**2016 TAER Business Meeting**

**04/02/2016**

**I. Meeting called to order: 8:30 am**

**II. Treasurer’s Report: as of April 2, 2016**

● Balance as of February 29, 2016: 92,716.28

● Business Investment Account: $7,752.50 (as of Feb. 29, 2016)

● TAER Balance: $100,468.78

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report: Kelly Marts motioned to accept; 2nd from audience

Motion Approved

**III. Secretary’s Report:**

***Business Minutes from TAER 2015 Read by Gema Nelson***

● Kelly Marts motioned to accept minutes from TAER 2015 Business Meeting; 2nd from the audience

● Minutes approved

**IV. Old Business**

**●** Discussion of Business Meeting being moved and it was addressed and moved for this year in conjunction with breakfast that resulted in increased attendance. It was successful and should be continued for the future

● Discussion of TAER board looking into possible credits for the Business meeting and other options; it was addressed and we can’t give ACVREP credits for the Business meeting

● 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

● Discussion to have other division meeting in addition to O&M meeting was addressed and was offered from 5-6 pm in the evening, no one showed an interest at that time other than the O&M meeting from 3:45-5 pm; we will continue to offer this as an option in the future. Marjie asked for input and anyone that would be interested in starting an interest group

●Discussion regarding how VRT and education are integrated was addressed. Valerie Alvarez was on the awards committee; Criss Cole vendor table as well as having more rehab individuals in attendance this year

● Discussion of the STARR and TAER 2016 conflicting dates was addressed and dates must be set 2 yrs. in advance. TEA changed the dates. We already had a contract with the hotel and therefore no changes could be made

●Discussion to have the TAER conference on Friday and Saturday instead of Thursday and Friday was addressed and it was decided to remain on Thursday and Friday. This can be added to the conference survey for input. Marjie encouraged filling out the survey and placing them in the middle of the tables to be picked up

**V. New Business**

***A. 2016 TAER Conference Committee Report -*** *Debra*

● Reported that there were 226 in attendance for this year’s conference

● 19 Vendors present; 21 total – Christy Shepard is working on the total amount brought in from vendors

● Currently 281 TAER members

● Correction on the number of vendors. There were actually 18 as one cancelled due to illness

● 73 Pre-conference attendees: $750 brought in

● Discussion that we will continue to conduct a pre-conference. The goal is to cover as many of the ECC areas in the next few years. This year we covered independent living and self-determination and last year was Art in the Dark that was a tactile experience– Next year we will have “Leaning Towards Recreation and Leisure” with a possible make and take

● Debra announced total from vendors as $7,550.00

● Vendor Bingo Winners

- Patricia Rutan

- Emily McConnel

- Angela Pozzouli

***B. Audit Committee Report* –** Michael Munro

● Reported that he and Susan Osterhaus reconciled the books through March 2016

● Checkbook Balance: $92, 716.28 (does not include the business account)

***C. Legislative Committee Report* –** Cyral Miller

● National Level – Cogswell-Macy Act, reiterated that it was discussed at the luncheon the previous day and no changes since or needed discussion and check on the TAER website…will be coming

● State Level - Discussion regarding the AVIT listserv and getting on it to have access to gain information on the state level. TAER has a representative on AVIT

● Discussion that there is much going on with DARS programs and there was a public hearing on Thursday. It was the first public hearing of the legislative oversight committee – AVIT organizational members were going to testify. A close eye needs to be kept on the transition to the HHSC & TWC to ensure continuity of services– AVIT Alliance will keep an eye on this. Cyral encouraged making calls and sending letters as it will make a huge difference

● AVIT is one of the reasons that we now we have the O&M Bill

● Christy Shepard gave information on 2015 conference:

- 2015 Conference Wrap-up -

**-** 2015 Conference Income: $42, 863.00

- 2015 Conference Expenses: $39, 858.62

- Profit of $3,004.38

***D. Election Results* –** Marjie Wood

● New Chair Elect: Tracy Hallak

● Treasurer – Shannon Darst

● Member-at-Large: Becky Browning; Kathi Garza

● Reminder to fill out conference survey

***E. Conference Survey***

● Debra mentioned filling out the survey and that it would be on the website; discussion on who is accessing the TAER website and on the difficulty of accessing it; interest in signing up for a listserv as the board wants it to be a reference for members and an efficient avenue to share information that affects our field. We want it to be something that members want use it as a reference

● Discussion of a TAER Board Recommendation on assisting the AER office in updating their website. It was suggested that we donate $3000 of the $12,000 needed to do it. Input from members was asked for. Most states don’t have as many members as we do. Cyral Miller showed a hand of support

● Discussion was raised on the rebate received from AER annually. Christy Shepard reported that it is 10% of who signed up and broken down by categories within each quarter. Typically anywhere from $800-$1800 per quarter and depends on the membership. It was also reduced several years ago from 20% to 10% due to budget restraints. The website crashed and was an unexpected cost, accessibility is needed

● Discussion regarding TAER being the second largest chapter; we need more membership. We carry fewer than 10% of the total membership. There are about 3800 members and we have 280. We are about 9% of the total membership

Motion to accept the amount of $3500 to be given to AER to assist in updating their website: Cyral Miller; 2nd from Kelly Marts; Motion Accepted

***F. From the Floor***

● Pre-conference – Jeri Cleveland - did not have a good ballpark estimate of attendees; not enough supplies; registration deadline would be good to ensure that adequate preparation is made; perhaps have some leeway so we have enough supplies

● Shay shared that some people registered for the pre-conference on sight and that was part of the problem. There was also some confusion regarding the pre-conference and the early conference. Shay will be putting in a procedure for the pre-conference registration to have a preliminary number to remedy that; great feedback from the attendees on the pre-conference and it needs to continue

● Linda Jordan – mentioned having a press release for the award winners

● Jill Brown – can award winners be recognized by AER International? Marjie stated that it would actually go out in the next AER report. Debra said that it would also go out in our newsletter. Marjie shared regarding the TAER newsletter and encouraged everyone to read it

● Liz Egan – requested that we have microphones in the sessions. Marjie said that it can happen and Debra explained that they were told that not having them would not be an issue and that we did not have them available last time we held the conference at this location. Background noise was an issue

● Michael Munro suggested that we have an award for an elementary student as well. Marjie agreed

● Kate Moss – Division Meetings would be good and specific times should be placed in the agenda during the conference; Marjie agreed and would like to fit that in for future conference. Marjie also shared making some changes in regards to vendor presentation as the board would like to serve its members and meet their needs. Marjie shared that there are 16 O&M’s signed up to help for the coming conference and she will begin preparation in the next two months

● Jeri Cleveland – mentioned looking at the times for the division meetings and not having them at the end of the day. Marjie mentioned spreading them out to boost attendance; conduct 2 to 3 and build upon that in future years. Would be better to not have two division meetings at the same time

● Stephanie Walker – listing the hot topics would be a great way to get more of a draw for attendance

● Marjie suggested finding individuals who would be interested in being a leader for an interest group

**VI. Outgoing Board Member Recognition**

* Debbie Louder
* Shannon Darst
* Debra Sewell
* Christy Shepard

**VII. Business Meeting Adjournment:** 9:30 am