Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 9:54 PM

Subject: ASRS Board Meeting and Republic FOI request.

Linda, Frank, Julie, Jean and Aurora

I attended a special ASRS Board meeting today. It was about the Arizona Republic's Freedom of Information (FOI) request. The meeting was immediately closed to the public so the Board could get legal advice. I had to sit out but I was able to talk with Pat Klein and Paul Matson after the meeting.

Here is what I found out. ASRS is a government agency and its members are public employees. Privacy rights protect some of our information but not all from distribution to outsiders. Off limits are, date of birth, social security numbers, addresses and phone numbers. After studying case law, ASRS found that there is little support for protection of, name, date of retirement, last employer, salary, amount of pension, and "buy back" information. A decision by the court will not come for a few weeks and ASRS has not made any final decisions that they could tell me about. However they do not want to go to court and spend member's money on a losing battle. Paul also agreed with my belief that the Republic is not looking for a third grade teacher from Peoria. He thinks anyone with a yearly pension below $100,000 has nothing to fear. I still think this fishing expedition by the Republic will tarnish all public employees and we should be prepared to react in a measured way.

Steve Ramos

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AEA-Retired, ASRS Committee Chair