



AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting minutes Tuesday January 11, 2022

Held on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. 1/11/22

Attendees: Anna Cicero, Ken Freed, Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Danny Barlow, Shirley Boswell, Marilyn Calhoun, Jeanne Erickson, Marilyn Freed, Julie Horwin, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Marshall Militano, Nancy Putman, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Michele Smith, Sandra Warns, Carmen Peters, Suzan Austin, Steve Ramos, Nancy Riley, Sally Rosen, Peter Coston, Ellen Shamah, Janie Hydrick, Deb Larned, Frank Ratey

Absences excused: **Julie Cozad, Ellie Feldner, Ellie Perez-Pawlowski**

1. Call to Order: President Anna Cicero (Welcome and introductions)

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Anna welcomed the board and other members to the meeting. Anna acknowledged the AEA-Retired members at the Capitol yesterday. Anna gave the land acknowledgement for our native people in AZ.

2. **Approval of Agenda for Tuesday January 11, 2022 Janice Dwosh** motion by Ken Freed, seconded by Sandra Warns. Motion for agenda was approved with flexibility.

3. **Approval of Minutes from December 2021 – Janice Dwosh.** motion by Ken Freed seconded by Julie Horwin. Minutes from the December 2021 executive board meeting stand as approved.

4. **Financials – Steven Linder** Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Janice Dwosh seconded by Marilyn Freed. Motion was accepted for financials as submitted and ready for audit. See email attachments for details of the financials. Expenses have been minimal in the past month, but The Conduit costs are higher than in the past, due to an extra issue being charged this year. Upcoming months will show more in person costs (for Legislative/ Pol. Action, and conferences (NEA Summit, etc.)

5. Officers' Reports

Anna Cicero President: Discussed the NEA Leadership Summit– Attendees applied to attend so far include – Anna, Janice, Marshall, Gary Mehok, Carmen Peters, and Norma Jimenez have sent in applications so far. Anna will review the applications and make decisions shortly. Julie & Luci will be attending as presenters this year.

Anna thanked the sub committee for work on the expenses for upcoming conferences.

NEA Retired organizing conference – Attendees – Anna, Marshall, Luci, Julie H. and Ellie Perez-Pawlowski.

Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative: AEA Board report from last month- no updates, VP report –letter to AEA-Retired members to donate to the AEA Fund (pol. action), changes / revisions have been made, and the letter will be included in the next Conduit. Please donate if possible!

Janice Dwosh- Secretary -- Janice shared the new year's poem from Amanda Gorman. She is inspiring to all and a role model for the next generation. Janice recently attended the L4JS Critical Race Theory (CRT) Honesty in Education training on Zoom. She shared the links to important information from NEA leadership. Janice has been chosen to attend further L4JS training in March. The next book club discussion for our AEA-Retired Social Justice book club will be Jan. 31st. Contact Ann Myers if interested in joining. Janice is also on the AEA Racial equity and social justice task force, reviewing language in AEA resolutions and planning PD for AEA members. Again, please reply to monthly emails re: board meeting attendance and documents in a timely manner.

Julie Horwin -- Past President /NEA Director -NEA Leadership Summit location will be in Las Vegas, NV (March 11-13th). Julie and Luci will be presenting there. The NEA-Retiring organizing conference will be capped at 200 for the country (location in Baltimore) Julie and Luci also will be presenting in Baltimore . NEA also needs to include BIPOC and new members in future conferences. The next NEA board meeting is Jan. 19th. Please respond to the survey links that Julie will forward to Anna.

Please don't forget to donate to the NEA Fund (links to this will be sent out as available). Barbara Matteson will be working with Julie on getting an AZ state basket ready for us to donate money for the auction at the NEA-RA/Retired meeting.

New Business:

6. NBI #1— Ken Freed presented the bylaws change, adding the Treasurer as **chairman** of the Budget committee. It was moved by the documents committee to approve this change and will be forwarded to the Annual meeting for AEA-Retired delegate approval. Voted on and approved and forwarded to the Annual meeting for delegate approval.

7. Committee reports:

Membership -- Shirley B. , Nancy P. - Membership report: 2116 members (11 fewer than last month's report), 73 Emeritus members (over 90 years old) - no longer having to pay dues if paid NEA lifetime dues. Plan to encourage members who pay by check to switch to EFT or payroll deduction with ASRS. 15 members were canceled for non-payment of their dues. Two new members joined based on our executive board leaders - Susie Sommer and Linda Somo will get \$10 for getting new members this past month.

Membership outreach -- Nancy P. and Michele S.-- A New Business Item to get new members will be addressed next month. Name tags will be given out next month . Getting a new sign made for delegate assembly. Polo shirts have been ordered and they have not arrived yet, hopefully next month.

Political Action - Luci M. - Jan. 10 Opening Day for the Legislature was yesterday. Make appointments if you are an LD captain and legislative contact . We are meeting at Senate caucus room 2 this month for Lobby day on Jan. 26th. 187 bills filed prior to the start of session. Addendum to be sent out later this month by Luci. Please update your RTS account . Two bills from ASRS that we need to watch. SB 1082 and SB1083 - We are still with the old legislative districts until the next 2022 elections.

AEA-Retired Lobby days -Jan. 26 and Feb. 22nd. Signups are available for the Jan. 26th day at the Capitol.

Communications Committee – Tech survey – Maria Leyva - 25 responses, results of the survey were shown, cell phone is most popular device, most have Google accounts, Facebook is still most popular social media, more want to learn about Google , not Instagram or Twitter, most want to participate in “Did you know” sessions at meetings. We will be getting the \$9,000 + grant funding shortly.

Feb. 25th deadline for the next Conduit, May 7th deadline for the following Conduit. -

Special committees/Ad Hoc -

Fundraising-- Marilyn Freed - quilt is almost done for this coming AEA-DA. We will try electronic ticket sales this year for the quilt. Two quilts are being made with the materials purchased (one for this year and next year).

ARSC (AZ Retirement Security Coalition) - Steve Ramos – virtual day at the Capitol (Feb. 4th)

ASRS--Liaison Steve Ramos-- Bills aware of from ASRS (prepay contribution rate), Daniella Smith was at the Capitol, AZ Board of Regents wants to open up retirement options for AZ University employees to defined contribution as well as ASRS defined benefit plan (we would lobby against it if it is introduced).

MORE -- Linda Somo -- Committee is planning an in-person MORE gathering on April 6th, 2022 in Phoenix. They looked for a larger venue for this meeting, Linda booked the IBEW union hall in Phoenix. Purpose of the MORE event is for social and other engagement (political) from our NEA and AEA members in AZ. Hope for special guest speakers (Joe Rubio - keynote speaker, Valley Interfaith Network) , legislative updates, redistricting info, water crisis and other topics may be covered. Brennan from AEA will do a legislative update, and hopefully Steve Ramos will give an ASRS report that day.

Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez -- still planned to be in person on May 6-7th 2022 (unless plans are changed by AEA). Meeting scheduled with Nicole Adams from AEA soon.

Awards-- Nancy Putman -- nominations for the Les Reynolds Senior Service award due by February 8th. Committee will meet that day to discuss the info.

Budget committee -- Steve Linder -- meeting on January 19th 11am-2 p.m. at AEA HQ . Legislative committee request as well as membership committee budget requests will be needed and the current budget for that meeting.

Documents -- Ken Freed- All changes need to be approved by the AEA-Retired board at least 45 days before the Annual meeting and sent out in the Conduit to all members. Today's approved bylaw by the AEA-Retired board will be forwarded to membership.

Audit -- Carmen P.-- The committee will audit the first sixth months of the year's receipts and vouchers and meet in the next month.

Elections-- Steve L. --

There are many positions open in the next election: AEA Retired Secretary and AEA Director (first terms) as well as six open at large board directors: These terms will be up at the next election:

Nancy Putman , Julie Cozad, Marshall Militano , Barbara Matteson , Ellie Feldner , Norma Jimenez (first terms so they may decide to run again).

Nomination forms need to be submitted by February 11th (by email or to the AEA office) for delegates to the AEA-DA and for our AEA-Retired offices and board members. A link has been sent out, as well as paper forms available for the nominations.

Update on AEA-Retired delegates to AEA DA – so far 37 delegates have put in their nomination forms.

Deadline Feb. 11th

At large board members running for office : Marshall Militano, Norma Jimenez, Nancy Putman, Barbara Matteson, Janice Dwosh, Danny Barlow, Deb Larned

So far: no one running for Secretary position

Luci is running for the AEA-Retired Director to replace Ken on the AEA-Board .

Question by Janie H. about Election Buddy came up. No decisions have been made of the possible recommendations by board members. Because of the cost of Election Buddy, Annual Mtg. Committee & Election Chair and Documents Chair may consider a free electronic voting option used by other locals or return to the paper/pencil option if in-person meeting takes place. We are exploring some practical possibilities.

8. Chapter Chairs --Susie Sommer - meetings on Zoom , assistant is now Sandy Warns and Steve Ramos to help out with Zoom. It was recommended by Suzan Austin that we update the Chapter Chair manual and follow up with all new chapter chairs. Possibly schedule a Zoom to review the manual and put into action in the upcoming months.

West Valley -- S. Sommer, no recent meeting in West Valley..

Ellen S.-- Kyrene meeting in person - with some school board members attending , March - guest speaker Ben Furlong,
Mesa - meeting on Zoom -- two more meetings, Dora Vasquez will be guest speaker in Feb. , Lela Alston will be speaking in April.

Nancy R.- PV/Scottsdale -meeting on Zoom in January - Julie C. will be discussing Scottsdale Schools

Danny B.-- Interstate/ N. AZ -- .meet on Zoom with a few attendees.

Sally Rosen - not meeting so far this year , lots of unvaccinated people in Cochise county.

Peter C. -Southern Tucson area - monthly meetings in person and on Zoom.

Deb Larned – Marana/ NW Tucson chapter - new to being chapter chair, looking forward setting up meetings

Marilyn Kinnie - Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield, Surprise area wants to start a chapter in that area. (Southwest Valley)

Susie Sommer will work on the manual update for Chapter chairs. Hopefully by the end of the year we will get it revised. Julie Horwin needs the list of zip codes for the Mailchimp email blasts for the various new chapters.

9. Alliances and coalitions :

AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Barbara Matteson - no updates.

ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos -- --no updates

AIN/VIP Valley interfaith project/ AZ interfaith network -Ken Freed -- Tucson (Frank Ratey) (PCIC) no updates.

10. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero -- Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

11. Upcoming events:

Next AEA-Retired executive board meeting Tues. Feb. 8th

Please stay healthy!

Call for agenda Jan. 21st, reports and documents due Jan. 28th, packet emailed by Feb. 2nd

Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary January 18, 2022

