

O&M Division Update on Professional Association
February 10, 2014

Recently the O&M Professional Association (PA) Working Group, under the direction of Steering Committee Chair Dona Sauerburger, approached the AER O&M Division Executive Committee (EC) to request that we assign a Division Executive Committee member to their group's Strategic Planning Committee. While it is clear that the working group does not feel that the current structure of the AER O&M Division meets their needs, this group has not yet clarified to the Division EC what AER or the O&M Division can do to address their needs. We cannot commit the dedicated energy and time of a volunteer member of the EC to attend the Strategic Planning series of meetings, currently proposed at 7-8 hours monthly from March through May, however, the Division EC remains available to the group as we are to all members of the O&M Division.

Over the last several months the PA Working Group has contacted Kevin directly on three occasions seeking clarification of O&M Division history and procedures. The Division EC supports this continued liaison, and looks to resolve the PA Working Group's concerns within the Division and AER. Recognizing that this working group shares our concerns regarding the growth of the O&M profession, we encouraged them to remain in contact with the Division EC so that we can share ideas and remediate iniquities for the improvement and expansion of the profession. We do not support the dismantling of the current structure of the O&M Division, nor wholesale change to our relationships within AER. Instead, the Division EC proposes change from within AER. The O&M Division Executive Committee acknowledges disagreement within AER over two major issues--the purpose of division dues (and their allocation) as well as autonomy within a division to create and distribute position papers. Contrary to popular belief regarding the original composition of financial structure, the division had never held its own banking responsibilities. And despite difficult financial times over the last ten years, the division has never budgeted or utilized the amount of or in excess of its annual dues. As representatives of our division, we are actively seeking resolution and collaboration within the organization so that each part of AER continues to expand and function in the spirit with which this organization was created. The division EC is committed to promoting and supporting the needs of our division first, while recognizing we function most effectively as a complete vision organization--with vision colleagues across multiple disciplines. Through the committed work of members in our Division over the past 18 months, the Division is poised for significant growth and expansion within the profession and within AER. Specifically, the work was completed by the industrious efforts of the Division EC, several Ad Hoc Committees, several Division Committees, and multiple individual members – all of which reflect the interests of all members of our Division. The Division EC reported to the AER Board this month the following Division goals which were accomplished over the past 18 months:

1. The Ad Hoc Committee on Finances provided a thorough review of the Division's finances over the past decade.
2. An Ad Hoc Committee wrote and approved a Position Paper on Travel Instruction / Travel Training
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Preferred Practices reviewed/revised/rescinded current Division Position Papers

4. O&M Division hosted O&M Division Conference (730+ attendees)
5. Ad Hoc Committee revised Division Policy and Procedure Manual
6. O&M EC provided the AER Bylaw & Structures Committee a document with recommended changes to the Bylaws and Policy & Procedures Manual
7. O&M EC received AER Board approval to explore a 2017 O&M Division Conference

All members are encouraged to communicate concerns and needs to their Division District Directors or AER Board Members-At-Large. This process will foster further development of our profession and refine our governance. Contact information for the AER Board, the Division Executive Committee, and Division Committee Chairs is posted on the AER and O&M websites.

Thank you,
O&M Division Executive Committee

Kevin Hollinger, Chair
Susan Langendonk, Chair-Elect
Marjorie Wood, Past Chair
Bonnie Dodson-Burk - Secretary
Audrey Dannenberg, District Director
Mickey Damelio, District Director
Michelle Antinarelli, District Director
Tanni Anthony, District Director
Edwina Wilks, District Director
Sarah Arch, District Director