

AEA Retired Annual Meeting
Minutes of May 10, 2019

1. Call to Order at 9:32 by President Horwin

Delegates in attendance; Aurora Aber, Suzan Austin, Frances Banales, Francine Bard, Laurie Bingenheimer, Sandie Blakely, Linda Boothe, Shirley Boswell, Margaret Bowerman, Susan Brendan, Marilyn Calhoun, Kathleen Carney, Anna Cicero, Julie Cienieski, Caroline Cline, Julie Cozad, AnnJi Craig-Wooten, Nancy Creighton, Rosario Dickerson, Janice Dwosh, Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner, Ken Freed, Marilyn Freed, Rochelle Gates, George Grexa, Cindy Hart-Vega, Julie Horwin, John Hull, Janie Hydrick, Norma Jimenez, Rob Johan, Howard Johnson, Roxann Kaiser, Marilyn Kinnie, Laura Klass, Steven Linder, Sharin Manes, Barbara Matteson, Forrest May, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Cindy Michels, Marshall Militano, Ramon Montano, Carol Mulford, Ann Myers, Renee Newman, John Owens, Clinton “Chip” Parsons, Kay Passsmore, Carmen Peters, Marion Pickens, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steve Ramos, Frank Ratey, Lenny Reed, William Rhodes, Nancy Riley, Tricia Roach, Sally Rosen, Ron Rossman, RaeAnn Rumery, Ellen Shamah, Michelle Smith, Sandra Smith, Susan Sommer, Linda Somo, Mary Lou St. Cyr, Jean Stephenson, Elaine Upham, Kate Ward, Sandy Warns, Connie Wittig, Laurence Wittig, Peggy Yeargain, Juan Zuniga.

Non-Delegate Members in attendance; Patricia Bryant, Joe Carter, Andrea Dalessandro, Janet Fee, Erminda Garcia, Mary Ann Goodluck, Sara Greenfield, Katri Hakes, Lois Halligan, Peter Hedding, Doug Honaker, Bart James, Barbara Joseph, Kitty McGaffie, Ed Messing, Nancy Pina Grey, Kathy Pyner, Doni Ramos, Susan Sain, Frank Sacco, Mike Scantlin, Susan Sullivan, Ann Timney, Carol Trudgen, Jessica Turner, Joanne Vianos, Barbara Weber.

Guests; Todd Crenshaw, Jason Freed, Marisol Garcia, Amber Gould, Paul Mattson, Angela Philpot, Margaret Sleeper, Joe Thomas.

2. President Horwin welcomes attendees to the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, followed by a moment of silence for members departed as well as the students in Colorado.
3. President Horwin introduced the Board, the officers, chapter chairs and committee chairs, and the staff liaison, through the use of this year’s Annual Meeting Theme, “What’s Your Super Power?” Senator Dalessandro, a member, was introduced. The Annual Meeting committee was thanked for their hard work.
4. President Horwin reviewed the packet with the attendees, explaining each item.
5. Adoption of Agenda with flexibility (Zuniga/Matteson) **Approved**
6. Approval of the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting (K. Freed/Somo) **Approved**

7. President Horwin then reminded the attendees how hard we have fought for our benefits and that the fight is not over. We must continue our vigilance. There are those out there who would take away our Defined Benefit retirement fund and replace it with a less appropriate mechanism. For many, the carrot at the end of their education employment is their pension and without this carrot, they would leave the profession.
8. A presentation by Somo on the NEA Fund in which she described the necessity for the Fund and requested a \$50 donation. She emphasized that any contribution is welcomed and a goal is for all to take part. She further explained how the attendees could use their tickets for the raffle items brought by the Board. Thanks to those who provided items for the silent auction. Somo explained that the money donated today was for the NEA Fund which makes recommendations for the U.S. house, the Senate and the Presidency, while the AEA Fund supports statewide and state legislative races.
9. A Fundraising report was delivered by Chairwoman M. Freed. She showed off the quilt as well as other items that had been donated for the raffle. Freed indicated the price of the tickets with the best “deal” being 30 tickets for \$30. Also she announced that this year’s (2019) goal was to take in \$2019.
10. Chairperson Messing was representing AEA-Retired at the AEA Board Meeting. Matteson gave the Political/Legislative report by sharing the “good” and the “bad” of what has transpired thus far. The positive include the elimination of the 4 hour ELL block for students and the fact that there was no legislation to change the pension system. The negative included the bills that were initiated that were in retribution for the “Red For Ed” strike. Also, there wasn’t a bill relative to charter school accountability. Finally, the governor has indicated in his budget that there will be 5% available for raises to “teachers” and nothing for the other areas needed by the schools. Other items presented included the absence of a review of the \$13B in tax giveaways, the \$262M given to private and parochial schools and the fact that the Republicans are fighting amongst themselves over the budget which may create a situation where the Democrats can negotiate for their support.
11. ASRS Director, Paul Matson, addressed the group relative to the ASRS. He explained that fiduciaries make the best financial decisions for the members of the ASRS. The ASRS has four components; pensions, health insurance, long term disability, and supplemental disability plans. Matson shared that our program continues to outperform the S & P 500 and other programs of its size. Current initiatives include using the \$40B invested to negotiate lower health costs and increase rates of return. When asked about a PBI, his response was, maybe, sometime. Currently, health insurance is 100% funded, long term disability 75% funded and pension plans 72% funded.
12. The Election report was presented by Election’s Chair Zuniga. He explained that there was no need for a delegate election because there were less nominees than delegates allotted. This was followed by the opening of nominations. For Secretary, only Janice Dwosh was nominated and elected by acclamation. The nominees who submitted their pledge-to-serve for at-large Board positions were; Nancy Putman, Julie Cozad, Ken

Freed, Gary Mehok, Connie Wittig, Howard Johnson, Ellie Feldner, Rob Johan, Kathy Ramage-White, and Marshall Militano. Nominations were opened for additional nominations. There was one, Danny Barlow. Each candidate was given two (2) minutes to speak to the delegates, who are the only people permitted to vote. The election will take place prior to lunch, while the staff is setting for lunch. The delegates may vote for up to 7 of the 11 nominees.

13. K. Freed spoke about the process to arrive at changes to our documents and the proposed Constitution changes that were being recommended by the Board. He asked each delegate to remember to vote on this item on the reverse side of their candidate election ballot.

**President Horwin described the NEA priority discussion and asked each table to discuss and report on Priority #1

14. A break was taken for the room to be prepared for lunch and for people to vote.
15. Lunch was served and the 2019 Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award was presented to Luci Messing. The presentation was done by Connie Wittig. Luci spoke about how honored she is and then thanked the many individuals who helped her to become the honoree. The organization owes Board member and Political Action Chair Messing a debt of gratitude for all of the work she has done, and continues to do, for our organization.
16. Election results were shared.

Secretary- Janice Dwosh* (unanimous)

<u>At-large-</u>	Connie Wittig	63*
	Marshall Militano	63*
	Nancy Putman	62*
	Ken Freed	53*
	Howard Johnson	50*
	Julie Cozad	44*
	Danny Barlow	43* (completes 2 year term of Kinsey)
	Rob Johan	42
	Kathy Ramage-White	33
	Gary Mehok	28
	Ellie Feldner	16

*Denotes elected

Bylaws Article V, Section 4, subsections E, F

Passed 62-2

**Todd Crenshaw, NEA staff, spoke about the success of the New Educator Program in Arizona. In (3) years, the program has generated 600 additional new “active” members. This program is now being utilized in 7 states.

**President Horwin asked the attendees to have a table discussion and report on NEA Priority #2.

**State Senator Andrea Dalessandro, a member, spoke about some of the successes in the legislature and announced that she will be running for State Representative in 2020.

17. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder. This included the balance sheet, profit/loss statement, the budget and budgeting process for 2019-2020.

Assets	\$114,030
Liabilities	\$ 22,940
Equity	\$ 91,089

**NEA Priority #3 was discussed and reported on.

18. AEA President, Joe Thomas brought us greetings and spoke of the future of AEA and of how the AEA-Retired is a part of that future.
19. It was announced that AEA-Retired members donated approximately \$5,000 to the NEA Fund.
20. President Horwin, in closing shared how unfavorably the Arizona state budget compares with other states of the same size. Arizona has a \$9B budget, while other states with the same population average a \$20B budget. We need to change the funding system, and to do so, each AEA-Retired member must be willing to work 2 hours in the upcoming elections. We were reminded to be on the lookout for attempts to change our pension system from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan and be willing to fight that change. Finally, Horwin shared that AEA-Retired had received a matching grant of \$40,000 this year to help fight that fight and that we would be applying for a similar grant in the coming year.
21. President Horwin adjourned the meeting at 2:59.