

**National Broadcasting Society – Alpha Epsilon Rho**  
**Joseph R. Chuk, Chair – Board of Governors**  
**2016-2017 Annual Report**

Constitutional changes approved by the National Council during the 2016 National Convention in Burbank were relatively minor. Most significant were changes in language to clarify the implications of the inclusion of AERho in the Association of College Honor Societies, and the reduction in NBS professional member dues to encourage an increase in professional membership. The first task of the Board of Governors immediately after the elections conducted during the convention was to take the necessary steps to finalize the composition of the Board. Because there were no declared candidates for the Professional Governor/AERho President position, a one-year appointment was needed. Sherri Shafer agreed to fill the position, and her appointment was approved unanimously by the Board by conference call on April 8. Joseph Chuk, Gina Johnson, and Jim Wilson were all re-elected as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively, during that same call.

To avoid the expenses associated with a physical summer planning meeting, the Board met by video conference for six sessions on June 22 through June 24. Among the many items treated during Board discussions were developing relationships and communication (including expanding electronic communication) with advisors, presidents, and members; marketing membership and the National Convention; 2017 convention planning, including possible keynote speakers and Uray Award nominees; selection of Student Advisory Council (formerly the Student Advisory Board) members; reviews of organizational operations, finances, organizational structure, team formation and activities; AERho issues; and the organizational calendar.

Further discussions of and actions on the outcomes from the planning sessions continued with conference calls throughout the summer. While the Board was engaged in an effort to finalize plans for conducting the 2017 National Convention in the New York City area, cost and facility issues delayed the execution of a signed contract with the Hilton Meadowlands until late July. While registration issues with our affordable software package were being resolved, New York “hints” were released through social media. Formal announcement of the hotel location came with the publication of a rate schedule with a Super Saver rate window.

Board activities through August and September included the introduction of a reduced convention registration fee incentive for chapter voting delegates who are identified in advance and agree to participate in training on the delegate role; formation of the Student Advisory Council for the year; and the scheduling of chapter president and advisor conference calls. Through September and October, the Executive Director and the Board Chair engaged in a series of discussions with representatives of both the Broadcast Education Association and NATPE to explore the possibilities of shared convention events and other cooperative efforts, both to broaden student experiences and to address NBS-AERho financial and operational concerns. Those conversations continue.

The latter months of 2016 and early 2017 saw the Board engaged in detailed planning for the 2017 National Convention. Through a concentrated series of conference calls in January and frequent calls in the following weeks and months, the Board coordinated their convention-planning efforts with the functioning work teams to manage the necessary contacts and myriad of details. These included the annual review of the NBS-AERho Constitution and Bylaws, with the formulation of changes to be proposed for action at the convention.

The success of the National Convention is dependent on the dedicated efforts of all the Governors on the Board and many student and professional Society members. It's appropriate, however, to give particular recognition to two Governors whose ongoing efforts have been especially valuable: Gina Johnson, who, despite work responsibilities and the special demands associated with being the mother of a young child and a very recent new mother, this year again organized and coordinated the Career Focus event; and Dr. Jeff Smith, who maintained and continually updated the convention schedule and the NBS-AERho web site, and provided ongoing social media content.

Special thanks are also due to outgoing Governor Dr. Sherri Shafer for her efforts as President of Alpha Epsilon Rho, including her involvement with and attention to the priorities of the Association of College Honor Societies, of which AERho is a member organization.

Finally, none of the above accomplishments would have been realized without the tireless work of Executive Director Jim Wilson in identifying and organizing the necessary tasks of the Board and continually providing its members with their marching orders.