

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting
Minutes of February 14, 2017

1. Call to Order at 10:00 by President Horwin

Board members in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Linda Somo, Danny Barlow, Ed Bufford, Anna Cicero, Marilyn Freed, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steven Ramos, Tricia Roach, Sally Rosen, Michelle Smith, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga. Chapter Chairs; Rob Johan, Ellie Feldner, Marilyn Calhoun, Nancy Riley, Ann Myers. Members; Aurora Aber, Shirley Boswell, John Campbell, Cindy Michels, Norma Jimenez, Jan Nichols, Carmen Peters. Staff; Margaret Sleeper

2. Approval of Agenda, with flexibility (Ramage-White/Sommer) **Approved**

3. Approval of the minutes of January, 2017 (Somo/M. Freed) **Approved**

4. Membership Processing Chair Boswell shared the most recent membership data. Currently we have 2179 members with 1628 using dues deduct. We have 78 new members this year. (See printed report for more information.)

5. Membership Outreach chair, Roach, reported on meetings that she attended for the AEA-Retired and what some other states are doing to generate membership. Putman indicated that there were 3 new members who were signed by Board members this past month. A recurring theme continues to be the problems encountered in getting the database from the AEA.

6. New Business Items

Move that the AEA-Retired support the candidacy of Julie Horwin for NEA-Retired Executive Council and/or any NEA-Retired Office. (Somo/Mehok)

Approved

7. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets	\$87,549
Liabilities	\$25,839
Equity	\$61,709

(See written report for more information.)

Linder shared information about the specific lines which are over budget. The lines of concern are in Communications and the Executive Board Meetings. He has had clarification on the printing bill and shared with the Board.

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

Passed

8. Officers' Reports

President Horwin-Asked the Board to register for and attend the meeting at Central High School at 6:00 on this Thursday, Feb. 16.

Horwin reminded people to register for the M.O.R.E. events in Phoenix, Feb. 21, and in Tucson, Feb.22. There are currently 65 people registered for the Phoenix event and 20 registered in Tucson. Bowser, of Sha Na Na will be a keynote speaker. He will be filming the events to be released as documentary.

The state legislature is putting forth a comprehensive ESA bill which will result in a million Arizona students being forced into a voucher situation.

President Horwin met with Executive Director Simon relative to our receiving an accurate database and about the substitute grant.

She shared that the New Ed project training day has been planned. Also AEA-Retired has been able to borrow tablets for this project rather than having the necessity of purchasing them.

Vice-President Austin-Reminded us that the next M.O.R.E events will be in Phoenix on February 21 at the AEA Office and in Tucson on February 22 at the YWCA. One of the keynote speakers will be Alex Lawson. Also she described the next leadership development sessions on March 14-15.

Austin reported on the Annual meeting preparation. The theme this year is “unite, Inspire, Lead.” Unfortunately, the AEA-Retired hospitality suite will have to be in the same location this year. This year the cost of the luncheon is \$37.00, which is more than the registration fee. The decision has been made to maintain the \$30.00 fee for this year and review the decision for 2018.

(See written reports for additional information.)

Liaison Sleeper-Reported on the changing landscapes of membership. She shared that the AEA budget has been built, for several years, on the using of reserves to balance. This year, AEA is using reserves at a slower rate than had been anticipated due to increasing membership. Thanked Roach for her attendance at the Bargaining Conference. Sleeper informed us that NEA360 is due in Arizona in November, but may be received at an earlier time.

AEA Director (Barlow)-Presented the Board with a large packet of materials which included items received at the AEA Board meeting. He has asked for feedback from the Board as to whether this information meets the needs of the Board, if they desire less information or more.

AEA Fund Council Representative (Somo)-No new information at this time.

Secretary K. Freed-As chair of the Documents Committee, Freed brought a written report with the recommendations of the committee. These were moved discussed and voted upon by the board.

Move Constitution Bylaw recommendations 1 and 2 be brought to the delegates for passage at the 2017 Annual Meeting. (M. Freed/Linder)

The effect of these Constitution Bylaw Amendments would be to place a lifetime maximum of six (6) years for an individual to serve in any one office of the executive board.

Failed

Move Constitution Bylaw recommendation 3 and 4 be brought to the delegates for passage at the 2017 Annual Meeting. (Barlow/C. Wittig)

The effect of the Constitution Bylaw Amendments would be to formalize the current practice for changing the AEA-Retired documents. **Passed**

9. ASRS

Ramos reviewed bills in the legislature that pertain to the ASRS and his suggested position on each. He also shared information about long term disability, which is in the decline. ASRS will look for fraud on an individual case basis in an attempt to save money for the system while eliminating abuses. He reported that there may be a possible change in the distribution of excess profits by the ASRS.

(See written report for more information.)

10. Political Action

Messing reported that forty-five (45) people attended lobby day on January 24 and that forty-four (44) have registered to lobby on February 15. Appointments with legislators will take place from 10:00 to noon, followed by attending the session in the gallery and then on to committee meetings.

She further reported on the legislative reception in Tucson. Eight (8) of the Democratic legislators responded to invitations to attend, and no Republicans. However, Representative Clodfelter attended and generally spoke positively on our issues. We now wait to see if he votes correctly as well.

Roach reported on the Atlanta Conference related to Medicare in Congress. The Board was asked to organize friends and family to make calls to Congress and reminded the Board that all should describe Medicare and Social Security as “Earned Benefits” not entitlements. Members need to continue to fight block grants, attend town hall meetings and stay on message.

11. Fundraising

Chairperson M. Freed shared the plan for raising money this year and asked for the continued assistance of the Board. Each member in attendance was given a packet of raffle tickets to sell or purchase. A written report was provided and members were asked to fold it and put it in their packet to use for information.

12. Elections

Chairperson Ramage-White presented the list of those who have already submitted their paperwork for Delegate Assembly as well as those who have indicated a willingness to serve on the Board. As of the end of the meeting, there were eighty-four (84) nominees which means that an election would be unnecessary. There was also one (1) nomination for president, one (1) for treasurer and ten (10) seeking at-large seats on the Board. There are six (6) seats available. Nominations may also be made at the Annual Meeting.

13. Chapter Chair Reports

West Valley/Glendale (Sommer)- The chapter met on Thursday, Feb. 2 at Ironworks Restaurant, 45th Ave. and Bell Rd., with Michael Cady speaking on how he

organized the Historic Building and Grounds Tour at the Capitol. Newly elected, Debbie Chavez, will serve as secretary. Discussion about bills in the legislature as well as how to contact state and national leaders took place. Books continue to be collected for distribution to Banner Thunderbird Hospital. **The next meeting is Thursday April 6 at 4:00** at Iron Works Restaurant.

Mesa (Somo)- The **Next meeting is March 15** at 63 East Main Street, Mesa, on the 8th floor of the MPS Building, 10:45. A speaker is not yet determined.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (Myers/Riley)- The **next meeting will be on March 20** at 11:00 and at the Denny's Restaurant on Mayo Blvd and Scottsdale Rd. The guest speaker will be from Sister Cities. At the January 16 meeting Steve Ramos talked about the potential effects of the state legislature on ASRS. Donations to the Kinnaman Fund were collected as well as books/magazines for the Lodestar Learning Center.

Kyrene/Tempe/Chandler (Sommer)- The **Next meeting is March 15** at the Pyle Senior Center in the Tempe Library Complex (McClintock and Southern). The speaker is not yet determined. Please note that due to the chairs relocation, a new chairperson is being sought.

Tucson (Calhoun)-At the January 17 meeting items discussed included the Legislative Reception, the New Educator Project and the M.O.R.E. event. The guest speaker was Betty Glisky, a UofA professor, who specializes in memory as it relates to aging. The **Next meeting is February 14** at the TEA office, 5447 E. 5th St. office.

Phoenix (Smith)-The Phoenix chapter will meet at Beatitudes at 1610 W. Glendale, on **March 21 at 10:30** with the guest speaker being Donna Davis from the Expect More Arizona. The meeting will be held in Elaine's Dining Room.

Southern Arizona (Rosen)- The **next meeting will be March 23** at Peacock Restaurant in Sierra Vista. At the last meeting, twenty-three (23) retirees met and discussed the impending possible changes in health care and other elements of retirees lives.

Yavapai (Johan)-the chair will be meeting with the President of the Prescott local in an attempt to coordinate their efforts. The **next meeting will be February 28**.

Flagstaff (Roach)-The chapter meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month, with the **next meeting on March 7 at 10:30** at the Flagstaff Federated Church.

14. Alliances and Coalitions

A. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans-Somo provided a fact sheet from the Alliance on Medicare and Social Security. She noted that AEA-Retired dues have been paid, which makes each AEA-Retired member a member of the Alliance. There were fifty (50) members at a recent forum regarding Medicare.

B. Arizona Interfaith Network-L. Wittig shared a written report that outlined what the Interfaith community is doing in each of their areas of concern. This includes Initiatives, Education, Social Justice/Prison Reform and lobbying the legislature. Wittig noted the activity level of many of the units that make up the AIN.

C. Arizona School Counselors-Cicero continues to liaison the AEA-Retired with the counselors organizations.

15. Budget

The Budget Committee, chaired by Somo and Linder, presented the proposed Budget for 2017-2018. This review is in preparation for discussion and voting at the March meeting. Questions were asked and answered.

16. Half-back Raffle of \$31 was won by Putman.

17. Adjournment at 3:15. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2017

****Notes ****

Lunch was a half hour followed by the conclusion of business.

Many **THANKS** to Susie, Nancy, Marilyn, Ann, Sally, Ellie, Michele, and Tricia for submitting their chapter chair reports in advance.