



RICHARD L. WELSH CHAPTER LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION FORM

About the Award

The Richard L Welsh Chapter Leadership Award was established to recognize professionals who have contributed outstanding efforts in AER chapter leadership. Nominees will demonstrate activity and achievement, either past or current, in the role of AER President-Elect, President, Past-President, Secretary, or Treasurer at the chapter level in the following areas: 1) Overall recognition as a leader who embodies and models the qualities of honesty, common sense, good decision making, communication, commitment to the field of visual impairment and blindness, and respect for diverse opinions; 2) embracing, inspiring, and motivating new membership and leadership at the Chapter level and beyond; 3) inviting collaboration to promote: leadership, membership recruitment, and member retention; and 4) Leadership that inspires joy and passion in the mentoring of new professionals in the field of visual impairment.

About Richard “Rick” Leo Welsh

Richard Leo Welsh, Ph.D. was a visionary leader in our profession and a source of strength, warmth, and guidance for his friends, colleagues, and family. He served our field as an orientation and mobility instructor, teacher, university professor, author, and committed professional who helped forge the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) from the American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB) and the Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped (AEVH) in 1984. He served as the first president of the new association and is widely regarded as the “Father of AER.”

In nominating Rick Welsh for the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field colleagues noted that he was “among the professionals in our field who understood that a chorus singing the same tune can make a stronger positive impact than soloists with similar but different songs, trying to be heard over a crowd” (Marie Amerson). As both a chapter leader and as the first AER International Board President, Rick used his formidable talents to lead, serve, motivate, and inspire. Bruce Blasch described Rick Welsh as an intelligent, proactive, and honest leader who both invited and respected diverse opinions. He was an effective delegator who demonstrated common sense and good decision-making. Rick was more of a conductor who brought “new voices into the choir, helping those voices gain the confidence to sing the message loud and clear” (Marie Amerson). Rick Welsh will be remembered as someone with “that rare ability to take the long view, and with remarkable foresight forge a vision of what could be - and then work hard to make it a reality” (Frances Mary D’Andrea). (Source: Dr. Susan Spungin (n.d.) APH Hall of Fame Induction, Personal communication with Dr. Bruce Blasch)



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The Nomination Process

Nomination forms must be accompanied by a letter of nomination from the lead nominator describing, in detail, the significant contributions made by the nominee in his or her work with or on behalf of developing leadership and membership of an AER Chapter or Chapters. Nominees will demonstrate activity and achievement, either past or current, in the role of AER President-Elect, President, Past-President, Secretary, or Treasurer at the chapter level in the following areas: 1) Overall recognition as a leader who embodies and models the qualities of honesty, common sense, good decision making, communication, commitment to the field of visual impairment and blindness, and respect for diverse opinions; 2) embracing, inspiring, and motivating new membership and/or leadership at the Chapter level and beyond; 3) inviting collaboration to promote: Leadership, membership recruitment, and retention; and 4) Leadership that inspires joy and passion in the mentoring of new professionals in the field of visual impairment. The Awards Committee will give preference to nominees who are current members of AER. In addition, at least one letter of support from another person is required. Other forms of evidence that support the letters are welcomed.

I would like to nominate:

Please type the following information so that it can be easily read or scanned into an accessible format. Forms and letters not presented in this manner will be returned.

Nominee's Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Lead Nominator	
*Nominator's AER #	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Additional Nominators	
<i>*In order to nominate an individual for an award, lead nominator must be a current member of AER</i>	



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Email the completed form to the email address below.

All nomination documents, including supporting documentation, must be submitted in screen-reader accessible format. For example, structured word documents saved in pdfs format. Image pdfs, those generated by workstation scans of documents, are not accessible. For more information please see:

<http://webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/>

Email the completed form and supporting documentation to the address below - Faxes will not be accepted.

Paul Olson, Chair, Awards Committee

Email: awards@aerbvi.org

Nominations must be received by **April 1, 2020**