

**MINUTES: Tuesday, March 4, 2025- Called to Order @ 10:01 AM**

**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-A, Deb Larned-P, Sharin Manes-P, Barbara Matteson-P, Gary Mehok-P, Lizzie Menefee-A, Marshall Militano-P, Nancy Putman-P, Nancy Riley-P, Linda Somo-P

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

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

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

**Land Acknowledgement** - **Racial and Social Justice** - Janice highlighted the people of the Dakotas and Minnesota and the sad reality of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP).

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

**Approval of January Minutes**- Moved by Ken. Seconded by Gary. Motion Passed.

**Financial Report** - Steve L./Treasurer presented the reports, and focused on some areas of interest. He reported the reports as ready for audit. Motion to approve the report and submit for audit by Ken. Seconded by Danny. Motion passed. Linda Somo motioned to get another coffeemaker. Anna mentioned she may have one.

**Guest:** AEA Vice President Angela Philpot spoke with the Board.

**Membership-** (refer to two written reports) Nancy P reported current membership numbers. Nancy also reported gains in membership. Michele discussed advertisement for the AEA Advocate. Anna, Michele, Marshall and Nancy P presented and ‘tabled’ at the AEA ESP Conference.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President- Anna**: (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix). NEA would like a membership action report to help increase engagement with actives and newly retired.

**Vice President/AEA Director- Luci:** (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix) Reminded everyone to make calls to their representatives, senators and local legislators. Calls make a difference. Use 5 Calls App (5calls.org).

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

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

**AEA Liaison- Ellie Perez-Pawloski**: Reported on AEA Lobby Days in March and some Legislative Bills to follow.

**New Business Items/Motions:** Luci presented an update to the proposed AEA language to have TWO retired directors on the AEA Board. A process/procedure for the second board director may be needed.

**STANDARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PAEC-** Anna presented the report. There was a discussion regarding paid mileage. Motion made by Nancy P to pay for mileage outside of Maricopa County to attend AEA Lobby Days in March. Seconded by Janice. Motion Passed.

**Racial & Social Justice-** Janice presented her report, and presented some things to consider for Women’s History Month.

**Communications:**

**Website/Instagram-** Maria reported that she created the registration Survey Monkey for Annual Meeting and this is the last year to use PayPal to register. Advised against sharing links/docs outside of AEA-R.

**Facebook-**Steve R is reviewing the friends list.

**ZOOM-** Susie S reported that all is well.

**Mail Chimp-** Peter reported emails are going well. Anna thanked him for being flexible.

**The Conduit-** Jan and Bart reported that AEA-R should consider less printed copies, and ask people to opt-out of printed Conduits. They acknowledged the website can be used for larger articles and items not tied to growing membership, or promoting union activism.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES/AD HOC:**

**ASRS**- Steve R reported an ASRS bill is with Livingston and is being held in committee. Reported that the ASRS pension is protected by the AZ Constitution.

**Pre-Retirement Seminars-** Linda, Steve R, and Anna reported two ZOOM presentations and one in-person meeting will happen March 27 and April 17 (ZOOM), April 10 in-person.

**Annual Meeting-** Anna presented the first draft of the Task List. Board members attending Annual Meeting should help with as many activities as they can. There was a discussion about how Thurs. night hotel stays are approved.

**Fundraising/Quilt**- Ken reported for Marilyn F there are still tickets available, and help is needed at the quilt table for D.A.

**Fundraising/NEA-R-** Barb asked for people to bring something nice to auction-no junk. Suggestion to bring address labels for tickets.

**Les Reynolds Annual Award-** Nancy P reported we will celebrate Danny with a cake in April.

**Elections**- Steve L reported there are 74 nominees listed out of 82. Suggestion to use Google Chrome as the browser when filling out the nomination form online.

**Documents-** Deb needs all committee roles and responsibilities to help with Ad-Hoc and Standing Committees. For more details, refer to the written report.

**Budget-** Steve L presented the proposed 2025-2026 Budget that will be presented in April for a vote.

**Audit-** Carmen needed to leave early. No report.

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

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

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| **Glendale/West Valley\*-** Marshall reported  monthly meetings are working well. | **Southern/Sierra Vista\*-** Sally reported  they are very active in the South! |
| **East Valley\*-** Janie- had to leave early | **Greater Phoenix\*-** Suzan A.-Gary- all are  welcome to attend. (see written report) |
| **Kyrene\*-** Ellen- had to leave early | **Interstate, Flagstaff, Northern AZ,**  **Reservation Report\***- Danny is encouraging  more to attend Annual Meeting and D.A. |
| **Scottsdale/Paradise Valley/Fountain Hills-**  Nancy R reported 17 attended. Next meeting is  March 17. |
| **Greater Tucson\***- Peter C reported all  going well. |  |

**ALLIANCES AND COALITION UPDATES**

**ARSC-** Steve R reported that Daniella is working very hard for AEA-R.

**AARA-AZ Alliance for Retired Americans-** Linda needs stories from people willing to share their stories about Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid on video. Reminded about Tax Talk webinars and March 28 Celebration of Women’s History Month at the IBEW.

**AIN-** Ken reported he’s communicating with Frank. AEA-R is listed on their website at the top.

**Kinnaman Raffle**- Ken reported $26 dollars each way. Peter won.

**Closure and Adjournment @ 2:39 PM.**

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**PRESIDENT’s REPORT- March 4, 2025 By Anna Cicero**

**21st Annual Celebration “THE FIGHT CONTINUES” How we re-group and come back stronger!** Sat. March 1st I was invited by President Garcia to attend this wonderful celebration of Progressive Women, I will share highlights at the meeting March 4. Can’t wait to meet Maria Teresa Kumar and so many awesome women leaders in action!

**Post Lobby days evaluation and numbers-** see VP and PAEC Report.

I want to thank everyone for your participation and reaching out to other stakeholders to attend and see our legislative work. Your support with copying, preparing and helping with tasks luch lunches and legislators introductions was appreciated. As we plan for next year, let’s be sure to send Luci and I your feedback so we can grow on things we are able to improve. We also want to hear about the positive highlights. Thank you.

**Honest Arizona** – Virtual TAX TALK Webinar- What an amazing and informative webinar. Thank you AARA, Linda Somo for the invite. I have shared the slides with all of you to look over and be amazed.

**Pre-Retirement Seminars**- see “golden egg” flyer attached and LINKs are ready. Dates are:

* **March 27**-Zoom @ 5-7PM, **April 10 –** In- Person @ AEA from 5-7PM, **April 17-**Zoom @ 5-7PM. Lots of work with Carrie and Ellie getting the Mobilize Links and marketing flyer is ready!
* local Presidents are seeking information for their members and have reached out to us.
* Membership outreach plan is underway to have a short presentation (a few slides) within the zoom and a **table set up** for the In-Person Seminar at AEA Headquarters **–**
* **Remember to ask your local Presidents about any Retirement Celebrations! Be ready to outreach for membership.**

**Nominations update: DEADLINE has been extended to March 12, 2025.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE**: One area of confusion is that delegates think that their **Nominatio**n **Survey** they filled out is the Annual Meeting Registration. Please be our voice in emphasizing that a LINK is coming their way to REGISTER for Annual Mtg. AND, most important that Delegate information Including HOTEL comes from AEA (Nicole Adams) .

**Nominations Status:**

* We have **72 Nominations f**or DAat this time and AEA Retired  allotted number is**82**(based on 2,047 members on Jan. 15.)- **we have not met the goal**
* We have **12 Ethnic Minority Nominations** out of **317** minority members only 12 are required- **we have met the goal :)**
* ESPs- AEA wants to know the number but there is no goal required

**Certifying Delegates: continues:..**

I will begin the process of certifying candidates in the next few days.  Deadline to **turn in** our certified delegates & Alternate LIST  is on or before **March 25th.a**s per AEA Nicole Adams.

 I will certify ahead of time before Detroit, but not turn in the list until I return after the 11th and double check on  any new nominations that may have reached out to any of you  AFTER the deadline as suggested last year. The Link will shut down but, anyone reaching out to you by phone or in person wishing to be added, may be honored.

**NEA Hostile Political Environment**-

shared with the complete board the document/checklist sent by NEA President Becky Pringle. Content: Preparing to operate and review our organizational operations to assure compliance in 4 priority areas:

1. Ensure up-to-date ***Tax Filings***
2. Implement/Enforce consistent ***document retention policies***
3. Raise awareness among leaders and staff to guard against ***sting or ambush attacks***
4. States with payroll deduction dues (pension dues through ASRS?) Includes strong deduction language (actives

**NEA Leadership Summit and NEA Retired Conference- T**he team traveling to Detroit Michigan on March 6-March 11 is ready. We have selected our sessions to attend that will best benefit our local AEA-R. We look forward this week to a safe and productive travel to learn and represent. Thank you Maria Leyva, Janice Dwosh, Michele Smith and Anna Cicero for taking 6 days of your busy schedules to travel away from family, pets/ plants and other responsibilities. Your engagement and presenting at the conference is appreciated.

**NEA Retired Governance Committee-**  Anna C. will engage in the work of the NEA Retired Governance Committee to prepare to give input to Constitution, Bylaw and Policy changes and recommendations during this year’s Retired Conference. I will zoom **Monday, Feb. 24** around noon with the complete team. Lots to learn and I will for sure bring back some tips for our board Document’s committee …if relevant.

**AEA Retired Vice President Report March 2025**

AEA Retired has wrapped up their lobby days. February 12th went very well. We have become quite proficient in organizing and fulfilling our purpose at the Capitol. They know who we are. We now plan to participate in AEA Education Day(s) at the Capitol. As AEA members, we want to show our support for the actives that will be attending. In addition, this is an opportunity to have conversations and build relationships. Join us on March 12 & 19 and keep up with what is happening at the Legislature. It has been business as usual for the Republicans in the State House. It has been a challenge to keep up with all the bills being proposed. March 28 is the last day to hear House bills in the Senate and April 23 is the100th Day of Session. The Legislature has not completed their work in 100 days for years. If you’re feeling a bit overwhelmed and concerned about the nonsense taking place through executive orders, you can help. The most important thing that we can do now is to call our Senators and Congress Representatives. We must let them know how we feel about the chaos and danger happening every day. Send a clear message…”Do not dismantle the Education Dept!” The Republicans are flooding Congress with phone calls and we must answer in kind. Please don’t call just once. Call once a week. Call everyday. It’s up to you. If you feel you need to do something, this is for you! **Sen. Mark Kelly** 202-224-2235 (DC) 602-671-7901 (Phx) 520-475-5177 (Tuc) **Sen. Ruben Gallego** 202-224-4521 (DC) 480-697-360 (Phx) 520-777-0400 (Tuc) **House of Representatives** (Asked to be connected to your rep) 866-748-9411 **Events Attended:** • AEA Retired Board meeting (2/11) • ARSC Zoom Meetings (2/10, 2/17, 2/24) • AEA Retired Lobby Day (2/12) • AEA weekly updates (2/12, 2/26) • AEA-R Tucson Chapter Meeting (2/18) • AEA Subcommittee on Substitute membership (2/19) • LD17 Monthly Meeting (2/19) • Rep. Mathis Volunteer Appreciation Event (2/22) • AZ List Celebration of Electing Progressive Women (3/1) **RESIST! Luci**

**Secretary’s Report – January 2025**

**Submitted by Maria Leyva**

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

* Attended the AEA Lobby Day at the Capitol on February 12
* Met with Anna at the AEA Retired office to learn and revise the AEA Retired Online Registration Survey Monkey.
* Attended my LD27 Dems monthly meeting
* Attended my Glendale/West Valley Chapter meeting and reported out as AEA Secretary and Communications Chair
* Revised and updated the AEA-R website
* Posted and shared posts on AEA-R Instagram
* Coordinated with President Cicero regarding making copies, communications, and preparing 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

**CHAPTER REPORTS – MARCH 2025**

Submitted by Susie Sommer

**Greater Phoenix – Suzan Austin & Gary Mehok**

The Phoenix Chapter met on Jan. 27 and David Glen from NEA Member Benefits was the presenter.  The information he shared was so well-received, the members hope he will speak again next year!  Sixteen members were in attendance. March 24, 2025, at The Beatitudes Campus dining room, 1610 W. Glendale Ave., from 11 AM to 1 PM.  Racial and Social Justice expert Janice Dwosh will be the speaker.  Members are encouraged to bring a retired education employee to join.  Everyone is welcome.

**AEA-R EV and KEA-R - Dr. Janie Hydrick**

The East Valley chapters began with a bang in 2025.  On **January 7**, AEA-R EV met at Mi Amigo’s and had a compelling presentation by Jude Simons on Request to Speak and Civic Engagement Beyond Voting.  Most of the 23 members present were already active on RTS, so we chatted about some of the most egregious bills we had signed in to protest. Jude was able to sign up five new RTS activists!  January 24 was the Happy Hour at The Hub for KEA-R. Eleven members shared their misery yet made happy plans for action and resistance. Several members from both chapters met at the capitol on **January 22**  and **February 12** to lobby their legislators.  Being part of the purple wave was fun and productive. On F**ebruary 4**, the 24 AEA-R EV members were treated to a presentation by Janice Dwosh on Racial and Social Justice.  She shared children’s books as well as basic principles of racial and social justice as advocated for by NEA and AEA. KEA-R’s F**ebruary 28** Happy Hour at The Hub will be a very special reception for Senator Mitzi Epstein, Representatives Travers and Contreras, and members of three school boards in the Kyrene and Tempe areas. David Glenn, NEA Member Benefits, will be the featured speaker for AEA-R on **March 11**, sharing the benefits website, featuring those that retired members can enjoy.  He’s also promised to bring lots of goodies to share.

**February Chapter meeting Scottsdale/PV/Fountain Hills – Nancy Riley**

Seventeen of us met at Eggstasy for a great tasting brunch and info from those who met with legislatore on lobby day. Also Linda Somo gave a report about the virtual AARA meeting regarding the Congressional

draft budget. (Oh boy!) Next meeting will be on March 17th (wear green!).