



spARO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

Committee Updates, Upcoming Events, and spARO Committee Responsibilities

The group reviewed the status and future plans for various ARO committees, incorporating new roles and responsibilities and highlighted their inclusive mission and recent initiatives. The group revisited the responsibilities of the ARO committees, emphasizing their role in facilitating communication and networking opportunities among members. The significance of active spARO member participation in initiatives, regardless of official committee affiliation was stressed. The group briefly discussed spARO sessions and the buddy system as valuable resources available to members.

ARO's Social Offset Charity Proposal

The group discussed the idea of the ARO long-range planning committee supporting a social offset through charitable donations. The two potential charities mentioned were: Equality Florida, a group advocating for the LGBTQ community in Florida, and Planned Parenthood, an organization promoting reproductive rights. It was proposed that ARO members could make donations to these charities, with Planned Parenthood potentially receiving greater support through an exhibitor booth at an ARO event. The proposal would need majority support before being presented to the council. The group will continue to discuss more in the future.

spARO Sessions Attendance and Presentation Strategies

The group discussed the popularity and attendance trends of the spARO sessions. It was suggested that sessions with specific topics or format changes could be more appealing. It was suggested that the Grant Landscape session, featuring a representative from NIDCD, was successful due to the speaker's involvement with the grant reviewing organization. It was suggested that future sessions could benefit from presenters having specific involvement with their topic. The group also touched on how half of the sessions are now conducted virtually and proposed that these sessions could be beneficial to trainees preparing for conferences.

Reviving JARO News Initiative

Plans to revive the JARO research news initiative were announced and there will be more information to come at future meetings.

Next Meeting

The Executive Office will send a time survey to the group to schedule the next meeting.