



## AEA-RETIRED EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, November 13, 2007

LOCATION: AEA Headquarters Board Room 345 East Palm Lane, Phx., AZ

TIME: 10:05 AM - 1:25 PM

# DRAFT MINUTES

Attendance: OFFICERS: Kathy Campbell, Linda Somo, Julie Horwin, Connie Wittig

PAST PRESIDENTS AND STAFF: John Campbell, Bob Bloom NEA-Retired President: Barb Matteson

REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE: Aurora Aber, Helen Arnold, Frank Bing, AnnJi Craig-Wooton, Wayne Diehl, Ken Freed, Paula Grigsby, Gary Mehok, Cindy Michaels, Steve Ramos, Jean Stephenson, Daina Swinford

COMMITTEE CHAIRS NOT ON EXEC. BOARD: Linda Thieken CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES: Brenda Pierce, Susie Sommer GUESTS: Pat Kline, ASRS Outreach Director

AGENDA	Minutes
1. CALL TO ORDER Welcome/ Reflections	Welcome. President Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. She welcomed those who have been out of town traveling. Ralph Lara's wife is ill and in the hospital. They are running tests. Ralph is well.
2. CORRESPONDENCE/ INFRMATN'L ITEMS	President Campbell noted that the Past-President is part of the board, so should be seated at the table - John Campbell was asked to be seated. He complied. There is a folder of informational items being passed which included other locals' newsletters, correspondence, etc. President Campbell noted that the NEA Retirement and Benefits Forum held in D.C. from which she and a group from AZ just returned was excellent with important information and new strategies for protecting and defending retirement systems, health care programs and benefits. Each of those who attended agreed, and emphasized the outstanding information and learning about actuaries and actuarial assumptions. While a grueling schedule that began at 8 AM, continued through lunch until 5 PM each day for 4 days, it was very worthwhile. President Campbell presented a packet of hand-outs and resources to Pat Kline, ASRS. She also included in the Board Packet a hand-out entitled: "Supporting Traditional Pension Plans: Eight Talking Points"
3. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ APPROVAL <b>Kathy Campbell</b>	Motion: Agenda, Page 1 of Board Packet. Ken Freed moved to accept the agenda with flexibility/ 2nd: John Campbell Passed
4. MINUTES CORRECTIONS/ APPROVAL <b>Julie Horwin</b>	Board packet pages 2-8 Motion to approve September, 2007, Exec. Board Minutes: Ken Freed / 2nd: Aurora Aber Passed.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT/ APPROVAL/FILE FOR AUDIT <b>Connie Wittig</b>	3-page Report included in Board Packet. Connie explained a tiny error in the May budget. Moved to approve May's corrected budget: Ken Freed/ 2nd: Paula Grigsby Passed Moved to approve October budget: Linda Somo/2nd Paula Grigsby Passed Moved to approve November budget: Linda Somo/2nd Paula Grigsby Passed
6. Standing Committee Reports (Reports are in written form. If no written report, no discussion unless there are questions. Chairs are asked to high-light their reports. Discussion will center on questions, suggestions, clarifications, problems.)	
A. MEMBERSHIP <b>Daina Swinford/</b>	Written report in Board packet. Daina Swinford reported 1,863 members. Daina will send out the 3rd and final letter to the 147 members who have not renewed this year. She printed out a list of those members to pass around, to see if those present knew and could call any of them.
	RETIREMENT COMMITTEES

AGENDA	Minutes
<p>I. HEALTH INSURANCE <b>Helga Krantz</b></p>	<p>No report. The Insurance Packet from ASRS has been mailed to your house during month of October or early November. No response or reply needed to this packet. Pat Kline has been invited to the AEA-Ret. Board meeting today.</p>
<p>2. A.S.R.S. <b>Steve Ramos</b> Bob Bloom</p>	<p>4 Pages in Board packet. Steve Ramos reported the the ASRS Board is going to recommend the same bills they put forward to the AZ Legislature last year. There is one change: Employer Contribution Refunds - if one meets all of the requirements - are now 100% refunded. With the change, the new law would back that down to 25% of the Employer Contributions.</p> <p>Steve R. noted that at the Coalition meeting on November 5, they took a position to support ASRS bills if approved by the legislature as written. Bob Bloom reported that Pat Kline attended that meeting with Pat Sorenson. He had a lot of information. There was some discussion about the issues including the impact to the ASRS fund of Return-to-work, and the 10-year smoothing rule.</p> <p>AEA-Retired is still monitoring such bills and has not voted to take a position other than monitoring. There is another Return-to-Work meeting at the ASRS on the 29th of November. Some discussion at today's meeting about the proposed ideas which will be discussed at this next external affairs meeting on Return-to-Work at ASRS.</p> <p>Linda Somo moved/Ken Freed 2nd that those AEA-Ret. members who attend the ASRS Return to Work meeting on the 29th advocate for our members. Advocate for suggestions that put the burden on the employer and speak against anything ideas to "fix" the Return-to-Work Law that would be detrimental to AEA-Retired members, and/or ASRS fund. Passed</p> <p>Bob Bloom moved/Linda Somo 2nd that we ask the ASRS to set a timeline and urge them to accomplish creating a plan to deal with the detrimental effects of Return to Work to ASRS fund. Passed.</p> <p>Kathy Campbell moved/Barb Matteson 2nd that AEA-Retire urge the ASRS Board to go back to the 5-year smoothing. Linda Somo asked for friendly amendment: If ASRS refuses, then AEA-Ret. will go to legislature to find friendly legislators to support the 5-yr. smoothing. Passed.</p> <p>Pat Kline came in and spoke: He included an outline in a 5-page hand-out. The topics he discussed were the ASRS financial health (extraordinarily strong), funded status (89%) Contribution rates (presently 9.1%), ASRS Retiree Health Insurance - open enrollment now, premiums did not change, everything will remain the same, except for non-medicare PPO whose co-pays for scrip will go up on Jan. 1. All others will stay the same. He also shared information about the ASRS Legislative Initiatives: Plan Design, Unclaimed Property, Transfers and Payroll Deduction Agreements. A Non-ASRS initiative is the Sudan Divestment. Pat Kline spoke against it, however, it is noted that AEA Board of Dir. voted to support the divestment. His last topic was the Return-to-Work Retirees.</p>
<p>3. PRESENTATION <b>Frank Bing</b></p>	<p>Steve Ramos will do a Return-to-Work presentation at any local (active or retired) who requests. Linda Somo mentioned that she and Julie Horwin will put together a presentation which explains the differences between Defined Contribution and Defined Benefits along with strategies and talking points.</p>
<p>4. CONTSITUTION /BYLAWS <b>John Campbell</b></p>	<p>No Report</p>

AGENDA	Minutes
B. LEGISLATIVE <b>Julie Horwin,            Marion Pickens,            Bob Bloom</b>	Marion Pickens sent in a written report included in the Board Packet. The AEA Legislative Committee met October 21, and agreed to include to wording about the "Equity Bill" in the AEA Legislative Agenda. There is another meeting on Nov. 20 to further discuss the AEA Leg. Agenda. The Leg. Agenda is not finalized until it goes before the AEA Board of Directors. See report for other items discussed for possible addition to the AEA Leg. Agenda which include state equalization of property tax, public school employee compensation, professional standards board, AIMS Augmentation.
C. PUBLIC RELATIONS <b>Suzan Austin/            Frank Bing</b>	Frank Bing reported that he has a list of 60 AEA-Ret. members who wish to receive their Conduits via email only. He is also going to do a comparison cost with different mailers for those sent by regular mail.
D. SOCIAL <b>Marion Pickens</b>	Kathy Campbell reminded those members who are on the December Team for Lunch, of their responsibilities relative to the next meeting.
E. ANNUAL MTG <b>AnnJi Craig-            Wooten,</b>	Written report in Board Packet. AnnJi Craig-Wooten noted that Linda Somo and Mike Aicone will communicate about what is needed for the Elections Committee. A meeting with the Celebration Committee and all of the sub-committees will be held in January.
<b>7. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS - AS NEEDED</b>	
A. AUDIT <b>Connie Wittig</b>	No report
B. BUDGET <b>Connie Wittig</b>	See Treasurer's report. Connie proposed a change: Adding a budget line for the Alliance of Retired Americans. In order to fund it for this year, she will move \$500.00 from President's line for NEA-RA, and \$1500.00 from NEA-Ret. convention line. Both had excess funds and she expects that the same will prevail this year. This way, as founding members of the Alliance, we can fund John Campbell to attend those in-state and out-of-state meetings.
C. ELECTIONS <b>Linda Somo            Steve Ramos</b>	Linda Somo reported that because this is a "cross-over" year, where terms will go from 2 years to 3 years, those who are being termed out may run again for a full 3-years term. Also, those who were appointed to replace AEA-Ret. board members who resigned this year, will need to run for election if they wish to hold their office. There will be 10 elections as follows: President Kathy Campbell may run again, as her 2nd term is up. Connie Wittig may run again, as her 2nd term is up. The following Board members' terms are up: Aurora Aber - 1st term, 2nd year. Susan Austin - 1st term, 2nd year Wayne Diehl - 2nd term, 2nd year (may run again due to cross-over year) Gary Mehok - 1st term, 2nd year Daina Swinford - 2nd term, 2nd year (may run again due to cross-over year) Cindy Michels - 1st term, 2nd year The following appointed board members may wish to run: Brenda Pierce, Ken Freed <b>Nomination Forms</b> will go out in the Conduit. They will include nominations for the AEA Delegate Assembly Reps. (April Meeting). Nomination forms are due back by January 11. Linda urged everyone to fill out a form for the AEA Delegate Assembly. Linda asked those who nominate others to make certain the the person nominated has agreed to run for the position for which he/she is nominated.
D. FUNDRAISING <b>Aurora Aber</b>	Aurora Aber reported that a quilt has already been started and will be donated for the Fundraiser.

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E. HISTORIAN <b>Annji Craig-Wooton</b>	Written report in Board Packet. Annji Craig Wooton reported that she has organized by date all of the Past AEA-Retired Newsletters, the reports and any pictures. A drawer in the AEA-Retired office holds all of these books and will continue to be the repository of "history". A basket has been put in the AEA-Retired office to collect any pictures, notes, news, minutes which will be added to the history collections that Annji has organized.
F. SUNSHINE <b>Cindy Michels</b>	No report. Cindy continues to spread sunshine with her timely birthday cards and notes.
G. GRANT <b>Paula Grigsby</b>	Written report in Board packet.
<b>8. TASK FORCE REPORTS</b>	
A. MENTORING <b>Paula Grigsby</b>	Written report in Board packet. Paula Grigsby reported that she is extremely thankful and has great admiration for the work of the coordinators: Linda Thieken in Phoenix, working with ASU Claudia Jensen in Tucson held their first Celebration in November. 23 students have been paired with 20 retirees. Bernadette Presloid in Yuma recruiting students and retirees. AZ IMPACT has an additional coordinator; Stephanie Ehrick will coordinate the new program for teachers in their first 5 years of teaching. Bags, books, folders, calendars, contacts and business cards were all well-received in Tucson and will be distributed at the Celebration Meetings for each region. The web page has yet to be updated.
B. STATEWIDE CHAPTERS <b>Gary Mehok</b>	Gary Mehok attended two meetings; Glendale and Mesa. Linda Thieken and Julie Horwin will meet in January to coordinate calling P.V. and Scottsdale retirees who would like to form a local.
C. POLICY HNCBK <b>John Campbell</b>	No report.
D. ANNUAL MEMBER AWARD <b>Bertha Myers John Campbell</b>	Report in the Board packet. The Les Renolds Distinguished Senior Service Award is presented annually to a member of our association in appreciation for outstanding service to our association, public education, and the community. The nomination form will be in the next Conduit. The form has a picture of Les Reynolds and Barbara Matteson. The form is due back by January 10, 2008.
<b>E. CHAPTER DESIGNEES</b>	
PHOENIX <b>Brenda Pierce</b>	Brenda Pierce reported that the Phoenix Chapter had the best attendance ever at their October meeting. Next meeting will be held in January.
GLENDALE <b>Susie Sommer</b>	Susie Sommer reported that the Glendale Chapter will meet in February. Pat Kline from ASRS presented at their last meeting. They also collected toys for Andrea's Closet, their community service project.
TUCSON <b>Aurora Aber</b>	Aurora Aber reported that the Tucson Chapter will meet Nov. 14th. In September the Tucson local voted to raise dues in order to support two students of the Mentor Program.
WHITE MNTNS <b>Billie Fugate</b>	The next meeting is Nov. 15th, at JB's. They are recruiting members who will help organize the local.
MESA <b>Steve Ramos</b>	Steve Ramos reported that the Mesa Chapter met. John Campbell was the guest speaker, presenting "5 Wishes". There was also discussion about ASRS. There were about 35 in attendance. Jan. 9 is the next meeting date.

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PRESCOTT <b>Helga Krantz</b>	The Prescott Chapter had a representative of Value-Builder as a guest speaker.
YUMA <b>Bernadette Presloid</b>	Cindy Michels reported that the Yuma Chapter will hold a Nov. 15th meeting to recruit students to participate in the mentor program, AZ IMPACT. They are working to organize the local, and are recruiting for help in that effort.
10. REPORTS	
A. AEA Board of DIRECTORS <b>Linda Somo</b>	Linda Somo reported that AEA meets next on Nov. 29th-Dec. 1, and NEA Board meets 7th-8th, December, so no notes since her last notes from the October meetings. Linda noted that Utah EA defeated the Voucher Bill thanks to much support from NEA and members. Linda is a member of the AEA Member Benefits Committee. They met on Oct. 20. A written report of that committee is in the Board Packet.
B. NEA Board of DIRECTORS <b>Linda Somo</b>	Director Linda talked about Sen. Kerry hearings she attended on behalf of NEA, about the WEP GPO testimony. (Off-sets, and how they affect the spouses of those who pass away.)
C. NEA-RETIRED ADVISORY COUNCIL <b>Barbara Matteson</b>	NEA-Retired President Barbara Matteson reported that the SCHIP bill (Health care for children) was vetoed by Pres. Bush (Health care for children). She also noted that the Education Funding Bill will likely be vetoed, so expect an email asking for you to contact congressional reps. Please help to communicate, write to congress. She stated that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will unlikely to be reauthorized until Pres. Bush is out of office.
D. ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS <b>John Campbell</b>	Board packet pages included information from The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. These give background information on the President's budget and its affect on seniors. Available at <a href="http://www.ncpssm.org">www.ncpssm.org</a> . Highlights include social security cuts, Medicare Part D information, proposed cuts in Senior Services, Medicaid, and while increasing aid to Vets, it adds higher fees on veterans for health care.
D. AEA-Ret Liaison <b>Mike Aicone</b>	No report.
12. OLD BUSINESS	
<b>Kathy Campbell</b>	No items.
13. NEW BUSINESS	
<b>Kathy Campbell</b>	New Business - ERA endorsement (John Campbell); John submitted a letter from the Arizona ERA Coalition. Only 3 more states are needed to put the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution. Their goals: To educate the American public regarding the need for an amendment guaranteeing equality of rights to men and women. *To dispel the myths surrounding the Equal Rights Amendment *To keep our campaign single-issue, non-partisan and distinct from other issues which might detract from our mission or discredit our cause *To promote the ERA as a positive progression of a true democracy and as an enhancement to American society *To conduct our campaign in a way which encourages coalition and the support of the majority of Americans. <a href="http://www.arizonawomeninblue.com/Home_Page.html">http://www.arizonawomeninblue.com/Home_Page.html</a> Barb Matteson moved to endorse the ERA Coalition, its statement and goals. Ken Freed/2nd. Passed.
NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:	Call for agenda items for our next meeting - Thursday, December13, 2007. President Campbell asked if we will have our gift exchange as in years past. Discussion approved of the exchange. Ken Freed agreed to head up the exchange. GIFT EXCHANGE: \$15.00 WRAPPED GIFT. GENERIC, GENDER-NEUTRAL GIFT.

AGENDA	Minutes
14. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 13, 2007 9:30 AM	NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY: THURSDAY GIFT EXCHANGE AND HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE DECEMBER MEETING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007
15. ADJOURNMENT/ LUNCH	President Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Horwin, Recording Secretary  
Arizona Education Association-Retired