# ATHEN 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 9, 2022  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes by Michele Bromley, ATHEN Secretary

Brought to order at 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) by Dawn Hunziker, ATHEN President

## Attendance — Executive Council

1. Dawn Hunziker, President
2. Krista Greear, Vice–President
3. Michele Bromley, Secretary
4. David Schwarte, Treasurer
5. Luz Espanola, Membership Coordinator
6. Wink Harner, Member at Large
7. RaLynn McGuire, Member at Large

Confirmed a quorum of members in attendance: 15+. (A quorum at any meeting of ATHEN consist of 20 percent of the voting membership, 56, in good standing and at least three members of the Executive Council.)

## Membership Update — Luz Espanola

* 33 Professional Members
* 23 Institutional Voting Members
* 40 Institutions with a total of 188 Institutional Members
  + ATHEN does not currently have a limit to the number of members who may join a single institutional membership.
* 3 Associates/Partners Members
* 1 Student Member
* 2 Honorary Members
* Approximately 43 members signed up or renewed recently as part of the Accessing Higher Ground (AHG) and/or STEM Virtual Conference.

## Treasurer Report — David Schwarte

* Previous Two Years’ Balances
  + $30,896.73 as of October 31, 2021
  + $26,054.28 as of October 31, 2022
* Yearly Expenses
  + Teresa Haven Scholarship for Students with Disabilities: $1000.00
  + ATHEN Virtual STEM Conference Expenses: $3,079.43
  + Annual and Quarterly ATHEN Meeting Expenses: $142.50
  + Miscellaneous Infrastructure Expenses: $1,142.19
* Full financial report available upon request.
  + Contact David at [schwarte@purdue.edu](mailto:schwarte@purdue.edu)

## Approval of 2021 Minutes — Michele Bromley

* Motion to approve [2021 ATHEN Annual Meeting Minutes](https://athenpro.org/content/athen-2021-annual-meeting-minutes):
  + Motion to approve: Dawn Hunziker
  + Motion seconded: David Schwarte
  + Calls for discussion: N/A
  + Final vote:

## Election Results — Krista Greear

* President — Dawn Hunziker
* Secretary — RaLynn McGuire
* Member at Large — Tisha Marzewski

Each ran unopposed with 23 “yes” votes and no abstentions.

## Proceeding Year Activities

### Teresa Haven Scholarship Award — Wink Harner

* The [Teresa Haven Scholarship Award](https://athenpro.org/content/scholarship-professional-development) is an academic scholarship for a student with a disability.
* We will ask for volunteers for the 2023 selection committee via the listserv sometime around January 2023.
* We will begin accepting nominations sometime around February 2023.

### Ron Stewart Professional Development — Krista Greear

* A professional development award to cover a 1-yr membership to ATHEN, hotel and conference costs for AHG, free of charge, to someone who has never attended AHG and who is working in higher education in accessibility.
* Award postponed for 2022. Nominations for 2023 will open around August 2023.

### ATHEN Virtual STEM Conference — Krista Greear

We are hosting our second annual [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Accessibility Conference](https://athenpro.org/content/athen-virtual-conference) on February 9 and 10 of 2023! Based upon last year's successful event, we strive for a diverse conference where experts can share their best practices, solutions, techniques, etc. for accessing and creating accessible STEM content in higher education. This will exciting, novel, resourceful, and enlightening to all who care about accessible content in STEM fields in higher education.

* Cost to Attend
  + Free for ATHEN and AHEAD members
  + $100/day for non–members
* Call for Proposals
  + [Submit your proposal (Google Form)](https://forms.gle/AnPepYAiXzB2Svbg8) *(https://forms.gle/AnPepYAiXzB2Svbg8)*
  + Proposal process closes: December 21, 2022
  + Notification of proposal status: January 2-6, 2023
* Keynote Speaker forthcoming
* Conference Promotion
  + Share the conference website: [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Accessibility Conference](https://athenpro.org/content/athen-virtual-conference) *(athenpro.org/content/athen–virtual–conference)*
* Conference Recordings
  + Registered attendees will have access to the recording.

### Website Review and Redesign – Dawn Hunziker

* We are still planning to migrate and update our ATHENPro.org website.
* We searched for a web developer and it was a failed search so we are going to re-post this developer opportunity again in 2023.

### Quarterly ATHEN Meetings are scheduled – Dawn Hunziker

* STEM Conference February 9-10, 2023
* April 19, 2023, 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)
* July 26, 2023, 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

## Other Topics

* What are folks’ biggest pain points in terms of accessibility work on campuses right now?
  + Administrator buy-in and support
  + Funding, not enough staff with expertise in accessibility
  + Folks are struggling to figure out how to work on software procurement requests, RFPs, and internal IT projects.
  + Trying to find microphones / technology for remote cart in a face to face class. where to find audio described chemistry images
  + The double-edged sword of cloud apps for accessibility is a systemic issue. Ease of deployment and cross platform usability is huge but one is at the mercy of feature and price hike.
    - The Assistive and OER Coordinator at College of Marin had one vendor application that tripled in price this year. Had to cancel our contract and quickly make my own cobbled together solution.
  + Another interesting topic is Disability Cultural Centers. It may not be directly related, but a DCC could help us grow our accessibility and access technology knowledge at our campuses.
    - Cassandra Tex: We would love to open a Disability Cultural Center at Cal Poly Humboldt.
  + Does anyone have a resource for described chemistry?
    - chem4word
    - WIRIS (chemistry addition)
    - Krista Wright: Volker Sorge is my go-to person about accessible Chemistry. He’s a professor and super intense computer scientist so sometimes you gotta hold your breath to swim down to where he likes to swim. But check out his website: [progressiveaccess.com](https://progressiveaccess.com/)
    - Alice Wershing: Cary Suppala at Independence Science [independencescience.com](https://independencescience.com/)
      * Cary is blind and they also do the ISLAND conference annually
    - Does anyone know of a vendor who produces chemistry sets with braille labels?
      * Wink Harner: check out the accessible science equipment from DOIT [washington.edu/doit/accessible-science-equipment](https://www.washington.edu/doit/accessible-science-equipment)
* What do folks think of Equidox?
  + Michele Bromley reported that it’s prohibitively expensive for large-scale deployment...more practical for small scale, accessible formats production
    - Korey Singleton seconded that comment and recommended [Prep](https://prep.continualengine.com/), as another possible solution.
    - Krista Wright has used it and haa a lot of good things to say about it. She was pretty pleased with the quality of the alt text it produces for math content via automatic OCR. She worked closest with [Rajiv (Raj)](Korey%20and%20I%20have%20both%20used%20it%20and%20have%20a%20lot%20of%20good%20things%20to%20say%20about%20it.%20I%20was%20pretty%20pleased%20with%20the%20quality%20of%20the%20alt%20text%20it%20produces%20for%20math%20content%20via%20automatic%20OCR.%20I%20worked%20closest%20with%20Rajiv%20(Raj))
  + Darren Gabbert really liked Yuja features...but they totally dodge math content. They also like Mathpix (around $5/month)
  + Alice Wershing asked if anyone had used AxesPDF for remediation
  + Folks are still using [InftyReader](http://www.inftyreader.org/) to some degree.