

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting
(Draft) Minutes of October 13, 2015



1. **Call to Order** at 10:02 by President Horwin

Board members in attendance; Julie Horwin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Linda Somo, John Campbell, Judy Moy, Danny Barlow, Shirley Boswell, Ed Bufford, Anna Cicero, Marilyn Freed, Maryanne Goodluck, Luci Messing, Carmen Peters, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steven Ramos, Sally Rosen, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga. Chapter Chairs; Ted Coleman, Ellen Shamah, Michele Smith., Tricia Roach. Members; Renee Newman, Jan Nichols, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Connie Wittig, Aurora Aber, Kathy Campbell, Brenda Pierce, Mary Bishop. Guest: Terry Goddard-Voice of the People. Staff; Mike Aicone.

NOTE: Prior to the Approval of the Agenda, President Horwin thanked B. Matteson, Maryann Goodluck, and J. Moy for bringing fruit and baked bundt cake for breakfast. She asked M. Freed for an update on the money donated for the Peter Pickens funeral. It was reported that money was spent on flowers, bakery items for the family dinner with the remainder to be donated to the Pickens' church. Horwin then introduced guests and once more introduced our newest chapter chairs for Phoenix and for Flagstaff.

2. **Approval of Agenda** with flexibility (Ramage-White/Moy) **Approved**

3. **Approval of the minutes** of May 12, 2015. (Somo/Putman) **Approved**

4. **Membership** Chair Boswell shared most recent membership data. Currently we have increased to 2160 members with 1611 using dues deduct. We have 69 new members
(See printed report for more information.)

5. **Membership Outreach** chairs, Putman/Moy shared that their committee will be starting work on their committee responsibilities. Horwin asked for board members' personal reports on member recruitment. The Board reported out on their successes.

6. **New Business**

A motion was made: "Ads for private, charter, or religious schools will not be permitted in the AEA-Retired E-Newsletter," (J. Campbell/Ramage-White) **Approved**
A discussion about IMPACT bags was held at this time.

7. **Financials** presented by Treasurer Linder.

• Assets \$59,360 • Liabilities \$16,556 • Equity \$42,803

(See written report for more information.) Move Acceptance and file for audit.
(Sommer/ Somo) **Approved**

8. **The Honorable Terry Goddard**, representing Voice of the People, presented his concerns about Dark Money. He is currently working on an initiative that will make the original source of political donations available to the public. To appropriately make this happen, he is seeking a Constitutional change.
Besides the reality that without amendments of this nature, a handful of billionaires will be running the country, he sees potential problems like;

- Drug cartel influence
- Money laundering by illegal entities
- A loss of voter confidence
- Unverifiable attack ads.

The language is currently being constructed. When it is complete, he will be seeking our assistance in gathering petition signatures.

9. Officers' Reports

President Horwin-wrote a membership organizing grant that was **funded** by NEA-Retired and will include many of the things that we have already started to attempt to accomplish. Included will be a mailing, 2 lunches, ads in the Advocate, a survey and the Maricopa Mixer. She also reported that the grant written by Vice President Austin, "MORE Arizona," was also **funded**. This grant will help us reach the 4,300 retired NEA members who reside in Arizona but whose membership is in another state. Having this information will be a big asset during elections.

The President reminded the board that immediately after the Board meeting, three committees will meet: Political Action, Grants, and Documents.

Horwin shared information about the NEA Organizing Conference that will be held in San Diego, March 22 - 24. In an attempt to maximize the number of NEA funded delegates, and because she is fully-funded as a member of the NEA-Retired Executive Council, she will appoint a board member to register as president. Also, she has been asked by NEA to make certain that someone who has not previously attended and who will work on membership recruitment to be funded. This and another appointment is made by AEA President Andrew Morrill, with recommendations by Horwin. The cost (\$90 registration, \$159 room (2 nights), \$14 resort fee, \$29 parking fee, meals, and transportation) to attend this conference is quite high. We have a budget of \$5700.00. At approximately \$700 cost per person, we can fund 5-6 persons, after fully funding those who are appointed by Pres. Morrill. 1 or 2 individuals who have not attended in the past and who are willing to work on membership recruitment in 2015-2016 will be recommended to be fully funded (includes half of a double room). If you choose to attend using membership dues, it will be your responsibility to attend the special track being created for states with lowest market share of membership. All AEA-Retired members are welcomed and encouraged to attend, and the cost of registration, lodging, meals and transportation will be paid by the individual.

Unfortunately, it has been determined that AEA-Retired is amongst the bottom 10 in membership market share. This will put us on a special track at the conference to help us build on our membership.

Liaison Aicone-shared a positive membership report. The AEA is up 805 certified and 19 classified. Currently we have 14,973 Active members and 2,160 Retired, for a total of 17,133, with 50% now on payroll deduct. Additionally, we were informed about NEA360. This program will store all AEA data in a cloud and include easy access by AEA members to interact with their membership data, including updating address, contact information, etcetera. AEA will be in stage 2

AEA Director Moy-Minutes from the AEA board meetings of 8/21, 8/22, and 9/19 were distributed

NEA Director J. Campbell-shared the discussion of the primary endorsement of Secretary Clinton that was held at the NEA Board Meeting. He delineated the pros and the cons that were stated. The six (6) retired Board members split 3 to 3. Secretary Clinton did receive the NEA primary endorsement. We were asked to review the (excellent) newsletter that is produced by the NEA Director from Alaska that was sent to us prior to the meeting.

10. ASRS

Chairperson Ramos shared that ASRS has won two (2) awards for financial reporting and for providing outstanding service at a very low cost when compared to other pension systems. The Public Safety pension plan is in bad shape and those it services want to make changes. This has to be done by opening up the Constitutionally protected pension. This is a scary proposition for those members of ASRS, as we don't want to take a chance on losing our Constitutional guarantees if the legislature wishes to use this as a precedent to open up our Constitutionally protected pension. We discussed the ACR. Rather than try to report on the discussion, you should read the written report provided by Ramos which will make the situation clear.

11. Political Action and Election Update

Matteson/Wittig Shared that our first lobby day will be either Jan. 13 or 14.

Reminded us to come the Political Advocacy training in Tucson (10/27) or in Phoenix (11/12). Presented the 2015 voting records of the state legislators. Please note that there are some surprises in both parties. Shared the legislative agenda and development of an action plan.

11. Chapter Chair Reports

Southeast Arizona (Rosen-printed) the next meeting will be at 5:30 Oct. 29, at the Sunset Grille in the Windemere Hotel in Sierra Vista. Fourteen (14) members of the chapter met in early September with the topic of conversation being the protecting of seniors from identity theft.

Greater Phoenix (Smith) The chapter will meet next on the 4th Tuesday of Nov. (11/24), Jan., March and May at The Beatitudes, 1610 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix. Last month's speaker was Jim Hall on charter school accountability.

Tucson (Matteson) reported that they met on 9/15 and had a speaker on the county bond election. They will meet again on 10/20 at the Southern Region office.

East Valley/Mesa (Mehok) the next meeting is 11/18 and the speaker will be Representative Eric Meyer. They last met on 9/9 with an ASU Instructor about Muslims. Meetings are at 63 E. Main St. in Mesa.

West Valley/Glendale (Sommer) The next meeting will be on Dec. 3 with a speaker from E-swig. Reminded us about the Valley Wide Mixer on 10/28.

Yavapai (Coleman) they will meet on Oct. 24 to discuss charter schools. They met via email in Sept. to plan for the year.

Northern Arizona/Reservation (Goodluck) the next meeting will be announced shortly. The chair met with 3 people last month.

Scottsdale, Paradise Valley (Putman) the next meeting will be 11/16 with a presentation by E-swig. Future meetings are 1/18, 3/21 and 5/16.

Kyrene (Shamah/Feldner) the next meeting is Nov. 18 at 4:30. They met on Sept. 30 with Jan Nichols as the speaker.

Flagstaff (Roach) Ten (10) people came to the initial meeting with each of them committing to join AEA-R. Their next meeting will be in November.

***NOTE** Thank you to Sally and Tricia for providing written reports

12. Alliances and Coalitions

a. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans (Campbell, Somo)

Included in our packet is information about TPP. Board Elections and the Halloween Rally. The Alliance is holding TPP protests on 10/30 and 11/12. Discussed upcoming elections, and were reminded that AEA-Retired holds 4 out of 7 community seats as well as J. Campbell being 1st Vice President

b. Arizona retirement Security Coalition (Horwin)

AEA-Retired has taken the lead in the preparation and training of a slideshow presentation about the threat to the ASRS. She thanked Ramos for the development and to Somo and Ramos for the presentation to the ASU Retired organization.

c. Arizona Wins Labor Table (Horwin)

Presented an in depth written report of the 2014 election overview. The report also shared the recent Arizona State Legislature history as well as indicating a game plan to moderate the legislature.

d. Classroom's First (Nichols)

Reported that \$171,000,000 of Federal money has been earmarked for charter schools. The funding will be determined by individual schools, rather than by districts.

13. Half-back Raffle of \$31 was won by Sommer.

14. Adjournment at 2:25. Next meeting is November 10 at headquarters.
Notes Lunch was a 20 minute break.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Freed
Secretary, AEA-Retired