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**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**



31st Annual Meeting set for May 10, 2019

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues for a fun-filled, informative celebration at the 31st AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, which will be held for the fourth year at the beautiful Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale on Friday, May 10, 2019. For those who wish to be delegates, the AEA Delegate Assembly will follow, beginning at 6 PM on May 10 and continuing Saturday, May 11.

All AEA-Retired members and guests are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Members who wish to also be delegates with voting rights to elect officers and Board members, will be delegates to the AEA Delegate Assembly as well. All delegates will be funded for half the cost of a double-occupancy room for the night of May 10th, and be reimbursed by AEA for mileage that exceeds 100 miles one way.

Included in this issue on page 10 is a nomination form to be a delegate or to be a nominee for an AEA-Retired office. Attendees must be delegates in order to participate in the election of AEA-Retired officers and Board openings. Delegates will be electing a Secretary and six Representatives At-Large for the AEA-Retired Board.

AEA-Retired will be allotted 87 Delegates, making us the largest "local" delegation, and a major player, at the

AEA Delegate Assembly. If fewer nominations are received than our allotted number, all nominees will automatically be delegates. If more than 87 nominees are received, then voting will take place electronically in February and March. The deadline for submission is February 11th.

Join your colleagues May 10 for a great day of entertaining activities, wonderful companionship, and fantastic, informative guest speakers. Watch for more details and a registration form in the March issue of *The Conduit*.

Nominate a fellow member for the Les Reynolds Award

On page 11 is a nomination form for the Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award, one of the highlights at each Annual Meeting. This prestigious honor is given annually to an AEA-Retired member who has provided outstanding service to AEA-Retired and the community. Please take the time to nominate someone who you believe deserves this award. Last year's honoree was Suzan Austin.

The deadline for submission is February 11th.



AEA Retired Calendar

December 11—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

January 8—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

January 14—First day of Legislative Session

January 23—AEA-Retired Lobby Day at the Capitol

February 11—Delegate/Officer nominations & Les Reynolds nomination forms due

February 12—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

February 13—AEA-Retired Lobby Day at the Capitol

ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



2018 marked by big changes to the ASRS Pension & Health plans

In April 2018 the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) Board approved the Retrospective Rate Agreement distribution plan. It will provide funds to eligible ASRS health care participants through reduced premiums in the ASRS Health Insurance Program beginning in 2019 and continuing through at least 2021. Also, the ASRS investigated and moved to convert 13,000 Medicare-aged members from their current Senior Supplement Plan to a new Medicare Advantage PPO Plan. The new plan promises the same or better benefits across the board and no disruption with providers, while offering lower out of pocket member costs.

During 2018 there were 46,722 retired members and their families enrolled in the ASRS-sponsored health care program and 57,397 retired members enrolled in dental plans through ASRS. As I talked with members this fall, I found many retirees who were either unaware of their ASRS Health Insurance Premium Benefit, or did not know that the benefit could be used to purchase a dental plan, even when not using ASRS for their regular health care. The Premium Benefit ranges from \$75 to \$260 per month, depending upon years of service and coverage selected.

Investments increase to \$40 billion; funding status improves to 71.2%

As of June 30, 2018, the ASRS held investments of \$40 billion, an increase of \$2.2 billion from fiscal year 2017. The fund had a return on investment of 9.4%, compared to 13.9% in fiscal year 2017. The funded status of the plan rose slightly to 71.2%. Things were going well until October 2018, when the stock market dropped and wiped out a years worth of gains. By November the return on ASRS investments was 0%.

The ASRS Board approved an employee contribution rate of 12.04% beginning in July 2019. The new rate keeps ASRS on track to return ASRS to 100% funding in the future. The Public Pension Coordinating Council awarded ASRS a Pension Standards Award in 2018 for meeting professional standards, plan design and admin-

istration. This is the 14th year the ASRS has received this award.

New computer system in place; still two vacancies on Board of Trustees

When you get your benefit check in January you will know that switching to a new in-house computer system worked, which when complete, will significantly reduce the annual costs to disburse benefits while enhancing data security.

In 2018 the ASRS Board of Trustees continues to function with two vacancies on what should be a nine member board. Defined in state statute, five of the governor appointed trustees must be ASRS members, each representing one of the following member groups: an educator, an employee of a political subdivision, a retired member, an employee of the State and an at large member who may represent any ASRS member group. Each trustee representing an ASRS member group must have no less than five years of administrative management experience. Additionally, four trustees, who are not ASRS members, are appointed to represent the public. Four trustees of the ASRS Board must have a minimum of 10 years of investment experience.

ARSC coalition working to protect public pensions

Finally, in September 2018, AEA Retired followed up its partnership with the National Public Pension Coalition by bringing back together our own local coalition of labor groups to counter attacks on public pensions. The Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC) will make sure Arizonans hear the truth about our defined benefit retirement system and its value to both the state's economy and the recruitment and retention of quality education employees. In 2018, more than 153,908 ASRS retired members, their survivors, and 3,488 disabled members used approximately \$3.2 billion in benefits to help stimulate the Arizona economy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JULIE HORWIN



The greatest gift of 2018

In this season of giving, educators, students and parents just received one of the best presents we've had in a while: The election of a teacher to the highest education position in the state.

Kathy Hoffman, AEA member,

is the new Superintendent of Public Instruction and the first educator to hold that office since 1995.

When I count my blessings as 2018 ends, Kathy Hoffman will go straight to the top of my list. But as a retired educator, I have to admit that my cup runneth over in the gift department.

On November sixth, Arizonans elected 2 other AEA members to high office: Senator Kyrsten Sinema was a social worker and AEA member in Washington Elementary School district. She served as WEA's treasurer. Newly elected Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, too, was a social worker in Washington Elementary School District, also in the Phoenix Union H.S. District, and a proud AEA member.

I taught for 32 years in the Arizona public school system, and because I am addicted to change, I taught first grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 6th grade and middle school science. No matter what socio-economic make up of my classroom, **each of them taught me, and each of them enriched my life. Whether you're a teacher, a guidance counselor, school secretary, college professor, coach, principal, or an education support professional, I know you can relate to that.**

Many of the educators who responded to my email at Thanksgiving said that simply hearing a student say **"Now I get it" was the best gift ever.** I know the pure joy of that moment. Suddenly something clicks, and we get to watch it happen. The eyes get wider. The brow unfurrows. The grimace becomes a grin. And before you know it, that Pharrell song, "Happy," is inside your head.

New Year's Resolutions

When it comes to New Year's Resolutions, I've made a few – and even kept some. Well, here are a few New Year's Resolutions we should make and stick to—because achieving them is how we ensure that all students, regard-

less of ZIP code, have the opportunity they deserve for a quality public education that prepares them for the future.

1. **Insist that our elected leaders and policymakers put students before ideology and partisan politics.** For the first time, we have elected educators to some of Arizona's highest offices. Let's help them by holding all of our law-makers to making laws that work for all Arizona students instead of leaving some out in the cold.
2. **Do everything we can to stand up for public education, an institution that binds us together and protects our democracy.** Public education means more than our neighborhood schools; it means a system throughout our nation that is legally required to provide a tuition-free education to all students, regardless of race, religion, ability or other factors. Public education means schools and districts that are accountable to communities through locally elected boards and other means of governance.
3. **Public education means schools that aren't created to serve a particular niche market, and don't pick and choose their students, but schools that accept all students.** Public education means schools that exist to serve students' needs, not shareholders' needs.
4. **Strengthen AEA to demand the opportunities our students deserve, safeguard public schools and support each other's growth and development so we can do the best work possible.** The fact is, we have more power when we stand together to affect real change than we do as individuals. And the best mechanism we have for standing together is through AEA. We can strengthen AEA first and foremost by getting involved. We can sign up new members, both active and retired, especially by reaching out to new educators who need the support, guidance and mentoring they can receive through their union. You can do this by volunteering for our New Educator Project: The Retiree Experience, or by attending one of our Advocacy trainings in Tucson or Phoenix, or attending a local AEA-Retired chapter meeting, and of course by attending one of the AEA-Retired Days at the Capitol.

As 2018 comes to a close, these are the resolutions I'm committing to in 2019 and beyond. Every day, I'll set out to do something that advances them. At the close of each day, I'm going to ask myself how I did. I want you to hold me accountable. And I promise to hold you accountable, too.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Luci Messing



Hard work during elections results in changes befitting seniors and public education.

We did it!!

Once all the votes were counted, we succeeded

in electing a number of pro public education candidates to office. We elected **Kyrsten Sinema**, the first female US Senator from Arizona. **Katie Hobbs** has been elected Secretary of State. We regained the CD2 seat with the election of **Ann Kirkpatrick** and retained the CD9 seat (vacated by Sinema) with **Greg Stanton**. In addition, we picked up **FOUR** seats in the State House and shifted the balance to a 29-31 split, making it more likely that both parties will need to cooperate on legislation. Our House wins in LD10, LD17, LD18, LD28 are significant and will provide us the opportunity to have a real voice in the State Legislature.

Unfortunately, we were unable to change any seats in the State Senate. Though our targeted races (LD6, LD11, LD17, LD18, LD28) were close, there still remains a 17-13 Republican advantage in the Senate, which means that the majority party does not need to cooperate or even consult with the minority party to pass legislation.

Public education was front and center of the 2018 elections and AEA retirees played a critical role to this success. We worked alongside our coalition partners to build capacity, and together we made the difference. Many thanks go out to the Valley Interfaith Project, Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, the Pima County Interfaith Council, the Arizona School Counselors, Save Our

Schools, and the Arizona Democratic Party. The Blue Wave did indeed splash over Arizona. Our state which was once solidly red has become purple.

Advocacy trainings prepare retirees for upcoming legislative session

AEA-Retired conducted two Advocacy Trainings in December in preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session. One was held in Tucson and one in Phoenix. Over 75 members participated between the two trainings and are now prepared when the Legislative Session begins on January 14, 2019.

Two AEA Retired Days at the Capitol have been scheduled, so mark your calendars for **Wednesday, January 23, 2019** and **Wednesday, February 13, 2019**. The day will begin at 9:00am with a briefing from AEA Lobbyist, Stephanie Parra. Attendees will schedule appointments with their representatives, attend committee hearings, enjoy lunch with legislators, and observe floor proceedings from the gallery. It is guaranteed to be an enlightening, productive day. You can register for this activity at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019LobbyDay>
Additionally, AEA will have two lobby days on March 12 and 19.

It's going to be a busy semester for AEA-Retired as we advocate for public education, work to protect our pensions, and educate our community about the issues.

Join us. You won't want to miss it.

With the opening of the 54th Arizona State Legislature on January 14, 2019, there is a whisper of hope for funding education. The Republican controlled Senate is 17-13. The House of Representatives still has a divided membership even though Democrats picked up four seats. There are 31 Republicans and 29 Democrats. That's the closest since 1966. A key component to passing any legislation will be moderate Republicans.

Senator Karen Fann is the Senate President and Representative Russell Bowers is Speaker of the House. The barrier to any legislation, of course, is getting it assigned to committee for a hearing, which Fann and Bowers will control. Pressure from AEA and AEA-Retired cannot be underestimated in facilitating that process.

There is much talk about funding and trying to find suitable solutions to the crisis. Members on both sides of the aisle are openly supporting new funding. However, there are still pro-charter, anti-spending more-for-education-legislators in power positions. Super funded lobbyists and the Goldwater Institute are already garnering arguments, money and proposals for legislation. Vouchers remain a constancy in their action plans, as do attacks on public pensions like ASRS.

Governor Ducey may be agreeable to not only funding education at the level before the recession, but also in reforming the lack of accountability and transparency of charters and vouchers. The publicity about charter CEOs making huge profits from taxpayer's money has resonated with voters. There is pressure to get something positive done. That's an even greater reason for AEA-Retired to show up in numbers & be willing to testify in the session.

You're never too old to be an AEA-Retired activist!

By Julie Horwin

National television reporters staked out Kyrsten Sinema's office in Scottsdale one evening in late October. They asked if they could interview me and did a big double-take when I responded to a question about Democratic solidarity when I replied that I am a Republican. I went on to explain why it was important to me that Kyrsten Sinema get elected. "I'm not trying to reach out to Democrats," I said, "I am trying to reach out to voters who have my same values and care about all Arizonans."

When AEA-Retired member, Anna Cicero, waved her flag during a RedforEd rally at the state capital, flashbulbs from every news media present went off and caught Anna's determined expression.

I have been friends with Mac Chernoski for a few years along with Barbara Matteson, Michele Smith, Ann Meyers, and many other AEA-Retired activists, and I'm fascinated by what they're doing for more than personal reasons. Politics aside, I admire the way they — like many others — have taken their passion for political and civic activism and turned it into a major activity in retirement.

Now retired, after a nearly 3-decade career as educators, about 120 my fellow AEA-Retired members have returned to their activist roots. Sadly, as in so many other aspects of society, older people are largely invisible as activists. The media typically favors pictures of Millennials and Gen Z for its stories on marches and protests. But in reality, there were plenty of protesters in their 60s, 70s and 80s at the RedforEd walk-outs and other important events.

"In America, we associate activism with youth," says Deana Rohlinger, a sociologist at Florida State University. "We often don't see older Americans as engaged — but they are." **Activism and older generations, in fact, go together.** In college and immediately afterwards, people have time to protest. But then, with full-time careers, marriage, kids and taking care of aging parents, time becomes a scarce resource. Those are the years when people who want to take a stand, tend to sign petitions or volunteer on the weekend. They don't take days off from work to join a protest.

More time to be an activist

But in retirement, people have more time to engage. They're also liberated from employer constraints on their political activities. "You don't work for anyone anymore," says Barbara Matteson. "You can say what you want."

To be sure, many retirees recoil at the word "activist" and instead see themselves creating a voice for justice, holding politicians' feet to the fire and encouraging civic engagement.

Few of us would describe ourselves as radical during the days when we attended college, but many of us recall joining a sit-in, a march, or other action.

Larry Wittig volunteers with the local chapter of Valley Interfaith Project, a network of volunteers trying to engineer bipartisan social justice change policy. He and his wife Connie are engaged in learning best practices for change along with strategic planning for the future. "It keeps me active and engaged and hopefully makes a difference," Larry says.

Luci Messing led Tucson EA and early on figured out that building relationships with policy-makers is the key to influencing legislatures. She continues to help AEA-Retired members become experts. She conducts two trainings each year on how to be an advocate. She also leads two AEA-Retired Days at the capitol so that participants can put their training to work.

The memorable words of Paul Newman

Activists like AEA-Retired members, feel passionately about continuing to find ways that will help society be better off. Many seem to share the perspective of Paul Newman, the late actor and nonprofit entrepreneur. "I'm not running for sainthood," he once said. "I just happen to think that in life we need to be a little like the farmer, who puts back into the soil what he takes out." Now, that's a goal worth striving for.

When activism is a lifelong commitment

For some people, activism is a lifelong and full-time commitment — like the 120 members who answered our Midterm Elections Survey. For many others, it is an occasional small part of their lives. Whichever category fits you, AEA-Retired is grateful for your participation and your activism.

Results of the Survey

- **130 AEA-Retired members volunteered**
- **They volunteered in all 30 districts, which included AEA targeted districts, and other statewide AEA recommended races.**
- **The average time spent volunteering was 23 hours, with 300 being the most and 2 being the least.**
- **Activities included (but not limited to) phoning, canvassing, literature preparation, holding candidate house parties, playing a leadership role in their city, Legislative District, or other group, postcard writing, donating to candidates, handing out literature at polls, and registering voters**
- **Total number of volunteer hours for AEA & NEA Retired members = 3000**

Membership Team builds capacity of AEA-Retired

The Membership Committee has been working hard to recruit new members to AEA- Retired. The committee has recently sent out a welcoming letter with a membership form to over 500 recent retirees from around the state. All of these retirees were active AEA members, and now are eligible to join our local of over 2200 members. Yes, that's right, we have over 2200 members with a lot of expertise, knowledge, skills and man and woman power to get things done.

The Membership Committee is asking that you reach out to your fellow retired school employee friends and ask if they have joined AEA-Retired. The yearly membership is \$105 a year for joining NEA/AEA/AEA-Retired, which can be deducted monthly from a member's state retirement pension at the rate of only \$8.75 a month.

A retiree might choose to join and pay the onetime NEA Lifetime Membership portion of their dues in one payment with a fee of just \$250 for the lifetime membership. With that option, the NEA portion of the member's dues is paid for the rest of his/her life, and can never be raised. When that option is selected, the retiree thereafter only pays the state (AEA) and local (AEA-Retired) portions of yearly dues, which are only \$70 a year and can be deducted from one's ASRS pension each month at the lower rate of \$5.83.

Strong membership = a stronger voice

You have all seen the benefits of being a member, and many of you have participated in the numerous opportunities afforded to you as a member. 2018 was an exciting year and you can be assured that we have many events and opportunities planned for 2019. We hope those opportunities will include you along with many new members. With your help, we can grow our membership and get things done as a knowledgeable, skillful and strong group. **The stronger our membership, the stronger our voice, and the better able we are to advocate for the interests of seniors, such as protecting and strengthening our pensions.**

If you have questions concerning membership, or would like a membership form, you can contact Membership Chairperson Shirley Boswell at (602) 696-2458, or go to our website at www.azedretired.com to learn more, download, and print a membership form for a friend.

The Membership Outreach Team is led by Michele Smith, Tricia Roach, & Nancy Putman.

Ageism is still prevalent in today's society

By Jan Nichols

Ageism is the only acceptable discrimination in today's society. As a nation, we have slowly come to a rudimentary resolution of other facets of discrimination through litigation, legislation and evolution. Laws and culture send the message that it is not okay to discriminate because of race, creed, religion, gender, or nationality. Even in our current political climate, the majority of people believe that it's wrong. But, ageism is different. It is tolerated and exhorted.

It is common to hear jokes about the elderly. Cliches are embedded in conversations not only by youthful or middle age folks, but by seniors as well. There is an extended vocabulary to demean and patronize. "Codger, old timer, little ole lady, senile, feisty, biddy, ole geezer" are just some of the terms. And, some when addressing the elderly, speak slowly in elementary vocabulary, equating hard of hearing with senility or the loss of brain cells.

Advertising of cosmetics, movies and television cements these memes. Anti-aging products abound showing the results of looking younger. Youth is good. Old is bad. Those who are older in business and the corporate world are now constantly in a state of anxiety wondering when they may have to train the next young person to do their job and then wait for the ax to fall. It is also wrongly assumed that just because of the age factor, old people are not technologically trained or aware. The most extensive resume cannot guarantee a well-paid job after fifty.

Indigenous people and those in ancient cultures seem to revere the elderly. The common view is that with age comes wisdom and expertise. Native Americans hold the patriarch in the tribe in high esteem and they are consulted, listened to and appreciated.

In the last elections, primary and general, we heard often how about the need to recruit, register and get the young millennials to vote. That is good. It should be a major factor. But, at the same time, there was some patronizing of the senior citizens. Something to score against. The charge was that "they always vote." Like it was a bad thing.

Ageism can be counteracted. Just by calling out a demeaning, patronizing behavior, by showing up in strength to campaign for justice and truth, power, and by participating in activities where older people are on the forefront.

Just a thought: The next time someone says you look good for your age, you could say, "So do you!" Or, "I look good at any age, you young whippersnapper!"

Newsletter editor needed for *Conduit*. Apply & learn now!

Are you a frustrated journalist? Do you love to write? Would you like to make a difference for your friends and colleagues by helping to keep them informed? Are you computer literate? If you can answer "Yes" to these questions, then your skills are desperately needed. We are seeking one (or more) retired members who will continue to produce this award winning newsletter, *The Conduit*.

If you would like to assist with this important task, contact Linda Somo at Lsomo@cox.net or call 480-293-4291. You don't have to have experience, since training will be provided. You will be given the opportunity to work with Linda and Jan Nichols for the rest of this year (two more issues to be produced), and then be prepared to begin your duties next year. Don't wait! Apply now and experience the exhilarating feeling of seeing your own writing in print while providing an invaluable service to your colleagues. *The Conduit* is the only newsletter that is mailed to all members, and is our most valuable form of communication.

Contribute to AEA Fund & NEA Fund; help elect friends of public education

Power and unity, strong voice for public education!

"Decisions continue to be made that chip away at our public schools, drive good teachers out of a profession they love, and experiment on our students' learning. Money is influence in politics. Together, members like you are a powerful, united voice for our profession & our students' future." (AEA President Joe Thomas)

The NEA Fund and the AEA Fund contributions are used to elect friends of education to local, state and federal office. Only U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents may contribute to the NEA Fund.

All contributions are strictly voluntary.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contribution 100% to AEA Fund for Public Education

Split my contribution 75% AEA Fund & 25% NEA Fund

Check (paid to AEA Fund) Attach check to form

OR

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Name on card _____

Contributions are not tax deductible.

Send to AEA-Retired, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004

A message from NEA Retired President Sarah Borgman.....

At our Annual Retired Meeting in June, I challenged our delegates and guests to *stand and fill the gap*. We had just been handed the Janus decision and membership growth ---or lack thereof--- threatened all of us. It appears that we have faced that challenge, but what remains today is the fact that there is a job for everyone in our Association whether seeking new active members or those retired of our own. Maybe "selling" membership is not your strong point, but you certainly have stories to tell and can use to help others: new career teachers, aspiring teachers, active members, or those sitting on the fence!



The bottom line is that in our advocacy for students, our profession, and public education there is a job for everyone. YOU are needed to *stand and fill the gap*. Unfortunately, when we lose our own members who have been real warriors, someone needs to *stand and fill the gap*. There are jobs to be done in every facet of our work; there are projects waiting to be done; there are calls to be made and e-mails to be sent to legislators; there are committees with vacancies; there are multiple positions to be filled.

Will YOU stand and fill the gap?



The Conduit *aea*
Your Retired
Statewide Local

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345 E. Palm Lane

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-574-1473

azedretired.com

aea.retired@arizonaaea.org

Julie Horwin	President
Janie Hydrick	Vice President
Ken Freed	Secretary
Steve Linder	Treasurer
Linda Somo	Past President

The Conduit Editors
Linda Somo & Jan Nichols

VIP holds Leaders Assembly in Phoenix to prepare for upcoming legislative session

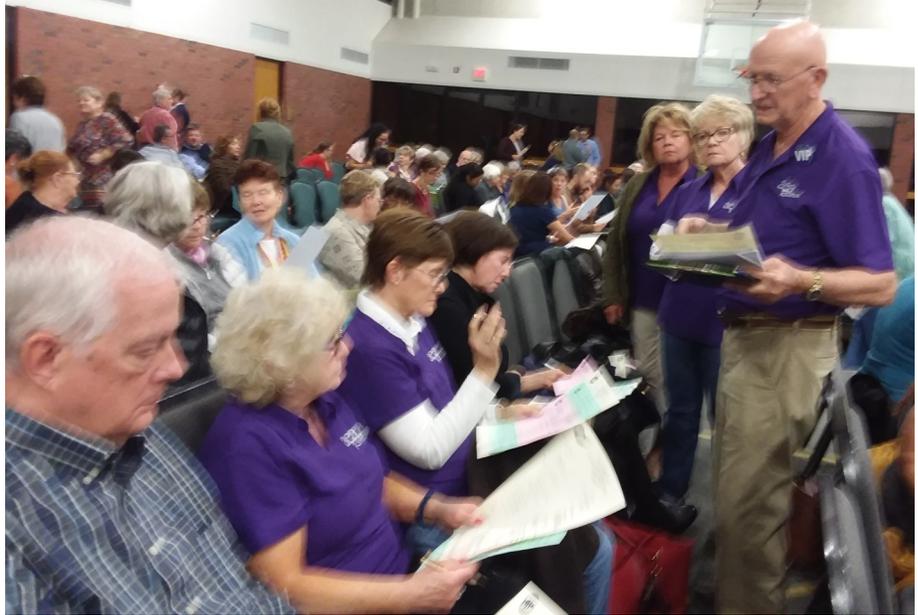
Ten AEA-Retired members joined activists from throughout the Phoenix area at the Valley Interfaith Project (VIP) Leaders Assembly on November 28th. Attendees explored important social justice topics that included Arizona Career Pathways, proposed Public Charge rule changes, Criminal Justice reform, state funding for Maricopa Community Colleges, and voting strategies.

Each topic was initially introduced through first-person narratives of the impact on the lives of Arizona residents, and later discussed more thoroughly in small group caucuses that represented all the various organizations in attendance, such as AEA-Retired.

Arizona Career Pathways provides vocational counseling and funding for needy students to attend community colleges and state universities to pursue their dreams of completing an education that would lead to a better life for themselves and their families. VIP actively recruits participants for this program through the various member churches. Michael Traylor, Director of the AZ Department of Economic Security, was at the Leaders Academy. He has been working with VIP to secure state funding worth \$1 million for this important program and is committed to making it happen in the next legislative session.

Three newly-elected Maricopa Community College Board members, Marie Sullivan, Tom Nerini, and Kathleen Winn, who also were in attendance, vowed to work with VIP to restore the state funding that has been stripped from the community colleges in both Maricopa and Pima Counties.

The Trump Administration's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is proposing to change long-standing rules regarding what would disqualify applications for Lawful Permanent residence (LPR or "Green Card"). These are the people trying to "follow the rules" to enter or remain here legally. When an immigrant applies for a visa or green card, the government looks at different aspects of their life. Under current federal



AEA-Retired members Bart James, Suzan Austin, Nancy Riley, Julie Horwin, Michele Smith, and Katri Hakes caucus with VIP leader Larry Wittig during the VIP Leaders Assembly. Also present were Connie Wittig and Linda Somo.

rules, a person is considered a "public charge" if the government believes they may become dependent on public assistance as their main source of support. The faith organizations of VIP oppose the proposed rule changes which would greatly expand the requirements because they believe that it would harm families and will undermine the health and unity of lawful immigrant and mixed-status families. VIP is encouraging all of its member organizations to lobby against the rule changes.

Additional scheduled VIP events include:

- Monday, December 10, at 6:30 PM Justice Reform Study Session at Dayspring United Methodist Church in Tempe
- Monday, December 17, at 5:00 PM Voting Analysis/Legislative Strategy Session, Faith Lutheran Church in Phoenix
- Tuesday, February 5, at 9:00 – noon VIP Day at the Legislature

Since AEA-Retired is a supporting member of VIP, anyone is welcome to attend these and any VIP event.

Advocacy training prepares AEA-Retired members for upcoming legislative session

Seventy-five AEA-Retired members participated in two separate trainings in Tucson and Phoenix to give them the skills they need to be advocates for senior issues and for quality public education. The Political Action Committee of AEA-Retired, led by Luci Messing, planned and conducted the two-days of Advocacy Training on December 3rd and 5th.

Stephanie Parra, AEA lobbyist, presented a legislative preview and provided expert instructions for lobbying the legislature. Following Stephanie's presentations, attendees were treated to visits from legislators who shared their expertise and experience, spoke of the importance of direct contact with legislators and then answered questions that attendees had about tactics, procedures, and possible upcoming legislation. Attending the Tucson meeting, were **Senator David Bradley and Representative Kirsten Engel**, and joining the Phoenix gathering were **Senators Martin Quezada and Rebecca Rios, and Representative Charlene Fernandez**.

Attendees also learned how to use the legislature's Request To Speak to submit opinions on proposed legislation from any location, received updates on continuing work being done with coalitions who share our values, and were invited to attend **AEA-Retired's Days at the Capitol on Jan. 23rd and Feb. 13th**.



NOMINATION FORM FOR AEA-RETIRED DELEGATES TO ANNUAL MEETING AND AEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2019

Register online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEA-Retired2019Nominations>

We want and need you to run as a delegate to the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting and AEA Delegate Assembly. We need a minimum of 87 delegates nominated. You may nominate yourself. AEA Retired delegates are required to attend both the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting on Friday, May 10, 2019, and the AEA Delegate Assembly on the evening of May 10 and the following day of May 11, 2019. This is a great opportunity to meet with long-time friends, be updated on happenings around the state, and be part of the decision making for AEA & AEA-Retired. The deadline for the return of nomination forms is Monday, February 11, 2019. If you submit your name, chances are high you will be a delegate, due to the fact that over the last few years an election of delegates has not been necessary when fewer nominations have been submitted than seats allotted. If an election is necessary, it will be held electronically in February & March.

Only Delegates are eligible to vote in AEA-Retired elections during the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting on Friday, May 10.

CANDIDATE _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____ Signature of
 Nominator _____ -----
 Signature of Candidate (Candidate must sign) _____

- Are you willing to share your contact information with other delegates? ___ Yes ___ No
- Are you willing to “go green” by forgoing a printed edition of the program booklet and downloading all relevant materials to an electronic device? (New Business and other items are printed on site) ___ Yes ___ No

NOTE: Nomination forms are due by Monday, February 11, 2019; please mail by February 7, 2019. Mail to: AEA- Retired Elections Committee, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004

----- Cut along this line to separate nomination forms-----

Pursuant to Article V and VI of the Association’s Constitution, AEA-Retired is currently accepting nominations for the following positions: AEA-Retired Secretary, and 6 At-Large Representatives. The election will be held during the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting that is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2019, at the Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale. Nominations must be received by Monday, February 11, 2019.

NOMINATION FORM FOR AEA RETIRED EXECUTIVE BOARD

You may self-nominate for only ONE of the vacant offices.
If you nominate someone other than yourself, you must have his or her signed permission.

NOMINEE _____ PHONE _____
 Email Address: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Signature of Nominee (required): _____ Signature of Nominator (if different) _____

Check the office you seek: ___ AEA-Retired Secretary ___ Representative at Large (6 to be elected). Only one office may be sought. All terms are for three years.

NOTE: Nomination forms are due by Monday, February 11, 2019; please mail by February 7, 2019. Mail to: AEA Retired Elections Committee, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004

THE LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD

The LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD is named for Les Reynolds, the first president of AEA-Retired. The award is presented annually to a member of our association in appreciation for outstanding service to our Association, public education, and the community. The award recipient is honored at the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting and at the AEA Award Luncheon at Delegate Assembly the following day. Previous recipients are: Robert Bloom, Bertha Myers, John Campbell, Ralph Lara, Barbara Matteson, Marion Pickens, Mary Bishop, Connie Wittig, Kathy Campbell, Frank Bing, Frank Sacco, Linda Somo, Steve Ramos, and Suzan Austin.

Please take time to nominate a member you believe meets these criteria. Be specific in completing the form, either in typewritten or word-processor form. You may attach additional information. The committee will not consider partially completed forms.

LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Phone (_____) - _____

Nominator's Name _____ Phone _____

Nominee Information: Please use this format and use a typewriter or word processor. Attach an additional page, if necessary. There is a two page maximum.

1. Number of years as an AEA-Retired member: _____
2. Association positions held at the local, state, and national levels:
3. Positions held in other professional and/or social organizations:
4. Community service:
5. List and describe the nominee's involvement in activities that were beneficial to AEA-Retired, education and/or his/her community:
6. Other relevant information:

Please return a completed form to Connie Wittig at AEA-Retired, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004 by February 11, 2019.

AEA Retired, YOUR STATEWIDE LOCAL
Affiliated with Arizona Education Association
345 East Palm Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

AEA-Retired 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 on topics such as health care, legislative updates, retirement options, and all aspects of the educational system; a business meeting; lunch or dinner; and that very important time for socializing with friends and colleagues.** Anyone interested in forming a new chapter should contact Chapter Coordinators **Susan Sommer**, ssommer114@aol.com or **Suzan Austin** at (480) 947-2089 suzanaustin@cox.net.

Glendale/West Valley Chapter: All are welcome to join us for a bite to eat and great conversation with updated information. The meeting dates have been set for the West Valley Chapter. The chapter will meet Feb. 7 and April 4 during school year 2018-19. All meetings are held at Biscuits Café, 19420 N. 59th Ave., Glendale, AZ, 85308 at 10:00a.m. For more information, call, text or email **Susie Sommer** at 623-628-1935 or ssommer114@aol.com

Mesa / East Valley Chapter: Our chapter meets on the 8th floor of the MPS building at 63 East Main Street, Mesa. Meet and greet begins at 10:45 with luncheon at 11:00. Join us for conversation with colleagues, important information, yummy food, and fun raffles. On Nov. 14th the guest speaker was Sarah Richardson, a public education advocate, who played a key role in the InvestInEd and “No on 305” movements. Meetings are scheduled for Jan. 9, 2019, March 6, and May 8. Con-tact **Janie Hydrick** at Hydrick@aol.com or (480) 963-1848 for more information.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: AEA President Joe Thomas was the guest speaker at the Nov. 20 meeting. He spoke about the recent elections and planning for 2020 elections. The next meeting will be at the TEA office on Dec. 18th and will include a celebration and planning for future meetings. For more information contact **Marion Pickens**, Chair, at 520-296-5908 or marionpeterpickens@gmail.com

Phoenix Chapter: The Phoenix chapter will meet at Beatitudes at 1610 W. Glendale, on the third Tuesday of alternate months in Elaine’s Dining Room. The schedule for 2018-2019 is Jan.15, March 19, & May 21. We meet at 10:30 am and usually finish at 12:30 pm. Lunch is served and the cost is \$10.00 per person. On Nov. 20th, newly elected State Senator Lela Alston was the guest speaker. For more information, contact Chapter Chair **Michele Smith** at 602-463-1624 or mms7997@msn.com.

Yavapai Chapter: A meeting was held on Nov. 15 at the Prescott Brewing Company. This is a temporary meeting location until a new permanent facility can be found. Steve Ramos, our guest speaker, provided a most well-received update on the status of ASRS pension and health insurance issues for the members in attendance. The chair provided an update on the results from the midterm elections, highlighted pertinent information from his Nov. 13 AEA-Retired Exec Board meeting report, and had members discuss information and concerns during the personal sharing portion of the agenda. As there will be no December meeting, the next meeting of the Yavapai chapter will be held on January 10, 2019, at a place to be determined. Contact Chairperson **Rob Johan** at johanica31@gmail.com or 630-430-8902 for information about future meetings.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: The Scottsdale/Paradise Valley AEA-R Chapter meets at Denny's Restaurant on Mayo Blvd. and Scottsdale Rd. at 11:00 a.m. The last meeting was on Nov. 26, with a guest speaker from Just a Center. This year's remaining meeting dates are Jan. 21, Feb. 18, and Apr. 15, 2019. For more information contact **Nancy Riley**, 480-596-1144, rileyfam@cox.net, or **Ann Myers** 480-510-8098, azann@mac.com

Southeast Arizona Chapter: The chapter met on Oct. 25 at the Indo China Restaurant, with 15 members present. The AEA recommendations for political nominees were shared for those who had not yet voted. The next meeting will be in early January. Contact **Sally Rosen** at 520-459-0430 or azcatsally@aol.com. for more information.

Flagstaff Chapter: If you live in the Flagstaff area, you can't afford to miss out on our AEA-Retired chapter meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month, 10 AM to noon, in the basement room of Flagstaff Federated Church. The last meeting was on Dec. 4. We work to stay informed and support Arizona's retirees, educators and students through service projects, political action, and constant monitoring of retirement issues at the state and national levels. We hope you will join us and lend your expertise to our efforts to support our profession and the people we serve. For more information and to RSVP, contact **Tricia Roach** at trteach6@mac.com or call 928-525-1997.

Kyrene Chapter: Met on Dec. 4th at Native Grill & Wings on Ray Rd., at 4:30, with guest speaker Sarah Richardson, an education advocate who was very involved in the InvestInEd and “No on Prop 305” movements. For information about future meetings or to join the group, contact Chapter Chair **Ellen Shamah** at eshamah@cox.net. All retired & active members are invited to join.