



**ATTENDANCE: P=present, A=absent**

**BOARD:** Anna Cicero-P, Luci Messing-P, Maria Leyva-P, Steve Linder-P, Julie Horwin-A, Danny Barlow-P, Peter Coston-P, Marilyn Calhoun-P, Cindy Couture-P, Janice Dwosh-P, Jeanne Erickson-P, Cynthia Hale-P, Ken Freed-P, Marilyn Freed-P, Deb Larned-P, Sharin Manes-A, Barbara Matteson-P, Gary Mehok-P, Lizzie Menefee-P, Marshall Militano-A, Nancy Putman-P, Nancy Riley-P, Linda Somo-P

**CHAPTER CHAIRS:** Susie Sommer-P, Suzan Austin-P, Janie Hydrick-A, Sally Rosen-P, Ellen Shamah-A

**OTHER LEADERS & GUESTS:** Shirley Boswell-P, Julie Cieniawski-A, Cecilia Garcia-P, Dave Hankin-P, Bart James-A, Norma Jimenez-A, Jan Nichols-A, Carmen Peters-P, Steve Ramos-P, Judy Robbins-A, Michele Smith-P, Jean Stephenson-P, Sandra Warns-P, Ellie Perez-Pawloski-A

**Call to Order** - Anna Cicero, President

**Land Acknowledgement - Racial and Social Justice** - Janice presented a history of the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

**Approval of Agenda**- with flexibility. Moved by Ken. Seconded by Linda. Motion passed.

**Approval of December Minutes**- Moved by Ken. Seconded by Janice. Motion Passed.

**Financial Report** - Steve L./Treasurer presented three reports from the current budget, and reported them ready for audit. Motion to approve the report by Ken. Seconded by Janice. Motion passed.

**Membership**- (refer to two written reports) Nancy P reported current membership numbers. Nancy also reported a January ZOOM of the Membership Committee for a budget proposal. Michele and Maria emphasized the importance of recruiting more members and all of the actions taken by the Membership committee since December. Shirley clarified information on the membership report. David Glenn of NEA Member Benefits presented some ways to save on everyday things using Member Benefits. He left some nice gifts and raffled a gift card for those present. Susie Sommer won the gift card.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President- Anna:** (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix).

**Vice President/AEA Director- Luci:** (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix)

**Secretary- Maria:** (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix) She reminded everyone the importance of powering down/restarting your cell phone every day.

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

**AEA Liaison- Ellie Perez-Pawloski:** Absent. No report.

**New Business Items/Motions:** Anna reviewed two proposals for the additional AEA-R Director on the AEA Board. There was a discussion over the two proposals to be voted on at the AEA Delegate Assembly. There was a motion and discussion regarding reimbursement of valet parking for those who stayed at the Renaissance Hotel for the Legislature's Opening Day. Danny moved the motion. Janice seconded and the motion passed.

**STANDARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PAEC-** Anna summarized Monday's Legislature Opening Day and encouraged more people to attend the Lobby Days on Jan. 22 and Feb. 12. There were discussions regarding SB1028 and more people using RTS. It was noted that there should be more timely notices regarding bills in committees from the AEA. Shared draft proposal for the budget.

**Racial & Social Justice- RSJ Update-** Janice presented her report, reminded and encouraged more to attend the RSJ Conference at Greenway Middle School, and shared a poem inspired by the tragedy of the L.A. fires by Amanda Gorman. AEA-R will have a membership and information table there.

## **Communications:**

**Website/Instagram-** Maria reported some highlights from the NEA Communications ZOOM from January 7th, and that the website was updated. Peter reported that MailChimp is being used to help Chapters communicate with their attendees. Steve R said Facebook needs more people to share posts and pictures. Susie and Sandy said ZOOM is fine. The next Conduit will be an 8-page issue.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES/AD HOC:**

**ASRS-** Steve R reported successful attendance of legislators from both parties on Monday's Opening Day where ARSC demonstrated how destructive Alaska's defined contribution has been and how it devastated their pension system. Most agreed that Alaska's experiment was bad! ARSC also reminded them that ARSC does not support any legislation that directs how ASRS makes their investments. There may be new legislation to move the retirement waiting period to 90-days, or not at all depending on the job posting or need.

**Pre-Retirement Seminars-**Anna reported possible dates of Jan. 30 and Feb 6, and possible sessions for AEA Leadership and Grow Summit from June 12-14.

**Annual Meeting-** Anna reported that Annual Meeting 2025 has 43 delegates, so far.

**Fundraising-** Marilyn F reported there are still tickets available.

**Les Reynolds Annual Award-** Nancy P reported on the progress of the selection process.

**Elections-** Steve L reported that everything is being prepared for the Annual Meeting.

**Documents-** Deb presented possible revisions to lists of Ad-Hoc and Standing Committees. For more details, refer to the written report.

**Budget-** Steve L reminded budget submissions by committees are due on, or before the committee meets on February 5th. There was a request to move \$30,000 to a C.D.

**Audit-** Carmen reported the audit went relatively well and quickly. Refer to the written report. Ken moved to approve the audit report. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

**CHAIR OF ALL CHAPTERS** - Susie Sommer reported that some Chapters are meeting monthly and attendance is increasing.

### **VERBAL REPORTS \*Or refer to Appendix for Written Reports**

<b>Glendale/West Valley*-</b> Marshall-absent	<b>Southern/Sierra Vista*-</b> Sally (written report)
<b>East Valley*-</b> Janie Hydrick-absent	<b>Greater Phoenix*-</b> Suzan A.-Gary-next meeting on Nov. 25 will include Medicare supplemental plans
<b>Kyrene*-</b> Ellen-absent	<b>Interstate, Flagstaff, Northern AZ, Reservation Report*-</b> Danny is working with locals and AEA O.C. to increase visibility.
<b>Scottsdale/Paradise Valley/Fountain Hills-</b> Nancy R reported on first meeting of 2025.	
<b>Greater Tucson*-</b> Peter C	

## **ALLIANCES AND COALITION UPDATES**

**AARA-AZ Alliance for Retired Americans-** Linda reported on a future conference on Important Women. The date, time and details are TBD.

**ARSC-** (refer to ASRS report)

**AIN-** Ken reported nothing to report.

**Kinnaman Raffle-** Ken \$26 dollars each way. Anna won.

**Closure and Adjournment @ 2:23 PM.**

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT WAS NOT AVAILABLE DIGITALLY**

## **AEA Retired Vice President Report - January 2025**

I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends this holiday season. And now we are ready to get back to the work of our union. I am looking forward to sharing the experience from Opening Day at the Legislature. It is sure to be an interesting legislative session in 2025. AEA-R Lobby Day on Wednesday, January 22nd is just around the corner. A number of LD Captains have made their appointments? If you do not have a captain then you might need to make appointments for your LD.

President Biden signed the repeal of GPO/WEP on January 6th. NEA has been working on this effort for many years. Finally, our fellow members will receive the social security benefits that they deserve.

### **Events Attended**

- AEA Fund Council (12/6)
- AEA Board Meeting (12/7)
- AEA Retired Board meeting (12/10)
- AEA-R Tucson Chapter Meeting (12/17)
- ARSC Pre-Legislative Session Zoom Meeting (12/17)
- AEA Bi-weekly updates (12/18)
- NEA- R Legislative Committee (1/9)
- Opening Day at the Legislature (1/13)

**Luci**

## **Secretary's Report – January 2025**

**Submitted by Maria Leyva**

Since the previous board meeting, I have done the following things:

- Attended an ARSC Legislative ZOOM on December 17
- Attended an AEA Retired ZOOM on December 31
- Revised and updated the AEA-R website
- Posted and shared posts on AEA-R Instagram
- Coordinated with President Cicero regarding emails and documents for the board meeting
- Reformatted some documents for the board documents email
- Created the RSVP for board meeting attendance, added a question for a printed packet, and lunch reservations