

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting  
Minutes of February 10, 2015

1. Call to Order at 10:06 by President Horwin

Board members in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Linda Somo, John Campbell, Judy Moy, Shirley Boswell, Marilyn Freed, Maryanne Goodluck, Michael Gordy, Liz Hendrickson, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Carmen Peters, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Sally Rosen, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson. Chapter Chairs; Aurora Aber, Ted Coleman, Barbara Joseph, Gary Mehok, Ellen Shamah, Ellie Feldner. ASRS Chair; Steve Ramos. Members; Connie Wittig, Kathy Campbell, Frank Sacco, Linda Thieken, Cindy Michels, Juan Ziniga, Jan Nichols, Larry Wittig, Anna Cicero. Staff; Mike Aicone

2. Approval of Agenda with flexibility (Ramage-White/K. Freed) **Approved**

3. Approval of the minutes of November 11. (J. Campbell/Putman) **Approved**

4. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets	\$74,208
Liabilities	\$17,300
Equity	\$56,909

Approval of the report and file for audit (Ramage/WhiteSomo) **Approved**  
(See written report for more information.)

Linder continues to monitor and reviewed the lines he has concerns about, the Board lodging and Board meetings lines. He also reviewed how we, AEA-Retired, contribute to the AEA Assessment.

5. The budget committee was introduced by Chairperson Somo. They are Horwin, Austin, K. Freed, Linder, Moy, Stephenson and Thieken. Somo shared that the committee met on January 21. Thieken was unable to attend. They arrived at a balanced budget proposal that will require Board action in March. The budget is conservatively based on January 15 membership count given by NEA.

Much discussion ensued with a request by J. Campbell to revisit, with an eye to increasing, the Alliance conference line.

Additional questions were asked as to why more money was slated for Meetings (funding for valley wide mixer) as well as the procedure for spending additional funds after the budget is passed.

President Horwin asked that at our March Board meeting the Board bring any recommendations for changes to the budget for discussion. If there is a suggestion to change a line, she would like a recommendation of which budget line should be lowered in order to achieve the increase.

6. Membership Chair Boswell shared most recent membership data. Currently we have 2082 members with 1584 using dues deduct. (See printed report for more information.)

We were reminded that the membership year begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. This month those who have not paid their dues were dropped. Thieken suggested that chairperson Boswell include a month to month comparison with last year as part of her report.

7. Membership Outreach chairs, Putman and Moy shared the outcomes of their January meeting. A decision to immediately give a new signee \$10 at Pre-Retirement Workshops was announced. Also, members will receive \$10 for recruiting new members. Many of the Board shared their recent recruiting experiences.

#### **Membership Outreach Committee Report**

The committee added two items to the membership campaign.

\* \$10 will be given to those who sign up new members starting January 13, 2015. Thirty people signed up to contact 32 locals. Each was given a list of the AEA members that retired in those districts last year.

\* \$10 will be given to those who attend the Pre-Retirement Seminars and sign the membership form in advance for AEA Retirement.

Also, the AEA Retired contact person will attend the last meeting of the year of the local they signed up to help to recruit retiring members.

A big thanks goes to Judy for putting together the list of 2014 AEA members that retired from the 32 locals and giving them to the 30 people who signed up to help. And of course we couldn't make it without all the work that Shirley does for our membership.

All board members will report each month how many people they have talked to or recruited as a member.

8. Officers' Reports

**President Horwin**-The President presented the Board with a much appreciated (by this secretary) written report. She then highlighted several areas while sharing additional information.

She reinforced that lists of names, phone numbers, mailing addresses and email addresses of our members was **not** to be shared with anyone! She has already received complaint(s) from members. Even if people are using them at a phone calling house party, they are **not** to be out of the possession of the Board member!

Horwin stressed that the strength of the Arizona Education Association-Retired is in the amount of people we can generate to influence an issue, and in the amount of money we can generate. We need to remember that our membership is our power.

HB1379 was discussed at length. This bill is being proposed by Senator Dial. The NIRS did a webinar relative to the 3 states that moved from a defined benefit to a defined contribution program. In each case, this resulted in a debacle and a return to a defined benefit system.

There are several other bills listed by President Horwin that are of concern. All are listed on the report she disseminated to the Board.

**Vice-President Austin**-The Vice-President reported that breakfast was no longer going to be provided by the Association and invited the Board to bring items to share on a volunteer, informal basis.

**Liaison Aicone**-The Board was informed by Aicone that membership has risen. AEA has a net increase of 193 members. For the first time in many years, the AEA Board will be able to disperse additional funds mid-year, rather than having to make additional cuts.

There have been several staff changes. Loreda has become a manager, an NEA organizer has been hired to service the Tucson area and Roxanne Rash has taken Penny Scubles position. He also reported that staff negotiations have been completed.

**AEA Director Moy**-no report

**Secretary K. Freed**-The Board was informed that receipts for their donations to the Jack Kinnaman Fund were available and were being circulated. He also warned about scams that he had personally encountered recently.

#### 9. DACA/DAPA

A presentation was made by DVEA President Leyva and ~~staffer~~ NEA Consultant Beebe-Giudice to share with the Board information about the Latino Outreach Project. A main goal is to build a positive change for Arizona's for Latino students and families. They defined DACA and DAPA for the Board and shared some of the alarming statistics related to undocumented students in the United States.

#### 10. ASRS

Steve Ramos shared that new bills could now only come as "strikers". He described this process to the Board.

(See written report for more information)

#### 11. Elections

Chairperson Ramage-White provided a written report to the Board. Currently, with the addition of Barbara Matteson and elimination of one of the Bart James, there are 67 people seeking to be delegates to the AEA Delegate Assembly, 1 seeking the vice-presidency and 12 individuals seeking to fill the 5 At-Large Board seats.

#### 12. Chapter Chair Reports

Southeast Arizona (Rosen) They have not met since our last meeting. The next meeting will be in March.

Greater Phoenix (Joseph) They met next on 1/27 with David Ramirez, Sky Harbor Information Director, as the speaker, at Beatitudes. They will next meet on March 24 at 10:30.

Greater Tucson (Aber) reported that they met on 1/20 with Luci Meesing as the speaker about the Civics test. She also reported that the chapter voted to donate \$250 as seed money for a legislative reception. They will meet at the Southern Region office on 2/16 at 10:00

East Valley/Mesa (Somo) The next meeting is 3/11 and deals with sex trafficking.

At the last meeting Tory Anderson did a mini-workshop on Common Sense Economics. Meetings are at 63 E. Main St. in Mesa.

West Valley/Glendale (Sommer) Thirteen people enjoyed the meeting on 2/5 at 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Bell Rd. with Janie Hydrick as the speaker. The next meeting will be Thursday May, 7.

Yavapai (Coleman) The officers met at IHOP on 1/15 and will next meet on 3/4 to organize a "Welcome to Retirement" meeting on 4/28 at 5:00.

Northern Arizona/Reservation (Goodluck) Will meet with local presidents to attempt to set meetings with retirees. Human resources has indicated they provide a list of those who are retiring.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (Austin) Previous meeting was on 1/19 from 11am to 1pm for lunch at Denny's on 3315 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, with 27 in attendance. The speaker was Steve Ramos. Books and magazines were collected for Lodestar, and \$27 was donated for the Jack Kinnaman Fund. Their next meeting will be on 3/16 at the same location, with Tory Anderson as speaker. Everyone is welcome.

Kyrene (Shamah/Feldner) A survey was sent members and perspective members to help determine their wants/needs. The next meeting is scheduled for 3/18.

**NOTE:** Thank you to the chapter chairs who submitted written reports.

13. Annual Meeting (Austin)

Vice-President Austin reported that requests for hotel arrangements have been made and that the registration form will be in the next Conduit. The Board was informed of its gift responsibilities and a discussion of the theme was held with the decision resting with the committee. A sign-up sheet was circulated...sort of...as it was not returned to Suzan. If you have inadvertently taken it home, please return it. No questions asked!

14. Pre-Retirement Presentations (Somo)

The first pre-retirement seminar was held Feb. 5, at Headquarters, with approximately 50 people in attendance. Future presentations will be Feb. 11, at the Southern Region office, Feb. 17 at TEA and Feb. 19, at Headquarters.

15. Political Action & Election Updates (Matteson/Messing)

A written report was distributed and discussed. The overarching message is “**Do something!**”

16. Alliances and Coalitions

a. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans (J. Campbell)

We were presented with a multi -page report including the minutes from a recent meeting. It was also shared that 35 people demonstrated at the Phoenix Social Security office due to the Alliance’s concerns around Social Security.

b. Arizona Wins Coalition (Horwin)

No report at this time.

17. Half-back Raffle of \$35 was won by Ramos.

18. Adjournment at 2:16. Next meeting is March 10 at 10:00AM at headquarters.

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

Lunch was enjoyed during a 22 minute recess.

Les Reynolds committee met during lunch.

Public Relations Committee to meet after adjournment.