

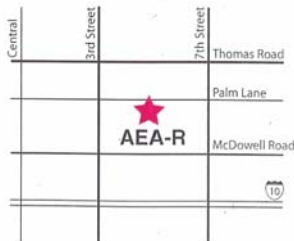
# THE CONDUIT



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**The New Address for  
AEA-Retired  
345 E. Palm Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85004**



**AEA-Retired**

**Calendar of Events**

**September**

14 ...AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting, AEA Bldg.

20- October 2...NEA-Retired Advisory Council, Washington, DC

**October**

10...AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting, AEA Bldg.

21...AEA Committee Day, AEA Bldg.

**November**

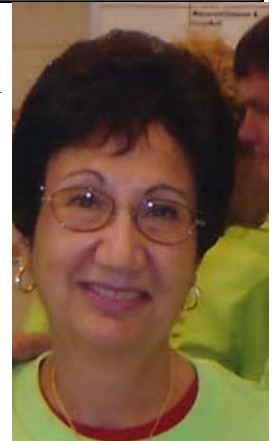
14...AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting, AEA Bldg.

## Linda Somo Elected to NEA-Retired Board

AEA-Retired's Vice President **Linda Somo** was elected to the NEA Board of Directors at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting held June 26-28, 2006 in Orlando, Florida.

Four candidates ran for two positions. Jim Sproul, former President of NEA-Retired, won a majority of votes, but a run-off election was needed for a second candidate to have the necessary majority. Linda won, defeating an incumbent.

Her term of office is for three years starting on September 1, 2006. She joins fellow Arizonan **Barbara Matteson**, NEA-Retired President, along with four other retirees on the NEA Board. They will be representing over 200,000 NEA-Retired members.



## Election 2006, a Date with Destiny

This year's November election is incredibly important for public education and for seniors. It is imperative that we, as AEA-Retired members, stay active throughout the fall to ensure that candidates who support public education are returned to office and those who do not support us leave office.

There are many ways you can do your part. Walking door-to-door for our recommended candidates does several things; it lets voters see that retired teachers and education employees believe in these candidates and issues. We all know that teachers and

education employees are always at or near the top of the most trusted professionals, so you may have more clout than you think. Oh, by the way, it's also great exercise.



There will also be opportunities to work phone banks, both for individual recommended candidates and issues such as Con-serving Arizona's Future (Proposition 106), a joint effort of the AEA and respected conservation groups, such as the Nature Conservancy. Placing yard signs is a great way to influence your neighbors. Signs will be available for

candidates and propositions.

Another excellent way to help out is to become an AEA Pacesetter (see article in this edition).

To find out more about how and when to help, contact **Barbara Matteson**, (520) 298-7520 or **Marion Pickens**, (520) 296-5908, pickens1@mindspring.com, in the southern part of the state, or **John Campbell**, (602) 574-1473, jscampbell@quest.net or **Linda Somo** (480) 924-2713, lasomo@cox.net for all other areas.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY BOB BLOOM AND BARBARA MATTESON



**Bob Bloom**



**Barbara Matteson**

November 7 is fast approaching. The next couple of months will be our opportunity to work for changes in our state legislature and in Congress.

AEA has many recommended candidates, our Governor, Janet Napolitano; our Attorney General, Terry Goddard; our candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Slade Mead; our candidate for U.S. Senate, Jim Pederson; and our candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, Harry

Mitchell, Gabrielle Giffords, Raul Grijalva, and Ed Pastor. There are also many recommended candidates for state senate and house seats.

These good folks need your help. You can do a lot; your vote is important. If you can get five or ten others to vote for our candidates, it would make a huge difference. Many of these races will be close and voter turnout is very important. Please do what you can to convince others to support

our candidates. They are candidates who will stand up for seniors and public education.

You will be receiving e-mail messages from AEA and AEA-Retired asking for your help in various activities. Please help whenever and however you can. Working together, we can make a difference.

### Highlights of the Legislative Report Presented at the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting on April 27, 2006

- **The 2006 Legislative Session gave us one victory, HB 2028, the spousal notification bill, which passed and was signed into law.**
- **There is a lot of activity across the country by various groups to fix the Medicare Part D legislation.**
- **NEA has joined a coalition of groups that are working to protect defined benefit pension plans for public employees. NEA-Retired has been instrumental in urging NEA to take on this issue.**
- **NEA will be sending staff and help to organize successful campaigns for the candidates we are supporting in the November 7 election.**

### 2006 AEA State-wide Candidate Convention on September 16

All candidates for Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer and Superintendent of Public Instruction have been invited to address AEA delegates on September 16 at the Mesa Convention Center (same place as the delegate assembly) as part of the association's recommendation process.

Questions? Call **Kathy Campbell** at (602) 574-1473.

### Be Part of the HEARD; Become an AEA Pacesetter

One great way to be influential in the election cycle is to become an AEA Pacesetter. A Pacesetter is an AEA member who donates a fixed annual amount to political action. That money is split between the AEA and NEA Funds for Children and Public Education to be used as needed to support recommended candidates (AEA-Retired does not have a PAC).

There are different annual contribution levels. They are Bronze, \$50; Silver, \$100; Gold, \$150; and Platinum \$200. State retirement will not deduct from retirement pay, so there are three ways retirees can contrib-

ute. You may write a check or use a credit card for the entire amount, or you may set up EFT withdrawals which spread the contribution over 10 payments.

To find out how to contribute, contact Norma Greene (ext. 103) or Paul Tristan (ext. 125) at AEA, (602) 264-1774.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY CAMPBELL

## AEA-Retired - Protecting Your Future

AEA-Retired was busy this summer. Some of us attended the NEA Retired Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly. We were very pleased that our own **Linda Somo** was elected to the NEA Board of Directors and **Barbara Matteson**, NEA Retired President, ran an excellent meeting.

Please take note of our new address: 345 East Palm Lane, Phoenix. It is a beautiful building and those of you who come to the monthly Executive Board meetings or the Annual Meeting will see just how beautiful it is.

We had great support for our all day Executive Board meeting in July. We will change our Executive Board meeting days for the months of September, December and May. They will be on the second Thursday instead of Tuesday. There will be no meeting in January, as July will be incorporated into the board meeting schedule. Remember, anyone is welcome to attend our board meetings.

One of the goals of our association is to have members, not just elected members, take a more active role in committee work.

I would like to thank the following people who will work this year on your behalf as chairs or co chairs, and are not elected board members: **Bertha Myers, Mary Bishop, Jeannine Hiller, Joanne Lynch, and Frank Bing.**

A huge thank you to **Billie Fugate** for replacing **Ralph Lara** on the Executive Board for this year. Ralph will continue to help us with elections.

Membership in AEA-Retired continues to grow. We have over 1750 members. We signed up over 120 actives since April in NEA-Retired Lifetime. We need you to continue to get our lost members back into the association and find some new retirees as well. Please destroy all old membership forms that have the old dues amount of \$15.00. Currently dues are \$25.00. **Daina Swinford**, Membership Chair, would be happy to send you the new form. Call her at 602-696-2458.

Currently Glendale, Mesa, Tucson, Phoenix, and the White Mountains have chapters. The new Chapter Chair, **Gary Me-hok**, will try to get a couple more chapters on board this year. Your job: attend a chapter meeting in your area or start one up. It is easy; just contact us for information.

Our Intergenerational Mentoring program had a very successful start last year and will kick off another year this fall. If you are interested contact **Paula Grigsby**, Mentor Chair, for more information.

There are several presentations available to you: Pre-retirement, Social Security/Medicare, and 5 Wishes. Contact **John Campbell** 602-692-6998 to schedule one.

The winner of our quilt was **Kathy Carney** from Chandler, Arizona. Thanks to all who supported this fundraising effort. We continue to be grateful for all those who volunteer their time and money to the activities of the association.

A special thank you to **Darlene Blanton-Withrow** for providing us tubs to pack up our office. They were well -used and kept everything in top shape for the move.

This year, AEA-Retired will be actively working on your behalf, not only monitoring ASRS and the legislature, but senior issues and the elections as well.

Let me remind you that the upcoming election is important. Get involved with campaigns working for those individuals who support public education and senior issues.

It will be time well spent. Above all VOTE!!!!

If you would like more information on this or any article in THE CONDUIT, please call 602-574-1473.



Kathy Campbell



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## AEA-Retired Members At Work and At Play



**AEA-Retired officers Connie Wittig, John Campbell and Kathy Campbell joined Governor Janet Napolitano at the Governor's signature gathering event in March.**

**Below : AEA-Retired member Frank Bing received an award from AEA Vice President Andrew Morrill at Summer Leaders' Conference for service to the AEA and the NEA .**



**AEA-Retired members attended a reception for AEA and NEA-recommended US Representative Raul Grijalva during the NEA Representative Assembly in Orlando, Florida.**



**AEA-Retired members attended the NEA-Retired Banquet in Orlando at the NEA-RA.**



**Below: Heidi, a Student NEA member, Linda Somo, AEA-Retired, Stephanie Williams, ASU Student NEA, and John Campbell, NEA Retired, were at the Outreach to Teach Day at the 2006 NEA-Retired annual meeting.**



## Odds and Ends + Some News You Can Use

### NEA-Retired Discussion Boards; Chat rooms for NEA-Retired Members Only

Now you can weigh in with your colleagues around the country at one of our discussion boards in the "Members Only" section of nea.org. Here's how you get there:

\*Click the "login/register" button located in the top right corner of the nea.org banner OR click "Members Only" toward the bottom of the left menu column. This will bring you to the log in and registration screen.

\*On the right side of the registration screen click the "Register" button.

\*Fill out the form.

\*Now that you've registered, go back to the log in page (<https://login.nea.org/index.cgi>) and enter your e-mail address and password.

\*When you get to the "Members Only" area, click "discussion boards" at the bottom of the page.

\*Scroll to the "Member Groups" and click "NEA-Retired" to join or start a discussion.

Some suggested topics for discussion are: Grant Ideas, Political Action, Social Security, Volunteering, and Health Care Benefits.



### Vote Yes on Proposition 106 Conserving Arizona's Future

The Association is a coalition partner of this initiative which will conserve and protect 690,000 acres of state trust land. The initiative will also protect and guarantee an essential classroom funding stream through improved planning and management of state trust lands, require local communities to cooperate in the planning and development of trust lands, and provide local authorities the power to limit and control development. For more information visit [conservingarizonasfuture.com](http://conservingarizonasfuture.com).

### Intergenerational project hopes to build on success

According to **Paula Grigsby**, the first year of the Intergenerational Mentoring-Project was, in the opinion of the mentoring team, "extremely successful." Plans for this year include increasing the number of students participating and expanding the program beyond ASU now that the initial kinks have been worked out. There were eight teams of students and mentors in year one who built relationships, and there are more retirees wanting to participate. We are currently seeking more ASU students.



Another goal is to expand to the University of Arizona, but it is critical to find a coordinator from that area. If you're currently living in the Tucson area and are a member of AEA-Retired, we are in dire need of your assistance. It requires some time, but primarily, it requires enthusiasm. It is a way to build lifelong relationships and influence the future of education in a positive fashion.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, contact **Paula Grigsby**, [pkggrigsby@frontiernet.net](mailto:pkggrigsby@frontiernet.net) 928-535-4353, or call **Kathy Campbell** 602-574-1473.

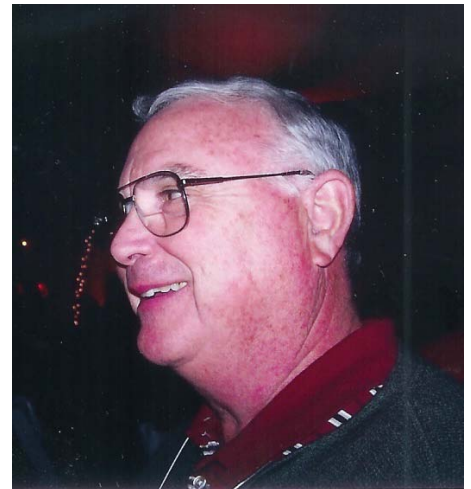


### The Conduit is YOUR newsletter; let us know what you'd like to see in it

If you have ideas about a topic you'd like to see addressed, or if you'd like to write a guest article, contact Suzan and Frank at the phone number or e-mail address on page 6.

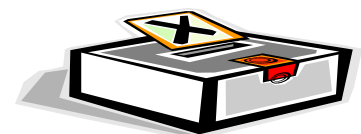


### A Good Reason to Join AEA-Retired



**Who:** Art Cutting, Co-chair of the Elections Committee and the ASRS Committee, and a Representative-at-Large on the Executive Board.

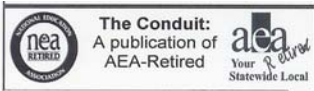
**What:** As chair of the ASRS Committee, Art attends all 10 ASRS meetings each year to monitor the actions of the board as they relate to both retired and active AEA members. He takes copious notes, looks for red flags, and reports to the Executive Board.



AEA-Retired  
345 E. Palm Lane  
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602-574-1473  
www.arizonaaea.org

**Kathy Campbell** President  
**Linda Somo** V. Pres.  
**Paula Grigsby** Secretary  
**Connie Wittig** Treasurer

**Suzan Austin** Conduit  
**Frank Bing** Co-editors



Many thanks to member **Dorothy Rawley** who has donated quilts to AEA-Retired for fundraising for the past four years. She is now credited with raising over \$4000 for AEA-Retired. Wow!

## Chapter News

Chapters are an attempt to bring AEA-Retired closer to members. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter in any location where they worked or currently live. Meetings usually include an information program, business meeting, lunch or dinner, and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. The 2006-2007 Chair of the Chapters Task Force is **Gary Mehok**. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter can contact him at [LOJO40@cox.net](mailto:LOJO40@cox.net).

**Glendale Chapter:** Meetings are scheduled for Sept. 16 and Nov. 9 at the Iron Works, 17233 N. 45th Avenue, (1/4 mile north of Bell Road at the Bellair Golf Course) from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. At the Sept. meeting we will have a presentation on AEA-recommended candidates and a discussion of our P.B.I. (COLA). We would love to see new members join our chapter. For information contact Becky Bravakos at 623-939-8751 ([beckybravakos@yahoo.com](mailto:beckybravakos@yahoo.com)).

**Mesa / East Valley Chapter:** Meetings are held on the 8th floor of the Mesa Bank Building, 63 E. Main St. The meeting schedule for this year is Oct. 11, Jan. 10, March 14, and May 9. Phyllis Swan is the new Chapter Designee. For information contact Phyllis at (480) 926-2878 or [lcswan@cox.net](mailto:lcswan@cox.net).

**Tucson Chapter:** All members and perspective members living in the Tucson area need to send their email addresses to Aurora Aber at [TheAbers@cox.net](mailto:TheAbers@cox.net) or call her at 520-721-7547. A meeting is being planned for the fall prior to the September 12 primary election.

**Phoenix Chapter:** The first meeting this year will be held on Thursday, September 21. The other meetings this year are Nov. 16, March 15, and May 17. The meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the new AEA headquarters at 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix. For information contact Brenda Pierce at 602-973-2822.

**White Mountain Chapter:** The first meeting will be held on September 21 at JB's in Show Low from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Kathy and John Campbell will be presenting information and sharing a new video on Medicare Prescription Part D. For further information contact Billie Fugate (Lakeside) at 928-367-1493 or [bjfugate@frontiernet.net](mailto:bjfugate@frontiernet.net) or Paula Grigsby (Overgaard) at 928-535-4353 or [pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net](mailto:pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net). We would love to welcome new members to our Chapter.

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