



AEA-RETIRED~
Protecting Our Future

THE CONDUIT

Volume 36, Issue 1

June, 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ASRS Report	2
Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly	3
Legislative Update	4
Membership Report and NEA—RA	5
The Book Corner, VIP Update, and New VP	6
Amazing Retiree, Les Reynolds Award and Sara Says	7
Chapter Meetings	8



Calendar

June 23 and 24
NEA Retired Annual Meeting (virtual)
June 30-July 3
NEA Representative Assembly (virtual)
July 22-23 AEA 2021-22 Board Retreat
June/July
AEA-Retired Debrief & Planning
September 14 and 15
Executive Board meeting (tentative)

Check the last page for updates of your chapter meetings.

Things That Matter. . . An invitation to lead! A message from AEA-Retired President Anna Cicero



As your new President, I want to share a message of leadership that matters. Since I am new to the presidency, I hope you get to know me better, know what inspires me, know what matters to me and what keeps me engaged in education, pension protection and senior services since I retired in 2013. I often wondered how as retirees, we choose to continue to want to make a difference as we get older and have already contributed so much through our teaching careers. I have a big family, many friends. I am engaged in community service and love to socialize and travel. That should be enough to keep me out of trouble, but I choose instead to involve myself with things that matter.

Positive relationships matter. Reconnecting with colleagues like Past President **Linda Somo**, newly elected Vice President, **Julie Cieniawski**, previous active AEA Leader, and others intrigued me. I respected their work and had a wonderful relationship when we worked together in the same district. I paid attention to their leadership. When I ended my career, it was an easy decision to continue making a difference in my profession through AEA-Retired. I invite you to experience positive relationships through engagement by surrounding yourselves with those who like to make things happen.

Learning new things matter. The research in “aging gracefully” encourages us to keep learning. I would need an entire issue of the CONDUIT to share what I have learned from our Past Presidents as they support me in this new job. Past President, **Julie Horwin’s** use of technical skills in leadership inspires me. The team of **Luci Messing** and **Barbara Matteson**, an energetic political action team with an array of remarkable and successful strategies, are amazing. The message is to keep learning things that matter. I invite every single one of you to contribute to the AEA-Retired action plans in person, on zoom, by phone or in some capacity. If you love technology, we have a place for you. If you love to talk on the phone, we know just how you can help. If you gather a group regularly, support each other on tasks and friendship.

Our voices matter. Taking a stance for those who are not being heard is a passion I will take with me to my last day. Sometimes our voices will be like a choir delivering melodious notes through our stories. Other times, our voices will be full of passionate anger due to injustices. What stood out this year for many was the exposure of issues you and I already knew existed, but were magnified by the pandemic and by the retaliation of decision makers. Educational inequities, Red4Ed retaliation, pension threats, mental health, social-emotional needs, social justice, racism, biases in a sea of disinformation are among the issues exposed. “We must TEACH again” (preach) were the words of **Reverend Dr. William Barber** at the NEA Leadership Summit. But, before we teach we must learn. Our voices will come together through AEA-Retired to learn from one another and expert leaders. Reverend Barber quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, “We go up together or we go down together”. I seek your participation to help us “go up together” to amplify our voices. I know we are stronger together. I invite you to be in the “choir” of advocacy, activism, engagement and organizing.

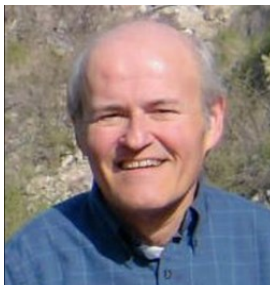
Contact me at cicero.anna.1013@gmail.com

Learn more about President Cicero in a short autobiography on [page 3](#).



Anna with new AEA-Retired Vice President, Julie Cieniawski

ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



New survey shows the value of an Arizona State Retirement System Pension to public educators.

In 2020/2021, the ASRS completed a new survey targeting ASRS Active members. The intent of the survey was to better understand their perception and understanding of the ASRS. Active contributing members play a critical role in the ability of the ASRS Pension Plan to guarantee a lifetime benefit for all retirees. On July 1st 2021, Actives will begin paying the new contribution rate for employees of 12.41%, which is matched by their ASRS employer.

SURVEY RESULTS:

- Only **63%** of Actives understand the difference between a defined benefit and a 401k style defined contribution plan.
- **82.3%** of Actives say the lifetime retirement benefit was influential in their decision to work and stay with an employer that contributes to the ASRS. Actives also overwhelmingly would recommend a job to a friend or family member, with an ASRS employer.
- **84.3%** of Actives believe their retirement is secure
- **79.3%** feel the current contribution rate is affordable.
- **80%** of Actives believe ASRS acts ethically and **78%** believe ASRS acts in their best interests.

Overall, the Actives' Survey indicates that as a member works longer and gains a better understanding of ASRS benefits, their positive perception of the ASRS increases. ASRS plans to work to enhance the educational materials targeted to new members and members with five to ten years of service.

2021 LEGISLATION: As a result of legislation passed this session, ASRS looks forward to being able to self-insure ASRS health plans for next year. Becoming self-insured will save on the cost of health care administration and is expected to shave a few dollars off premiums in 2022. At the writing of this report, a bill (HB2138) which would have allowed Arizona's university employees to opt out of the ASRS pension plan and would have created new liability costs to the ASRS Plan, appears to be dead. However, AEA Retired will continue to monitor it until the legislature adjourns *sine die*.

YEAR-END NUMBERS: Since the new fiscal year began on July 1, 2020, market returns year-to-date have been good. A recent report from ASRS shows the total fund hovering around \$46 billion and an estimated year-to-date return on investment of around 22%. If that return number holds up through June 30th of 2021, the rate of return over a two-year period would exceed the ASRS expected yearly rate of return for the fund of 7.5%. There is no expectation of a Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI) in the near future. However, AEA Retired continues to talk about legislative options that could provide for a real Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA). Unfortunately, unless the 2022 election brings a change in political control of the legislature, the chance of a COLA is still unlikely.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
REGION ONE, INCORPORATED

MEDICARE can be complicated

The Area Agency on Aging's Benefits Assistance Program can help make sense of MEDICARE

If you or a loved one is a Medicare beneficiary, it is important to know:



- What are the Medicare Options?
- At what age can I request Medicare coverage?
- What are the Enrollment Periods?
- Do I need Medicare Part A, B and C?
- What is Medicare Part D?
- What is Medicare Supplement or Medigap?

Area Agency on Aging's Benefits Assistance Counselors can help you understand your Medicare options including programs that may assist with paying for Medicare monthly premiums and Medicare prescription drug costs, for those who qualify.

Call to speak to an Area Agency on Aging
Benefits Assistance Counselor

602-280-1059

Or

24-Hour Senior HELP LINE at 602-264-4357

aaaphx.org



Funded in part by State Health Insurance Assistance Programs

AEA-Retired Annual Meeting and AEA Delegate Assembly again held virtually for 2021

By Linda Somo

Ninety-eight AEA-Retired members gathered around their computers, iPads, or cell phones to attend the 33rd AEA-Retired Annual Meeting held virtually on May 7th. The four-hour meeting was packed with interesting, informative guest speakers, election of officers, break-out sessions, and drawings for cash prizes.

Led by Anna Cicero, AEA-Retired President, the meeting moved efficiently and was . During the morning session, **Julie Cieniawski**, who ran unopposed for the position of Vice President, was declared the winner by acclamation by Elections Chairperson, **Steve Linder**. Attendees then heard brief remarks from the nine candidates who were seeking a position as a Member-at-Large on the AEA-Retired Board. The eighty-five attendees who were also delegates to the AEA Delegate Assembly, then voted electronically for their choices. Winning seats on the Board for a three-year term starting in June are: **Marilyn Freed, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Luci Messing, Michelle Smith, and Susan Sommer**. Congratulations to all of the new, and returning, winners who will join the continuing officers and board members of the Board.

Delegates also approved the Constitution & Bylaw changes recommended by the Board.

The prestigious **Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award** was presented to this year's recipient, **Julie Horwin**, by **Connie Wittig**, Awards Committee Chairperson. Julie was cited for her many years of outstanding leadership and service to AEA-Retired and the community.

One of the highlights of the day was the breakout session where small groups to discussed their individual thoughts on three topics dealing with the pandemic. Members shared a myriad of ideas and reflections on such a monumental interruption in normal life.

The main event of the day featured three excellent guest speakers. **Paul Matson** (top right), Executive Director of the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS), gave an in-depth update on the ASRS. **Daniella Smith** (top right), Lobbyist and Coordinator for the Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC), detailed the threats facing the state's defined benefit retirement system and how the ARSC combats those threats. AEA President **Joe Thomas** apprised attendees on the status of pending legislation affecting public education and the implementation of Prop 208. A complete financial analysis and details of the newly adopted budget were given by **Steve Linder**, who was selected to fill the unexpired term of the AEA-Retired Treasurer who resigned recently.

Throughout the meeting, names of attendees were randomly drawn to receive cash prizes. Eight lucky participants received prizes of \$100 each. Congratulations to all the winners!



[Continues on page 5](#)

Hi! My name is Anna Cicero New President of AEA-Retired.

My name is Anna Cicero.

My family and I were born in Ajo, Arizona. Attending Ajo High School, in a small mining border town, was an ideal place to go to school. Border town upbringing is unique, instilling a drive to serve from a very early age. I was class President all four years of high school. That was the beginning of my leadership.



Luci Messing and Howard Johnson with Anna Cicero

I attended Arizona State University, earning a teaching degree and later a school counseling degree. I define my 33 years in education as an exciting "roller-coaster" ride! Having taught all levels K-12, I have a comprehensive understanding of child academic, social, emotional and college/career development. I attended Arizona State University, earning a teaching degree and later a school counseling degree. I learned skills in many other ways. In the 1980's, I realized that taking on leadership with the Arizona Education Association, the Arizona School Counselors Association and state/district committees would be a good place to learn while serving. Surprise, I am still learning and serving!

In the future, I am hoping to share other stories, build new relationships and learn as I hear your stories. My voice will reflect the voices of AEA-Retired when I speak on behalf of our members.



Anna with Arizona State Senator Dalessandro

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY LUCI MESSING



It has been a wild ride at the Legislature this session! As of this writing (May 16th), budget discussions have just begun. That means the Legislature will remain in session for a couple more weeks, perhaps into June. Arizona has an unprecedented surplus and everybody wants to spend it, making agreements more difficult. Now, lawmakers can't agree on how much money to give away. House Re-

publicans insist they have the votes to pass a [flat tax proposal](#) which would cut over \$1 billion from state revenues, but that proposal appears "dead on arrival" in the Senate. Unfortunately, the legislative majority's budget includes tax cuts and giveaways instead of properly funding public education.

Be ready to comment on the budget and make our voices heard.

AEA-Retired has done an amazing job in contacting legislators and the Governor. We can't let up now. The Legislature will not be in session that much longer.

Here's a quick legislative update:

SB1452 – The voucher expansion bill has not been scheduled for a vote in the House to date. The concern is if this bill makes it to the Governor's desk, he will sign it. Voters rejected voucher expansion when they voted down Prop 305. That didn't stop the majority from pushing this bill forward as well as others negatively impacting public education.

SB1532 – The Teacher Gag bill contains a last-minute amendment by Representative Michelle Udall would subject Arizona teachers to a \$5,000 fine if they allow classroom discussions on "controversial" topics such as racism or fail to give equal weight to both sides of "divisive" issues. Lawmakers advanced this amendment without any public input and passed it in the House the same day it was introduced. The majority party doesn't mind bending the rules when it suits them. At this time, it must pass the Senate before it goes on to the Governor. If signed, written and pushed by the American Heritage Foundation this bill will have a chilling effect on teachers' ability to do their jobs and further worsen our state's teacher shortage crisis.

SB1485 – PEVL Purge bill passed both chambers and was immediately signed by the Governor. There is absolutely no valid reason for this bill. Our elections were safe and secure. This may only be the beginning of some of the voter suppression bills that are being considered. We will continue to fight back against other voter suppression and anti-democracy bills being advanced at the state legislature, including **HB2309**, which criminalizes protest and **SB1713**, which would impose burdensome new ID requirements for those who vote by mail.

HB2035 - This is the revival of the vetoed legislation targeting LGBTQ students in public schools. The bill would prohibit student access to accurate health information and excludes LGBTQ students from curriculum just like failed original **SB1456**. Lawmakers used procedural tricks to turn **HB2035** into a double opt-in mandate for sex education. It would ban age appropriate sex education before 5th grade and bans discussing gender identity and expression without parental consent. The majority party seems to have no respect for the Governor's veto of SB1456.

Throughout this legislative session, we asked people to send **postcards** to the Governor and ask him to fully fund public education, and to veto all bills that will negatively impact our students, teachers, staff and communities. If, as you read this, the budget has not been passed, we encourage you to send another postcard. It's extremely important to express our concerns for appropriate education funding. Let the Governor know that we do not support tax cuts or tax giveaways when our schools are in dire need. As long as the Legislature is in session, we must continue to assert our position.

The **Senate's audit** did not meet the deadline of May 14th. The recount will continue once previously scheduled graduation ceremonies have been completed. It has been one fiasco after another. These lyrics come to mind, "Clowns to the left of me. Jokers to the right!" We are paying for it. Arizona continues to be the laughing stock on late night television. The Senate majority selected a company with no credentials or experience in conducting an election audit. Secretary of State Katie Hobbs and the Republican controlled Maricopa County Supervisors have gone on record about the lack of security and transparent procedures of those handling the ballots. The result has been and will be a total lack of creditability. Express your concern to the Governor about the stain on Arizona this "fraudit" has caused.

Send your email address to

julie.horwin@gmail.com

Win \$100



**If we already have your
e-mail address, you are entered
in the \$100
AEA-Retired Raffle.
Good luck!**

AEA Retired Membership

by Shirley Boswell, Nancy Putman, Michele Smith

The AEA-Retired Membership Committee is working with AEA active locals to assist with end-of-the-year activities. Especially important in these activities is the recruiting of new members to AEA-Retired. Many more education employees could join us and work to support active employees, parents and students. This past year we recruited 56 new members and currently have 2,113 retired members.

The membership team is asking for your assistance in recruiting new members. When you sign up a new member you will receive a \$10.00 gift card for your effort. To get a membership form, go to www.azedretired.com, click the link at the top of the page "Join AEA Retired." Be sure to sign your name at the bottom on the recruiter line. If you want to have membership forms mailed, call the AEA-Retired Membership phone number (602) 696-2458. Shirley Boswell will mail membership forms to you.

AEA- Retired points to assist you in recruitment conversations:

- Monitors your pension and insurance benefits.
- Lobbies the Arizona State Legislature regarding public education issues.
- Works closely with AEA and NEA to promote issues that affect our schools.
- 8 local chapters around the state to join.

NEA Representative Assembly & NEA Retired Annual Meeting will be virtual gatherings

An amazing summer of NEA activities will be happening soon for AEA-Retired delegates who were elected through all-member on-line balloting. Janice Dwosh, AEA-Retired Secretary, Luci Messing, AEA-Retired Executive Board Member At-Large and Linda Somo, AEA-Retired President Emerita, will join Julie Horwin, our AEA-Retired Past President and NEA Board member representing Retired for the upcoming June 23-24th virtual NEA Retired Annual Meeting, as well as the virtual NEA Representative Assembly from June 30-July 3rd. These important annual activities of national delegates will be held online, with opportunities for voting for officers, discussing and voting on new business items and donating to the NEA Fund for Public Education.

Please contact Janice (jdowsh27@gmail.com), Luci (lucibmessing@cox.net), Linda (lsomoz@cox.net), or Julie (julie.horwin@gmail.com) prior to these meetings with any suggestions or donations to the NEA Retired PAC auction. Hopefully in future years the NEA RA and NEA Retired Annual Meeting will be held in person again and our members will continue to participate fully in this important connection and networking of members throughout the country. This pandemic has taught us that flexibility is key and virtual meetings can be successful with enthusiastic delegates and amazing leadership.



Continued from page 3

Eighty-Five AEA-Retired delegates attend the AEA Delegate Assembly held May 7-8

Once the Annual Meeting was adjourned, AEA-Retired delegates attended a brief caucus to review all of the important information needed for delegates to participate in the AEA Delegate Assembly. **Ken Freed**, AEA Director, and **Luci Messing**, Alternate Director, led the instructive session.

Later in the day the AEA Delegate Assembly was gavelled to order by **President Joe Thomas** (below, center) at 6:00 PM. An inspiring opening ceremony was followed by remarks from **Arizona Teacher of the Year, Sara Wyffels** (right). Nominations for vacant positions on the AEA Board of Directors and debate on proposed amendments to the Constitution & Bylaw followed. AEA President Joe Thomas addressed the group. by , AEA Vice President **Marisol Garcia** (below, left) reported on the AEA Foundation for Teaching and Learning.



After adjourning for the evening, the Delegate Assembly resumed on Saturday when delegates considered a new business item, discussed and adopted the Legislative Platform, discussed and adopted the Resolutions, heard reports from all of the AEA Committees and Task Forces, received the Treasurer's report from **Angela Philpot** (below, right). The final address was made by **Sheryl Mathis**, AEA Interim Executive Director.

AEA-Retired is grateful to all the members who volunteered their time to be delegates for the two-day meeting and represented us so well. A huge THANK YOU to you all!



Meet Julie Cieniawski Newly elected Vice-President of AEA-Retired.



Julie's passion and commitment to education extends far beyond her career as a middle school educator. She has been an active member of AEA and AEA-Retired. She served on the AEA Board of Directors for six years, chairing several state committees, serving as a delegate to both the AEA Delegate Assembly and NEA-RA on multiple occasions. She continues with

professional development and leadership opportunities through AEA and NEA. As a site representative, she advocated for colleagues on the Scottsdale Education Association's (SEA) Executive Board. Julie ultimately led SEA as President for 3 years, during one of the districts most tumultuous times. Upon retiring from the classroom, she ran for and was elected to the district School Board. She also currently serves as the Vice-President of the SUSD Governing Board.

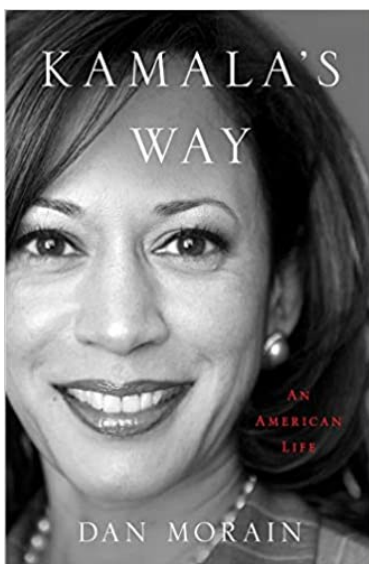


The Book Corner By Ann Meyers, Susan Sommer and Jan Nichols

Kamala's Way, by Dan Morain, was a "wrong way" for the Social Justice Book Group in the May meeting. The book was a detailed account of the early life and background of Vice President Kamala Harris. The narrative clearly showed how the influence of her activist parents, her choice of a law school, her political life, and help of mentors propelled her to the vice-presidency of the United States. Unfortunately, it was a book-length newspaper article written by a newspaper journalist. Interesting, well-written, but not captivating or particularly illuminating.

The book group is made up of readers who are convinced the greatest book is yet to be found in their To-Be-Read stack of books. The search continues with our next selection, *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins. This is a novel of the ordeal of a Mexican woman's flight to escape to the United States.

To enter the discussion, contact Ann Myers, (480) 510-8098 or azann@mac.com. Since we are a virtual group, we welcome members from all over the state.



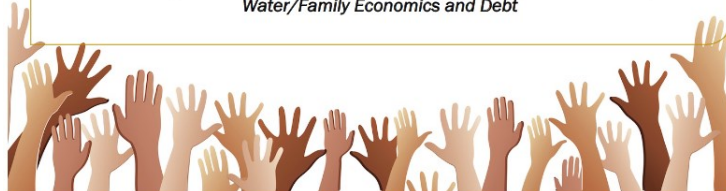
VIP Update By Larry Wittig

In early Spring, members of the Valley Interfaith Council began going door to door in Maricopa County to help close the vaccination and public health gap. They began with Maryvale's poorest zip code, 85031. The mission was to increase the vaccination rate from 25 % rate, the 3rd lowest rate in the county. VIP partnered with St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, the Daughters of Charity and the Maricopa County Public Health Department to bring 1,600 vaccines into the community.

VIP organized a community walk on April 24th where leaders visited 402 homes. They left flyers and talked with 326 people. As a result of these conversations, 131 new people signed up for inoculations. An additional 1000 flyers were distributed in the area. Another community walk was held May 1st with similar results.

The VIP Human Development Agenda

Workforce Training Strategy/Quality Public Education/Comprehensive Healthcare/
Safe Neighborhoods/Immigrant Integration & Reform/Justice Reform/
Water/Family Economics and Debt



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Julie Horwin Past President

The Conduit Editors
Jan Nichols and Bart James

Linda Somo

Past President of AEA-Retired and an Amazing Retiree



Prior to my retirement in 2000, I spent 29 years as a public school educator. I started out my teaching career in Ohio, where I spent three years teaching high school English. The rest of my 29 years prior to retirement, and 3 years working part-time after retirement, were spent in Arizona. After securing my MA degree in counseling at ASU in 1976, I became a school counselor, first at Camelback High School in the Phoenix Union District and then in the Mesa District where I spent the next 21 years at various schools.

During my years in Mesa, I became actively involved in the Mesa Education Association, eventually serving as President for two years and then as Bargaining Spokesperson for many years. I also served two terms on the AEA Board of Directors and five years on the NEA Board of Directors prior to retirement. Immediately after retirement, I joined the AEA-Retired Board and began my career as *The Conduit* newsletter editor, which I enjoyed doing for many years until I became President of AEA-Retired. At the same time, I also became very active in NEA Retired activities. For the next six years, I was privileged to be not only President of AEA-Retired, but also was able to again be elected to the AEA Board and the NEA Board representing retirees.

Throughout my career, I was honored to work with students and their families to help them reach their full potential. Being a public school teacher and counselor, has been the joy and the passion of my life. Additionally, I have had, and continue to have, the good fortune to also be able to work with, and for, my colleagues, both active and retired, in a variety of ways. One of the most enjoyable activities in which I participate is presenting Pre-Retirement workshops to active members to help prepare them for retirement and to present facts about the Arizona State Retirement System. Another important continuing endeavor is being involved in working to elect friends of education and retirees to local, state, and national offices. I even had the unique experience of running for the Arizona Legislature in 2000. Unfortunately, I did not win, but I learned a lot about political campaigns.

Through my Association (NEA/AEA/AEA-Retired), I have been provided with countless learning, skill building and leadership experiences, fantastic opportunities, and fond memories. I consider myself to be very lucky, indeed, to have found a profession that I love and that offers me a myriad of opportunities to continue to serve my community.

Les Reynolds Award presented to Julie Horwin at the Annual Meeting

Congratulations to Julie Horwin, Past President of AEA-Retired, and current member of NEA Board of Directors representing retired members, for being named this year's recipient of the 16th annual **Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award** at the virtual AEA-Retired Annual Meeting in May.

The award, named for the first president of the AEA-Retired, is presented annually to a member in appreciation for outstanding service to public education and the community.

Thank you for all your years of hard work.



A Special Request from Sarah



NEA-Retired President Sarah Borgman

It has been a vision of mine that every NEA-Retired member donate \$5 each month to the NEA PAC Fund. Our members continue their passion for public education and we know that political action to create the best public schools for every student is only possible if we elect to congress those who hold our same core values.

And you know, it is typically those same legislators we help to elect who will work hard to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for retired educators.

Please join me in donating today just \$5 or \$10 to the NEA Fund.

Join me in donating monthly to the NEA Fund for Children

Go to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education page to donate: <https://azedretired.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b09485839278c6a561f2b9050&id=96a2031cc6&e=f103004fb7>

AEA-Retired Chapter News

Chapters bring AEA-Retired together. This year we expect to meet in person. Some chapters may choose to add a virtual meeting now and then or offer Zoom meetings as well as meetings in person. Each chapter governs itself in order to meet the needs of their members. Meetings usually include informational programs and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. This is a great way to keep in touch with the latest issues in our community. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter should contact Chapter Coordinator Susan Sommer, **623-628-1935, ssommer114@aol.com**.

Note that Chapters will be meeting via Zoom this year. If you are new to virtual meetings with this app, you must first download the Zoom application from the “app store” for your device. You may choose to set up a Zoom account, but it is not required for participating in a meeting. All you need to do is click the link you receive from your Chapter Chair. You are welcome to attend any and all Chapter meetings, regardless of where you are in Arizona, or the world. We welcome your attendance and participation.

Glendale/West Valley Chapter: We are expecting to meet at Biscuits Restaurant, 19420 N. 59th Ave., Glendale. Our first meeting this fall is scheduled to be October 7th at 10 am. Any one who lives west of I-17 in Maricopa County who wishes to contact Susan Sommer. You will receive an invitation to join us a couple weeks before our meeting dates: For more information call, text or email Susan Sommer at **623-628-1935, ssommer114@aol.com**

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: Meetings are held the third Tues. of Sept.—May, at 10:00 a.m. Decisions were made at the final AEA-Retired Chapter Meeting for the Tucson Area on May 18, 2021. Elections were held: Peter Coston was elected Chair, Marion Pickens as Vice Chair, Barbara Matteson was elected as Secretary, and Kathy Ramage-White was re-elected as Treasurer. We will send out messages twice a month for June and July. A survey will be sent out to determine issues about our meetings. An interim committee will be formed to look at changes that would benefit our Chapter. The first Chapter Meeting for the new year will be August 17th as an in-person party at the Southern Region Office. Please contact **Marion Pickens** at **520-296-5908** or **marion-peterpickens@gmail.com**.

Kyrene Chapter: We are scheduling all of our chapter meetings on Zoom or in person. Around the first of each month, we'll send you an email about the speaker as well as the computer links and telephone numbers for joining us on Zoom or the location for in-person meetings. Invite anyone else you'd like to join us. Contact **Ellen Shamah** at **eshamah@cox.net** or **Janie Hydrick** at **480-963-1848, hydrick@aol.com** to make sure you receive the Zoom links.

Mesa/East Valley Chapter: We are scheduling all of our chapter meetings on Zoom. Please add the following date to your calendar: **4/21** from noon to 1pm. Around the first of the month, we'll send you an email about the speaker as well as the computer links and telephone numbers for joining us on Zoom. Invite anyone else you'd like to join us. Contact **Janie Hydrick** at **480-963-1848, hydrick@aol.com** to make sure you receive the Zoom links.

Phoenix Chapter: Meetings are scheduled on Zoom. Make sure to give your email address to Chapter Chair **Michele Smith** at **602-463-1624** or **mms7997@msn.com** to make sure you get the Zoom links.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: We met virtually on April 19th. After a short business meeting, we welcomed Dr. Mark Asplund, Wisconsin physician, as our guest speaker. He talked about life after a COVID vaccination—how a vaccine is developed, panicky feelings about going into public life again and the safety of the vaccine. Our next meeting will be September 20th with a decision yet to be made whether it will be virtual or in person. If you're not on our mailing list, please contact either Nancy Riley 480-600-8559 or **rileyfam@cox.net**,

Southeast Arizona Chapter: The Southeast Arizona AEA-Retired Chapter is located in Cochise County and is comprised of districts in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Huachuca City, Naco, Palominas, Elgin, and Ft. Huachuca, and retirees from other states who have moved to Cochise County. Please contact Sally if you would like to be added to the email contact list during the pandemic period or receive the link for zoom meetings. The last zoom of the year will be May 26th at 5:30pm. Contact Chapter Chair Sally Rosén at **520-249-0233, azcatsally@aol.com** for details.