

Minutes AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Tues. November 12, 2019

AEA- Headquarters 345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix, AZ

Attendees: Julie Horwin, Janie Hydrick, Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Ken Freed, Danny Barlow, Shirley Boswell, Marilyn Calhoun, Anna Cicero, Julie Cozad, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Cindy Michaels, Marshall Militano, Ann Myers, Carmen Peters, Nancy Putman, Steve Ramos, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga, Rob Johan, Nancy Riley, Sally Rosen, Ellen Shamah, Michele Smith, Susie Sommer, Jan Nichols, Suzan Austin, Jeanne Erickson, Gary Mehok, Aurora Aber, Margaret Sleeper

Members absent and excused: Linda Somo and Howard Johnson

1. **Call to Order, Julie Horwin** at 10:03 a.m.
Welcome members of the Executive board, Chapter chairs and other members. No guests this month.
2. **Approval of Agenda for Tuesday November 12, 2019** motion by Larry Wittig seconded by Marilyn Calhoun. Motion passed.
3. **Approval of Minutes from Oct, 15, 2019**– Janice Dwosh. Motion by Ken Freed, seconded by Juan Zuniga. Motion passed.
4. **Financials** – Steven Linder. Balance sheet: received large AEA dues reimbursement in Nov. (about \$20K this month). Motion to approve financials by Larry Wittig, Connie Wittig seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Membership** – Shirley Boswell. 2,180 members as of Oct. 31st. Please check the pink membership sheet for all other updated membership information.
6. **Membership Outreach** –Nancy Putman, Shirley Boswell, Michele Smith
473 letters sent out last month to potential AEA-Retired members. \$30 earned this month for new members for Nancy Putman, \$30 for Suzan Austin, and \$10 for Shirley Boswell.
Adopt- a-Local — please follow up with your local this month and make contact soon. You can give out membership forms and posters to the locals. Last year’s order of AEA-Retired shirts: 66 women, 33 men shirts, —more cost efficient to order as we go. At the upcoming advocacy days please remind people to order shirts, so they will have them in advance of days at the Capitol.
Marshall—He would like to have AEA develop new ways to manage payments for new members since costs are getting prohibitive. Discuss in committee later today.
7. **Officers’ Reports**
Julie Horwin – President. Discussed latest candidate training she is conducting for ADLCC. NEA legislative committee communicates with state affiliate presidents, asking them to send on to their deep membership. We are focusing on two congressional bills: Older American’s Act up for consideration could be increased by 37%, hope to be passed by the Senate, and the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act (HR 4540) that begins to address inequities caused by Soc. Security’s Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)
Julie attended the NEA-Retired Budget Hearing conducted by NEA Sec./Treasurer Princess Moss. Julie asked that state grants be increased and that the NEA-Retired budget be available and provide money for incentives to lobby for NEA. Julie will be meeting with Sun City Democrats to present a messaging workshop and find out if there is interest in establishing an AEA-Retired chapter in the area (some west valley districts Dysart/Peoria did not pass their elections).
Julie will send NEA video (house party for elections). She will resend the ASRS threat slideshow to Exec. Board.
March 2020 leadership summit in Orlando. Those who applied and will receive funding to attend are: Marshall Militano, Steve Linder, Carmen Peters. They will join Janie Hydrick, Luci Messing and Julie Horwin.

Janie Hydrick—Vice President. —Thanks for the postcards sent for the East Valley Chapter meeting to pass the overrides. Pension dollars go right back into the economy. Take and hand out the “pension \$” to small business owners. It’s a reminder of retiree power of the dollar. Take back to the chapters and share this info!

AARA — retired Americans are active and impact the community! Met with K. Sinema and others to promote retired issues.

Amber Gould flyer —. Janie’s husband mentored Amber many years ago . She’s running for the NEA Exec. Committee in 2020. Please support: financial support is needed.

AEA Board — Ken Freed and Luci Messing - Last meeting was attended by Luci Messing. Chris Mayer’s last board meeting. Discussion on Invest in Ed. Proposal. Upcoming U.S.. Presidential preference election for Democrats in March. Racial justice training at the AEA board meeting. Should be getting the info out to everyone in locals.. More training to come at AEA-Retired exec board meetings. Ken Freed is on the committee for AEA to decide if there is a recommended candidates for AZ educators to consider in 2020.

Margaret Sleeper – AEA Liaison —Invest in Ed— 2 more polls testing still whether it will go forward, please don’t forget AEA Committee Day in December. Racial and Soc. Justice training ongoing. Reviewing internal practices at AEA, NEA/AEA will now be calling the committee “Educators of Color” (formerly known as Ethnic Minority committee) . Pension video is being put together now to give out info about the need to support the defined benefit plan (ASRS). Current Membership —15,000+ active certified, 1,963 ESP members, 2,181 retirees total 19,737 members.. We are up 290 new members (but had 600 + new members) and lost about 300 members. Bargaining conference this weekend 20 locals, 120 people attending . Leaders Academy: 35 new leaders will be trained. NEA staff to help organize collective bargaining in a few districts in AZ. Updates from Marisol on Facebook (Tues. late in the day). Bargaining for AEA employees upcoming re: (compensation).

8. **New Business –**

Possible Volunteer opportunities for members –Janice Dwosh. Valley of the Sun United Way offers an online volunteer tutoring program with local Title 1 schools. You must first pass a background check. Only 30 min. per week are needed, but a regular commitment is helpful. Last year Janice volunteered for Glendale Elem (4th grade), and currently Washington Elementary (2nd grade). They are always looking for individuals or groups that want to volunteer. You can do it from home or on your mobile device weekly. It’s fun and a great way to give back! Check out Vello.org for more info or email Janice Dwosh.

9. **Political Action –Luci Messing** — Invitations for Advocacy trainings —Dec. 3rd Tucson and Dec. 5th Phoenix, share at Chapter meetings. Bring a friend! Jan. 13th opening day at the Capitol. We are at the Capitol on Thurs. Jan. 23rd for AEA-Retired. Need team captains (leads for Capitol visits) and LD Liaisons . Send more postcards to legislators! Try to make a relationship with a legislator. Charlene Fernandez will be at the Phoenix advocacy training, as well as other legislators. In Tucson other legislators will be presenting.

10. **Fundraising - Marilyn Freed** - tickets for AEA-Retired fundraiser quilt available for AEA-delegate assembly. . 30 tickets for \$30. Any other cash donations are also accepted.

11. **ASRS – Steve Ramos.** Please read his latest article in the Conduit. Any legislative bills are also possible .If you hear anything about ASRS please pass on info to Steve. Defined benefit plans are what we still need. Healthcare signups are in November. Medicare plans are deeply discounted still .Make sure you are done with sign ups by month end of November. ASRS May be a self-insured plan in the future . That may even save more money in the future. More updates will be given as received.

12. **Chapter Chairs Reports**

- a. **Susie Sommer - West Valley**— No written updates at this time. Susie Sommer West Valley Chapter) donated many books to Banner Thunderbird Hospital with extra chapter funding/donations.
- b. **Janie Hydrick - East Valley**— No written updates at this time. Kudos to those at East Valley meeting assisting with override letters and phone banks.
- c. **Ann Myers, Nancy Riley - Scottsdale, Paradise Valley** . The Scottsdale/PV chapter of AEA-Retired met on Oct. 21 at 11am at Denny’s on Mayo in Scottsdale. We wrote postcards to own state legislators. Our speaker was Jan Nichols who discussed “The Black Hole of Charter Schools.” The next meeting will be Nov. 18th with Marshall Militano as our

speaker. He will talk about the effects of dirty money in AZ elections, and the initiative to stop it. We welcome any AEA-Retired member or potential member to our group.

- d. **Marion Pickens- Greater Tucson** -The next meeting is Nov. 19th at the TEA Office at 5447 E. 5th St. Snacks begin at 10 am. Two speakers will be Sen David Bradley and Rep Andres Cano. The December 10th meeting will be the holiday party at AEA Southern Region office, 6873 N. Oracle. Please bring something to the potluck.
- e. **Michele Smith - Phoenix** — Nov. 19th LD24 rep will be there. Location at Beatitudes, lunch will be served . (Check the AEA-retired website for future meetings.
- f. **Sally Rosen - Southern Arizona** . Southeast AZ AEA-Retired met on Oct. 23rd at Hibachi Grill in Sierra Vista for our chapter meeting. We meet next in Jan. 2020 TBD.
- g. **Rob Johan – Yavapai**. The first Yavapai AEA-Retired chapter meeting was held Sept. 19th at El Paraiso in Chino Valley. We discussed the next social/educational event to be a tour of the Phipps Museum in Prescott. The next Chapter meeting will be held on Thurs. Nov. 14th at the same location at 11:15 am.
- h. **Ellen Shamah - Kyrene** — good turnout for last meeting on a recent Friday afternoon. Updates will be made on the AEA-Retired website.

13. **Conduit—Jan Nichols** : send emails to Jan with updates for the next Conduit by Dec. 3rd.

- 14. **Racial and Social Justice (Leaders for Just Schools) --Ann Myers, Janice Dwosh, and Julie Horwin**. A PowerPoint presentation was shared that discussed the summer training that many state active associations attended. AEA-Retired represented AZ since our actives were already working in early August. This training encompassed 5 days of equity and social justice information. Trainings will continue starting in Jan., each month at Exec. Board.
- 15. Congratulations to New Jersey EA advertisement - Larry Wittig — Moved to donate \$150 for ad to New Jersey for 100 years of their association. Discussion was made and the exec board tabled the motion and vote will take place next month.

16.. **Alliances and Coalitions**

- a. **AZ Alliance for Retired Americans – Janie Hydrick**. Updated info was given during officer reports.
- b. **VIP/PCIC – Larry Wittig (Phx)** Frank Ratey (Tucson) See attached updates from Valley Interfaith Project (Larry Wittig). They always need additional funding . Meeting on Nov. 12th. to set next year’s goals.
- c. **AZ School Counselors – Anna Cicero** School Counselors Day on the Hill March 9th, We need to get more individuals into the schools as school counselors, and to make their salaries equitable.
- d. **ARSC – Julie Horwin, Steve Ramos** -no more updates . They were covered in the ASRS report. Grant has been submitted , also asking labor unions to double their donations in order to support pensions.

17. **Kinnaman Raffle - Ken Freed**. (Steve Ramos was the winner of \$31.00) The other \$31 was donated to the Kinnaman Fund.

18. **Adjournment of Executive Board Meeting** at 1:18 p.m. by Pres. Julie Horwin.

2 19.. **Committee meetings—Political Action – Luci Messing**

20.. **Membership committee — Shirley B., Nancy P., Michele S., Janice D., and Marshall M.**

Upcoming events:

Advocacy trainings --Tues. Dec. 3rd (Tucson) and Thurs. Dec. 5th (Phoenix) sign up in advance! Please wear your purple shirts.

Our next Executive board meeting is Tues. Dec. 17th (luncheon, holiday party and gift exchange). Please participate in our annual gift exchange- see the rules given out. Happy holidays to one and all!