



## AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Oct. 12, 2021

**Held at AEA Headquarters (345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix) 10:00 am**

**Attendees:** Anna Cicero, Ken Freed, Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Marilyn Calhoun, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Nancy Putman, Steve Ramos, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Nancy Riley, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Michele Smith, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Sandra Warns, Danny Barlow, Carmen Peters, Ellen Shamah, Suzan Austin, Ellie Perez-Pawlowski, (guest) Melanie Hobden

Absences excused: Shirley Boswell, Julie Cozad, Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner, Marshall Militano, Sally Rosen, Julie Horwin

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

**Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am**

Anna welcomed the board and visitors to the meeting.

**Guests: Melanie Hobden (AEA Retired member), and Jeff Lang (AEA organizing consultant -- supporting aspiring educators)** AEA and Aspiring educators will be possibly attending a future ASU women's basketball game - date TBD -- hoping to get retired members to support aspiring educators.

2. **Approval of Agenda for Tuesday October 12, 2021 Janice Dwosh** motion by Marilyn Freed, seconded by Sandy Warns. Motion approved with flexibility.

3. **Approval of Minutes from September 2021 – Janice Dwosh.** motion by Danny Barlow, seconded by Gary Mehok. Minutes from September 2021 stand approved.

4. **Financials – Steven Linder** Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Nancy Putman, seconded by Marilyn Calhoun. Motion was accepted for financials as submitted and ready for audit. See email attachments for details of the financials.

### 5. Officers' Reports

**Anna Cicero President:** updates from NEA/AEA on the Pres. report. Newsletter deadlines Nov. 19th for next Conduit, Communications committee-- moving forward.

**Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative:** Sept. 18th AEA board meeting: AEA executive asst. has been hired and will be starting soon. One other position will be hired to cover the "Chris Mayer position". Check to see if your AEA committee is meeting (Oct. 30th Policy and Research day). It may be a virtual day. Many of our board members and other AEA-RETired members are on these critical AEA committees and task forces.

**Janice Dwosh- Secretary** -- please respond to deadlines and RSVP monthly. Please contact Janice Dwosh if interested in racial equity and social justice committee information or Ann Myers for the book discussion group.

**Julie Horwin -- Past President /NEA Director/AARA ) (not attending today) -- Linda Somo//Barbara Matteson -- AZ Alliance for Retired Americans** -- Convention on Oct. 16th (12 delegates) -- can vote that day for officers, we will have two vice presidents (Linda Somo and Barbara Matteson for Vice President, Julie Horwin for Secretary) speakers Ron Barber, Pima County Recorder, and others. Meeting will be virtual. AARA supports AEA and AEA-Retired and our ASRS pensions.

**Ellie Perez-Pawlowski (AEA Liaison)**-- grant approved by NEA, Michele Udall running for AZ Superintendent of Schools.

**6. New Business— none submitted this month**

**7. Committee reports:**

**Membership -- Shirley (not able to attend today) , Nancy P. and Michele S.** -- currently at 2,100 members (down a bit -- due to those needing to pay by check or credit card). Added 14 new members since last month. Michele S. , Danny B., and Marshall each signed up new members this month and got a \$10 incentive.

**NEA membership meeting** -- trying to get a method to sign up electronically for AEA-Retired, still in the works.

**Membership outreach -- Nancy P. , Michele S.--** letters will be going out to 400 new retirees in the next month to get them information to join AEA-Retired , new posters have been printed, \$70 rebate only for ASRS payroll deduction new members. Reach out to your local (possibly during American Education week in November). Adopt-a-local liaisons should be contacting their locals when possible. More chapter chairs are possible (Yavapai needed and Marana areas-- Deb Larned).

**Political Action - Luci M.**

Some of the petitions we worked to get signatures for may not have enough people signed to get on the ballot. Still need to see what's up next. Lots of efforts have been made and we need to continue! Postcards were given out to send out to the state representatives as soon as possible. Handwritten notes and talking points are helpful. See the political action report for details. Please participate in the advocacy and lobby days. May be in person or virtual (TBD) Opening of legislature will be on Jan. 10th, 2022.

**Advocacy training -- Phoenix Tues. Dec. 7th and Tucson Thurs. Dec. 9th**

**AEA-Retired Lobby days -Jan. 26 and Feb. 22nd.**

**Communications Committee -- Julie Horwin will be assisting with surveys and emails to our members for the elections/upcoming meeting.** A survey will go out to our members to get ideas for our strategic planning updates . We will also be working on rebranding and hopefully with an NEA grant will support these efforts.

The deadlines needed for next Conduit (**due by Nov. 19th**)

Awards-- Nancy P./Connie W. (Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service award)

Elections -- Steve L. (open board positions and officers )

Delegates -- Steve L. (for the annual meeting/AEA Delegate assembly)

Annual meeting -- Norma J. (in person as planned at this time)

**Special committees/Ad Hoc -**

**ARSC (AZ RETirement Security Coalition) - Steve Ramos** ARSC rehired lobbyist Daniella Smith for the upcoming year. (\$5,500 from AEA retired for the upcoming year) . Application for funding from national public pension coalition (matching funds).

**ASRS--** A few AZ school districts are getting Covid relief funds - There is a proposal that some districts may want to invest with ASRS some of these funds (prepay their employer contributions)-- the districts will choose a rate of return determined by ASRS . There is a meeting with ASRS to discuss the concerns for the retirees and the current employees of the districts. AEA is also getting involved in the discussion.

**MORE -- Linda Somo -- no updates this month**

**Fundraising -- Marilyn Freed** Audrey C. will be a quilt maker for the May 2022 AEA-DA. AEA -Retired wil also award the last quilt not awarded due to virtual AEA- DA last year.

**Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez** -- see her report and please join the committee if interested.

**Awards-- Nancy Putman** -- nominations for the Les Reynolds Senior Service award due by February 8th

**Budget committee -- Steve Linder** -- meeting in January (date TBD)

**Documents -- Ken Freed-** meeting after Nov. board meeting

**Audit -- Carmen P.--** conversations were done with Anna and Margaret Sleeper. Carmen is comfortable with the current reviews done by the AEA-Retired audit committee. There are four members (Ellie Feldner, Carmen, and two other non-board members). Carmen is on the AEA audit committee also. Henry and Horne (CPA firm) reviews our books after our audits.

**Elections-- Steve L. --**

There are many positions open in the next election: AEA Retired Secretary and AEA Director 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**  
(first terms so they may decide to run again)

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

**Ellen S.-- Mesa** on Zoom, (Steve Ramos and Marisol Garcia will speak in Oct. ), Kyrene - met outside at a venue

**Nancy R.- PV/Scottsdale** Civic engagement beyond voting last month on Zoom, meeting with Jevin Hodge (running against David Schweikert) on Oct. 18th on Zoom.

**Danny B.-- Interstate/ N. AZ** -- Zooms to be determined.

**9. Alliances and coalitions :**

**AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Barbara Matteson**, AARA Convention on Oct. 16th. Other info discussed earlier.

**ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos** reported earlier with ASRS.

**AIN/VIP Valley interfaith project/ AZ interfaith network -Ken Freed**, Frank R. in Tucson (member of the board)

**10. Kinnaman raffle -\$2 per attendee, total collected \$48**, winner of the raffle today is \$ 24 Michele Smith.

Additional \$ goes to the Kinnaman fund scholarship for a future educator (sent to NEA for their distribution yearly)

**11. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero** -- Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**12. Afternoon committee meetings -**

**Please submit a summary of committee members, goals, and activities planned to Anna Cicero.**

**Membership Outreach committee met after the exec board meeting was adjourned.**

**13. Upcoming events:**

**AEA Research and Policy Day Oct. 30th --Virtual day for those appointed to committees**

**Next AEA-Retired executive board meeting Tues. Nov. 9th 10 a.m.**

**Call for agenda Oct. 24th, documents due Oct. 30th, packet emailed by Nov. 3rd**

**Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary October 23, 2021**

**Happy Halloween and fall!**

