



THE CONDUIT

Volume 32, Issue 2

December 2017

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



30th Annual Meeting set for May 11, 2018

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues for a fun-filled, informative celebration at the 30th AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, which will be held for the third year at the beautiful Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale on Friday, May 11, 2018. For those who wish to be delegates, the AEA Delegate Assembly will follow, beginning at 6 PM on May 11 and continuing Saturday, May 12.

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 11th, and be reimbursed 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 Vice President, Secretary, and six Representatives At-Large for the AEA-Retired Board.

AEA-Retired will be allotted 86 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 86 nominees are received, then voting will take place electronically in February and March. The deadline for submission is February 13th.

Join your colleagues May 11 for a great day of entertaining activities, wonderful companionship, important information, and a special 30th anniversary celebration. 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 Steve Ramos.

The deadline for submission is February 13th.



AEA Retired Calendar

December 12—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

January 8—First day of Legislative Session

January 9—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

January 18—AEA-Retired Lobby Day at the Capitol

February 13—Delegate/Officer nominations & Les Reynolds nomination forms due

February 13—AEA-Retired Board Meeting, AEA HQ

February 21—AEA-Retired Lobby Day at the Capitol

March 2—Read Across America

ASRS UPDATE

BY STEVE RAMOS



New public pension attacks emerge across the country; help AEA-Retired make ASRS a high priority in 2018

The 2018 Arizona legislative session begins in January and, as usual, AEA-Retired, working closely with AEA and NEA, will be at the capitol to protect our Arizona State Retirement System pension. In early December, AEA partnered with NEA to bring the National Public Pension Coalition to Phoenix and hosted a public pension academy at AEA headquarters. We invited legislators and others to learn more about defined benefit retirement systems and their value to both the state's economy and the recruitment and retention of education employees. Your sustaining membership in AEA-Retired makes these initiatives possible. I thank you for that support.

Prior to the 2018 legislative session, the ASRS will again seek out a legislator to introduce a bill to protect our pension plan against what AEA-Retired has labeled in the past, "The ASU/ASRS Pension Threat." (See "Conduit" February 2017) A similar bill, introduced in 2017, died in committee. The bill would define how any ASRS employer that is legally allowed to withdraw participation of new employees, or selected current employees from ASRS, must pay off the unfunded liabilities created by such actions. Current law does not adequately protect the ASRS fund.

AEA-Retired will also be watching Governor Ducey and Lisa Graham Keegan's Reason Foundation, who may try to replace our ASRS defined benefit pension with a 401k style defined contribution plan or hybrid. Besides shifting risks onto the backs of educators, these plans would discourage new educators from making a career of serving our public schools.

Another AEA Retired concern at the capitol involves a movement to get out from under the pension commitments made to public safety employees by opening up and amending **Article 29, Section 1 of the Arizona Constitution**. Article 29 was added in 1998 when AEA-Retired helped pass Prop. 100, adding language stating, "**Public retirement system benefits shall not be diminished or impaired.**" In 2016, Governor Ducey, the Reason Founda-

tion and the legislature slipped Prop 124 onto a ballot with the controversial Prop 123. It passed, adding "*except that certain adjustments to the public safety personnel retirement system may be made as provided in Senate Bill 1428, as enacted by the fifty-second legislature, second regular session.*" It is just that easy for us to lose our pension protections.

ASRS Healthcare reimbursement dollars could start as early as 2018

Since 2011, ASRS has contracted with United Healthcare (UHC) to provide ASRS with both non-Medicare and Medicare health plans. That agreement allows UHC to collect premiums in return for services provided to members. The agreement also requires UHC to spend 93% of those premiums on medical care, leaving UHC with 7% to pay for company expenses and profit. If medical care expenses are less than 93% ASRS receives a reimbursement. As of December 31, 2015 those reimbursements totaled approximately \$100 million.

ASRS will form a committee after the new year to determine the most fair and feasible way to return these healthcare premium reimbursement dollars to the members who paid into each Eligible Medical Plan. **AEA-Retired will have a representative on the committee to speak for our members. The goal will be to have the ASRS Board vote on a distribution plan in February and begin the first distributions or credits in 2018.** The dollar amounts will vary based on the percentage that each plan contributed to the total distribution account and a member's participation in a particular medical plan each year. Payments may take the form of a "holiday" from insurance premium payments for a period of time each year.

Watch for more information in future issues of *The Conduit* and from ASRS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By JULIE HORWIN



In this world of “fake news,” ugly tweets, and widespread apathy, the temptation is to think, “Why do anything?” But not if **you knew what I know.**

I just got back from a day spent in a school district with my retired colleagues listening to Active Educators. We listened to passionate educators that ranged the spec-

trum of teachers – new, experienced, almost retired, and education support professionals.

They each spoke from the heart about what they, **ordinary educators, were doing to change the world for their students and to make school a better place for their students.** They spoke about their passions for making Arizona a better place – one student at a time. My retired colleagues who joined me in this project were just as passionate in our questions and comments. I cannot tell you how very, very proud I was of my AEA-Retired colleagues.

Each of us – new educators, experienced educators, and retired educators spoke about making our communities better – and doing things that are “bigger than ourselves.” The amazing thing about each of our stories is that they are not unique. **These marvels are duplicated in school after school and district after district** because ordinary educators decide that what they have is not good enough. It is because of educators like these that we can still stand against those who would literally sell us and our schools out.

It is because of people like those retired educators that we have been able to organize and mobilize **to call, write, march, testify, register and vote for what** our students and their families need.

Look at the evidence of wins by our AEA-Retired Leaders and Members:

- We identified and met with 10 new retirees from Pima County - the 2nd largest populated county of AZ. We have had only one AEA-Retired chapter there and after meeting with and, nurturing their leadership, we now have a new chapter of AEA-Retired there!
- We planned and executed two large events for 200 NEA-Retired members who have never worked in AZ, but who have retired here, and now vote here. We created and facilitated an all-day event through the course of 2 days in 2 locations: Tucson and Phoenix.
- We successfully worked with our Active Association to plan, train, and execute three, week-long New Educator Projects - where we recruited strong teams of positive retired and active educators to visit 12 different school sites. Over 6 days of site visits at 12 different school sites, we had 86 conversations with members, 285 conversations with potential members, and 43 new educa-

tor specific conversations. There have been 44 people identified as potential leaders. Total new members include: 29 certified, 4 ESP, 1 student, and 2 retired (36 total). Keep in mind that this does not include the many other days of site visits planned in school districts through the spring of this year.

- We planned and facilitated 2 days of Advocacy Training with our AEA and NEA Retired colleagues. Government Relations specialist Stephanie Parra gave them a political overview with regards to education.
- We started our Intergenerational Mentoring Program again through ASU (we are currently looking for a UofA chair if you are interested!)
- We've fought back proposals to topple the ASRS, the only regular income for many of our members.

We helped stop additional proposals to slash education funding even more – cuts that would have hurt our most vulnerable students.

But, we have a long way to go in making this a community that is safe for our most vulnerable: our kids and our seniors.

None of these wins happened by chance. Those members who worked on the above projects are the glue that hold it all together.

They happened because AEA-Retired organized 300+ cyber-lobbyists, rally goers, phone callers, and activists; because we generated so many emails to legislators; because we organized over 20 visits to the state legislature; and because we wrote blogs, posted on Facebook, and published editorials and distributed position presentations (ppt) on issues that affect students, their families, their teachers, and our pensions.

They happened because we weren't alone. **We had friends. We had parents** who want to Save Our Schools. We had the Alliance for Retired Americans to watchdog the federal legislation. We had Arizona Wins, the Labor political action team, the Valley Interfaith Network and the Arizona Interfaith Network, and the AZ School Counselors (Anna Cicero). We had the AZ Retirement Security Coalition and the National Pension Protection Coalition. We had the Active AEA Education Association members.

All we have is our commitment, our passion and our vision for something better for Arizonans. What we have is each other.

We have room for you – please go to www.azedretired (google AEA-Retired) and click on “calendar” to find out what is ahead this year. Click on “New Educator Project” if you would like to join us in our efforts on our “listening tours” in the public schools.

And, please, fill out the commitment to contribute to our efforts that you will find on page 7. Cut it out and mail it in.

I will see you on the trail!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Luci Messing



Congress passes “tax reform” that penalizes middle class, rewards the rich, and endangers Medicare

AEA-Retired participated in the four AEA Education Town Halls held last

month. Members had the opportunity to hear from the Democratic candidates for governor. Both Steve Farley and David Garcia answered questions from the audience. We would like to hear from those of you who attended about your experience and thoughts regarding the event. Email Luci at lucibmessing@cox.net.

By the time you read this, Congress may have passed a very controversial tax “reform” plan. This plan will negatively impact Medicare & Medicaid, eliminate health care for millions of Americans, devastate educational opportunities and hurt the middle class. The plan will, however, greatly reward corporations and millionaires. The resulting damage that it will cause will be devastating to average families. The only option will be to replace those in Congress who vote against the best interest of the majority of Americans in order to enhance the wealth of so few. This is truly a case of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. We must not let this go unaddressed.

AEA-Retired members sent emails and made calls to our senators in an effort to stop the tax plan. We will continue to contact our representatives and express our concerns even after its adoption. **According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and many economists, the bill will:**

- ♦ Cause 13 million Americans to **LOSE** their health care coverage
- ♦ **RAISE** taxes on lower and middle income families
- ♦ **REPEAL** key pieces of the Affordable Care Act
- ♦ Dramatically **CUT** funding for Medicare
- ♦ 80% of families would see **ZERO** tax cuts or see a tax

INCREASE by 2027

- ♦ Bring **HUGE TAX BREAKS** to the top 1% and major corporations
- ♦ Add **\$1.4 TRILLION** to the national debt

The 2018 Legislative session will begin on Monday, January 8th. AEA-Retired is prepared and ready to visit the State Capitol and meet with our representatives. We had advocacy trainings in Tucson and Phoenix. Now we will put those skills to work. There are currently two lobby dates scheduled. Plan to attend at least one or both. Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 18th and Wednesday, February 21st. We will meet with our representatives, attend committee hearings, observe from the gallery and have other activities. To register for the AEA-Retired Lobby Days, contact Luci Messing at lucibmessing@cox.net.

It's important to take time and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. We are going to be very busy after the New Year. Soon we will be engaged in advocating, educating, and agitating on behalf of our issues. The Year of the Retiree begins!



AEA-Retired members were present at all of the AEA Education Town Halls to hear the two Democratic candidates for Governor, and to ask tough questions about their plans for public education in Arizona.



AEA-Retired & NEA-Retired members meet to Mobilize, Organize, Recruit and Engage in Phoenix & Tucson

The M.O.R.E Project (Mobilize, Organize, Recruit & Engage) held two mixers in Phoenix and Tucson in November for NEA Retired and AEA-Retired members. It was a great success! Approximately 60 retired educators from Arizona and from all over the U.S. who have made Arizona their home, attended in Phoenix, and 30 in Tucson. At each event there was time for socializing and sharing stories of days in the classroom and in retirement. Attendees also were treated to information about all the programs available through AEA-Retired and its eight local Chapters.

Panels of Arizona State Legislators consisting of Senators Katie Hobbs and Bob Worsley, and Representative Lela Alston in Phoenix, and Senators Steve Farley and David Bradley, and Representative Kristen Engel in Tucson proved to be very informative. The main topics addressed were funding for public education, the voucher expansion, and public pensions.

Nat Pelligrini, and Randy Beerman, independent insurance agents, shared their expertise on available Medicare and Medicare supplements. Their knowledge and expertise into the intricate world of insurance were very insightful.

A delicious lunch was provided and enjoyed by all. The new-to-AEA Retirees gave positive, glowing reviews calling the events fun and informative!



Yavapai Chapter Members of the Yavapai chapter of AEA-Retired were quite busy in November. LaBeth



Pondish, Ted Coleman, and Rob Johan attended the gubernatorial town hall in Flagstaff on Nov. 1st. The next day, Sherry Baca, Ruth Wicks, and chairperson, Rob

Johan, along with three other guests, visited the Yavapai College's

Southwest Winery in Clarkdale for a wonderful tour of its facilities and the sampling of some of



the delicious wines. At the Nov. 16 Yavapai chapter meeting, Jan Nichols joined us to provide an in-depth presentation on the status of vouchers in Arizona. The next chapter meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 11 at the Prescott Family Diner.



Mesa/East Valley Chapter

On **November 15**, our guest speaker was Mark Robert Gordon, federal voting rights attorney, who told us about the insidious plan to deny American voters the opportunity to vote and provided us with several ways in which each



of us can take action to help in Arizona elections. On **January 10**, we will learn about the many NEA and AEA benefits for members.



Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter The guest speaker for the October 16th meeting was Democratic gubernatorial candidate David Garcia. See page 12 for more information on future meetings.



Tucson Chapter The AEA-Retired Tucson Area Chapter meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month. We alternate between meeting on the east side of Tucson at the TEA office, and the west side of Tucson at the AEA Southern Region office. We start at 10:00am with snacks, coffee and social catch-up. During our two hour program we learn about the latest information concerning our AEA-Retired State activities and what is happening with local, state and national political news. We are very fortunate to have members who are active and informed on all these issues. On our agenda we have included a guest speaker to tell us about current happenings locally and in Arizona. For our November meeting, George Cunningham, former Arizona State Senator, told us about the research that the Grand Canyon Institute did on Charter Schools and the misuse of State money to finance their operations. We found out that some of the Charter Schools that are increasing their debt financing are headed for critical problems. We will need to follow the legislation that is being proposed to bring about better financing standards and accountability.

"Nichols and Cents"

by Jan Nichols

Haters of public education have ratcheted up their dedication to destroying public education. With Betsy DeVos as head of the Department of Education and other billionaires lining up to dispense boat loads of money, it is important to organize to combat this serious issue.

According to the latest research about citizen lobbying, calling or emailing a congressperson is minimally effective. Most the time when calling, a young intern answers with a stale, robotic response. Then parrots that he/she will inform the senator or congressperson. Emails are given the same amount of attention and response. Occasionally a written response with an impersonal, stamped signature will follow. But, effectiveness is extremely limited. Many times on a hot button issue, the phones will be shut down.

At the local and state levels, however, it's a bit different. At the State Legislature, a call or email, even though answered by an intern, it will get the attention of the legislator. Again, the effectiveness might be somewhat successful. The things that work best are: writing letters to the editors of newspapers; social media; establishing a relationship with the legislator; and joining a group to wield more power. The newspaper communicates to more people and can bring up discussions. The same is true with social media. Actually meeting with your legislator is very effective, especially in a group. Not just once a year, but throughout the session and even throughout the year.

The **AEA-Retired** is very active in lobbying. When we show up in a big group, legislators take note. AEA-Retired works with the AEA Lobbyist to keep informed and abreast of the details on issues. AEA-Retired is held in high regard for our knowledge and mentoring skills. There is power in numbers and it is in the interest of all retirees to get involved.

Two main issues are vouchers and dark money. Currently we are organizing to combat the billions being poured into the opposition. After the voucher-for-all bill was passed, **Save Our Schools** went into action, and during the Hotter-Than-Hell summer gathered over 110,000 signatures on petitions to put it on the ballot in 2018. The public has become aware of this issue and want a say. But, the Koch Brothers are sponsoring campaigns to stop this from happening. The latest of these is the "Libre Initiative" ads where paid actors are extolling the virtues of "choice" and vouchers. Litigation is also being employed purporting the signatures were illegally gathered.

Former Attorney General, Terry Goddard, is sponsoring a referendum to outlaw Dark Money at the state level. Currently his team is gathering signatures and speaking to different groups.

Educators and the public are fighting a tough battle, and we need to get everyone involved. If you are interested in joining the AEA-Retired lobbying team, contact **Luci Messing** at lucibmessing@cox.net To join **Save Our Schools**, go to <http://SaveOurSchoolsarizona.org>

There is power in numbers. Money might be able to buy the Congress and legislators, but it can't buy the public. Show up. Contribute. Take action.

Contribute to AEA Fund & NEA Fund

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 _____

PAC contribution 100% to AEA Fund for Public Education

Split my PAC 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





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JUST WHAT IS AIN?

By Larry Wittig

One of the most valuable alliances which has been formed between AEA-Retired and outside organizations is our growing association with Valley Interfaith Project and it's allied organizations across Arizona under the umbrella of Arizona Interfaith. From Sierra Vista and Tucson (PCICEO) to Yuma, Prescott and Flagstaff, their impact is being felt as they cultivate leaders, build relational power, educate and take action which benefits all citizens of Arizona.

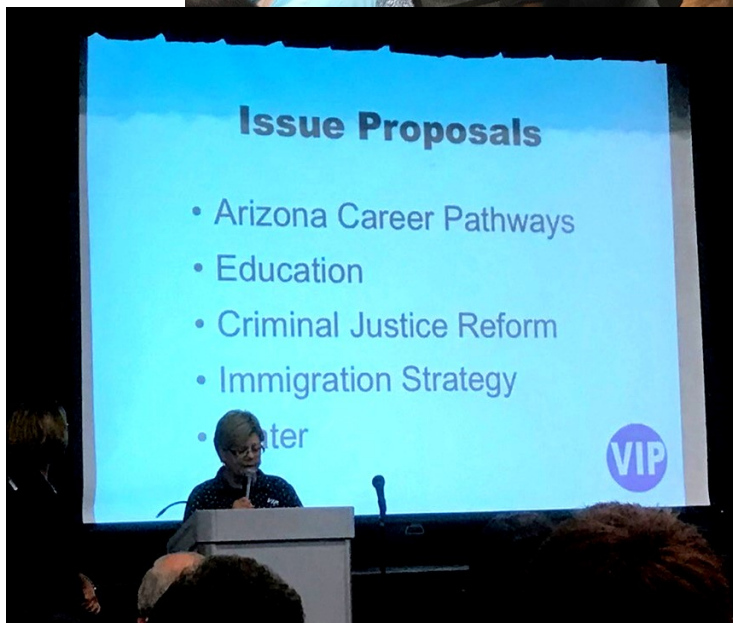
Arizona Interfaith Network is a broad-based, non-partisan organization of dues-paying member congregations, schools, unions and non-profit associations committed to building power for sustainable social and economic change. Their work is accomplished through: a) institution-based leadership development; b) the building of relationships between

and within institutions; c) the identification of and research on issues of mutual self-interest; and d) disciplined, organized action.

AIN'S IRON RULE FOR THE PAST 26 YEARS IN ARIZONA HAS BEEN: "NEVER DO FOR OTHERS WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES."

Organizing Strategy:

- ♦ AIN develops a constituency of leaders to become citizens in the fullest sense: Participants in democratic decision making and agents of the creation of a more just society through the exercise of relational power.
- ♦ AIN is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest national organizing and leadership development in the United States.



AEA-Retired members Gary Mehok, Jean Stephenson, Michele Smith, Ann Myers, Nancy Riley, and Connie Wittig listen intently to the presenter as she explains the issues that are the focus for advocacy activities for the Valley Interfaith Project during Delegate Assembly held in November in Phoenix.

Retired members conduct listening tours in schools

AEA-Retired members visited 90 schools and work sites in eight districts throughout the state to meet with and listen to educators and other school personnel regarding expectations for their profession and their professional association. In cooperation with NEA, AEA and local school districts, 26 retired members formed various teams who personally met with all members of the faculty at each school site. By asking leading questions about what employees need to help them do their jobs, and what they want from their local association and the AEA, team members conducted interviews, collected data, listened intently, and disseminated information about the AEA, NEA and the local. The goals of the listening tours are to support employees, surface local association leaders, and recruit members. Additional "New Educator Listening Tours" are planned throughout the rest of the year. If interested in participating, go to the AEA-Retired website www.azedretired.com and click on the link for the **New Educator Project** to sign up.



AEA RETIRED ELECTIONS 2018

Pursuant to Article V and VI of the Association's Constitution, AEA-Retired is currently accepting nominations for the following positions: AEA-Retired Vice President, Secretary, and 6 At-Large Representatives. The election will be held during the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting that is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2018, at the Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale. **Nominations must be received by February 13, 2018.**

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 Nominator: _____ Signature of Candidate:(Candidate must sign) _____

Check the office you seek: ___ AEA-Retired Vice President ___ AEA-Retired Secretary ___ Representative at Large (6 to be elected). All terms are for three years. **NOTE: Please mail nomination forms, postmarked by February 13, 2018 to: AEA-Retired Elections Committee, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004**

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

NOMINATION FORM FOR AEA RETIRED DELEGATES TO AEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Concurrent with officer and board nominations, we want and need you to run as a delegate to the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly. We need a minimum of 86 delegates nominated. You may nominate yourself. AEA Retired delegates are required to attend both the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting on Friday, May 11, 2018, and the AEA Delegate Assembly on the evening of May 11 and the day of May 12, 2018. 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 February 13, 2018. 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 11.

NOMINATION FORM FOR AEA-RETIRED DELEGATES TO AEA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

CANDIDATE _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ Signature of Nominator _____

Signature of Candidate (Candidate must sign) _____

NOTE: Nomination forms are due by February 13, 2018; please mail by February 10, 2018. 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. 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, and Steve Ramos.

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 13, 2018.

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, business meeting, lunch or dinner, and 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 members are welcome at our meetings. We meet at the Iron Works Restaurant, 17233 N. 45th Avenue, Phoenix, and we're looking for additional members who live west of I-17. Meetings are bi-monthly on Thursdays at 4:00 PM. The next meeting will be in Thursday, February 8, at 4 PM. For more information call **Susie Sommer** at 623-628-1935 or e-mail ssommer114@aol.com.

Mesa / East Valley Chapter: On **November 15**, our guest speaker was Mark Robert Gordon, federal voting rights attorney, who told us about the insidious plan to deny American voters the opportunity to vote and provided us with several ways in which each of us can take action to help in Arizona elections. On **January 10**, we will learn about the many NEA and AEA benefits for members. Our **March 7** and **May 9** meetings also have compelling speakers lined up. **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. Contact **Janie Hydrick** at Hydrick@aol.com or (480) 963-1848 for more information. See photos on page 6.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: Meetings are the third Tues. of Sept.—May, at 10:00 AM, and alternating sites between the TEA office and the Southern Region office. Go to <http://www.azedretired.com/TUCSON/index.html> for more information. For AEA-Retired members who live in the Tucson area, please contact us to be added to the email list and be informed about the next meeting and other activities that concern retired members. Marion Pickens, Chair 520-296-5908 marionpeterpickeens@gmail.com

Phoenix Chapter: Meets at the Beatitudes in Phoenix, 1610 W. Glendale Ave. Future meetings are scheduled for Jan., March, & May at 10:30 AM. For more information or to RSVP your attendance, contact Chapter Chair **Michele Smith** at 602-463-1624 or mms7997@msn.com.

Yavapai Chapter: Contact Chairperson **Rob Johan** at johanica31@gmail.com or 630-430-8902 for information about future meetings. See story and photos on page 6.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: Met at Denny's Restaurant on Nov. 20. Our guest speaker was Lois Halligan. Lois is a member of our chapter and a docent at the Phoenix Art Museum. Her talk was Couples in Art. Our next meeting on Jan. 22 will feature Steve Ramos, AEA-R's liaison to ASRS. We meet at Denny's, 7000 E Mayo Blvd at 11:00—1:00 for lunch. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact **Nancy Riley**, 480-600-8559, rileyfam@cox.net, or **Ann Myers** 480-510-8098, azann@mac.com

Southeast Arizona Chapter: Met on November 15, and will meet next in 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. 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 trrteach6@mac.com or call 928-525-1997.