Michigan Chapter

Association for Education and Rehabilitation

Of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Zoom online

Board Meeting

January 15, 2021

10 a.m.

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Amy McDonald-Lamiman, Micah Bormann, Roberta McCall, Beth Brabbs, Leanne Ford, Teresa Gest, Liz Mulligan, John Metz, Amber Strasz, Amy Schreiner

Call to Order: President Micah Bormann called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

Alterations to the Agenda: Add Committee Reports after Treasurer’s Report

Secretary’s Report: Minutes from the September 18, 2021 Board meeting were accepted as sent. Roberta will forward approved minutes to John for website posting.

Treasurer’s Report: Amy S. reported as of 12-31-20 closing balances: Checking $8886.47; Money Market $31,000.64. Roberta asked about rebates from AER based on membership, and Amy said she thought we were still receiving these and would check.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy/Legislative: Patty Killey reported no changes at this time.

Bylaws: Roberta—No changes to report.

Communications: John Metz has been working with Teresa on the new website. He also has created a group email list of MAER members based on the list he received from national AER. This way, he can control sending blast email information to members rather than waiting for the national AER office to do this. We reviewed some names of people who do not have email addresses on file with AER.

Historical: Sue Bradley, no report.

Membership: Sue Bradley did not provide a report. John Metz had a current list and reported we have 131 current members.

Newsletter: Beth Brabbs reported that the newsletter went out earlier this month. She sent it to the national office in December for it to be sent out. Beth said she is willing to continue serving as newsletter editor after she rotates off the Board this coming April.

Outreach and Student Council: Amanda English, no report. Micah said he could contact Amanda English over the weekend to check on this. Amy S. said the students are struggling because of COVID. Board members thought it would be nice to include a representative from the Student Council to join our next meeting for a few minutes so we could get to know them better. Micah will invite Rachel who is SC President to come.

Old Business

Website: Teresa reported that we are hoping to launch on January 20. This has taken a lot of time and effort on Teresa’s part along with others. Eventually, we will get linked to the national AER website. Paid advertising is available on our site. Amber agreed to work on social media for us.

Motion: Teresa moved, seconded by Liz to authorize $4600 to pay for the creation of the website, the domain name, and first year of maintenance. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

MichiganAER email: There are several entities not on the MAER Board who have access to our Gmail account for various reasons. We discussed how to protect privacy and confidentiality of this account. Suggestion is for Teresa to change the password after the conference closes.

Conference planning (remainder of meeting time)

We discussed a fee schedule based on the total expected cost of putting on the conference--$22,000-25,000.

Registration:

Members $125

Non-members $150

Presenter: $75

Retiree/parent: $50

Consortium/WMU full time student: $50

Vendors, for profit: $125

Vendor, non-profit: $25

Board member: $0

There will be no advertisement option this year.

Roberta will contact MOA about continuing their sponsorship. Leanne will talk with BSBP about sponsoring closed captioning.

CVent: Amy S. is coordinating this. She will add President and Past President, Treasurer, Vendor liaison, and Communications Committee Chair as administrators so CVent will talk to them is needed. We worked through the “conference planning time line” document.

We reviewed the speaker list—added some, declined some. There may be a few more than are currently on the list.

NOTE!! Please send Micah your top ten sessions you think would do best if they were held live rather than pre-recorded.

Adjourn: 2:17 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

February 26 Zoom conference planning 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

March 19 Zoom conference planning 10 a.m.

April 21 Official Board Meeting, Zoom time TBA

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta McCall, CVRT

MAER Secretary