



AEA-RETIRED~
Protecting Our Future

THE CONDUIT

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Calendar



September 8-10 AEA-R Board
via Zoom, 10am to 3pm

October 7 MORE meeting
via Zoom, 1pm to 3:30pm

October 13 AEA-R Board
via Zoom, 10am to 3pm

November 10 AEA-R Board
via Zoom, 10am to 3pm

December 8 AEA-R Board
via Zoom, 10am to 3pm

Check the last page for updates of
your Chapter meetings.

AEA Virtual Delegate Assembly

The AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, re-configured as a virtual meeting, occurred on May 8. Voting for officers of the Executive Board and At-Large Executive Members was held.

New board members elected are Patty Ann Bryant, Sandra Warns and Norma Jimenez, incumbent board members Shirley Boswell, Marilyn Calhoun, Gary Mehok, and Carmen Peters were re-elected. Steve Linder, former treasurer, was elected to the executive board.

Shirley Boswell was presented the Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award for her many years as membership chair and executive board member.

Julie Horwin was honored for her two terms as AEA-Retired President. She was presented with a quilt handcrafted by Ann Myers, an executive board member,

and a gift card from the executive board.

Prior to the Annual

Meeting, there were two virtual "Happy Hours" and drawings for cash prizes.

Zoom has now become a staple communication tool. People have become accustomed to conducting business from their office, den, or library. The leadership of AEA and AEA-Retired worked hard to adapt to this new environment. The Annual Meeting was conducted smoothly and successfully.

Congratulations to all!

MEET THE NEW AEA-RETIRED OFFICERS



Dr. Janie Hydrick,
President



Anna Cicero, Vice
President



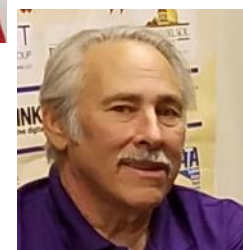
Janice Dwosh,
Secretary



Howard Johnson,
Treasurer

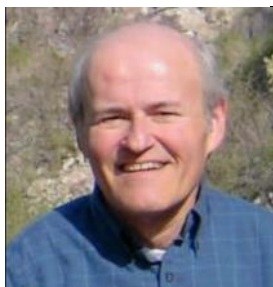


Julie Horwin, Past
President and also
the newly elected
NEA Director.



Ken Freed, AEA
Director

ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



ASRS WEATHERS YET ANOTHER RECESSION, KEEPING YOUR RETIREMENT SAFE

What Happened—In mid-February 2020, the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached the highest level in history. The Arizona State

Retirement System fund topped \$43 billion. In March the COVID-19 pandemic emerged and the market crashed. The ASRS fund lost about \$7 billion. Despite the market downturn, ASRS retirement checks continued to routinely be deposited in member bank accounts. The reason Arizona offers public education employees and others a Defined Benefit retirement plan, has always been to provide a secure retirement. Unlike the risks of a 401k style Defined Contribution Plan, your retirement will be there when you need it, for as long as you need it.

Where Are We Now—The ASRS plan is designed for the long haul. Since the crash, the market has rebounded and the value of the ASRS fund is now at \$41.3 billion. Unfortunately, return on investments for the fiscal year will probably be around .76%, falling short of the 7.5% goal. Experiencing three major market downturns in 20 years is not what ASRS would have predicted. The funded status will likely remain in the low 70% range. While ASRS knows that their investment strategies are always open to criticism, ASRS remains capable of meeting all of its benefit obligations and continues to provide quality service to its members.

The Future —Language in the Arizona Constitution mandates funding of the plan and guarantees our benefits will continue unreduced and uninterrupted. Currently, there are only two sources of ASRS funding, employer and employee contribution rates, and returns on investments. Contribution rates, unfortunately, will remain in the 12 to 13 percent range for the near future. If you were lucky enough to have retired before 2000, you saw low contribution rates and high returns for much of your career. Today, employees see historically high contribution rates and low returns. Your support of the ASRS Defined Benefit plan and a return to full funding for public schools is vital and appreciated.

Your Money in COVID Times —The average yearly benefit for an ASRS retiree is about \$20,000. For years, ASRS retirees have contributed to the Arizona economy by spending their benefit checks at local businesses. Now, many of us find ourselves being safe by staying home and many local businesses shut down. But retired

educators are still helping out. Many of our members have donated generously to food banks and other social service agencies. Some have made valuable political contributions to pro-education candidates and others have supported efforts by the Arizona Education Association to get the INVEST in Ed initiative passed. Thank you.

ASRS Health Care—The current contract with United HealthCare for Group Medical and Pharmacy Services ends in 2020 and a new contract with UHC begins for 2021, renewable for five years. **ASRS Medicare Plans** will see additional support programs and rates are anticipated to remain the same, with the Retroactive Rate Agreement still in effect. **ASRS Non-Medicare Plans** will see one new plan option offered. Unfortunately, premiums for this group will be increasing (different amounts for different plans) The ASRS continues to look for cost savings. Also, watch for a new **ASRS Dental Plan**, as always, available to all members regardless of health care enrollment. (Special thanks to AEA Retired member **Kristine Ehlis** for her hours of representation on both the ASRS Healthcare and Dental Plan Evaluation Committees.)

Caring for yourself, spouse or aging parent? Get help with Medicare, Social Security and other services.

The Area Agency on Aging is a public or nonprofit private agency that helps older Arizonans (60+) which are available throughout the state. They advocate, plan, coordinate, and deliver services.



DES.AZ.GOV

Area Agency on Aging Locations | Arizona Department of Economic Security

Use the following link to find the contact information for the Area Agency on Aging in your location.

<https://des.az.gov/services/older-adults/area-agency-on-aging-locations>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JANIE HYDRICK



Dear Colleagues,

Within weeks of each other, two giants, Human and Civil Rights Champion John Lewis and Public Education Champion John Campbell, left us to continue their legacies.

One of my earliest and fondest memories of John Campbell was May 25, 1986, when he invited our little family to join hands with him to

form a continuous human chain in Hands Across America. For John, it was so much more than a piece of blue rope; it was 7 million Americans, united physically for 15 minutes, united in our resolve to work together for what was then a common dream. That day, we physically felt that connection and resolve, and for decades after, we felt an integral part of a human chain that stretched across America. For the next 34 years, we worked together, through our locals, through AEA, and through NEA for what still remains today a common dream of a world possible through quality public education.

Is the struggle over? No. Yet Human and Civil Rights Champion John Lewis reminded us often, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

This spring and summer have been exceptionally horrific for us. We've seen our age group offered up as sacrifice to a flagging economy. We've seen our younger colleagues offered up as sacrifice to reopening schools. We've lost friends and family to an uncontrolled virus. We've witnessed unprecedented

attacks on a democratic society that we championed in our classrooms and hallways. Especially in times like these, hold the words of John Lewis close to your heart: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic." Especially in times like these, hold the works of our Association close to your heart: The unity, connection, and resolve that John Campbell dedicated his life to building within our Association are the best hope that we have to survive as a democratic institution and as a democratic beacon to the world.

Ironically, although we are not gathering in person for meetings, events, and projects, our media alternatives such as Zoom are providing many more opportunities for unity, connection, and action. Through Zoom, you will be able to attend as many AEA-Retired committees as you want with no driving. You can attend Chapter meetings in Chinle, Paradise Valley, and Tucson. You'll have access to legislative action training and updates, be able to lobby elected officials, and hold their feet to the fires of quality public education without even leaving your living room. The opportunities are limitless, and your involvement will be unhindered by distance or physical limitation. We will form a virtual human chain of educators, impacting our profession and maintaining the legacy we devoted our lives to for the benefit of even more generations of public school educators and students.

I invite each of you to pledge yourself in every way that you can this year to continue and to strengthen the legacies of our two great brothers: John Lewis and John Campbell. Meet with us. Learn with us. Make some noise with us and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.

In unity,
Janie Hydrick, President

Janie Hydrick, born and raised in Lima, Peru, attended public high school in Arizona. She holds degrees, including doctorates, from the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Janie has spent her entire 45-year professional career as an educator, taught all levels from elementary through graduate school, and has provided teachers professional development courses. Her teaching experience makes her uniquely qualified to understand education and the funding and reform that will lead to better schools in Arizona. She is committed to wearing a red shirt every Wednesday.

Janie's list of accomplishments includes: President of the National Council of Teachers of English, the Board of Directors of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standard, Board of Directors of National Education Association, published books and articles on curriculum and computer education, some used as textbooks for colleges and universities, 1985 Woman of the Year, 1989 Excellence in Language Arts Teaching Award, Arizona English Teachers Association, 2011 AEA's Human and Civil Rights Award, Officer in the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, and Program Director for Blue Tuesday Luncheon Forum.

Janie looks forward to the diversity and energy of AEA-Retired and looks forward to expanding activism. She lives in Chandler with her daughter and son-in-law and is totally at the mercy of her grandchildren and their three pugs.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY LUCI MESSING



Invest In Ed: One More Hurdle

We did it!! On July 2nd we turned in over 435,000 signatures on behalf of the InvestInEd initiative. This was accomplished with your help and the many citizens of Arizona who believe that public education is one of the

most important issues facing us today. It was fantastic to see the folks unloading all those bins filled with petitions on the Capitol lawn. It honestly brought tears to my eyes. THANK YOU to all for your work! Whether it was to sign the petition, circulate one, talk to family and friends, etc., it was an amazing feat that we should be very proud of.

However, as expected, a lawsuit was immediately filed challenging the signatures and legitimate status of the initiative. It's ironic that the former Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jaime Molera is leading the charge on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. We cannot waiver. We will continue to advocate for the initiative.

AEA and Stand for Children will fight the lawsuit in court. It's important for each of us to stay informed and engaged. Visit www.investined.com and learn more.

With regard to the Legislature, it does not appear that a special session will be called for any purpose before the November election. Not for the Covid-19 or to address education funding. Unfortunately, this decision is completely divided by party lines. Democrats want to address the coronavirus, education funding, community needs. The Republican majority shows no inclination to deal with these issues dealt with before the November election. Voters are watching.

The primary election has already taken place and now it's on to November 3rd. We do not intend to slow down our efforts to elect pro-public education candidates and those who share our values regarding family, the environment, and protecting our pensions. Hopefully, you are working on a campaign for one (or two) of your favorite candidates. The AEA Fund Council has made candidate recommendations for State races. NEA has endorsed candidates for Congress and the presidency.

I have pounded in over 25 signs, spent a number of mornings doing no contact lit drops, have made phone calls, wrote almost 100 postcards, donated lots of money, contacted family, friends, and neighbors. I feel extremely satisfied that I have done what I could for the greater good. While I know that not everyone is as intense as I am, we can all contribute in some way. It really is that important. Visit strongpublicschoolsaz.com for more information.

We are strongly encouraging members to vote by mail during this time of the Covid-19 surge. You may not want to physically go to the polls in November. If you are not already on the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL), please sign up today. I was one of those die-hards who ALWAYS went to the polls to cast my ballot. However, I signed up for the PEVL because I am in a high risk category. I know that we all must do whatever feels best for us as individuals. Go to www.servicearizona.com or contact your county recorder for assistance. Whatever you do, VOTE!

Here's a calendar regarding the November 3rd election.

- Monday, August 3, 2020 – First day to request an early ballot
- Monday, October 5, 2020 – Last day to register to vote for the general election
- Wednesday, October 7, 2020 – Early ballots mailed
- Friday, October 23, 2020 – Last day to request an early ballot

In addition to the 2020 election, we should also pay close attention to the dialogue regarding schools opening up for in-classroom instruction. Unfortunately, the Governor has demonstrated extremely poor leadership with regard to schools opening. He has basically left it up to each individual district. I have had a number of conversations with teachers, support professionals, parents, and community members. Many do not believe it is safe to have physical classrooms open at this time.

Arizona has been designated as a hotspot for the coronavirus and we must follow all appropriate measures. Online instruction should be implemented to begin the year. Only when it is safe should opening classrooms be considered. Reach out and show support for your local school district. Contact Governor Ducey and ask him to do the right thing by our teachers, support personnel and students. His phone number is 602-542-4331 or 800-253-0883. His website <https://azgovernor.gov/governor/offices-governor> includes a link to email him.

We hope that you all are staying well and taking care of yourselves during these very trying times. While there is still great uncertainty, we do know that we will continue to support each other and do the best we can. Always.

Be safe! Mask Up!



NEA holds historic “virtual” NEA Representative Assembly

By Linda Somo



July 2nd and 3rd marked an historic event for the National Education Association as it held its first virtual NEA Representative Assembly for 8500 delegates. AEA-Retired delegates, Julie Horwin, Luci Messing and Linda Somo, joined 330 of their retired colleagues from around the country to “attend” the two-day event representing all retired members. Elected by online balloting of all AEA-Retired members in March & April, Julie, Luci, and Linda were also delegates for the NEA Retired Annual

Meeting conducted virtually on June 29-30.

During the two-day Retired Annual Meeting, delegates were treated to: remarks from NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia and NEA Retired President Sarah Borgman; reports from committees (Legislative, Grants, Membership, and Communications); a discussion of proposed amendments to Bylaws; a Kinnaman Fund report; a presentation of the Distinguished Service Award; a report of activities planned for the upcoming Presidential Campaign; and speeches by all candidates for NEA Retired offices. Of course, there was also fundraising for the NEA Fund (political action fund) coordinated by Julie Horwin, who organized and conducted a very successful online auction that far surpassed the stated goal of \$17,000. After serving six years on the NEA Retired Executive Council, Julie was elected to a three year term on the NEA Board of

Directors (one of six) to represent retired. Voting for Executive Council, NEA Board of Directors and Alternates will be done by paper ballots being mailed to all delegates to the Annual Meeting, and results will be counted in August.

Following the Annual Meeting, delegates turned their attention to the virtual NEA Representative Assembly. Each morning began with a Zoom state caucus meeting with the 86 delegates from Arizona. The afternoon RA sessions were filled with: videos of NEA member actions; inspirational speeches by President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, Stacey Abrams, Executive Director Kim Anderson, presidential candidate Joe Biden (who also took part in a Q & A session with delegates), and others; discussion of the proposed NEA Budget; speeches by all candidates for NEA offices; and special presentations for Teacher of the Year (Tabatha Rosproy), ESP of the Year (Andrea Beeman), Higher Educator of the Year (Elizabeth Davenport), and Friend of Education (Greta Thunberg). Sprinkled throughout the two days were PAC fundraising requests stressing the importance of the upcoming November election. Voting for NEA officers, Executive Committee, and ESP At Large Directors for the NEA Board will be by paper ballots sent to all delegates in July and counted in August. Amber Gould, Arizona’s representative on the NEA Board of Directors, is a candidate for the NEA Executive Committee and is backed by the entire Arizona Delegation.

Results of the NEA Retired and NEA elections should be available in September.

Recruiting New Members

By Nancy Putnam, Michele Smith and Shirley Boswell
Membership Outreach Team

What better time to talk to our friends and ask them if they belong to AEA-Retired? Reach out to former colleagues who have retired and ask them to join us. Let them know we need to add their voice to our collective calling to advocate for public education and to fight for the safety and wellbeing of all children and educators. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us. AEA-Retired keeps you informed on legislative, pension and educational issues. We monitor ASRS regarding change to your pension and health insurance.

AEA-Retired provides members with current information through e-news, the conduit, AEA Advocate and NEA Retired Today. AEA-Retired Membership provides exclusive discounts and savings on many benefits and services. Last year we recruited 56 new members and currently have 2156 total retired members. There are many more retired members who could join us and work with us on issues important to all education professionals. Go to our website, azedretired.com, to download a membership form. Click the link at the top of the page “Join AEA.” Be sure to sign your name on the membership form. If you recruit a new member, you will receive a gift card.

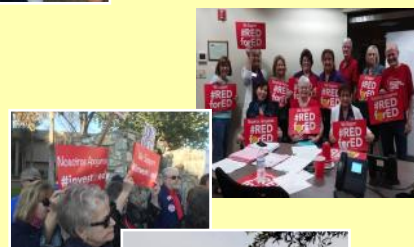


AEA-Retired What We Do

Socialize and Learn



Advocate for Education



Protect Retirement Security



Lead and Mentor



And So Much More!

Go Take a Hike!

By Jan Nichols

Take a break from the television, the cleaning, the ZOOOOOoming! Gas is cheap. Escape the heat! Daytrips are waiting! You can take a break and still social distance. One such adventure is a “drive-about” to Lynx Lake, just outside of Prescott.

Sitting by the lake, relax by picnicking, reading and fishing has a way of untangling the twists of apprehension and uncertainty in this pandemic. Lynx Lake is approximately two hours away if you go the road less traveled through Wickenburg, People’s Valley and Yarnell.

Wickenburg

This is a place where you can disconnect from the grid and reconnect with each other; **Wickenburg** has been doing just that since 1863. Located 50 minutes north-west of Phoenix on the Hassayampa River, **Wickenburg** prides itself as being the most western town in **Arizona**. It just might be true, as visitors are more than welcome to clink their spurs ...



People’s Valley

Abraham Peeples staked a gold claim in 1863 and began homesteading claims in this valley, just 35 miles southwest of Prescott. That same year the town named after him experienced an Apache Raid that resulted in the loss of 29 horses and mules. In this bucolic, beautiful spot there are huge ranches with horses grazing and rustic fences lining pastures. A treat for the senses.

Yarnell

Situated at the base of the Bradshaw Mountains, Yarnell is a small enclave before the ascendance to Prescott. The Yarnell Hill wildfire was ignited by dry lightning on June 28, 2013. On June 30, it overran and killed 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots.



Lynx Lake Reservoir

Lynx Lake is a 55 acre reservoir located within Prescott National Forest, approximately 5 miles east of Prescott in the Bradshaw Mountains. The lake is located at 5,530 feet elevation and is stocked for fishing. It is one of the most popular recreation areas in central Arizona. Visitors enjoy the cool ponderosa pine forest, trout fishing, boating, mountain hiking, horseback riding, and archaeological sites.

Seniors for Biden

The National Education Association has Recommended Joe Biden for President.

We Invite you to join Seniors for Biden to make sure that the outcomes of the upcoming November election will benefit older Americans, their families, and the nation.

Older Americans built this country and deserve to live in retirement with dignity and independence.

Our Goals - Elect Joe Biden the next President of the United States.

Our Seniors Platform - Increase Social Security Benefits for All Beneficiaries - Meaningfully Increase The Minimum Social Security Benefit - Increase Social Security Benefits For Long Duration Beneficiaries - Empower Medicare To Negotiate Prescription Drug Prices - Cap Out Of Pocket Drug Costs For Seniors - Find Policies To Expand Medicare To Cover Dental, Vision and Hearing - Eliminate Waiting Lists For Home and Community Based Care - Improve Nursing Home Quality and Staffing - Guarantee Seniors Can Get COVID Testing and Vaccines At No Cost To Them

Seniors for Biden will promote policies through social media, letters to the editor, virtual town hall meetings, events, and one-on-one outreach. Your involvement in any of these activities will be critical to our success.

To join Seniors for Biden, text SENIOR to 30330 or go to <https://go.ioebiden.com/page/s/coalitions> and check "senior"!

We look forward to your participation!

Janie Hydrick, President, AEA-Retired
Steve Regenstreif, Chair, Seniors for Biden

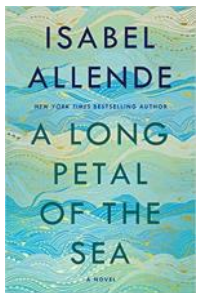


The Book Corner

Good Summer Reads



So many books, so little time. This list doesn't include beach books because almost all of us can't get to the beach. Here are three suggestions, new books to peruse. Isabel Allende's, *The Long Petal of the Sea*, *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo and the *New York Times Explorer*, *100 Trips Around the World*.



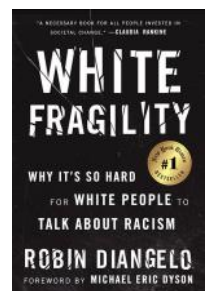
Long Petal of the Sea, Allende's epic novel spanning decades and crossing continents, follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War in search of a place to call home.

In Spain of the late 1930s, Roser, a pregnant young widow, and Victor Dalmau, an army doctor unite in a marriage neither of them desires and board a ship bound for Chile. They embrace exile on a new continent, but their trials are just beginning. But they will also find joy as they patiently await the day when they will be exiles no more. Through it all, their hope of returning to Spain keeps them going. Roser and Victor will find that home might have been closer than they thought all along. Excerpted from the **New York Times Review**.

White Fragility is not a frivolous read, but an exploration of counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions which function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue.

Continued on page 11



A Note from Sarah Borgman, NEA-R President

School bells are ringing somewhere, somehow, for some staff and students. Such an unknown, and it strikes close to home. My grandson is a middle school language arts teacher and his son starts first grade. I can only imagine. How do you manage? How does any working parent manage this situation? I feel for the teachers and staff; how would I feel (even if younger) about entering an unsafe and unknown environment to teach. I'm not about to judge and take sides. Lily sent a copy of a recent survey of our members...pretty well divided on the average on face to face or electronic learning except for some groups where COVID is more prevalent. It's a difficult situation all the way around. We do know our kids would be fed and in an environment free of abuse, but it seems it's a trade-off that is not a win-win. As you move about your community, with family and friends, do not involve yourself in the debate. Just try to help in whatever way you can and pray for the best which surely includes a vaccine and promise of the end of this pandemic. Stay safe yourself and keep your family and loved ones safe.

Political Action Fundraising at NEA-Retired

Many, many thanks to every AEA-R member who contributed to the NEA-Retired political action fundraising. The NEA-Retired silent auction for NEA Fund nearly reached \$20,000. That's about \$5,000 more than last year's face-to-face meeting! Kilos of kudos to those who donated and especially to AEA-R's very own Julie Horwin, whose organizational and auction skills blew the top off of expectations.



VIP Update By Larry Wittig

When the heat arrived in Arizona and the control of COVID-19 began to break down, the Wittig's packed their motorhome and headed for the high country of New Mexico and Colorado, both of which had much more stringent controls in place than did Arizona. We were both impressed by New Mexico, where it was rare to see a person in public without a mask. This report was typed from our campsite at Chatfield State Park near Littleton, a southwestern suburb of Denver.



Allow me to introduce the new Head Organizer for VIP, Jason Lowry. He did some of his early training in the Phoenix Area years ago. He, like our previous organizers, speaks both English and Spanish.

Immediately upon his arrival, he was thrust into the middle of the Invest in Education Initiative which was being ably directed by VIP Leaders like Monica Dorcey, Martha Seaman and Monica Beikman. With the onset of the coronavirus, VIP restructured via Zoom, to again be a major player in support of Arizona's public schools. We obtained thousands of petition signatures as was done during the previous campaign. The same was done across the state by other members of the Arizona Interfaith Network which helped contribute to the resounding success of the 2020 campaign.

It is now obvious that the Arizona Chambers of Commerce will again be spending huge sums of money, as they did in the last campaign, to defeat what a majority of Arizona's citizens want to see, the proper funding of our public schools. We must all fight for our schools by contributing money toward the defense of the Invest in Education Initiative.

Note: Upon our arrival in Littleton, Colorado, we decided to be tested for the virus, even though we were not symptomatic. No appointment was necessary and we received the nose swab after a short wait in an Urgent Care facility. The next day we were called to let us know we were clear of the virus. No long lines of cars. This is how it is supposed to work. Incidentally, both New Mexico and Colorado have Democratic Governors. During the last few weeks, as Colorado begins to slowly open up, there has been a small uptick in cases. This morning there was a public service alert on our cell phones which read: "A statewide mandatory mask order is now in effect for Colorado." This is how a state government is supposed to work.



On The Road Again. . .

Lela Alston, an Amazing Retiree

By Bart James



Meet Lela Alston.

She is an Arizona native and product of public schools. Currently, she is the state senator representing District 24. She has represented central Phoenix for a total of 28 years. She is also a sitting member of

the Phoenix Union High School District School Board. She is also a member of AEA-Retired.

Lela graduated with a Bachelors from the U of A and a Masters from ASU. For 34 years she taught Family and Consumer Sciences at West, Maryvale, Alhambra, Metro Tech, and Bostrom High Schools in the Phoenix Union High School District. She served many years as a representative for the PUHSD Classroom Teachers Association. In addition to teaching, in 1977 she began her first term in the state legislature.

Ms. Alston is a well respected advocate of public schools. She was instrumental in the planning of the ASU West Campus and spearheaded the efforts to establish Metro Tech High School's licensed primary care facility in partnership with Banner Health Care, which provided free healthcare to students and their families.

Lela also champions issues involving women's health and reproductive rights, aging Arizonans and the homeless community.

Her legislative career has brought her a wide range of experience as a member of several influential committees including Appropriations, Education, and Rules, among others.

She has received numerous awards, most recently the 2019 National Association of Social Workers Arizona Chapter's Public Elected Official of the Year and the 2018 Golden Apple Award from the Sun City Chapter of National Organization for Women.

Senator Alston is the proud mother of two and grandmother of six exceptional children—just ask her sometime.

As if this were not enough, she is the proud owner of a Normandy-style home in one of Phoenix's historic neighborhoods which keeps her busy in her spare time.



Save the Date M.O.R.E. Social Mixer

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 7, from 1:00 until 3:30 PM, and save the date for a fun, informative afternoon of spending time with new friends and familiar colleagues. AEA-Retired's M.O.R.E. Committee (Mobilize Organize Recruit & Engage) will present a Zoom gathering for AEA-Retired and NEA Retired members featuring special guests, important information, fun socializing, and plenty of giveaways. Watch for future emails for more information and the opportunity to register to attend, or call **Linda Somo** at **480-293-4291**.

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!

**BEWARE:
COVID-19 SCAMS
ARE OUT THERE**



Chase Brexton Health Care
HIV • Hepatitis • STD • TB • Cancer

chasebrexton.org/21dayhealthy

Nichols and Cents

By Jan Nichols

Scammers Can't Get Enough

Here we are holed up in our homes without a great deal of human contact, perhaps getting somewhat depressed and a bit anxious. The telephone rings. The urge to connect is almost too powerful, hungry for human interaction. "O.K. I know it's probably a solicitor, but what the heck, how bad can it be? It might be someone I haven't talked to in a long time," you say to yourself. "Hello. . . Yes. . . This is she. . ."

Warning! It can be really bad!

This summer, with Covid-19 pandemic in full swing, scammers have been scheming big time to dupe people out of their money, knowing there is fear, apprehension and yearning for normalcy. Scammers have new tricks, usually paired with a sense of urgency. Boomers and older folk have a built in honesty factor—preyed upon by these creeps. Here are a few of the newest ploys.

According to the Arizona Republic, **Sonora Quest Laboratories** is alerting its patients that scammers are calling people pretending to be company representatives with their COVID-19 test results in order to gain personal information to illicit monies for additional services. Sonora Quest does not bill patients for COVID-19 tests ordered by a physician. Here are a few tips to spot a scammer:

- Most companies will never ask for a Social Security number over the phone. Even if they do, you don't have to tell them
- Most companies will not contact you to pay over the phone
- Ask the person calling to verify the number calling you, then call back to verify it is a reputable company
- If you didn't order a test, hang up immediately

Tech Support scams are rampant also. Consumers report being on a computer, then all of a sudden an alert pops up on the screen, along with a siren or some hideous sound. The alert says the computer is infected with malware and a serious virus. A telephone number, usually looking like a reputable tech company appears it is not. Turn off the computer, let it rest and reboot.

Diet Programs are prevalent. USA Today reports a man enrolled in a diet program and signed up for auto delivery. After a month, he wanted to cancel and found the company unresponsive to his wishes. Sometimes these online programs just take the money and further contact with them is impossible.

Sweepstakes Fraud happens yearly. Con artists call people announcing they have won millions in the

Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. At that point, the intended victim is told money can be saved by paying taxes and fees up front to a collector who will then electronically send the check to their bank account.

Mom's (or fill in a relative here) in trouble scheme. A call from the Police Department is believable because it actually says the name of the police station or the name of a real policeman. With urgency, the policeman threatens time is urgent and a payment or personal information is needed or Mom will have to go to jail for not showing up for jury duty or answering a warrant. No court official will ever demand payment or personal information over the phone.

Social Security Scams. Individuals posing as benefit investigators pretend there is a problem with your Social Security account. Sometimes they will tell you that your account has been suspended until it is resolved and give a fake number to address the problem. These scams can be reported directly to Social Security Administration.

Charity Scams take advantage of the latest tragedies or disasters, usually sounding very much like a real charity organization. These swindlers try to target the well-meaning, generosity of most Americans.

What can you do? Where do you report these crimes?

1. Collect all pertinent information like email addresses, phone numbers, names, receipts, if you've lost money.
2. Start by contacting the state Consumer Protection Division, Attorney General or the local police.
3. If your information was stolen, such as Social Security, credit cards or bank numbers, go to [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.fbi.gov/identitytheft). Notify your bank, credit union and/or card companies.
4. Place a fraud alert on your credit report. Fraud alerts are free and the service will track any suspicious activity in your name.

**Information from Arizona Republic,
USA Today and USAGov**



REMEMBERING JOHN CAMPBELL

By JULIE HORWIN

John Campbell, 78, of Glendale, Arizona, passed away peacefully on June 18, 2020. John was a lifelong Arizonan. He taught at South Mountain and Alhambra High Schools. He retired from teaching in the Phoenix Union High School District in 1996.

While an active teacher, John served as the president of the Phoenix Union Classroom Teachers Association. He also served as the third president of the Arizona Education Association-Retired. He served on the National Education Board as a Retired representative. He was a positive leader whose humor and straight talk along with his unique deep voice grew the membership of both associations into the strong unions they have continued to be today. Many of the members he mentored went on to become leaders in



local, statewide and nation associations.

John enjoyed retirement and was particularly proud of his role as a “cuddler” at the Banner NICU. He spent many hours each week with giving quality cuddling care to babies experiencing trauma.

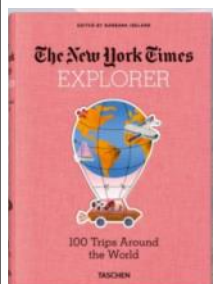
John was preceded in death by his wife Kathy, and his parents, Virgil and Beverly. He is survived by his sons, Christopher Michael Campbell, his wife Sue and their children Maddie and Hugh; Kevin Patrick Campbell, his wife Mary and children Colin, Keira, and Sean; his

sister Sharon Carlson, her husband Arnold and their children Eric and Melissa; sister-in-law Pam Colantro and her children Stacy Zinman and Frank Colantro.

John's sons ask that no cards be sent, but that that condolences and hugs may be expressed at www.whitneymurphyfuneralhome.com.

Continued from page 7

DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively. Excerpted from the **New York Times Book Review**.



Someday we will all be released from our shelters and the world will await us. *The New York Times Explores 100 Trips Around the World* is good preparation. Imagination and yearning will dominate this reading. A bit pricey coffee table book, but a reference for many years.

A culinary adventure in vibrant Mexico City, an historic and meditative train ride through Siberia, or a solo trip to Paris, update your bucket lists and share in the discoveries of Explorer, a collection of 100 dream destinations—four volumes' worth of adventures in one—from the Travel pages of The New York Times.



The Conduit



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345 E. Palm Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-574-1473
azedretired.com
aea.retired@arizonaaea.org

Janie Hydrick President
Anna Cicero Vice President
Janice Dwosh Secretary
Howard Johnson Treasurer
Julie Horwin Past President

The Conduit Editors
Jan Nichols and Bart James

AEA-Retired Chapter News

Chapters bring AEA-Retired together, although for the present time, virtually. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live. 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— This year our meetings will be held on Zoom. You will receive an invitation to join us a couple weeks before our meeting dates: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 10 am, December 3, 2020 at 10am, February 4, 2021 at 10am, and April 1, 2021 at 10am. For more information call, text or email **Susie Sommer** at **623-628-1935, ssommer114@aol.com**.

Mesa/East Valley Chapter: We are scheduling all of our chapter meetings on Zoom. Please add the following dates and times to your calendars: **8/19, 10/14, 12/16, 2/17, and 4/21** each will be from noon to 1pm. 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. 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.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: Meetings are held the third Tues. of Sept.—May, at 10:00 a.m. On July 21st, the Tucson Area Chapter had our third meeting by Zoom. Our discussion focused on suggestions for new activities that Chapters might consider to help members during the Covid-19 crisis. Our speaker for the July 21st meeting was AEA President Joe Thomas. We wanted to know more about the success of the petition drive, and what handicaps we will be facing until election day. Our discussion will certainly focus on what we will need to do to have success at the ballot box. The issue in August will be about the return of students to school with TEA President Margaret Chaney as our speaker. Please contact **Marion Pickens** at **520-296-5908 or marionpeterpickens@gmail.com** to receive the Zoom meeting links.

Phoenix Chapter: Meetings are scheduled on Zoom for the following dates: 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 1/19, and 3/16 each from 10:30 to noon. 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 will be holding all Zoom meetings this year. We will help get you started on Zoom if you haven't used it before. Our meetings will be held on the **third Monday** of each month at 1:00, September through April (excluding December). We will have a **practice meeting on August 21** at 1:00 with more information to come. If you're not on our mailing list, please contact either Nancy Riley 480-600-8559 or **rileyfam@cox.net**, or Ann Myers 480-510-8098, **azann@mac.com**.

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—our only method of communication during the pandemic period. Contact Chapter Chair Sally Rosén at **520-249-0233, azcatsally@aol.com** for details.

Flagstaff Chapter: For more information, contact **Tricia Roach** at **928-525-1997, trrteach6@mac.com**

Kyrene Chapter: We are scheduling all of our chapter meetings on Zoom. Please add the following dates and times to your calendars: **9/16, 11/17, 1/19, 3/16, and 5/18** from 4:30 to 5:30pm. 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. 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.

Yavapai Chapter: The chapter is seeking a new chairperson. For information contact **Rob Johan** at **630-430-8902, or johanica31@gmail.com**.

Northern Arizona Chapter: This new chapter is co-chaired by Danny Barlow and Lenny Reed. The following Wednesdays have been scheduled for Zoom meetings at 10am: 9/16, 11/18, 1/13 and 5/19. For links and for more information please contact Danny Barlow at **dsjbarlow@yahoo.com** or 928-245-2341.