



AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting minutes Tuesday December 14, 2021

Held at AEA Headquarters – 345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix

Attendees: Anna Cicero, Ken Freed, Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Marilyn Calhoun, Jeanne Erickson, Marilyn Freed, Julie Horwin, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Marshall Militano, Nancy Putman, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Sandra Warns, Carmen Peters, Suzan Austin, Peter Coston, Ellie Feldner, Ellie Perez-Pawlowski

Absences excused: **Julie Cozad, Steve Ramos, Shirley Boswell, Michele Smith, Sally Rosen, Nancy Riley, Ellen Shamah**

1. Call to Order: President Anna Cicero (Welcome and introductions)

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Anna welcomed the board and visitors to the meeting. Anna made the land acknowledgement for our native people in AZ. **Guest:** Frank Ratey (Tucson), Marisol Garcia

Anna thanked Julie Horwin for her dedication and her recent Les Reynolds Senior Service award.

2. Approval of Agenda for Tuesday December 14, 2021 **Janice Dwosh** motion by Julie Horwin, seconded by Luci Messing. Motion for agenda was approved with flexibility.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 2021 – **Janice Dwosh**. motion by Gary Mehok, seconded by Marilyn Freed. Minutes from the November 2021 executive board meeting stand as approved.

4. Financials – **Steven Linder** Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Ken Freed seconded by Nancy Putman. Motion was accepted for financials as submitted and ready for audit. See email attachments for details of the financials. December expenses will include lobby training, The Conduit, meeting expenses., etc.

5. Officers' Reports

Anna Cicero President: Anna reviewed her monthly report today, and asked members to stay involved as leaders of the organization and run again for the AEA-Retired exec board and the offices that will be open this spring. She gave her well wishes for everyone for the upcoming year! Please let Anna know if you are interested in attending the NEA Leadership Summit or NEA Retired Organizing Conference. Application for the Leadership Summit will be going out soon for interested board members/chapter chairs.

Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative: AEA Board meeting last Friday and Saturday – our PAC funds are down for AEA-Retired, so we need to continue to fundraise for the AEA PAC. We haven't sent out letters for fundraising for the past few years. Only 105 of our 2100 members donated last year. We need to possibly send our newsletter (The Conduit) out to get the members to donate more funds to the PAC. Let Ken know if you are interested in meeting on this issue.

Janice Dwosh- Secretary -- Janice recently attended the L4JS Critical Race Theory (CRT) Honesty in Education training on Zoom. She will be available to share this presentation as soon as it is forwarded from NEA leadership. Janice has been involved and facilitated the latest AEA-Retired Racial Equity and Social Justice book club discussion on The Nickel Boys held in November. She is also on the AEA Racial equity and social justice task force, reviewing language in AEA resolutions and planning PD for AEA members.

Again, please reply to monthly emails re: board meeting attendance and documents in a timely manner. Thanks!

Marisol Garcia - AEA Vice President- glad to see AEA-Retired actively supporting the active members. Be ready to participate in the upcoming legislative session. It's important to be a part of the movement. Stay informed and involved.

Julie Horwin -- Past President /NEA Director -NEA Directors report presented. NEA Leadership Summit location will be in Las Vegas, NV (March 11-13th). Julie and Luci will be presenting there. NEA-Retiring organizing conference will be capped at 200 for the country (tentative location in Baltimore). Stay tuned for more information on these conferences in the next month. NEA online auction will happen at that time.

Ellie Perez-Pawlowski (AEA Liaison)-- Ellie introduced Brendan Foland (new govt. relations director) was House Democratic Legislative staff support prior to joining AEA last week. Presentation to follow from Ellie and Brendan. School board races 2022 -50 locals involved, Independent Redistricting commission in process, elect Democratic governor, AZ primary Aug. 2nd this year, work on school board elections.

Possible Hot topics – retaliation against school boards, make school board elections partisan, curriculum mandates, expenditure cuts to schools , funding cuts (transportation), investigate school boards – withhold classroom site funds possible legislative interests , attacks on the pension system, attack on groups that support LGBT and BIPOC groups in schools.

New Business:

6. NBI #1— It is moved that AEA-Retired creates a team to explore ideas on possible expense increases for hotel and travel , single rooms at all future events, which includes the NEA Summit, NEA-Retired Conference, AEA-Retired Annual Meeting/AEA Delegate Assembly. Per Steve Linder’s friendly amendment, approved by the motion maker, the committee will also study increased costs for hotel and other expenses during executive board meetings and other upcoming events. .

Moved by: Anna Cicero

Seconded by: Marilyn Freed

Approved by: the exec board.

Committee volunteers : Anna Cicero , Steve Linder, Norma Jimenez. , Julie Horwin , Linda Somo , Ken Freed, Janice Dwosh

NBI #2 – It is moved that AEA-Retired Treasurer, Steven Linder and AEA-Retired Vice President, Kenneth Freed be added as the two additional Key Executives to have full responsibility and authorization to AEA-Retired accounts with Wells Fargo Bank.

Moved by: Ken Freed

Seconded by: Gary Mehok

Approved by: the exec board unanimously

7. Committee reports:

Membership -- Shirley B. (absent this month) Nancy P. - Membership report: 2127 members (same as last month’s report), 74 Emeritus members (over 90 years old) - no longer having to pay dues if paid NEA lifetime dues. Plan to encourage members who pay by check to switch to EFT or payroll deduction with ASRS. Business cards are being printed and name tags should be done next month.

Membership outreach -- Nancy P. and Michele S.-- Suzan Austin gave goodies to the Phoenix Union District for National education week (she hosted a bagel breakfast) . Barbara Matteson and Luci Messing gave goodies to three schools in Tucson and visited with the staff for National Education week. Susie Sommer gave treats to her former school . Marilyn Calhoun took in snacks to Marana school. Marshall adopted a school in Deer Valley and delivered breakfast that same week. Check with Marshall to order new AEA-Retired polo shirts ASAP.

Political Action - Luci M. - Advocacy days were held in Phoenix and Tucson last week. Thanks to Ann Myers, Michele Smith , and Steve in Phoenix , as well as Barbara Matteson, Ken & Marilyn Freed and Marilyn Calhoun in Tucson for their help with setting up the advocacy training meetings. . Next up is Jan. 10 Opening Day for the Legislature.

AEA-Retired Lobby days -Jan. 26 and Feb. 22nd. Signups will be going out soon.

Communications Committee -- Thanks to Maria, Julie H., etc for their support of communications and media/website. more to come from the Communications committee in the Spring.

Feb. 25th deadline for the next Conduit, May 7th deadline for the following Conduit. -

Special committees/Ad Hoc -

Fundraising-- Marilyn Freed - quilt is almost done for this coming AEA-DA. We will try electronic ticket sales this year for the quilt.

ARSC (AZ Retirement Security Coalition) - Steve Ramos -- not attending this month's meeting

ASRS--Liaison Steve Ramos-- not attending this month's meeting

MORE -- Linda Somo -- committee met via Zoom on Dec. 1st. Committee is planning an in-person MORE gathering on April 6th, 2022 in Phoenix. They looked for a larger venue for this meeting, Linda has recently booked the IBEW union hall in Phoenix. No restrictions on attendance. Purpose is for social and other engagement (political) from our NEA and AEA members in AZ. Hope for special guest speakers, legislative updates, redistricting info, water crisis and other topics may be covered.

Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez -- planned to be in person on May 6-7th 2022 (unless plans are changed by AEA)

Awards-- Nancy Putman -- nominations for the Les Reynolds Senior Service award due by February 9th, form has been sent to Jan/Bart for the Conduit.

Budget committee -- Steve Linder -- meeting in January (TBD) all other committees need to put their budgets together by January. (Zoom or in person meeting for Budget committee) Membership and political action committees send in their proposed budgets prior to the Jan. meeting. Meeting will be Jan. 19th for the Budget Committee (11 am -2 p.m.)

Documents -- Ken Freed- met with the committee for a few changes to the documents. Final decisions on any changes will be made in the upcoming month. Bylaw change for Treasurer to lead the budget committee. Thanks to the Committee for their efforts. All changes need to be approved by the AEA-Retired board at least 45 days before the Annual meeting and sent out in the Conduit to all members.

Audit -- Carmen P.-- committee met on Nov. 2nd. completed the 2019-2020 fiscal year and 2020-21 year audit . Audit reports in this month's packet. All cleared through 2021.

Elections-- Steve L. --

There are many positions open in the next election: AEA Retired Secretary and AEA Director (first terms) as well as six open at large board directors: These terms will be up at the next election:

Nancy Putman , Julie Cozad, Marshall Militano , Barbara Matteson , Ellie Feldner , Norma Jimenez (first terms so they may decide to run again).

Nomination forms need to be submitted by February 11th (by email or to the AEA office) for delegates to the AEA-DA and for our AEA-Retired offices and board members. There will be a link sent out, as well as paper forms available for the nominations.

8. Chapter Chairs --Susie Sommer - meetings on Zoom , assistant is now Sandy Warns and Steve Ramos to help out with Zoom. It was recommended by Suzan Austin that we update the Chapter Chair manual and follow up with all new chapter chairs. Possibly schedule a Zoom to review the manual and put into action in the upcoming months.

West Valley -- S. Sommer, meeting in person. Check with Susie Sommer if interested.

Ellen S.-- Kyrene meeting in person, **Mesa** - meeting on Zoom -- absent this month

Nancy R.- PV/Scottsdale -meeting on Zoom , absent this month.

Danny B.-- Interstate/ N. AZ -- . absent this month.

Peter C. -Southern Tucson area - new chapter chair monthly meetings in person and on Zoom. Annual potluck next week in Tucson in person.

We still need a chapter chair for the Phoenix chapter -- Michele Smith is no longer the chapter chair.

Marilyn Kinnie - Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield, Surprise area wants to start a chapter in that area. (Southwest Valley)

9. Alliances and coalitions :

AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Barbara Matteson - no updates this month.

ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos -- -- not available today.

AIN/VIP Valley interfaith project/ AZ interfaith network -Ken Freed -- Tucson (Frank Ratey) (PCIC)

Pima County Interfaith council –virtual Zoom support public schools, job training, community needs

Kinnaman Raffle - \$50 collected today, \$ 25 went to the winner Julie Horwin, \$ 25 went into the scholarship fund.

10. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero -- Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m. followed by lunch and the annual gift exchange.

11. Upcoming events:

Next AEA-Retired executive board meeting Tues. Jan. 11th

Please wear your masks to be polite to your colleagues! Stay healthy!

Call for agenda Dec. 23rd , reports and documents due Dec. 30th , packet emailed by Jan. 5th

Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary December 23, 2021

