

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting
Draft Minutes of October 14, 2014

1. **Call to Order** at 10:05 by President Horwin

Board members in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Linda Somo, John Campbell, Judy Moy, Shirley Boswell, Ed Bufford, Marilyn Freed, Maryanne Goodluck, Michael Gordy, Liz Hendrickson, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Carmen Peters, Nancy Putman, Sally Rosen, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson. Chapter Chairs; Ted Coleman, Barbara Joseph, Gary Mehok, Ellen Shamah. ASRS Chair; Steve Ramos. Members; Connie Wittig, Aurora Aber, Kathy Campbell, Brenda Pierce, Frank Sacco, Lucinda Michels, Jan Nichols, Kris Koziel, Larry Wittig. Liaison: Mike Aicone.

Group pictures of the Board and of the Committee Chairs were taken by Larry Wittig.

2. **Approval of Agenda** (Somo/Sommer) **Approved**

3. **Approval of the minutes** of the September 9 meeting (Moy/Somo) **Approved**

4. **Financials** presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets	\$56,157	Liabilities	\$17,974	Equity	\$38,182
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Approval of the report and file for audit (Austin/Somo) **Approved**

Additionally, we were informed that, do to technical difficulties, this month's report was not copied correctly. Next month's report will be more accurately copied as we smooth out our long-distance "relationship" between Treasurer and copier.

5. **Membership** Chair Boswell shared most recent membership data. Currently we have increased to 2144 members with 1562 using dues deduct. The Board was informed that membership outreach has made (Nancy Putman) a basket for giveaway at the AEA Committee Day. **DVR has joined and is an official member of AEA-R.** (See printed report for more information.)

6. **Officers Reports**

President Horwin-Attended the reception for NEA President Eskelsen-Garcia where approximately 20 people were in attendance. Lily talked about President Van Roekel and his place in NEA history. She reported that the "Day of Action" included many retired, working at a variety of tasks, throughout Arizona. She provided a copy of the NEA Friend of Education Award and shared the list of the recipients since 1972. Encouraged those who wish to submit names or nominations for 2015.

Julie asked us to remind our members that AEA-Retired is a statewide local and that in the same way they sought out their local president, when active members in a local, they should seek out Membership Chair Boswell, or President Horwin prior to attempting to reach a staff person for any kind of issue. Both are always available and if not will return calls within 24 hours.

She called attention to NEA Board minutes where it was noted the declining growth of membership of NEA-Retired. If this continues, it will cause a decrease in funding for retired programs. We need to look at ways to reverse that trend.

Julie attended the NEA-Retired Executive Council in September. The Council is learning to deal with budget cuts including one less meeting in DC – a crucial one just before the Organizing Conference in Atlanta. She is working with the website technicians to update the NEA-Retired website. She gave the dates and location of the NEA-Retired Organizing Conference in Atlanta, March 24, 25, 26.

Vice President Austin-Thanked Horwin for the loan of her coffee pot and to those bringing their own coffee mugs. She thanked the board member for returning the completed birthday sign-up list. For those absent in September, Austin requested that people sign-up to set up for the morning prior to our monthly meetings and clean-up at their conclusion. We were informed about the valley-wide mixer taking place on Oct. 20 at the AEA office. Members will be provided lunch. Presenters include Senate candidate Hydrick and Gallindo from NEA member benefits.

Liaison Aicone-reported that AEA membership is on the upswing. We have grown by 305 members with 5000+ on **payroll deduction**. We currently have 14,000+ certificated and 1500+ ESP members. He also reported that in 2013-2014 the Every Member Option raised \$9,053 from 756 retired members.

AEA Director Moy/alternate Putman-Written report was provided. They indicated the AEA involvement in the No on 487 campaign includes passing a motion to expend \$1,000 and a request to NEA for an additional \$25,000. If approved by NEA, this may require AEA matching funds.

Nancy also provided a list of those in AEA-Retired who were appointed to AEA Committees.

NEA Director Campbell-Reported on President Eskelsen-Garcia's first NEA Board Meeting as President. A major change is that the Board will be meeting in committees on Friday afternoon. This change results in Board members being spoken "with" rather than "at." Campbell also indicated that the NEA message to Congress relates to "Toxic Testing."

7. New Business

a. "Motion made by Matteson/Messing to expend \$250 from the Jack Kinnaman line in the budget to sponsor the summit of the Grandparents Ambassador Program." Discussion indicated that this program is a part of the Children's Action Alliance and works to help grandparents who are in situations where they are needed to raise their grandchildren. This summit will bring grandparents and grandchildren together to "share stories, resources, and develop advocacy skills." **PASSED**

b. Bufford shared information about the organization TURN (Teacher Union Reform Network) Union members reforming education, rather than having it reformed from outside/business. He invited a member of the Board to join him at the Southwest TURN Fall Meeting in Las Vegas. Vice-President Austin volunteered to attend.

c. "Motion made by J. Campbell/M. Freed to investigate the feasibility of the AEA-Retired Board conducting virtual meetings and conference calls rather than meeting in person each month." Discussion included the opportunity to save significant Association money as well as publicizing our meetings to all of our members and permitting them to partake without cost to them or the organization. **PASSED**

J. Horwin asked for volunteers for a committee to investigate the feasibility. Committee members include: President Horwin, J. Campbell, and L. Somo.

d. "Motion made by J. Campbell/K. Freed that New Business items shall be submitted at the call for agenda items prior to each regularly scheduled board meeting. Each item is to include clear information as well as rationale." **PASSED**

e. A New Business item dealing with delineating when an item was to be voted on was withdrawn.

8. ASRS report was provided in writing by Ramos. He indicated that not much had been going on and then concentrated his comments on Proposition 487 and the impact its passage would have on educators' pensions in the future. It was also noted that the fund currently has \$34.5B, which is an increase from \$19B during the depths of the recession.

9. Chapter Chair Reports

Southeast Arizona (Rosen)-Had a social gathering. Next meeting is 10/31 at Mandalay Restaurant at 5:30.

- Greater Phoenix (Joseph) will meet on 11/25 at Beatitudes. They met on 9/23 with the speaker being Mary Jo Pitzle from The Republic. 15 members were in attendance.
- Greater Tucson (Aber) reported that they (25 members) met on 9/16 with speakers from a non-profit that provides rides for non-driving seniors and the blind. They will meet at S. Region on 10/21. Also they had a political action discussion.

- East Valley/Mesa (Ramos) The next meeting is 11/12 with Jennifer Loreda presenting. They met on 9/24 with the Mesa superintendent as well as with some school board candidates. He shared the current MEA/MUSD relationship and the absence of a contract and bargaining.
- West Valley/Glendale (Sommer) they met on 10/2 at Ironwoods restaurant. Independent candidate for Senate, Doug Quelland, joined them. He was brought by a member of the group. Next meeting will be 12/4.
- Yavapai (Coleman) Indicated that they cancelled the October meeting, and will next meet in January. Date not yet determined.
- Northern Arizona (Goodluck) they will meet on 10/23 Chair Goodluck met four retirees on a visit to Chinle. She took this opportunity to have a meeting and mostly heard a great deal of displeasure in this group.
- Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (Austin) Next meeting is on 11/17, with David Ramirez from Sky Harbor Airport as the speaker. It will be held at the Denny's at 3315 N. Scottsdale Rd. The chapter met on 9/16 to listen to John Campbell. The 17 members present decided to donate books to Lodestar and on alternate months donate to the Jack Kinnamen Fund
- Kyrene (Shamah) Will meet next on 11/17. The group of 15 met with 2 school board candidates and Janie Hydrick.
- Phoenix Valley-Wide (Austin) Shared information on the valley-wide meeting that will take place on 10/20 at the AEA office.

10. Fundraising Chair Brenda Pierce asked for suggestions for fundraisers this year. There were many positive suggestions. S. Ramos's wife is willing to again make the quilt, but profit won't be as great as the cost of materials needs to be subtracted. K. Campbell has offered to donate a previously won quilt. Other suggestions include seeking prizes from places we frequent. The Board was asked to bring additional ideas and actual "deals" that they negotiate to the November and December board meetings.

11. Political Action and Election Updates (Matteson/Messing)

Written report is included in the materials. Voiced their thanks to all who participated in the Day of Action. The message is vote, and help get others out to vote. Also, AGITATE, AGITATE, AGITATE..something most of us are good at.

12. Alliance and Coalitions

- Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans-J. Campbell provided a written report that included upcoming events being held in Phoenix by the Alliance. He noted that the 2015 Alliance convention would be held on September 30 in either Phoenix or Prescott. Campbell compared the AEA and AFL/CIO endorsements for the general election and found, that with few exceptions, they were aligned.
- Arizona Wins-Pension Coalition-Horwin will be sending us the NO on 487 talking points. Please remember, "Then they came for me-and by that time no one was left to speak up." Pastor Martin Niemoller. We will be next!!

13. Half-back Raffle of \$32 was won by Austin.

14. Adjournment at 1:35. Next meeting is November 11 at 10:00AM at headquarters.

**Note **

Lunch was taken from 12:35-1:00.

Respectfully submitted

Ken Freed

AEA-Retired Secretary