

AEA Retired Annual Meeting  
Minutes of May 12, 2017

1. Call to Order at 9:32 by President Horwin

Delegates in attendance; Aurora Aber, Suzan Austin, R.G. Baucom, Rosario Biggs-Dickerson, Mary Bishop, Sandie Blakely, Shirley Boswell, Margaret Bowerman, Susan Brendan, Marilyn Calhoun, Kathleen Carney, Anna Cicero, Caroline Cline, Ted Coleman, Cynthia Couture, AnnJi Craig-Wooten, Nancy Creighton, Alice Dunford, John Dunford, Kristine Ehlis, Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner, Jennifer Flores, Ken Freed, Marilyn Freed, Maryann Goodluck, Michael Gordy, Delia Greth, George Grexa, Katri Hakes, Cindy Hart-Vega, Doug Honaker, Julie Horwin, Janie Hydrick, Bart James, Norma Jimenez, Rob Johan, MaryAnne Johnston, Barbara Joseph, Roxann Kaiser, Steven Linder, Barbara Matteson, Forest May, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Cindy Michels, Greg Miller, Rick Miller, Carol Mulford, Ann Myers, Renee Newman, Jan Nichols, Chip Parsons, Kay Passsmore, Carmen Peters, Marion Pickens, Nancy Putman, Kathy Ramage-White, Steve Ramos, Lenny Reed, Nancy Riley, Patricia Roach, Sally Rosen, Frank Sacco, Ellen Shamah, Michelle Smith, Sandra Smith, Susan Sommer, Linda Somo, Mary Lou St. Cyr, Jean Stephenson, Anne Tighe, Robert Tighe, Carol Trudgen, Elaine Upham, Dick Van Dyne, Joanne Vianos, Joan Westerhausen, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Darcy Zucco, Juan Zuniga.

Non-Delegate Members in attendance; John Campbell, Diane Escalante, Erminda Garcia, Lori Good, Sarah Greenfield, Martin Haub, John Hull, Dori Lemble, Mary Merkel, Nancy Pina-Gray, Doni Ramos, RaeAnn Rumery, Susan Sain, Susan Vaughn, Maria Vinales, Peggy Yeargain-Williams.

Guests; Todd Crenshaw, Rich Fiesta, Marisol Garcia, Paul Matson, Judy Moy, Bridget Stoll-Gordy, Margaret Sleeper, Joe Thomas.

2. President Horwin welcomed attendees to the 29<sup>th</sup> AEA-Retired Annual Meeting, followed by a moment of silence. She made mention of the recent passing of AEA-Retired leaders, Frank Bing, Bob Bloom and Kathy Campbell.
3. President Horwin introduced the Board, the officers, chapter chairs and committee chairs, and the staff liaison. She thanked the Annual Meeting Committee chair, Vice-President Austin. People were then asked to stand based on how many times they have attended the Annual Meeting.
4. President Horwin reviewed the packet with the attendees.
5. Adoption of Agenda with flexibility (Hydrick/Putman) **Approved**
6. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting (C. Wittig/Peters) **Approved**
7. President Horwin provided opening remarks, and presented, “*Your AEA-Retired: What We Do,*” which included sharing that AEA-Retired is here to provide and protect all

- retirees. Our goals are to maintain and improve retirement conditions and work with the active members to help support their needs. Also, to collaborate with other like-minded organizations to improve our effectiveness in the political arena. We attempt to attain our goals by communicating with our membership in 10 different manners. This year we have helped to defeat the ASU threat against the ASRS, increased our membership by more than 100, given significant dollars to the AEA and NEA Funds, and volunteered over 400 hours in the most recent election. It has been a busy and productive year.
8. A presentation by L. Somo on the NEA Fund in which she described the necessity for the Fund and requested a \$40 donation. She further explained how the attendees could use their tickets for the raffle items brought by the Board. Thanks to those who provided items for the silent auction. Somo explained that the money donated today was for the NEA Fund which makes recommendations for the U.S. house, the Senate and the Presidency.
  9. K. Freed spoke about the Constitution/Bylaws changes that were being recommended by the Board and asked each delegate to remember to vote on these items.
  10. Paul Matson, ASRS Director, addressed the group. He shared his knowledge about what ASRS includes. The components are; long term disability, health insurance, defined benefit plans for actives and retirement. He indicated that as director, he reports to the Retirement Board, not to the governor. This creates stability in the system. The ASRS's goal is to have perpetual sustainability. The funded status is such that we are moving towards that goal. Matson informed those present that for the first time the "Open Enrollment" period will be all of November.
  11. Election report was presented by Election's Chair Kathy Ramage-White. She explained that there was no need for a delegate election because there were less nominees than delegates allotted. This was followed by the opening of nominations. For President, only Julie Horwin was nominated and so elected by acclamation. For Treasurer, only Steve Linder was nominated and so elected by acclamation. The nominees for at-large Board positions were; Rosario Biggs-Dickerson, Shirley Boswell, Marilyn Calhoun, Kristine Ehlis, Ellie Feldner, Marilyn Freed, Luci Messing, Ann Myers, and Carmen Peters.. Nominations were opened for additional nominations. There were none. Each candidate was given two (2) minutes to speak to the delegates, who are the only people permitted to vote. The election will take place prior to lunch, while the staff is setting up for lunch. The delegates may vote for up to 6 of the 9 nominees.
  12. A break was taken for the room to be prepared for lunch and for people to vote.
  13. Lunch was served and the 2017 Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award was presented to Steve Ramos. The presentation was done by Connie Wittig. Steve spoke about how honored he is and that he really thought that he wouldn't be eligible for another 10 years. The organization owes Steve a debt of gratitude for all of his work with the ASRS.

14. Rich Fiesta, of the National Alliance for Retired Americans, was introduced by Linda Somo. He provided information about what the Alliance does and how it was formed. It is a grassroots organization, funded by the AFL/CIO. He then went on to give the attendees a linear history of labor activism. Fiesta asked us to inform people that Social Security does not contribute to the deficit, cannot borrow money and can dramatically increase its sustainability by raising the taxable income cap.

15. Election results were shared.

President.... Julie Horwin\* (acclamation)

Treasurer...Steve Linder\* (acclamation)

At-large.....Luci Messing	67*
Carmen Peters	62*
Marilyn Freed	58*
Ann Myers	48*
Marilyn Calhoun	45*
Shirley Boswell	43*
Rose Dickerson	34
Kristine Ehlis	29
Ellie Feldner	20

\*Denotes elected

Constitution Article VII, New Section B **Passed 68-0**

Bylaws Article VII new paragraph between paragraphs 1 & 2 **Passed 68-0**

16. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder. This included the balance sheet, profit/loss statement, the budget and budgeting process for 2017-18.

Assets	\$84,564
Liabilities	\$23,046
Equity	\$61,517

He specifically spoke about a newly budgeted item, RoBo calls. Linder shared that the AEA-Retired Board has decided, on a trial basis, to utilize RoBo calls to increase the number of people who attend chapter meetings. This will be evaluated over the next year.

17. AEA President, Joe Thomas brought us greetings and shared that the members of the AEA-Retired hold the institutional knowledge of the AEA. Thomas indicated that the recently passed voucher bill is creating an opportunity. Many Republican voters are becoming concerned about the direction that the legislature is taking in educating Arizona's children. This is causing them to rethink their position on education in our state. Thomas believes that in the next election cycle, Arizona will be receiving substantially more money to attempt to better Arizona's educational system.

18. Keynote speaker, Todd Crenshaw, NEA Retiree Organizer, made a presentation on “*The Active and Retired Relationship*.” Crenshaw reminded all, that the retirees are fighting for the actives and the students and that this relationship is similar to a marriage. There may be ups and downs, but, ultimately, we all have to pull in the same direction. He credited the retirees for beating back bad legislation and indicated that the NEA appreciates how invaluable retirees are to the NEA.
19. A legislative wrap up was presented by Stephanie Parra. She indicated that though there was some bad legislation that passed, there was even more that AEA and our allies were able to stop.
20. It was announced that AEA-Retired members donated over \$4,500 to the NEA Fund.
21. President Horwin began her closing remarks by thanking some of our founders, Frank Sacco and Mary Bishop. She shared that this is what the AEA-Retired members must do: AEA-Retired members must go to work on campaigns, we must work for friendly incumbents, we must seek out and work for Pro-Education candidates, we must mobilize our colleagues to go to work to change Arizona politics. “Education is the civil rights issue of our time.”
22. President Horwin adjourned the meeting at 3:10.