AEA Retired Chapter Reports for Annual Meeting, April, 2011

1. Prescott Chapter Ted Coleman, Chair

This year there was a change in the chairmanship. Ted Coleman replaced Helga Krantz. Helga remains an active and important member of the chapter.

The group, after trying various places and times, decided to meet on the second Monday of each month, with the probable exception of December, at the China Buffet on route 69 for lunch at 11:30.

Steve Ramos was a speaker and was very informative on happenings within ASRS and the proposed bills in the Arizona legislature.

Most recently Susan Sain gave a terrific power point presentation on the efforts and the need to create more competitive congressional and legislative districts. In Arizona there are many areas where the districts are such that one party or the other is so powerfully represented that people of the other party effectively have no voice in the political arena.

It has been an interesting year and our group is showing much interest in the events of our state and around the country.

2. Phoenix Chapter Barb Joseph, Chair

Barb Joseph became the new chairperson for the Phoenix Chapter in the fall of 2011. The chapter has about 30 members, 20 who are very active. We have added six new members to the Chapter this year. The meetings are held at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix on the fourth Tuesday of September, November, January, March and May. The group meets at 10:30 AM, in the Culinary Arts Department.

The guest speakers/focus of the meetings this year were: Frank Bing, "Five Wishes"; Jason Czerwinski, Arizona Capitol Museum Volunteer Program; Steve Ramos, Arizona State Retirement System; Doug Hart and Tory Anderson, Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, New health care plan; Julie Horwin, Facebook Profile creation.

There will be an attempt over the summer to get new members for AEA-Retired as well as for the Phoenix Chapter from those retired educators living in the area of Central and South Central Phoenix through a letter or post card campaign.

3. Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter Suzan Austin, Chair

The chapter is growing! At our March 2011 lunch meeting we had 16 in attendance at our regular meeting place, Macayo's in Scottsdale. We have

been meeting bi –monthly on Mondays, and we will have one more meeting this school year on May 9. Thanks to Julie Horwin, AEA Retired Secretary, we have our own website, azedretired.com/SCOTTSDALE/index.html. Please visit the site!

4. Tucson Area Chapter Chip Parson, Chair

The Tucson Area Chapter meets monthly September-August. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month alternating between the AEA Southern Region office and the Tucson Education Association Office. The goals of the Tucson Area Chapter are to keep our members informed on critical issues, to foster participation in various educational and political activities, and to have fun while doing our work.

Members of the chapter are involved in many levels of governance with Barb Matteson serving as NEA-R President, Aurora Aber, Juan Zuniga, Ken Freed and Steve Linder serving on the AEA-R Board of Directors. Chapter members are very active in national, state and local politics including working on campaigns, supporting over-rides and with Steve Linder serving on the Southern Region Great Team. Ken and Marilyn Freed are coordinating the IMPACT Program with the University of Arizona College of Education matching mentors with current students. Several chapter members are participating in the program.

The Tucson Area Chapter succeeds because of the passion of it's members who, although retired, still believe that every student deserves to have a great public school education. Our last meeting will be held in May, and the schedule for next year's meetings will be determined and elections for new officers will take place.

Contact person for the Tucson Area Chapter is: Chip Parsons 520-791-7847 chipp@cox.net

5. Southeastern Arizona Chapter Sally Rosen, Chair

The Southeastern Arizona chapter of AEA-Retired has met four times this year, in August, October, January and March with one meeting left to go in May.

We had an average of fifteen retired members at each meeting. Attendees are from the districts in Elgin, Fort Huachuca, Naco, Sierra Vista, and Tombstone (Huachuca City). Meetings were held at various restaurants in Sierra Vista.

6. Glendale/West Valley Annual Chapter Susie Sommer, Chair

The West Valley Chapter continued to share information with their members at their 4 meetings this year. Doug Kilgore from AEA, Jason Czewinski from the Arizona State Capitol Museum, and Frank Bing, Vice President of AEA Retired brought us up-to-date information about issues pertaining to pensions, health insurance, benefits, volunteerism, and other education issues. Our members brought their expertise, as well, to help us understand these issues. Our continuing efforts to increase membership for both AEA Retired, and our chapter remain goals for the future. Our website is updated regularly. In addition, we are proud to continue our contributions to Andrea's Closet of the Banner Thunderbird Hospital with our toy and book drives. All active retired members enjoy the friendship and community of retired educators in a pleasant setting sharing a meal and conversation. We encourage anyone interested in participating to contact us.

Meetings are held at the Ironworks Restaurant, 45th Ave and Bell Rd. The next meeting is May 5, 2011 at 4:00pm. For more information contact Susie Sommer

AEA-R Glendale/West Valley Chapter Chairperson ssommer114@aol.com
623-931-6209

7. Mesa/East Valley Chapter Steve Ramos/Linda Somo Chairs

The East Valley Chapter meets five times each year on the second Wednesdays of September, November, January, March and May. The final meeting for this year will be May 11th at 11:00. Each meeting is held on the 8th floor of the Sunrise Bank Building, 63 E. Main St. in downtown Mesa. Meetings always start with lunch and socializing with colleagues, which is followed by great presentations from guest speakers, and updates on news from AEA-Retired/AEA/NEA and the most recent information from the legislature and ASRS, usually presented by Linda Somo and Steve Ramos. Guest speakers included Ed Rappaport from ASRS health insurance, AEA Lobbyist Jennifer Loredo, Marcy Perry (representing MADD), and The Five Wishes, presented by Frank Bing. With over 75 members belonging to the Chapter, there are usually 30-40 members in attendance at each meeting. If you live, or worked, in the East Valley, please come join us.

Contact Steve Ramos at steveramos2@cox.net or Linda Somo at Lsomo@cox.net

Chapters Chair Report Gary Mehok

Throughout the State of Arizona we now have seven active retirement chapters ~ Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Paradise Valley/Scottsdale, Prescott Valley, Tucson and Sierra Vista.

I have been working with Danny Barlow in an attempt to get two more chapters started in Northern Arizona. We are also hoping for a chapter in the Yuma area in the future, although so far it has been difficult to find someone who will take over a leadership role there.

The following programs were presented to the various chapters during this past year:

Frank Bing – Five Wishes
Doug Kilgore – 2010 State Election and the Implications for 2011
Richard Spitzer – Health Insurance
Steve Ramos – ASRS
Jennifer Loredo – Legislative Issues for 2011
John Campbell – Pensions, Social Security, Health Care Reform and Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans
Marcy Perry – Discussing the Work of MADD
Linda Somo – Updates on AEA-Retired
Penny Kotterman – Updates on her campaign for state school superintendent

Our attendance at chapter meetings ranged from 5 to 35 members. We have enjoyed a productive year and will continue with our work, encouraging retirees to join us and discover the value of attending, for the valuable information learned as well as the camaraderie.