AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2008 Time: 10:00 AM

Location: AEA Headquarters Board Room 345 East Palm Ln., Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Attendance: Pres. L. Somo, V.P. F. Bing, Treasurer J. Stephenson, Sec. J. Horwin, Past Pres. K.Campbell, AEA Liaison, Mike Aicone, Board members: A. Aber, H. Arnold, S. Austin, A. Craig-Wooten, K. Freed, G. Mehok, C. Michaels, J. Moy, M. Pickens, S. Ramos, D. Swinford, L. Thieken, J. Zuniga, Emeritus J. Campbell Committee/Chapter Chairs/Members B. Bloom, S. Boswell, F. Sacco, S. Sommer, R. Spitzer, M. Villiborghi, C. Wittig, S. Rosen.

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order	Pres. Somo called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. She thanked those who brought holiday baked goods to share, and welcomed the guests and members who came to share the holiday lunch and gift exchange.
2. Agenda	Moved by K. Freed/2nd J. Horwin to approve the agenda with flexibility. PASSED
3. Previous Minutes	Moved by J.Horwin/2nd G. Mehok to approve the minutes of Nov. 6, 2008. PASSED
4. Financials	Treasurer Jean Stephenson facilitated a discussion of the year-to-date budget, the current balances for line items, and the grant budgets. a. Balance Sheet as of November 24, 2008 b. Profit & Loss vs Actual May, 2008 – April, 2008 c. AZ Impact Grant Budgets
5. Old Business	Summer Retreat Planning: Input from Nov. Pres. Somo summarized the responses from Nov. meeting, and asked for any other input. She led a discussion regarding membership outreach.
a. Standing Committee Chair Reports b. Membership	Membership chair Daina Swinford shared the current membership status (1886 members) of the organization and noted that there are now more dues deduct members. All non-renewals have been contacted. Only 47 non-renewals. A meeting in January will focus on how to retain members who retire in December. NEA-Ret. Members who live in our state, but retired from another state count on our rolls, so we may have 3 delegates to NEA-RA.
c. ASRS	Steve Ramos reported on the recent ASRS Board meetings and discussions with Director Paul Mattson regarding the proposed legislation and Plan changes. AEA Vice President explained the AEA background on both issues. Richard Spitzer reported on the recent NEA Retirement Benefits Forum in Washington, DC that he and Steve Ramos attended. Lily Eskelsen, NEA Vice President gave an informative key-note address regarding Social Security and Medicare. Look for the summary in the board packet attached.
d. Legislative e. Public Relations	Julie Horwin reported on the AEA Government Relations and Legislative Task Force convened in November. Please see the attached report for the AEA Legislative Agenda which was created at that meeting and approved by the AEA Board of Directors at their November meeting. Information included "On the Horizon" for AZ Leg., 2009 by Jennifer Daily, AEA Lobbyist, the committee chairs and members for the State Senate and State House. Julie urged chapter leaders to send out AEA-Ret. Board Packets to local chapter members. She also asked that we remember that AEA is not a Democratic or Republican organization, rather an organization dedicated to creating the best public school system for AZ students, and to protect public school retirement. We will need to be active this year, and hang together with our active association members.
f. Presentations	Suzan Austin and Frank Bing reported that the *Conduit* has been sent. Next issue will be edited in February. Please send articles to Suzan and Frank in early February. A call for pictures of any activities, members continues. This issue contains the nomination forms for AEA-Retired Executive board Vice President, and 2 board positions. It also included nomination form for the AEA Delegate Assembly representative. Deadline for both nomination forms is March. Frank Bing reported that he has a request to go to Chinle to do a pre-retirement seminar. A TEF presentation is being developed.

6. Grant Committee	TEF - Tax structures, Economic development policies, and Funding for schools – Linda SomoPres. Somo reported that she and Frank Bing are working with the AEA TEF group. They helped to present the concept at AEA Connections Conference on Nov. 15. Linda Somo submitted a proposal to present it at the AZ School Counselors' Association Annual Conference in March. The grant money has come in. $5,000.00
7. Coalition	John Campbell reported on Pres. Elect Obama's views and record on Senior Issues, and the Rising Cost of Drugs for Seniors.
8. Officer Reports g.AEA Liaison h.AEA B.O.D. Minutes i. Past-Pres. j. President – Linda Somo	Mike Aicone reported that the AEA Finance & Review Committee will meet Dec. 16. Discussion there will include the following: Continuing Membership; Dues Structure (Allocations to AEA-Ret.). Of other interest, Mike reported that AEA will purchase a building in Flagstaff. He passed out an NEA-Member Benefits Booklet which is available for all Chapters. They are available in the AEA-Ret. Office. Pres. Somo reported that 2009 AEA Legislative Agenda approved. A new manager will be hired by May of 2009. There may be an Active Members dues increase. Also looking into "$12 Every Member Option" for Foundation for Teaching & Learning, Ed. Improvement Fund and AZ PAC. (AEA-Ret. Would be $6) and an Associate Membership - amendment to AEA Constitution. AEA-R has been given approval for a Silent Auction to be held on Jan. 15 Committee Day to benefit AZ IMPACT mentoring program. Please email Julie Horwin with descriptions of any donations. jhorwin@mindspring.com. Kathy Campbell reported that she has been selected as a committee member for NEA No Child Left Behind. Nominations for the Les Reynolds Award are due on January 9, 2009. Pres. Somo reported who will be attending the March 31-32 Western Regional Conference for NEA-Retired from AEA-Retired. She urged members to call U.S. Senators about Worker Retirement & Employee Recovery Act, 2008.
9. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM. It was followed by a catered lunch and holiday gift exchange facilitated by Ken Freed. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Horwin, AEA-Retired Secretary