

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting  
Minutes of March 14, 2017

1. **Call to Order** at 10:05 by President Horwin  
**Board members** in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Linda Somo, Danny Barlow, Ed Bufford, Anna Cicero, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steven Ramos, Tricia Roach, Sally Rosen, Michelle Smith, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga. **Chapter Chairs;** Rob Johan, Marilyn Calhoun, Nancy Riley, Ann Myers. **Members;** Aurora Aber, Shirley Boswell, John Campbell, Norma Jimenez, Jan Nichols, Carmen Peters, Maria Vinares. **Staff;** Faith Risolo
  
2. **Approval of Agenda**, with flexibility (Somo/Zuniga) **Approved**
  
3. **Approval of the minutes** of February, 2017 (Somo/Mehok) **Approved**
  
4. **Membership** Processing Chair Boswell shared the most recent membership data. Currently we have 2176 members with 1623 using dues deduct. We have 86 new members this year.  
(See printed report for more information.)
  
5. **Membership Outreach** chair, Putman/Smith, indicated that there were 6 new members who were signed by Board members this past month. The chairs are continuing to meet and attempt to find ways to motivate people to join the Association.
  
6. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets	\$82,427
Liabilities	\$22,277
Equity	\$62,150

(See written report for more information.)

Linder shared information about the specific lines which are over budget as well as indicating those lines that have not been fully expended. He asked the Board that they consider this report as we enter into discussion of the budget.

This lead to a discussion of the Mesa Project and of its success. However, it was pointed out that AEA-Retired continues to spend money on this project which has yet to be reimbursed by AEA. Move that the report be accepted and filed for audit. (Barlow/Somo)

**Passed**
  
7. **Budget Recommendations**

Somo, with assistance from Linder, went through the **proposed** budget line by line. Discussion then ensued as to additions deemed necessary by Board members. It was then pointed out that prior to making budget decisions perhaps a decision needed to be reached on the dues increase.

Move to table. (Barlow/C. Wittig) **Passed**

After passage of the New Business Item the following list of suggestions/recommendations was presented to the Budget Committee for their consideration at their meeting of March 28.

  - \*Add \$500-\$600 for dues rebate,
  - \*Purchase of shirts using \$1,125 to be replaced as shirts are sold,
  - \*Increase to \$1,000 the money for the Alliance,
  - \*Increase to \$1,000 the money for the VIP,
  - \*Increase funding to conduct a Political Action Training,

- \*Increase Legislative/Political Action to \$3,300
- \*Increase Postage, Printing & Copying,
- \*Increase funds for District Retirement Activities,
- \*Consider a donation to AEA to assist in their Assessment,
- \*Appropriately fund the Contingency Fund,
- \*Establish a line for annual accounting fees,
- \*Reassess philosophy around sending people to conferences/conventions.

This item, the budget, will be removed from the table at the April Board Meeting where a discussion and final vote will take place.

8. New Business Items

Move that the AEA-Retired increase dues by \$5.00 per member as of the 2017-2018 membership year. (K. Freed/Linder)

There was much discussion around the merits of raising dues and some concerns as to how our membership would receive the increase.

**Passed**

**Note:** 1 abstention

9. Officers' Reports

**President Horwin**-Prepared a written report for the Board and highlighted several specific areas.

She shared that the highly successful results of the recruitment project held in Mesa. There have already been 58 new members who have joined, and there are many others who were contacted that will join. The total will approximate 100 new members.

Horwin reported that two more districts, Mesa and Kyrene, will be hiring their substitutes from Smart Schools and, according to lawyer Blevins, what their benefits are as retired or active members.

She also announced that her spring grant writing this year will center around things that AEA-Retired has budgeted for in the past but are eligible for NEA-Retired funds.

**Vice-President Austin**-reported on the Annual meeting preparation and reminded us to ask for the AEA rate when registering for the hotel. She reminded us of the request for the Board to bring a wrapped door prize item of \$5-\$10 and an unwrapped item costing \$10-\$15 to the Annual Meeting. Sign-up sheets were circulated for jobs at the Annual Meeting.

Austin also reported on the Feb. 21 and 22 M.O.R.E. events held in Phoenix and Tucson. Slightly more than 100 people took part.

(See written reports for additional information.)

**AEA Director Barlow**-Presented the Board with a 132 page packet of materials which included items received at the AEA Board meeting. His report summarized the Board Meeting activities of March 4. Highlights include that due to an increase in membership, AEA will be less dependent on operating reserves (savings), by \$149,000, then had been anticipated.

(See written report for additional information.)

**AEA Fund Council Representative Somo**-No new information at this time.

**Secretary K. Freed**-As chair of the Documents Committee, Freed thanked the Board for their assistance in moving the documents' changes forward to the elected delegates at the Annual Meeting.

10. ASRS

Ramos reported that currently the Board has 4 of 9 seats filled. This has not been a priority of the Governor. A problem occurs in that this Board can never have a quorum since it doesn't have the requisite 5 to make a quorum. Additionally, committees are unable to meet due to lack of enough members. The media has now become aware of this situation and is making it public.

11. Political Action

Messing indicated that the voucher bill(s) would be voted on next week and to keep getting in touch with your state legislators. Matteson passed out post cards for the Board to complete so that they can be sent to The President. The board filled them out so they could be mailed. There is a great deal of concern about the legislature making it more difficult to place initiatives on the ballot.

(See written report for additional information.)

12. Fundraising

Chairperson M. Freed shared that AEA-Retired has already collected over \$500 in raffle ticket sales and asked for the continued assistance of the Board. She thanked Putman for suggesting that the quilt be displayed at each of the M.O.R.E. events.

13. Pill Bottle Donations

Sommer reported that she took the empty pill bottles to the ICM Food and Clothing Bank of Phoenix. They were excited to have them and would be happy to accept items that are normally given out at hotels. She will continue to take care of this for the Board.

14. Chapter Chair Reports

**West Valley/Glendale (Sommer)**-Books continue to be collected for distribution to Banner Thunderbird Hospital. **The next meeting is Thursday April 6 at 4:00** at Iron Works Restaurant, 45<sup>th</sup> and Bell Rd.

**Mesa (Somo)**-The **Next meeting is May 10** at 63 East Main Street, Mesa, on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the MPS Building, 10:45, which will include a Citizens United Presentation. At the last meeting the guest speaker was Mike Cowan, MUSD Superintendent,

**Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (Myers/Riley)**-The **next meeting will be on March 20** at 11:00 and at the Denny's Restaurant on Mayo Blvd and Scottsdale Rd. The guest speaker will be from Sister Cities. Donations to the Kinnaman Fund will be collected as well as books/magazines for the Lodestar Learning Center. The following meeting will be on Monday, May 15.

**Kyrene/Tempe/Chandler (Sommer)**-The **Next meeting is March 21** at the Pyle Senior Center in the Tempe Library Complex (McClintock and Southern). **Please note**, that due to the chair's relocation, a new chairperson is being sought.

**Tucson (Calhoun)**-At the February 21 meeting items discussed included the Delegate Assembly, the election process, political issues and the upcoming trip to Phoenix. The "guest" speaker was Marian Pickens who shared her experiences around a Town Hall she had attended

and suggested others attend future events. The **Next meeting is March 21** at the Southern Region office.

**Phoenix (Smith)**-The Phoenix chapter will meet at Beatitudes at 1610 W. Glendale, on **March 21 at 10:30** with the guest speaker being Donna Davis from Expect More Arizona. Donna will update the group on what's going on at the legislature. The meeting will be held in Elaine's Dining Room. The last meeting of the year will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Southern Arizona (Rosen)**-The next meeting will be **Thursday evening, March 23**, at the Peacock Restaurant in Sierra Vista.

**Yavapai (Johan)**-The chapter met on February 28 with 12 people in attendance. Thanks to Sommer and Austin for making calls inviting people to attend. Members discussed legislative issues, Medicare and Social Security. Also, questions were generated for Ramos around ASRS issues. The **next meeting will be Wednesday, April 19** at the Prescott Family Diner.

**Flagstaff (Roach)**-The chapter meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month, with the **next meeting on April 4 at 10:00** at the Flagstaff Federated Church. At the March meeting the members discussed Bills in the Arizona Legislature, An Education Round Table with O'Halleran, Phone Town Halls with Flake, the Flagstaff GunSense Coalition and AEA Days at the Capitol. Updates on specific areas were provided and all were encouraged to become an expert on an issue.

15. Alliances and Coalitions

A. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans-Somo has resigned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President to take on the position of Treasurer.

B. Arizona Interfaith Network-L. Wittig shared a written report that outlined the issues that the Interfaith community is working on with the Legislature. Also, AIN has identified some Republicans who may be helpful with the passage of some legislation that affects our students.

C. Arizona School Counselors-Cicero continues to liaison the AEA-Retired with the counselors organizations. She indicated that people need more information and they need to become more comfortable becoming political.

16. Budget II

The Budget Committee, chaired by Somo and Linder, will be meeting at 10:00 on March 28<sup>th</sup> to formulate a recommendation to bring to the Board for finalization.

17. Half-back Raffle of \$33 was won by Bufford.

18. Adjournment at 2:08. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 11, 2017

**\*\*Notes \*\***

Lunch was 20 minutes followed by the conclusion of business.

Many **THANKS** to Susie, Nancy, Marilyn, Ann, Sally, Rob, Michele, and Tricia for submitting their chapter chair reports in writing.