



MINUTES

VisionServe Alliance Annual Meeting of the Members Thursday, November 16, 2022 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET

Call to Order and Welcome

Lauren Branch, Chair

- Call to order at 1:03pm EST
- Brief Introduction from anyone who wanted to share

Minutes of Nov.5, 2021 Annual Meeting

Shari Roeseler, Secretary

- Move to approve by Diane Nelson
- Seconded by Courtney Plotner, minutes accepted with no objection

Financials including Investments

Dennis Steiner, Treasurer

- Dennis reviewed the September financials
- Discussion around poor investments and possible outlook for 2023

Report from the Governance Committee on Board Elections

Miki Jordan, Chair

- Election Results announced and 3 new members at large were elected to the board with 83 votes
- New Board Members at Large are Craig Meador (APH), Denise Jess (Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired), and Laura Park-Leach (St. Louis Society for the Blind) – Term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025
- Slate of Officers were also voted in for continued service – Term January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024
 - o Lauren Branch, Chair
 - o Bernadette Kappen, Vice Chair
 - o Dennis Steiner, Treasurer
 - o Shari Roeseler, Secretary
 - o Miki Jordan, Past Chair

Recognition of Outgoing VSA Director-at-Large, Erika Petach

Lauren Branch

We want to take a moment and celebrate the service of outgoing Director-at Large, Erika Petach. Erika is the current president of Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh where she has served since 2010. She has graciously given her time and talent to VSA, serving as a director-at-Large since 2014. While a member of the VSA Board Erika has been one of our biggest Champions and recruited many member organizations to advance the mission of VisionServe. She has served as the Chair of the Fund Development Committee and been an active participant in anything involving VSA. If you have ever participated in a VisionServe Conference, than you have mt Erika. While her current term of Director-at -Large is coming to a close, she will still be active as co-chair on the Fund Development Committee, as well as other VSA projects and initiatives. Erika, we thank you for your service and look forward to our continued relationship and future successes.



Intro of Board Report and Discussions

Lauren Branch

Membership Report & Discussion

Courtney Plotner

- 143 Current Members
- Starting the process of the field demographic Data Survey. Field data questions were created last year and are being finalized. Will continue into Q4 with a possible roll out in 2023 Q1. Data will give a more granular look at what services are being provided by each agency as well as IDEA data.
- CREPE Initiatives
 - AERBVI in St. Louis 7/20/22 (45 attendees including 4 potential sponsors, 8 current sponsors, 20 current members)
 - NIB in DC 10/3 - 10/5/22 (40 registered attendees to Mary Pat Knight Leadership Seminar; still waiting for attendance #s at sessions; 29 newsletter sign-ups, 11 donations)
 - APH in Louisville - 10/7 - 10/8/22
 - PAB in Harrisburg - 10/28/22

Conference Report & Discussion

Shari Roeseler, Chair

- Location for conference confirmed – Austin, TX
- Registration will launch in December
- Innovative Technology or Accessibility Requests for ELC 2023 – would like to highlight organizations so please send to Wendy

Public Policy Report & Discussion

Bernadette Kappen, Chair

- Teddie Joy's Law –Has attracted interest from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office, along with interest in expanding OIB Program funding. Research to continue in Q4 for follow-up meeting in early 2023.
- CMA - Bill will undergo a bill refresh, including some clarifications. Want to think through how to add new provisions for children with blindness/visually impairment; discussion to include subject matter experts.
- Accessibility Bill - Website & Software Accessibility Act, sponsored by Duckworth and Casey in the Senate and Sarbanes in the House, dropped on September 30.

IDEAL Report & Discussion

Tammy Owen, Chair

- Created and collected a large number of training resources to offer members. These resources are now in the process of being added to the Member Portal, checked for accessibility and shared with members in October during Global Diversity Awareness Month. Resources include:
 - Making the Case for IDEAL Initiatives (8 docs)
 - Planning and Organizing IDEAL Initiative (14 docs)
 - Evaluating IDEAL Initiatives (8 docs)
 - Training Materials (10 docs)
- Overview of Metrics from 2022 Comp and Benefits Report (First year with DEIA questions included)

Fund Development Report & Discussion

Erika Petach, Chair



- Appeal for Year End Gifts to VSA
- Consulting Services Available.
 - System and Soul clients
 - Launching a New CEO Bootcamp at the spring conference
 - Executive Consulting Cohort in Spring or Summer 2023
- Pay Dues Early in support of VSA
- Financial Sponsorship of 65+ Big Data Project Reports, no longer producing reports without financial commitment

Other VSA Accomplishments and 2022 Annual Plan

Lauren & Lee

- Big Data 65+
 - Cohort 1: 8 original states + national report complete and posted (CA, FL, IL, LA, MO, NY, OK, PA, national)
 - Cohort 2:
 - 10 states complete and posted (GA, MA, MI, NC, NE, OR, SC, TN, TX, WI)
 - 5 states in process, but will not be published until financial commitments are obtained (AR, CO, MD, MN, NJ)
 - Cohort 3: 8 states in development at OSU (AL, IN, KY, ME, MT, NH, OH, WA) to be completed in Q4
 - Cohort 4: 29 states + DC to be completed in Q4 or early 2023
- Ad Council
 - Initial landscape survey of social media about blindness resulted in very little (<5%) information. Sue and Libby held meetings with leaders in the field to learn about influencers to recommend to Ad Council so they can dig deeper into the landscape. The project continues.
- AVL Leadership Academy: Currently working with Lee Sonnenberg (AERBVI) to further develop the program, including budgeting and other resources needs.

Closing Remarks

Adjournment at 2:28pm EST