AEA Retired Board Meeting
October 11, 2011 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
AEA Headquarters, 345 East Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ

Attendance: Somo, Horwin, Stephenson, K. Campbell, Aicone, Aber, Austin, Boswell, J. Campbell, Freed, Linder, Mehok, Michels, Peters, Ramage-White, Ramos, Rosen, Sain, Zuniga, Coleman, Joseph, Pierce, Sommer, Spitzer. Guests: Asizi, Wittig Absent: Bing, Moy, Barlow

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order	Pres. Somo called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. She introduced Sue Asizi, newly retired from Mesa EA, and activist.
2. Agenda	Moved/2nd by Freed/Linder to approve today's agenda with flexibility. PASSED
3. Minutes	Moved/2nd approval of Minutes of Sept. 13, 2011 by Horwin/Linder. PASSED
4. Financials	Treasurer Jean Stephenson noted total liabilities and Equity equals $46,917.40. Please see attached report with explanations. Moved, 2nd by Freed/Stephenson to accept the report and file for audit. PASSED
5. Membership	Shirley Boswell reported that as of August 31 there are 2028 AEA Retired members. 405 renewals returned and 498 new active pre-retired NEA Lifetime members. There are 58 new dues deductions. We were sad to lose Sharon O'Brien and Jeannine Hiller. Please see attached report.
6. Officers' Reports	A. President Somo reported that she placed an ad in the AEA Advocate for membership. a. She referenced her NEA Board report from Sept. 22-24 meeting in D.C. (see attached report). She noted that NEA Government Relations staff helped to write much of the American Jobs Act. The board members lobbied congress regarding the ESEA Reauthorization, the Jobs Act, and the Super Committee. b. John Campbell added that he enjoyed the speaker, Mike Edwards, who heads the NEA Labor Relations Dept. He also mentioned that Graeme Taylor, who spoke about bullying and GBLT issues was remarkable. c. Linda also reported on the AEA Retired Grants status: we have 2 checks that will be coming in from NEA Retired: a.) 2nd year of TEF Grant; b.) 1st year for new strategic planning grant. d. Linda mentioned that the NEA-Retired Conference will be held sometime between March 21-29 (No longer regional). It was noted that NEA has not lifted the boycott against AZ (due to SB1070). e. The Conduit should reach homes soon; it was mailed out last Tuesday. B. Julie Horwin, Secretary a. Override/Bond elections help in school districts – please call your local to help with a campaign. b. Recall Russell Pearce House Party c. Communities in School Partnership – See attached hand-out. Chapters who wish are asked to make this Priority Schools partnership a community service. d. 2011 Legislative Victories/2012 Horizon – see attached hand-out. e. 2012 Legislative Preview – via Jennifer Loredo, – see attached hand-out C. Mike Aicone, AEA Liaison to AEA Retired a. AEA Board will meet for monthly meeting on Oct. 21. They will discuss impact of loss of 33% membership. Presently 16,198 members, from 25,612. On Oct. 31, those who have not transferred method of dues payment will be dropped. This represents $3 million cut from budget.

	b. Leaders' Conference will be regional in state rather than statewide as in the past. AEA has saved money by linking itself to the NEA Website. Rather than cutting people who service active members in the field, they are considering closing buildings. However, there may be a possible layoff of staff in December. AEA is offering retirement incentives, and there are 4 staff members who are retiring or leaving. c. He noted that there is $4,517 in AEA Foundation Account for IMPACT.
7. Health Plans	Open Enrollment – Richard Spitzer asked if everyone had received an ASRS Open Enrollment packet. (See attached hand-out with information). a. November 18 is the cut-off date to change or enroll. Takes effect Jan. 1, 2012. b. Increase in **non-**Medicare premium, up $58 to $641 per month. Hearing aid benefit has been eliminated. c. New dental plan for a total of 3 plan choices. New one has a higher premium, but better coverage for larger number of procedures, and lower copayments. It includes implant and orthodontia benefits. d. If you want **no** changes to your benefits, do nothing. e. He suggests that members attend an open enrollment informational meeting because there are many hints/tips, and information given that can help you to take full advantage of your benefits. One tip that Richard presented was that if two people in your family are eligible for the benefits, one person should be the medical and carry the other person, and one person should use the dental and carry the other one. This makes your dollar stretch, because in each case the other person is free. f. Go to http://www.azasrs.gov and click on "benefits" to find all of the information, documents, dates of meetings and timeline for changes. g. Richard also noted that if you are having difficulty with getting your prescriptions through the mail call him (Richard) or Ed Rappaport at 240-2000. Mail prescriptions use Prescription Solutions (not Medco).
8. Chapter Chairs	• **Suzan Austin** reported that she and Gary Mehok and the Chapter Chair Committee have produced the Chapter Chair Manual. Julie will scan it and email it to chapter chairs. She will make 10 copies and Chapter chairs may pick them up in the AEA Retired office. **PV/Scottsdale** chapter met on Sept. 26. They had lots of interaction among the 16 members in attendance, and had reports for summer activities in Chicago (NEA-Ret. Annual Meeting, NEA-RA) from those who attended. • **Barb Joseph, Phoenix** chapter chair reported that on Nov. 27 they met at the Metrotech Culinary Arts School. AEA Retired President Linda Somo was the guest speaker. It was their first meeting of the year. • **Aurora Aber, Tucson** chapter reported that at their Sept. 20 meeting there were 20 people in attendance. NEA-Retired Past President Barbara Matteson spoke about advocacy/support group for grandparents raising children. This was cohosted with the Alliance for Retired Americans. Steve Linder and Ken Freed spoke about the intergenerational mentoring program. They have meetings planned for every month. Dates: OCT. 18, NOV. 15, DEC. 20, Jan. 17, FEB. 21, MAR. 20, APR. 17, May 15. • **Ted Coleman, Prescott** chapter reported that on Sept. 30th they met to plan recruitment of new chapter members from Cottonwood, Humbolt and surrounding areas. They split of the list of phone numbers of members who live in these areas and will phone to invite to meetings. Ted will continue to send out emails to all members who live in the area. Next meeting is Friday,

	Oct. 21st. • **Sally Rosen, Southern Arizona**, talked about their next meeting on October 19th. There are usually 12 – 16 members in attendance. • **Susie Sommer, Glendale/West Phoenix** noted that they met last Thursday, and collected new books to donate to their service project. John Campbell was their speaker regarding current issues and events. The members also discussed ways to recruit new members and more engagement in the chapter. The chapter will meet on Dec. 1 to celebrate seniors with prizes and guests. • **Steve Ramos, Mesa,** reported that they met on Sept. 14. Speaker from Medicare spoke about fraud. Jerry Lewis also spoke (candidate running against Russell Pearce in Legislative District 18. He noted that it was AEA Retired member, Mary Lou Boettcher's lawsuit that brought down sham candidate Lydia Cortes. Mesa will meet again on Nov. 9. Guest speaker will be Ed Rappaport from ASRS Health Benefits. • **Gary Mehok, Chapters Chair** noted that he would like the chapte chairs to email to him and Julie Horwin their meeting dates and guest speakers for this year in order that chapter chairs and members can visit those in which they are interested. • **Cindy Michels, Sunshine Committee,** noted that it is a good idea for chapter chairs to keep in touch with past members and chapter leaders to find out how they are doing (as Ted Coleman did with Helga Krantz, who is a new grandmother.) She also suggested that a card/gift be sent to Daina Swinford for all of her help and hard work. She was recently married and is moving. Daina was the past Membership Chair, and was a great liaison to the ASRS, where she worked.
9. AZ Alliance of Retired Americans	John Campbell, Vice President of the AZ Alliance of Retired Americans noted that both he and Gary Mehok were reelected to their positions at the AZ Alliance Annual Meeting. Gary Mehok is the Outreach Chair for the Alliance. John gave us summaries of his activities at the American Alliance of Retired Americans Convention in New Orleans. He accompanied his remarks with several hand-outs with important information for retiree issues. (See attached.)
10. ASRS	Steve Ramos reported on meeting of Defined Contribution and Retirement Committee he attended at the Legislature. (See attached report.) He also reported on the ASRS External Affairs Meeting. Discussion centered around charging employers who withdraw from ASRS for unfunded part of ASRS for employees. Example: when a charter school dissolves, that charter school walks away leaving ASRS the bill for their employees' share of their benefits. In the same manner, what happens when ASRS employers go to privatization? Rules for leaving the ASRS and how to deal with the liability are necessary. He noted that if you are retired and using ASRS health benefits, and getting your stipend, if you work full time for an ASRS employer, you no longer get the ASRS stipend for those benefits.
11. Raffle	Who won: John Campbell How much: $22 for John and $22 for the AEA fund. Linda Somo suggested that the money raised from the half-back raffle go toward donation to our partner for Priority Schools campaign: Communities in Schools.
12. Adjourn-ment	President Somo adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8 Election Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Horwin, AEA Retired Secretary