

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting  
Minutes of December 12, 2017

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

**Board members** in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Danny Barlow, Marilyn Calhoun, Anna Cicero, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Ann Myers, Nancy Putman, Carmen Peters, Steven Ramos, Michele Smith, Susie Sommer, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga. **Chapter Chairs**; Rob Johan, Janie Hydrick, Nancy Riley, Sally Rosen. **Members**; Aurora Aber, John Campbell, Ellie Feldner, Norma Jimenez, Renee Newman, Jean Stephenson, Jan Nichols, Ellen Shamah, Julie Kozad, Ted Coleman, Mike Peterson. **Staff**; Margaret Sleeper. **Guests**;

2. Approval of Agenda, with flexibility (Calhoun/M. Freed) **Approved**

3. Approval of the minutes of November, 2017 (M. Freed/Mehok) **Approved**

4. Membership Processing Co-Chair Smith shared the most recent membership data. Currently we have 2179 members with 1606 using dues deduct. We have 41 new members this year. (See printed report for more information.)

5. Membership Co-Chair Smith asked the Board about contacting potential members this past month. Members shared what they have been doing in membership recruitment.  
A motion came out of the discussion about advertising in the Advocate. "Move that AEA-Retired place ads in the Advocate in March and in the summer. \$375 will be used from the Membership line of the budget." (Smith/Putman) **Passed**  
**\*\*Note\*\*** Thank you to Sleeper for her assistance in negotiating the price and placement of the ads.

6. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets	\$100,615
Liabilities	\$ 24,608
Equity	\$ 76,007

(See written report for more information.)

Linder shared that AEA-Retired was reimbursed the \$500 donated to eSwag from the appropriate Foundation Fund. He noted that our projected income has been very accurate.

**\*\*Note\*\*** Thank you to Somo for helping to make this happen.

Move that the report be accepted and filed for audit. (K. Freed/Barlow))

**Passed**

7. New Business Item-None

8. Officers' Report

**President Horwin**-shared that the New Educator Program is awesome and having

wonderful results. The classroom teachers are appreciative of being asked for their opinions and are responsive. Several join during each visit.

Horwin thanked Messing for two (2) great Advocacy Trainings and Somo and Nichols for another outstanding edition of the Conduit.

She also noted that the Pension Academy Power Point will be available.

(See printed report for more information.)

#### **Vice-President Austin**-No report

**Liaison Sleeper**-reported that AEA membership is up by 367 members as of the most recent AEA Board Meeting.

Sleeper shared the information about the recent Treasurers' Training and how many of the locals are not in Compliance. Being in Compliance includes having state mandated documents up to date, providing monthly finance reports, Constitution and Bylaws in order, etc.

NEA is continuing to be financially supportive with emphasis on the New Educator Project as an important part of the future for the NEA.

**AEA Alternate Director Messing**-The written report will be forwarded to the Board.

Messing shared that AEASO and AEA have reopened negotiations and indicated the members of the AEASO team.

She indicated that the attendance at the Town Hall Forums exceeded expectations and thanked all who attended

The AEA Board has indicated that the New Educator Program is outstanding, in all regards, and that it is growing both in Arizona and in other states.

Messing shared that due to a Supreme Court case, which will be heard in early January, relative to agency fee, the NEA may lose approximately 90,000 members. This represents significant dollars that are used to support state programs. In an attempt to be pro-active, NEA has offered a retirement option which will decrease overhead in future years.

It was also noted that Leaders' Academy will be returning and that the Organizing Institute will take place in January.

(A written report by Messing will follow.)

**Conduit Editor Nichols**-shared that the printed edition of the Conduit will be received by the end of the month.

#### 9. ASRS

Ramos reported that United Health will **NOT** be returning monies that were overcharged for health insurance. This is due to the tax implications. They are investigating ways of retuning the money so that it is not taxed.

The ASRS will be increasing the contribution rate .3% for each of the next 5 years.

The Funded status of the ASRS is 70.1%. The long term projection is that it will be funded at 100% in 2047.

(See written report for more information.)

10. Political Action

Messing thanked those in attendance at the lobbying trainings as well as Smith and M. Freed for jumping in to help. She asked that people refer to the Conduit for more information.

AEA-Retired will be going to the Capitol on January 18. Also, the SOS Arizona group is going on January 6.

(See article in the Conduit for additional information.)

11. M.O.R.E.

Chairperson Calhoun reported that the Leadership Convocation has been rescheduled. It will include a reception from 5-7p.m. at the Wyndham Gardens in Phoenix, on Feb. 26, and a workshop, from 9a.m.-2p.m. on Jan. 27 at AEA Headquarters. Rooms are available for out of town attendees to be reimbursed based on AEA-Retired policy.

The steering committee has been discussing whether M.O.R.E. events should take place in locations other than Phoenix and Tucson.

12. Chapter Chair Reports

**West Valley/Glendale (Sommer)**- Meeting places and times will be changing. Mary Ann Goodluck was the guest speaker at the December meeting. She shared information about education and life on the Navajo Reservation. **The Next meeting is Thursday February 1, 2018.**

**Mesa (Hydrick/Somo)**- **The Next meeting is January 17** at 63 East Main Street, Mesa, on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the MPS Building, at 10:45. At the November meeting, Mark Robert Gordon, a federal voting rights attorney, spoke about the insidious plan to deny voters their right to vote and suggested ways that we can prevent this from happening. Additionally, Hydrick noted that attendance doubled through the use of "Mail Chimp" and suggested that other chapters look into its use.

**Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (Myers/Riley)**- **The Next meeting will be on January 15**, at 11:00a.m., at Denny's Restaurant on Mayo Blvd and Scottsdale Rd., with Steve Ramos speaking. Lois Halligan, a docent at the Phoenix Art Museum, spoke about Couples in Art at the November meeting.

**Tucson (Pickens/Matteson)**- The Tucson chapter met on November 21st and listened to former Senator George Cunningham speak about charter schools. He represented the Grand Canyon Institute. **The Next meeting is December 19**, at the TEA office at 10:00a.m., where the agenda includes a report on the AEA-R Board meeting and the Legislative workshop. An end of the year pot luck will close out the meeting.

**Phoenix (Smith)**- The Phoenix chapter will meet at Beatitudes at 1610 W. Glendale, with the **Next meeting being on January 16** at 10:30a.m. The speaker at the November meeting was Korina Ruiz, from the Arizona Dream Act Coalition. She shared her experiences growing up undocumented and how she is living as a Dreamer in Arizona. A graduate of ASU, Ruiz is working with ADAC and helping other Dreamers.

**Southeast Arizona (Rosen)**- **The Next meeting will be in mid-January**, with a date and time to be determined. Fifteen members met at Applebee's on October 25 and

enjoyed a good meal and a discussion of Sierra Vista School District issues. In attendance was a member of the Governing Board.

**Yavapai (Johan)**-The Yavapai chapter's **Next meeting will be Thursday, January 11** at the Prescott Family Diner in Prescott. Jan Nichols was the speaker in November where she spoke to 12 folks about the status of vouchers in Arizona. AEA-Retired Board member Sommer was also in attendance.

**Flagstaff (K. Freed)**-The **Next meeting is Jan. 2 at 10:a.m.** At the December 5 meeting the members discussed AEA Town Hall Forums, Arizona school funding, the school grading system, an ASRS update and a gun safety update. Updates on specific areas were provided and all were encouraged to continue becoming an expert on a specific issues. Areas included; the proposed federal tax bill, Goddard's dark money initiative, the status of the Save Our Schools anti-voucher initiative, Political Advocacy Training and the circulating of petitions for Katie Hobbs.

13. Alliances and Coalitions

A. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans- Hydrick, who is the Treasurer, asked all to make certain that they received the weekly, Friday, reports. If someone is not, please get in touch with her or President Horwin.

B. Arizona Interfaith Network-L. Wittig's written report was shared with the group. He thanked those who attended the VIP Delegate Assembly.

(See written report L. Wittig included in the packet.)

C. Arizona School Counselors-Cicero shared that 300-400 counselors will be meeting with S. Parra for a political update. She indicated that she was looking forward to going to the Capitol on January 6 and that she found the Advocacy Training to be outstanding.

D. Special Birthday-Vice-President Austin brought out a cake and sang happy birthday to Ted Coleman and John Campbell.

14. Intergenerational Mentoring

Horwin reported that Vinaras has gotten the green light to begin the program at ASU. The mentor training is January 8 and the 17 student participants are looking forward to the start of the program.

15. Half-back Raffle of \$34 was won by Shamah.

16. Adjournment at 12:25. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

**\*\*Notes \*\***

The Holiday lunch was taken at 12:30 after the meeting adjourned.

**THANKS** to Nancy/Ann, Marion/Barbara, Sally, Rob, Michele, Susie and Tricia for submitting their chapter chair reports in writing.