



AEA RETIRED
Protecting Our Future

THE CONDUIT

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Calendar

September 12

Executive Board Mtg.
10am. At AEA

October 10

Executive Board Mtg.
10am. At AEA

November 14

Executive Board Mtg.
10am. At AEA

December 12

Executive Board Mtg.
10am. At AEA

Check the last page for updates of
your Chapter meetings.

2023 NEA Representative Assembly Orlando, Florida

Delegates rallied for the *Freedom to Learn*, applauded a passionate Teacher of the Year, and learned more about community schools. Thousands of educators braved the morning heat to rally outside the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, calling for an end to attacks on students. At the [Freedom to Learn rally](#), NEA educators sent a clear message to Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis and other politicians who are banning books, silencing educators, and taking away the freedom to learn from students. Click the blue link for more information or enter www.nea.org/professional-excellence/conferences-events/annual-meeting-and-representative-assembly/about-ra/ra-news/educators-rally-freedom-learn

NEA President Becky Pringle stood on the rally stage, looking across the crowd of thousands, from states around the nation, waving signs and rainbow flags. "You are showing what it means to fight against out-of-touch politicians like Ron DeSantis."

Back at the NEA RA, the National Teacher of the Year Rebecka Peterson reminded delegates what a profound impact every educator has on the lives of our students. That includes everyone in the school, from the bus driver who greets students in the morning to the cafeteria workers who keep them full, to the teachers, paraprofessionals, and specialists who help them realize their potential.

NEA Executive Director Kim Anderson told NEA Representative Assembly delegates that love fuels her anger at the attacks on LGBTQ+ students, on the freedom to learn, on women's rights, and more. And, through that anger, she and NEA members are taking actions that make a difference.

Together with a national delegation 6,000 strong, more than 60 AEA members participated in the world's largest deliberative body—the National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly—to advance the work of the country's largest labor union in support of quality public education. Throughout the 3 days of the RA, delegates debated legislative and organizational policies and amendments. Nearly 100 new business items were brought before the delegation, more than a third of which passed, with several others referred to relevant committees for further consideration.

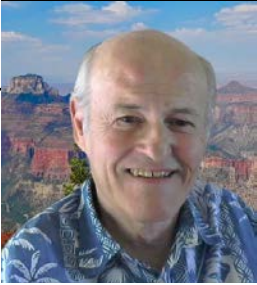


Among the key new business items adopted during the 2023 NEA RA were initiatives for the following: **Recognize anti-LGBTQ discrimination** and violence directed at people identifying or perceived as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or intersex and develop political strategies to defend public education and the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ people; **combat anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and rhetoric**, especially at the local school board level;

[Continued on page 2](#)



ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS



Help Wanted: ASRS Needs AEA Retired Members to Become Pension Plan Ambassadors

In July, The Arizona State Retirement System presented the Board with a proposal for a new, ASRS Five Year Strategic Plan. Months of work have produced new Mission and Vision statements, updated Goals & Objectives and an updated ASRS Tagline, to be used on ASRS materials and communications.

The tagline: **“Your investment. Your future. Secure for your lifetime.”**

The mission: **“To provide highly desirable and sustainable retirement benefits to our members that support the recruitment and retention of high-quality employees for our employer partners.”**

The new ASRS plan includes a focus on new Value Proposition materials. These are materials designed to increase the number of people who know and understand the value of an ASRS defined benefit pension plan. The information is aimed at new members, prospective members, employers and retirees, with the goal of increasing the ability to understand and be able to adequately explain the value of ASRS membership to others. New materials (to be available soon) include a stand-alone flyer, small-format postcards, and condensed verbiage for use in employer job ads. Value Proposition information will be integrated into ASRS printed and digital materials, including employer and member materials, the ASRS website, social media sites, and more.

ASRS has set a goal to increase the number of net promoters (people who will be able to tell others about the benefits ASRS provides) by 25% or more in key groups (including retirees), increase the number of well educated mid-career members who indicate an understanding of their ASRS Benefits by 70% or greater.

I invite all AEA Retired members to look at the ASRS benefits listed in the bullet points below and become an ASRS Pension Promoter the next time you encounter a future or current education employee. When you share your knowledge and experience with the ASRS Values listed below, you help AEA Retired protect our pension from the frequent legislative attacks that seek to weaken or destroy our defined benefit plan and/or shift new employees to a 401k style defined contribution plan.

THE VALUE OF YOUR ASRS MEMBERSHIP

A Pension that is Secure - Your pension is not impacted by stock market volatility. Your contributions are matched by your employer.

Retiree Medical and Dental Plans - Competitively priced retiree medical and dental insurance plans.

Retiree Medical and Dental Plan Subsidies - Medical and dental subsidies provided based on years of service.

Long Term Disability Insurance - Cost-effective group long term disability coverage is paid 50% by your employer.

A Pension with Options for Your Beneficiary - Your beneficiary can receive up to 100% of your adjusted monthly pension.

Survivor Benefits - Survivor benefits are payable upon your death whether you are an active, inactive, or retired member.

Portability - If you leave your ASRS employer, you have the choice to withdraw your contributions immediately or in the future, roll over your contributions to another retirement plan, or take a future pension.

Additional Tax-Advantaged Savings Plans - You have the opportunity to participate in additional tax-advantaged savings plans which have professional oversight and low costs.

[Continued from page 1](#)

improve school climate and culture, particularly addressing LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, suicide, and the need for access to gender-affirming care; **expand partnerships and grant opportunities for educator-led professional development**, particularly in areas of using pronouns, supporting transitioning students, and LGBTQ-inclusive practices and policies; and **update bargaining guidance** around LGBTQ+ issues, including access to gender-affirming care; **Elevate culturally responsive pedagogy** by engaging members, developing a resource bank of curricular resources across multiple disciplines and digital platforms, and examining culturally responsive pedagogy in educator prep programs; **Enact gun safety legislation** through statewide task forces addressing safe storage of firearms, red flag laws, universal background checks, gun purchase waiting periods, and limits or bans on the purchase of assault rifles; **Strengthen public education as the cornerstone of democracy** through shareable, NEA-developed advocacy tools related to recent Supreme Court rulings; Disseminate **best practices for educators of newcomer students**, those whose first language is not English, and those who have not attended schools in the U.S. for more than three cumulative years. **Develop a strategic program to help Republican members advance a pro-public education agenda within the Republican Party.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ANNA CICERO

Celebrations, Summer Awards and Highlights



Congratulations AEA Retired Board Members. You have gone above and beyond your AEA Retired roles this summer, achieving awards, running for local and national leadership positions, collaborating with our alliance boards. I am proud of these Arizona leaders who are loyal and tireless advocating for education and a sound retirement system. Together in solidarity, we will continue to stay focused on the AEA Retired Mission during this coming 2023-2024 year of ACTION!

Remember, as part of the Arizona Education Association, AEA Retired is dedicated to: **Promoting**, **Protecting**, and **Improving** the pension system and health benefits, **Working** to improve public education. **Engaging** in political action for public education. **Advocating** for human, civil and economic rights.

E-newsletter Award: This summer in Florida, I was excited to accept the award on behalf of Jan Nichols and Bart James, AEA-Retired Co-Editors of The Conduit and E-newsletter. Their talents, along with the many writers who contribute content, produced an award winning newsletter, receiving a Runner Up award for association E-Newsletters. NEA extends their congratulations for their extraordinary support of NEA Retired and public education.

Congratulations to **Linda Somo**, AEA Retired President Emeritus, and **Janie Hydrick** on their election as President of the Arizona Alliance of Retired Americans and Treasurer, respectively. [Story on page 2.](#)

Anita Gibson: Arizona welcomes the new national President of NEA Retired, taking office on September 1. Our Past President, Sarah Borgman, said her farewell and asked us to welcome the new president warmly and give her full cooperation as she moves into this leadership position and directs the future of NEA Retired. Best wishes to her!

Barb Matteson: NEA Retired 40th Anniversary committee presented our AEA Retired legend a plaque acknowledging her loyalty and unwavering service. I can only wish to be a little bit like her.

Julie Horwin, AEA Retired Past President, was re-elected to the NEA Board of Directors. She works tirelessly at the national level and brings it all home to AEA-Retired. Her ability to mentor me, balance state and national tasks and family is truly amazing. I witnessed the respect so many other states have for Julie as she shares strategies and ideas to help all states' work.

I welcome new and returning officers to our board. It's been a big year of accomplishments as we get ready to go full speed ahead with the AEA Retired 5-Year Strategic Plan and Re-Branding with a better understanding of our roles and responsibilities.

In solidarity, I urge you to join in the excitement and action this election year will bring.

Welcome Cynthia Hale, Nancy Riley, Cindy Couture and Lizzie Menefee AEA-Retired newly elected **At-Large Representatives**. They join **re-elected** At-Large colleagues, Gary Mehok and Jeanne Erickson. Steve Linder, Treasurer, and Anna Cicero, President, were elected to serve one more term in their respective positions.



Cynthia Hale, former bilingual teacher, adjunct professor and administrator retired in 2015 and has been living in Arizona. She is sharing her knowledge and perspective on advocacy from New Mexico and California. We welcome her interest in working with Budgets and the Racial and Social Justice committees in addition to her elected role.

Nancy Riley will continue to serve as the PV/Scottsdale Chapter Chair as she takes on her new role. An ASU alumna, she taught 40 years in the Deer Valley District, retiring in 2011. She and her retired husband enjoy watching their grandchildren several days a week and doing whatever! AEA Retired has been a good way to keep active and being Chapter Chair has been interesting.



Cindy Couture in her two decades of being highly involved in the civic life of Fountain Hills as well as teaching high school, Cindy brings many experiences that align with our AEA Retired goals. In addition to her elected position, she will be taking up the role of M.O.R.E. Committee Chair (Mobilize, Organize, Recruit and Engage) and continue to be a member of the Political Action Committee.

Lizzie Menefee retired from Santa Cruz Valley after serving many years as membership chair and President of her local association. She brings experience in educating community about public education and key relevant highlights and enjoys meeting new people and going to the movies. In addition to her elected tasks, she will be taking part in Political Action, Annual Meeting & M.O.R.E committee.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY LUCI MESSING



A session to remember!

On July 31st, the first General session of the 56th Legislature adjourned for the year. This was the longest legislative session in state history. This session was 204 days.

That includes the six weeks that the legislature was in recess and did not conduct any business. However, legislators still received per diem as if they were at the Capitol. Taxpayers footed the bill for this decision by the majority leadership to remain in session. The expected length of a regular session is 100 days. Normally, the budget is one of the last orders of business, it was passed in May.

There were 1675 bills introduced this session. 348 were submitted to the Governor with 205 signed into law and 143 were vetoed. Governor Hobbs surpassed Governor Napolitano's record of 58 vetoes. The bills passed this session will take effect October 30th, 2023. The 2nd session of the 56th Legislature will begin January 8th, 2024.

We can hope that when the 2024 legislature returns, they will work on legislation that will benefit all Arizona citizens. Too much time was wasted during the last session on bills that attempted to ban books, attacks on students and teachers, and blatant disregard for input by legislators from the minority party.

A bit of good news, lawmakers did waive the school spending cap, Aggregate Expenditure Limit, for this year and next. They also increased one-time funding for school facilities by \$368 million and capital expenses by \$300 million. Governor Hobbs pushed for the redirection of former Governor Ducey's inequitable results-based funding program toward helping all students. In addition, there was an increase from 2% to 2.9% of the mandatory annual increase for inflation and invested \$36 million in miscellaneous one-time programs.

Unfortunately, lawmakers allowed the out-of-control ESA voucher program to continue unchecked without any oversight or accountability. The majority party ignored overwhelming data that vouchers will bankrupt the State budget. The current cost is \$950 million, \$320 million more than was budgeted. This compounds the problem of a huge decrease in state revenue due to Ducey's enacted "flat tax." The ESA program is a complete failure at the expense of a million students and families who choose to attend public schools. This issue must be addressed by the upcoming Legislature.

Another concern regarding the voucher program is the current investigation by Homeland Security into the data

breach that revealed personally identifiable information on voucher recipients and disability categories for participants. ESA Voucher Program Director, Christine Accurso unexpectedly resigned and will have to answer questions regarding the breach.

In addition, Attorney General Kris Mayes has warned parents that ESA vouchers come with the loss of many rights and protections. For example, students no longer have a federal right to privacy or a "free and appropriate education." There are also risks of potential scams from voucher schools and vendors that receive no vetting.

Members, get ready to once again become engaged in our activities. We will be preparing to assist in the 2024 election. We must elect candidates that will just let teachers teach. It is unacceptable the interference that the legislature has imposed upon our public schools.

The Political Action Committee will be meeting on September 13 to work on a final plan for the upcoming legislative session and the 2024 election. AEA-Retired will be monitoring these issues and will update information as needed.

"Choose to be optimistic, it feels better." – Dali Lama

Somo elected new AARA President

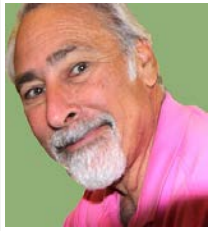
At the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans (AARA) Biennial Convention held on August 18, Linda Somo, President Emeritus of AEA Retired, was elected as the new president of AARA, and Janie Hydrick, East Valley Chapter Chairperson, was re-elected to be treasurer. Additionally, Anna Cicero and Julie Horwin were elected as AEA Retired representatives on the AARA Board. All AEA Retired members are also members of the AARA, which is an alliance of retired, union-affiliated members whose main purpose is to safeguard Social Security, Medicare, & Medicaid, and to support the rights of all workers and their families. Seventeen AEA Retired members were delegates to the convention. In addition to voting for officers and Board members, convention attendees were treated to comments from Congressmen Greg Stanton and Ruben Gallego, Rich Fiesta, ARA Executive Director, and Fred Yamashita, AFL-CIO Executive Director.



Congratulations and best wishes to Linda, Janie, Anna and Julie.

VEEP TALK BY KEN FREED

The Proper Name



I have considered writing on this topic many times and never quite felt brave enough. The recent attempt in Ohio to block abortion rights legislation by increasing the percent of signatures required for passage of initiatives provided the impetus. The first problem

that I encounter in the beginning of this article is what to call the situation. Depending on your personal feelings you might view the topic as Right-to-Life vs Abortion, or you might call it A Woman's Right-to-Choose vs Right-to-Birth, and many other options in between. I'll let you decide how you view it for yourself. A personal decision, to be sure.

My first encounter with this situation was in high school in a New York City suburb. I was sitting with a group of fellow football players at lunch. Suddenly there was a guy walking around collecting money. I asked one of my buddies what was going on. He explained that when one of the guys got his girlfriend in "a family way," he would walk around the lunchroom for three days and ask for money. If he was well-liked, or a jock, he would get enough money to fly his girlfriend to Puerto Rico. If not, he would drive her to a basement in the Bronx. Roe V Wade had not yet happened.

Over the years, people have come up to me and asked, "Are you pro-life, or pro-abortion?" In my younger years, I might have simply responded, "Yes." For me, I would not choose to terminate a pregnancy. I have made that decision, for me! And every individual deserves the respect to make that decision for themselves. But now, let's get serious. My decision is not academic. As a male, I don't believe the decision is mine to make. That decision needs to be made by the woman in "a family way." Hopefully, it is a decision that a couple enters together, but ultimately, it is the woman's right to choose.

As I have just reread this article, I need to clarify something. In the pro-life, or pro-abortion debate, I don't believe I have ever met an individual who is so "pro-abortion" that she got pregnant just to have one. I don't mean to be glib; I just don't believe that people are pro-abortion. Terminating a pregnancy is an option, not a goal.

In 2024, when we go to vote, this issue will be on the ballot. Each of us will need to decide whether to give everyone the right to choose for themselves or give that decision to the government. Please know, should choice fail, the terminating of pregnancies will continue. If not in the Bronx basement, then hopefully in a safe environment in a neighboring state.

Membership

by Nancy Putman, Shirley Boswell, Michele Smith

AEA Retired currently has 2083 members. We recruited 62 new members last year and 32 new members this summer. We are continuing the Membership Drive to recruit newly retired members to join us. New members who choose to pay dues through ASRS payroll deduction will receive a \$70 rebate check once the membership form has been processed. When you sign up as a new member a \$10 gift card will be mailed to you. We encourage you to recruit a friend or colleague who recently retired or will be this year. They can pay their NEA Life Membership while they are still working. The AEA Retired Membership is asking you to reach out and recruit them. You will be letting them know that AEA Retired is a strong voice in advocating for public education, and all children and education employees. There are two ways that they can join AEA Retired. The first is they can go to the AEA Retired Website at www.azedretired.com. The second is to give them a membership form and sign your name as the recruiter. To receive assistance, call the AEA Retired Membership phone number at (602)696-2458.

Some talking points that may assist you are:

- AEA Retired monitors your pension and health benefits and lobbies the Arizona State Legislature regarding public education and retirement issues.
- We work closely with NEA and AEA to raise awareness of issues that affect our schools.
- There are nine AEA Retired Chapters statewide that you can join.
- AEA Retired keeps you informed on retirement issues through Publications of NEA Today and The Conduit

New Educator Events

This is the fourth year AEA Retired has supported AEA Active locals with New Hire Events. Meet and greet socials are opportunities for the local AEA associations to share what the union is about and ask new employees to join. Thirteen AEA Retired board members volunteered to help 19 locals. 1847 new members signed up at the New Educator Events and 1276 signed up for early enrollment for a total of 3123 new AEA members. Retired members sat at tables and held powerful conversations about why education employees should join the union. Thank you to those AEA Retired members who helped recruit new AEA members.

"My dad could always find the bright side. Whenever I brought my report card home from school, he'd say, "Well, at least I know you didn't cheat." ~ Greg Tamblyn

Racial and Social Justice Committee

By Janice Dwosh



It's been a very busy summer for me and the other forty members of the NEA Transformational Journey for Racial Justice Co-Conspirators, who met to conclude the yearlong program with the NEA Conference on Racial and Social Justice in Orlando, Florida in late June. NEA brought education leaders in RSJ together to learn and share about the latest national, state, and local concerns that affect members, students, and families. My first focus was on Intersectionality, where there are many different facets to human backgrounds which interact to make us who we are. Awareness and perception of these help make sense of ourselves and others.

A second focus was indigenous land acknowledgements. These statements are learning opportunities for meeting attendees, as well as thoughtful expressions of respect and gratitude for past, present, and future native people who inhabit and were removed from their lands. Becoming an anti-racist accomplice or co-conspirator is not a one step or easy process. It is a lifelong journey for those willing to look in the mirror, work to eliminate white supremacy culture and continue to learn about themselves and the world around us.

Another journey in mid-July to Minneapolis was for the Mega Week for NEA Leaders for Just Schools. This program started in 2019, and the original San Diego cohort of 150 educators and retirees is now at 43 after four years of training and the pandemic. As a dedicated final year participant in this multi-year program, I was asked to present my equity project to others by summer 2024. My focus will be on how retired educators can support NEA and AEA in expressing the need for diverse literature for students in all schools. This project may include presentations to local chapters, AEA Retired Executive Board, NEA Retired RSJ committee and conferences. It will include making partnerships with schools, as well as community advocates for literacy. As a starting point, I have already worked with the Zinn Education project to present **Read Banned Books** and other important issues to the AEA Retired board at our summer learning retreat. I am very excited to continue this project!

Finally, with our AEA Retired Executive Board meeting in September and beyond, I ask for you to please assist us in the important work of supporting racial and social justice, as a member of our RSJ committee or by joining our RSJ book club.. Our committee will meet every few months either in person at AEA-HQ or by Zoom. Please contact me at jdwosh27@gmail.com for more information.



Book Corner

By Ann Myers

Before cell phones and their built in reading material, readers found words everywhere - cereal boxes and posters, if nothing else. Old magazines in doctors' offices were never a complaint.

It would appear that because our book group reads racial/social justice themes that's all we're interested in. Uh, no. We are word junkies. We read in between and all around our "assigned" reading.

For our last discussion we each shared a current favorite book. The stories ranged from historical to paranormal; from tragedy to comedy. If you're looking for a title, you'll find lots of good suggestions.

Here is our list, in no particular order:

Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman. A graphic novel of the Holocaust using animals to represent people. This book is one of the more famous on many currently banned book lists.

True Biz by Sara Novice. Coming of age novel set within the Deaf culture.

Lessons Learned and Cherished: The Teacher Who Changed My Life by Deborah Roberts. Essays by celebrities on teachers who were important in their lives
Glass Castle and ***Half Broke Horses*** by Jeanette Walls. Two fascinating memoirs about and by Arizona native Jeanette Walls.

The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson. and Rafael Lopez. A picture book that deals with trauma for children and adults.

The Amazing World of STEM by Nathaniel Turner, Naeem K. Turner-Bandeale, and Keva M. Richardson. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math are featured in this children's book, and were the ideas used by Stuart Tyson Elmo Morgan to help his disabled father.

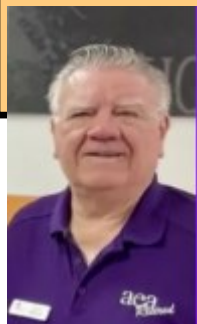
The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict. Historical fiction about Albert Einstein's brilliant physicist wife, Mitza Maric and her contribution to the theory of relativity.

Arrival of the First Africans in Virginia by Ric Murphy. Nonfiction research by historian Murphy who describes first Africans brought to Virginia colony in 1619 for their knowledge and skills.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. A well-documented American history from the point of view of native Americans.

South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War by Alice L. Baumgartner. The historical account of slaves who escaped to Mexico and their subsequent role in the Civil War.

Pony by R. J. Palacio. Young adult novel about the bravery of a young boy and his unusual friend to rescue the boy's father.



Amazing Retiree Gary Mehok

It was 1963, 60 years ago, when I began my teaching career in the south suburbs of Chicago, teaching social studies at Thornton High School and serving as assistant varsity baseball coach. At the same time, I taught classes at the adjacent junior college. During this time, I worked towards my master's degree and taught several classes as a graduate assistant in Champaign at the University of Illinois. My wife, our children and I lived in Blue Island. There, I was the principal at an elementary school where I enjoyed working for several years. I also began working toward a PhD in Education.

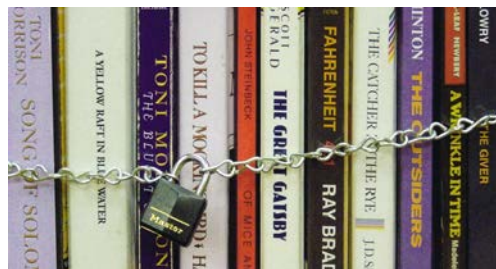
I was told the best program for this was at ASU. Our daughter had many health problems due to the long, cold winters in northern Illinois, and when she was diagnosed with spinal meningitis, our pediatrician suggested we consider moving to a warmer climate. In 1970, we moved to the Phoenix area and found a house in Scottsdale. That fall I began teaching 6th grade in Mesa at Whitman School.

At the start of my career in education, I became involved in association work. Our district on the southside of Chicago offered teachers a \$300 raise or health insurance. The poorly paid teachers went for a pay raise. Throughout my 35 years in the Mesa school district, I continually worked with the Mesa Education Association, serving on many leadership committees; Vice-President for seven years, President for one. I also served on the Mesa Executive Board for 25 years. I have been an NEA member for almost 60 years and attended the NEA Representative Assembly for 25 years. I served two terms as a member of the AEA Board of Directors.

My passion is encouraging teachers to join AEA. The future of AEA is strongly associated with the individual teacher's welfare, and the recognition that AEA will stand with them until retirement and beyond. I was proud this summer during our new teacher luncheons to sign up 34 new members.

Since my retirement, I have remained active in many ways.

On September 10 my wife, Diane, and I will celebrate our 63rd wedding anniversary. We have three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Life is Good!



"Let Freedom Read"
Banned Book Week
October 1-7, 2023

AEA-RETIRED POLO SHIRT

3.8-ounce, 100% polyester double-knit mesh
3-button placket with pearlized buttons
Double-needle seams & hem
Open hem sleeves
Taped neck
Side vents
Men's: Flat knit collar-
Women's: Johnny collar
Comes in Red or Purple



\$40 each
Orders due Oct. 31
Contact Marshall Militano
(602) 882-3260

Send your email address to

julie.horwin@gmail.com

Win \$100



If we already have your
e-mail address, you are
entered in the \$100
AEA-Retired Raffle.

Good luck!



The Conduit



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AEA Retired Chapter News

Chapters bring AEA-Retired together. This year we expect to meet in person. Some chapters may choose to add a virtual meeting now and then or offer Zoom meetings as well. Each chapter governs itself in order to meet the needs of its members. Meetings usually include information programs and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. This is a great way to keep in touch with the latest issues in our community. Any one interested in forming a new chapter should contact Chapter Coordinator **Susan Sommer**, (623) 628-1935, ssommer114@aol.com.

All AEA Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live.

When Chapters meet via Zoom, connection is a simple process. All you need to do is click the link you receive from your Chapter Chair via e-mail. We welcome your attendance and participation.

Glendale/West Valley Chapter: This year our meetings are being held in person at 10 am at Biscuit's Café, 19420 N. 59th Ave., Glendale, AZ. We use a private room, enjoy a good brunch and good conversation. Meetings will be on September 21, November 16, January 18 and March 21. For more information call, text or email **Marshall Militano** at 602-882-3260 or mmilitano1@gmail.com.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: We are meeting the third Tuesday of the month, August through May. Meetings begin at 10am at the Southern AEA office, 6873 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ, 85704. Please e-mail Chapter Chair **Peter Coston** at pcoston1@cox.net for Zoom meeting links.

Kyrene Chapter: Welcome to any educator, active or retired, who lives in the East Valley! AEA-Retired/Active Kyrene Chapter is back at The Hub Grill and Bar 14205 South 50th Street, Phoenix 85044! Meetings are at 4:30pm on October 27, December 1, January 26 and March 22. If you are on our mailing list, you will receive a reminder of the date, time, and venue. For more information contact Chapter Chair **Ellen Shamah** at eshamah@cox.net

Mesa/East Valley Chapter: Welcome to any educator who lives in the East Valley or anywhere else! AEA-Retired East Valley Chapter is back on the 8th floor of 63 East Main Street, Mesa! Meetings are from 11:15 to 1:00 on September 20, November 15, January 17, March 20, May 15. For more information or to be sure you are on the mailing list, contact Chapter Chair **Janie Hydrick** at hydrick@aol.com

Phoenix Chapter: Suzan Austin and Gary Mehok are re-initiating this chapter in September. Meeting dates are September 18, November 20, January 15, March 18 and April 15 from 11am to 1pm at the Beatitudes, 1610 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Contact **Suzan Austin** at suzanaustin@cox.net or **Gary Mehok** at lojo40@cox.net for more information.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: Until further notice, all meetings will be held on the **third Monday** of each month from 11:00 to 1, September through April (excluding December). If you're not on our mailing list, please contact **Nancy Riley** 480-600-8559 or rileyfam@cox.net.

Southeast Arizona Chapter: The Southeast Arizona AEA-Retired Chapter is located in Cochise County and is comprised of districts in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Huachuca City, Naco, Palominas, Elgin, and Ft. Huachuca, and retirees from other states who have moved to Cochise County. The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, **September 5**, 4:30 PM, at the Manda Lé Restaurant off of Hwy. 92 at Canyon de Flores. Please contact Sally if you would like to be added to the email contact list, our only method of communication. Contact Chapter Chair **Sally Rosén** at 520-249-0233, azcatsally@aol.com for details.

Interstate/Flagstaff/Northern Arizona/Reservation Chapter (INFARC). Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm (MST). Meetings will be held on Zoom. Please contact Daniel Barlow at dsjbarlow@yahoo.com. A link will be sent to you to connect to the meetings.