**2017 TAER Business Meeting**

**04/01/2017**

**I. Meeting called to order: 8:31am**

**II. Treasurer’s Report: as of**

● Balance as of

● Business Investment Account:

● TAER Balance:

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report:

Motion Approved

**III. Secretary’s Report:**

●Business Minutes from TAER 2016 Read by Gema Nelson/Secretary

● Stephanie Walker motioned to accept minutes from TAER 2015 Business Meeting; 2nd did not happen and discussion of old issues began.

● Minutes not approved

**IV. Old Business**

**●** Discussion of new membership…we did pick up some new members membership is up to 236 as of March 3, 2017.

● Pre-Conference process was addressed to make sure that all presenters would have exact numbers of attendees to plan for materials. Distinctions between Pre-conference and Early Conference was made clear and process of having all registration for both completed prior to the conference proved to be a smoother process.

●Jill Brown had asked if award winners had been recognized by AER International and that did happen.

●Liz Egan had requested microphones in the sessions. That was addressed and was not needed this year as the rooms were small enough.

●Michael Munro suggested that we add an award for an elementary student and that did not happen, however an AT award was added. This is an area that needs to be looked into this year.

● Discussion to have other division meeting in addition to O&M meeting was addressed, 3 division meetings were held this year and ACVREP credit was given. Shay asked if there was any discussion. None

●Stephanie suggested that listing the hot topics would be a great way to get information out...this was addressed and posted on the website.

● Marjie had suggested if anyone was interested in an interest group and there was an interest group.

**V. New Business -**

●Shay began discussion that the board would like to hire a CPA to review our taxes and books because of the transition. Shay asked for recommendations or discussion.

●Debbie Louder – made a motion for the hire of a CPA to audit the entire organization, corrected to TAER Chapter organization, to audit our books.

2nd –Debra Sewell

Motion passed

●Shay began discussion on Roles and Responsibilities of each member on the board. This is in addition to the policies and procedures. This has already been started. Jill Brown suggested placing it on the website for all members to have access. Shay is already planning on doing this and following up with an email blast to members to review and make suggestions as well as placing the business meeting minutes. Shay asked for anymore new business. No new discussions at this time.

***A. 2017 TAER Conference Committee Report -***

● Reported that there were 302 in attendance for this year’s conference

● 15 Vendors Present

● 71 Pre-conference Attendees

●3 Early and/or Pre-conference Sessions

● 48 Breakout Sessions

● 3 Division Meetings

●As of March 3rd, 236 members, we did pick up some members and 2 visitors from AER.

***B. Audit Committee Report* –** Shay Utley - Audit was conducted by Brenda Lee and Debbie Louder

● Reported that they reconciled the books through March 2017

● Checkbook Balance: $84, 716.07 (does not include the business account)

***C. Legislative Committee Report* –** Shay Utley

● NO Update

***D. Election Results* –** Shay Utley

● New Chair Elect: Gema Nelson

●Secretary – Janice Moran

● Member-at-Large: Stephanie Walker and Andrew Bernet

● Reminder to fill out conference survey

●Shay asked again for any new business from the floor-no discussion

***E. Conference Survey***

***F. From the Floor***

● Discussion on progress of creating new Policies and Procedures manual to reflect current guidelines without changing laws was started by Marjie Woods and will be continued. The process will take longer than one year to look at the things that we need to be doing, but it is being worked on. Debbie Louder asked if the requirement of equal representation on the board between rehab and education, specifically TWC, as well as geographically, including South Texas, East Texas and West Texas will be added to the policies and procedures. Marjie said that it would be put into the policies and procedures so that there is equal representation in both areas and added that the policies and procedures are currently a work in progress. Marjie also added that Becky Browning, a current board member does represent TWC and that more representatives from rehab were sought out and were on the ballot. Becky Browning addressed the members and asked for suggestions as she will be serving on the board for another year. Currently, TWC is going through transition; however as it settles down this year there will be more happening in this area.

Shay re-directed and stated that the 2016 Business Meeting minutes had been read and Debbie Louder pointed out that her name was misspelled and needed to be corrected and then made the motion to accept the 2016 Business Meeting minutes.

Debbie Louder made the motion to accept the 2016 Business Meeting minutes

2nd by Jill Brown

Minutes never formally accepted

●Jill Brown brought up discussion regarding continuing ed. Credits for rehab/TWC people and if we have looked into that? Marjie responded that that had not been looked into, however that it will be looked into. Jill Brown felt that this would draw in more individuals. Marjie also shared that she and Neva Fairchild looked into rehab individuals registered at the beginning of registration and that there were 2 or 3 and ended up with a few more. Neva was really pushing it on the inside. Marjie also shared that the information that she is receiving from TWC is that with the many transitions of changing their name etc…they feel that they are losing their identify in blind and visually impaired and they would like to have somewhere to go and that the board is currently working with individuals within that system that have some say so as we move forward.

● Debra Sewel had a question regarding discussion from last year and having at least one board member at large from rehab from now on. Jill Brown mentioned that that was supposed to be placed into policies and procedures. Marjie said that has not been written into policies and procedures yet. Shay asked for volunteers for the policies and procedures committee. The following individuals volunteered: 1.) Debbie Louder 2.) Brenda Lee 3.) Hillary Key 4.) Sarah Grant 5.) Belinda Lane

Motion was made to accept Business Meeting minutes from 2016

2nd

Motion accepted

**VI. Outgoing Board Member Recognition**

* Hillary Keys
* DJ Dean
* Gema Nelson
* Marjie Wood

Shannon Darst let those that did not get on the board will be contacted to assist this coming year.

**VII. Business Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion made to adjourn the business meeting

2nd

Motion Accepted

Adjourned at 9:07 am