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| Business Meeting Minutes | | | | | |
| 3.22.2013 | | 4:00-5:17p | TAER Conference 2013 Dallas, Tx. | | |
| President | Melanie White | | | | |
| Vice- Chair | Vance Lankford | | | | |
| Secretary | Kassandra Heil | | | | |
| Member At Large | Scott Addison | | | | |
| Member At Large | Lori Graham | | | | |
| Newsletter Editor | Teryl Boland | | | | |
| Attendees | Araceli Faz, K’Day Clark, Ruth Ann Marsh, Kitra Gray, Christy Housholter, Patti DeGreaaf, Fred Barett, Michelle Garrett, Shay Uttley, Carolina Gonzales, Steffani Leutenkek, Amanda Schoememburger, Debbie Cady, Tracy Hallak, Rona Progrund, Susan Phillips, Gail Brown, Yinka Ola-Ajose, Mary Trammell, Shelia Thompson, Chuck Holocomb, KC Crager, Patti Clement, Mike Murphy, Marjie Wood, Julie Glover, Shannon Darst, Ed Mullen, | | | | |
| Introductions | | | | | |
|  | Melanie White | | | | |
| Discussion | Melanie introduced the board and gave an overview of the agenda. | | | | |
| Texas House Bill 590 | | | | | |
|  | Marty Murrell, AVIT | | | | |
| Discussion | Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans (AVIT) is working with the Texas  legislature to pass two O&M Bills. Both Bills made it to committee. One was heard by the committee. The bill Thus far, no organization is opposing the bill.  The bill will mandate that kids have an O&M evaluation upfront, it will be part of the placement decision, it will be in a variety of environments, the O&M Specialist will be a part of the team to determine further services or evaluations. TEA will decide who is qualified to serve as the O&M Specialist. Currently, COMS are only allowed. NOMC may want to be allowed to be the O&M Specialists as well. | | | | |
| Conclusions | If the group of COMS do not want NOMC certified individuals to become allowed to teach through TEA, we will need to provide documentation as to our opinion and why we are better to provide these services than NOMC. Our organization will have to have our documentation ready by this summer (June 2013). | | | | |
| Action Items | | | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| AVIT will send information regarding which legislature members to contact in order to support the prospective bills. Please cc your Representative in your email to your legislatures. | | | |  |  |
| Sign up for AVIT listserv to receive updates. | | | | Everyone | ASAP |
| **Gathering and digitizing information:** | | | | | |
|  | Melanie White | | | | |
| Discussion | We would like to re-gather all of the information that has been lost along the years as our society has moved from a hardcopy system to an online system. We have put all of our documents and meeting minutes on Dropbox. Everyone in our organization is encouraged to access the shared folder. | | | | |
| We will be starting to collect the information of everyone’s contact information and years of service for service pins. We are digitizing this information as well. | | | | | |
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| Conclusions | Melanie will email an invitation to those who have indicated that they wanted access to the TAER O&M Interest Group’s Dropbox shared folder. | | | | |
| Action Items | | | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| Create a Facebook page for the O&M Interest group. | | | | Kassy |  |
| Updating our Bylaws | | | | | |
|  | Melanie White | | | | |
| Discussion | We will be updating our bylaws this year. The old bylaws are currently in the shared Dropbox folder. We will be posting the proposed bylaws onto the shared folder. The proposed bylaws will match up to TAERs bylaws, which are alined to AER’s bylaws. | | | | |
| Conclusions | We will vote on the new bylaws at the business meeting at TAER 2014. | | | | |
| Action Items | | | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| Post proposed bylaws to Dropbox | | | | Kassy |  |

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| **Newsletter:** | | | |
|  | Melanie White and Teryl Boland | | |
| Discussion | Teryl is currently working on a newsletter. It will be out soon. Our goal is to have a quarterly newsletter. | | |
| Conclusions | If you would like to contribute, please contact Teryl. | | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| Ruthann will re-create the groups within her email and send an email of the newsletter. | | Ruth Ann |  |

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| **National Update:** | | |
|  | | Marjie Wood |
| Discussion | | December 2013 we will have an International O&M Conference in New Orleans, LA. We are trying to have a multiple chapter sponsored t-shirt to sell at the conference. We would split the money from the t-shirt sales with the other chapters.  At International Business meeting, we will discuss the Position Paper on Travel Trainers. We are also looking at how AER can work more closely with ACVREP.  We will not have a SWOMA conference this year. |
| Conclusions | | We proposed that we request the funds from TAER to support funding the t-shirts.  Marjie will propose it at the TAER business meeting. |
| **Roundtable issues** | | |
|  | Melanie and members: | |
| Discussion | Melanie asked the members to suggest 3-5 issues that they would like to learn about and begin to solve as a professional organization. We will begin to tackle these issues through conference presentations, newsletter articles, and etc. The topics suggested were:   1. Asked: How is the O&M Bill going to affect students who are already served as VI but have never been assessed as O&M students? Rona answered: The student will have an evaluation along with the other evaluations included in their FIE. 2. Asked: Is there a centralized location for all O&M job postings? Ruth Ann answered: There is no official job board, prospective O&Ms are urged to contact the ESCs, rehabilitation centers, and local field offices. 3. Casload Analysis- Need for more O&Ms in a specific district, ways to address administrators with caseload analysis. 4. TEA Standards and qualifications | |
| **Service Pins:** | | |
|  | Vance Lankford | |

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| Discussion | Vance gave out service pins to those with 5+ years experience! Once we get the information from Tx COMS regarding their years of service, we will give out the rocker-pins for 10, 15, 20, 25, etc. years of service. Pins and rocker-pins will be awarded at future Business Meetings. |

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| Following the TAER Business Meeting: | |
|  | Melanie White |
| Discussion | We will have an O&M Happy Hour in the hotel bar after the TAER Business Meeting. |

Meeting was adjourned!