TAER/O&M Business Meeting March 27, 2015 Minutes

Meeting was opened at 2:19 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction – Vance Lankford (TAER Div. 9 President) welcomed the group and introduced the Board members.
2. Old business meeting minutes were read by secretary – Lori Graham and accepted.
3. Karen Marsh gave an update on the status of the O&M dinner. She reports that there were problems getting a site so it was combined with the President’s reception this year on the last night of the conference.
4. Question was asked “Do we want an O&M meal for next year (separate or combine?”

Suggestions were – just having an informal meeting in the lobby, have a sign-up sheet for Thurs or Friday night to see what is best for most people, maybe ask people in the host city for suggestions, maybe lunch on Thursday, maybe at the hotel bar on Friday night or send out a survey from our email list.

1. Vance spoke of the need for contact information for O&Ms. Sign-up sheet was placed in the back with email addresses.

-He let everyone know that we did announce nominations and other information on the AER website but did not get much response so hoping that with the email lists of O&Ms would help target the information and get more of a response.

- Also updated on progress of the newsletter.

1. Margie Woods reported on the upcoming International Conference – She reviewed that AER is working for O&Ms.

-Also that the “International Mobility Conference 15 will be held in Quebec July 6-9 and registration will be $695.

- She noted that Travel Training is still coming up and that AER has a position paper that clarifies that O&Ms only have a certification to persons with visual impairments only.

- She noted to go online to the AER website to see what all is going on.

-Also reported that the AER international 2016 will be in Jacksonville Florida – website will have more details.

1. 2 door prizes were given away
2. Vance updated how the last International conference went in San Antonio.

-lots of good work happened such as facilitating sessions, making of tactile maps, orientation to persons needed it to the area and to the hotel with a lot of good help by Margie Woods and Chris.

1. A law briefing was given by Christy Householder on the new O&M assessment law.

-She states that the top 3 mistakes are:

1) Does every student that has never had an assessment done have to have one? No

2) The VI forgets about the O&M – communication and good lists.

3) Unknowledgeable staff – staff does not know what O&M is or what they do.

-She states O&Ms need to be sure to read Q&A papers, go the 504 specialists for 504 questions, only do travel training if you have -other training.

- Concerns were addressed about needing O&M and the VI does not feel they qualify for VI services. The suggestion is that the VI does consult only and check more into the ECC checklists for the ECC checklists and social skills.

- Scott Addison noted that communication between the VI and the O&M is crucial.

- It was noted that the Q&A documents can be found on the TSBVI website.

-Christy recommends looking at the Region 10 website for O&M forms.

1. Stephanie Isbell gave an update on the newsletter.
* New facebook page for O&M division 9 “TXAERO&M”
* The newsletter will be electronic/email
* Everyone needs to send in news to Stephanie to add to the newsletter
* Anyone can send their email address for the newsletter to be sent to them (they can send to Vance or Stephanie).
1. Vance reviewed the Annual Report Information
* Mrs. White has the rules and formalities
* We had 5 board meetings this year.
* Newsletter was reborn
* A facebook page was added
* Get the business meeting to be for credit for hopefully greater attendance as well as trying a new time.
* International Conference Assistance
* Award winners from the past will be on the website.
* International Fun Run
* Pens
1. Service Pins and rocker arms were called and handed out for indicated service years including ones not handed out for last year as well as the ones needed for this year.
2. Reminder that there are no officer elections this year.
3. New Business: Chris
4. Update on O&M VISSIT- Heather Munro, Tracy Halleck and Mona working on their own version of the Michigan scale that is researched based – 1 to 5 and MIVI inclusive in it.
5. Esped – has a new section for O&M assessment – You may have to have it activated. The ECC is being worked on.
6. Problem has been noted that there are no opportunities for COMS in the valley to get needs credits. People from the Valley can go on the TSBVI website and listen to webinars for credit.
7. SWOMA – Nov 5-7 in Austin @TSBVI
8. Tracy Halleck reports on “Texas 2 Step” for Birth to 5 y/o assessment. It is being piloted right now and 17 states are involved.
9. Vance adjourned the meeting.