



**Tuesday, February 13, 2024 -
Called to Order @ 10:01 AM**

ATTENDANCE: P=present, A=absent

BOARD: Anna Cicero-P, Ken Freed-P, Maria Leyva-P, Steve Linder-P, Julie Horwin-A, Luci Messing-P, Danny Barlow-A, Peter Coston-A, Cynthia Couture-P, Janice Dwosh-P, Jeanne Erickson-P, Cynthia Hale-P, Marilyn Freed-P, Norma Jimenez-P, Deb Larned-A, Sharin Manes-P, Barbara Matteson-P, Gary Mehok-P, Lizzie Menefee-P, Marshall Militano-P, Nancy Putman-P, Nancy Riley-A, Michele Smith-P, Susie Sommer-P
CHAPTER CHAIRS: Suzan Austin-P, Janie Hydrick-A, Sally Rosen-A, Ellen Shamah-A
OTHER LEADERS & GUESTS: Shirley Boswell-P, Cecilia Garcia-A, Bart James-A, Jan Nichols-P, Carmen Peters-P, Steve Ramos-P, Judy Robbins-A, Linda Somo-P, Sandra Warns-A, Ellie Perez-Pawloski-P

Call to Order - Anna Cicero, President with a moment of reflection for Marion Pickens.

Land Acknowledgement - Racial and Social Justice - Janice presented a video from ASU.

Welcome: Guests, Celebrations

Approval of Agenda- with flexibility. Moved by Ken. Seconded by Steve L. Motion passed.

Approval of January Minutes with revision - Moved by Ken. Seconded by Steve L. Motion passed.

Financial Report - Steve L./Treasurer presented, and reported ready for audit. There was a discussion to possibly move some funds to a CD. Cynthia moved that this discussion be an NBI. Marilyn F seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report - Moved by Ken. Seconded by Gary. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting TASK Sign-Up Sheets- In order for board members to have time to ask questions and review TASKS they want to sign up for Norma Jimenez passed around the TASK document.

Annual Mtg. Chair and Anna C. Met with Nicole Adams (AEA) on Feb. 9 to get an update on numerous details. Be sure to follow the "chain of command" through Norma J. or Anna C. they will continue to get answers for you from Nicole.

Membership- Shirley presented current membership numbers. Nancy P presented Maria with three \$10 bills for recruiting 3 new members. Nancy P shared copies of the Associate Membership form with everyone. Michele and Maria presented the plan to contact almost 280 canceled members from AEA Retired. Eighteen leaders agreed to volunteer to call and contact about 15 people each and to complete a contact report for every call.

OFFICER REPORTS: (refer to submitted report that is also in the Appendix)

President- Anna: Vice President- Ken: Secretary- Maria: AEA Director- Luci:

NEA Director/Past President- Julie: Absent. No report.

AEA Liaison- Ellie Perez-Pawloski: Presented an overview of the 2024 campaign plan with priorities, comprehensive political data, and the status of known bills in the Legislature as well as the importance of engaging with candidates in key district races.

New Business Items/Motions: Marilyn F. Recommended a motion to be written to discuss at our next meeting in March in moving savings into a CD, amount, etc. More information is needed as indicated by board members' "thumbs up" before a decision is made.

Political Action- Luci (refer to submitted report that is also in the Appendix). Luci requested for all board members to subscribe to all political information groups like Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, etc. Discussion on 21+ resolutions and bills in the Legislature at this moment.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

Racial & Social Justice- RSJ Update- Janice Presented the Wheel of Power and Film Festival **Communications:** (refer to submitted report that is also in the Appendix) Maria reported on ZOOM, The Conduit and Chapters.

Website/Instagram- Maria updated the website and is posting on Instagram.

Facebook- Steve R reported nothing new and all is well.

ZOOM Link Support- Susie S/Sandy W. Susie reported that all is working well.

MailChimp/Survey Monkey- Peter was absent. No report.

AEA staff connection for support- Anna.thanked staff for their work in the Pre-Retirement Seminars presentations.

The Conduit Newsletter- Jan, Bart. Jan was present and requested for better quality of pictures because some of the pictures are too blurry. Feb. 24 is the deadline for the March Conduit.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES/AD HOC:

ASRS- Steve R reported on well-attended recent Pre-Retirement Seminars on Jan. 24 (zoom) and February 9 in-person. Both events were well attended.

Presentations: Anna C. invited to do the Welcome of all who attended Pre-Retirement seminars presented by Steve Ramos and Linda S. Participant lists will be provided by AEA to possibly do follow-up. Membership forms and Tri-fold were given to all and Michele S. and Maria assisted with questions, tasks, and technology. Two gift card door prizes were presented. We want to thank Ellie and Carrie W. for their help and support.

M.O.R.E.- Cindy C/Lizzie M both reported that for logical reasons the event has been postponed until the Fall.

Fundraising- Marilyn F presented a new king-sized quilt for Delegate Assembly and she passed out packets of 30 quilt tickets and explained the process. Barb M. presented a beautiful ironwood statue to donate to NEA Retired Auction taking place in Chicago on March 3-5th. Board suggested the cost to come out of our budget from an appropriate line item for the amount of \$50, the cost of the statue. Attending board members will deliver the item for auction.

Annual Meeting- Norma J - addressed the various tasks on the document, asked if anyone had questions. Steve Linder does not have a clear picture of how the Valet fees of \$10 or \$15 dollars for those coming to annual meeting and DA will be reimbursed. No other option other than to look into sharing rides, car-pooling from AEA Headquarters, parking in the streets (meters). More discussion is needed on what actives are doing, and will follow up with Nicole for ideas. The AEA-Retired theme is, "All Hands on Deck...the Fight is Real! AEA's theme is: YOUR Fight is MY Fight is OUR Fight. All other plans are progressing well in committee. Suggested a zoom may be scheduled to give all board members and committee a chance to give input as well as learn more about the **new** venue location.

Annual Award- Nancy P reported that the committee did meet, and reminded everyone of the March 12 deadline for nominations.

Elections- Steve L reported that 57 of 83 allowed delegates have registered. He requested for more election committee members volunteers due to some other members not attending the annual meeting.

Documents- Deb L. Absent. No report.

Budget- Steve L reported the committee met on January 30 to form the 2024-2025 draft agenda. Board members were instructed to look over their funding, come back in March to make adjustments and be ready to vote on the suggested budget.

Audit- Carmen reported the documents are ready and the committee will meet on Feb. 20 to have the report ready for the meeting in March.

CHAPTER CHAIR - Susie Sommer - Chair will continue to collect all chapter Chair reports and present those at monthly meetings for copying and handouts. This process will be the expectation moving forward. (refer to submitted report that is also in the Appendix)

West Valley*- Marshall **Phoenix*-** Suzan Austin-Gary Mehok **East Valley*-** Janie Hydrick

Scottsdale/PV*- Nancy R **Greater Tucson*-** Peter C **Kyrene*-** Ellen S

Southern/Sierra Vista*- Sally R **Interstate Report*-** Danny

Marana/Northwest Tucson*- Deb L **Prescott Area-** Julia Watson

*Refer to Appendix for individual Chapter Written Reports

ALLIANCES AND COALITION UPDATES

AARA- AZ Alliance for Retired Americans- Linda, Julie. Linda reminded everyone of Women in Organized Labor event on March 15 and a climate meeting to raise awareness for low-income people to access federal funds for home improvements. There will be a link to "share their stories" on savings from the Inflation Reduction Act. There are four voting lawsuits against the Sec. of State regarding voter suppression attempts and the voting manual.

ARSC- Linda, Steve R, Anna, Luci- Continue to monitor Bills that specifically impact our pension (Primary) none at this time in the primary category, Anna explained that we are keeping an eye on "Secondary" bills, monitoring their status, checking with ASRS, and continuing weekly updates at 11:30 zooms each Monday.

Kinnaman Raffle- Ken. \$22 dollars each way. Winner was Norma.

AIN- Ken- No report

Closure and Adjournment @ 2:35 PM

APPENDIX

February President's Report

Submitted by Anna Cicero

Feb.13 Executive Board Meeting

All Hands On Deck...Elections Matter!

Jan./Feb. Summary: To all of you, a huge THANK YOU for an amazing start of the year. Your engagement in so many events, Opening Day, Lobby Days, Pre-Retirement Seminars, Chapter Doings, member recruitment & outreach, Adopt-A-Local, Alliances and Coalition collaboration and all NEA involvement on various projects are commendable. Moving your Committee Action Plans and Goals forward as well as monitoring and adjusting has been the best to watch and take part. Lots of dialogue with creative suggestions and recommendation from you..keep them coming.

AEA-Retired Board Task:

- **Nomination Form-** monitor and outreach -delegate & Board positions- Due Feb. 22
- **Budget Work-** Excellent work by the committee on Jan. 30th. Thank you Steve L.
- **AEA Staff and Ellie's** -collaboration with Pre-Retirement Seminars- A job well done!
- **AEA staff and Ellie's** Collaboration in continuing to plan Annual meeting- speakers and Agenda draft
- **Chapter and Committee Zoom Attendance-** Participation in East Valley and other mtgs.
- **OC-** Jeff Lang- will meet to "pick his brain" about how we can best systematically amplify our voice with all **Local Presidents** and their events and dissemination of information for **recruitment** of perspective retired members, prepare for summer recruitment, etc.
- Board Retreat discussion, funding and possibilities
- **ARSC-** Az Retirement Security Coalition- Attended weekly zooms and gave input & we promoted the ARSC Virtual Day at the Capitol on Feb. 9 from 1-3pm. I like the guest line up and the Oklahoma Story of a state that went from DB benefits to DC "disaster".
- **AARA-** Along with attending board meeting on zoom, I joined the committee to plan the *'Women in Organized Labor: Celebrating Frontline Workers'*- Date in progress but tentatively March 22.

NEA Retired Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Registered and coordinated & mentored board attendees for the Chicago NEA Leadership Summit and NEA –Retired Conference as well as coordination of team details among the 5 attending board members. (Danny has withdrawn his attendance). **Attending:** Anna Cicero, Maria Leyva, Janice Dwosh, Lizzie Menefee, Norma Jimenez.
- Committed to President Anita Gibson to carry out the *NEA Retired State Representation Data Project in progress*. I will be presenting the results at the NEA-Retired Conference to all Presidents. Maria Leyva will assist me with the slides and details. Thank you Maria.
- NEA-R Governance Team-Attended monthly committee meetings and President's zooms

Vice-President's Report for 2/13/24

Submitted by Ken Freed

I shall be brief;

Since our last Board Meeting, I

- *conferenced with members about ongoing issues,
- *attended an Advocacy training,
- *wrote and submitted an article for the Conduit,
- *emailed, texted, met or spoke to members,
- *contacted the Documents committee to introduce the new chair,
- *worked on preparing Constitutional Amendment for submission
- *attended Lobby Day.

That is all. Stay Safe!!

- Made correction to December's minutes regarding AEA Vice President, Angela Philpot's proper spelling of her name.
- Hosted a Membership ZOOM.
- Hosted a ZOOM with Steve Ramos to revise the webpage for ASRS-Pension to include more pictures and a video.
- Submitted by application for NEA R.A.
- Created Quilt flyer to be included in AEA delegate packet for Delegate Assembly.
- Attended the Budget Committee meeting.
- Hosted a Communications committee ZOOM.

**AEA Retired Executive Board Meeting
February 2024**

Membership Report Prepared by Shirley Boswell

January 31, 2024

2048 members

84 emeritus members (ninety + years old)

1442 members use payroll

Other pay methods:

255 credit cards

317 checks

34 EFT

Total 606

61 new members (4 **current**)

6 NEA Life Members (Pre-Retired)

**Deceased members with a canceled membership after
AEA Retired Annual Meeting May 2023**

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Allen Lessig | John Thrasher | Cecilia Tracy | Terrance Fay | Robert Joe |
| Louis Coppola | Joane Cobos | Rosario Dickerson | Larry Trimble | |
| Sid Stelpstra | Joanne Burch | Marcia Jones | Carolyn Lefever | |
| Delores Oster | Patricia Shontz | James Strang | Alys Casperson | |
| Peggy Hamrick | Joyce Mc Donald | Ann Aycock | Charlene Barry | |
| Sue Farrar | Stanley Jones | Vicki Sheley | JohnShown | |
| Beverly Winterboer | Debra Bertolet | Alice Peltier | Vincent Randall | |

**Chapter Chair Coordinator – February 2024
Submitted by Susan Sommer**

Some of the activities I did this month: January 2024

- 6 Opening Day at the Capitol, met with 2 legislators for LD 24, and the Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes
- 9 January 9, 2024 AEA Retired Executive Board Meeting
- 17 Lobby Day
- 18 Glendale/West Valley chapter
- 22 Social Justice Book Club
- 30 Budget Committee meeting and brought food

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter Report Submitted by Nancy Riley

We met at Eggstacy Restaurant at the Mercado on Jan 15th. Our speaker was Kathy George from Scottsdale Sister Cities. This was a nice break from political doings. For Feb. 19, we are hosting Tim Stringham, candidate for Maricopa County Recorder. He is an Arizona native and a veteran, with good ideas for the county.

**Glendale/West Valley Chapter Report
Submitted by Marshall Militano**

Brenda Holt/AARP Communications Director spoke. She presented the history and founder's story of AARP plus the dozens of benefits and programs AARP has to offer.

**Southeastern Arizona
Submitted by Sally Rosen**

Nine of us met on January 25 at the Manda Lé Restaurant in South Sierra Vista (Canyon de Flores). The meeting was a farewell to another chapter member. Joanne Coppola is relocating to Peoria to be nearer family members. We hope she will join a chapter there. Our next meeting will be in late March.

**Central Phoenix
Submitted by Suzan Austin**

The next meeting of the Phoenix Chapter will be held on March 18 at the Beatitudes Campus. There will be a guest speaker and all are welcome to attend.

**Prescott
Submitted by Julia Watson**

The Prescott chapter has not yet held any meetings. It is merely organizing through Mailchimp to contact existing AEA-R members. Working with Peter and Anna to send a Mailchimp invite to all region retirees. Julia will then create a database of those who will help her reinstate the Yavapai Chapter. (AC)

M.O.R.E.

**Motivate, Organize, Recruit, Engage
February Board Report
Co-Chairs: Cindy Couture & Lizzie Menefee**

| | |
|--|---|
| Date : set ✓ | April 26 th , 2024 |
| Location: set ✓ 5808 North 7 th Street | IBEW Hall |
| Time: set ✓ | 9:30 – 2:00 PM |
| Theme: set ✓ | All Hands On Deck |
| Guest Speakers: set ✓ | Secretary of State Adrian Fontes |
| Need to check on: | Ellie Perez- Pawloski or Isela Blanc, Marisol Garcia, |
| NEA Benefits: set ✓ | David Glenn |
| ASRS Update: set ✓ | Steve Ramos/Daniella Smith |
| AARA Update: set ✓ | Linda Somo |
| Regional Chapters: set ✓ | Susie Sommer/Nancy Reilly |
| Agenda: set ✓ | Revisions being made as we confirm speakers & activities |
| Write script: ✓ | Once all speakers are confirmed it will be finalized! |
| Slide show & technology | Working on it...Maria Leyva will be helping |
| Budget: set ✓ | Steve Linder, Cindy Couture & Lizzie Menefee |
| Budget request for next YR: set ✓ | We submitted request via email to Steve Linder & Budget Committee |
| Gift cards & raffles: set ✓ | Cindy Couture |
| Breakfast: set ✓ | Anna Cicero will go purchase breakfast items. We have a team signed up for the set up & clean up. |
| Lunch: set ✓ | Anna Cicero will order the lunch from Famous Dave's BBQ. The number of lunches to be ordered will be known after registration opens for the event. We have a team signed up |

for the set up & clean up.

Invitations & Guest List: Working on it....

Information folders & Hand Outs: Working on it...

Photographer & Article for Conduit: Working on it...

Hall set up: set ✓ Request was submitted for table & chair set up.

Decorations: Finalizing ideas...

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2024

Submitted by Maria Leyva

On February 2, the Communications Committee met via ZOOM to discuss The Conduit and MailChimp. The attendees were: Anna Cicero, Jan Nichols, Sandy Warns, Steve Ramos, Susie Sommer, and Maria Leyva.

Discussion topics included MailChimp and The Conduit.

MAILCHIMP:

- Emails: How should the Chapters make the best use of MailChimp email blasts: WHO should be sending the everyday reminders for Chapter meetings?
- Active Member Engagement: How can the Chapters make it easier for local active leaders to attend at least one Chapter meeting? How should they reach out to invite active leaders to attend a meeting?

THE CONDUIT:

- Deadlines: The committee would like to know the process and timelines to better assist with editing and providing feedback before The Conduit goes to the publisher.
- Content: Chapters should be included in more articles and perhaps be given a dedicated page or half-page to highlight a Chapter each edition. Since the number of pages is limited, the content (articles) should be prioritized in order of importance of AEA Retired Goals and Mission. Content should be a higher priority than some pictures, if space is limited.
- Pictures: Some pictures that are being submitted are too blurry for publication. Jan requested that people make sure that submitted pictures are “publish-worthy” before they are sent and may be disappointed that The Conduit was unable to use the pictures due to their resolution. A simple “fix” may be to just clean the lens of your camera on your phone prior to taking a picture.