



Tuesday, January 9, 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-P, Peter Coston-P, Cynthia 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-P, Gary Mehok-P, Lizzie Menefee-P, Marshall Militano-A, Nancy Putman-P, Nancy Riley-A, Michele Smith-P, Susie Sommer-P

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

OTHER LEADERS & GUESTS: Shirley Boswell-P, Cecilia Garcia-P, Bart James-P, Jan Nichols-A, Carmen Peters-P, Steve Ramos-P, Judy Robbins-A, Linda Somo-P, Sandra Warns-P, Ellie Perez-Pawloski-P, Emily Kirkland, AEA Data and Messaging presentation-P

Call to Order - Anna Cicero, President

Land Acknowledgement - Racial and Social Justice - Two videos presented by Janice Dwosh.

Welcome: Guests, Celebrations

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

Approval of December Minutes (with edits)- Moved by Ken. Seconded by Steve L. Motion passed.

Financial Report - Steve L./Treasurer presented, and reported ready for audit.

Approval of Financial Report - Moved by Ken. Seconded by Danny. Motion passed.

Membership- Shirley reported on membership numbers and progress with contacting 90-day delinquent members who pay by check or card. Some board members volunteered to call and otherwise contact those members. Shirley, Nancy and Michele agreed to help create some call/contact lists for board members. Request for all AEA Retired meetings, like Chapter meetings, for people to wear purple, and wear your AEA purple shirt to ALL AEA Retired events and other public events. Maria received \$10 for signing up a new member.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President- Anna: (refer to submitted written report that are also in the Appendix) Reminded everyone of upcoming important dates: NEA Leadership Summit, NEA Retired Conference, AEA-R Annual Meeting, AEA Delegate Assembly, NEA Racial and Social Justice Conference and NEA Representative Assembly.

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

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

AEA Director- Luci: Verbally reported that she was personally concerned about not receiving AEA financial reports on a monthly basis. She also requested the last time that the AEA achieved their 31-G goal at the NEA R.A, which only counts for active members.

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

AEA Liaison- Ellie Perez-Pawloski: AEA Legislative message is "NO CUTS to education!" Also, to refer to ESA's as ESA-Vouchers. The AEA legislative message is posted on

strongpublicschoolsaz.com

New Business Items/Motions: Ken. Continuation of discussion regarding the CA Language proposal, "One person, one vote." Motion to continue discussion by Steve L. Seconded by Susie S. Motion passed. Anna shared data from national discussions on retired representation in other states. Basically, nationwide representation is all over the place. Marilyn F moved to close debate. Seconded by Steve L. No objection. Ken called the question. Vote: 15 in favor to 5 not. CA Language proposal passed in order to be submitted to delegates at the AEA Delegate Assembly.

Political Action- Luci. (refer to submitted written report that is also in the Appendix) Reported that 30 people registered for Opening Day at the Legislature. Link will be sent to the Board for Lobby Day on January 17. Requested for people to report their appointments/meetings with legislators. Reminder to set up your RTS account. Lobby Day location is on the 3rd floor or the Historic Senate Chambers in

the Capitol Museum.

Emily Kirkland, AEA Data and Messaging presentation to the Board on messaging recommendations and how Arizonans think about public education.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

Racial & Social Justice- RSJ Update- Janice had the board complete an intersectionality self-quiz. There was a discussion afterwards.

Communications: Maria suggested that there be a “master password” that can be used across the many social media and technology platforms.

Website/Instagram- Maria updated the website and requested for more input from chapters and committees that have a dedicated page on our website.

Facebook- Steve R. All is well. Need to clarify admin. designations

ZOOM Link Support- Susie S/Sandy W. Acknowledged wonderful work being done by Tucson Chapter regarding ZOOM.

MailChimp/SurveyMonkey- Peter is learning quickly about how to navigate MailChimp.

The Conduit Newsletter- Jan, Bart. Bart noticed the June Conduit was not available online.

Strategic Planning- Anna. Present, but nothing to report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES/AD HOC:

ASRS- Steve R . Pre-Retirement seminars being coordinated with Carrie Wolf for Jan. 24 and Jan. 31. reported that there has been an 8.2% return, but should not result in a COLA.

M.O.R.E.- Cindy C/Lizzie M. Reported they are continuing to make plans for the event in April. Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes has confirmed as the keynote speaker.

Fundraising- Marilyn F. Explained how quilt tickets will be handled for D.A. and is accepting cash only for ticket purchases.

Annual Meeting- Norma J. No new news to report at this time.

Annual Award- Nancy P. Reminded everyone to submit their nominations.

Elections- Steve L. Reminded everyone that the deadline to nominate is February 22. Opening for VP and 6 At-Large positions. Reminded everyone to register as a delegate for the Annual Meeting.

Documents- Deb L. Nothing to report.

Budget- Steve L. Reminded everyone to submit budget requests before Jan. 29. The Budget Committee meets on January 30th at 10 AM.

Audit- Carmen reported that everything is ready to go, and will meet with Anna to print the “chart of accounts” reports.

CHAPTER CHAIR - Susie Sommer reminded Chapter Chairs to submit their reports to her.

West Valley*- Marshall

Phoenix*- Suzan Austin-Gary Mehok

East Valley*- Janie Hydrick

Scottsdale/PV*- Nancy R

Greater Tucson*- Peter C

Kyrene*- Ellen S

Southern/Sierra Vista*- Sally R

Interstate Report*- Danny

Marana/Northwest Tucson*- Deb L

Prescott Area- Julia Watson

*Refer to Appendix for Written Reports

ALLIANCES AND COALITION UPDATES

AARA- AZ Alliance for Retired Americans- Linda, Julie. Linda reported the Women in Organized Labor Event will be in March and more information is to be determined.

ARSC- Linda, Steve R, Anna, Luci reported that February 9 is Virtual Lobby Day from 10AM-2PM.

Kinnaman Raffle- Ken \$30 each way. Janice won.

AIN- Ken. No report.

Closure and Adjournment @ 2:13 PM.

APPENDIX

JANUARY - President's Report by Anna Cicero January 9, 2024 AEA-R Executive Board Meeting

Welcome to 2024, I reflect on projects and goals AND refresh our commitment to the Action Plans for the new year. It's an exciting election year that will require many "All Hands on Deck" starting with our first week in Jan. Thank you to all board members who completed so many tasks to be ready for January. Balancing the time between family, holiday prep and AEA-R responsibilities was not easy.

Kudos to Peter Costen for all **Mail Chimp** blasts with timely and informative communication for all retired members, to Luci for **AZ Capitol** action plan coordination, the **M.O.R.E** committee task assignment and the rest of the board for tasks I may or may not mention here but, I know the list is long and you are appreciated. A special thank you to Maria Leyva for supporting everyone's action plans in some capacity. She has now taken full control of our AEA-Retired Website. Thank you to Julie Horwin, Past President, who continues to mentor others on the board to transition into these tasks as well as representing us and all states as our NEA Director for retired.

Engagement and increasing membership is at the top of my list...join me!

State Engagement:

The AZ Capitol: encourage many of your Regional Chapter members to do the same. Attend the Capitol Legislative Session Opening Day-Jan. 8, contact district legislators and plan for the upcoming Lobby Days Jan. 17 and Feb. 6

Chapter Engagement: Attend my own East Valley chapter meeting on Jan. 16, I will attend the Phx Chapter January 15th meeting at Beatitudes, thank you Gary and Susie for the invite.

AARA, ARSC, AEA (Wed.)- continue my leadership tasks and zooms with our alliances and coalitions along with my other colleagues. Thank you for connecting the dots that are relevant common goals.

Summer AEA-R "retreat" or organizing, membership, workshop or whatever we call it:

As suggested in our 2023 Retreat Survey, to give you an *earlier "heads up"*, please be looking at your calendar for some dates to attend the Summer (June) engagement-Purpose, planning workshop, results of the year's membership goals, etc."

The AEA mini-grant interest form I turned in for us in Nov. may lead to some funding. Increasing membership, presenting goals RESULTS and organizing for our summer site engagement requires focused planning time. I should have more solid information so we can discuss a possible date at our Feb. meeting.

Possible dates: based on last year's recommendations: Tuesday-Wednesday (with flexibility)

June 4-5

June 11-12

June 18-19

Note: June 13-15- AEA Leadership and Growth Summit- Renaissance Downtown Phx.

National (NEA/NEA-R) Engagement:

Congratulations! The following Board Members will be attending the **NEA Leadership Summit** in Chicago. Janice Dewosh, Lizzie Menefee, Danny Barlow, Norma Jimenez, Maria Leyva, Anna Cicero. Thank you for turning in your interest form and commitment to bring back to our board creative strategies to enhance action plans and increase your leadership skills. See ya in Chicago on March 1-3. I believe all flights are booked!

NOTE: Funded by NEA-, the following board members will also attend the **NEA Retired Conference**-March 3-5- Anna Cicero (President) , Maria Leyva (membership), Janice Dwosh (presenter). I do not know yet if someone will attend in place of Ellie, our liaison)

RA (Rep. Assembly) Deadline- AEA-R is eligible for up to **3 delegates** depending on the Jan. 15 membership count. On line voting will open March 2 and close April 10th. **January 23 is the deadline for NEA Leadership nominations** for statewide, regional and retired delegates. I personally have turned in a nomination to represent us. RA will take place in Philadelphia PA on July 3-7th, 2024.

NEA State's Retired Representation Project- Arizona contribution-I am working with NEA Retired President, Anita Gibson, and her board to coordinate the **Poll** for state representation in each state affiliates (local active associations) Such voting or non-voting "seats at various tables", number of delegates at their DAs, number of retired in the board of directors table, etc. will be collected from all states and the data will be shared. Not enough time during the holidays to have the data ready from about 50 Retired Presidents.

NEA Retired – Governance Committee Arizona Rep.- I am taking place in the NEA Retired Governance Zooms. I am learning and contributing to the preparation for the NEA Retired Conference as it relates to Bylaws, Parliamentary procedures, changes in meeting details & dynamics in March. I am proud to represent Arizona in this NEA-R committee. Our next meeting is Jan. 25th, more to come soon.

Vice-President's Report for 1/8/24 – Ken Freed

I shall be brief;

Since our last Board Meeting, I

- *conferenced with members about ongoing issues,
- *attended a Tucson chapter meeting,
- *emailed, texted, met, or spoke with members,
- *chatted with actives and retired at social events,
- *attempted to attend a Wednesday AEA Zoom meeting,
- *attended AEA-R Board Meeting.

That is all. See you Tuesday. ken freed

Secretary's Report – January 2024 Maria Leyva

Since the last board meeting, I have:

- Uploaded the November minutes to the website
- Uploaded the Winter Edition of The Conduit to the website
- Created the RSVP's for January 8th Legislature Opening Day, and January 9th Board Meeting
- Worked with Julie H. to transfer website login to my email

AEA-Retired PAC January 2024 Report Submitted by Luci Messing

We had close to 30 members join us for Opening Day at the Legislature. We'll have quick report outs from those who participated. It's now time to prepare for our first lobby day on January 17th. LD captains should have made their appointments, invited their legislators to lunch, and passed the details on to me. We will be meeting in the old capitol historic senate chambers. This will be a new venue for us. Please check your RTS account and be sure it's ready to go. All indicators point to it being a busy session. If you need a review on the use of the RTS system, go to azleg.gov, click on

Request To Speak, then click on RTS manual. It can be very helpful to have those reminders once you begin using the system. Governor Hobbs has put forth some sensible recommendations to provide some oversight and accountability to the out of control ESA Voucher program. As of last week, 72,949 students had signed up to receive a \$7,300 voucher predicted to cost approximately \$1 billion dollars. These are some of her proposals: • Background checks for teachers • Mandatory fingerprinting for teachers • Minimum education requirements for teachers • Requiring students to first attend a public school for 100 days • Expand authority of the Auditor General to monitor how funds are spent We need to support the Governor in her efforts to reign in the universal voucher program. She believes that taxpayer money used for private schools should have fiscal responsibility attached to it. The Governor's other priorities are water, affordable housing, education and workforce development. In addition, she wants to address the increases in tuition for private schools as a result of the voucher system. There is sure to be a battle over the budget since there will be a \$400 million deficit that does not include the \$500 million over budget voucher program. We will stand strong against any proposed cuts to public education. Last session the budget was completed early due to Governor Hobbs and the Republican leadership making some compromises. This session we want input from the legislative minority to be included. As mentioned last month, a number of bills that were vetoed last session will be reintroduced this session. Since it is an election year, legislators may want to finish in a timely manner. However, this legislative majority is difficult to predict so we'll see. We had a legislative preview provided by Daniella Smith, our lobbyist for the Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC) on December 21st. It will be important for us to be prepared for any attack on our retirement system. Daniella does a phenomenal job of watching out for any legislation that might negatively impact the ASRS. Remember how important it is to sign up to get the latest legislative updates. You have a number of options starting with AEA, Civic Engagement, Save Our Schools, etc. Choose one or all of them. It's our busy time, folks. Let's do this!

CHAPTER REPORTS – JANUARY 2024

The next meeting of the Phoenix Chapter of AEA-Retired will be on Monday, January 15, 2024 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Beatitudes Campus, 1610 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, 80521 in the Elaine's West dining room. Our guest speaker will be AEA-Retired President Anna Cicero who will inform you about all our plans for the coming months. Please bring magazines and books and empty pill bottles for donation.

RSVP TO: GARY MEHOK at LOJO40@cox.net by January 10, 2024.

AEA-Retired Tucson Chapter Submitted by Peter Coston
December 19, 2023 at the Southern Region Office

The Tucson chapter met both on Zoom and in person for about 2 hours for our annual Holiday Potluck and business meeting. There were approximately 15 members and two guests in attendance. AEA Retired Chapter Committee Chair, Susie Sommer, was our host on Zoom.

Our business meeting included reports from the AEA-Retired Board, the AEA Executive Board, the PCIC and the AZ Legislative Report. Treasurer was absent so no report. We were reminded that the Legislative Opening Day is January 8, 2024, 9:00, at the Arizona Capitol Building in Phoenix. All are invited to register and attend via the link sent in Anna's next email blast.

Our guest speaker, State Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, provided insight into the upcoming Legislative session, suggesting it will be even more polarizing than last year, but that education-supporting Democratic caucus members are committed and united in protecting education and retirement. Our other guest was AEA Deputy Director of Organizing and Growth Strategies, Joe Diggs, who introduced himself and briefly shared some of his background in unions. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 16th at the TEA office.