



Award Winning Newsletter!

THE CONDUIT

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Season's Greetings!

A Call to Leadership and Engagement!

AEA Retired Annual Meeting, Elections and Nominations to AEA Delegate Assembly

In 2025, we are excited to return to the Renaissance Hotel, in downtown Phoenix for the AEA Retired general membership Annual Meeting and AEA Delegate Assembly on May 9-10. More about annual meeting registration link and delegate assembly details will be coming at a later time from AEA Retired and AEA.

For now, the AEA Retired Executive officers and general board enthusiastically invite you to **NOMINATE** yourself to be a **DELEGATE** and/or to be a **CANDIDATE** for a board position. In this exciting election, once selected to be a delegate or candidate for office, you will engage in voting for officers, and new business items contributing to the mission and direction of the associations. We invite all members, and recently retired member leaders, to engage in advocating for education and protection of our pension, Medicare and Social security. **Important:** You must commit to the 2-day event to be a delegate.

Nominate yourself to be a delegate and/or candidate for a board position!

Nominations are open for **six At-Large Representatives** and a **Secretary**. To read more details about these positions' responsibilities, please go to page [seven](#)

NOMINATION LINK: click here <https://forms.gle/rJPfsNrLDKHC8p7r6>

This link is for delegate and board positions only. **The nomination form deadline is February 28, 2025 by 5:00PM.** As customary each year, you can also [Continued on page 7](#)



Calendar

December

- 4—Advocacy training
- 10—Executive Board Meeting

January

- 13—Opening Day of Legislature
- 22—Lobby Day at AZ Capitol

- 14—Executive Board Meeting

February

- 11—Executive Board Meeting
- 12—Lobby Day at AZ Capitol

March

- 2—Executive Board Meeting
- 7-9—Leadership Summit
- 9-11—NEA Retired Conference

ASRS UPDATE BY STEVE RAMOS

COVID and on-line access leads to big changes for Arizona State Retirement System



I begin this ASRS report with an announcement. Although it has been my practice since 2007 to produce a regular ASRS Report in each issue of the AEA Retired *Conduit* newsletter, moving forward, that will no longer be the case. Recently, the ASRS Board has voted to reduce its number of regular board meetings from every other month, to a quarterly schedule. ASRS believes this change will facilitate a more productive and efficient retirement system for the ASRS board, staff and system members. Rest assured that as your AEA Retired ASRS coordinator, I will continue to monitor and report on ASRS Board meetings and provide information on legislative and other issues that impact our retirement system. I will also continue to represent our members as part of the Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC).

Like other workplaces, ASRS was changed by the COVID years. Perhaps the most significant change has been that today, 91% of ASRS employees report working from home at least one day a week. Many are working remotely full time. ASRS has made investments in new technology, allowing almost all member service interactions to be done completely online, while also providing the highest level of member information security. A more remote workforce has allowed ASRS to vacate two floors of the Phoenix office building. Since ASRS owns the building, that space can now be leased, helping to offset ASRS management costs. The member walk-in office remains on the bottom floor in Phoenix, but the ASRS lease on its Tucson Office space is up in December. As of now, the ASRS has not decided if it will renew that lease. The office currently accommodates only a small number of in-person service visits from that area of the state. Understand that a bare bones 2024-25 state budget deal, which provided millions of dollars to expand school vouchers, also forced the Governor to ask government agencies, including ASRS, to tighten their budgets and hiring.

Finally, it is likely that by the time members get this newsletter, the November open enrollment period for selecting an ASRS health care plan will have passed. I want to join ASRS in thanking AEA Retired members Jean Stephenson, Kristine Ehlis and Barb Carter who, along with others, spent hours reviewing bids from health care providers and crafting a new contract with United Healthcare. Members should see no increase in monthly premiums for the **Non-Medicare Choice** and **Value** plans, while the **Premier** plan premium will increase. The Medicare program itself, saw significant regulatory and legislative changes, which, in turn, resulted in premium increases for both of the **ASRS Medicare Advantage** plans.

The Value of Your Membership



A Pension for Your Lifetime

With the ASRS, your monthly pension payments will last for your lifetime.



A Pension that is Secure

Your pension is not impacted by stock market volatility. Your contributions are matched by your employer.



Retiree Medical and Dental Plans

Competitively priced retiree medical and dental insurance plans.



Retiree Medical & Dental Plan Subsidies

Medical and dental subsidies provided based on years of service.



Long Term Disability Insurance

Cost-effective group long term disability coverage is paid 50% by your employer.



A Pension with Options for Beneficiaries

Your beneficiary can receive up to 100% of your adjusted monthly pension



Survivor Benefits

Survivor benefits are payable upon your death whether you are an active, inactive, or retired member.



Flexibility

If you leave your ASRS employer, you have the choice to withdraw your savings immediately or in the future, roll over your savings to another retirement plan, or take a future pension.



Additional Tax-Advantaged Savings Plans

You have the opportunity to participate in additional tax-advantaged savings plans which have professional oversight and low costs.



Social Security Coverage

Most employees also obtain full social security coverage.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ANNA CICERO

My gratitude for all your efforts!



“While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign,” VP Kamala Harris. In the spirit of Vice President Harris’ words, as the President of AEA Retired, I choose to turn the page on the past and move forward and continue to pay attention, engage and act in our space as AEA Retired members. Although emotionally exhausted, as many of you are, thank you for all you did. I am grateful for your dedication to the long list of tasks that included, but were not limited to, writing postcards, talking to neighbors, helping family with voting, door knocking and contributing to the campaigns of candidates. **I am so proud of all of you!**

So many messages of gratitude are spinning in my head. I saw you. I joined you. We talked about incredible election-related stories. We met beautiful people along the way.

To those of you who filmed ads, wrote letters to the editor and proudly shared with thousands of voters our fight to protect our pension, Social Security, Medicare and education threats, **I thank you.**

To our AEA Retired Liaison Ellie, I am grateful for your expertise and support. But, most importantly, for voting for the first time, after 30 years waiting to exercise that right. Your strength and determination fuels the fire in all of us to charge ahead. **I thank you.**

Thanks to AEA President Marisol Garcia, who with boundless passionate energy makes me proud to lead. I took the liberty of sharing her post-election message. The fight ahead is real and we will ALL come together because this is the assignment!



“Our power building work must continue as planned, with more clarity on the importance of unbreakable solidarity.”

AEA President, Marisol Garcia

Take action to achieve the full repeal of the GPO/WEP penalties.

The House of Representatives has passed HR 82. A Senate vote is next, however at the print deadline, none is scheduled. Push for an immediate vote on S 597! Contact your Senator by [clicking here](#).

The bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597/H.R. 82) would fully repeal both GPO and WEP has more than 300 cosponsors in the House and 49 in the Senate. Read more about GPO and WEP at NEA’s site. <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/about-gpo-and-wep>



Just a few of retired members who provided hard work and time in this election cycle. Hope you caught the acting skills of Linda Somo, VP Luci Messing and President Anna Cicero!



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LUCI MESSING

Since I serve in two positions, this article will include both the AEA Retired VP information and the AEA Board meeting highlights.



Vice President Information

- The 2024 election is behind us. Thank you to the many retired members who participated in election activities. It's time to take a little break because soon we will be preparing for the upcoming legislative session.
- Advocacy/Lobbying training will be held on December 4 at AEA headquarters to learn about the newly elected legislature.
- Linda Somo, Anna Cicero, and I have been appointed to serve on the Compliance Review Subcommittee to address the new business item passed at the Delegate Assembly in May. This NBI asked that one additional retired director be added to the AEA Board. Currently, the AEA Board has only one retired director who represents over 2,000 members. Every other director serving on the Board represents 1,000 members or less. This creates a situation which is not in compliance with the NEA standard of one person, one vote. It's time for AEA Retired to have appropriate representation on the AEA Board of Directors.

AEA Board Meeting Highlights

- Research and Policy Day was held November 16th at the Phoenix Coding Academy. Many of the AEA Committees and Task Forces met on that day. However, some committees had already met or will be meeting at a different day. AEA Retired is represented well by members serving on a number of committees. In addition, there are a number of subcommittees to address specific issues.
- Board members attended the "Teacher of the Year" event on October 19th. Congratulations to Emmett Burnton who teaches history at Boulder Creek High School in Deer Valley, and is an AEA member!
- Quarterly financials - The AEA Board voted to begin using quarterly financials in October 2023 on a trial basis. Since it has been a year, there should be a vote to continue or discontinue at the December Board meeting. If you have any feedback regarding this issue, don't hesitate to contact me at lucibmessing@cox.net.
- The ESP Conference will be held on February 28 & March 1. Details will be forthcoming.

It would be fantastic to see more retired members at the various events. You are always welcome. Join us! There are many interesting things to participate in. We enjoy all we do!

Retirees Applaud House of Representatives' Passage of Social Security Fairness Act

By Linda Somo, President of Arizona Alliance of Retired Americans



We're excited to share some groundbreaking news in the fight for retirement security: The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) with strong bipartisan support! This legislation will repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), two outdated laws that reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of public servants, including teachers, firefighters, and police officers.

This historic step is a major milestone and a huge victory for public service workers across the nation. These punitive laws have penalized public employees who have devoted their lives to serving our communities, stripping them of the Social Security benefits they rightfully earned. By passing this bill, Congress has recognized the fundamental injustice of these policies and the need to restore fairness for those who keep our communities safe, healthy, and educated.

NEA President Becky Pringle expressed the importance of this momentous achievement:

Educators dedicate their lives to public service, but when it is time to retire, far too many find that they have been stripped of the Social Security and retirement benefits they earned due to an unjust and morally wrong penalty. Not only do the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) exclusively punish educators, firefighters, and police officers, but these laws discourage people from pursuing public service careers."

We urge the Senate to act with urgency and pass this bill as soon as possible so that we can finally help eliminate this unfair penalty on retirement benefits.

Click here to [send a letter to lawmakers](#) urging them to VOTE YES to repeal WEP & GPO TODAY!

Editors Note: This information came from the National Public Pension Coalition. Hopefully, by the time you receive this, the bill in the Senate will have already passed.

Recruit New AEA Retired Members!

by Nancy Putman, Shirley Boswell, Michele Smith

Now is the time to talk to friends and former colleagues and ask if they belong to AEA Retired, then ask them to join the association. Explain why you have continued membership in NEA, AEA and AEA Retired. Let them know their voice is needed to advocate for public education and to fight for the safety and well-being of all children and educators. The value in having one unified voice speaks loudly in advocating for strong public schools. The more members, the more powerful the voices. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us.

AEA Retired keeps you informed on legislative, pension and educational issues. We monitor ASRS regarding change to pension and health insurance.

A membership form can be found on the AEA Retired website, www.azedretired.com. Be sure to sign your name as the recruiter on the membership form. If you recruit a new member, you will receive \$10. Share our website and Facebook page so they can see what is going on with our members and chapters, there are eight statewide chapters. Information about each is on the back page of this Conduit.

Member Benefits

Membership in AEA Retired gives you the opportunity to continue discounts and savings through NEA Member Benefits. One great benefit is savings available from **Rakuten** where you can find the best discounts and get cash back on many name-brand products. Look for that on neamb.com/marketplace. To begin saving, set up an account at: neamb.com/getstarted. Once you register, you can sign up for any of the great programs offered through NEA.

AEA Retired members are still eligible for the **NEA \$1000 complimentary life insurance** as an NEA member. You can also purchase additional coverage NEA Life Insurance as well as other benefits. Many members have taken advantage of auto and home insurance through **California Casualty**. Members who have switched auto insurance plans have saved an average of \$423 a year.

The newest incentive program is the **NEA Discount Tickets Program**. Discounts of up to 40% can be earned on tickets to theme parks, local attractions, Broadway shows, concerts, sporting events, ski resorts, and more. Go to neamb.com/dailydiscounts to find these discounts. Travel and vacation discounts can be found at NEA Travel. Book hotels, resorts, airfare, car rentals, cruises, and guided tours. On your first visit, you will receive \$500 Travel Dollars to use like cash towards the cost of your trip. With all of these resources, you can get the most out of your member benefits in one easy place!

A Tribute to Barbara Matteson

The AEA Retired membership committee would like to thank long-time member, Barbara Matteson, for all she has done for education in her lifetime. Barbara has been a member of the membership committee from the beginning of AEA Retired. Barbara taught school 35 years and has been retired 35 years. Her first six years of teaching was in Minnesota and then she taught 29 years in Tucson. Barbara signed up to be a member of AEA Retired by former leader, Les Reynolds. She has been a union member all this time and continues to be a strong retired union member. During her retired career she served as an NEA Retired Board member, Vice President and President. Much of her career has involved political action. Barbara feels it is so important to be involved in electing people who support a good education for all children. This should be the number one issue for all officials to address. Barbara was instrumental in 1998 promoting Proposition 100 to Arizona protecting our defined benefits. Barbara joined AEA Retired because she wanted to work with the group that supports public education and protects her pension, Social Security and health care. She states, "I am now 92 years old and I will continue to work, as best I can, for our children through our association."

Thank you, Barbara, for all you have done for education! You made a difference in students lives, and the members of this association.



The Conduit



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AEA RETIRED PAEC IS FIRED UP!

BY PAEC CORE COMMITTEE

The AEA Retired Political Advocacy and Engagement Committee (PAEC) is fired up! Optimistic that we will be okay.

Through a series of strategies and advocacy we are ready for the ACTION which awaits in the coming months!

CONTACT your Elected Legislators!

The 57th legislative Session: Opening Day is Monday, January 13, 2025. Details of this day's active schedule are in progress. In the meantime, take the opportunity to begin to establish communication and working relationships with newly elected legislators or incumbents. Board members and event participants can begin to send postcards or handwritten letters and/or personalized emails by following these suggested 3 steps.

- Introduce yourself as a constituent and AEA Retired Member
- State support for public education, our pension and health programs or other topics of concern
- Sign, address and mail postcards, most postcards are pre-stamped.

The results of the 2024 Presidential election and state elections will determine the issues and topics we must address during the new legislative session. In collaboration with AEA, AEA Retired will seek to deliver on our common goals. The **AEA Legislative Agenda will provide us with critical direction.** AEA Retired advocacy will focus on issues related to educators' salaries, working conditions, safe and fully funded schools, protection of pension and health programs. We are fired up to deliver!

2025 AEA Retired Lobby Days at the Arizona Capitol: In October, you received a correction email specifying changes to lobby days actions! We learned that the 57th Legislative Session Opens on Monday, January 13. At this time, the meeting room is yet to be determined. Be on the lookout for a registration link.

AEA-Retired Lobby Days at the AZ Capitol

Wednesday, January 22 at 9:30a.m.-2:30p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 9:30a.m.-2:30p.m.

AEA Retired Lobby days are extremely important! The scheduled activities include, but are not limited to:

- A welcome time of 9:30am with introductions of the day
- Welcome visits by legislators and guest speakers who will speak to the state of the state. As the saying goes, Elections have consequences. The Lobby day core team will be there to represent.
- Providing you with resources and talking points on bills to speak for or against, the Legislative Agenda
- Meeting face to face with legislators to share concerns or appreciation
- Attending committee hearings and possibly testify
- Observing from the gallery—learning what takes place in both chambers
- Being recognized by Legislators—let's proudly wear our purple shirts
- Engaging in and/or signing-up in the use of RTS—Request to Speak

Send your email address to

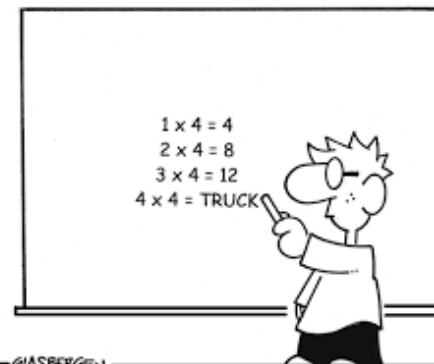
julie.horwin@gmail.com

Win \$100



If we already have your e-mail address, you are entered in the \$100 drawing

Good luck!



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[Continued from Page 1](#)

attend as a member guest if you choose NOT to nominate yourself to engage in leadership at this time. Annual meeting registration will begin in March 2025. A very important task in this nomination process is to increase the allotted number of delegates, usually about 84 to represent the AEA Retired members. We seek representation from diverse groups as well as rural and urban areas to reflect our membership makeup.

The **37th AEA Retired Annual Meeting** will take place Friday, May 9, 2025, from 9:30am to 4:00pm. This will be a celebratory event to honor colleagues, for example, the Les Reynolds Distinguished Service Award. We will have time to reconnect and engage with retired colleagues as well as become familiar and engage in the business and operations of the association. The meeting will be replete with fantastic speakers, informative resources, legislative updates, awards, door prizes and a delicious lunch.

The **AEA Delegate Assembly** will follow the annual meeting on Friday, May 9, until the close of business on May 10. More details will follow from AEA. Reminder, delegates are the only ones who will vote and are required to be in attendance the 2 days, May 9 and 10.

The AEA Retired Constitution and Bylaws provide these descriptions of the duties of Secretary and At-Large Representative:

Recording Secretary:

Section 3. Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall:

- A. Keep accurate minutes of all the Executive Board and General Membership Meetings;
- B. Maintain the official files;
- C. Provide copies of the minutes of all Executive Board and Membership Meetings;
- D. Notify the appropriate members of the time, manner, and place of Executive Board meetings at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting date.
- E. Notify the general membership of the time, manner and or/place at least one month prior to the meeting date of the General Membership Meeting;
- F. Ensure the publication of all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws as prescribed in Article VII of the Constitution and/or Article VIII of the Bylaws.

At-Large Representative: The Representatives-At-Large shall:

- A. Attend at least 70% of Executive Board meetings.
- B. Be available to Chair at least one Standing or Ad Hoc Committee
- C. Assist with member recruitment and program development/delivery
- D. Assist the Annual Meetings Committee in planning and implementing the Annual Meeting

Delegates: Approximately **84 delegate** positions are open for AEA Retired Local members. Election is held prior to the Annual Meeting. However, if the number of nominations is less than the number of positions to be filled, no election is necessary.

If you have any questions or wish to nominate yourself and do not have the technology, contact Anna Cicero at cicero.anna.1013@gmail.com or by phone (480) 600-1170

Presentation of the **Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award** will take place at the AEA Retired Annual Meeting on March 9, 2025. To **NOMINATE** a deserving member, please turn to [page 11](#) where you will find the award nomination form. The 2024 award winner was Nancy Putman for her outstanding work in building union membership and advocacy.

Become a member of this illustrious group!
Nominate yourself as an At-Large Representative by February 28, 2025



Racial and Social Justice Committee

By Janice Dwosh

Honoring Indigenous People in Arizona

As we enter November, "Native American History Month" is listed on the calendar. What does that mean to our AEA Retired members, Arizona educators, students and families? This year, it is now time to share the story of Native American boarding schools and the recent apology to the Indigenous people of the USA by President Biden. In this apology he stated "Generations of Native children stolen, taken away to places they didn't know, with people they'd never met, who spoke a language they had never heard. Native communities were silenced. Their children's laughter and play were gone. Children who would arrive at schools, their clothes taken off, their hair that they were told was sacred, chopped off. Their names were literally erased, replaced by a number or an English name." This practice of assimilation went on for 150 years, with many suffering physical and mental abuse. If they had not died at the school, many suffered from intergenerational trauma after they returned home. Studies recently conducted by the government found "that more than 500 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children's deaths occurred at 19 of the federal Indian boarding schools, and identified 53 marked and unmarked burial sites at school sites nationwide." These atrocities must be acknowledged and amends made for the damages, trauma and harm inflicted.

How can we honor our Native people in Arizona and throughout the world? One way is to share their personal, sacred and beautiful culture through stories, books and music. We can ensure Native members in our organization have voice. Another way is to buy from Indigenous artists, authors and creators. NEA has a number of resources, check out the "Resources for teaching about Indigenous People" at this link: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/resources-teaching-about-indigenous-peoples>. Books, websites, activities are included here.

Also check out the additional Native resources: <https://www.colorincolorado.org/books-authors/books-kids/american-indianalaska-native-heritage-booklists-and-resources>. Visit the amazing museums in Phoenix and throughout the state of Arizona. For example, the Heard Museum at https://heard.org/?utm_medium=google&utm_source=cpc&utm_campaign=no-n-branded&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwg-24BhB_EiwA1ZOx8nfrnDZmIPAgA9sRytZuiQPEgcDX2LRfyHoOXJ9zHpad6Rm8JyK5hBoC3iIQAvD_BwE

The Desert Botanical Gardens has a section dedicated to the Indigenous culture in Arizona, and a multitude of other museums (including the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center). <https://www.nativeconnections.org/our-traditions/pisvc/> can give you a perspective of the history we may have missed. The Arizona landscape is covered with Indigenous sites, so visit these and other historical sites and museums. "We are always on Native land." Please be respectful!

Book Corner

By Ann Myers

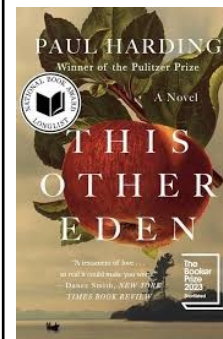
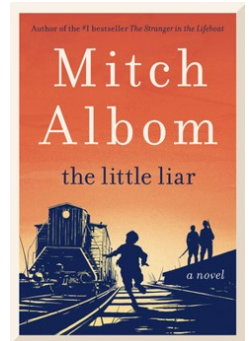


We teach our children that lies are dishonest and immoral. Nico learned that lesson so well that he was known as the boy who would not, could not lie. Tragically, that goodness was exploited and resulted in thousands of deaths.

Since the 16th century, Salonika, Greece had become a safe home for Jews. Nico, his brother Sebastian, and extended family lived a comfortable, contented life until 1943 when Hitler sent Udo Graf to rid the city of Jews.

Udo Graf has got to be one of the most evil characters in literature, despite immense competition. He uses honest eleven year old Nico to convince the Jews to board the trains to Auschwitz and their deaths. When Nico realizes the part he had played, he spends his life atoning for his one fatal lie.

The Little Liar by Mitch Albom is narrated by Truth, an interesting perspective in our own era where truth and facts are not treated as absolutes. This book was a favorite of the Social/Justice Book Group.



Another book we discussed was *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding. This story is a fictional retelling of a historical event on Malaga Island, Maine. The island had been settled by freed and escaped slaves, and over time settled into a self contained, quiet fishing community until 1911 when the state of Maine sent social workers to interview the residents. The State determined that the Malaga Islanders were unable to care for themselves and were evicted. Eight of the 47 were sent to the Maine School for the Feeble-Minded.

Maine's Governor, Frederick Plaisted, in 1912 said, "I think the best plan would be to burn down the shacks with all of their filth." Pretty much that's what happened. The islanders had very little of anything, and certainly not much education, but they were self sufficient. Early 20th century attitudes and beliefs destroyed these lives. In 2010, the Maine legislature passed a resolution expressing its "profound regret." Thanks to Paul Harding, the Malaga Islanders have a place in history.

In the last edition of *The Conduit*, I offered to give away my copy of *The Lincoln Highway*, a super book about friendship, loyalty, and a little bit of larceny. I still have it! Not a single person asked for it. Rather, one did ask, but she's the co-editor of this newsletter so I said no. If you're not the editor, send me a text or email telling me you'd love to receive the book, and I'll randomly pick one name. You have two weeks after the mailed copy of *The Conduit* has arrived. Also, if you'd like to belong to our fantastic Social/Justice Book group, contact me at azann@mac.com or 480-510-8098. Some of our future books are *James*, *Under the Java Moon*, and *The Vanishing Half*. Good stuff.

Editors' note: We cried crocodile tears-the Editors read, too!

The Colorado River, its Cities and Towns

By Jan Nichols



As the river descends from its base in Colorado and meets Lake Mead, spanning Arizona and Nevada, it displays spectacular canyons, dramatic, whitewater rapids and expansive beaches. As beautiful as the Colorado River is, it also contributes to the economy. An extensive dam system created reservoirs, canals and irrigation systems, recreational sites, and electricity to over 40 million people in four states and Mexico. Tributaries spawned the formation of eleven national parks, drawing tourists from the world over.

The stunning structure of Hoover Dam, completed in 1935, formed the Lake Mead Reservoir, the largest reservoir in the U.S., supporting water needs to Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado and Mexico. From Lake Mead, the river flows southward along the California border and eventually empties into the Gulf of California.

Along the fifth longest river in the United States, a few cities and towns call it home. Among these are, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu, Parker and also the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

Bullhead City is the sister city of Laughlin, in Nevada, directly across the river. Founded in recent times by a New York entrepreneur in 1841, the initial name was Hardyville. William Harrison Hardy established a ferry and steamboat company still operating in modern form. The Bullhead City moniker was inaugurated in 1953. The thriving economy is in tandem with its sister city, relying on much of the casino businesses and recreation resorts. Numerous local parks, camping, and outdoor activities opportunities abound in this city of forty-one thousand.



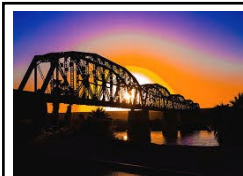
Follow the Colorado River 65 miles south on AZ95 to **Lake Havasu City**. First established by Robert McCullough, a developer, who acquired property on a World War II Army Air Corps rest camp in 1958. McCullough Properties began to fly-in thousands of prospective land buyers. Sales were somewhat slow, but in 1978, Lake Havasu City was incorporated. Since then, through tourist promotion and acquisition of the London Bridge, it has burgeoned to be a favorite destination of students on spring break and other travelers, second only to the Grand Canyon. In this city of 42,000, boaters of all kinds enjoy a paradise of adventure .

Hoping to attract prospective buyers to the area, McCullough bought the London Bridge in 1968, from London, England. Brought to the desert piece by piece, it took three years to reassemble. It is a beautiful site, especially with the night lights casting reflections on the water. The bridge is home to the city's Annual Festival of Lights each December followed by the Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair in January.



Continuing about 35 miles south brings travelers to The **Colorado River Indian Reservation** established in 1865. It stretches from just north of Parker nearly reaching Quartzite, and straddles both sides of the Arizona-California border. Four tribes inhabit the reservation, Mojaves, Chemehuevis, Hopis and Navajos. The economy centers around agriculture, recreation, government and light industry. Scenic attractions include Parker Dam and Lake Moovalya. Swimmers, fishing enthusiasts, boaters, water

skiers delight in the expansive ninety-mile shoreline. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Museum offers arts and crafts for sale. The Memorial Monument marks the site of the Japanese Poston War Relocation Center where 17,867 Japanese Americans were interred during World War II. Nearby casino resorts are also available.



Parker is the county seat of La Paz County and the home to 3,417. Founded in 1908, the town was originally named after Ely Parker, the first Native American Commissioner for the United States Government. It was officially incorporated in 1948. Parker was founded to serve the Parker Indian Agency on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. Parker's Landing was a place for boats to pick up cargo and personnel from the Indian Agency and the Army stationed at Camp Colorado from 1864 to 1869. Today, Parker is known for relaxing on the river and exploration of this ghost town.

The region is home to River Island and Cattail Cove where water sport enthusiasts can enjoy kayaking, canoeing, tubing, and other activities. Boat rentals and RV parks are available. Trails with spectacular views are available for avid hikers.

West of Parker, the Arizona and California Railroad was a part of the Santa Fe Line that connected passenger trains from Phoenix to Los Angeles and San Francisco. The bridge pictured to the left is part of that history still in operation with over 12,000 train cars passing over it each year.



More about Phoenix Indian School



Thousands of native children were brought to the site of the Phoenix Indian School to be assimilated into the Caucasian culture.

Alumni from Phoenix Indian School donated their letterman's jackets and sweaters to the Visitor Center at the museum



Members of the brass section of Phoenix Indian School Band
Circa 1905

Most of the buildings have been razed. Only one remains, now a visitor center and museum.



I knew a wise woman
 And she said to me
 That the river would mold me
 And the wild wind would cool me
 The trickster the coyote
 He would fool me
 That father sun would warm me
 Mother earth would clothe me
 Grandmother moon would greet me
 And of the old ways she would teach me
 Wise woman, she told me
 To always walk lightly
 Tread the earth ever gently
 Lovingly so preciously
 And take from her sparingly
 She said, to share with others
 What you have learned from me
 Be still and breathe, ever patiently
 For the web of life
 Has woven what is to be
 But you must still choose
 Your own path, you will see
 And lastly, the wise woman said to me
 To listen to the wise one
 That dwells within me
 To walk my path in balance
 Is to be free
 More than just words
 So mote it be.

~ Jonathan Bear Geronimo Ramaker

The Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award

The LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD is named for Les Reynolds, the first president of AEA-Retired. The award is presented annually to a member of our association in appreciation for outstanding service to our Association, public education and the community. Previous recipients are Robert Bloom, Bertha Myers, John Campbell, Ralph Lara, Barbara Matteson, Marion Pickens, Mary Bishop, Connie Wittig, Kathy Campbell, Frank Bing, Frank Sacco, Linda Somo, Steve Ramos, Suzan Austin, Luci Messing, Shirley Boswell, Julie Horwin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder and Nancy Putman.

Please take time to nominate a member you believe meets these criteria. Be specific in completing the form which must be in typewritten format. You may attach additional information. The committee will not consider partially completed forms. **Nomination deadline is February 11, 2025.**

LES REYNOLDS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Nominator's Name _____

Phone (____) _____

Nominee Information: All information must be in a typewritten format. Attach an additional page, if necessary. There is a two page maximum.

1. Number of years as an AEA Retired member: _____
2. Association positions held at the local, state and national levels:
3. Positions held in other professional and/or social organizations:
4. Community service:
5. List and describe the nominee's involvement in activities that were beneficial to AEA Retired, education and community:
6. Other relevant information:

Please return a completed form to:

**Nancy Putman
AEA Retired
3132 E. Preston St.
Mesa, AZ 85213**

Nomination forms are due by February 11, 2025

AEA RETIRED, Your Statewide Local
Affiliated with Arizona Education Association
345 East Palm Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

AEA Retired Chapter News

Chapters bring AEA Retired together. Most chapters will meet in person, some chapters may choose to add a Zoom meeting now and then. Each chapter governs itself in order to meet the needs of its members. Meetings usually include information programs and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. This is a great way to keep in touch with the latest issues in our communities. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter should contact Chapter Coordinator **Susan Sommer**, (623) 628-1935, ssommer114@aol.com.

All AEA Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live.

When Chapters meet via Zoom, connection is a simple process. All you need to do is click the link you receive from your Chapter Chair via e-mail. We welcome your attendance and participation.

Glendale/West Valley Chapter: This year our meetings are being held at 11 am at IHOP at 8359 W. Bell Rd Peoria 85382 from 10am until noon. We enjoy food and good conversation. Meetings dates are on the third Thursday each month, September through April. For more information call, text or email

Marshall Militano at 602-882-3260 or mmilitano1@gmail.com.

Greater Tucson Area Chapter: We are meeting the third Tuesday of the month, August through May. Meetings begin at 10am at the Southern AEA office, 6873 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ, 85704. Please e-mail Chapter Chair

Peter Coston at pcoston1@cox.net for Zoom meeting links.

Kyrene Chapter: The Hub Grill and Bar, 14205 South 50th Street, Phoenix, keeps active and retired educators connected and having fun. Food and drinks keep our camaraderie fueled. Meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month August through April. Wherever you worked or work as an educator, we welcome you. Contact **Janie Hydrick** at hydrick@aol.com.

Mesa/East Valley Chapter: We meet for luncheon at Mi Amigos Restaurant, 1264 South Gilbert Road, Mesa. Join us at 11:30am on December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4 and April 1. Wherever you worked or work as an educator, we welcome you. Contact

Janie Hydrick at hydrick@aol.com

Phoenix Chapter: We meet on Mondays—January 27, March 24 and April 28. at the Beatitudes Campus, 1610 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix. Contact **Suzan Austin** at suzanaustin@cox.net or **Gary Mehok** at lojo40@cox.net for more information.

Scottsdale/Paradise Valley Chapter: All meetings will be held on the **third Monday** of each month from 11:00 to 1, September through April (excluding December). If you're not on our mailing list, please contact

Nancy Riley at 480-600-8559 or rileyfam@cox.net.

Southeast Arizona Chapter: The Southeast Arizona AEA Retired Chapter is located in Cochise County and is comprised of districts in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Huachuca City, Naco, Palominas, Elgin, and Ft. Huachuca, and retirees from other states who have moved to Cochise County. Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month September through May. Please contact Sally if you would like to be added to the email contact list, our only method of communication. Contact Chapter Chair **Sally Rosén** at 520-249-0233, azcatsally@aol.com for details.

Interstate/Flagstaff/Northern Arizona/Reservation Chapter (INFARC). Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm (MST). Meetings will be held on Zoom. Please contact Daniel Barlow at dsjbarlow@yahoo.com. A link will be sent to you to connect to the meetings.

For more about AEA Retired, visit the website at www.azedretired.com.