



AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Tuesday February 8, 2022

Held at AEA Headquarters – 345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix, AZ

at 10:00 a.m. 2/8/22

Attendees: Anna Cicero, Ken Freed , Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Danny Barlow, Marilyn Calhoun, Jeanne Erickson, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Marshall Militano, Nancy Putman, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Michele Smith, Carmen Peters, Suzan Austin, Steve Ramos, Nancy Riley, Marilyn Kinnie, Jan Nichols, Ellen Shamah

Absences excused: **Shirley Boswell, Julie Horwin, Julie Cozad , Ellie Feldner, Sandra Warns, Sally Rosen, Peter Coston, Janie Hydrick, Deb Larned, Ellie Perez-Pawlowski**

1. Call to Order: President Anna Cicero (Welcome and introductions)

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Guests: Connie Wittig, Sylvia Barlow, Nicole Adams (AEA exec. asst.)

Anna welcomed the board and other members to the meeting. Anna gave the land acknowledgement for our native people in AZ. Anna mentioned the AZ School Counselors association state meeting held recently, and making connections with the counselors and AEA/AEA-Retired.

2. Approval of Agenda for Tuesday Feb. 8, 2022 Janice Dwosh motion by Ken Freed , seconded by Gary Mehok . Motion for the approval of the agenda was approved with flexibility .

3. Approval of Minutes from January 2022 – Janice Dwosh. motion by Ken Freed , seconded by Marilyn Freed, . Minutes from the January 2022 executive board meeting stand as approved.

4. Financials – Steven Linder Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Steve Linder seconded by Marilyn Freed . Motion was accepted for financials as submitted and ready for audit . See email attachments for details of the financials. Since there wasn't an in person meeting last month (Jan. 2022) expenses were less than normal.

Please ignore the paging issue! Unable to correct the paging, but the next page follows with officer reports.

5. Officers' Reports

Anna Cicero President : Anna thanked Luci and the Political action team for their efforts last month at the Capitol advocacy day. Next month the Tucson exec board members for AEA-Retired will be meeting with Becky Pringle for lunch in Tucson. Please donate to Barbara Matteson ASAP for the AEA-Retired basket items for the NEA auction.. So far we have \$400 for the auction items. Anna discussed the upcoming March NEA Leadership Summit– Attendees: Julie Horwin, Luci Messing, Anna Cicero, Janice Dwosh, Marshall Militano, Norma Jimenez.

Executive board members can register for the virtual conference ASAP (\$30 per person)

NEA Retired organizing conference – Attendees – Anna, Marshall, Luci, and Julie Horwin

Please keep in touch with Anna to update the Strategic Plan . Our grant funding has arrived . She needs our input in order to get the Strategic planning done.

Please join the Annual meeting committee to assist if available. We need everyone's support to make it a big success!

Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative : Ken was involved with commercials for Mark Kelly this month, new AEA executive director has finally started (Randy Parraz) . At the last meeting of the AEA Board (membership was down 552 members, 1800 + new members) There are many people leaving the profession at this time . AEA Budget - will be using money from the Permanent reserves but maintaining the reserve % needed. Dues will go up \$11 for certified members next year. "Strong union, schools, community" is the theme for the AEA-DA (hopefully in person , done safely with Covid protocols).

Janice Dwosh- Secretary -- Janice shared information regarding fighting Critical Race Theory from NEA. The Leaders for Just schools training was postponed until mid-July due to Covid concerns. Dates to be determined in a few months. The AEA-Retired book discussion group will be meeting in March and April to discuss two great books. Please contact Ann Myers or Janice Dwosh if interested in our virtual book discussions. In April we will discuss Beautiful Country (an Asian American immigrant's true story).

Julie Horwin -- Past President /NEA Director - (absent this month) Janice Dwosh shared the NEA notes.

Please read Julie's notes on the NEA Board report and NEA Lobby Briefing . Important info on voting rights, Social Security (GPO and WEP) bills - 15 states are affected , and there are major inequities throughout the country due to the pandemic. Please keep up to date on this information with Julie Horwin if you have any questions.

New Business:

6. NBI #1— Nancy Putman presented and moved this new business item from the Membership Committee. This will give local active associations the ability to be incentivized for getting new members for AEA-Retired. (\$25 to each local association to help now to get new members to sign up with ASRS deductions– and the new member gets the \$70 reimbursement after joining thru ASRS payroll deductions) Motion passed.

7. Committee reports:

Membership -- Shirley B. (absent this month) , Nancy P. - Membership report: 2114 members (2 fewer than last month's report), 73 Emeritus members (over 90 years old) - no longer having to pay dues if paid NEA lifetime dues. Plan to encourage members who pay by check to switch to EFT or payroll deduction with ASRS. No new members this month.

Membership outreach -- Nancy P. and Michele S.-- Jeff Lang AEA – emerging grads gift cards , NEA membership meeting, online way to sign up (join now - 9 states will start) - AZ will not start right away, we have the new name tags and business cards, new banner, and if you have photos - may use Dropbox app for storing high quality photos, orders for shirts - let Marshall know if interested.

Political Action - Luci M. - Lobby day was well attended. Please RSVP if you need lunch for the legislators this month(17 attended last month) Please contact the legislators if you are LD Captains. Please use the RTS system to comment about the bills. The attacks on public education are many and varied. AEA is having a day at the Capitol (Feb. 21st -Pres. Day)-- the Day before AEA-Retired day at the Capitol. **AEA-Retired Lobby day - Feb. 22nd.** Signup now. Marshall mentioned voter suppression initiative petitions (AZ Deserves better) - Steve Ramos - presented info on HB2637 - divestment bill (abortion and sexual explicit materials)- motion to speak for AEA-Retired to speak against this bill to ASRS (Steve Ramos moved, Barbara Matteson seconded the motion) , impact –additional costs for ASRS system to get involved with this. Motion passed .

Communications Committee – Tech survey – Maria Leyva - shared links re; filters for Zoom . Work with a friend and practice on Zoom as a way to get better. See links below for more information on Zoom:

<https://blog.zoom.us/filters-reactions-lighting-features-zoom-meetings-2/https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/make-your-zoom-calls-run-smoother-than-before-with-these-tricks/>

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Susie Sommer- check with her if you need to set up a Zoom meeting.

Marilyn Kinnie - wants to set up a list of members in her area for the chapter.

Feb. 25th deadline for the next Conduit, May 20th deadline for the following Conduit., then Aug. 26th, and Nov. 28th for future Conduit issues - Jan Nichols

Special committees/Ad Hoc -

Ad Hoc (strategic plan)- Anna – Request for Zoom with John Wright - for strategic plan (grant administered through AEA)

Fundraising-- Marilyn Freed - quilt is done for this coming AEA-DA. There will be electronic ticket sales this year for the quilt on the AEA -Retired website . Two quilts are being made with the materials purchased (one for this year and next year). See Marilyn Freed if you want to buy tickets.

ARSC (AZ Retirement Security Coalition) - Steve Ramos – bills for ASRS and pension plans are positive except the HB2637 and the ABOR bills . Check with Luci or Steve Ramos if you want more information.

ASRS--Liaison Steve Ramos-- no additional information

MORE -- Linda Somo - MORE gathering is scheduled on April 6th, 2022 in Phoenix. (IBEW meeting hall). Speakers are in place - Joe Rubio (VIP - keynote speaker), Brendan Folan - legislative update, Steve Ramos- ASRS updates, Susie Sommer - chapter information, out of state NEA retired members will be invited, postcards printed by AEA and printed labels by AEA - only for those NEA members living in Maricopa County.

Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez -- It is planned to be in person on May 6-7th 2022 (unless plans are changed by AEA). Meeting with Nicole Adams from AEA to get plans going . See handout about the Annual Meeting sent out with the documents for the meeting. We can extend the deadline for AEA-Retired delegates if needed to get to the 86 delegates. See motion made in these minutes (extend deadline until Feb. 23rd)

Awards-- Nancy Putman -- nominations for the Les Reynolds Senior Service award due by today. Committee will meet to discuss the info and determine a winner after today's exec board meeting.

Budget committee -- Steve Linder -- meeting was held on January 19th 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at AEA HQ . Next year's Budget was presented to the board. Membership is going down as a projection from 2,068 to 2,050. Feb.- board members should look at the budget, March - please give any suggestions for changes (where do you want to move \$ from).

Documents -- Ken Freed- no report today.

Audit -- Carmen P.-- The committee will audit the first sixth months of the year's receipts and vouchers and meet in the next month. No report today. Anna will meet with Carmen to discuss receipts and any issues/concerns.

Elections – Steve Linder

There are many positions open in the next election: AEA Retired Secretary and AEA Director (first terms) as well as six open at large board directors: These terms will be up at the next election:

Nancy Putman , Julie Cozad, Marshall Militano , Barbara Matteson , Ellie Feldner , Norma Jimenez

Nomination forms need to be submitted by February 23rd (by email or to the AEA office) for delegates to the AEA-DA and for our AEA-Retired offices and board members. A link has been sent out, as well as paper forms are available for the nominations.

Update on AEA-Retired delegates to AEA DA – so far 57 delegates have put in their nomination forms as of 2/8/22. Deadline moved to Feb. 23rd. Janice Dwosh moved to extend the deadlines for delegates and officers to Feb. 23rd. Ken Freed seconded. Motion was approved.

At large board members running for office : Marshall Militano, Norma Jimenez, Nancy Putman, Barbara Matteson, Janice Dwosh, Danny Barlow, Deb Larned, Peter Coston.

So far: Maria Leyva is running for Secretary

Luci is running for the AEA-Retired Director to replace Ken on the AEA-Board . Her AEA-Retired at large board position would be replaced by Anna's appointment after the election is held (by AEA) following the delegate assembly.

8. Chapter Chairs --Susie Sommer - meetings on Zoom , assistant is now Sandy Warns and Steve Ramos to help out with Zoom.

West Valley -- S. Sommer - in person last month, now a Zoom meeting this month

Ellen S.-- Kyrene meeting in person , March - guest speaker Ben Furlong,

Mesa - meeting on Zoom -- two more meetings, Dora Vasquez will be guest speaker on Feb. 17th and Lela Alston will be speaking in April.

Nancy R.- PV/Scottsdale -meeting on Zoom, Cindy Couture running for Fountain Hills Town Council, next meeting Feb. 21st by Zoom

Danny B.-- Interstate/ N. AZ -- meet on Zoom with a few attendees.

Sally Rosen - not meeting so far this year , lots of unvaccinated people in Cochise county.

Peter C. -Southern Tucson area - monthly meetings in person and on Zoom. Next month Mayor Romero.

Deb Larned – Marana/ NW Tucson chapter - not in attendance at the meeting today

Marilyn Kinnie - Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield, Surprise area wants to start a chapter in that area. (Southwest Valley)

Susie Sommer will work on the manual update for Chapter chairs. Hopefully by the end of the year we will get it revised. Julie Horwin needs the list of zip codes for the Mailchimp email blasts for the various new chapters.

9. Alliances and coalitions :

AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Linda Somo - March 8th: AARA women's day at the Capitol , same day as our next AEA-Retired exec board meeting

ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos -- --no more info

AIN/VIP Valley interfaith project/ AZ interfaith network - no updates

Kinnaman Fund raffle – \$ 52 was donated today. \$ 26 was won by Ellen Shamah, \$ 26 was put into the Scholarship fund.

10. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero -- Meeting was adjourned at 1: 38 p.m.

Committee meetings to follow:

Annual meeting committee- Norma Jimenez chair person

Awards committee -Nancy Putman chair person

11. Upcoming events:

Next AEA-Retired executive board meeting Tues. March 8th 10 am AEA HQ

Call for agenda Feb. 23rd, reports and documents due Feb. 27th, packet emailed by March 2nd.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary Feb. 10, 2022

