I started working summer camps for IESBVI in Iowa! It was one of the best experiences of my life, and it really motivated me to get into the field. I'm extremely excited to be a part of this board as the first Student Representative, and I hope to be a great resource for all O&M students coming into the field!

## Topic: AER Outpost

Potential actions:

- 1) Vote to take over maintenance of the O&M Outpost
  - a) Formally request funding from AER board of directors
  - b) Determine how volunteers will proceed and if additional volunteers are needed
- 2) Table discussion until a date certain or conditions are met
- 3) Vote to discontinue resource

History:

The [O&M Outpost \(http://aerom.org/\)](http://aerom.org/) is a resource linked from the AER [website \(https://aerbvi.org/about/divisions/orientation-mobility-division/resources/\)](https://aerbvi.org/about/divisions/orientation-mobility-division/resources/) which Chris Tabb has been maintaining. It uses Wordpress and has a cost of \$96/year. Funding has been included in our division funding request, but would need to be formally requested. This resource may be less needed than when it was developed, considering the current collaborative climate at the AER international office. Update requests submitted to Michele have been handled promptly. Issues to consider are how much control is desired, what we hope to include on a site (including archives), how often we plan to update it, and how we plan to maintain the information.

At the September 2022 executive committee meeting, this issue was discussed and Jennifer and Megann offered to take this over. Raychel was tasked with contacting Chris Tabb, and obtained the information in the previous paragraph. Further discussion was tabled at the December 2022 meeting since Jennifer and Megann were not present. At the March meeting, Shay offered to speak with Chris and update the group.