

AEA-RETIRED~

THE CONDUIT

Volume 35, Issue 2

October, 2020

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Calendar



Now through election day Prop 208 Phonebanking

Oct 23 (5PM): Voter Registration ends (likely to be appealed)

Nov. 1: ASRS Open Enrollment

Nov. 3: Election Day

Nov 10: AEA-R Board of Directors Meeting

Nov 16: American Education Week begins

Nov 29: Thanksgiving

Dec 8: AEA-r Board of Directors Meeting

Check the last page for updates of your Chapter meetings.

A tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg By Janie Hydrick



Another champion of human and civil rights left us with the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on September 18, 2020.

The life and decisions of Ruth Bader Ginsburg had a profound effect on educators. Several articles in *NEA Today* told the story of examples from her life as well as landmark Supreme Court decisions that helped NEA change the face and policies of public education. We have learned in the past few weeks, many rights and policies can be undone. Ginsburg's legacy the opportunity to realize our potential as strong, independent women in control of our own destinies. This is the legacy we must preserve, share and be treasured by those who follow. Ginsburg said, "My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent."

When I first interviewed for a teaching position in Mesa, I was the unmarried mother of a one-year-old son. To be unmarried was a conscious decision that his father and I made for years because there were so many legal disadvantages to being married that Justice Ginsburg had not had the opportunity yet to set right, such as obtaining a mortgage, opening a checking account or getting a credit card without a male co-signer. A woman could not obtain birth control without a husband's permission. I struggled with the interview, knowing that I was allowing the interviewer to make some huge assumptions about my married state although I never confirmed the assumptions. I was hired and spent 33 wonderful years in the classroom of one of the finest districts in Arizona. Years later, as Justice Ginsburg's influence manifested as positive school district policies for women, I no longer had to worry about retaining employment while pregnant or being forced to provide proof of sterilization to

retain employment. Nor did I worry about being guaranteed pension benefits equal to male coworkers. I was not concerned about equal consideration to be executors of my children's estates. Ironically, that's when Frank and I married. The struggle continues to raise strong independent daughters and granddaughters who will cherish the control of their own destinies. One of the greatest Jewish tenets that Justice Ginsburg lived by is one that I feel educators share: *Tikkun Olam*. It is, simply, that the world is flawed, and our role is to leave it better than it was. Whether we are bus drivers, cafeteria workers, AP Chemistry teachers, or kindergarten teachers, we should work each day to leave the world better than it was for each of the

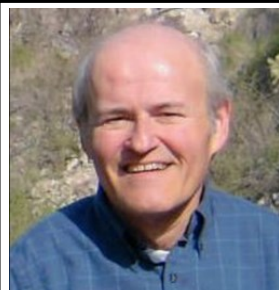


students we came in contact with. No other enterprise than public education has the potential to level the playing field for children despite their special needs or zip code, to reach their potential, whatever that may be. *Tikkun Olam*. There are as many paths to *Tikkun Olam* as there are children in public education, and we educators spend our careers identifying those paths and making it happen.

Another tenet that Justice Ginsburg shared with AEA-Retired members is about being a true professional. When you join AEA-Retired we say, "When you joined AEA-Retired, you made the great decision to retire from your job, not from your profession. You joined the power and strength of 20,000 other AEA members and over 3.1 million NEA members." Most of you have used your membership to protect public education, to work for passage of Prop 208, to support pro-public education school board members, and many other actions. Justice Ginsburg said, "If you want to be a true professional you will do something outside yourself. Something to repair tears in your community, something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you."

[Continues on page 5](#)

ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



A NEW LEGISLATURE IN 2021 MIGHT BRING RELIEF FROM THE CONSTANT ATTACKS ON OUR ASRS PENSION PLAN.

I hope by now our members have talked with their friends and family and are filling out and turning in ballots. When all the votes are counted, the **Arizona Education Association** hopes to see some new, more pension friendly

faces at the state capitol and funds from **Prop 208** providing another \$940 million for the education budget. Until then, for ourselves and our colleagues still working in the public schools, **AEA-Retired** is committed to preparing for another round of attacks against the current **Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS)** defined benefit plan. AEA Retired will continue to be part of and support the **Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC)**. We know we can't wage this fight alone and will be counting on other coalition members for help. ARSC is already preparing to submit another request for a grant from the **National Public Pension Coalition**, which will allow us to initiate and run another strong campaign in 2021.

In May of 2020, with the pandemic exploding, the legislature passed a budget and abruptly adjourned for the year, leaving many bills hanging with no place to go. **The Reason Foundation** and the **Arizona Chamber of Commerce** had hoped to find a legislator willing to sponsor a bill to convert our ASRS pension into a 401k style defined contribution plan. After hearing their concerns in a Senate committee and a terrific presentation by ASRS director Paul Matson, the committee chairman declined to move forward with any legislation.

Undeterred, the **Reason Foundation** shifted their focus to lobbying the city governments, hoping to find support for legislation in 2021. Mayors and City Council members across the state were sent city specific letters blaming ASRS for their budget problems. Below you will see an abbreviated version of the letter sent to the **City of Mesa** and a screen shot from Mesa's budget proposal showing the actual budget costs for public pensions.

Tell your Mayor and City Council not to be fooled by the misleading letter combining the **Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS)** contribution rates with **ASRS** contribution rates. It is obvious which

pension system is driving up costs for municipal governments and it's NOT ASRS!

In 1912, the year Arizona became a state, the first teacher retired with a State teacher's pension. Until 1943, teachers were granted pensions by the State Legislature of \$50 per month. Later the **System** became the original defined contribu-

tion style retirement plan when ASRS was created in 1953. Benefits were based on the total amount of both employee and employer contributions, plus interest. By 1970, the Arizona Legislature authorized creation of a defined benefit plan, contingent upon the vote of at least 70 percent of ASRS membership to transfer to the new plan. Benefits would be determined

The FY 2019/20 budget includes the annual rate increases in the retirement plans for employer contributions which are shown in Figure 22.

by a formula based on years of service and average salary. More than 80 percent voted to transfer and the defined benefit Plan became effective on July 1, 1971.

Contribution Rates	FY18/19 Rate	FY19/20 Rate	Rate Change
Tier 1			
Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) - (Defined Benefit)	11.80%	12.10%	0.30%
Elected Official Retirement System (EORP) - (Defined Benefit) Path 1	61.50%	61.40%	-0.10%
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) - Fire (Defined Benefit)*	52.40%	56.01%	3.61%
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) - Police (Defined Benefit)*	51.50%	56.00%	4.50%

Since that time, all new members to the ASRS are enrolled in a defined benefit plan. However, System members who opted not to transfer to the new defined benefit plan still remained in the old defined contribution plan, where more than 1,000 members are still receiving benefits today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LAST PERSON STILL WORKING UNDER THE OLD 1953 ASRS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, WHO FINALLY RETIRED THIS YEAR!

2021 ASRS Insurance Information and More By Jean Stephenson

The Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) has news about insurance coverage and premiums for 2021! It was time again to award new insurance contracts for retirees' medical and dental coverage. The Health Insurance Advisory Committee meetings began in person but then Covid-19 made it necessary to begin Zoom meetings. AEA-Retired was represented by Steve Ramos, Kristine Ehlis and Jean Stephenson. Kristine Ehlis represented AEA-Retired during May and June on the selection process for medical/pharmacy coverage.

The ASRS Health Insurance contract was awarded to United HealthCare. The ASRS will continue to offer both the Group Medicare Advantage plans (HMO & PPO) in 2021. The medical benefit structures for these plans remain unchanged and additional wellness programs have been added. Net premiums for both plans will be lower in 2021.

Dental insurance coverage selection took place in January and February before stay at home orders were in effect. Kristine Ehlis represented AEA-Retired. The ASRS has awarded contracts to two new dental carriers, Delta Dental of Arizona and Cigna Health.

[Continued on page 4](#)

Letter To: Az Cities / From:



Examining the City of Mesa and How Pension Debt Drives Rising Costs for Arizona Municipal Governments (March 11, 2020)

"Arizona cities are finding it harder to budget for all of their public services. A major culprit is the dramatic growth in Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and the state's Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) pension costs.

Some significant reforms have been made to **PSPRS** over the past few years. Even more crucially, **policymakers need to consider several areas of reform for ASRS."**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY LUCY MESSING



Voting has begun!!

Ballots have been mailed. Early voting sites are open. It's time to put into action your voting plan. Which of the following scenarios best aligns with your plan?

Voting by mail. Remember to return your ballot promptly. Read and follow all directions *BEFORE* filling out your ballot. Then drop it in the mail. Do *NOT* add a stamp. You can track your ballot online. Maricopa and Pima counties have their own tracking system. All other counties should contact the Secretary of State's system.

Voting early at designated early voting sites. Vote as soon as possible. There are a number of voting sites available now for in person voting or dropping off your ballot. Additional sites will be open for curbside ballot drop-off. Contact your county recorder's office for specific information regarding times and locations.

Going to the polls on November 3rd. Take all precautions to protect yourself and exercise your right to vote. All ballots whether by mail or in-person must be cast by election day when polls close at 7pm.

I want to take this opportunity to commend my fellow retirees, many who have gone above and beyond this election cycle. AEA-Retired members have made thousands of phone calls, dropped literature at hundreds and hundreds of houses, attended dozens of zoom meetings, put up hundreds of signs, contacted other members and family. I am so proud to be an AEA-Retired member and to have the pleasure to work with so many of you.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate in any of the election activities, it is not too late. You can still contact your family, friends and neighbors and be sure they have voted or will vote. Encourage them to vote for PROP 208 and our pro-public education candidates. You can still participate in GOTV phone banks. You can still make a difference and know that you did what you could for the greater good.

We do not want to wake up on November 4th and wonder if we did enough for our families, our community, our state, and our nation. There is too much at stake and we want to be celebrating and looking forward to a brighter future. Knowing that we protected our social security and Medicare will be just one of the rewards for all our efforts.

I know how great it will feel for each of us to be able to say that we played a part (however big or small) and contributed to the success of this important election.

Thank you to our members who have already been making phone calls to fellow AEA-Retired members. We have made over 500 calls and we could still use your help. Contact your **Chapter Chair** today to get started. If you do not have a chapter then this is the place for you! We have plenty of opportunities for you to use your super power...making phone calls!

#YesOnProp208 Event Updates

#YesOnProp208 Events and Updates:

Monday through Friday Phonebanks run from 3pm to 5pm and 5pm to 7pm. Trainings are provided at the beginning of each shift for first time callers. If AEA-Retired members would like a daytime shift, we can schedule one. Example: Every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm.

Saturday Shifts: 10:00am–12:00pm, 1:00pm–3:00pm and 4:00pm–6:00pm.

Sunday shifts: 11:00am–1:00pm and 2:00pm–5:00pm. Use these links to sign up for a # YesOn208 phonebank time slot.

[#YesOn208 Monday](#)
[#YesOn208 Wednesday](#)
[#YesOn208 Friday](#)
[#YesOn208 Sunday](#)

[#YesOn208 Tuesday](#)
[#YesOn208 Thursday](#)
[#YesOn208 Saturday](#)

Fact checking the No on 208 ad: **Here is a link to the fact check that Steve Irvin did for the "Anti" Ad.**

<https://www.facebook.com/SteveIrvin/posts/4994177070607816>



People listen to retired educators—now is your chance to use your super power!

Voter Registration

Here is a unique URL that AEA-Retired can use to do registrations or PEVL sign ups. **Thank you, again,** for giving half an hour or more of your time to help create success!

<https://arizonaea.us1.list-manage.com/track/clicku=b09485839278c6a561f2b9050&id=ed6e5fea7f&e=f103004fb7>



Meet Anna Cicero

Amazing Retiree (and our new VP)



National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15 and recognizes and honors the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture and achievements of the United States. Arizona has a rich Hispanic history in the arts, education, sports, politics and business. We honor one of our own in this edition.

Anna Cicero is truly an AEA-Retired Amazing Retiree. She is an activist in finest sense of the word. Her energy is contagious and persistent. Whether she is at the Capitol lobbying for more funding, equitability in the public-school system or leading fellow professionals in coordinating efforts, addressing issues in counseling in schools, her interest and vigor are in the forefront.

Anna is a native Arizonan, born and raised in Ajo, attended the public elementary schools and graduated from Ajo High School. After graduating, she earned degrees in education and counseling at Arizona State University.

For many years, Anna taught and counselled in the Mesa Public Schools.

She chairs the Advocacy & Government Relations at Arizona State Counselors Association, Inc. since 1996.

Just recently, she took over the reigns as Vice-President of the AEA-Retired.



Insurance Continued from page 3

Delta Dental of Arizona will be offering a low and a high option PPO plan to members. The new plans will include 100% coverage for preventative services (versus the current 80% coverage on our High Option PPO) and will include dental implant coverage.

The monthly premiums will be lower than the current PPO premiums.

Cigna Health will be offering a pre-paid Dental Health Maintenance Organization (DHMO) plan. We will be consolidating our current pre-paid DHMO plans into a single DHMO plan offered by Cigna. The monthly premiums will be lower than our current pre-paid DHMO premiums.

If retirees choose not to make a new selection for their dental coverage the ASRS will move retirees to the plan that most resembles the plan they were enrolled in in 2020.

Open Enrollment periods:

Medicare (For Medicare Advantage and MediGap policies)

Dates: October 15--December 7, 2020 [https://](https://www.medicare.gov/)

www.medicare.gov/

Arizona Department of Administration-Benefit Options

Dates: October 19--November 6, 2020 [https://](https://benefitoptions.az.gov)

benefitoptions.az.gov

Arizona State Retirement System

Dates: November 1--November 30, 2020 [https://](https://www.azasrs.gov/content/open-enrollment-information)

www.azasrs.gov/content/open-enrollment-information **Individual Marketplace** (for Non-Medicare)

Dates: November 1--December 15, 2020 [https://](https://www.healthcare.gov/)

www.healthcare.gov/

Pay careful attention to the open enrollment information that will be sent to you. The changes in plans this year may require action on your part. Check the [ASRS website](https://www.azasrs.gov/content/open-enrollment-information) and booklets for more information.

Marshall Militano, ESP Activist

The momentum of the campaign for the InvestinEd ballot initiative rolled out in January. By mid-March it had come to a screeching halt. Measures to curtail the spread of Covid-19 prohibited public contact. Advocates of the initiative devised different strategies to inform and persuade voters.

Marshall Militano, an activist and a member of AEA-Retired, began gathering signatures, attending legislative district and party meetings with social distancing. He joined a statewide team texting citizens who care about public education in order to expand the campaign to other family members, friends and neighbors safely.

Marshall's drive to be an activist for public education stems from his driving a public-school bus for 15 years and being married to a public school teacher. Sarah, his wife, was a public school teacher for 52 years.

InvestinEd is on the ballot as Proposition 208. The work continues. We need to get the word out to all Arizonans about how important it is to pass this proposition. Stay engaged. Our students' futures are at stake.



Free as a Bird *By Jan Nichols*

Creative activities are emerging in this new world in which we find ourselves. Some things are opening with social distancing, but restrictions are still in place. The outdoors is still available for some incredible adventures. One such activity is bird watching which can be experienced many different ways. This drive-about certainly helps with regenerating an attitude.

Arizona is a rich riparian habitat for birds.

One spectacular place to view this is the **Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area** located in southeastern Arizona. This area is known as a major roost site for the Sandhill Crane. It has been reported that nearly 35,000 Sandhill Cranes swoop in from other mountain states and parts of Canada as part of their annual migration pattern.

The cranes arrive beginning in mid-September through early October and winter there until February or March. They fly out of their roosts in the early dawn to breakfast and lunch and return in the afternoon trumpeting loudly their landing.

Since the 1950's the numbers of these birds has increased significantly because grain farming became an abundant cash crop in this region.

Many other birds are notable in this refuge including the Mountain Plover and the Long Billed Curlew, but the most spectacular are the cranes.

The closest town is McNeal with a population of a couple of hundred has few amenities. However, Bisbee is a short distance with historic hotels, artistic events and a plethora of shops. Restaurants are opening with social distancing and takeout.

Driving Directions: From Tucson, travel southeast from Tucson to Tombstone, then drive south approximately 5 miles on Arizona 80 to Davis Road. Turn east onto Davis Road, drive about 21 miles and watch for signs for Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area. Turn south, about two miles to the wildlife viewing area. Southern Arizona is one of the most sought after birding destinations in the United States. From the flat plain areas below **Cochise Stronghold** to the extensive **Chiricahua Mountains**, to **Madera Canyon**, **Patagonia Lake** and the **San Pedro River**, there are birds not found anywhere else. The **Chiricahua National Monument**, 15 miles southeast of Willcox, is a place to see over 200 different species. You are likely to spot hairy woodpeckers, turkey vultures, Mexican Jays. Near the lakes and rivers is a prime location for blue herons, black



crowned night herons, vermilion flycatchers.

Other hotspots in Arizona are **Sedona** and the **Verde Valley**. This area is replete with creeks and streams that support a number of interesting birds. Hawks, herons, Gambel quail and even eagles reside in this area. At

Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, you can stroll around the lagoons and spot any number of falcons, owls, condors. Taking I-17 North to Flagstaff, take the turnoff to Cottonwood and then journey through western corridor of 89A to Sedona. You'll avoid the downtown traffic of Sedona and be able to enjoy the scenery more.

Just south of Flagstaff is a great birding

location in the **Kachina Wetlands**, Bald eagles and ducks and other species are plentiful and their habitat is beautiful and serene.

Birdwatching is a time to escape from the confines of the house, relax and let nature tend the anxieties of the world. (Source: Shaena.Montanari@gannet.com)

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Continued from [page 1](#)

That's what I think a meaningful life is – living not for one-self, but for one's community." Special thanks to each of you who have done something outside yourself, who have lived a meaningful life.

Finally, making one more connection between the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Justice Ginsburg to the educators of AEA-Retired, she wrote, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." AEA-Retired offers many diverse opportunities throughout the year for us to fight for the things that we care about, and with each of these fights there are ways to involve friends, family, colleagues, and even a stubborn politician or two.

Justice Ginsburg was a true champion of human and civil rights. Yet her true legacy is not in the specific laws but in the opportunities for indomitable spirits to prevail. That is her legacy to all of us as educators. *Tikkun Olam*, my friends.



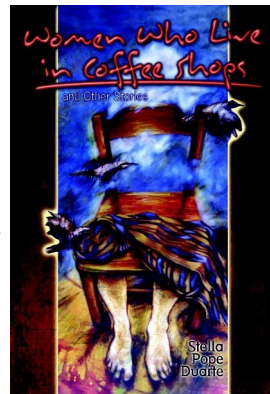
The Book Corner

By Jan Nichols

Stella Pope Duarte is a Phoenix native and resident and is an educator, speaker and activist involved in many community groups. She teaches creative writing workshops.

She was inspired to write by a prophetic dream of her father and is a great weaver of stories of non-fiction, fiction and spiritual nature. Her works include *If I Die in Juarez*, *Fragile Night*, *Let Their Spirits Dance*, *Women Who Live in Coffee Shops*.

Synopsis of this book from her website: "Everybody says that the owner of Sal's Diner is a former Mafioso, but nine-year-old Joanna, whose mom has worked for him as long as she can remember, has a hard time believing he's a Mafia retiree. But one day, when two fat, toothless men who look like the Godfather's brothers show up at the diner, she wonders if maybe the rumor is true. And when Sal is arrested a few days later, Joanna's mother not only runs the diner while he's in jail, she also leads the charge to save him. Can the women who frequent his diner--the League of Women Who Live in Coffee Shops--save Sal from doing hard time in prison?"



Set against an urban backdrop of seedy motels and dilapidated houses next to industrial buildings and railroad tracks, Stella Pope Duarte's award-winning stories follow characters who make up the city's underbelly. Some strut through the lethal streets, flamboyant and hard to miss--flashy divas, transvestites, and prostitutes, like Valentine, "one of the girls who decorated Van Buren Street like ornaments dangling precariously on a Christmas tree." Others remain hidden, invisible to those who don't seek them out--bag ladies, illegals, and addicts.

Congratulations to Julie Horwin!

At the 2020 NEA Representative Assembly, **Julie Horwin** was elected to her first three-year term to the NEA Board of Directors as one of six Retired Board members retired members of the NEA. Julie received the most votes, almost 70% of those cast (two were elected).

Julie follows in the grand footsteps of two former Arizona great leaders who also served Retired on the NEA Board of Directors: John Campbell and Linda Somo. And serving gloriously as President of NEA-Retired was our own Barb Matteson.

We honor all our Arizonans who were elected and served with such distinction on a national level.

Membership Committee Report

Shirley Boswell, Nancy Putman, Michele Smith

AEA-Retired Members:

The membership team is reaching out to you asking for help in recruiting a newly retired or someone who retired from active membership but never joined AEA Retired

AEA-Retired

1. Keeps you informed on legislative issues involving pensions and educational issues.
2. Provides advocacy for current members.
3. Monitors ASRS regarding changes to your pension and health insurance.
4. Provides members with current information through e-news, *The Conduit*, AEA Advocate and NEA Retired Today.
5. Is a state-wide organization with 8 local chapters.
6. Recruits and assists active local association members with school related activities.

To get a membership form, please call Shirley Boswell at (602)696-2458 and she will mail a form to you, or you can go to the AEA-Retired website at www.azedretired.com to download one.

M.O.R.E. Mixer Informs Members

Over 100 members of AEA-Retired and NEA-Retired registered for the October 7, 2020 M.O.R.E (Mobilize, Organize, Recruit & Engage) Mixer.



AEA-Retired members, Linda Somo, Susan Sommer and Julie Horwin led participants in lively discussions about election issues. Speakers included Joe Thomas, AEA President and Todd Crenshaw, NEA organizer. Ellie Perez, AEA Political Director, presented information on Proposition 208 and Steve Ramos, AEA-Retired Executive Board member, explained the Arizona State Retirement System and Arizona Retirement Security Coalition. Members were encouraged to find ways to inform other retirees on a plan to vote. The virtual meeting brought AEA-Retired members together with NEA-members from fourteen other states who live and vote in Arizona.



VIP Update

By Larry Wittig

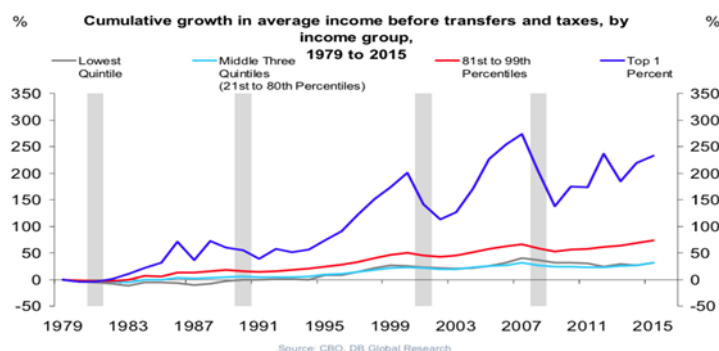
By this time in your life with AEA-Retired, you probably realize that VIP (Valley Interfaith Project) is one of Arizona's major ally when it comes to Education. Recently we worked side by side with VIP to successfully get the "InvestinEd Initiative" on the ballot. VIP is the Central Arizona unit of AIN (Arizona Interfaith Network), which is managed by Joe Rubio, previous VIP Head Organizer. The new Head Organizer is Jason Lowery. The organization is comprised of various institutions such as churches and labor unions. VIP trains local citizen groups to be active participants in all levels of our democracy. VIP engages ordinary people in concerted grass-roots action. Member institutions donate 1% of their annual budgets to the financing of VIP.

VIP promotes understanding Arizona power players and how they operate. For instance the Koch Foundation creates issues and seeks to polarize the public through people like Jon Shaddege, a former US Congressman and Steve Twist, co-founder of the Goldwater Institute pushing tax cutting and low budgets.

VIP also helps us understand the trends in our country.

- Just over 90% of children born in America in 1940 earned more than their parents.
- Only 50% of children born in the 1980's earned more than their parents

For more information, please read : <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/10/losing-the-democratic-habit/568336/>



AEA-Retirees in the Spotlight

AEA-Retirees are active and making a difference!

Linda Somo, a past President of AEA-Retired and her husband appeared in seven national television ads for the Biden-Harris campaign. **Marilyn Calhoun**, former Chair of the Tucson Chapter also appeared in one national television ad for the Mark Kelly campaign for Senate.

Nancy Riley, co-chair of Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter of AEA-Retired was a guest on the virtual discussion "What's at Stake for Older Americans Roundtable Series." Hosted by Former Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee, panelists discuss issues important to senior citizens. Riley appeared with former Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and Representative Ruben Gallego on October 6.

This series streams on Tuesday and Thursday at 2:30 EDT. The last two programs will be held on:

Tuesday, October 20 – 2:30 PM ET – Long Terms Care and Covid-19: with special guest Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky of Illinois.

Thursday, October 22 – 2:30 PM ET – What's at Stake for Social Security with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez of California.

The link to sign up for these workshops is:

www.mobilize.us/joe Biden/event33

MASK UP!



Send your email address to

julie.horwin@gmail.com

Win\$100

If we already have your e-mail address, you are entered in the \$100 Raffle

Good luck!



The Conduit



A Publication of AEA-Retired
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AEA-Retired Chapter News

Chapters bring AEA-Retired together, although for the present time, virtually. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live. Meetings usually include informational programs and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. This is a great way to keep in touch with the latest issues in our community. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter should contact Chapter Coordinator Susan Sommer, **623-628-1935**, ssommer114@aol.com.

Note that Chapters will be meeting via Zoom this year. If you are new to virtual meetings with this app, you must first download the Zoom application from the "app store" for your device. You may choose to set up a Zoom account, but it is not required for participating in a meeting. All you need to do is click the link you receive from your Chapter Chair. You are welcome to attend any and all Chapter meetings, regardless of where you are in Arizona, or the world. We welcome your attendance and participation.

Glendale/West Valley Chapter— This year our meetings will be held on Zoom. You will receive an invitation to join us a couple weeks before our meeting dates: December 3, 2020 at 10am, February 4, 2021 at 10am, and April 1, 2021 at 10am. For more information call, text or email **Susie Sommer** at **623-628-1935**, ssommer114@aol.com

Mesa/East Valley Chapter: We are scheduling all of our chapter meetings on Zoom. Please add the following dates and times to your calendars: **12/16, 2/17, and 4/21** each will be from noon to 1pm. Around the first of each month, we'll send you an email about the speaker as well as the computer links and telephone numbers for joining us on Zoom. Invite anyone else you'd like to join us. Contact **Janie Hydrick** at **480-963-1848**, hydrick@aol.com to make sure you receive the Zoom links.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: Meetings are held the third Tues., Sept.—May, at 10:00 a.m. Please contact **Marion Pickens** at **520-296-5908** or marionpeterpickens@gmail.com to receive the Zoom meeting links.

Phoenix Chapter: Meetings are scheduled on Zoom for the following dates: 10/20, 11/17, 1/19, and 3/16 each from 10:30 to noon. Make sure to give your email address to Chapter Chair **Michele Smith** at **602-463-1624** or mms7997@msn.com to make sure you get the Zoom links.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: The Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter met virtually on Monday, September 21 at 1:00. After sharing news of political action and upcoming AEA-Retired events, we introduced our member, Rose Smith, who is a candidate for the Scottsdale Schools Governing Board. (Our chapter may be unique in that three of our members are also active candidates: in addition to Rose Smith, Julie Cieniawski for SUSD Gov. Board, and Eric Kurland for LD 23 House Rep.) Dr. Janie Hydrick, our new president, was the guest speaker. She updated us about Prop. 208.

We will be holding all Zoom meetings this year. We will help get you started on Zoom if you haven't used it before. Our meetings will be held on the **third Monday** of each month at 1:00, September through April (excluding December). Please RSVP to either co-chair to be given the Zoom link, contact either Nancy Riley 480-600-8559 or rileyfam@cox.net, or Ann Myers 480-510-8098, azann@mac.com.

Southeast Arizona Chapter: The Southeast Arizona AEA-Retired Chapter is located in Cochise County and is comprised of districts in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Huachuca City, Naco, Palominas, Elgin, and Ft. Huachuca, and retirees from other states who have moved to Cochise County. Please contact Sally if you would like to be added to the email contact list—our only method of communication during the pandemic period. Contact Chapter Chair Sally Rosén at **520-249-0233**, azcatsally@aol.com for details.

Flagstaff Chapter: For more information, contact **Tricia Roach** at trrteach6@mac.com

Kyrene Chapter: We are scheduling all of our chapter meetings on Zoom. Please add the following dates and times to your calendars: **11/17, 1/19, 3/16, and 5/18** from 4:30 to 5:30pm. Around the first of each month, we'll send you an email about the speaker as well as the computer links and telephone numbers for joining us on Zoom. Invite anyone else you'd like to join us. Contact **Ellen Shamah** at eshamah@cox.net or **Janie Hydrick** at **480-963-1848**, hydrick@aol.com to make sure you receive the Zoom links.