



AEA-Retired Annual Meeting Friday May 7, 2021 minutes.

Held on Zoom (virtual meeting) 10:00 am

Attendees: Michael Aicone, Suzan Austin, Rosalina Baldonado, Francine Bard, Laurie Bingenheimer, Linda Boothe, Shirley Boswell, Margaret Bowerman, Marilyn Calhoun, Kathy Carney, Anna Cicero, Julie Cieniawski, Caroline Cline, Cindy Couture, Julie Cozad, AnnJi Craig-Wooten, , Andrea Dalessandro, Janice Dwosh, Jeanne Erickson, Diane Escalante, Ken Freed, Marilyn Freed, Lorraine Good, Katri Hakes, Cynthia Hart-Vega, Melanie Hobden, Teri Hollingsworth, Doug Honaker, Julie Horwin, Janie Hydrick, Bart James, Norma Jimenez, Maria Leyva, Steve Linder, Lana Llewelyn, Sharin Manes, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok , Luci Messing, Ann Myers,, Renee Newman, Ronda Olson, Kay Passmore, Carmen Peters, Marion Pickens, Nancy Putman, Kathy Pyner, Mary Radcliffe, Steve Ramos, Doni Ramos, Frank Ratey, William Rhodes, Nancy Riley, Sally Rosen, Ron Rossman, Susan Sain, Ellen Shamah, Michele Smith, Susie Sommer, Linda Somo, Richard Spitzer, Jean Stephenson, Carol Trudgen, Maria Vinaras, Kate Ward, Sandra Warns, Covey Whitaker, Larry Wittig, Connie Wittig,, Peggy Yeargain, Darcy Zucco, Juan Zuniga (Delegates are listed in bold print above)

Guests: Joe Thomas, Daniella Smith , Paul Matson

1.a. Call to Order, President Anna Cicero

10:00 am Call to order.

Welcome by AEA-Retired President Anna Cicero . We had a moment of silence for Covid victims and our AEA Retired members who passed away this year. Anna introduced the Native land acknowledgement, and gave her inspiring President's address. She thanked the Annual meeting team and executive board members and officers for their support. We need everyone's support and engagement in our organization!

Julie Horwin then provided our AEA Retired Zoom Protocols for this annual meeting.

Barbara Matteson explained the NEA Fund and the ease to donate at the link provided. Please do so as soon as possible. At our last in person Annual meeting in 2019 we raised \$3,000 total. Let's try to match it!

1.b. Approval of agenda for Annual meeting : Ken Freed moved to approve the agenda with flexibility, Steve Ramos seconded the motion and it was passed with no objections.

minutes.. They were seconded by Steve Ramos and approved without objection..

Packet review-- included reviewing the agenda and minutes, committee and chapter reports, financial reports, election packets with speeches, and AARA report. (Janice Dwosh-- AEA -Retired Secretary)

2. Election report/Call for nominations : Steve Linder

A Call for Nominations was made for the Vice President. No other nominations for Vice President other than the one candidate Julie Cieniawski. Therefore elected by acclamation was Julie Cieniawski. Congratulations to our new Vice President Julie Cieniawski!

Then nominations were requested for the six at large executive board members. Only nominations were given by the candidates previously nominated as listed next. Speeches were done in the following order: Maria Leyva, then Marilyn Freed, Luci Messing, Michele Smith, Susan Sommer, Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner (absent) Sharin Manes, and Marie D. Bruening (absent)

Then voting instructions were given by Steve Linder, AEA Retired Elections chairperson. Six at large positions open on the board. 59 delegates were available -- 58 delegates were certified for this meeting as well as Ken Freed (ex officio) total 59 voters.

3. Vote online and break for lunch Voting took place between 11:10-12:00 The top 6 candidates will get 3 year terms.

4. Drawings - \$100 to two attendees: Winners included : Lorraine Good and Cindy Couture

5. Awarding of Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award -- Connie Wittig awarded this prestigious award to Julie Horwin, our Past President . Julie has been active in AEA-Retired for so many years, and has been an active leader as well as an important executive board member . She brings her many years of passion and dedication to our organization. We sure appreciate her continued efforts! Congratulations Julie!

6. Elections report-- Steve Linder : Elections chairperson

Voting results:

Vice President: Julie Cieniawski elected by acclamation (no other candidates)

Board members at large: (voted for 6 candidates)

elected today for 6 open spots:

Maria Leyva: 51 votes 15.8 %

Marilyn Freed: 46 votes 14.3%

Luci Messing: 58 votes 18 %

Michele Smith: 50 votes 15.5%

Susan Sommer: 48 votes 14.9%

Sharin Manes: 26 votes 8.1%

others that did not get elected: Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner, and Marie D. Bruening

Changes to Bylaws and Constitution: unanimously approved 59-0

Congrats to all of the elected board members and those who ran who were not elected. Thanks for your candidacy and support of AEA Retired! Our gratitude to the candidates who ran for At-Large board positions and were not elected. Your continued service to AEA-Retired is appreciated. Thanks to Jeanne Erickson, Ellie Feldner and Marie D. Bruening !

7.. Breakout rooms: What was tough, what was a positive, what's one thing you will contribute that reflects "Strength through Union:" Discussion in small groups was done for 15 minutes of breakout rooms. Results were forwarded to Anna Cicero.

8. 2nd drawing: 2 winners of \$100 include the following:

Julie Cozad and Sharin Manes

9. ASRS Update-- Paul Matson Director of ASRS

Four topics for today's speaker:

1. investments--more stable if investments are solid, lower contribution rates, higher probability for PBI current fiscal year --rate of return 22% \$48 million portfolio
2. operational-- high service at low cost, ASRS in the top tier of pension peers for customer service, our costs
3. are less than our pension peers
4. financial- current funded 72.8% strive to get towards 100%, members living longer
5. health insurance--Medicare eligible and non-medicare eligible, PPO vs HMO, Medical, dental, prescription drugs, premiums and coverages , driving costs down for Medicare eligible, hard to get costs down for non-Medicare eligible , potentially self insure (non-Medicare)
6. Initiatives:

Cybersecurity/hacking (\$ and data)- initiative considered a perpetual issue , resources are allocated.

Working on Rates of return -difficult in future to continue at the high rates

Driving down costs on health insurance and Operational efficiency - culture of efficiency

10. ASRS Threat- guest speaker Daniella Smith (ASRC lobbyist) Arizona Retirement security coalition

Daniella is from the AZ Retirement Security Coalition . Many groups are trying to eliminate pensions and trying to get people into 401K plans only. ASRS is the only defined benefit plan left in AZ. Other groups might want to allow members to either choose defined benefit plans or defined contribution plan (401K) options (ASU) and others might want to do this in the future.

The AZ Legislature was trying to make the ASRS pension plan optional for the public universities in AZ. The HB2138 bill was removed due to opposition to this bill in the House of Representatives . The “Strike everything amendment” is still left as a tool for the legislature while they are in session. Amendments can be dangerous (such as SB1532) to hurt teachers by fines up to \$5,000 bring up controversial topics in classrooms. Still up to the Senate to vote on this bill, and vigilance is necessary until the Legislature session is adjourned. Pay attention to AEA Legislative alerts. Contact your legislators (Zoom, in person or by email or mail). Stay informed!

11. Drawings -- \$100 to two attendees: Winners included : Ronda Olson and Covey Whitaker

12. Joe Thomas --AEA President

Spoke to the Annual Meeting attendees about how AZ educators have worked so hard this year in an unbelievable year especially due to Covid. We need to have our parents and families continue to support us and the active educators and a half have been extremely difficult with the politicalization of education. AEA Retired members are critical voices to our active members. Please use praise and reach out to encourage our educators to continue and persevere! Stay engaged and active, help vote for legislators that support public education.

Thanks for supporting Prop 208 and Invest in Ed! Don't give up! The courts are reviewing it still. Hopeful it will be held up in the courts. Stay positive and stay active!

**13. Drawings-- \$100 to two attendees: Winners included:
Renee Newman and Janice Dwosh**

14. Financial reports: Steve Linder (AEA-Retired Former Treasurer) - Steve presented the current status of the AEA-Retired balance sheet, and the approved budget for the 2021-2022 year.

Approved budget for 2021-2022-- approved in April 2022 (based on 100 fewer members than the current year)

Funding for next year will focus on building membership and chapters throughout the state of AZ.

checking acct. \$136, 000

savings acct. \$32, 000

total accts. \$168,000 total assets

AEA-Retired spending has been limited due to virtual meetings this year (travel has been limited due to Covid for local and national events.) Only 30% of the budget was spent this year, so the carryover will be used next year.

15. Email drawing --\$100 awarded to Shari Lawson!

16. Membership outreach winners this year-

Richard Wilson \$105, Darrell Keel \$105 , Susan Clark \$105, Maria Leyva \$70, Julie Letofsky \$70

Congratulations to all of our new member winners!

17. Closing remarks by Pres. Anna Cicero --Anna congratulated the newly elected officers and executive board members, thanked Norma Jimenez (annual meeting chair) , as well as the committee for assisting with the Annual Meeting.. She also thanked her executive board , chapter chairs and other active leaders in supporting her throughout the past year and few months since she has been the AEA Retired President. Anna is excited to work and support all of you! Please step up to leadership in our group if you desire! Thanks for your participation and support!

18. Explanation of AEA Caucus meeting -- Ken Freed and Luci Messing

NEA Board Director candidates will not be voted on by AEA Retired at the delegate assembly this weekend. Please attend and get the up to date information.

19. Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. by President Anna Cicero.

The AEA Retired Caucus for the AEA Delegate assembly follows the Annual meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Dwosh AEA-Retired on 5/26/21

Please stay safe, healthy, and connected with your family, friends and AEA-Retired colleagues!