



**AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Tuesday March 8, 2022**  
**Held at AEA Headquarters – 345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix, AZ**  
**at 10:00 a.m. 3/8/22**

**Attendees:** Anna Cicero, Ken Freed , Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Danny Barlow, Marilyn Calhoun, Jeanne Erickson, Marilyn Freed, Marshall Militano, Nancy Putman, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Michele Smith, Carmen Peters, Sandra Warns, Suzan Austin, Steve Ramos, Nancy Riley, Deb Larned, Sally Rosen, Ellie Feldner, Luci Messing and Barb Matteson (a bit late due to D. Huerta celebration at the Capitol)

Absences excused: **Shirley Boswell, Julie Horwin, Julie Cozad , Peter Coston, Janie Hydrick, Ellen Shamah, Ellie Perez-Pawlowski**

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

**Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Guests: Marilyn Calhoun’s mom is a visitor today. Welcome!, Exec. director of AEA –Randy Parraz**

Anna welcomed the board and other members to the meeting. She also asked for respectful listening and participation during the meeting.

**2. Approval of Agenda for Tuesday March 8, 2022 Janice Dwosh** motion by Ken Freed , seconded by Steve Linder . Motion for the approval of the agenda was approved with flexibility .

**3. Approval of Minutes from Feb. 8, 2022 – Janice Dwosh.** motion by Ken Freed , seconded by Gary Mehok . Minutes from the February 2022 executive board meeting stand as approved.

**4. Financials – Steven Linder** Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Ken Freed seconded by Janice Dwosh . Motion was accepted for financials as submitted and ready for audit . See email for details of the financial reports. Busy month in February - Political action at the Capitol, next month March activities (NEA Leadership Summit and NEA Retired organizing meeting). Dues rebate paid (\$2,630 of the \$10,000) for 14 people .(\$70 per person joining AEA-Retired using ASRS deduction) AIN dues paid this month.

## 5. Officers' Reports

**Anna Cicero - President :** Anna thanked Luci and the Political action team for their efforts last month at the Capitol advocacy day. Anna discussed the upcoming March NEA Leadership Summit– Attendees: Julie Horwin, Luci Messing, Anna Cicero, Janice Dwosh, Marshall Militano, Norma Jimenez. NEA Retired organizing conference – Attendees – Anna, Marshall, Luci, Barb M. and Julie Horwin

Anna reported on : upcoming trip to NEA Summit/NEA Retired organizing, visit by Becky Pringle , Annual Meeting, advocacy and political action , and ARSC updates. See reports for details.

**Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative :** Fund council and NEA Board meeting report – statewide races were discussed, AEA Board meeting – Racial and social justice speaker was a transgender person discussing bills that affect them directly. Lost 560 active and approximately 50 retired members in AEA this year. (1,945 new members this year). Looking to refinance the AEA building mortgage to 20 yrs. at lower interest rate. AEA Board agreed to a possible prepayment penalty in order to get this done. See Ken/Luci notes for more details of the AEA Board meeting.

**Janice Dwosh- Secretary --** The AEA-Retired book discussion group will be meeting on March 14th and on April 25th to discuss two exceptional social justice books. Please contact Ann Myers or Janice Dwosh if interested in our virtual book discussions. In April we will discuss Beautiful Country (an Asian American immigrant's true story). Janice spoke to Sen. Kysten Sinema last week during a Zoom Roundtable discussion on Medicare Advantage, also there participating was Sandy Warns. Janice will be attending the NEA Leadership Summit (focus on Racial/Social Justice and Social Emotional learning).

### **Julie Horwin -- Past President /NEA Director - (absent this month)**

Please read Julie's notes on the NEA Board report and NEA Lobby Briefing . Julie is heading to the NEA Leadership Summit and the NEA Retired meeting. She will be presenting at both events. Please email and keep up to date on this information with Julie Horwin if you have any questions.

### **New Business:**

**6. NBI #1— Anna Cicero** moved to authorize the spending on the budgeted item of up to \$200 to add two administrators to the Mail Chimp/Survey Monkey platform. Seconded by Marilyn Freed. See rationale handed out at this meeting. Cost will be \$200 or so . Discussion ensued. Motion withdrawn due to already being included in the website part of the budget. Seconder withdrew and agreed . Expenses will be carried out as informed to the board members.

## **7. Committee reports:**

**Membership -- Shirley B. (absent this month) , Nancy P. -** Membership report: 2110 members (4 fewer than last month's report), 71 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. \$10 given to Marshall for a new member recruited. Three new members this month joined our AEA- Retired organization.

**Membership outreach -- Nancy P. and Michele S.--** Thanks to Maria for the new banners and posters for Day at the Capitol. New banner ordered for AEA-DA. New membership brochures being completed. A follow up letter will be sent to 474 potential members (new retirees). Suggestion to have a short updated presentation put together to use with the adopt-a-locals. User friendly for our members to use with others to gain new members. AEA-Retired shirts are still available-- see Marshall before March 31st. for the next order.

**Political Action - Luci M. -** Lobby days were well attended. Today and next Tuesday March 15th AEA will hold their advocacy days at the Capitol. Luci and Barbara attended the Smithsonian display of Dolores Huerta at the Capitol this morning. A few other AEA-Retired members attended the event. See political action report for details. HB 2808 allows organizations to possibly take over failing schools. (charters or private schools). Voucher expansions are also in future bills in the legislature. Please pay attention to these and other bad bills and contact your state legislators.

**Randy Parraz -** new Exec. director of AEA --from Sacramento CA, lived in AZ at one point of time, moved back here - hired by AEA to "build a culture of organizing". Great stories and promoting our values in AEA. We look forward to working with Randy in the future! He is an amazing addition to our organization.

**Communications Committee --** Maria Leyva - tech bits: reviewed tech survey --please do the phone link survey (apps to connect with others). Hope to get everyone on gmail for future communication.

Susie Sommer- check with her in advance if you need to set up a Zoom meeting.

March 2022 : issue of the Conduit is still in progress. Twelve page issue.

**May 20th deadline for the next Conduit., then Aug. 26th, and Nov. 28th for future Conduit issues - Jan Nichols**

### **Special committees/Ad Hoc -**

**Ad Hoc (strategic plan)- Anna --** currently in progress. will be continuing to work on this for the Spring and Summer.

**Fundraising-- Marilyn Freed -** quilt is done for this coming AEA-DA. There will be electronic ticket sales this year for the quilt on the AEA -Retired website . Two quilts are being made with the materials purchased (one for this year and next year). See Marilyn Freed if you want to buy tickets. Please return tickets and money to Marilyn next month or sooner! Pay online on our AEA-Retired website link.

**ASRS--Liaison Steve Ramos--** Healthcare - ASRS looking at options for future years.

**MORE -- Linda Somo -** MORE gathering is scheduled on April 6th, 2022 in Phoenix. (IBEW meeting hall). Speakers are in place - Joe Rubio (VIP - keynote speaker), Brendan Folan - legislative update, Steve Ramos- ASRS updates, Susie Sommer - chapter information, out of state NEA retired members will be invited, postcards printed by AEA and printed labels by AEA - only for those NEA members living in Maricopa County. Please register ASAP, links sent out this week. Mileage won't be paid for attending this event. **(Please skip to Annual meeting on next page & Ignore blank space!)**

**Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez** -- It is planned to be in person on May 6-7th . Meeting held with Nicole Adams from AEA to get plans going . Registration links (still using Survey Monkey this year to facilitate PayPal in the Conduit for the Annual meeting. This year it will cost \$50 to cover meals, etc.

Speakers – Kathy Hoffman (AZ Superintendent of Education), possibly Joe Thomas , Randy Parraz, Paul Matson, Daniella Smith

reception idea– happy hour (Shirley, Julie, and Ken - honored for Les Reynolds award) no host bar - looking for sponsor

Covid protocols by AEA– no known yet.

Hotel info– no link yet, approximately \$171 for the room . Scottsdale Resort– box lunches on Sat. possibly.

**Awards-- Nancy Putman** -- The Les Reynolds Senior Service award winner this year will be Ken Freed! Congrats for his many valuable years of service!

**Budget committee -- Steve Linder** --Next year's Budget was presented to the board last month. . Membership is going down as a projection from 2,068 to 2,050. Need 20 new members to get to this total. Susie Sommer moved to approve the budget, Maria seconded the motion . The new budget was approved as printed.

**Documents -- Ken Freed-** done for this year.

**Audit -- Carmen P.--** in Sept. we will conduct the entire audit for the year. (due to Covid)

#### **Elections – Steve Linder**

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**

Nominations for delegates to the AEA-DA and for officers/exec board members have closed as of 2/23/22,

**Update on AEA-Retired delegates to AEA DA** – 68 delegates have put in their nomination forms as of 2/23/22 when nominations closed.

**At large board members running for office :** Marshall Militano, Norma Jimenez, Nancy Putman, Barbara Matteson, Janice Dwosh, Danny Barlow, Deb Larned, Peter Coston., Rosario Dickerson, Nancy Ross

Maria Leyva and Kathy Ramage-White are running for Secretary

Luci is running for the AEA-Retired Director to replace Ken on the AEA-Board . His term is up this Spring.

**8. Chapter Chairs --Susie Sommer** - meetings on Zoom , assistant is now Sandy Warns and Steve Ramos to help out with Zoom.

**West Valley** -- S. Sommer - in person and on Zoom. Done online and in person (two separate times)

**Ellen S.-- Kyrene** meeting in person , March - guest speaker Ben Furlong,

**Mesa** - meeting on Zoom -- two more meetings, Lela Alston will be speaking in April.

**Nancy R.- PV/Scottsdale** -meeting on Zoom, March 21st. next meeting. No place set yet for the meeting.

**Danny B.-- Interstate/ N. AZ** -- meet on Zoom - next meeting March 17th.

**Sally Rosen-** first in person meeting planned March 21 or March 22nd (at Mandalay)

**Peter C. -Southern Tucson area** - meeting with the Mayor of Tucson. Next Tues. is the next meeting. (hybrid)

**Deb Larned – NW Tucson chapter** - got the names in her zip codes, thanks to Julie H. for sending to Deb.

**Marilyn Kinnie** - Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield, Surprise area. (Southwest Valley) not in attendance today.  
Susie Sommer will work on the manual update for Chapter chairs. Hopefully by the end of the year we will get it revised.

**9. Alliances and coalitions :**

**AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Linda Somo** - March 8th: AARA women's day at the Capitol (Dolores Huerta honored) Zoom this evening.

**ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos** -- divestment bill (ASRS/PSRS removed from the bill), the ABOR changes were not introduced so far this session.

**AIN/VIP Valley interfaith project/ AZ interfaith network - no updates today**

**Kinnaman Fund raffle** – \$ 28 was donated today. \$ 28 was won by Linda Somo . \$ 28 was put into the Scholarship fund.

**10. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero -- Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.**

**Committee meetings to follow:**

**Chapter Chair's meeting – Susie Sommer chairperson**

**11. Upcoming events:**

**MORE event - Wed. April 6th**

**Next AEA-Retired executive board meeting Tues. April 12th 10 am AEA HQ**

**Annual meeting May 6th-7th**

**AEA Delegate Assembly May 6-7th**

**Call for agenda Friday March 25th , reports and documents due Friday April 1st, packet emailed by Tues. April 5th**

**Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary March 17, 2022**

