



**AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Tuesday September 13, 2021**

**Held at AEA Headquarters (345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix) 10:00 am**

**Attendees:** Anna Cicero, Ken Freed , Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Marilyn Calhoun, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Marshall Militano, Nancy Putman, Steve Ramos, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Nancy Riley, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Michele Smith, Maria Leyva, Jeanne Erickson, Sharin Manes, Sandra Warns, Danny Barlow

Absences excused: Shirley Boswell, Julie Cozad, Julie Horwin, Carmen Peters, Ellie Feldner

**1. Call to Order: President Anna Cicero (Welcome, Land Acknowledgment, introductions, celebrations)**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am** Moment of reflection was made for all losses in the past year. Glad to have our first in person meeting today since March 2020. Congrats to Barbara Matteson for her many years of service and Grijalva award!

**Guests: Marisol Garcia VP of AEA** - spoke to the AEA-Retired exec board during our lunch time. Tough times in the local education community now. Working on getting the many petitions turned in right now. There are many safety issues with Covid in the schools daily. Need a common goal to keep school employees and students safe! Stay tuned and involved with our AEA and AEA-Retired association.

**2. Approval of Agenda for Monday September 13, 2021 Janice Dwosh** motion by Ken Freed , seconded by Danny Barlow Motion approved with flexibility .

**3. Approval of Minutes from April 2021 – Janice Dwosh.** motion by Ken Freed , seconded by Sandy Warns. Motion was approved. Make sure the minutes reflect attendance of Nancy Putman and Marilyn Freed for this meeting. Revisions have been made and submitted to be placed on the AEA-Retired website.

**4. Financials – Steven Linder** Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Nancy Putman , seconded by Gary Mehok Motion was accepted for financials as submitted and ready for audit . See attachments for details of the financials. AEA-Retired expense voucher forms are available for mileage and other approved expenses. See Steve Linder for the form . Send it by mail with receipts or turn it at AEA-Retired board meetings to Steve Linder for reimbursement. **The Sept. 8th versions are the corrected versions of the financial reports. (given out at the Sept. 13th meeting)**

## 5.. Officers' Reports

**Anna Cicero President :** Anna read the Mission of NEA/AEA Retired . The past summer was non-stop with NEA , transitioning with Julie Horwin to learn about grants and funding for our organization. The New Educator Grant will be started later this year if possible to support our active members and future retirees. Please stay engaged and involved!

**Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative :** June notes: Board retreat was in person (membership categories are down), executive director search still going on, also still looking for a new administrative assistant at the AEA office. Additional updates in the August Board meeting: controversy with masks (AEA will not take a position at this time). NEA has supported us with the petition drives, AZ Deserves better initiative -- AEA Board supports this. AEA will be hiring two admin assts. (hiring one for governance and one for management).

**Janice Dwosh- Secretary** Timelines for meeting documents : call for agenda around the 23rd of each month, documents and changes to agenda due by around the 28-30th of each month. Documents will be sent out approximately 5-7 days before the next Executive board meeting. Please check emails and reply as required in a timely manner.

Janice Dwosh- Chairperson:

**Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee--** monthly (or every 6 weeks or so) book discussion with Ann Myers. Please contact Ann Myers if interested in joining the group. Janice can also provide speakers or training at Executive board meetings or other times. If interested in joining the committee please contact Janice Dwosh at [jdwosh27@gmail.com](mailto:jdwosh27@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome to join and learn together! New members are Sandy Warns and Norma Jimenez. Please add to the Committee charts.

**Linda Somo -- NEA RA Report summary** NEA Retired dues will be reduced for the ESP's starting this year. Instead of \$300 will be \$180 lifetime dues for ESP's. Amazing virtual meeting for over 5,000 NEA members. Our delegates Janice Dwosh, Luci Messing, Linda Somo, and Julie Horwin kept in touch by text during the meeting. Very engaging week with many great speakers, debates about significant issues for NEA, and collaboration with the delegates and officers.

## 6. New Business—

**NBI #1 Formation of Communication committee - Anna** Maria Leyva moved NBI #1 Marilyn Freed seconded the motion. Communication is key! We need to work together with technology. Motion was approved. Committee will meet as needed. Please volunteer if interested in joining in.

### **NBI # 2 Introduction to the re-branding for AEA-Retired-- Anna**

Ken Freed moved this NBI, seconded by Gary Mehok. Rebranding is not redoing, but looking out to the public, and marketing ourselves, with an NEA Grant if possible. Surveys could be utilized , inclusion and diversity is important. Motion passed. This will also be discussed during the Communication committee meeting.

### **NBI #3 Discussion of 5 year strategic plan for AEA-Retired-- Anna**

New business item moved by Susie Sommer , seconded by Nancy Putman. A long term strategic plan hasn't been done in many years. Motion passed. We need to plan for our future and work together.

### **NBI #4 Approval of AEA-Retired calendar for the year and committee chairs/members-Anna**

Motion to approve committee chairs and calendar by Janice Dwosh, seconded by Gary Mehok. Motion passed.

**NBI #5 Additional \$500 for ARSC (from \$5,000 to \$5,500)- Linda S.** Ken Freed moved NBI #5, seconded by Luci Messing. More money needed by ARSC to fight off attacks on the ASRS system. AEA is also adding to this effort. Motion passed.

## 7. Committee reports:

**Political Action -- Luci Messing** committee report will be done on Tuesday's committee meeting.

**Membership -- Shirley (absent this month) Nancy P. and Michele S.** -- report as of Sept. 2021 AEA-Retired is at 2,123 members . 29 current new members. 5 upcoming new members for next month's report. More info at Tuesday's committee meeting.

**Chapter Chairs --Susie Sommer** - meeting on Zoom as chapter chair committee .Currently Tucson chapter is meeting in person. Many other chapters will be Zooming . The Glendale/West Valley chapter will be meeting in person. Kyrene will also be meeting in person. Scottsdale/PV chapter will be Zooming until December, and then reevaluate meeting locations. Please remember Susie needs a week's notice to set up a Zoom meeting.

## 8. Ad hoc committees:

**ASRS -- Steve Ramos (liaison)** ASRS Report is in the latest Conduit newsletter. Expectation will be for an average annual rate of return for 7% . Hopefully it will be 25% this year. Contribution rates will be about 12.5% out of educator paychecks. \$500 approved today is for the matching grant for the ARSC (fighting to keep our pensions safe) . In the future ASRS will be offering a 401K type plan at less cost than the private investment firms.

**MORE -- Linda Somo** no report this month. Scheduled meetings to be held on Zoom. Hopefully next Spring MORE group will plan a gathering in person to prepare members for upcoming elections.

**Fundraising-- Marilyn Freed:** looking for a quilt or another item for donations/fundraising. Please let Marilyn know if interested in joining this committee.

**Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez** no report today. (Working as a committee later on today.)

**Elections- Steve Linder** no report today.

**Annual award --Nancy Putman** no report today.

**Documents -- Ken Freed** - meeting this afternoon during committee time.

**Budget-- Steve Linder** no report today.

## 9. Alliances and coalitions :

**AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Barbara Matteson** , AARA meets weekly by Zoom - social security and Medicare are major concerns , as well as prescription drug prices.

**ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos** reported earlier with ASRS.

**AIN/VIP Valley interfaith projects/ AZ interfaith network** . Anna is currently working on getting volunteers to report out.

**10. Kinnaman raffle -\$2 per attendee, total collected \$44 , winner of the raffle today \$22 Marshall Militano** . Additional \$ goes to the Kinnaman fund scholarship for a future educator (sent to NEA for their distribution yearly)

**11. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero --** Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. Starting committees at 1:30 p.m. today.

**12. Afternoon committee meetings -**

**Please submit a summary of committee members, goals, and activities planned to Anna Cicero.**

Meetings were held at each time to learn and provide input:

**Documents-- Ken F. (chairperson)** Committee met from 1:30-2 p.m.

**Annual meeting -- Norma J. Chairperson .** Committee met from 1:30 - 2 p.m.

**. Communications meeting** - brainstorming with the entire board from today 2-3:00 p.m. Anna will be sharing the feedback provided by all at the Oct. meeting. Committee may Zoom in between regular board meetings just to review the feedback and possibly work on some next steps.

**Meeting will reconvene on Tuesday Sept. 14th at 9:30 am with additional committee meetings:**

Membership -9:45 -10:30 a.m.

Misc. Committee meetings 10:40-11:20 am

Lunch -- guest speaker Kathy Hoffman (Superintendent of Schools AZ)

Political Action Committee 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Final closure with Anna 1:30-2 p.m.

**Upcoming events:**

**Next AEA-Retired exec board meeting Tues. Oct. 12th from 10-2:30 p.m. at the AEA HQ**

**Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary Sept. 17, 2021**

*Hopefully fall is coming soon!*

