



THE CONDUIT



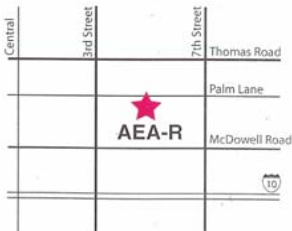
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Elections 2006– A Mixed Bag for Education

- 2** *As we go to press on 11/10, there are still ballots remaining to be counted. This is the best info as of that date. Frank & Suzan*
- 2** **Harry Mitchell, Gabrielle Giffords win to even up AZ House of Representatives delegation at four apiece; education advocates do well at state level**
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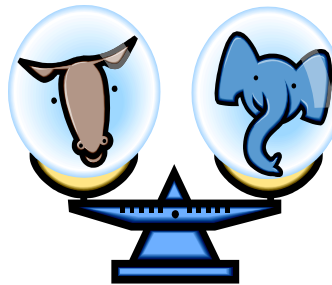
The New Address for
AEA-Retired
345 E. Palm Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85004



On November 7, two Democratic wins in AZ were part of a huge switch in the makeup of the US House of Reps. **Harry Mitchell** stunned J.D. Hayworth in LD 5, while **Gabrielle Giffords** in LD 8 scored a big win over Randy Graf. These changes bode well for seniors in terms of Social Security and Medicare reform, especially in the area of prescription drugs. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is also sure to be revisited and revised. The hard work of association members making phone calls, walking precincts, doing mailings and talking with

friends and neighbors played a very important part in these wins.

At the state level, AEA-endorsed candidates did very well, including two key endorsed Republicans: **Carolyn Allen**, District 8 in Scottsdale, and **Tom O'Halleran**, District 1 in Flagstaff. The makeup of the legislature should now boost the chance to move AEA's legislative agenda.



A big disappointment was the failure of Prop. 106, Conserving Arizona's Future, but hope springs eternal. There are still lots of ballots to be counted!

AEA-Retired Calendar of Events

- December 14 - AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting, AEA Bldg.
- January 12-14 - NEA Western Region Leaders' Conference, Overland Park, KS
- January 27 - AEA Committee Day
- February 13 - AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting
- March 2 - NEA Read Across America Day
- March 7 - AEA Education Day at the Capitol
- March 13 - AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting

Phoenix Union CTA and CEA overturn hostile governing board

Phoenix Union CTA and CEA saw months and months of hard work rewarded on election day as they managed to elect all but one of their endorsed governing board candidates. For the past two years, the Board has been stripping the associations of their Agreements (contracts) on a series of 4-3 votes. With the assistance

of NEA and AEA, the members began planning for this year's elections with the goal of electing a board which could work in a productive fashion with the teachers and support staff. After eliminating two candidates by challenging petition signatures, the two groups put in hundreds of volunteer hours walking and phoning voters. On election day, AEA-Retired volunteers worked alongside active teachers at every polling place to assure

that the association message was clear to voters.

The results prove that teachers and classified staff have an enormous amount of clout with the voters as association-backed candidates will now fill six of the seven slots on the board. With a renewed positive relationship, it is hoped that negotiations will once again be the rule, and not the exception, in Phoenix Union.

AEA-Retired Annual Meeting; mark your calendars NOW

The AEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, April 26, 2006, at the Marriott Mesa Hotel Convention Center. **Ruth V. McGregor**, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, will be the luncheon speaker. She

is the sister of our own **Dennis Van Roekel**. The registration fee is \$20, which includes lunch and materials. The next issue of *The Conduit* will include details and a registration blank. All members of AEA-Retired, not just elected delegates, are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting, so mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 26, 2007**. See you there!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY BOB BLOOM, BARBARA MATTESON AND MARION PICKENS



The people of America have spoken, and they want a change in direction for this country. We now have a chance to take back this country from special interest groups and corporations and return it to the people.

Our retired members in Arizona and around the country helped bring about this support for change. Thanks to all of

you who knocked on doors, made phone calls, dropped literature, wrote checks, and got out the vote. Our endorsed candidates benefited from your efforts.

Just because the election is over does not mean our work is done. We will need to continue to work lobbying our state and national officials for affordable health care, secure retirement, quality education,

energy independence, and a solution to the conflict in Iraq. The successful election of many of our endorsed candidates will help us reach these goals.

Thank you for all your hard work. Your efforts made a difference. Promises were made. We need to make sure they are kept by continuing to dialogue with our elected officials.



James Self 1941-2006

AEA-Retired board member James Self passes away

James Self, who served as a board member-at-large for AEA-Retired, passed away on September 17, 2006. James served in the United States Air Force during the Viet Nam war. He received his Bachelor's degree in mathematics

from Michigan State University and a Master's from the University of Phoenix.

James was passionate about teaching, his chosen profession, and he spent 30 years educating children in the Phoenix Elementary District.

Following retirement, James volunteered for many organizations, including the VA Hospital, the Urban League, the NAACP, and the Red Cross.

AEA-Retired was represented at the funeral services by Bob Bloom and John Campbell.



U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-III) came to Tempe to lend campaign support to Arizona state and national Democratic candidates. AEA-Retired members who attended included Connie Wittig, Marsha McMaway, Suzan Austin, and Steve Ramos.

AEA/MPS win case; incentive money included in retirement calculations

On October 20, 2006, the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) accepted an administrative law judge's decision in favor of the appellants in the case of Mesa Public Schools (MPS)/ Steve Ramos v. ASRS. The case, involving incentive pay and retirement, was brought by



MPS and the AEA. AEA-Retired member **Steve Ramos** agreed to be the appellant in the case and was represented by AEA legal counsel **Susan Sendrow**; MPS was represented by **Tom Pickrell**.

The case arose from an Attorney General's opinion which concluded that Mesa's incentive pay, earned during the academic year but paid in the summer, could not be included in calculating an employee's retirement benefits. That interpretation would have cost Ramos \$11.30 in retirement

benefits every month for the rest of his life, and \$7.53/month in lost benefits for his beneficiary.

The decision directly affects 111 MPS retirees from 2006, but will also apply statewide. Steve

commented, "It's great that AEA was there for me as a member of AEA-Retired. I also want to thank the district; we should all value the relationship MEA has built with the Mesa Public Schools."



AEA-Retired members Frank Bing, Connie Wittig, and John Campbell participated in picketing outside of the Arizona Homebuilders Association HQ in Phoenix in support of Proposition 106.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY CAMPBELL

The election is over, and I thank all of you who worked on behalf of your party or political candidate. AEA-Retired worked on behalf of those people and propositions that were endorsed by AEA. I am proud of all of you and your efforts. Some won, some lost, but we all worked on behalf of the organization. I think we will see a change in the way people, not power, are dealt with in the future. The people are what is important and when you stray from that focus, eventually, you do not win.

As we come to the end of 2006, I want to remind you that your association is busy working on your behalf.

AEA-Retired continues to grow. We have almost 1900 members. We need to continue to find our lost members and get them back into the association, as well as find the new retirees and get them involved. If you know someone who has retired this year or in the past, make sure they have joined AEA-Retired.

We have sent out the second dues renewal form. Get those back as soon as possible so your membership will not lapse.

We are so proud of our active chapters. We are hoping that you will take the initiative and start a chapter in your community. We will help. Currently Glendale, Mesa, Tucson, Phoenix, the White Mountains and Prescott, our latest chapter, are up and running with Paradise Valley/Scottsdale, Sierra Vista, and Yuma waiting to get underway. Your job: attend a chapter meeting in your area or start one. It is easy. Just contact your chapter chair, **Gary Mehok**, for information. The following presentations are available to you and your groups: Preretirement, Social Security/Medicare-Part D, and 5 Wishes. Contact **John Campbell** 602-692-6998 to schedule.

Stay informed on legislative issues by sending your e-mail address to **Barbara Matteson** at matteson@dakotacom.net for current updates. The Coalition of Retired Teacher Associations met in November and will be working hard on your behalf at this year's legislative session. Among the things that they endorsed were the Equity Bill, recertification for retirees who wish to keep their certification current, and Smart Schools legislation.

Our Intergenerational Mentoring Program is

underway again and plans to expand. Consider volunteering to be a mentor to a future teacher.

We are again looking for an outstanding AEA-Retired person for the Les Reynolds' Senior Service Award. If you know a person in our organization that you feel is deserving of this award, please submit the application inserted in this *Conduit*. Remember, it must be filled out completely to be considered by the committee.

Save the date for our 2007 Annual Meeting (April 27, 2006). We have a great program and a special speaker planned for that event.

We strongly suggest you get involved in your retired association by applying to be a delegate to the AEA Delegate Assembly and/or running for an AEA-Retired office.

Finally, I want to personally wish you and your family a very warm and wonderful holiday season.

A Good Reason to Join AEA-Retired



Who: **Daina Swinford**, Chair of the Membership Committee

What: Daina is busy working for us every single week making phone calls, answering questions, and processing membership forms — new, pre-retired, renewals, and honorary. And she is the one most responsible for the creation of an honorary category for members who are 90 or older. Daina can be contacted at 602-696-2458.



Kathy Campbell



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Intergenerational Mentoring begins its second year

A celebration of the Intergenerational Mentoring Program was held on November 13 at the new AEA office. The catered dinner and training session reunited the college students and retirees who participated in the inaugural year of the program.

A kick-off celebration is being scheduled for either late January or early February at ASU. New pairs of students and retirees will be inducted into the program. **Erica Vester**, President of the ASU Student NEA chapter, and **Anna Montalbo**, AEA-Organizational Consultant in charge of the student program, are recruiting students first semester.

NEA notified the committee that the program will again receive a \$5000 grant.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor for a college student who is planning to become a teacher? Contact Paul Grigsby at pkggrigsby@frontiernet.net or 928-535-4353 for information.

The **LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD** is presented to a member of our association in appreciation for outstanding service to our association, public education, and the community.

Please take time to nominate a member you believe meets these criteria. Please be specific in completing the form. You may attach additional information. The committee will not consider partially completed forms.

**LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Nominator's Name _____ Phone _____

Nominee information (attach additional pages, if needed)

1. Number of years as an AEA-Retired member _____
2. Association positions held at the local, state, and national levels

3. Positions held in other professional and/or social organizations

4. Community service

5. List and describe the nominee's involvement in activities that were beneficial to AEA-Retired, education and/or his/her community

6. Other relevant information

Please return this completed form to **Bertha Myers**,
1445 East Monte Vista Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85006, by January 10, 2007.

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602-574-1473
www.aea.retired
@arizonaaea.org

Kathy Campbell President
Linda Somo V. Pres.
Paula Grigsby Secretary
Connie Wittig Treasurer

Suzan Austin Conduit
Frank Bing Co-editors

Chapter News

Chapters are an attempt to bring AEA-Retired closer to members. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter in any location where they worked or currently live. Meetings usually include an information program, business meeting, lunch or dinner, and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. The 2006-2007 Chair of the Chapters Task Force is **Gary Mehok**. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter can contact him at LOJO40@cox.net.

Glendale Chapter: Meetings were held on Sept. 16 and Nov. 9 at the Iron Works, 17233 N. 45th Avenue, (1/4 mile north of Bell Road at the Bellair Golf Course) from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. At the Sept. meeting we discussed candidates and insurance. There were 14 members in attendance. For information about our next meeting, please contact **Becky Bravakos** at 623-939-8751 (beckybravakos@yahoo.com).

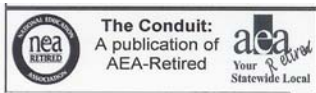
Mesa / East Valley Chapter: On Oct. 11 our first meeting was held on the 8th floor of the Mesa Bank Building, 63 E. Main St. There were 25 members in attendance who discussed election issues. Jan. 10 is the next meeting. For information contact **Phyllis Swan** at (480) 926-2878 or lcswan@cox.net.

Tucson Chapter: A meeting was held at the TEA office from 3:00-4:30 pm on Sept. 25. Gabrielle Giffords, candidate for LD 8, spoke to 22 members. The next meeting will be held mid-Jan. Anyone interested in joining should contact **Aurora Aber** at TheAbers@cox.net or 520-721-7547.

Phoenix Chapter: The 9 members at our September 21 meeting planned the year. There will be a meeting on Nov. 16 at 10 am at the new AEA building. At the March 15 meeting, also at 10 am at the new AEA building, **John Campbell** will speak about Medicare Part D and Social Security. For information contact **Brenda Pierce** at 602-973-2822.

White Mountain Chapter: On September 21 **John Campbell** and **Mike Swinford** presented the Walter Cronkite video on the newest changes to Medicare Part D. John also answered questions on a variety of topics of interest to seniors. We met on October 19 and had an open forum on elections issues including AEA recommendations and the many propositions. Our next meeting is on February 15. For information contact **Billie Fugate** (Lakeside) at 928-367-1493 or bjfugate@frontiernet.net or **Paula Grigsby** (Overgaard) at 928-535-4353 or pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net.

Prescott Chapter: Welcome to our newest chapter! The first meeting was held on Oct. 26. The next meeting will be held on Thurs., Jan. 11, at 11:00 am at the home of **Helga Krantz**, 7825 Prickly Pear Path, Prescott Valley. Please contact her at 928-776-4314 for more information.



New chapters being formed in PV, Scottsdale

Dr. Peggy Noble Kain has stepped up to start a Paradise Valley chapter, and she is inviting anyone interested in creating a Scottsdale chapter to join as well. A meeting is planned for January or February.



John Campbell and Gary Mehok attend the first meeting of the new Prescott Chapter.

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