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28th AEA-Retired Annual Meeting attendees break all records

Record-breaking attendance and record-breaking donations to NEA & AEA political action funds marked the 28th AEA-Retired Annual Meeting. Additionally, great speakers, a delicious luncheon, fun activities, the chance to win fabulous prizes in a free drawing while raising funds for an important cause, and door prizes were all part of the festivities. Over 122 members and guests attended the May 6th event held for the first time at the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale. With a theme of "Unite, Inspire, Lead – Together We Can", this year's event centered on how retirees can make a difference in their communities, the state, and the nation.

AEA President **Andrew Morrill**, who explained the importance of passing Prop 123 for the benefit of Arizona's students and school employees, was the first guest speaker of the day. ASRS Director **Paul Matson** presented a detailed update on the pension fund and what to expect over the next few years. **AEA-Retired President Julie Horwin** inspired members to be active participants in the Association. And **NEA Organizer Todd Crenshaw** detailed how "Elections Have Consequences" and urged everyone to be active, involved, informed voters.

resent retirees on the AEA Board of Directors, and **Luci Messing** to serve as Alternate Director.

Attendees at the Annual Meeting participated in a fun drawing to raise money for the NEA Fund for Children, the non-partisan political action arm of the NEA. Participants donated over \$4570 during the one-day conference, beating the previous year's total by \$900. Retired delegates who attended the AEA Delegate Assembly also contributed generously to the non-partisan AEA Fund, raising more than \$5,000. These funds will be used to help elect friends of public education and retirees at the state and national levels.

Somo presented with Les Reynolds Award



AEA-Retired Past President Linda Somo was honored with this year's Les Reynold's Distinguished Senior Service Award for her many years of outstanding leadership and service to AEA-Retired and her community.



Delegates elect new Board Members and Secretary

Retired delegates to the Annual Meeting and the AEA Delegate Assembly, that was held immediately following, elected **Ken Freed**, who ran unopposed, to serve a second term as AEA-Retired Secretary. Six Representatives-at-Large were also elected to a three-year term: **Liz Hendrickson, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Tricia Roach, Susan Sommer, and Connie Wittig**. They joined the other elected officers and representatives on the Board on June 1st to begin their terms.

During the AEA Delegate Assembly, the 85 retired delegates elected **Daniel Barlow** to rep-



AEA Retired Calendar

- August 30—Primary voting day
- September 13—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ
- September 14—AEA-Retired Committee Day, AEA HQ
- September 21—MORE Social Event, Phoenix, AEA HQ
- September 22—MORE Social Event, Tucson, YWCA
- October 10—Deadline to register to vote in general election
- October 11—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



Steve Ramos

Looking forward: Prop. 123, the ASRS, and our membership

Ten years ago I took on the task at AEA-Retired of monitoring the Arizona State Retirement System for our members. As part of that job I find myself at ASRS Board meetings and at the capitol dealing with legislators and lobbyists. I have traveled around the state talking to retired and soon-to-be retired educators. I remind them how fortunate we are to have a defined benefit plan and that ASRS is one of the top funds in the country. However, ASRS was not immune to the economic crisis and the ASRS plan is currently 77.53% funded. Besides lower market returns, state tax cuts and budget cuts have caused ASRS employers to either freeze or cut back on hiring new employees. Added to that was the inability to increase salaries for existing employees over the last several years. Both factors reduced the amount of contributions coming into the ASRS plan.

Usually educators can retire with the confidence that their defined benefit plan will help contribute to a lifetime of retirement security. But the failure of the legislature to honor voter mandated inflation funding has hurt both recent and future retirees. Many educators have not seen a real salary increase in several years. Educators close to retirement know that their retirement benefit will be determined by a formula, averaging their salary over a 3 to 5 year period in the last 10 years of employment. Years of stagnant salaries translate into tens of thousands of dollars in lost retirement benefits. After retirement, the ASRS plan does not provide a real Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) other than the Permanent Benefit Increase, which has not been paid since 2005. Inflation can quickly eat away at our fixed retirement benefit.

Now that Prop. 123 has passed and the lawsuit is settled, funds will be distributed immediately to the public schools and ASRS will begin to see the results of putting more dollars into the pockets of our educators. Prop. 123 can strengthen ASRS with new employees, bigger salaries and increased contributions. That new money, in turn, can help lower ASRS contribution rates for both employees and employers. That means more money goes home in educators' paychecks and more money stays in school district budgets. Most importantly, any educator within a few years of retirement should not only see significant salary increases but will hopefully see their retirement benefit made whole again.

I was pleased to see the increased amount of political engagement that our members and other education supporters have demonstrated over the last three months. Please don't let that support evaporate as we head into the all-important Primary Election in August and the General Election in November. Prop. 123 doesn't fix years of underfunding of our public schools. We will all need to join together to make changes to the legislature and the political climate in Arizona, to protect our public schools and our pensions. It will not be easy. AEA's political action committee will be interviewing candidates from all parties to determine which candidates can be counted on to help move our agenda forward.

You can help to increase our power by reaching out to others and asking them to become AEA Retired members. They can find us online at: <http://www.azedretired.com/> or call 602-320-3093 for information and membership options. You can also use the membership form on page 11 of this issue of *The Conduit*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JULIE HORWIN



A potpourri of information & requests

Unhappy? Be involved to make changes!

Whether we are politically active or not, this is a very exciting year for Arizona residents. It would be impossible to ignore all

the presidential candidates and the hoopla that accompanies them.

I have been very fortunate to visit some of our local chapter meetings. I also met with many of you at the May 6, AEA-Retired Annual Meeting. At every visit I continue to encourage members to become involved with political elections at both the state and local levels. We just had a very difficult issue campaign and the biggest message I heard was, "We don't trust our elected policy-makers." The best way we can deal with that problem is to un-elect them and put in their place those who hold our same values. Let's get to work. Find a phone bank, a Saturday to knock on doors, or other work on a legislative campaign. If we each volunteer only 2 to 4 hours on any campaign this summer and fall, we can make a positive change. We will email you as soon as we hear of the opportunities that will arise this summer through the fall.

Pension threat still exists!

I had the opportunity to discuss pension issues with other presidents from across the country. We are fortunate that we still have a Defined Benefit pension system, even if it is constantly under attack. We must remain vigilant in order to protect the system that we have. During next January's legislative session, Gov. Ducey, ASU Pres. Michael Crow and Board of Regents President Eileen Klein have plans to weaken our pension system. We will continue to monitor this and will keep you informed on how we can best counter these attacks.

National issues remain at forefront.

In June and July, I will attend the NEA Representative Assembly representing you. I will make certain that our issues and the students we still care so much about remain our focus. This year I have visited each of our AZ congressional delegations. At each meeting, I discuss the future of Medicare and Social Security with them.

AEA-Retired website entirely redesigned; seeking additional website helpers.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our website, please do so. It is www.azedretired.com. If you have experience with website creation, I am currently looking for a small committee to help me with this endeavor. I am currently your website administrator and creator.

Tell us your volunteer activities.

In January, I would like to present to Governor Ducey a symbolic check for the hours that our members have volunteered. I sent out the volunteer survey last month. Please go to it now and take the survey if you haven't already. We have accumulated over 26,103 hours so far. Well done to all. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEA-RetiredVolunteerism>

Complete strategic planning member survey.

We are beginning to plan how we can best meet the needs of our current members and strengthen our voice in the community by recruiting many more of our potential members. You can help by completing and mailing in the Strategic Planning Survey on pages 9-10 of this issue of *The Conduit*, or you can take that survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StrategicPlanningSurvey2016>

Help to implement ESSA.

Very recently I had the pleasure of working with NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia and her staff to plan and execute a nationwide NEA-Retired Telephone Town Hall to introduce the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Every Student Succeeds Act – or ESSA. As retired educators we can be a giant help to make sure that ESSA is implemented with equity – by supporting policy makers at all levels who believe that education should be appropriately funded (no matter in which zip code a child lives), by supporting new teachers, and by helping to implement community efforts to support students and their teachers. At last! Let the excitement begin!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Barbara Matteson and Larry Wittig



Tired of politics as usual? Vote and work to make a difference!

The Governor and many others are saying that the passage of Proposition 123 was a good start, a first step, in providing the much need funding for public education. That is true, but now we want to hear about the second step. Restoring the \$1.2 billion that were cut during the recession would be a good start to fund schools adequately.

We need to join with the many organizations in Arizona that are continuing the fight to restore the funding needed. We need to continue to lobby our elected leaders to stand up for kids.

Those who continue to ignore the importance of a well-funded public school system need to be replaced. It is time to hold their feet to the fire. Ask them the hard questions. What is their plan for restoring adequate funding? What specifically will they do to support public education? What is their plan to protect our public pensions, and do they support keeping our Defined Benefit pension plan? Then support those who have solutions and oppose those who waffle or change the subject.

We were successful in stopping some of the really bad legislation from becoming law this year, such as vouchers for every student in Arizona, and taking 15 employer groups out of the ASRS pension system. But if we don't change those who we elect to represent us, these bills, and others just as bad or worse, will be back again.



You can make a difference. Our involvement is needed. Support our recommended candidates with your time and money. And get others involved. **See that your family members, friends and neighbors are registered to vote. And inform them about the positions of the candidates running for office.** And then get them to vote in August (the primary is also very important) and November. We can't accept the status quo. We need to work for change. Please join us and help make a difference.

Important Dates to Remember

- 8/1 Deadline to register to vote in Primary
- 8/3 Early voting for Primary begins
- 8/30 Primary Election Day
- 10/10 Deadline to register to vote in General
- 10/12 Early voting for General begins
- 11/8 General Election Day

To make voting even easier and avoid those long lines on election day, request to be on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) by requesting, completing and returning a Permanent Early Voting request from your county Elections Department. Then vote from home.

AEA-RETIRED WEBSITE HAS A WHOLE NEW LOOK! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU!

After 28 years as the premier organization for retired public education employees, AEA-Retired, the leading resource for retired educators, announced the launch of an all new website. (www.azedretired.com)

With innovative features, easy-to-navigate pages, enhanced print, larger images, the site includes expanded information, new ways to view chapters, opportunities, publication archives, helpful links

The site provides members and potential AEA-Retired members with an even better way to get to know their professional organization.

"Since our founding in 1988, AEA-Retired has continued to create ways to connect AEA-Retired members, protect their futures, and advocate for their issues. We created the new website to provide an enhanced look and feel that reflects our premium brand positioning, in order to meet the needs of all of our members." said Julie Horwin, AEA-Retired President. "Consistent with our guiding principle of executing with excellence for our members, our site provides exciting new tools and features that will enhance the AEA-Retired experience."

Please log on to www.azedretired.com and bookmark the page so that you can visit us often to get the latest info.

AEA-Retired M.O.R.E. (Mobilize, Organize, Recruit, Engage)



This year AEA-Retired took on a new and exciting project with the help of an NEA grant. We now actively communicate with NEA-Retired life members, who worked in other states but now live and vote in Arizona. We have scheduled several social events so that they can meet with our AEA-Retired members to forge new relationships and engage them in fighting for public education. Meetings were held in February in Tucson and Phoenix, they were invited to our Annual Meeting, and we have scheduled additional meetings and leadership training sessions in September. They are

also welcome to attend our annual Committee Day on Sept. 14, to help us plan for the upcoming year.

The NEA Grant that funded our AEA-Retired M.O.R.E. (Mobilize, Organize, Recruit, Engage) Project for 2015-2016 has met its goals and Vice President Suzan Austin will be submitting another grant proposal to continue the project for another year.

The M.O.R.E Teams for 2016-2017

Phoenix – Julie Horwin, Linda Somo, Michele Smith, Carmen Peters, Paula Mueller, Steve Ramos, Suzan Austin. **Tucson** - Barbara Matteson, Steve Linder, Marilyn Calhoun, Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin

Upcoming M.O.R.E. EVENTS FOR FALL

Phoenix M.O.R.E. Leadership Training
-- September 20, 10-3, AEA Headquarters
Phoenix M.O.R.E. Social
-- September 21, 10-2, AEA Headquarters
Tucson M.O.R.E. Social
-- September 22, 10-2, YWCA

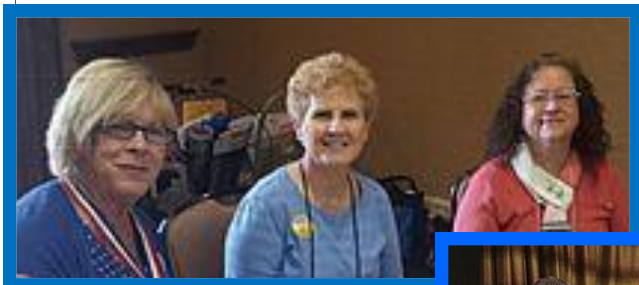
Todd Crenshaw, NEA staff, and Suzan Austin, AEA-Retired Vice President, are joined by NEA-Retired members who live in Arizona and were guests at the Annual Meeting on May 6th.




AEA-Retired members and NEA Retired members who live in Arizona enjoy a day together during an introductory meeting in Tucson in February.




Photo Gallery of Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly, April 6-7







NEA-Retired
Now More Than Ever,
The Commitment Continues



The Conduit *aea*
Your Retired
Statewide Local

A Publication of AEA-Retired
An affiliate of NEA Retired
345 E. Palm Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-574-1473
azedretired.com
aea.retired@arizonaea.org

Julie Horwin	President
Suzan Austin	Vice President
Ken Freed	Secretary
Steve Linder	Treasurer
Linda Somo	Past President

The Conduit Editors
Liz Hendrickson, Linda Somo & Jan Nichols

“Join me in my personal mission to create positive change; help recruit new members and strengthen our voice.” Julie Horwin, AEA-Retired President

I don't think that there is any organization in Arizona that has the potential for more impact and greater voice for Arizona's students than AEA-Retired. We can grow our membership – and thus make our voice heard, by living our core values. Our core values are the platform for the kind of change that is needed. We are, above all, a values-based organization. We promote the community value of an excellent public education for every child, and a guarantee of a lifelong retirement pension for those who have spent their careers making that happen in schools.

Our identity and strength come from our commitment to these values. These values should be used as the glue to keep members, and as a magnet to attract new ones. AEA-Retired's commitment to public education and the retirement earned is the antidote to the dissatisfaction with today's politics. I contend that we can solidify our identity as proactive public

education advocates by growing our membership. **I ask that you make this commitment personal. By that I mean, that you take the membership form on page 11 and ask a colleague to join you as a member of AEA-Retired.**

With over 10,000 potential members who have never been asked, there is plenty of opportunity to connect with your past colleagues. Tell them about AEA-Retired and ask them to join. I need your help to strengthen our voice, because without more voices, we can't impact change to become the Arizona that works hard to fulfill every student's needs for an excellent education that will unlock his/her potential, and that strengthens and protects vital retiree pensions.

With warmest regards, and looking forward to chatting with you whenever possible.

Julie Horwin



**Lunch hosted by
AEA-Retired.**

**Please reserve your place.
rsvp: Julie Horwin
jhorwin@mindspring.com
(602) 320-3093**

Help plan for the future of AEA-Retired. Attend Committee Day on September 14, and be a part of a Committee.

Attention, all AEA-Retired Members! Your ideas and input are invaluable as we plan our activities to fulfill our mission during the 2016-2017 year. Please come on Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 10-3 at AEA Headquarters, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, to help us plan those activities. We would love to see as many of you there as possible - and will even provide a delicious lunch for your efforts! Please see the ad above for rsvp information. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short, 7-10 minute survey. The following questions will help us to continue to create a more positive, helpful experience for you and others who join AEA-Retired.

**Please mail your responses to AEA, Attention AEA-Retired Survey
345 East Palm Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85004**

1. Your name. No further contact will be made unless you request follow up.

2. Why did you originally decide to join AEA-Retired? (Check all that apply.)

I joined ...

- ☐ To continue my affiliation with my professional organizations, AEA & NEA.
- ☐ To keep up with trends about the profession. For AEA/NEA/AEA-Retired Magazines.
- ☐ To give back to the profession.
- ☐ To network with retired & active colleagues.
- ☐ To take advantage of volunteer opportunities.
- ☐ To be a part of a united voice in advocating for education locally, statewide & nationally.
- ☐ To take advantage of Member Benefits.
- ☐ To keep informed about my ASRS pension and any possible threats.

3. Other reasons you joined not mentioned above:

4. Please rate the importance to you of the following AEA-Retired member benefits, services, and opportunities.

Not at all important = 1 Not very important = 2 Somewhat important = 3 Very important = 4
Extremely important = 5

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Communications: Conduit, E-Newsletters, _____ | • Political Volunteer Activities _____ |
| • Emails directly to you, NEA This Active Life, AEA Advocate _____ | • Information and Monitoring of AZ State Retirement System _____ |
| • Having a Local Chapter in My Area to Share Ideas and Information With My Colleagues _____ | • Social Networking and the ability to Hear from Retired and Active Colleagues _____ |
| • Member Benefits/Discounts _____ | • Intergenerational Mentor Program _____ |
| • Political Information: Local, State, National Public School & Retirement Issues _____ | • Presentations & Speakers _____ |
| • Monthly Executive Board Meetings _____ | • Leadership Opportunities _____ |
| | • NEA-Retired Conferences/Meetings _____ |
| | • Other (please specify) _____ |

5. Help us plan for any needed changes.

What are your ideas for some critical activities that AEA-Retired must continue or begin doing in order to:

Maintain members' connections to AEA/NEA?

Increase Membership in AEA-Retired?

Monitor ASRS?

Create fellowship with members?

Engage members in political action?

Increase participation in local chapters

Reach out to potential new members?

Other: (Please be specific)

6. AEA-Retired offers a variety of informative speakers with topics such as social security, Medicare/Medicaid, care-giving, ASRS pension, and healthful living tips:

Do you have suggestions for topics or particular speakers?

If you suggest a particular speaker, please include their contact information or your own.

10. As a volunteer organization, we need people. What would entice you to volunteer?

11. Which of the following best describes your ability/willingness to volunteer with AEA-Retired?

- ☐ Willing and able whenever requested
☐ On some occasions depending on issues that interest me
☐ Short, limited availability 1-2 hours one or two times
☐ Unable to participate Other (please specify)

12. AEA-Retired has a limited budget. Each of the below items represents a potential cost. Please rank order the following items 1-5 to indicate your priorities for our resources, with 1=lowest priority, and 5= highest priority. Each number can be used only once, and assign only one number per item.

In the next five years, AEA-Retired might be more successful if we increase focus on

- ☐ Engaging more members to be more active in AEA-Retired activities such as political action/volunteering
- ☐ More frequent chapter level meetings
- ☐ Leadership development opportunities such as attending NEA-Retired conferences
- ☐ More community service projects
- ☐ Offer more support to beginning educators
- ☐ Other (please specify)

13. About You

Age: 50-59 _____ 60-69 _____ 70-79 _____ 80-89 _____ 90+ _____ **Gender:** M F

Which roles best describe your AEA activities before you retired?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member of local or state committee | <input type="checkbox"/> AEA Board Director for your region |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee chair of local or state committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer of local |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> President of local |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of local Association |

Area of Arizona in which you live:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Tucson | <input type="checkbox"/> Yuma | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Region |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Phoenix | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Region | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Region |

I work ☐ Full time outside of home ☐ Part time outside of home ☐ Fully retired

Thank you for your help - the time and ideas that you put into this survey will be used to create a stronger organization. We are grateful for your help and are interested in putting your knowledge and skills to work for AEA-Retired. Phone 602-320-3093 and contact Julie Horwin to get more involved.



**ARIZONA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED
ARIZONA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED**

For Office Use Only

Membership Year _____ (Sept. 1–Aug. 31)

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

HOME PHONE

HOME EMAIL ADDRESS

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
ADDRESS		
CITY & STATE		ZIP CODE
We do not sell addresses.		

Optional Information

DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____
MO DAY YEAR

INITIAL/PLANNED YEAR OF RETIREMENT _____

LOCAL ASSOCIATION/DISTRICT WILL/DID YOU RETIRE FROM _____

PARTY AFFILIATION: DEMOCRAT ____ (D) INDEPENDENT ____ (I)
REPUBLICAN ____ (R) OTHER ____ (O)

ETHNIC INFORMATION:

____ AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE ____ HISPANIC
____ ASIAN ____ MULTI-ETHNIC
____ BLACK ____ NATIVE HAWAIIAN/
____ CAUCASIAN (NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN) ____ PACIFIC ISLANDER
____ OTHER

METHOD OF PAYMENT (Select one)

☐ I AUTHORIZE ASRS DUES DEDUCTION
☐ CHECK ENCLOSED
☐ CREDIT CARD: ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CARD # _____

SIGNATURE _____

X

MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

**ARIZONA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RETIRED**

345 East Palm Lane

Phoenix, AZ 85004-1532

Membership: (602) 696-2458 • www.arizonaaea.org



Arizona
Education
Association

REV. 6/12

☐ **OPTION 1****NEA-R/AEA-R/AEA MEMBERSHIP**

NEA RETIRED	\$30 Annually
AEA (State)	30 Annually
AEA RETIRED (Local)	30 Annually

TOTAL \$90

Select dues deduction to have \$7.50 deducted each month from your ASRS check, or pay by check or credit card.

☐ **OPTION 2****NEA RETIRED LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

NEA RETIRED	\$250 One-time Fee
AEA (State)	30 Annually
AEA RETIRED (Local)	30 Annually

TOTAL \$310

Once the one-time fee of \$250 for

NEA RETIRED LIFE is paid:

NEA RETIRED	\$ 0
AEA (State)	30 Annually
AEA RETIRED (Local)	30 Annually

TOTAL \$ 60

Write a check for \$250 to NEA Retired, **and select dues deduction to have \$5.00 deducted each month from your ASRS check.**

☐ **OPTION 3****NEA RETIRED LIFETIME PRE-RETIREMENT MEMBERSHIP**

ONE-TIME FEE	\$250
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AEA RETIRED AND AEA DUES GO INTO
EFFECT WHEN YOU RETIRE

Write a check for \$250 payable to AEA Retired.

AEA Retired, YOUR STATEWIDE LOCAL
Affiliated with Arizona Education Association
345 East Palm Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

AEA-Retired Chapter News

Chapters are an attempt to bring AEA-Retired closer to members. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live. Meetings usually include an information program, business meeting, lunch or dinner, and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter should contact Chapter Coordinators **Susan Sommer**, ssommer114@aol.com or **Suzan Austin** at (480) 947-2089 suzanaustin@cox.net.

Glendale/West Valley Chapter- All members are welcome at our meetings. We meet at the Iron Works Restaurant, 17233 N. 45th Avenue, Phoenix, and we're looking for additional members who live west of I-17. Meetings are bi-monthly on Thursdays at 4:00 PM. The next meeting will be October 6th. For more information call **Susie Sommer** at 623-628-1935 or e-mail ssommer114@aol.com.

Mesa / East Valley Chapter: Chapter members met Wednesday, May 11, at the Mesa Public Schools Bldg., 63 E. Main Street in Mesa. Guest speaker was Chris Meza, AEA staff. Future meetings are scheduled for Sept. 15, Nov. 9, Jan. 11, March 8, and May 10. Contact **Janie Hydrick** at Hydrick@aol.com or (480) 963-1848 for more information.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: Meetings are the third Tues. of Sept.—May, at 10:00 AM, and alternating sites between the TEA office and the Southern Region office. Go to <http://www.azedretired.com/TUCSON/index.html> for more information, or contact Chapter Chair **Marilyn Calhoun** at 520-744-0399 or marilyn13148@q.com.

Phoenix Chapter: Met on May 17 at the Beatitudes in Phoenix, 1610 W. Glendale Ave. The two guest speakers were Kim French, Volunteer Coordinator for the Arizona State Library, who spoke about the Talking Book Program, and Dr. Harold Wong, nationally known economics expert, who spoke about the importance of smart financial planning. Meetings are planned for the third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Jan., March, & May at 10:30 AM. For more information or to RSVP your attendance, contact Chapter Chair **Michele Smith** at 602-463-1624 or mms7997@msn.com.

Yavapai Chapter: Contact new Chairperson **Rob Johan** at johanica31@gmail.com or 602-971-1702 for information about future meetings.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: Meetings for this year are scheduled for Sept. 19, Nov. 21, Jan. 16, March 20, and May 15 from 11 AM—1 PM for lunch at Denny's on 7000 Mayo Blvd., Scottsdale. Representative Lela Alston was the guest speaker at the last meeting on March 16. The new Co-Chairs are Ann Meyers and Nancy Riley. For information contact **Nancy Riley**, 480-600-8559, rileyfam@cox.net, or **Ann Myers** 480-510-8098, azann@mac.com

Southeast Arizona Chapter: Contact **Sally Rosen** at 520-459-0430 or azcatsally@aol.com for more information.

Kyrene/Tempe Chapter: Everyone who is eligible for AEA-Retired membership, and their guests, are welcome to the meetings. Contact **Ellie Feldner** at teachgift@gmail.com, for more information and future meeting dates.

Flagstaff Chapter: Hosted a retiree luncheon for Flagstaff USD teachers at Outback Steakhouse on May 21. President Julie Horwin spoke about the need to bring strong voices to the table to support Arizona's educational system and protect pensions. Each retiree was highlighted and honored, and five chose to join AEA-Retired that day. On June 7th, Nikki Bagley (D), candidate for the AZ State Senate in LD6, spoke at the monthly Chapter meeting. Meetings are held at 10 AM at the Federated Church in Flagstaff. For more information on future meeting dates and to RSVP, contact **Tricia Roach** at trteach6@mac.com or call 928-525-1997.

New Yuma Chapter: The newest chapter has just formed. Contact Chapter Co-Chairs **Ricki & Jim Gribble** at rickigribble@msn.com or call 928-344-1157 for information about how you can participate in this new chapter.