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Thirty AEA-Retired and NEA-Retired met at Tucson, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and fifty-five met in Phoenix on December 5<sup>th</sup> to socialize and learn new information about possible direction of legislation in the upcoming session in January.

Attendees enjoyed greeting and socializing with fellow retired educators from Arizona and throughout the nation. Todd Crenshaw, NEA organizing specialist, Julie Horwin, AEA-Retired President and Luci Messing, Legislative Chairperson, hosted the events.

Speakers for this event in Tucson were Representatives Andres Cano and Pamela Powers-Hanley. Participants role-played various scenarios depicting conversations with policy makers and discussed different issues in small groups.

In Phoenix, speakers included Representative Charlene Fernandez and

Senator Lisa Otondo, Joe Thomas, AEA President, and Stephanie Parra, AEA Lobbyist. These speakers provided a dynamic and information packed session.

M.O.R.E. is a project designed to Mobilize, Organize, Recruit and Engage education retirees in Arizona and those who moved here after retiring. AEA-Retired hosts mixers where attendees socialize, build friendships, network and learn strategies to influence policy makers.

M.O.R.E. works to protect the teaching profession, Social Security and Medicare.

Be on the lookout for M.O.R.E. events. We would love to have you join us and share your expertise and experience.

**To be a part of the NEA-Retired Arizona M.O.R.E. Project contact Linda Somo, [lsomo@cox.net](mailto:lsomo@cox.net)**

The majority of photos in this issue were taken at the M.O.R.E. meetings in Tucson and Phoenix.



## AEA-Retired Calendar



January 23—AEA-Retired Lobby Day at the State Capitol

February 11—Executive Board meeting

February 12—AEA-Retired Lobby Day at the State Capitol

February 24—School Counselors' Lobby Day at the State Capitol

# ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



## Anti-Pension Groups Hide Behind EQUABLE INSTITUTE to Launch Public Attacks Against ASRS

### The ASRS Pension Threat

### The Future of the Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI)

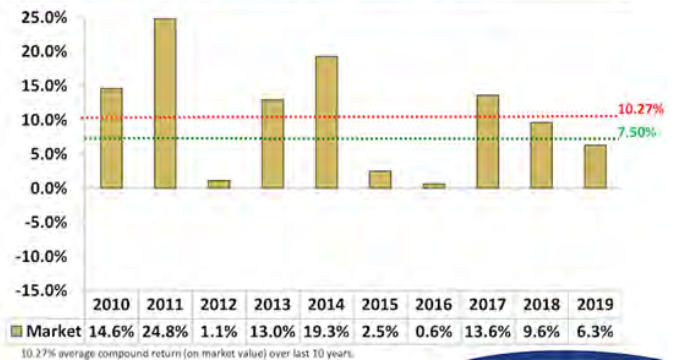
AEA Retired and the Arizona Retirement Security Coalition now know that the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and The Reason Foundation are using the Equable Institute, a so-called bipartisan group of anti-pension ideologues, to push 2020 legislation hoping to turn the ASRS into a 401k style defined contribution plan, leaving hard-working public employees without the protection of a defined benefit pension. They will try to pit retirees, actives and new hires against each other. Using paid social media content, Equable is already attacking the ASRS Board for significant reforms that have been made in the last few years to its award-winning pension plan.

The Equable media campaign is also trying to garner support from ASRS members by advocating that the state pay down the current ASRS liability faster than planned and replace the current Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI) with a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). AEA Retired members might well be supportive of both of these very expensive reforms, but not at the cost of replacing our defined benefit plan with a 401k plan. With no bill on the table at this time, help us send this simple message to legislators, “Don’t Mess With My ASRS Pension!”

There is some interesting news about the PBI. You may remember that the PBI only happens when returns rise above 8% over a running 10-year average. At that point, money can be set aside for a PBI. However, the pot has to exceed 1% before it can be paid out. If you look back at our June 2018 Conduit, you will see a chart similar to the one below.

In the 2019 chart above, you can see the average Market Value of Returns has improved,

*Estimated Market Value of Asset Returns*



and so has the Actuarial Value (not shown). The current actuarial value is slightly above 8%, but not because of the recent 6.3% return. It’s because two really bad years, 2008 (-7.5%) and 2009 (-18.3%) have dropped off the 10-year average. As you can see, the next two years to drop off will not help our chances of reaching that 1% payout for the PBI. If you retired in 2006 or later, you have never seen a



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JULIE HORWIN



**Two years ago, I walked the Arizona State Capitol and hugged so many courageous educators. I shook hands with a school principal who told me that he was proud of how educators were standing together. A father told me he brought his daughter and wanted her to see what it looked like to stand up for what was right. I saw tears but I saw laughter and I saw determination and I saw fearlessness and strength of purpose. This was the Red For Ed walk into the State Legislature.**

I am so proud of our colleagues across Arizona. I am so inspired by the way they courageously walk into underfunded classrooms each day. **They love their students too much to allow the devaluing and disrespect of educators to continue.** I am so inspired by their decision to take a stand and call out those with the power to change this situation who don't. We will be back this year with "Invest in Ed.2." Please stay tuned. They will need our help, my AEA-Retired accomplices. Unless we find a new revenue source for our schools, we will continue to have a classroom crisis where great teachers can't afford to teach.

And, speaking of great teachers in classrooms, **we elect representatives to work for us and the betterment of our communities. But when they fail to represent us and they only represent their own interests, it's up to us to look them in the eye and speak the truth as loudly as we can for as long as we have to. Please think about what your particular electioneering superpower is - knocking doors or making phone calls, or if neither of those, then donating to candidates who hold our core values. Then put that superpower to work this year to elect officials who understand the**

**relationship between a great education system and our state economy.**

I would like to take the time to thank the AEA-Retired M.O.R.E. Team who held two Advocacy Trainings this month. Stephanie Parra presented very comprehensive legislative information including a heads up for what's on for the 2020 session. Luci Messing provided interactive trainings and role-modeling for advocating your state legislators.

It is time to find your voice and let it be heard. Education as we know it is rapidly evolving. We must be aware and be vocal about Arizona students and their teachers. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "Our lives begin and end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Welcome to our newest members who joined us in the spring or last summer. AEA-Retired is the most active retired affiliate of NEA-Retired in the country. Don't take my word for it – it has been repeated often in Washington DC! Please join us at one of our chapter meetings. You can find them at [www.azedretired.com](http://www.azedretired.com), our award-winning website. We welcome you to join any of our myriad of fun activities, committees, groups and projects. Welcome and congratulations on your retirement!

With warmest regards,  
Julie Horwin  
President, AEA-Retired

Please see more from President Horwin on federal legislation on **page 6**

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY LUCI MESSING

## 2020 Legislative Session Ready to Begin



Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> is opening day at the Capitol. AEA is planning an opening day activity with other coalition partners and allies. They would like as many people to attend as possible. Let's show up in our **RED for ED** shirts and

demonstrate our support for public education. Specific details will be forthcoming. Be on the watch for emails that will contain pertinent information.

The **AEA-Retired Political Action Committee** and the **MORE** (Mobilize, Organize, Recruit, and Engage) Team have sponsored two Advocacy/Lobbying Trainings. One in Tucson and one in Phoenix. Over 80 members are now prepared to visit the Capitol and meet with their legislators.

However, we invite anyone who is interested to join us when we travel to the Legislature.

We are now planning for our first AEA-Retired Day at the Capitol on Thursday, January 23, 2020. Please reach out to family and friends and invite them to attend. We

want to increase our presence at the State House. If you're unable to attend in January, there will be another opportunity in February. Our second visit to the Capitol will be on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. We also will have two more days at the Capitol in March when we join AEA active members during scheduled Spring Breaks.

We have learned that there may be an attempt to change the ASRS system. We will be closely monitoring what happens in the Legislature and will reach out to members as needed. Each of you will be asked to email your representative, call your representative or to use the request to speak system. Legislators will learn that we will not sit idly by and allow any threat to our pension to go unchallenged.

At the time of this writing, AEA is still contemplating whether to proceed with an initiative to increase funding for public education. There has been a great deal of discussion and polling to determine if there is a viable solution to address this issue. We expect a decision to be made fairly soon.

In addition to monitoring the Legislature, we also will be preparing for the 2020 elections. AEA-Retired intends to be fully engaged in electing the best candidates to represent us in the State House, in Congress and in the White House.

**Stay tuned for updates and be ready to act!**



Members Susan Sommer and Fred Barlam (left),

Luci Messing, Howard Johnson and Anna Cicero (below) joined the protest at the ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) meetings in Scottsdale this month.



## Nominate a fellow member for the Les Reynolds Award

This prestigious annual award acknowledges and honors a member who provides outstanding service to AEA Retired and the communities he or she serves. To nominate a member, complete the form on page 9.

# ARIZONA SCHOOL COUNSELORS, THE PIPELINE TO STUDENT SUCCESS

BY ANNA CICERO, AZSCA ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CHAIR



Few people before the Red for Ed Movement knew that Arizona ratio of students to counselors was the worst in the nation, 904 students to one counselor.

Because of the publicity, the Arizona School Counselor Association and the stakeholders are intensifying efforts to change this situation so that every school, especially in rural areas, is better served.

Advocating for the school counselor profession is a daily task of the Arizona School Counselor Association. The AzSCA Advocacy and Government Relations Committee, with the help of board members, is constantly vigilant and diligent in creating understanding of the importance of the role of this certified position. Through the coalition with the AEA and AEA-Retired, our voice gets stronger.

It's been an incredibly busy and action-packed year with these important issues impacting counselors and their work with students since the disclosures in the media. We were a major part of **March for our Lives**. In addition, we worked with many parent groups, community suicide prevention leaders who highlighted the grave concerns with personal stories about safe schools, mental health issues, suicide prevention as well as all aspects of social emotional issues.

Another fact to consider is most of the counselor's time is spent in academic and career development, leaving little time for other aspects of counseling.

At the national level, school counselors were heard, putting forth a 2018-2020 strategic plan at the American School Counselor Association, The RA Representative Assembly. New business items include:

- **NBI#17** NEA will communicate, through existing means, the advancement of the role and responsibilities of certified school counselors within their schools.
- **NBI#19** NEA commends and supports the courageous students fighting for safe schools and that NEA, within its existing budget ensures the safety of our students and school personnel will separate additional local and state funding for school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, mental health providers, school attendance teachers and similar student support personnel to help students identified as having possible serious mental health problems.
- **NBI#69** NEA, using available resources, data, and the American School Counselors Association National Model for school counseling, will promote and advocate for hiring of school counselor and professional mental health practitioners to support all students in Pre-K – higher education schools through existing print and electronic resources

The Department of Education awarded \$20 million through a **Safe Schools Grant**. The results of this funding will be to hire more high school counselors, SROs and Social Workers. The data compiled for the application shows critical need for additional funding exceeding the amount granted.

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continued from page 5*

The AEA, represented by a number of school counselor members, invited AzSCA to form a task force to add school counselor needs to the 2019-2020 Legislative Agenda and Platform.



## SARAH SAYS. . .

### SARAH **B**ORGMAN, NEA-RETIRED PRESIDENT

While visions of Sugar Plums danced through my head...and then I woke up to find it was not a dream but was a dream come true! There are multiple NEA Retired members working for a common cause: to make NEA Retired a viable, contributing membership category. How is that happening? Individuals are working to collect contributions for the NEA Fund; others are lobbying—calling, writing, e-mailing legislators about OUR issues; and still others are working in local and state affiliates to grow membership, to protect state pensions, to assist actives, and to reach out in community projects. All this is reality---not a sweet dream.

While we sometimes struggle there is proof that the old adage of “Keep on Keeping On” still brings results. In this season of hope and joy, let’s remember that together we are better, and each attempt to reach out for new members, to lobby, or to collect for the NEA Fund will bring results. Thank you for all you do! There is something for everyone so find your spot and be a part of our efforts... “NEA Retired, needed now more than ever!”

## From the NEA-Retired Legislative Committee: More Information

### House Drug Negotiation Bill (HR 3) -

The Ways and Means Committee marked up three Medicare expansion bills for hearing, vision and dental when they passed H.R. 3. The House leadership plans to roll all three expansion bills into HR 3 and bring it up for a vote in December.

On October 22, 2019, the House Ways and Means Committee passed several bills to expand Medicare benefits. Also passed was the Lower Drug Prices Act, H.R. 3, which would require the government to negotiate lower drugs prices and cap out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs under Part D to \$2,000 a year. H.R. 3 is expected to save hundreds of billions of dollars, which would be used to expand Medicare benefits. The expansion bills are:

- **Medicare Hearing Act (H.R. 4618)** introduced by Representatives Lucy McBath (D-GA) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), will provide coverage for hearing services and hearing aids to millions of Medicare beneficiaries. Currently, Medicare only provides coverage for hearing and balance exams. Fifty percent of Americans who are 60 or older have meaningful hearing impediment. Research has linked hearing loss to falls, dementia, cognitive decline, social isolation, and reduced quality of life. These conditions increase an individual’s total Medicare spending by an average of \$2,500 annually, according to one analysis.
- **Medicare Dental Act (H.R. 4650)** introduced by Representatives Robin Kelly (D-IL) and Steven Horsford (D-NV), would provide coverage for preventative dental screening, as well as routine treatment and major services, like root canals. Medicare does not cover most dental services such as preventive dental care, routine dental treatments, or dentures. Lack of dental coverage can affect one’s overall health and exacerbate chronic conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular and kidney disease. In 2016, half of Medicare beneficiaries did not see a dentist, and the 20% of those who did spent \$1,000 for dental services. H.R. 4650 would also cover dentures.
- **Medicare Vision Act (H.R. 4665)** sponsored by Representatives Kim Schrier (D-WA), Tom O’Halloran (D-AZ), Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Suzan DelBene (D-WA), will provide routine eye examinations and fitting services for eyeglasses and contact lenses. Currently, Medicare only covers vision services related to certain diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts and diabetes retinopathy. H.R. 4665 would also cover either one pair of eyeglasses during a two-year period or a two-year supply of contact lenses.

### S. 2733,

Misleadingly called the TRUST ACT, Senator Mitt Romney of Utah has introduced a dangerous bill, S. 2733. This legislation would create a panel that would meet outside of public view and create “fast-track” plans to make changes to Social Security and Medicare.

We need to stop this idea before it goes any further.

Social Security and Medicare benefits are critical to all Americans. We paid for them our entire life. And we need to fight anyone whose goal is to cut them or put Wall Street in charge of the system.

AEA-Retired Members, thank you for taking action to defend our earned benefits. It is critical that Congress hear from you today.

Help us fight for affordable prescription drugs and health care by sending a message to your member now.

Please call or write to your congressional delegation today.

Track your communication here, so that we may know how the members of NEA-Retired are doing when lobbying for our own issues in Congress.

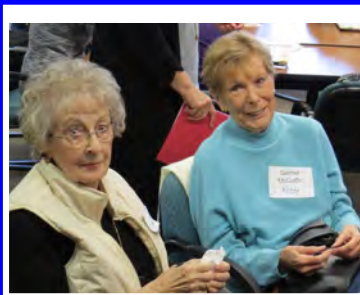
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NEARETIREDadvocacy2020>

# WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF AEA RETIRED?

BY MICHELE SMITH      MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The Membership Team has been busy. In May, during the two-day Delegate Assembly, we spoke to many active AEA members. We signed up 19 new NEA Lifetime memberships. We also signed up 20 new retirees to Lifetime and AEA Retired.

New teacher events were attended by seven AEA Board members. Board members found it important to connect with active members, and helped them see the



Lois Halligan and Kittie McGaffick

importance of membership once they retire from teaching. Attending these active local events is always a great way to bridge the connection between ac-



Cindy Lively and Gary Mehok

tive and retired members.

Another way to show support and get involved, is to order an AEA Retired polo shirt. Over 100 members now have a shirt. If you are interested in purchasing a custom shirt with the AEA Retired logo on it, contact Michele Smith at 602-463-1624 or email her at [mms7997@msn.com](mailto:mms7997@msn.com).

Membership recruiting can be easy and fun for all of our retired members. If you happen to be at a social event

and are talking to other former teachers, ask them if they are a member. You never know, you might just be able to sign them up! Oftentimes, a person is just waiting to be asked to join. Explain how important AEA-Retired is to you personally, and how we have worked to improve working conditions and pay. Describe how AEA is

working to protect our ASRS pensions. Talk about strength in numbers. The more members we have, the more we are heard in the community and at the state legislature.

We have reached almost 2200 members in AEA Retired. But, there are many more retired members who could join us and work with us on issues important to all education professionals, and the community at large.

We now have membership forms online at [azedretired.com](http://azedretired.com). Click on the link at the

top of the page, **Join AEA.**

Remember: Retire from your position – Not from your profession!



Frank Sacco



Michele Smith



Susan Sommer, right, representing the Glendale Chapter makes a book donation to Banner Children's Hospital

## AMAZING RETIREES

THE HONORABLE MARION PICKENS—IN HER OWN WORDS!



My professional career began when I graduated from UCLA with a BA degree. After completing my MEd graduate degrees in Reading and Counseling, I was hired by TUSD in

1968 and taught elementary grades for 22 years. While I was teaching I became a TEA activist, serving as President in 1979 and AEA Vice President in 1983. In 1991, I was elected as an Arizona State Legislator and served until 2000. After my 10 interrupted years in office, I became a community volunteer in Tucson.

My many activities included working to register and inform voters for the League of Women Voters. I became a Court Appointed Special Advocate with the Juvenile Court. I became a friend to several children who had been removed from their families. I stayed with them as their friend until they were placed in a safe and loving "forever home." As an AEA-Retiree I continued my political action and lobbying. I am now President of the Tucson Area Chapter. My school connection continued as a reading helper for first grade students at my neighborhood school. I also joined the teachers in the Red for Ed Activities.

I have had a wonderful life as a wife and mother, using my special skills as a teacher. My years as an elected official have given me great insights into the workings of our state. My volunteer work in my Tucson community has shown me what a special city I live in. My husband and I did the right thing to choose to live these many years in Arizona.

Included in the discussion were role, ratio and respect for equitable salary structures (School counselors 3Rs).

School counselors in Arizona remain optimistic that efforts by these professional associations, AEA, AEA-Retired and AzSCA and others, will send the message that students deserve better than a 904 to 1 student-counselor ratio.

At the grassroots level, school counselors are the ones who can best define their role and how best to educate administrators and the community.

It will take courage and hard work to be the leading voice for all students.



*The Conduit*



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

Julie Horwin	President
Janie Hydrick	Vice President
Janice Dwosh	Secretary
Steve Linder	Treasurer
Linda Somo	Past President

*The Conduit* Editors  
Bart James and Jan Nichols



## THE LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD

The LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD is named for Les Reynolds, the first president of AEA-Retired. The award is presented annually to a member of our association in appreciation for outstanding service to our Association, public education, and the community. The award recipient is honored at the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting and at the AEA Award Luncheon at Delegate Assembly the following day. Previous recipients are: Robert Bloom, Bertha Myers, John Campbell, Ralph Lara, Barbara Matteson, Marion Pickens, Mary Bishop, Connie Wittig, Kathy Campbell, Frank Bing, Frank Sacco, Linda Somo, Steve Ramos, Suzan Austin, and Luci Messing..

Please take time to nominate a member you believe meets these criteria. Be specific in completing the form, either in typewritten or word-processor form. You may attach additional information. The committee will not consider partially completed forms.

### LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee Information: Please use this format and use a typewriter or word processor. Attach an additional page, if necessary. There is a two page maximum.**

1. Number of years as an AEA-Retired member: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Association positions held at the local, state, and national levels:
3. Positions held in other professional and/or social organizations:
4. Community service:
5. List and describe the nominee's involvement in activities that were beneficial to AEA-Retired, education and/or his/her community:
6. Other relevant information:

**Please return a completed form to Connie Wittig at AEA-Retired, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004 by February 17, 2020.**

PBI, yet inflation may have eaten away close to 25% of your benefit’s buying power. With higher than expected revenue growth adding to Arizona’s General Fund this year, it may be time for AEA Retired to talk with the legislature about trading that elusive PBI for some sort of COLA. ASRS has never had a permanent COLA tied to Arizona’s inflation rate.

Non-Medicare members. ASRS Director, Paul Matson, believes that ASRS could realize significant long-term health care savings if the legislature would pass legislation allowing ASRS to become self-insured. AEA Retired representatives plan to meet with ASRS to discuss this issue in December 2019. If ASRS decides to move in that direction, it would want to have statutory authority in place for the fall 2020 open enrollment period.

**2020 ASRS Health Care Legislation**

ASRS has its own legislative agenda for 2020. The ASRS is always looking for ways to hold health care costs down. The current health care Rate Reduction Agreement has temporarily lowered rates significantly for Medicare-age retirees, but has not had the same impact for

**2020 NOMINATION FORMS**

**DUE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 2019 5:00 PM**

**NOMINATION FOR AEA-RETIRED BOARD POSITION**

Nominate for Delegate Assembly online here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020AEA-RetiredElections>  
No need for paper, pencil, envelope or stamp

We will vote for the following positions:

- 1. At-Large Representative: 6 positions available.
- 2. President
- 3. Treasurer

You may nominate yourself for **only one** of the positions: either At Large Representative; President; or Treasurer

**Important Note:** There is a possibility for another election - that of Vice President. A member may run an "if, then" campaign for AEA-Retired Vice President.

NOMINEE

Check the office you seek  
Each office below has a term of 3 years.

- AEA-Retired Board Representative at Large (6 to be elected)
- AEA-Retired President
- AEA-Retired Treasurer

**Detach this form and send or deliver to:**  
**AEA-Retired, Attn: Elections, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004**

**2020 NOMINATION FORMS Due on or before February 10, 2019 5:00 PM**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR AEA-RETIRED DELEGATES TO 2020 AEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

We need your name to verify that you are a member of AEA-Retired.

First name	Last name
Address	
City	State/Province
Zip/Postal Code	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
Email address	

**Nominate for Delegate Assembly online here:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020AEA-RetiredElections> No need for paper, pencil, envelope or stamp

Are you willing to have your contact information shared with the other delegates? Yes  No

By submitting this nomination form, and if elected, I will commit to attending the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, and the AEA Delegate Assembly on Friday, May 8 through Saturday, May 9, 2020. **Reimbursement for hotel will not be given to delegates not present for Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly.**

- Yes, I will attend all meetings on Friday, May 8 through Saturday May 9
- No, I am unable to commit to those 2 all-day meetings and withdraw my nomination.

Will you "go green" or do you wish to have the delegate packet printed for you? Going green means that you will download the AEA Delegate Assembly book onto your tablet or computer. A copy of the materials will not be given to you. Note: New Business Items will be copied and passed out during the Delegate Assembly.

- Yes, I will go green. Do not print out a delegate book for me.
- No, I prefer to have Delegate Book printed for me.

**Detach this form and send/deliver to AEA-R, Attn: Elections, 345 E Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004**



**More M.O.R.E Photos**

Marisol Garcia, AEA V.P

Ellie Perez, AEA, Political Director

Joe Thomas, AEA President

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](mailto:ssommer114@aol.com)

**Glendale/West Valley Chapter-** The meetings are held at Biscuits Café, 19420 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Ave., Glendale. Our next meeting will be December 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Future meeting: Feb. 7, 2020. All members are welcome to join us for news pertaining to retirees and senior issues. Call, text or email **Susie Sommer** at 623-628-1935 or [ssommer114@aol.com](mailto:ssommer114@aol.com)

**Mesa / East Valley Chapter:** Contact **Janie Hydrick** at [Hydrick@aol.com](mailto:Hydrick@aol.com) or (480) 963-1848 for more information.

**Greater Tucson Area Chapter:** Meetings are held the third Tuesday of Sept.—May, at 10:00 AM, alternating sites between the TEA office and the Southern Region office.. The December Chapter meeting will be a holiday pot luck party. The speaker for the January meeting will be Pam Simons, victim of gun violence at the mass shooting in which Rep. Giffords was injured. She has traveled the country giving solace to communities who have experienced gun violence. She will share her expertise about organizations which attempt to minimize gun violence and improve school safety. For more information, contact **Marion Pickens**, Chair at 520-296-5908 or [marionpeterpickens@gmail.com](mailto:marionpeterpickens@gmail.com)

**Phoenix Chapter:** Meets at the Beatitudes in Phoenix, 1610 W. Glendale Ave. at 10:30 AM. Contact Chapter Chair **Michele Smith** at 602-463-1624 or [mms7997@msn.com](mailto:mms7997@msn.com).

**Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter:** We meet at Denny's Restaurant on Mayo Blvd. and Scottsdale Rd. at 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd Monday, bi-monthly. Our October meeting featured Jan Nichols updating us on Arizona charter schools. The November meeting speaker was Marshall Militano as a speaker for Dark Money in Arizona Elections. We support the Kinnaman Scholarship Fund & Justa Center,. We welcome any AEA –Retired member, or potential member, to our group. Contact **Nancy Riley** at 480-596-1144, [rileyfam@cox.net](mailto:rileyfam@cox.net), or **Ann Myers** 480-510-8098, [azann@mac.com](mailto:azann@mac.com)

**Southeast Arizona Chapter:** The Southeast Arizona AEA-Retired chapter is located in Cochise County and is comprised of education retirees from districts in Sierra Vista, Tombstone/Huachuca City, Naco, Palominas, Elgin and Fort Huachuca, and retirees from parts of Arizona and other states who have opted to move to Cochise. We meet over dinner in various restaurants in the Sierra Vista/Hereford area approximately every other month. The next meeting place and date TBA.  
To join us, contact **Sally Rosén** (520)249-0233 or [azcatsally@aol.com](mailto:azcatsally@aol.com)

**Flagstaff Chapter:** If you live in the Flagstaff area, you can't afford to miss out on our AEA-Retired chapter meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month, 10 AM to noon, in the basement room of Flagstaff Federated Church, 400 W. Aspen Ave. We work to stay informed and support Arizona's retirees, educators and students through service projects, political action, and constant monitoring of retirement issues at the state and national levels. We hope you will join us and lend your expertise to our efforts to support our profession and the people we serve. For more information and to RSVP, contact **Tricia Roach** at [trrteach6@mac.com](mailto:trrteach6@mac.com) or 928-525-1997.

**Kyrene Chapter.** We meet at Hillside Spot in Ahwatukee 4740 Warner Rd. Phx. (Ahwautukee, E. of I-10) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., the third Wednesday of the month. Speakers TBA. Active, as well as retired members, are invited to attend. Contact **Ellen Shamah** at [eshamah@cox.net](mailto:eshamah@cox.net)

**Yavapai Chapter :** We meet at El Paraiso Restaurant, 1150 N. AZ-89, Chino Valley, Az Meetings begin at 11:15 and are held on the third Thursday following the AEA-Retired Exec Board meetings. Contact Chairperson **Rob Johan** at [johanica31@gmail.com](mailto:johanica31@gmail.com) or 630-430-8902 for more information.