

Dear AAMR member.

As you know, earlier this year we took the exciting step and voted to change our name.

However, unexpected developments have created a need for me to contact you again about this important decision.

Ballots were mailed to members to cast two votes:

- 1) Should change our name, yes/no? Asking for a vote of this is a by-laws requirement.
- 2) If so, what should we change our name to? Members were given 3 choices for the new name.

All seemed to go well with the vote, and although I was disappointed to see that only 703 ballots were received, when the analysis was done, there was a clear winner. We voted to change our name to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

Well, a full 6 weeks after the voting closed and all of the votes were tabulated and the results disseminated, the U.S. Postal Service delivered a box with an additional 924 ballots. All postmarked before the election ended, but never delivered. This more than doubled our response rate, and complicated the process.

In the spirit of keeping AAMR/AAIDD activities in the open, we took on the task of counting those ballots as well, and now with a total of 1627 total ballots two things are clear:

- 1) There is an even more overwhelming sense that we need to change our name, with 1329 votes in favor of a name change, with only 270 "no" votes and another 28 that were not responsive to the question.

2) The strong support is still for the AAIDD+choice, with now total of 723 votes assigning their first choice to AAIDD.

You will also remember that since there were a total of 3 choices, we used a well-accepted statistical procedure to determine the exact final votes. The procedure, known as the Ware's Method, is commonly used and is often called the instant run-off procedure. For a description of this procedure, please see the entry in the Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant-runoff_voting

The Board and staff are pleased to see that this important issue has been addressed so clearly by the membership. Now we are ready to move on to important matters related to implementing our new name.

Please remember, our mission has not changed. The focus of our work remains as it has been. Please see our web-site for the AAMR mission. :

http://www.aamr.org/About_AAMR/mission_statement.shtml

In the next several months, the Board will be working hard on your behalf to spread the word about our new name, and to complete the legal process of the name change.

If anyone has any questions or concerns concerning how the board has handled this unexpected situation, please feel free to contact me at bersanh@wou.edu

Thanks for your continued participation in AAMR.

Hank Bersani Jr. FAAMR

President