



**Tuesday, March 12, 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-P, Cindy Couture-P, Janice Dwosh-P, Jeanne Erickson-P, Cynthia Hale-P, Marilyn Freed-P, Norma Jimenez-P, Deb Larned-P, Sharin Manes-P, Barbara Matteson-A, Gary Mehok-P, Lizzie Menefee-P, Marshall Militano-P, Nancy Putman-P, Nancy Riley-P, Michele Smith-P, Susie Sommer-P  
**CHAPTER CHAIRS:** Suzan Austin-A, Janie Hydrick-P, Sally Rosen-A, Ellen Shamah-P  
**OTHER LEADERS & GUESTS:** Shirley Boswell-P, Cecilia Garcia-P, Bart James-A, Jan Nichols-A, Carmen Peters-P, Steve Ramos-P, Judy Robbins-P, Linda Somo-P, Sandra Warns-A, Ellie Perez-Pawloski-P, Julie Cieniawski-P

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

**Land Acknowledgement - Racial and Social Justice** - Deb L. introduced a video from Northern Arizona University. Welcome: Guests, Celebrations: VPOTUS visited Arizona. Anna, Maria and Norma were there. First Lady visited Tucson. Luci and Barbara were there.

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

**Approval of February Minutes** - Moved by Ken. Seconded by Steve L. Motion Passed

**GUESTS:** Josh Atkins, AEA Treasurer, Amber Gould and AEA President Marisol Garcia presented on behalf of AEA Governance regarding the recent Board action on AEA Retired's NBI, "One Member, One Vote." The NBI will be presented to delegates regarding a proposed amendment to the AEA Constitution. Board leaders had a discussion and asked important questions.

**Financial Report** - Steve L./Treasurer presented, and reported ready for audit. Steve L has researched possible CD with Wells Fargo Bank. All three signers need to be present when moving any money from one account into a CD or another account. Motion by Ken to move \$50,000 from checking to a CD for 7 months. Seconded by Luci. Motion passed. Motion by Ken to move \$30,000 from savings to a Money Market. Seconded by Janice. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report for Audit**- Moved by Janice. Seconded by Ken. Motion passed.

**Membership**- Nancy P and Shirley presented the membership report. Ken suggested that there be labels on the numbers in future membership reports to better reflect a more accurate count of our members. Michele and Maria thanked all the 18 board volunteers for making calls and contacting former members. Michele and Maria also introduced the plan for D.A. and increasing the database of contacts of future members.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

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

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

**Secretary- Maria:** (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix)

**AEA Director- Luci:** (VERBAL Report) AEA Board met on Sat. March 9. Reminded the AEA Board that AEA-R used to be Region 18. More discussion regarding the NBI. Executive Director, Randy Parraz will be leaving on April 30. Interim will be announced ASAP. Gadsden and Cartwright districts will be losing payroll deduct for dues.

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

**AEA Liaison- Ellie Perez-Pawloski:** Reminded everyone about Mobilize App and AEA Days at the Capitol and AEA Trainings for Candidates and Board Races.

#### **New Business Items/Motions:**

**NBI #1:** 2024-2025 Board Budget- There was a typo regarding payment to ARSC on adopted budget. \$5,500 should be \$6,000. Corrections: Balance Forward= \$40,435, Total Expenses= \$113,215 and Misc= \$8,450. Moved by Susie S. Seconded by Ken. Motion passed.

**NBI #2:** CD decision, if needed. No action taken.

**Political Action-** Luci (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix) Passed out \$5 diversity pins from the AEA, which helps support the AEA 31-G goal, rural active locals, and other active locals to send delegates to the NEA-RA.

**GUEST:** Julie Cieniawski announced her run for the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:**

**Racial & Social Justice- RSJ Update-** Janice (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix) Presented at the NEA Retired conference on Racial Social Justice.

#### **Communications:**

**Website/Instagram-** Maria (refer to submitted written Secretary report that is also in the Appendix)

**Engagement Checklist-** Coming soon to your email as a Google Form.

**Facebook-** Steve R - All good.

**ZOOM Link Support-** Susie S/Sandy W- All good.

**MailChimp/Survey Monkey-** Peter reported that MailChimp updates member lists every 6 months and did get a blast out on behalf of the Prescott Chapter to invite members.

**The Conduit Newsletter-** Jan, Bart. Both were absent. No report. For 2024-25, there will be a new layout of The Conduit to better reflect on our mission, strategic goals, and member engagement.

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

**ASRS-** Steve R reminded everyone of the ASRS 403(b) program available for active members, which saves money on fees compared to other providers.

**M.O.R.E.-** Cindy C/Lizzie M - Postponed until Fall of 2024.

**Annual Meeting-** Norma reported that all info. is coming soon from the AEA, and 63+ delegates have submitted their names.

**Fundraising-** Marilyn F requested \$30 for quilt tickets, and needs suggestions to display a king-sized quilt at the D.A.

**Annual Award-** Michele announced that Nancy P will be the recipient of the award.

**Elections-** Steve L presented a list of delegates for the Annual Meeting and D.A.

**Documents-** Deb L is meeting with Ken the week of March 18 to discuss transition.

**Budget-** Steve L is preparing for the 2024-2025 Budget vote.

**Audit-** Carmen (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix)

**AD HOC-Retreat Update** Suggestion to meet in June, not Juneteenth. Survey is coming for date suggestions. Hotel rates will be \$125/night (double occupancy).

**CHAPTER CHAIR** - Susie Sommer

**West Valley\***- Marshall

**Phoenix\***- Suzan Austin-Gary Mehok

**East Valley\***- Janie Hydrick

**Scottsdale/PV\***- Nancy R (Verbal report) Possible meeting location change for next meeting.

**Greater Tucson\***- Peter C (Verbal report) U/A Dean of College of Excellence will be the guest speaker at next month's meeting.

**Kyrene\***- Ellen S

**Southern/Sierra Vista\***- Sally R

**Interstate Report\***- Danny

**Marana/Northwest Tucson\***- Deb L

**Prescott Area-** Julia Watson

\*Refer to Appendix for any Written Reports

### **ALLIANCES AND COALITION UPDATES**

**AARA- AZ Alliance for Retired Americans-** Linda, Julie reported that Dems passed 6 funding bills and stopped bad amendments and cuts to the EPA. AARA Regional Meeting in Las Vegas on June 5-6. Any political endorsements will be after AFL-CIO announces.

**ARSC-** Linda, Steve R, Anna, Luci - No updates to report.

**AIN-** Ken- No updates to report.

**Kinnaman Raffle-** Ken \$25 dollars each way.

**Closure and Adjournment @ 2:15 PM.**

# APPENDIX

## President's Report for March By Anna Cicero, AEA-Retired President

### **State/Local Highlights:**

#### **Newsletter is going to print!**

Electronic version will be in your hands soon in the March Mailchimp membership BLAST! Later, it will be in your mailboxes. Thank you to all who sent photos and articles in a timely manner. I spent time communicating with many of you who contributed to its content. Special thanks to **Bart and Jan** for their continued loyalty to our award-winning newsletter, Lizzie for following up to a successful commitment from Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes to be our Keynote speaker and all else for a beautiful project.

#### **Special Thanks!**

Committees' support: To **Maria Leyva** for her constant creativity, support for all committees and really seeing a **comprehensive vision** of our AEA Retired Association mission and goals. Maria not only does her job as our AEA-Retired Secretary but engages and gives up her personal hours to work with our social media technology, chapters, membership, executive board, website, AEA staff and more. Maria's positive work is appreciated by all.

#### **AEA-Retired Lobby Days & Prop 123 Press Conference**

Attended Jan. and Feb. Day Action at the Capitol. My gratitude to all of you who joined and helped carry out the PAC Action Plans to speak to Legislators, learn about local issues/bills and increased our visibility with those who make decisions. Continue to RTS as much is at stake.

#### **2024 Annual Membership Meeting- "All Hands On Deck, the Fight is Real!"**

We continue to work on a "thousand" logistics to get delegates certified, internal registration links finalized and many other details in the cue by **Chair Norma Jimenez**. The committee's action plan is well underway.

**AEA, ARSC, AARA**, - Continue to take care of business in my weekly, sometimes daily, tasks with our AEA affiliate (President Garcia), developing pension bill action by our ARSC lobbyist Daniella and President Linda Somo to support and share with our board relevant action, participation and information. Our collaborative relationship is essential and a MUST.

### **NEA/NEA Retired Highlights:**

#### **2024 NEA Retired State Representation Project- by Anna Cicero**

I was entrusted by NEA Retired President to create and carry out the **NEA Retired 50 State Representation Project**. The goal was to get data from all states to respond to various levels of representation in each state. We accomplished the goal at 100%. All Presidents were impressed with the results and will create their own plan of action and learn from each other strategies to improve and strategies to continue to support positively the efforts of their affiliate state association. My thanks to Maria Leyva for helping me with the raw data technology.

#### **NEA Leadership Summit AND NEA-Retired Leadership Conference**

Both events had record breaking attendance, new participants, and PAC donations. EXCELLENT sessions and preparation. Our team participated and contributed to a NEW level of energy, new NEA Retired President, Anita Gibson, and incredible NEA staff. Please take a moment to read you participating board **leaders' reports**. Contributing consistently to the work behind the scenes, PAC Auction and sessions was our Past President, **Julie Horwin**. Thank you, Julie, for always making ARIZONA look good! We stand on your shoulders.

## **Don't forget to VOTE: Representative Assembly 2024: July 3-7 in Philadelphia**

NEA's Representative Assembly is July 3-7 in Philadelphia! Voting for RA delegates opens next Saturday, March 2, 2024. The voting link will be sent to all members via email. Voting closes on April 10, 2024. The hotel will be the Philadelphia Marriott Old City. Please do not make hotel reservations for the NEA-RA. All reservations will be made through Nicole Adams.

### **Breaking News!**

The White House invitation for our help and participation was welcomed. Some of us will support audience duties, listen in the audience and Anna Cicero invited to do a Photo Line. **Friday, March 8**, Vice President Kamala Harris will travel to **Phoenix, AZ** for the fifth stop of her nationwide **"Fight for Reproductive Freedoms"** tour.

## **Vice-President's Report for 3/12/24**

I shall be brief;

Since our last Board Meeting, I

- \*conferenced with members about ongoing issues,
- \*attended Tucson chapter meeting,
- \*wrote and submitted an article for the Conduit,
- \*emailed, texted, met or spoke to members,
- \*submitted pledge to serve for DA,
- \*submitted pledge to serve for RA,
- \*submitted Constitutional Amendment to Nicole Adams,
- \*attended PCCEA rally and PCC Board Meeting,
- \*read for Love of Reading at Cragin Elementary School.

That is all. Stay Safe!! ken freed

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**February 20<sup>th</sup>. 2024**

To Board of Directors  
Arizona Education Association - Retired  
Phoenix, Arizona

We have audited the financial records of the Arizona Education Association - Retired organization for the year starting May 31st, 2022 through June 1st 2023. As part of our audit process, we performed the following:

- \* Verified that each check was properly supported by a voucher for the correct amount.
- \* Verified that checks and vouchers were properly entered and categorized to the correct budget line in the account system.
- \* Verified journal entries recorded.
- \* Verified deposits records for the period.
- \* Verified that all bank statements had been received and reconciled.

While performing these procedures we found no substantial irregularities to report. Out of over \$113,400 plus expenses, the committee found only one minor error between a voucher and the posting. (The submitted voucher was one dollar more than the amount posted). Steve Linder, Treasurer was extremely cooperative and forthcoming. Therefore, based on our audit, we believe that the financial statements of the Arizona Education Association - Retired organization for the year ending May 31st, 2023 are correct and accurate as presented.

Sincerely,

Audit Committee Members  
Carmen Peters, Chair  
Jean Stephenson  
Ellen Shamah  
Jeannie Erickson

There is a whole lot happening at the State Legislature. AEA-Retired attended the special AEA days of action at the Capitol on February 14th and February 19th. We were present for the press conference and helped deliver an invitation to President Petersen and Speaker Toma. The invitation was a request to sit down with AEA leadership and discuss the renewal of 123. AEA wants to negotiate that all educators will be eligible for a raise not just certified staff. AEA-Retired is currently planning to attend the AEA Education Days at the Capitol on March 13th and March 19th. Check your emails for information on registering for one or both days. It would be great to see you there. AEA-R is getting significant recognition for our work at the Capitol.

**Legislative Appointments (Since January 1, 2024)** • Sarah Liguori - LD5 • Charles Lucking - LD5 • Jevin Hodge - LD8 • Elda Luna-Najera- LD22 As of February 26th bills have been crossed over and those passing out of the House will be heard in the Senate and vice versa. Though over 800 bills have been introduced by both parties, only 12 democratic bills have been scheduled for a committee hearing. There are currently 3 good bills that have passed out of committee and awaiting a vote of the full Senate.

**SB1566** - would block school districts from forcing teachers to sign a contract for the next school year before March 15. School districts have been asking teachers to sign contracts earlier and earlier. This bill would put an end to this trend, forcing them to wait until teachers have at least a little more information about what the next year might look like.

**SB1392** - would ensure that school districts put policies in place to protect the due process rights of support professionals, similar to the policies that already exist for classroom teachers.

**SB1465** - would acknowledge teachers' professional expertise and address our retention crisis by making the K-5 literacy endorsement training and test optional. Go to [azleg.gov](http://azleg.gov) to find the contact information and ask your senator to vote yes on these bills if still possible. Unfortunately, the republican majority has put forth a number of really terrible bills. Too many to list here. We have confidence that Governor Hobbs will use her veto stamp to protect educators and the citizens of Arizona. However, we must still state our opposition and go on record that we oppose bills that are not in the best interest of students, educators and the community. However, the majority party decided to do an end run around the Governor. They have introduced a slew of concurrent resolutions that if passed will be on the November ballot and go directly to the voters. This is problematic and will clutter up the ballot, making it more difficult for citizens' initiatives to succeed. We anticipate a drawn out legislative session since the budget will be heavily contested by both sides. Keep up with the action alerts and using the RTS system. A number of legislators have expressed how much they appreciate hearing from us.

Thank you for all you do! Luci *"I am not interested in power for power's sake, but I'm interested in power that is moral, that is right and that is good."* Martin Luther King Jr.

## CHAPTER REPORTS – MARCH 2024

Submitted by Susie Sommer and Janice Dwosh

### PV/Scottsdale Chapter

Had a meeting on Feb 19th . Janice Dwosh ran the meeting due to Nancy Riley being unable to attend. We read a book to honor Black History Month and updated members on registering for the AEA Delegate assembly. Also, had an active member attend due to the Presidents' Day holiday and share her story of educator retention issues.

### Greater Tucson

Tucson met February 20, 2024.