



THE CONDUIT

Volume 22, Issue 3

March/April 2008

aea
Retired
Your
Statewide Local

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Join the Celebration in April; AEA-Retired is 20 years young! Annual Meeting and Birthday Party promise to be informative and great fun; NEA VP Dennis Van Roekel to deliver keynote remarks

This year AEA-Retired celebrates 20 years of service to Arizona's retired education employees! Please come help us celebrate at the Annual Meeting, April 24, 2008, at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa & Convention Center, 200 North Centennial Way in Mesa.

Join us as we celebrate those who founded AEA-Retired, those who have worked to make us strong, and YOU, who make us a powerful organization.



Dennis Van Roekel, soon-to-be NEA President, will deliver the keynote address. We will have all the fun of a birthday party and more - gifts, balloons, cake and a wonderful walk back through time. In addition to the Annual Meeting, a fabulous lunch will also be served.

Please fill out the Registration Form on page 5 of this issue and return it with your \$20.00 check **BY APRIL 9**. Rooms are available at the Marriott Hotel, 480-898-8300. When you make your reservations, ask for the Arizona Education Association reduced rate available any time between April 23-April 26. We look forward to seeing you there.

It's party time!



AEA-Retired

Calendar of Events

- March 3 — Read Across America Day
- March 5 — Education Day at the Capitol
- April 2-4 — NEA-Retired Eastern Regional Meeting
- April 8 — AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting (only if necessary)
- April 24 — AEA-Retired 20th Annual Meeting
- April 25-26 — AEA Delegate Assembly
- April 28-May 6 — NEA Executive Board/NEA-Retired Advisory Council Meeting
- May 13 — AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting

AEA's Education Day at the Capitol – Building the Connections Be a Part of the HEARD, not a part of the herd

Last year AEA-Retired was the second largest contingent of members at AEA's Education Day at the Capitol. You are encouraged to attend this annual event and make us this year's largest group!

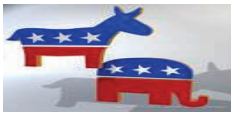
It will be an exciting day! Arrive any time you are available from 8:00 AM to mid-afternoon. Park on 18th Avenue between Adams and Jefferson and meet on the Senate Lawn at 1700 West Washington.

There will be morning briefings on AEA's Legislative Agenda and current issues by the AEA Government Relations staff, **Jennifer Daily, Doug Kilgore, Paul Tristan**, AEA President **John Wright**, and AEA Vice President **Andrew Morrill**; Senate and House Education Committee Hearings; a luncheon with



Arizona Capitol Building

legislators and colleagues; visits with legislators in their offices and a post-event social. Register online at www.arizonaea.org.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY JULIE HORWIN,
AEA-RETIRED LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Election 2008 Will Affect All of Us

STAY INFORMED! GET INVOLVED! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

AEA-Retired can help you achieve whichever of the above goals matter most to you. The make-up of the next Arizona State Legislature will make a big difference in the lives of retired members. We must elect legislators who are supportive of public education, public education employees, and public education retirees.



Julie Horwin

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

* Be sure to sign up to get up-to-date information at the following AEA web address: <http://capwiz.com/nea/az/mlm/signup/http://capwiz.com/nea/az/mlm/signup/>

* Volunteer to help in a campaign of a candidate in your district or

a nearby district.

* Review any ballot initiatives and support AEA's position. Look for these in the AEA *Advocate* and in *TheConduit* in the future.

* Speak up in support of our issues. Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to support our candidates and support our position on ballot initiatives.

* Watch for the list of AEA-recommended candidates in the AEA *Advocate* and in mailings sent to your home close to election time in November.

* Contact the Grassroots Education Activist Team to find out how you can help their efforts by sending an e-mail to Paul Tristan, paul.tristan@arizonaea.org who will give you the name/phone/e-mail of the team leader in your legislative district.

Be proactive! YOU CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Julie Horwin, M.Ed.
jhorwin@mindspring.com
7670 East La Junta Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255



The Arizona State Retirement System: Awards, Changes and the Permanent Benefit Increase



Steve Ramos, ASRS Committee Chair

State System honored as "one of the best"

The non-profit Pew Center on the States recently released a study on state retirement systems. The report listed Arizona as a "Top Performer" in responsible funding of its pension plans and future retiree health costs. The study listed Arizona as "one of just six states to fully fund the bill coming due for non-pension obligations." ASRS Director Paul Matson said, "Our members can have confidence that the benefits they have worked for will be there when they retire." You can read the entire study at www.pewcenteronthestates.org.

Proposed Legislative changes to the plan

The ASRS has again proposed legislative changes to the plan design that they believe will

make the fund stronger and decrease contribution rates. The changes would only affect members entering the system after July 1, 2008. The following are some of the changes in House Bill 2062:

*Change the calculation of a member's average monthly salary from the highest 3 years to the highest 5 years

*Raise the points for Normal Retirement from 80 to 85

*Limit a member, who terminates employment after five or more years, to a refund of only 25% of their employer's contribution.

Other pieces of legislation concerning ASRS have been introduced and will continue to be monitored by your AEA-Retired representatives.

Return to Work

As this newsletter goes to print, the ASRS is meeting on the issue of Return to Work and its effect on the status of the fund and contribution rates. AEA-Retired continues to support an educator's right to return to work, but not at the expense of their working colleagues and to the detriment of their own retirement fund.

Popping up and down

A new law affecting only those who retire after July 1, 2008 will limit the number of times you can change from a joint survivor or period-certain option to a straight-life annuity payout as a result of changing life circumstances. The unrestricted practice known as "popping up or

popping down" was creating an unfunded liability to the overall fund which had to be paid through higher contribution rates of other members.

Lower rate for 2008-2009

In November, the ASRS Board announced a lower contribution rate effective July 1, 2008. The ASRS has been under pressure to reverse a five-year trend of increasing contribution rates. The rate will drop from 9.6 to 9.45 as a result of strong investment performance in 2006-07.

The Permanent Benefit increase and the 13th check

Despite fund earnings of 17.8% in 2006-07, the numbers were not strong enough to trigger a Permanent Benefit Increase. Earnings in excess of 8% generate funds used for a PBI. The formula for determining the PBI includes a device called "10-year smoothing" that averages earnings over 10 years. Those 10 years include some bad years between 2000 to 2003 and some bad quarters in late 2007. Your AEA-Retired representatives have expressed concern about the effect of using a 10-year smoothing formula on the PBI. The ASRS changed from 5-year smoothing to 10-year smoothing to help stabilize the fund status and contribution rates.

The ASRS Board also decided not to issue an addition to the 13th check in 2007 to those members who are in the old retirement system. The Board decided that despite a funded status of 115.87%, it would be prudent to retain the current surplus to reduce the likelihood of benefit reductions in the future.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY CAMPBELL

Wow! This is my last message to you as your AEA-Retired President. My feelings are mixed, but before I get into that there are a few things we need to celebrate. My last message will deal with what AEA-Retired was like when I retired in 1999 and became your treasurer and all those who have helped me in my journey to 2008.

When I retired in 1999, the pre-retirement seminar was in its infancy. Today, we have presented this power point presentation to over 3000 active members.

When I retired in 1999, we had received no grants from NEA-Retired. Now, we have received four 2-year grants and have applied for a fifth.

When I retired in 1999, we had about 1000 members. We now have over 1800 members, and we are growing.

When I retired in 1999, we had no chapters. We now have eight established AEA-Retired Chapters: Glendale, Mesa, Tucson, Prescott Valley, White Mountains, Phoenix, Yuma and our latest established chapter, Scottsdale/Paradise Valley.

If you are interested in joining or forming a chapter in your area contact **Gary Mehok** at 480-994-1829 or lojo40@cox.net or me at 602-574-1473 to get the needed information.

When I retired in 1999, we had no mentor program. We now have an expanded mentoring program. It is now called Arizona IMPACT. A celebration was held in Tucson with about 22 student and mentor teams attending. A celebration was held in Phoenix on February 5 with about 20 student and mentor teams attending. If you are interested in learning more about the mentoring program, contact **Paula Grigsby** at 928-587-9078 or pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net.

When I retired in 1999, we had no avenue to honor outstanding members. We now have honored **Bob Bloom, Bertha Myers, and John Campbell** with the **Les Reynolds' Distinguished Senior Service Award**. We will honor our fourth recipient at the annual meeting.

When I retired in 1999, *The Conduit* was a 2-page paste-up created by **John Campbell**. We now have co-editors **Frank Bing** and **Suzan Austin** producing 8 pages with pictures in color and available on the web site.

When I retired in 1999, attendance at conferences was small. We now are financially able to send many members to many different conferences.

When I retired in 1999, there was no Alliance for Retired Americans in Arizona. We are now a charter member; **John Campbell** is the vice-president of the organization and **Frank Bing** was recently elected as a Community member at large.

When I retired in 1999, only a few did the work

for many. We now have many doing the work of the association.

I thank those who came before 1999 – my mentors **Les and June Reynolds, Bob Bloom, Mary Bishop, Bertha Myers, Barbara Matteson, Clarice Radich, Ralph Lara, Wayne Diehl, Connie Wittig** and **John Campbell**. These are

the people who guided me for the past nine years.

I also want to thank those who have retired since 1999 and have become active in the association. Thanks to all who have run for office and taken on a leadership role as a committee chair or volunteered to do an extra job. We need to continue to get “newbies” (those who have just retired) active in the retired association. An organization is only as viable as the people who do the work of the organization.

This year we will be submitting a new grant to NEA-Retired that deals with membership and political action...we will send eight retired members to the NEA-Retired Eastern Regional

Conference April 1- 5. We always learn and gain information to bring back to help our members at these conferences and we have a hard-working Annual Meeting Committee planning our general membership meeting and 20th anniversary celebration. Please join us on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at the Marriott Mesa Hotel and Conference Center (it is the same place we met last year) 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85202. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude about 2:30/3:00 PM. We will be electing a President, Treasurer and Representatives at Large. There is a \$20.00 registration fee to help cover costs of printing and lunch. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**. Just be aware that *only delegates* to the AEA Delegate Assembly can vote. Please complete the registration form included in this *Conduit* and return it today with your check.

As always, we will have door prizes, fundraising, and Fund for Children and Public Education activities, so bring several dollars so you can participate. Our meeting will be followed by a Happy Hour in Suite 201. Plan to join us to renew old friendships and to make new friends and celebrate AEA Retired's 20th birthday.

I know you will support your next President and board as you have supported me. I know we will continue to grow in numbers and programs. I know we will continue to be strong because of YOU, the member. I look forward to remaining on the board as your past president. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Kathy Campbell
President



Kathy Campbell

DOVE Program

An AEA-endorsed provider since 2001

Discounts On Vehicles for Educators,
Support Professionals, and
Retirees



Larry Green, AEA member and former car salesman, has created a way to take the hassle out of buying a new or used vehicle. Larry does all the work, but you reap the huge savings.

Visit <http://doveprogram.org> or call Larry at 602.290.6212 or 1.800.881.3683 to get information or to request a quote.

DOVE has been providing quality service since 2001 to teachers, support professionals, and retirees.

NEW! Larry has partnered with Enterprise to provide certified, well-maintained used vehicles as part of his service. Call today.

A Good Reason to Join AEA-Retired



Who: **Helga Krantz**, Prescott Valley
What: Helga established an AEA-Retired chapter in the Prescott area, and she has become our resident expert on health insurance concerns. Thanks for all you do, Helga!

1988-2008 AEA-Retired Factoid: Did you know?

The NEA-Retired had its official beginning at the 1983 Minneapolis RA. **Katie Kendrick** from Arizona was the FIRST elected NEA-R secretary and was also the first NEA-R delegate from Arizona.

Photo gallery: Your AEA-Retired colleagues at work and at play

On Capitol Hill in Washington, at the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) Gala, at the NEA Board of Directors meeting, and at AEA Committee Day, your fellow members were there!

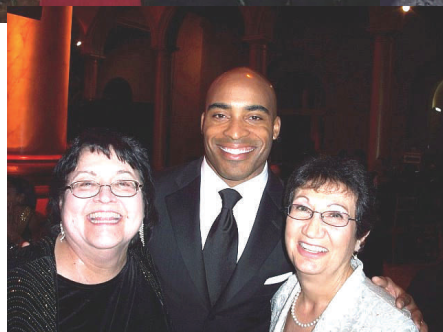


When the NEA Board of Directors meets in Washington, they always spend time visiting members of Arizona's congressional delegation to lobby for educational issues. During their February visit, they managed to visit 9 out of the 10 offices, a very impressive feat.

Above left, NEA-Retired Director **Linda Somo** meets with **Rep. Raul Grijalva**, one of education's best friends on the hill. Above right, AEA Directors **Janie Hydrick** and **Linda Somo** visit with **Rep. Ed Pastor**, another long time supporter of public education.

NEA Board of Directors week includes a variety of activities beyond the actual board meeting. Thursday is Legislative Update and Lobbying Day, followed by regional meetings and the Board Forum at night. Also, the lunches are themed to provide board members another opportunity to learn more about the different ethnic and special interest caucuses. Below left, **Linda Somo** makes a point at the mike during the Board meeting. NEA-Retired President

Barbara Matteson and **Linda Somo** consult on an issue of interest to retired members during a break in the meeting.



The National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) holds a gala fundraiser each year at which they honor the teachers of the year from all of the states and bestow the NFIE Teacher of the Year Award to one of five finalists. This year's Christa McAuliffe Award winners from Arizona were **Danny** and **Sylvia Barlow** from Chinle on the Navajo Reservation. Above left, **Sylvia Barlow**, NEA Director **Annie Crego**, **Danny Barlow** and **Dorrean Walker**. **Sylvia** and **Doreen** are both AEA-Retired members. Above right, **Barbara Matteson** and **Linda Somo** with NEA-Vice President **Dennis Van Roekel**, a math teacher from Paradise Valley. Bottom, **Janie Hydrick** and **Linda Somo** meet NFL great **Tiki Barber**, the keynote speaker for this year's gala.



AEA-Retired was very well represented at the AEA Committee Day in February. Seated at the table are, l. to r., **Marion Pickens**, **Martha Kimbell**, **Aurora Aber**, **Helen Arnold** and **Julie Horwin**. Standing are **John Campbell**, **Gary Mehok**, **Forrest May**, **Bernadette Presloid**, **Rebecca Cole**, **Jean Stephenson**, **Cindy Michels**, **Linda Somo**, and **Frank Bing**.



AEA-Retired members comprise one-fourth of the AEA Resolutions Committee with **John Campbell** (left) and **Frank Bing** (third from left) serving.

Elections for officers and board representatives to be held on April 24 at the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Mesa

On Thursday, April 24, 2008, all members attending the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, whether or not they are delegates to the Delegate Assembly, will vote for a President, Treasurer, and 8 Representatives-at-Large to serve two-year terms on the Executive Committee. The candidates are

- President – Linda Somo
- Treasurer – Jean Stephenson
- Representatives at Large – Aurora Aber, Suzan Austin, Wayne Diehl, Sharon Doyle, Ken Freed, Gary Mehok, Cindy Michels, Judith Moy, Brenda Pierce, Frank Sacco, Daina Swinford, Linda Thieken, Carol Wilson



Your vote is your voice; make sure yours is heard on April 24

In addition, nominations for officers and board members may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting prior to speeches and voting.

Note: It will not be necessary to hold an election for delegates to the AEA Delegate Assembly as there were fewer nominees than the number of delegates we are allowed.

Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans; you're a member

Because you are a member of AEA-Retired, you are also automatically a member of the AARA. The parent organization, the Alliance for Retired Americans is based in Washington, DC. Its primary objective is to enroll and mobilize retired union members and other senior and community activists into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda— one which respects work and strengthens families. The long term goal of the

Alliance is to become the voice for all older Americans.

AEA-Retired past president **John Campbell** serves as the first vice-president of the Arizona Alliance chapter. AEA-Retired board member



Frank Bing was recently elected to serve as a member-at-large on the AARA board representing AEA-Retired.

To find out more about the Alliance, visit their website at www.retiredamericans.org. Find out more about current issues which affect older Americans and retirees and their families, and see what you can do to become more active in addressing those issues.

Legislative priorities for 2008 include advocating for repairs to the Medicare system: specifically, Medicare Part D, the prescription drug plan, and advocating for comprehensive reform, not privatization gimmicks, to Social Security.

AEA-Retired Annual Meeting Thursday, April 24, 2008 Registration Form

The **\$20** non-refundable registration fee is payable by check or money order to **AEA-Retired** and must accompany this form by Wednesday, **April 9, 2008**. Send to: **AEA- Retired, 345 East Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1532**. (Registration fee & form are required of all members and guests.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please circle:

Require a vegetarian lunch? Yes No

Require or use special accommodations? Yes No

If so, what? _____

AEA-Retired: News and Views You Can Use

Coalition of associations monitors Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS); makes recommendations for legislation and positions

The Coalition of Arizona State Retiree Associations met in November, chaired by **Bob Bloom** and **John Campbell**. The purpose of this group is to maintain the integrity of ASRS and its \$28 billion in assets. Discussion included ideas for the development of procedures and policies for dealing with the negative aspects of retirees returning to work. The group supported ASRS efforts to fine tune legislation, especially items regarding revision of the Defined Benefit Plan. Also, revision of the 10-year cycle for calculating contribution rates to the retirement fund received strong support. Although equity legislation will probably not be re-submitted this time due to the unpromising budget situation, the group will keep the issue alive.

The Coalition was formed in 1998 to pass Proposition 100 (Pension Protection Initiative). The Proposition placed the Arizona Public Retirement Systems under the protection of the Arizona Constitution. Until this passage, the fund was protected by statute only and statutes can be changed by any legislature. This effort was supported by AEA at its 1997 Delegate Assembly. The original members of the Coalition were AEA, AEA-Retired, AASRA, AFSME, ASURA, NAURA, UARA, FOP, PSRS and CORP. Bob Bloom was the first chair and remains co-chair. The Coalition meets once each year and discusses legislation and positions we might take. Members monitor the legislature and ASRS.

Read Across America

On March 3, will you participate in a **Read Across America** activity? Our hope is that all AEA-Retired members will find at least one lucky person to read to on this day. But did you know you can keep the effort going with support from NEA?



There are thirty-two \$200 NEA awards in a variety of categories being offered to state and local associations and individuals.



These awards can be used in a variety of ways, for example, to buy books or as seed

money for next year's activities. Just go to www.nea.org/readacross to apply online by April 4, 2008.

If you do not get the chance to participate, you still can help the cause of literacy by going to the NEA website to get information, materials and ideas about how to help kids get reading.



AEA-Retired's members on the AEA Human and Civil Rights committee **Aurora Aber** and **Helen Arnold** at AEA Committee Day in February.

Take the NEA Survey on Health Care Reform

As you know, reform of the U.S. health care system is a hot topic among presidential candidates, state and federal lawmakers, patient advocacy groups, health care providers, the insurance industry, and many other stakeholders. To assist in setting NEA's priorities for reform, we are gathering information and opinions from members and leaders through conversations, presentations, surveys, and polls. The results of the information collected will help NEA build internal consensus and directly lead to the development of NEA health reform principles that meet the needs of NEA members and a strategy to win these reforms.



Please take a moment to complete this online survey at www.nea.org/healthcaresurvey. Your response is appreciated.



Do you have something to share online?

Do you have a new address or personal or professional news that you would like to share with your fellow AEA retirees? Read notes that AEA-Retired members have left or submit your own news online. (We will link this to a web page.) Contact **Julie Horwin** at 7670 East La Junta Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 or 480-419-0332 or jhorwin@mac.com.



Retired member **Larry Wittig**, husband of AEA-Retired Treasurer **Connie Wittig**, recently was recognized by the Arizona Music Educators Association with the William Richardson Retired Music Educator Service Award. In the photo above, the presenter on the left is Dr. Jeff Bush and Larry is on the right. Larry was given this recognition as a result of his volunteering to direct the Phoenix Police Department Honor Chorus for the past 9 years.

Several of Larry's former students are now police officers and wanted to get a group going and thought of "Mr. Wittig."

The Police Chorus has sung at the National Police Memorial in Washington, D. C. before a crowd of 40,000 on the National Mall. Last year they were invited to sing at the Reagan Library on President's Day. The chorus is comprised of sworn officers and support staff such as 911 operators, lab technicians, secretaries, etc. Also, the chorus has been asked to provide music at funerals and memorial services for our fallen officers.

Congratulations, Larry! Play on!



AEA-Retired members making a giant IMPACT as mentors

NEA-Retired grant pairs college of education students with retired educators

AZ IMPACT, Intergenerational Mentoring Program Attracting and Connecting Teachers, begun in 2005 by **Paula Grigsby**, is celebrating. And there is much to celebrate, including the establishment of three new groups and national recognition.

The mission of this collaborative project between AEA, AEA-Retired and the AEA-Student Program is to establish and maintain an on-going mentorship program between retirees and college students that will continue through the student teaching experience and the first years of teaching.

What's been happening?

First Five — Our newest group

Stephanie Ehrich, a second-year teacher in Dysart, is the coordinator for the newly-formed First Five Group. The aim of this group is to provide assistance and support to those new to the profession in the crucial first years.



John and Stephanie

Stephanie is a product of a successful mentoring experience with **John Campbell**. John has mentored Stephanie since the first year of the program, and they were featured in *This Active Life*, the national publication of NEA-Retired.

Terrific Tucson



November Tucson celebration

There were two very well-attended celebrations in Tucson in November and February. Coordinator **Claudia Jensen** organized a panel presentation at the last meeting which generated great excitement among the participants. The success of this program has been aided by the establishment of scholarships by several local organizations within

AEA and the local AEA-Retired Chapter.

Phenomenal Phoenix



Phoenix Celebration, February 4

The first group established is led by Coordinator **Linda Thieken** who involved a group of 8 retirees in the planning process this year. Mentors made recruitment presentations to ASU Main and West Campus students, and there was a successful February Celebration that was well-attended. Student participation in this program was assisted through scholarships from local AEA-Retired Chapters.

Helping Hands

The scholarship money mentioned above was used to assist students with the costs of becoming student members of NEA and AEA. This assistance was invaluable in the recruitment process. Many thanks go to those generous and supportive groups who helped.

Yahoo for Yuma

Coordinator **Bernadette Presloid** is responsible for creating a Yuma group which had its first celebration in December. They are a small but dedicated group which is working hard on recruiting students from NAU's Yuma campus.

National Notice

Paula Grigsby and **Claudia Jensen** were selected to attend a NEA-Retired Train the Trainers Meeting so they are able to present to locals all over the U.S. about how to create mentoring programs for retirees and college students. What an honor for them and our association!

"The Mother of Mentoring"

The person most responsible for the success of AZ IMPACT is **Paula Grigsby**, chair of the AEA-Retired Grant Committee.

Paula also chaired the committee which wrote and administered the NEA-Retired grants which made possible this nationally recognized program. Although the initial grant has ended, a new multi-year grant provided funding for the expansion of the program this year. Paula is already strategizing to find other sources of funding so this program will be able to continue when all the grant money is gone.

Culminating Celebration

On April 23, 2008, the day before the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, participants from around the state will be invited to attend an AZ IMPACT Celebration at the Marriott Hotel in Mesa which will be the culmination of this year's activities. It should be a wonderful event!



Paula Grigsby, Claudia Jensen, and Bernadette Presloid

For additional information on AZ IMPACT, contact **Paula Grigsby** at 928-535-4353 or pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net.



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345 E. Palm Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-574-1473

aea.retired@arizonaaea.org

Kathy Campbell President
Linda Somo V. Pres.
Julie Horwin Secretary
Connie Wittig Treasurer
Conduit co-editors
Suzan Austin Frank Bing

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. The 2007-2008 Chair of the Chapters Task Force is **Gary Mehok**. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter can contact Gary at LO-JO40@cox.net. *We would love to have chapters in the northern part of the state and in the southeastern part of the state. Currently, our northern-most chapter is in Prescott Valley and our closest chapter to the SE corner of the state is Tucson.*

Glendale Chapter: Our next meeting will be May 8 from 4-6 pm, at the Iron Works, 17233 N. 45th Avenue, (1/4 mile north of Bell Road at the Bel-lair Golf Course). Please bring an unwrapped non-stuffed toy for our Andrea's Closet donation. At the meeting in November, Pat Klein from the Arizona State Retirement System spoke. At the February 21 meeting Jackie Thrasher, Democratic State Representative from District 10, spoke on education and senior issues in AZ to 25 members. For information contact **Susie Sommer** at 623-931-6209 or ssommer114@aol.com.

Mesa / East Valley Chapter: At the meeting on January 9, 2008, **Linda Somo** and **Steve Ramos** spoke to over 25 members. The next meeting will be March 12 at 11:00 am on the 8th floor of the Mesa Bank Building, 63 E. Main St. For information contact **Phyllis Swan** at (480) 926-2878 or leswan@cox.net.

Tucson Chapter: At the December 20 meeting held at the TEA office, Shirley Sandelands from the Tucson branch of the League of Women Voters was the speaker. The next meeting will be in April, time and place TBD. Contact **Aurora Aber** at TheAbers@cox.net or 520-721-7547 for information.

Phoenix Chapter: At the meeting on January 17, **Jennifer Daily**, Organizational Consultant of Government Relations, discussed the beginning of the legislative session with 18 members. The next meeting will be March 20 at 10:30 am at the Hometown Buffet on the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and Bethany Home Road. Katy Paulson will discuss money matters for retirees. For information contact **Frank Sacco** at 602-279-5196 or fsac-col1@cox.net.

White Mountain Chapter: A meeting is planned for early March, weather permitting, at JB's in Show Low from 11:00 am -1:00pm. The November 15 meeting was attended by 8-10 members. For information contact **Billie Fugate** (Lakeside) at 928-367-1493 (bjfugate@frontiernet.net) or **Paula Grigsby** (Overgaard) at 928-535-4353 (pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net).

Prescott Chapter: There was a meeting on January 10. The next meeting will be May 7, 2008, at 11:00 am at the home of **Helga Krantz**, 7825 Prickly Pear Path, Prescott Valley. Please contact Helga at 928-776-4314 or bcdhelga@gmail.com.

Yuma Chapter: At the December meeting plans were made to work on the mentoring program. Please contact **Bernadette Presloid** at 928-782-7691 or dettep@juno.com if you are interested in joining them.

Paradise Valley/ Scottsdale Chapter: There were 9 retirees at the first meeting at the Round Robin Restaurant on Tuesday, February 19. President **Kathy Campbell** was on hand to welcome the newest local chapter. The next meeting will be at The Wine List, 14870 N. Northsight Blvd., Scottsdale from 4-6 pm on March 19. Spouses are welcome. Contact **Linda Thieken** 602-996-4398 or **Julie Horwin** 480-419-0332 for information.

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