



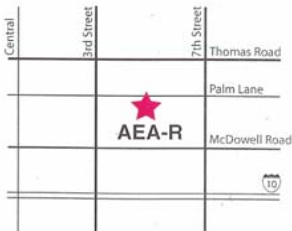
# THE CONDUIT



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Legislative Update</i>	2
<i>Read Across America 2007</i>	2
<i>Odds and Ends</i>	4
<i>Photo Gallery</i>	4
<i>President's Message</i>	5
<i>Chapter News</i>	6

The New Address for  
AEA-Retired  
345 E. Palm Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85004



**AEA-Retired  
Calendar of Events**

March 6 - AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting

March 7 - AEA Education Day at the Capitol

April 20-22 - NEA-Retired West Regional Conference

April 26 - AEA-Retired Annual Meeting

April 27-28—AEA Delegate Assembly

May 5 - 7 - NEA-Retired Advisory Council

May 10 - AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting

## Join us at the 2007 AEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Mesa on April 26; Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor to Keynote

The AEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be Thursday, April 26, 2007, beginning at 9: 30 AM at the Marriott Hotel in Mesa. Please fill out the registration form included in this issue of *The Conduit*. Send in the form with your \$20 registration fee to AEA-Retired, 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004 by Wednesday, April 11, 2007. Lunch and materials are included in the \$20 registration fee.



Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor

This year, delegates will be electing a vice president, a secretary, and seven Representatives-at-Large to the Executive Board. Constitutional amendments dealing with length of terms of office for officers and board

members will be debated and voted on as well. There will be fundraising for NEA, legislative updates, committee reports, etc.

**Ruth V. McGregor**, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court will be our keynote speaker. Ruth's brother, NEA Vice President **Dennis Van Roekel**, will introduce her.

Following the Annual Meeting, there will be a hospitality time until 5 p.m. in Suite 201.

**Linda Somo**, our Region 18 AEA Board Director, will be hosting a breakfast caucus from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM on both Friday and Saturday mornings on the terrace just outside Suite 201. A deluxe continental breakfast will be served.

## AEA-Retired Ready to Show off New Digs

When we first moved to Palm Lane, the AEA-Retired office looked more like a warehouse than a workspace. But thanks to **Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Julie Rivera-Horwin, John Campbell, and Kathy Campbell**, our office is the envy of all the others in the building.

Our intrepid crew spent the better part of two days



President Kathy Campbell in the new office space

shopping at IKEA for just the right furnishings. Larry then assembled the furniture (and there weren't even many parts left over!).

At the Open House for the new AEA building, many people stopped by because they heard how nice our office was. Stop by and see YOUR office whenever you're in Phoenix; you'll love it.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY JULIE RIVERA-HORWIN

In several recent elections, we have seen the work it takes to ensure a candidate's victory. If every vote is crucial, so is every voice. When voters speak to their legislators, the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups, whose agenda may be in conflict with the public's, can diminish. There are so many ways to communicate with a legislator: a simple click of a mouse, an actual conversation via email, a phone call, or an in-person meeting. All of these ways can sway a legislator's mind and vote.

The real power is in our individual voices. What YOU think and believe must be heard. It is essential that your representatives get follow-up, guidance and input from you. They need it and want it. Please make an appointment with, or phone, or email your legislator. No one expects you to know everything about the topic you are addressing. Your personal experiences and concern are what a legislator needs to hear.

The myriad of bills that must be

waded through by legislators requires knowledge and insight. What better way to get that input than from the very people who may or may not reelect that person into office?

Please go to the AEA's website <http://www.arizonaaea.org/politics.php> to get the latest update on current legislation and how you can help. If you have not signed up for the weekly legislative update, please do so at <http://capwiz.com/nea/az/mlm/signup/>

### Education Day at the Capitol

We will meet Wednesday, March 7, 2007, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Arizona Capitol, 1700 West Washington. Come any time you are available during the day. Park at 18th Avenue between Adams and Jefferson Streets.

What can you expect? There will be morning briefings on AEA's Legislative Agenda by AEA Government Relations Staff and AEA President, **John Wright**; meetings with legislators, luncheon on the lawn with legislators,

and Senate and House Education Committee Hearings.

Please be a part of the AEA-Retired Team. Register by calling **Julie Horwin** 480-419-0332, or on-line at <http://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/35466/educationday.htm> Registering your name makes certain that we have lunch for you. Come meet some of the best friends you will have - those AEA-Retired members who are working to ensure that Arizona has great teachers in every school, an excellent teacher retirement system, and a voice in the legislature.

We'd like to meet you, or see you once again with us out on the lawn on a beautiful day.

Let's make certain that AEA-Retired is the largest team in attendance on March 7! Please join us and let our AEA-Retired voices ring out!



## NEA's Read Across America 2007, "Pledge to Participate"

At 2:36 PM, ET, on March 2, 2007, the largest national simultaneous reading of a book was held. People all over America read Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*, which uses only 236 words. If you were not able to participate, you can still get involved up until March 31, 2007, by visiting [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross) or by calling 1-866-317-5327 or 202-822-7387. Please read!

At right is AEA-Retired member and Representative-at-Large on the Executive Board, **Helen Arnold**, reading to kindergarten students at Lowell Smith Elementary School at Davis Monthan A.F.B. during the Read Across America Day, March 2, 2006.



## AEA-Retired Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2007

### Registration Form

The \$20 non-refundable registration fee is payable by check or money order to AEA-Retired and must accompany this form by Wednesday, April 11, 2007. Send to: AEA- Retired, 345 East Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1532. (Registration fee & form are required of all members and guests.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle:

Require a vegetarian lunch? Yes No

Require or use special accommodations? Yes No

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

## AEA-RETIRED PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

(To be voted on by delegates to the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting)

### ARTICLE V — OFFICERS

#### Section 3 — Proposed Changes in bold capital letters

Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) **THREE (3)** years, but limited to no more than four (4) **SIX (6)** consecutive years in the same office.

(Officers of the association are identified in ARTICLE V, Section 1 as the president, vice-president , recording secretary, treasurer and the immediate past-president.)

Rationale - This change will keep our association's term limits in line with the national and state associations. It will improve continuity for the association.

### ARTICLE VI — EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### Section 2 — Proposed Changes in bold capital letters

Representatives-at-Large shall be elected by secret ballot for a term of two (2) **THREE (3)** years, and may serve for two (2) consecutive terms for a total of four (4) **SIX (6)** years.

(The remainder of Section 2A remains the same.)

Rationale: This change keeps the terms for The Executive Board the same as those of our officers.

## Odds and Ends and News You Can Use

### Mentoring Celebration Planned for March 5

On March 5, 2007, from 4:00-8:00 PM there will be an Intergenerational Mentoring Celebration in the AEA Board Room. New and returning teams of ASU students and AEA-Retired members will receive training and have the opportunity to socialize during a catered dinner and planned activities. For additional information contact **Paula Grigsby** at 928-535-4353 or [pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net](mailto:pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net).

### CoppeRx Card: New benefit a hit

The CoppeRx Card can be used for discounts on prescription drugs and is available to all Arizona residents. Discounts range from 15% to 55%. Purchases from a retail pharmacy are discounted up to 15% for a brand name and up to 35% for a generic. Purchases obtained by mail are discounted up to 20% for a brand name and up to 55% for a generic. The CoppeRx Card is accepted in over 500 participating pharmacies in Arizona including Albertsons, Fry's Food & Drug, Sav-on, Basha's, K-Mart, Target, Costco, United Drug, Osco, Eckerd and Safeway. AEA-Retired Board member Joann Lynch states, "This is a state benefit that's good for everyone." The number to call for a card is 1-888-227-8315.

### Go Cruisin' in 2008 with AEA-Retired

Want to have a vacation surrounded by great people and beautiful fall leaves? Then plan on signing up for a cruise with AEA-Retired for either late September or early October of 2008. We will sail for 7 days round trip from New York City with stops at ports in New England and Canada.

The cost for airfare, taxes, insurance, transfers, and cabin will be approximately \$1800-\$2500, depending on your choice of accommodations. We will receive a discount through a group rate. The exact dates, itinerary, and prices will be published in a future *The Conduit*.

Thanks go to **Mary Bishop** who has graciously agreed to be our cruise organizer and negotiate the trip for us.

### Important Health Insurance Notice for Seniors

United Healthcare has bought PacifiCare. They are sending insurance cards which reflect this change to people who have the Senior Supplement. There is no change in coverage!

### Scenes from NEA Lobby Day on Capitol Hill & the NEA Foundation Gala



AEA-Retired VP Linda Somo, US Rep. Gabriela Giffords, NEA President Barbara Matteson, and AEA President John Wright at the NEA Foundation Gala. (above)

AEA-Retired members Pam Simon, Linda Somo, and Frank Bing meet with newly-elected US Representative Harry Mitchell (below)



NEA Director Annie Crego, AEA-Retired VP Linda Somo, US Representative Harry Mitchell, NEA Director Janie Hydrick and AEA-R Board Member Frank Bing at Harry's office in Washington.(above)



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY CAMPBELL

Your association has been busy in 2007. Our first job was to get your AEA-Retired office in the new building cleaned up and decorated to make it a pleasant place to work. A huge thank you to **Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Julie Rivera-Horwin and John Campbell** for all their hard work. Stop by the AEA building and see your new office.

So far we have established six AEA-Retired Chapters: Glendale, Mesa, Tucson, Prescott Valley, White Mountains and Phoenix. Their objective is to develop a broader membership base involved in our Association. Each chapter operates much as your locals operated when you were an active member. Membership is restricted to AEA-Retired members (members of NEA-Retired, AEA-Retired and AEA and their spouses). A Chapter plans its own calendar and activities. It charges dues (separate from those paid to NEA-Retired, AEA-Retired and AEA) to meet its needs. The chapter designates a representative to attend the AEA-Retired Executive Board meetings (mileage paid by AEA-Retired). If you are interested in joining or forming a chapter in your area, contact **Gary Mehok** at 480-994-1829 or [lojo40@cox.net](mailto:lojo40@cox.net) or me at 602-574-1473.

The mentoring program scheduled a celebration for March 5, 2007, at AEA from 4:00 - 8:00 PM. If you are interested in learning more about the mentoring program, contact **Paula Grigsby** at 928-587-9078 or [pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net](mailto:pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net).

AEA is holding its Education Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 7, 2007. I would love to see 100 or more AEA-Retired members there to support public education. It is suggested that you call ahead of time for an appointment with your legislators. The activities begin at 8:00 AM with AEA registration and briefings and a luncheon will be provided. Please mark this day on your calendar. It is important to attend and bring a friend. To register contact Julie Rivera-Horwin at 480-419-0332 or [jhorwin@mindspring.com](mailto:jhorwin@mindspring.com).

Another important date is March 8, 2007. This is the fourth year for the Women (and Men) in Blue Day at the Capitol from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Many activities are

planned including a lunch at the Wyndham Hotel at which **Terry McAuliffe**, former Democratic National Committee chairman, will be the speaker. For more information and to register contact Carole Pearsall at the State Democratic office at 602-298-4200 or [cpearsall@azdem.org](mailto:cpearsall@azdem.org).

We will send ten retired members to the NEA-Retired Western Regional Conference April 20-22. We always gain information to bring back to help our retired members.

Our Annual Meeting Committee has been working hard. This year's event is on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at the Marriott Mesa Hotel and Conference Center (it is the same place we met last year), 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85202. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude about 2:30 PM. There is a \$20.00 registration fee to help cover the costs of printing and lunch. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.** Just be aware that **only delegates** to the AEA Delegate Assembly **can vote.** We will be electing a Vice President, Secretary and Representatives-at-Large and voting on Constitution and By-Law changes (see enclosure). Please complete the registration form included in this *CONDUIT* and return it today. Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor will be our luncheon speaker. We will also honor the third recipient of the Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award. As always, we will have door prizes, fundraising, and Fund for Children and Public Education activities, so bring several dollars so you can participate. Our meeting will be followed by a happy hour in Suite 201. Plan to join us and renew friendships and make new friends.

AEA-Retired continues to grow under the guidance of Membership Chair **Daina Swinford.** We have now exceeded the 1900 mark! We could double our membership and our influence within AEA if each of you brought in one new member. Your task --**recruit one member today!**

Thank you for your continued support of AEA-Retired. We continue to be strong because of YOU, the members.



Kathy Campbell



Need investments?

Need to protect your family?

Need a personal loan or credit?

Need a money market account?

Need a mortgage?

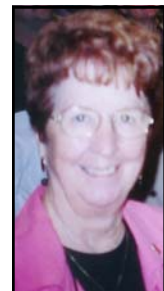
Need affordable Insurance?

NEA Member Benefits is dedicated to helping members get a handle on their most important financial and health-care responsibilities.

1-800-637-4636

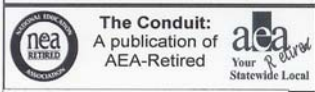
[www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)

## A Good Reason to Join AEA-Retired



*Who:* Barbara Matteson, NEA-Retired President, Ex Officio Member of the Executive Board

*What:* Barbara represents the over 270,000 retired members of NEA across the country while still faithfully contributing her expertise to our AEA-Retired Executive Board. She actively lobbies our legislature as well as the House and the Senate in Washington.



345 E. Palm Lane  
 Phoenix, AZ 85004  
 602-574-1473  
 www.aea.retired  
 @arizona.aea.org

Kathy Campbell President  
 Linda Somo V. Pres.  
 Paula Grigsby Secretary  
 Connie Wittig Treasurer  
**Conduit** co-editors  
 Suzan Austin Frank Bing

## New Chapters Wanted



Chapters are a way to bring AEA-Retired closer to its members. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live. Meetings usually include an information program, business meeting, lunch or dinner, and time for socializing with friends and colleagues.

The 2006-2007 Chair of the Chapters Task Force, **Gary Mehok**, is eager to answer questions and assist in the formation of new chapters. Anyone in the areas around Flagstaff, Yuma, Paradise Valley or Scottsdale who is interested can contact him at LOJO40@cox.net.

# Chapter News

**Glendale Chapter:** A meeting was held on Feb.8 at the Iron Works, 17233 N. 45th Avenue, (1/4 mile north of Bell Road at the Bellair Golf Course) from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. **John Campbell** presented a DVD on Social Security and **Joanne Lynch** discussed and answered questions on health insurance. There were 20 members in attendance. The new chapter board designee is **Susie Sommer**. For information about the next meeting, (May 10), contact Susie at 623-931-6209 or ssommer114@aol.com.

**Mesa / East Valley Chapter:** On Jan. 10, we met on the 8th floor of the Mesa Bank Building, 63 E. Main St. There were 25 members in attendance. **Linda Somo** discussed legislation, **John Campbell** presented information on Social Security, and **Art Cutting** recruited members to attend the Annual Meeting. March 21 is the new date for the next meeting. For information contact **Phyllis Swan** at (480) 926-2878 or lcswan@cox.net.

**Tucson Chapter:** A meeting was held at the Southern Regional office at 1:30 PM on Jan. 24. **Barbara Matteson** presented on Social Security and Medicare Part D. There were 10 members present. The next meeting is March 14 at 2:00 PM at the AEA Southern Regional office located at 6873 N. Oracle Rd. There are meetings planned for April 11 at 2:00 PM at the TEA office and May 9 at 2:00 PM at the Southern Regional office. Anyone interested in attending should contact **Aurora Aber** at TheAbers@cox.net or 520-721-7547.

**Phoenix Chapter:** There was a meeting on Nov. 16 at 10 AM at the new AEA building which featured a presentation on charter schools. The next meeting is on March 15 also at 10 AM at the new AEA building. **John Campbell** will speak about Medicare Part D and Social Security. For information contact **Brenda Pierce** at 602-973-2822.

**White Mountain Chapter:** The meeting planned for Feb. has been changed to March 22 due to snow. Weather permitting **John Campbell**, **Joanne Lynch**, and **Gary Mehok** will attend. They will present on health insurance and Medicare. For information contact **Billie Fugate** (Lakeside) at 928-367-1493 (bjfugate@frontiernet.net) or **Paula Grigsby** (Overgaard) at 928-535-4353 (pkgrigsby@frontiernet.net).

**Prescott Chapter:** The newest chapter met on Jan. 11 with 6 members present. **Gary Mehok**, **Joanne Lynch**, and **John Campbell** presented on Social Security and Medicare. At the next meeting there will be A presentation on the "Five Wishes" and legislative information. It will be April 12 at 11:00 AM at the home of **Helga Krantz**, 7825 Prickly Pear Path, Prescott Valley. Please contact her at 928-776-4314 or bcdhelga@gmail.com.

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