



AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting minutes Tuesday November 9, 2021

Held on Zoom from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Anna Cicero, Ken Freed , Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Shirley Boswell, Marilyn Calhoun, Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner, Marilyn Freed, Julie Horwin, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Marshall Militano, Nancy Putman, Steve Ramos, Sally Rosen, Linda Somo, Gary Mehok, Nancy Riley, Susie Sommer, Norma Jimenez, Michele Smith, Maria Leyva, Sharin Manes, Sandra Warns, Danny Barlow, Carmen Peters, Suzan Austin, Peter Coston, Ellie Perez-Pawlowski

Absences excused: **Julie Cozad and Ellen Shamah**

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

Meeting was called to order at 9:34 am

Anna welcomed the board and visitors to the meeting. She made the land acknowledgement for our native people in AZ. **Guest:** Jonathan Massey-- new AEA Retired member

2. **Approval of Agenda for Tuesday November 9, 2021 Janice Dwosh** motion by Barbara Matteson , seconded by Ken Freed . Motion approved with flexibility .

3. **Approval of Minutes from October 2021 – Janice Dwosh.** motion by Barbara Matteson, seconded by Carmen Peters . Minutes from October 2021 executive board meeting stand as approved.

4. **Financials – Steven Linder** Financials moved to be accepted and to be submitted for audit by Julie Horwin seconded by Sandy Warns . 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 : Discussed ARSC (one pager), state engagement and outreach for educator project, trying to maintain and gain new AEA membership , AEA Task Force involvement, exploring mentorships collaborating with AEA-Retired. Grant updates - funds will be supporting us with Strategic planning and rebranding. It's been a very busy time meeting with all committees and keeping communications going throughout the organization. We were awarded the NEA Grant (Todd Crenshaw) for \$9, 287.00 to work on AEA-Retired Re-branding and Strategic Planning in the coming year, Target date to start strategic planning will be January 2022. Re-branding will happen as needs are already listed on our Communication Committee Action Plan already underway. (flyers, poster, Membership form, business cards, name tags, etc.)

Ken Freed-- Vice President: AEA Board representative : Henry and Horne did the AEA audit which was approved recently. Reserve funds have been collected for the building for many years. Margaret Sleeper is looking into the financial implications of the AEA building situation . AEA has hired a new assistant (Nicole Adams). Only one of the AZ three petitions will be going to the voters (not enough signatures on the others).

Janice Dwosh- Secretary -- Janice was involved with the Medicare Advantage meeting with Congressman Ruben Gallego , as well as a few other retirees . He was very open to this program and plans to support Medicare Advantage. Janice is also training in L4JS and the NEA program (Honesty in Education--fighting the CRT issues that are hurting public education). She also attended the AEA Research and Policy Day and is on the Task Force for Racial Equity and Social Justice along with Linda Somo. They will be reviewing AEA documents as well as providing multiple recommendations to AEA for Professional Development for members .

Julie Horwin -- Past President /NEA Director)--NEA Directors report presented. NEA will not meet in Texas at the NEA RA this summer . It will be in person, but not in Texas. Julie has been named to the NEA Think Tank committee

(leadership development)-- supporting Leadership benchmarks. The NEA Leadership Summit will be separate from the NEA Retired meeting this Spring, so people will be needed to go to separate meetings this year (possibly in different states). There will be limits to the NEA Retired meeting this year due to Covid protocols. The NEA Leadership Summit is a fantastic learning environment with active educators, retired and even new and future educators. We have budgeted for a number of our board members to attend.

Ellie Perez-Pawlowski (AEA Liaison)-- new AEA Political director will be interviewed and hired soon. Many legislative members have resigned, or been moved to other positions. Thanks for the efforts on the petitions, however only one will be on the 2022 ballot. Many challenging issues will be upcoming in the next legislative session.

6. New Business— none submitted this month

7. Committee reports:

Membership -- Shirley B.- Membership report: 2127 members (+27 from Oct. report), 74 Emeritus members (over 90 years old) - no longer having to pay dues if paid NEA lifetime dues. Plan to encourage members who pay by check to switch to EFT or payroll deduction with ASRS. 10 new members qualified so far to receive the \$70 rebate by joining thru ASRS.

Membership outreach -- Nancy P. and Michele S.-- 440 letters got ready to mail for the recent AZ AEA retirees and encourage their membership in AEA-Retired. Michele Smith is in the latest NEA Today magazine. Congrats! AEA-Retired name tags to be made in the next month. Please send your name and info by email to Michele ASAP. Name tags will be magnetized and made by a local union.

Political Action - Luci M. - 23 of 33 school district bonds and overrides passed this year, many people have left teaching and the state, we are now 50th in the nation in teacher pay. Redistricting maps are not very favorable at this point. See the Political action report for more information.

Advocacy training -- Phoenix Tues. Dec. 7th and Tucson Thurs. Dec. 9th (sign up in advance) . 30 people allowed for Dec. 7th training in Phoenix, -so far 24 signed up. Luci will check with Ellie for the latest Covid protocols. Opening day on January 10th at the Legislature. Let Luci know if interested in attending that day.

AEA-Retired Lobby days -Jan. 26 and Feb. 22nd. RSVP's will be going out after the advocacy days.

Communications Committee -- Julie Horwin will be assisting with surveys and emails to our members for the elections/upcoming AEA-DA and annual meeting. Communications committee met last week . Maria will be assisting with a survey for the Communications Committee-- Checking with which platforms people are on to communicate with each other. She will recruit "technology mentors" from the Executive board and work outward towards training other members of AEA-Retired in technology .

Info needed to Jan and Bart for the Conduit for the Nov.19th deadlines: forms and info needed::

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 -

Fundraising-- Marilyn Freed, AEA-Retired will give away the quilt at the AEA-DA from last year, and this year's quilt will be done by Audrey C. . We will sell tickets before this year's DA. People will need to assist at the upcoming May DA quilt booth.

ARSC (AZ Retirement Security Coalition) - Steve Ramos -- Dec. 6th ARSC Zoom lobby training day. Signups will be done shortly.

ASRS--Liaison Steve Ramos-- ASRS board meeting on Friday Nov. 12th, setting contribution rates for 2022. Retirees and others met with Paul Matson on Oct. 15th regarding the possible info on the districts wanting to prepay their ASRS contributions ahead with extra funding to invest. Districts probably won't do this at this point in time. This might set a bad precedent. AEA organizational consultant Greg McQuade attended this meeting with our AEA-Retired members.

MORE -- Linda Somo -- committee met via Zoom on Nov. 1st. Committee is planning an in-person MORE gathering on April 6th, 2022 in Phoenix. They looked for a larger venue for this meeting, Linda has recently booked the IBEW union hall in Phoenix. No restrictions on attendance. Purpose is for social and other engagement (political) from our NEA and AEA members in AZ. Hope for special guest speakers, legislative updates, redistricting info, water crisis and other topics may be covered. Committee will meet again December 1st on Zoom.

Annual Meeting -- Norma Jimenez -- planned to be in person in May 2022 (unless plans are changed by AEA)

Awards-- Nancy Putman -- nominations for the Les Reynolds Senior Service award due by February 9th, form has been sent to Jan/Bart.

Budget committee -- Steve Linder -- meeting in January (TBD) all other committees need to put their budgets together by January. (Zoom or in person meeting for Budget committee)

Documents -- Ken Freed- met with the committee for a few changes to the documents. Final decisions on any changes will be made in the upcoming month or two. Thanks to the Committee for their efforts. All changes need to be approved by the AEA-Retired board at least 45 days before the Annual meeting and sent out in the Conduit to all members.

Audit -- Carmen P.-- committee met on Nov. 2nd. completed the 2019-2020 fiscal year and 2020-21 year audit. No problems, but a few questions for the President. Report will be completed next month.

Elections-- Steve L. --

There are many positions open in the next election: AEA Retired Secretary and AEA Director (first terms) 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).

Nomination forms need to be submitted by February (by email or to the AEA office) for delegates to the AEA-DA and for our AEA-Retired offices and board members. There will be a link sent out, as well as paper forms available for the nominations.

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

West Valley -- S. Sommer, meeting in person. Check with Susie Sommer if interested.

Ellen S.-- Kyrene meeting in person, **Mesa** - meeting on Zoom -- Ellen did not attend the board meeting this month.

Nancy R.- PV/Scottsdale -meeting on Zoom. Last month's meeting was with Jevin Hodge. Next meeting is Monday Nov. 15th on Zoom.

Danny B.-- Interstate/ N. AZ -- had a Zoom this month with 15 people from many states. Trying to recruit new members .

Peter C. -Southern Tucson area - new chapter chair monthly meetings in person and on Zoom. Mayor Romero , from Tucson, joining the Nov. meeting.

We still need a chapter chair for the Phoenix chapter -- Michele Smith is no longer the chapter chair.

9. Alliances and coalitions :

AARA-- AZ Alliance of Retired Americans -- Barbara Matteson AARA working on getting drug price reductions. Barbara was elected on the board, Linda Somo is on the board, and Julie Horwin is the secretary. Congratulations!

ARSC-- AZ Retirement Security Coalition -- Steve Ramos -- -- submitted the grant for the upcoming year. (next meeting in November). Waiting for any issues in the upcoming legislative session.

AIN/VIP Valley interfaith project/ AZ interfaith network -Ken Freed -- no updates this month.

10. Adjournment of meeting by Pres. Anna Cicero -- Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

12. Upcoming events: (see above for advocacy training in early December)

Next AEA-Retired executive board meeting Tues. Dec. 14th (gift exchange)
Please wear your masks to be polite to your colleagues! Stay healthy!

Call for agenda Nov. 26th, reports and documents due Dec. 2nd. , packet emailed by Dec. 7th

Respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired Secretary November 12, 2021

