Winning Ideas From Annual Meeting 2010

Membership

- Go to district office to meet future retirees
- Communicate better with more remote areas, like Chinle
- Cards or pins instead of ribbons for pre-retired
- ASRS application meetings – give AEA-Retired membership forms to ASRS rep
- Require AEA Active local leaders to learn about AEA-Retired *
- Repeat info to AEA meetings year after year
- Reps speak during orientation week to all staff/general teacher meetings
- Require active AEA to give list & info on all members so AEA-R can contact them
- Develop a plan for contacting newly retired & educate them, especially dues, structure, etc.
- Locals provide retired chapter contact info for retiring members, so they could be contacted by retired members
- Present at local (active) meetings
- Attend District/ Local retirement dinners *
- Lifetime membership fee
- Online membership
- Caucus
- Lifetime membership fee – Active locals contribute?
- Delegate Assembly pre-retirement table
- Board agendas – District newsletters
- Talk to retirees in retirement communities
- Pre-retirement lifetime membership fee as active before retiring
- District board minutes list retiring teachers
- Contribute partially to local social
- Attend ASRS meetings
- Require AEA to send retiree data
- AEA letter should have application for membership forms on active AEA website
- Assign a retired member(s) to targeted locals to create a relationship and be active in disseminating information and attending functions
- Personal contact – Target locals – assign volunteer reps *
- E-mail information to presidents/contact of locals – Pres/Sect/cont; distribute by e-mail to each member
- If resources – FRep at meeting / personal contact; at sights

- Contacting everyone who has filed for retirement (letter from AEA-R Pres. listing benefits; thank you letter as soon as they join)
- Ask local to pay or partially pay for 1st year retired dues; rebate back to local a certain dollar amount for each retiree who joins AEA-R, or some other recognition or service; provide a workshop to 1st year employees

Political Action

- Promote in-person involvement with Legislators
- More training on how to be politically active *
- E-mail to all members a copy of Legislative Digest on pending bills and who to contact about issues/potential bills
- Recruit Republicans who support public education
- Stress action e-mails for prompt response
- Retirees becoming precinct committee members in both parties
- Reps & Dems – representatives
- Communicate better with Republican members *
- Make politicians more aware of ESP's
- Stop Legislature's movement to contracting out
- Regularly scheduled AEA-R Lobby Days
- Participate in NEA/AEA calls to action
- Schedule more meetings w/state Legislators
- Model lobbying legislators after the GREAT Teams
- Weekly report of the bills of interest to us from the Legislative review; take out the bills of interest to us and e-send us
- Stress "elections have consequences"

Strengthening Chapters

- Chair should delegate responsibilities
- Go to where the retirees are with a program to promote the benefits of chapter membership
- Better speakers
- Are there programs of orientation?
- Outreach to new retirees

- Awareness of benefits (NEA insurance, long term care, medical supplements, etc.) *
- Creation of e-tutorial for creating a chapter website; step-by-step tutorial
- Info in ASRS packets when people go to inquire about retirement
- Enroll online
- Increase location of chapters/membership in local chapters *
- Develop relationship w/local legislators
- Linda send letter to Presidents of Pima County & AZ State Retired Teachers Associations; Kathy Sederholm has addresses
- Make programs available
- Define "chapters" as parallel to "locals" or "sites
- Emphasize social aspects of chapter activity