



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter
Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

2024 Penn-Del AER Conference Brochure and Registration



2024 Penn-Del AER Conference:
Shared Stories: Magnifying Our Impact
April 24 – 26, 2024
Best Western Premier Central Hotel
Harrisburg, PA

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of AER invites you to participate in our annual conference as we focus on **Shared Stories: Magnifying Our Impact**. Our nationally respected conference offers a notable line-up of professionals who will present three general sessions, 35 concurrent sessions, an exhibitor hall with a large group of exhibitors on Thursday's Exhibitor Day, professional poster presentations, the Penn-Del AER awards banquet, our AER Chapter meeting, and a tempting silent auction!

The 2024 Penn-Del AER Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA. The conference will open on Wednesday, April 24, at 1:00 PM and will conclude on Friday, April 26, at 1:00 PM.

General Sessions

Our general sessions are presented by experienced, nationally respected leaders whose sessions provide inspiration and insights into ways that we can extend our impact through sharing our stories.

Keynote Address, Wednesday April 24: "DO TELL! Storytelling as a Tool to Increase Our Impact," Mary Nelle McLennan

Mid-note Address, Thursday April 25: "What's New in Macy's Window: Increasing Our Impact through Advocacy and Awareness," Mark Richert

Footnote Address, Friday April 26: Medical Update, more information to follow

Concurrent Sessions

Participants will have opportunities to attend a wide array of sessions in which professionals in the field of visual impairment provide information about new programs, products, research, methods, and other current topics. Participants will be able to choose from sessions focused on education and rehabilitation, including Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT), Orientation and Mobility (O&M), technology, early intervention, transition, the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), and many other areas of interest. Check the Penn-Del AER website for details on sessions to be offered.

Poster Sessions

On Thursday, April 24, presenters will exhibit posters on new programs, innovative techniques, research, and more. Poster presenters will be on hand to answer questions and provide additional detail. Check the Penn-Del AER website for details on sessions to be offered.

Exhibit Hall

Exhibitors from across the country will exhibit their products and services on Exhibitor Day held on Thursday, April 24. Come see the latest in assistive technology, training programs, adapted products, available services, and much more!

Conference Materials

Conference materials will be available in electronic format to all attendees.

Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet

Penn-Del AER is proud of its members and service providers. Each year we highlight and recognize the professional achievements of outstanding Chapter members and university students for their contributions in the field of vision education and rehabilitation.

The Penn-Del AER Richard L. Welsh Service Award was established to recognize a professional who serves the education and/or rehabilitation needs of individuals with visual impairment in Pennsylvania or Delaware, and who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and performance to the field.

The Elinor Long Educator of the Year (ELEY) Award was established to recognize a professional in the field of education of students with visual impairment in Pennsylvania and now includes Delaware who have demonstrated outstanding contributions and performance.

The Student Scholarship is granted to an outstanding university student who is pursuing certification in the field of blindness and visual impairment. The applicant must be a member of the Penn-Del AER Chapter.

The Awards celebration is open to all conference registrants and award recipients, their families, and guests. The 2024 Awards Presentation Ceremony, immediately

following the banquet dinner, will be celebrated both in-person and streamed for virtual attendees.

We hope you plan to attend and help us recognize the accomplishments of our colleagues!

Penn-Del AER Chapter Meeting

The Penn-Del AER Annual Chapter Meeting is a wonderful way to hear about the work of the Penn-Del AER Board and Committees. We will also be able to thank those Board members who are rotating off the Board and welcome the new Directors-at-Large.

Participants will have the opportunity to share input and suggestions for ways to further improve Penn-Del AER's Strategic Plan. Join us at the meeting to learn how you can become more involved in Penn-Del AER!

The Penn-Del AER Membership Committee is excited to announce its annual membership incentives! Current and new members who attend the 2024 Penn-Del AER Chapter Meeting may be eligible for valuable prizes.

Not a Penn-Del AER Member? [Join AER or renew your membership \(aerbvi.org\)](https://aerbvi.org) for a chance to win!

Interactive O&M Workshop

This year, Penn-Del AER Conference Planning Committee and the Orientation and Mobility Specialist Association (OMSA) have worked cooperatively to provide an interactive workshop opportunity, **The Barlow Initiative: Traffic Engineering and Orientation and Mobility: Cultivating Collaboration.**

This event will be held on Friday April 26, 2024, at the conference site and in the Harrisburg area, from 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM. The cost is \$55.00 for each participant with CEUs being available. Transportation Professionals and O&M Specialists will work together visiting intersections, discussing strategies to improve wayfinding, and increase safety at the targeted crossings.

Registration, payment, and CEUs for this event are independent from the Penn-Del AER Conference registration process. Visit [the Penn-Del AER website conference page](#) for the announcement.

Please use this link to register: [Traffic Engineering and Orientation and Mobility: Cultivating Collaboration Workshop \(google.com\)](#).

Networking Opportunities

There is a wide variety of both formal and informal networking opportunities, including an opening reception on Wednesday, our Alumni Reception (University Socials), and the Awards Reception that follows the annual Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet to recognize and celebrate our award winners.

Silent Auction

There's a spot at the Silent Auction waiting for you! If you are interested in donating an item, please send an email to Dael Cohen at cdael@aol.com telling her what the donated item will be with the approximate value and then simply bring the item to the Penn-Del AER registration desk at the conference.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution that will be used to purchase items to be auctioned, please include it with your electronic registration payment. Thanks, in advance, for your help in making the Silent Auction a success!

When at the conference, we invite you to peruse and bid on the items. It is fun and helps our Chapter!

Professional Development Credits

Penn-Del AER offers certificates of completion for conference participants to apply for professional development credits.

Registration Details

We are using a new-to-us registration platform and apologize for the delay in getting this information out to you.

Digital registration will not be complete until payment is submitted.

Conference Rates

Early Bird Registration — Payment received by 4/8/2024

- AER Member - \$190
- AER Student - \$55
- AER Member Single Day - \$160
- Non-Member - \$280
- Non-Member Student - \$100

- Non-Member Single Day - \$250

Regular Registration — Payment received after 4/8/2024

- AER Member - \$210
- AER Student - \$150
- AER Member Single Day - \$170
- Non-Member - \$300
- Non-Member Student - \$175
- Non-Member Single Day - \$270

Registration Link

AER members receive a discounted rate when AER membership number is included. For your convenience, we have included a direct link to the AER membership website. Join [AER](#) to take advantage of member rates!

Registration Link

Email

For email communication regarding registration contact Helene Marano at hmarano@obs.org.

Cancellations

Registrants who cancel prior to April 8, 2024, are subject to a \$50 administration fee.

NO CANCELLATION REFUNDS AFTER April 8, 2024.

Miscellaneous

All monetary silent auction donations should be included in your registration payment. For more information contact Dael Cohen at cdael@aol.com.

Accommodations

Request accommodations by April 8, 2024, when registering via the digital registration process.

Hotel Information

The Central Hotel and Conference Center at the Best Western Premier

800 E Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111-2807

Phone: 717-561-2800

The conference room rate at the Best Western Premier is \$125.95 plus taxes. Rooms can be booked online by visiting the [Best Western Premier Reservation](#).

If you need to book your room via phone, call the hotel directly at 717-561-2800. Just follow the prompts to reach the front desk and one of their reservation agents will be happy to make your reservation. You will need to mention that you are with the Penn-Del AER Conference to receive the conference rate.

Conference Contacts

Holly Russell, Chair, Penn-Del AER Conference Committee; Past-President, Penn-Del AER Chapter, russell.hm@comcast.net

Maria Lepore-Stevens, Acting Assistant Chair, Penn-Del AER Conference Committee; President, Penn-Del AER Chapter, marialepstev@gmail.com

Helene Marano and Brenda Egan, Co-Chairs Penn-Del AER Conference Registration Committee, Contact: hmarano@obs.org

Mary Nelle McLennan, Chair, Penn-Del AER Conference Program Committee, penndel.conference@icloud.com

Gayle Aquino, Chair, Penn-Del AER Conference Exhibitor Committee, pdaervendors@gmail.com

Note

Photos and/or videos will be taken for publicity purposes.

Thank You

On behalf of the 2024 Penn-Del AER Conference Planning Committee, we thank you for your continued support. We are grateful for your commitment to our conference and to our field.

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) supports professionals who provide education & rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments.

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