Michigan Chapter

Association for Education and Rehabilitation

Of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Board Meeting, Zoom online

October 15, 2021 10 a.m.

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Teresa Gest, Micah Bormann, Roberta McCall, Amy Schreiner, John Metz, Patty Killey, Beth Brabbs, Jessicia Klenk

Members Absent: Joe Todd, Amber Strasz, Leanne Ford,

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum: President Teresa Gest called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll was taken, and a quorum was present. Teresa read our mission statement.

Alterations to the Agenda: Historical documents, ACVREP records.

Secretary’s Report: By consensus, minutes from the May 21, 2021 Board meeting were approved as sent. Roberta will forward approved minutes to John for website posting.

Treasurer’s Report: Amy Schreiner reported as of September 30, 2021 our closing total assets are $41,707.20. Report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

SCECH: Beth indicated she and Lori Vargo are planning to meet this coming Monday to get the binders from Lori to Beth. Beth also reported there are 6 final people waiting to get their SCECHs from the conference—paperwork has been submitted and Beth is waiting to hear from the SCECH coordinator. The SCECH process seemed unusually difficult this year, and the Board is grateful for Beth’s dedication efforts to get it all figured out.

ACVREP Records: Roberta indicated MAER has ACVREP records for 2017 through 2021 except for 2020 (when Allied Independence was the RPPLE CE provider of record). Roberta will contact Allied to see who (Allied or MAER) will retain the official records in the event someone requests a replacement Certificate of Completion. Roberta has the hard copy information for 2017-19, and Leanne Ford handled the 2021 processing. The electronic records are currently in our Drop Box folder pending our moving to One Drive.

Financial Conference Wrap Up: Nothing to report.

Bank Debit Card, Signed Board Minutes: Teresa and Amy plan to meet to get this straightened out.

Weekly Check of MAER Email: Board members are encouraged to help out by checking the MAER Gmail inbox weekly. Patty said it looked like we are doing pretty well keeping up with it right now.

NEW Business

Committee Reports

--Newsletter: Beth plans to send out a newsletter in January. Please provide her with info by November 30th. She said she would send out info.

--Bylaws: Roberta explained the proposal she emailed earlier to Board members about amending our bylaws so we have elections every even-numbered year to align again with AER and so that we have more opportunity to work through one year with new people on the Board and then a second year with all experienced people. This would involve setting up a system for handling the positions of President Elect, President, and Past President. There was Board consensus to move forward with this, and Teresa assigned Roberta, Amber, Jessicia, and Joe to work on this project. Report to be made at January Board meeting.

--Legislative: No report.

--Communications: John reported that we now have a MAER Facebook page. Our Facebook is Michigan AER.

--Membership: Sue Bradley submitted email report. We have 128 members. Two expire this month, and Sue will send out reminders for renewing.

--Historical: No update. We have some boxes of stuff that need to be examined—Amy Lamiman said she has some things, and Amanda English recently gave a box of stuff to Beth. There is also a “President’s Box” that is supposed to be passed on to the incoming President. At this time, it is with Amy Lamiman.

--Outreach: No report.

Support for Local Organization: Patty led a discussion.

Motion: Beth moved seconded by Patty that MAER support a local organization that is serving people in Michigan who are blind or have low vision with a $500 line budget item beginning with the January 2022 budget. Motion carried.

Liability Insurance: Unresolved; this will be an on-going conversation. At this time, MAER fall under AER. Teresa, Patty, and Amy will work on this.

Treasurer Bonding: Amy is waiting to hear back from AER. Teresa, Patty, and Amy will follow up on this.

2022 Budget: Amy will add above item into the budget she will bring to the January Board meeting.

Student Chapter: No report.

Incentives to Increase Board Membership: Patty reported that AER will not waive AER membership for people who serve on the Board, but they are interested in working on other options. This is an on-going conversation. MAER does not have a policy about incentives other than waiving conference registration (policy 85-1) and reimbursement President and President Elect up to $1500 for costs representing MAER at the AER International Conference (policy 02-1). More details need to be worked out to create a policy for other reimbursements (e.g. mileage, parking, etc.). Amy, Patty, and Teresa will look further into this.

Board Manual Update: We reviewed sections 1 and 2 of the Board Manual and updated as needed.

Adjourn official Board meeting: 11:50 a.m. We continued working on conference planning.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta McCall, CVRT

MAER Secretary