

Agenda AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting Tues. Oct. 15, 2019

10 a.m. AEA- Headquarters 345 E. Palm Ln., Phoenix, AZ

Participants: Officer and Exec. Board/Chapter Chairs attending: Julie Horwin, Janie Hydrick, Janice Dwosh, Steve Linder, Ken Freed, Shirley Boswell, Anna Cicero, Julie Cozad, Marilyn Freed, Howard Johnson, Barbara Matteson, Luci Messing, Cindy Michaels, Marshall Militano, Ann Myers, Steve Ramos, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Nancy Riley, Sally Rosen, Ellen Shamah, Susie Sommer, Jan Nichols, Aurora Aber, Norma Jimenez, Marilyn Calhoun, Gary Mehok, Jeanne Erickson, Carmen Peters, Sally Rosen, Margaret Sleeper(AEA Liaison), Danny Barlow, Linda Somo, Rae Ann Rumery, Michele Smith

Member Guests:
Ann Griffin—Flagstaff

Exec Board and Chairs absent and excused this month: Nancy Putman, Rob Johan

1. **Call to Order**, Julie Horwin at 10:02 a.m.

Welcome guests. Ann Griffin (Flagstaff) recently retired.

2. **Approval of Agenda for Tuesday October 15, 2019**

Motion by Ann Myers, Seconded by Linda Somo. Motion approved with flexibility.

3. **Approval of Minutes from Sept. 17, 2019– Janice Dwosh**

Motion by Steve Ramos , Seconded by Ken Freed , Motion approved.

4. **Financials – Steven Linder**

Reviewed balance sheet, budget vs. actual and check detail. See the financial report for details of the monthly expenditures. Discussion to research interest bearing account to add money to our AEA-R funds by dealing with alternate financial institutions . Motion to have budget committee study this before the next annual elections. Moved by Howard Johnson and seconded by Larry Wittig. Motion approved.

Explanation of \$1,000 paid to be sustaining member of AZ Alliance of Retired Americans.

Motion by Larry Wittig to approve the financials. Seconded by Danny Barlow. Motion approved.

5. **Membership – Shirley Boswell** : through the end of Sept. AEA-R now at 2179 members.. Members asked if we could research endowment or legacy funds for future AEA-R . Legal and tax implications may be required. Julie H. will check with others including legal to get information and check with Margaret S.

6. **Membership Outreach –Nancy Putman, Shirley Boswell, Michele Smith:**

This year’s membership goals are to increase membership, remove barriers, year round recruiting, work with active locals, as well as recruit new members at Delegate assembly, highlight board members/chapter chairs that recruit, focus on how members recruit. Distributed the adopt-a-local info. We promoted purple polo shirts (contact Michele Smith) , Continue practice with role playing to get new members. Carry membership forms with you always!

Letters to go out to recent AZ retirees this month. (Over 400).

Danny Barlow moved to preorder 10 purple shirts, Connie W. seconded it, but motion was not approved

It would be helpful to have shirts ahead of time, but sizes are an issue sometimes.

Michele will check back and see how many we sell and what sizes are usually needed.

7. **Officers' Reports**

Julie Horwin – President

NEA Retired—on our membership form we never know if you are an ESP or certified for AEA-Retired.

It would take more work and possibly cost more money.

Julie H. recently met with American Retired Alliance regarding NEA becoming members of the national alliance. Dues for NEA retired might need to increase if NEA joins the alliance. Deal to join was opposed by NEA-retired Pres. at this time.

Other issues that Julie is working on (GPO) : some educators in various states do not pay into Social Security — They may have to pay into Soc. Security for other possible jobs they may have, but their benefits are reduced significantly. It affects more than half of the population of educators (only 15-17 states, but large ones).

AEA-Retired members are calling actives to find out why they are no longer dues deduct. Many left due to moving districts, retired, or left profession, etc. 600 members dropped this year. We are helping add back members to AEA/NEA. There is value for AEA-Retired to make these calls and add members to NEA , active local AEA associations, as well as to AEA Retired.

Leading for Change—candidate training for Democratic Party. Contact Julie if interested in training.

Hall of Fame for AZ Democrats —honored Janie Hydrick in Oct. 2019. Congrats Janie!!

AEA- received \$20,000 for New Educator experience grant (with Jen Laredo) to chat with districts and encourage membership. We also received \$5,000 grant for support to fight the ongoing ASRS threat (to make movie/video) for distribution to educators and other interested parties.

MORE committee- Todd Crenshaw opening up the program in CA, Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma

Racial and social justice training – this summer for emerging leaders (Julie H., Janice, Ann, and Julie C.) AEA-R represented AEA since active members were already back to work.

We plan to provide info to AEA-retired members in the next few months at Exec. Board meetings.

NEA is the largest union in the USA. Need to get all members to donate money, not just the leaders. Continued discussion of Pres. Horwin’s suggestion of \$5 per new member for NEA Fund for Public Education. Margaret Sleeper said that it is not possible through AEA’s Financial system, but AEA-R could possibly collect the money and send it to AEA for disbursement.

NEA Summit in March 2020- There are three to five attendees able to attend from AEA-R. Julie H. will be attending, as well as Luci M. and Jan N. as probably presenters. Other members can self-nominate to fill additional openings.

Janie Hydrick—Vice President —discussed the importance of Precinct committee Chairs (PCC). Having them on the roster gives power within the legislative district. Consider volunteering for this position, check with your legislative chair if interested. Janie’s PowerPoint will be on the AZ Democratic Party website.

Ken Freed – AEA Director: Reported from the Sept. 21, 2019 AEA Board of Directors meeting: AEA will have a new local chapter (Sierra Vista EA merger with Sierra Vista ESP to make Sierra Vista Unified Education Association). Upon request Ken F. will email minutes of AEA Exec Board meeting. Members of this year’s AEA Committees and Task Forces were presented and approved by the Board. Members of AEA-Retired will be calling all 930 members that dropped their membership (hopefully just moved sites or districts) . Most time was spent on working on Strategic Objectives and next steps with Invest In Ed. Check the detailed report for more information on the meeting.

Margaret Sleeper – AEA Liaison— The audit was completed and ready for review and acceptance. She thanked the chair, Carmen Peters and his committee. An NEA grant helped with this year’s New Educator Membership campaign. There is a goal of 900 members with 245 new members to date. Phone calls were made to people who had dropped their membership. Most had dropped due to leaving education or the state. Many who went to new districts expected their membership to follow them.

8. **New Business** –

Possible Volunteer opportunities for members –Janice Dwosh. Will discuss in November meeting.

9. Political Action –Luci Messing.

Each month we will be enacting a political activity at every Exec. Board meeting. This month post cards were circulated to be sent to AZ legislators, and she suggested we make phone calls and emails so that Legislators recognize our names. Top priority is keeping ASRS as defined benefit.

Our goal is to begin member engagement, outreach and action. Advocacy Training is Thurs. Dec. 5th at AEA HQ from 10-2:30. Lookout for email and registration. AEA-Retired Days at the Capitol will be Thurs. Jan. 23rd and Wed. Feb. 12th. Details upcoming re: registration.

Other activities to assist in political action can be to help pass override/bond, call or email legislators send postcards to those in office, attend legislative district meetings, and register for AEA-retired days at the Capitol.

10. **ASRS – Steve Ramos**— His next report will be his article in the next Conduit. He added that ASRS made 6.6 % interest for 2019. Steve will send his Power point presentation about the legislative threat to ASRS Pensions to all AEA-R Exec. Board members.

11. Chapter Chairs Reports

a. **Susie Sommer - West Valley:** The Glendale/West Valley Chapter met on Thurs. Oct. 3rd at Biscuit’s Café in Glendale, AZ. The calendar for AEA-Retired was distributed and discussed. Members were encourage to attend other meetings including lobby days and delegate assembly. Number one concern seems to be pension, but also insurance, Medicare, elections, overrides, etc. Members voted to support a donation in children’s books not to exceed \$200 for Banner Thunderbird Hospital. Brunch and conversation enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be Dec. 5th at Biscuit’s Café at 10 am.

b. **Janie Hydrick - East Valley:** There was no report received in October.

c. **Ann Myers, Nancy Riley - Scottsdale, Paradise Valley :** We met on Sept. 16th at 11 am at Denny’s on Mayo Blvd. in Scottsdale. It was the first meeting of the 2019-20 year so we spent extra time sharing our summer adventures. The speaker was Jennifer Hilsbos from Save Our Schools who talked about AZ educational funding Our group supports the Kinnaman Scholarship fund and Justa Center, homeless shelter . Our next meeting is Oct. 21st with Jan Nichols as our speaker . She will update us on AZ charter schools.We welcome any AEA member, or potential member to our group.

d. **Marion Pickens- Greater Tucson:** Our first chapter meeting was on Aug. 20th with 16 in attendance. We were asked to attend the PCC Board meeting on Sept. 11th to support their members which were in danger of losing membership privileges. The speaker for the Aug. meeting was Kathy Prather, JTED’s Superintendent. She told about the new JTED school being built on Tucson’s southwest side. Out Sept. Meeting had 16 in attendance. Margaret Chaney, the new Pres. of TEA was introduced. Reports were made by B. Matteson and Ken Freed, as well as Luci Messing. She informed us about political activity to be held soon. Frank Ratey brought news from PCIS. Our speaker was Dustin Williams, Pima County Superintendent of Education. Our next Chapter meeting will be Oct. 8th. We will have Mayor Jonathan Rothschild tell about Tucson and what is happening to keep young people here to work after graduation.

e. **Michele Smith - Phoenix:** The Phoenix Chapter will be meeting on Tues. Oct. 22 at The Beatitudes from 10:30-12:15. We will be discussing political action strategies for the upcoming legislative session. Lunch is always served during meetings (\$10).

f. **Sally Rosen - Southern Arizona :** Southeast AZ chapter met Sept. 18th to catch up and plan for the future at La Casita in Sierra Vista. Our next meeting will be Wed. Oct. 23rd at the Hibachi Grill on Charleston Rd.

g. **Rob Johan – Yavapai:** No report was received for October.

h. **Tricia Roach—Flagstaff :** The Flagstaff Chapter meets on an as-needed basis. Most information is shared via email notifications and announcements.

i. **Ellen Shamah – Kyrene :** No report was received in October.

12. **Intergenerational Mentoring** – RaeAnn Rumery — The contact in Higley district said that ASU is placing all of their student teachers in charter schools virtually as paid teachers with no overseer. They do not want mentors. The Exec board is concerned that ASU’s answer to teacher shortage is minimal to no supervision of student teachers.

13. **Conduit—Jan Nichols.** Co-Editors Jan N. and Bart James were thanked for taking over the Conduit. The deadline is Dec. 3rd to submit articles for the next issue. Each issue will highlight a topic. Next issue is AZ Counselors. Please check online or by mail for October’s issue of the Conduit.

14. Committee Chair reports from last month’s meeting: (goals for the 2019-2020 year)

Fundraising—Marilyn Freed — Paula Mueller will be making the quilt for the 2020 fundraising event.

Annual Meeting—Anna Cicero— Annual meeting will continue to engage members and promote friends of education. It will continue to highlight national goals. AEA -R will establish a relationship with the new AEA Executive Asst. Leah Rossow.

MORE – Linda S./Susie Sommer — Linda S. said that MORE events have been helpful to update contact info for NEA members, increase involvement in AZ events, allow for AZ advocacy. The next MORE event is scheduled for April 1, 2020 and will give charter school info and emphasis on protecting our pension.

Audit—Carmen Peters: Audit was completed on Jan. 14, 2019 for 6/1/18-11/30/18 and on Oct. 1, 2019 for 12/1-18-5/31/19. There were no substantial errors or irregularities to report. The audit committee believes that the financial statements of AEA-retired for year ending 5/31/19 are correct and accurate as presented. Carmen moved that the audit report be accepted. The motion passed. Carmen asked for volunteers to work on the committee and Ellen Shamah volunteered.

15. Alliances and Coalitions

a. **AZ Alliance for Retired Americans** – Janie Hydrick, Barbara Matteson and Julie Horwin were elected to the Board of the AZ Alliance at the last meeting held in Sept. 2019.

a. **VIP/PCIC** – Larry Wittig (Phx) Frank Ratey (Tucson)
Larry reported on VIP and legal immigration for asylum seekers. Also AZ Career Pathways (workforce dev. prog) that received \$1,000, 000 grant from the state to scale the program. Key Strategies: quality education, high skill workforce, immigrant reform, safe neighborhoods, water, comprehensive health initiative.
Donations can be made to VIP education fund (tax deductible) at
Valley Interfaith Project
2827 E. Thomas unit 106
Phoenix, AZ 85016. (602) 248-0607

b. **AZ School Counselors** – Anna Cicero—Anna reported that AZ school safety grant made money available to schools. Despite a wide variety of safety plans 40% of grant applications asked for more counselors. This was the single most requested item in the plans.

c. **ARSC** – Julie Horwin, Steve Ramos — Julie said that there will be a Halloween event on Oct. 31st at the AZ Alliance to highlight Soc. Security.

16. **Kinnaman Raffle - Ken Freed**— Carmen Peters won \$39 and the Kinnaman fund received \$39.

17. Adjournment of Executive Board at 2:23 p.m.

16. Committee meeting—Political Action – Luci Messing

Our next Executive board meeting is Tues. Nov. 12th.