

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting  
Minutes of November 1, 2016

1. Call to Order at 10:06 by President Horwin

Board members in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steven Ramos, Sally Rosen, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga. Chapter Chairs; Rob Johan, Michelle Smith, Ellie Feldner, Marilyn Calhoun, Nancy Riley. Members; Aurora Aber, Shirley Boswell, John Campbell, Kathy Campbell, Jan Nichols, Melanie Hobden, Christine Ehlis. Staff; Margaret Sleeper.

2. Approval of Agenda, with flexibility (Ramage-White/Austin)

**Approved**

3. Approval of the minutes of April, 2016 (M. Freed/Zuniga)

**Approved**

4. Membership Processing Chair Boswell shared the most recent membership data. Currently we have 2201 members with 1625 using dues deduct. We have 61 new members this year. (See printed report for more information.)

5. Membership Outreach chairs, Putman/Smith, reviewed the Membership Plan for the next 5 years that was presented last month and added several suggestions. These included; when volunteering in a school bring a treat from AEA-Retired, person tables at local association events, promote AEA-Retired through social media, and attend and promote AEA-Retired at retirement celebrations.

6. New Business Items  
None

7. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets           \$71,082

Liabilities       \$19,811

Equity            \$61,270

(See written report for more information.)

Shared information about the detail. Linder also included detail relative to the spending of the M.O.R.E. Grant as grants are never in the budget.

Move acceptance and file for audit.       (Zuniga/K. Freed)

**Passed**

8. Officers' Reports

**President Horwin**-Met with NEA-Retired budget committee, President Eskelsen-Garcia and Moss to request more funding for state grants and additional staff assigned to Retired to help in future strategizing.

Horwin shared that she would be training national state retired liaisons in February on Values messaging and doing 1 workshop at the NEA-Retired Membership Organizing Conference.

AEA-Retired, in concert with AEA, will receive \$41,000 for the New Educator Project, which will begin training the week of Dec. 5. A team will meet with Crenshaw (NEA) and Malarz (trainer) on Nov. 16, with applications sent out shortly thereafter. The goal of the grant is to recruit members.

President Horwin shared that she sent out a survey on volunteerism on any candidate or issue campaign during the 2016 Elections to all NEA-Retired members in Arizona.

She will be doing strategic planning training in all Maricopa County Community colleges for Social Justice Clubs in Jan. and Feb. This will include Future Educator clubs.

Horwin has discovered that AEA-Retired has never filed Articles of Incorporation papers with the Arizona Corporation Commission. She has developed the appropriate papers and will be filing them so that AEA-Retired will be a legal, non-profit organization.

**Vice-President Austin**-Thanked the Board for assisting with the M.O.R.E events and presented a written report on the recent M.O.R.E activities.

Austin thanked M. Freed for assisting in setting up the Boardroom and getting food on the tables prior to the Board meetings, and asked others to assist as well.

(See written report for additional information.)

**Liaison Sleeper**-Reported that Stephanie Parra has been hired as the AEA lobbyist. Parra had been an O.C. as well as having been a local leader. Sleeper shared that Sleeper will be liaising Board Policy, FRC and member benefits. She indicated that the audit is completed and all is within normal standards. The virtual network is almost in and a new phone system is coming.

**AEA Director (Austin)**-A written report for our Nov. 1 meeting was provided by Barlow. In his absence Vice-President Austin shared the report as well as AEA Board meeting minutes of the Sept. 20 and 24 and the agenda of the October 21-22 Board Meeting.

(See written report for additional information.)

**Fundraising Chair M. Freed**-Indicated that the quilt raffle raised twice as much money last year as compared to the previous year. This was due primarily to the activity of the AEA-Retired Board in selling tickets, buying tickets, and hosting the table. Special thanks to Zuniga for assisting at each of the caucuses. She shared that Putman has arranged for a Dr. Seuss quilt and asked the Board to think about if we wanted to give away some smaller items during the DA.

**Conduit Editor Nichols**-Asked that articles of about 400 words be sent to her by Nov. 14 for the Dec. edition.

**Secretary K. Freed**-Reported on the AEA-Retired elections that will be conducted in May. The President and Treasurer are each eligible to seek a second term in their current positions. Completing their At-large second terms this year are Ramage-White and Rosen. They are not eligible to run at again at this time. At-large directors Bufford, M. Freed, Messing and Stephenson will be completing their first term and may choose to run for a second term.

9. ASRS

Ramos reviewed his written report which included information about a member who retired from PUHSD on an Early Retirement Program and that the District has informed her that they will be paying for the lowest health insurance option rather than the plan that the member has been utilizing.

He also shared that the contribution rate will remain flat and that ASRS is considering lowering the discount rate.

(See the written report for additional information.)

10. Political Action

Co-chair Matteson reviewed the written report which outlined the committee's goals and indicated how they intend to accomplish said goals for 2016-2017. She shared that the committee will be requesting additional funds to be able to fully implement. The Board was asked to share any suggestions that they have after looked at the report.

11. Chapter Chair Reports

**West Valley/Glendale (Sommer)**-The **next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 1** at Ironworks Restaurant, 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Bell Rd. All members are invited to bring a friend for a discussion of forming an additional chapter.

**East Valley (K. Freed)**-At the most recent meeting, there was a presentation about the ballot propositions. **Next meeting is Nov. 9** at 63 East Main Street, Mesa. A presentation by Emily Chung of A New Pathway for Youth will be the focus of the meeting.

**Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (N. Riley)**-At the most recent meeting, magazines were collected as well as money for the Kinnaman Fund. The **next meeting will be on November 21st.**

**Kyrene/Tempe/Chandler (Feldner)**-Mitzi Epstein, candidate for the AZ House of Representatives, was the September speaker. After she spoke, it became a question and answer discussion. **Next meeting is Nov. 16** at the Pyle Center (Southern and Rural) in Tempe with the speaker being Jan Nichols to "mop up" the elections. Snacks and water will be provided.

**Tucson (Calhoun)**-The October 25<sup>th</sup> speaker was Jason Freed, TEA President. The main topic was the contentious TUSD school board election. The PAC plan was presented to the group. **Next meeting is Nov. 15** with President Thomas as the speaker at the AEA Southern Region Office

**Phoenix (Smith)**-The Phoenix chapter met at Beatitudes at 1610 W. Glendale on September 20. They will not have a speaker at the **next meeting on November 15** when they will discuss the election results.

**Southern Arizona (Rosen)**-They will be **meeting in early November.**

**Yavapai (Johan)**-The chair is leaning towards moving the chapter more towards the social aspect of the organization.

**Flagstaff (K. Freed)**-The chapter meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month with the **next meeting on Dec.6**. At the November meeting they discussed the state of ASRS, possible threats to our pensions, mentoring NAU students, the Flagstaff USD Governing Board election, and upcoming political action training being offered by the AEA-Retired team.

12. Alliances and Coalitions

A. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans- Still looking for phone-callers to help with the Elections this month.

B. Arizona Interfaith Network-L. Wittig shared the report of political activity done by AIN. A lot of their success is derived from asking yes or no questions and not permitting the answers to be politically correct. As a result, some candidates stay away from their events.

13. Half-back Raffle of \$27 was won by Linder.

14. Adjournment at 1:37. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, with a gift exchange for the holidays.

**\*\*Notes \*\***

Lunch was a working lunch after a 10 minute break.

Many **THANKS** to Susie, Janie, Nancy, Ellie, Marilyn, and Tricia for submitting their chapter chair reports in advance.

After adjournment, Political Action and the Documents met.