

National Broadcasting Society – Alpha Epsilon Rho
Joseph R. Chuk, Chair – Board of Governors
2017-2018 Annual Report

Constitutional changes approved by the National Council during the 2017 National Convention in Metro New York City, March 21 – 26, were relatively minor, with a focus on simplifying the dues payment process. A single annual dues deadline replaced the prior set of three deadlines throughout the year, and the option of multiple-year memberships was ended. 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 and to elect officers. In a conference call on April 1, Joseph Chuk, Gina Johnson, and Jim Wilson were all re-elected as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively. Because there were no declared candidates for the Professional Governor/AERho President position, a one-year appointment was needed. John Turner of Towson University agreed to fill the position, and his appointment was approved unanimously by the Board during a conference call on June 21.

The Board met by video conference throughout late spring and summer, with calls usually scheduled on a weekly basis. The initial priority was to determine the location and hotel choice for the 2018 National Convention, and negotiations for the Bethesda Hyatt Regency in metropolitan Washington, DC were finalized by early August. Detailed convention planning continued from late summer through February. Early efforts focused on producing publicity materials for chapters, including a convention logo and various versions of a convention poster for download. In late summer, an intensive effort to improve communication with chapters was developed through a “chapter roundup,” in which both active and recently inactive chapters were assigned to specific Board members for ongoing contact.

In the same timeframe, plans were developed both for establishing “members only” benefits accessible through a web login, and for revitalizing specific work teams for addressing specific needs of the organization. The goals of what had been designated as the Member Engagement and Chapter Support teams were combined into a single Chapter Development Team, led by Jasmine Crighton of Western Illinois University and Brittany Fleming of Slippery Rock University. Along with engaging in efforts to improve communication with chapter advisors and conducting chapter development web conferences, this team assumed responsibility for judging the Model and Motivated Chapter and the Community Service awards. Leadership of the Professional Engagement Team was accepted by Christine Johnson of Western Kentucky University, who gave an early priority on forming a professional advisory group for NBS-AERho. Efforts to improve communication with chapter presidents were undertaken throughout the fall and early spring semesters by the Student Governors and the Student Advisory Council.

In late September, the Board approved a waiver of advisor membership fees for 2017-2018. A series of advisor web conferences was scheduled for September 28 through October 2, with additional conferences to be scheduled later in the school year. As a preview of the type of content to be offered in the future on a “members only” basis, a “Meet the Professional” conference was conducted on October 5. The Executive Director and Board Chair also engaged in ongoing discussions with Gary Lico of NATPE regarding the possibility of coordinating a future NBS-AERho National Convention with the annual NATPE meeting, with the goal of taking advantage of the availability of NATPE members for NBS-AERho convention sessions. The established January timeframe for the NATPE gathering continues to present a possible obstacle to obtaining sufficient student convention registrations.

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 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 Governors Tony Ascenso, and John Turner, who also served as AERho President, for their faithful commitment to their Board responsibilities, and, in particular, for their valuable assistance in the process of planning the 2018 National Convention.

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.