Michigan Chapter

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the

Blind and Visually Impaired

38th Annual Business Meeting

Zoom online, 12:00 p.m.

April 22, 2021

Draft Minutes

President Micah Bormann called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. He shared a brief history of AER which was chartered in 1984 and read our mission statement. He introduced members of the MAER Board and thanked Amy Lamiman, Liz Mulligan, and Beth Brabbs for their work as their terms are completed. Today’s meeting was held via Zoom because of the on-going COVID pandemic.

International AER: President Micah Bormann reported that AER has launched an E-learning portal to support continuing education needs of members. He also reported that last year’s postponed International AER conference is scheduled for July 21-25, 2021 in St. Louis, MO.

MAER Report: President Micah Bormann gave a big shout out to the MAER Board of Directors for all their work on this year’s conference. The 2022 MAER conference is scheduled for the Delta Hotel in Kalamazoo April 21-22. We are hoping to be in person but will go online if necessary.

Outreach Committee Report: Please contact Amanda English [englisha1@michigan.gov](mailto:englisha1@michigan.gov) if you are interested in working on this committee.

Secretary's Report: President Elect Teresa Gest read the minutes from the April 23, 2020 36th annual business meeting. There were no corrections. Minutes were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Amy Schreiner reviewed our current holdings. Closing balances--Money Market $35,155.27, checking $4661.48, total $39,696.75. Treasurer’s report was accepted without objection.

Membership: Micah Bormann reported from Sue Bradley that we have 144 current members--the same number as last year even though there have been some changes in names. This is quite good given we were down to 124 in January this year. In her report, Sue thanked everyone who has continued to support MAER by maintaining their membership.

Student Council Report: Rachel Pavone reported that the MAER Student Council has been limited because of the COVID pandemic. They combined Secretary and Treasurer because they don’t have enough people to fill all the positions. They have been meeting online. They created a Student Council recruitment flyer. They wrote a letter to Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies Chair Jim Leja expressing concerns. She said Dr. Leja has taken them seriously and met with them about their concerns.

Newsletter: Beth Brabbs will continue editing the newsletter even though she is cycling off the Board. The next newsletter is coming out in June; please forward tips, articles, and ideas to her by May 15th at [bethbrabbs.maer@gmail.com](mailto:bethbrabbs.maer@gmail.com).

President Micah Bormann expressed a big thank you to MI Department of Education Low Incidence Outreach and Michigan Optometric Association Low Vision Rehabilitation Committee for sponsoring our conference.

Past President Amy Lamiman reported election results. She said the election was very close: President Elect Patty Killey, Directors (3-year term) Jessicia Klenk and Dr. Joe Todd. Congratulations to all.

President Micah Bormann passed the gavel to incoming President Teresa Gest who thanked Micah on behalf of the Board. She adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta McCall, CVRT

MAER Secretary