



AEA-Retired Annual Meeting Friday May 6, 2022 minutes.

(DRAFT)

Held at Scottsdale Resort in McCormick Ranch

Attendees: Aurora Aber, Suzan Austin, Frances Banales, Daniel Barlow, Sylvia Barlow, Rosario Biggs-Dickerson, Shirley Boswell, Margaret Bowerman, Marilyn Calhoun, Anna Cicero, Julie Cieniawski, Peter Coston, Cindy Couture, Janice Dwosh, Rachel Enger, Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner, Ken Freed, Marilyn Freed, Maryanne Goodluck, Delia Greth, George Grexa, Katri Hakes, Doug Honaker, Julie Horwin, Janie Hydrick, John Hull, Bart James, Norma Jimenez, Barbara Joseph, Roseanne Knight, Deb Larned, Maria Leyva, Steve Linder, Sharin Manes, Jonathan Massey, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Marshall Militano, Paula Mueller, Renee Newman, Debra Odle, Carmen Peters, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steve Ramos, Doni Ramos, Frank Ratey, Lenny Reed, William Rhodes, Nancy Riley, Sally Rosen, Ron Rossman, Ellen Shamah, Michele Smith, Sandra Smith, Susie Sommer, Linda Somo, Jean Stephenson, Carol Trudgen, Sandra Warns, Connie Wittig, Peggy Yeargain, Juan Zuniga, Kristi Koziol, Lizzi Menefee, Erminda Garcia (Delegates are printed in bold)

Guests: Joe Thomas, Daniella Smith, Kathy Hoffman, David Cannella

1.a . Call to Order, Welcome by President Anna Cicero

9:30 am Call to order.

Welcome by our AEA-Retired President Anna Cicero. Anna introduced the Native land acknowledgement, and gave her inspiring President's address. She thanked the Annual meeting team and executive board members and officers for their support. We need everyone's support and engagement and action plan for our organization! She focused her address on the theme of Strong Union, Schools and Community. Membership is the key!

1b. Packet Review – Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary

Janice Dwosh reviewed the packet materials with attendees

She asked for a motion for the adoption of the agenda with flexibility. Moved by Ken Freed, Seconded by Steve Linder, Motion passed – today's agenda with flexibility.

Janice then asked for a motion for the approval of last year's (2021) Annual meeting minutes. Moved by Ken Freed, Seconded by Steve Linder. Minutes were approved as submitted and printed.

2. Our first speaker from ASRS (AZ State Retirement System) David Cannella was introduced by Pres. Anna Cicero. His title is the Communications manager and media relations for ASRS. ASRS is one of the largest public pension plans in the U.S. Last year payouts exceeded incoming funds, but investments make up the difference. He gave a great overview of the ASRS plans (pension, health care and other benefits). Last year's return was 25%, currently at 4-5% this year. Our funded status is currently at 70%. We will be getting a PBI (permanent benefit increase) this July.

3. The NEA Fund report was given by Barbara Matteson and AEA Fund report by Julie Horwin.

Please donate either cash, check or online. These funds support candidates that support public education and our pensions. Please help us out! AEA PAC collection is on Saturday during the Delegate Assembly.

4. A break time for raffle tickets, silent auction and other activities was taken.

5. Table talk time – Membership discussion AEA/NEA Retired priorities.

Questions and reflection time for what is your "Why" at each table. Let's get more new members! We need everyone's assistance and participation in this endeavor. Reflections were collected by board members for review and discussion at a later time.

6. Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award - Presented by Nancy Putman - we celebrated the past two award winners (Shirley Boswell 2020, Julie Horwin 2021, and this year's award winner Ken Freed in 2022)

It was wonderful to celebrate these wonderful people today at the Annual Meeting. Thanks for all of their efforts over the many years of service to AEA -Retired! We are blessed with many fantastic leaders!

7. Election report/Call for nominations : Steve Linder

A Call for Nominations was made for the Secretary. Two candidates are running for this office . (Maria Leyva and Kathy Ramage-White). Speeches were given by the candidates.

Then nominations were requested for the six at large executive board members.

Speeches were given by these candidates:

Danny Barlow, Janice Dwosh, Norma Jimenez, Marshall Militano, Barbara Matteson, Nancy Putman, Deb Larned, Peter Coston

Ken Freed - Documents chair discussed the change to Bylaws and the board recommendation.

Then voting instructions were given by Steve Linder, AEA RetiredElections chairperson. Six at large positions are open on the board. 58 delegates were available to vote today.

8. Vote online and break for lunch Voting took place between 12:00 and 12:30 p.m. The top 6 candidates will get three year terms.

Lunch time was spent eating, chatting with attendees, and donating to the NEA Fund .

After lunch our amazing speaker was AZ Superintendent of Instruction, Kathy Hoffman .

She highlighted what the AZ Dept of Ed has done to support public education and teachers in the classroom. She is a very motivating leader for the AZ Dept of Education and supports our public school educators, students and schools.

9. Elections report-- Steve Linder : Elections chairperson

Thanks to Juan Z., Sally R. and Aurora A. for assisting with elections today.

Voting results:

Secretary: Maria Leyva Secretary (47 votes) elected to office

Kathy Ramage-White (11 votes) not elected to office

Board members at large: (voted for 6 candidates)

elected today for 6 open spots:

Danny Barlow 43 votes (elected to the board)

Janice Dwosh 41 votes (elected to the board)

Marshall Militano 34 votes (elected to the board)

Barbara Matteson 48 votes (elected to the board)

Nancy Putman 53 votes (elected to the board)

Deb Larned 41 votes (elected to the board)

Norma Jimenez 28 votes (not elected to the board)

Peter Coston 30 votes (not elected to the board)

Change to Bylaws was approved overwhelmingly.

Congrats to all of the elected board members and those who ran who were not elected. Thanks for your candidacy and support of AEA Retired! Our gratitude to the candidates who ran for all AEA-Retired positions and were not elected. Your continued service to AEA-Retired is appreciated.

10. Legislative/Political Action Report –Luci Messing Pol. Action Chair AEA-Retired

Thanks for AEA-Retired support at the Capitol this year at AEA Retired Capitol days!

Please continue to follow the political information and support the bills that are pro-public education.

Please do your part (vote, phone mailings, donations, postcards, etc). Please sign up to be informed through the AEA website and keep participating in our AZ politics . We need everyone to vote and participate by being informed.

11. Our next guest speaker was Daniella Smith (ARSC lobbyist) Arizona Retirement Security Coalition

Daniella is from the AZ Retirement Security Coalition . Many groups are trying to eliminate pensions and trying to get people into 401K plans only. ASRS is the only defined benefit plan left in AZ. Other groups might want to allow members to either choose defined benefit plans or defined contribution plan (401K) options (ASU) and others might want to do this in the future.

Attacks are still going on to hurt our pension system. (ABOR optional retirement program- pulling some people out of ASRS) but the bill was killed and never heard in the Senate finance committee. HB divestment bill –not allow investments in certain types of businesses due to political reasons. This bill also did not go forward at this time.

Respond to Action Alerts by ARSC , and get to know your candidates for office, and support public education and ASRS. Please vote and stay informed.

12. Treasurer’s report and new budget discussion – Steve Linder (AEA-Retired Treasurer)

Balance Sheet - assets \$171 K in our accounts

Budget Vs. Actuals - FY 2022 - only 54% used of budget as of April 25, 2022 (annual meeting costs still to come)

Next year’s adopted budget FY 2022-23 was introduced.

13. Joe Thomas --AEA President Joe spoke about time for a change with the upcoming elections at AEA. Thanks for supporting AEA and mentoring our leaders throughout the years. We support public education, students and families. We need to support the union, the schools and the communities we live in. Keep up the fight! Thanks for AEA-Retired support over the years!

**Update from Barbara Matteson – so far collected \$2, 785 for the PAC fund. Please keep donating! Thank you!
Winner of \$100– Susan Waite from Tucson for email address.**

14. Closing remarks by Pres. Anna Cicero --Anna congratulated the newly elected officers and executive board members, thanked Norma Jimenez (annual meeting chair) , as well as the committee for assisting with the Annual Meeting.. She also thanked her executive board , chapter chairs and other active leaders in supporting her throughout the past year . Anna is excited to work and support all of you! Please step up to leadership in our group if you desire! Thanks for your participation and support!
Please reflect on what we have accomplished and move forward for the union, schools and community!

15. Meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. by President Anna Cicero.
The AEA Retired Caucus for the AEA Delegate assembly follows the Annual meeting at 3 p.m.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired on 5/10/22
Please stay safe, healthy, and connected with your family, friends and AEA-Retired colleagues!