



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Legislative Report</i>	2
<i>ASRS Report</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	3
<i>A Good Reason to Join</i>	3
<i>Annual Meeting Photos</i>	4
<i>Penny Kotterman</i>	5
<i>Photo Gallery</i>	6
<i>IMPACT updates</i>	7
<i>Chapter News</i>	8

**Editor's note:** There are many photos in this issue for you to enjoy. To get a clearer view, go online to [www.arizonaaea.org/pdfs/aear/aearconduit0610.pdf](http://www.arizonaaea.org/pdfs/aear/aearconduit0610.pdf) and set the size to 200% or more.



## **AEA-Retired Calendar**

June 27-29- NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

July 2-6- NEA Representative Assembly, New Orleans, LA

July 14-15- AEA Leaders' Conference, Litchfield Park, AZ

August 24- **Arizona Primary Election**

September 14-15- AEA-Retired Board of Directors Meeting, AEA HQ, Phoenix

September 25- AEA Committee day, AEA HQ, Phoenix

## ***AEA-R Annual meeting a great success; AG Terry Goddard keynotes; Marion Pickens honored with Les Reynolds Award***

In addition to the seventy-plus delegates (number of delegates, not age!) in attendance at the Annual meeting and DA this year, we had great speakers and engaging activities which kept the delegates active and thoughtful.

Arizona AG and gubernatorial candidate Terry Goddard was well received by the delegates. Terry's tenure as AG has been distinguished by his protection of seniors.

Paul Matson, Executive Director of ASRS also brought us up-to-date on retirement issues



AEA-R Officers with Terry Goddard. Linda Somo, Terry Goddard, Jean Stephenson, Frank Bing, Julie Horwin, Kathy Campbell

in Arizona and answered questions from delegates.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of the Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award to longtime member and activist Marion Pickens. Marion's speech was entertaining and inspiring. In addition to a crystal bowl, Marion was also presented with a movie containing highlights from her life. The movie was produced by AEA-R Secretary Julie Horwin.



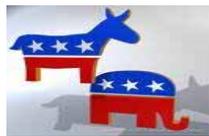
Past President Kathy Campbell presents the Les Reynolds Award to Marion Pickens

## **Governance elections held at AEA-R Annual Meeting; Fundraising sets records**

In elections held at the Annual Meeting, the following members were elected to represent you. Julie Horwin was reelected by acclamation to the officer position of Secretary. Elected to the Board of Directors were Danny Barlow, Shirley Boswell, Steve Ramos, Cindy Michels, and John Campbell. Congratulations.

Your delegates to the annual meeting and DA were very generous this year and set new records in every category. Money raised for the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education exceeded past totals by several hundred dollars. We raised \$1,825! Our totals for the AEA Fund were the second highest of all regions. Our total of \$4,698 averaged out to \$82.42 per delegate, easily our best effort ever.

In addition to the AEA and NEA Funds, your delegates dipped even further into their pockets to collect over \$2,000 for the Penny Kotterman for Superintendent of Public Instruction campaign. Penny is the recommended candidate of the Arizona Education Association. (see article, page 5)



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

BY STEVE LINDER, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

### **AEA Statewide Candidate Convention makes recommendations for primary and general elections; delegates evaluate public education stands**

On June 12, AEA held its second statewide candidate convention at the Hilton Garden Inn in Phoenix. Anyone who had contributed at least five dollars to the AEA Fund for Children was eligible to be a delegate. AEA-Retired's delegation consisted of Frank Bing, (Chair), Steve Ramos, Steve Linder, Frank Sacco, Danny Barlow, Gary Mehok, and Richard Spitzer. Because of a paperwork mix up, Mary Kouts was not seated as a voting delegate, but joined us in our deliberations.

Votes allocated to each region were based on total dollars contributed at a rate of one vote for each five dollars. AEA Retired therefore controlled 1,789 votes because we are generous contributors.

Candidates for statewide office from both parties were given the opportunity to speak to the convention. They had only to indicate an interest in seeking our recommendation and fill out a questionnaire which addressed their opinions

regarding public education issues.

Each candidate had ten minutes to address delegates and were given additional time to answer delegate questions. The regional teams were given time to caucus and determine who would get the region's votes. Votes from all regions were tallied to determine the winners. A candidate need 50% plus one vote to receive the recommendation.

Recommended for the Primary and General Elections were; Terry Goddard (D), Governor; David Lujan (D) Attorney General; Andrei Cherny (D), State Treasurer; Chris Deschesne (D), Secretary of State. For the Republican *Primary election only*, newcomer Matt Jette was given the recommendation in the Republican Gubernatorial contest.

In the event one of our candidates does not make it through the primary, the AEA Fund for Children and Public Education council will meet to make new recommendations for the general election.

### **Members Get Tax Notice; Plan Design Changes Finally Signed Into Law ; New Educator Trustee Joins The ASRS Board.**

By Steve Ramos, ASRS Chair



Steve Ramos

In May, Arizona State Retirement System retirees received an important notification about their Arizona State tax withholding (Arizona Form A-4P). As a result of legislation passed in 2009, ASRS can no longer calculate the withholding of state taxes from benefit checks as a simple percentage of the federal withholding. The amount withheld must now be a percentage of a member's taxable earnings. The Arizona Department of Revenue has provided, on the A-4P form, some guidance on how to calculate your withholding and ASRS has included some answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Unfortunately ASRS and AEA Retired are not tax advisors and cannot help you with this individual decision. We would encourage you to consult your own tax advisor. If the ASRS does not receive a new A-4P form from you, a default tax rate will be in effect until you notify ASRS of a change.

The ASRS has tried for three years to pass legislation that makes design changes to the retirement "Plan". Those efforts finally paid off in passage of HB 2389 during the 2010

legislative session. **The following changes will apply to new hires after July 1, 2011.**

\*A member's benefit will be calculated using the average of the highest 5 years of the last 10.

\*Normal Retirement will require 85 points (age + years of service).

\*Members who leave the system for reasons other than Reduction in Force or position elimination, will not receive a refund of any portion of their Employer contribution.

These changes will result in a \$2.1 million saving to employees and employers beginning in FY2013. Over 30 years the changes will save the fund \$953 million. The ASRS also sought new language surrounding the "Return To Work" issue. A bill requiring an alternative contribution rate, to be paid by school districts that hire retired private contract employees did not survive, but ASRS will likely try again in the next legislative session.

The ASRS Board created and selected a vendor for a new Supplemental Salary Deferral Program (SSDP). This will allow ASRS active members to make voluntary contributions to a supplemental defined contribution plan. TIAA-CREF was selected to offer this new program.

Dennis L. Hoffman, professor of economics, W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University, replaces departing ASRS Trustee Jaime Gutierrez as the educator representative on the Board.

In May of 2010 the Arizona State Retirement System fund stood at approximately \$25 billion.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA SOMO

May 18<sup>th</sup> was an important day for all of us who support public education in this state. The voters again showed their support for public education by overwhelmingly passing Proposition 100. They willingly taxed themselves an extra 1% on everything that they will purchase for the next three years. This is the second time in a decade (they passed Prop 301 in 2000) that the voting public has said "Yes" to putting critically important funds into education.

Sadly, the extra funds that were just approved will do nothing to improve education in Arizona.

It will only stop the bleeding. It will only stop additional cuts to an education system that has already been financially decimated in the past few years.

Arizonans deserve better than this. Our children and grandchildren deserve better than this. Because of all the cuts to education, the future of this state, and of its inhabitants, is less bright, less promising, less secure. Without a world class public education system, economic development will be stunted and that will eventually affect every segment of our society, including retirees.

It doesn't have to be this way. Those who represent us at the Legislature and in other elected offices need to understand the significance of fully funding quality public education. When a candidate for public office says the first priority is to make additional budget cuts and cut taxes, that tells me that they just don't get it. They don't understand the importance of investing in

quality public education and the far reaching results of such an investment. Instead of examining the current tax structure, looking for equity, and finding ways to provide the revenue needed for essential services, the only mantra they know is "budget cuts and tax cuts".



President Linda Somo

That may sound good on the surface, but what is the eventual cost to our society? How do we even survive as a society if we don't properly educate our young? The next time you hear a politician espousing cutting taxes, you might want to ask how he/she expects to do that and

still have an educated work force, attract new business, provide quality of life for seniors, and grow our state?

We get to choose those who represent us. We need to elect those who actually "walk the walk" and not just "talk the talk". We have seen too many who claim to be "friends of education" and then vote to cut funding. Change can begin with us. Pledge now to vote for true friends of education and seniors, and work to help get them elected. Our future, and that of public education in Arizona, depends on it.



## A Good Reason to Join AEA-Retired



Bob Aborne

Boy, is my editorial face red! In the last issue, I incorrectly identified Bob Aborne as Jim Aborne. I was pretty embarrassed, but Bob was very forgiving and laughed off my gaffe

Bob and his wife Karen are very active members who can be counted on to participate in activities like Lobbying Day, Delegate Assembly, and the AEA-Retired Annual Meeting.

Frank Bing, Editor

Endorsed Provider Advertisement



The NEA MemberCare Medicare Supplement provides all of the same plan options and benefits of other Medicare supplement programs. However, the Program offers you more advantages including discounts on dental care, chiropractic care, vision care, hearing care, and vitamins.

The NEA MemberCare Medicare Supplement Program is underwritten and self-insured by the NEA Members Insurance Trust. This means you can count on us to give you the best benefits at the best price since we serve only you, our members, exclusively. The NEA Members Insurance Trust has been serving members with quality insurance since 1978.

For more information, call **Sean Mabey**, NEAMB Regional rep 1-(866)-903-0440

# AEA-Retired Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly, Mesa



Left: AEA-Retired attendees at this year's Salute to Excellence Dinner at the Delegate Assembly in Mesa. Marion Pickens, front row center, was honored with the Les Reynolds Distinguished Senior Service Award.

Below: AEA-retired Treasurer Jean Stephenson and Board member Ken Freed talk at the DA.



Top row: AEA Treasurer Kathy Ramage-White and Marion Pickens; Kathy and John Campbell, Mary Bishop and Bertha Myers. Middle row: Dorothy Rowley. Dorothy makes our beautiful AEA-Retired quilt each year.; Past president Kathy Campbell, Secretary Julie Horwin, Marilyn and Ken Freed



Suzan Austin and AnnJi Craig Wooten. These two ladies make sure that our Annual Meeting and RA are successful.



2010-11 AEA-Retired Board of Directors

## AEA-Retired: News and Views You Can Use

# The Road to Victory in the Penny Kotterman for Superintendent of Public Instruction runs through AEA-Retired; our members can have a huge Influence on the outcome



AEA's recommended candidate, Penny Kotterman

AEA Past President Penny Kotterman became AEA's recommended candidate for Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction at last year's delegate assembly. Since that time, Penny has travelled the state, speaking to civic, religious, and educational groups to spread her vision for a robust public education system based on high goals and

high expectations.

Penny has visited many of our AEA-retired Chapter meetings to visit with old friends and to share her goals. Our secretary, Julie Horwin, hosted a house party for Penny which attracted forty people and turned out to be a very successful fund raiser. Our members have worked with Penny at different political, civic, and community events, distributing literature and speaking to potential voters.

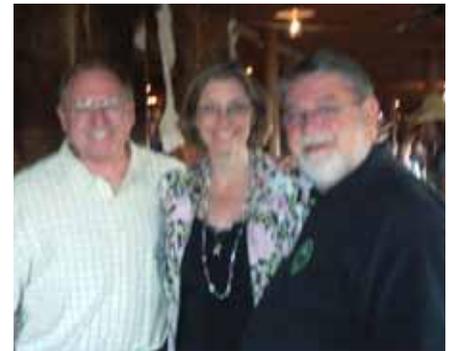
There are many other ways that we retirees can help Penny win the primary election on August 24th and the general election in November. Here are a few suggestions.

- ◆ Make phone calls. This is very important as the election draws closer. It's something we can all do and you only call carefully targeted numbers.
- ◆ Have a house party. It's easy to do. Simply decide a location and coordinate with Penny's campaign. You can invite friends, neighbors, family, or anyone who's interested in quality public education. Contact Pam Duty, Campaign manager at (602)549-7040
- ◆ Put a sign in your neighborhood or in your car window. Name recognition always helps in an election.



Frank Bing and campaign manager Pam Duty work Penny's table at the Juneteenth Celebration at South Mountain Community College

- ◆ Make a donation. Unfortunately, elections are frequently decided by who can raise the most cash to get their message out to the public. Any amount would be appreciated
- ◆ You can "friend" Penny on Facebook or Twitter



Members Doug Honaker and Frank Bing with Penny at her Rustler's Roost reception



Penny and President Linda Somo at the Easy Valley Chapter Meeting in Mesa. Penny spoke to the group, then answered all questions

One more thing you can do is to share Penny's web site, <http://pennykotterman.com>, with all voters in your address book

### Penny's Background

Penny Kotterman began her career as a public school teacher in 1978, and has spent the last three decades dedicated to quality public education for every child. It is quite literally her life's work. Penny has been a classroom teacher, an educational leader, and has worked in school district administration and educational policy efforts. She has taught in special education and mainstream classrooms, and she is one of Arizona's foremost experts on teacher training and improvement. With your help, she will apply her vast array of skills to make the Arizona public school system something that all of us can be proud of.

# Photo Gallery & More News You Need

## Photos from the AEA Candidate Convention June 12, Hilton Garden Inn, Phoenix



AEA-retired Board members Danny Barlow (l.) and Steve Ramos (r.) rose to address the delegates and ask questions of the candidates.



Candidates were given time to address the delegates and answered questions from the floor prior to the regional caucuses. All candidates, Republican, Democrat, and Independent for major state-wide offices were given the opportunity to fill out AEA's questionnaire and seek our recommendation. Those receiving the recommendation through the general election were (clockwise) Terry Goddard, Governor; David Lujan, Attorney General,; Andrei Cherney, Treasurer, and Chris Deschesne, Secretary of State. In the primary election *only* for Governor on the Republican side, the delegates gave the nod to newcomer Matt Jette.(below)



### *Know the signs; save a life*

Doctors tell us that there are some simple ways to tell if someone is having a stroke. If you suspect someone is having a stroke and know the three simple steps to take, you just may help to save a life  
Step One— **S** Ask the person to SMILE.  
Step Two— **T** Ask the person to talk. Have them repeat a simple sentence.  
Step Three— **R** Ask the person to raise both arms.  
If he or she is unable to complete one or more of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.  
This info was checked and found to be accurate at Snopes.com.



**2010-2011 AEA-Retired Officers:** Kathy Campbell, Past President; Linda Somo, President; Jean Stephenson, Treasurer; Frank Bing, Vice President; Julie Horwin, Secretary

# IMPACT Updates

## Phoenix IMPACT group provides classroom management training and practice interview techniques

One of the services the Phoenix (ASU) IMPACT group provided to their protégés this year was a half day of activities to help with classroom management issues and interviewing techniques. The classroom management portion of the class was taught by Sean Mabey, NEA Member Benefits regional representative and Lisa Guzman, North Central office Organizational Consultant.

The protégés were completely engaged and many expressed disappointment that the training was only a half day. The group hopes to repeat this activity next year.

The other part of the training was designed to teach participants the do's and don'ts of interviewing. Discussed were such things as what kinds of questions to ask your interviewer, how to respond to some specific questions, dressing for the interview, etc. Following the instruction and discussion phase, the mentors did mock interviews with the protégés and provided them with feedback to help with actual interviews.

The proteges were also asked to bring resumes to the class, and those were evaluated by mentors to show how they could be improved to provide the best first impression.

Here are some photos from the class.



### Let us hear from you, our members.

What's on your mind? What can we do to serve you better? How do you feel about current events relevant to retirees? Health Care Reform? ASRS issues? Upcoming elections? Rural vs. Urban issues in Arizona?

Drop us a line. We'll try to include one or two of your letters each issue.

Be as succinct as possible since space is limited. Send your letters to [AEA.Retired@arizonaaea.org](mailto:AEA.Retired@arizonaaea.org). Use letters to editor in the message line. Or send by regular mail to the return address on this newsletter, Attention. Conduit.



A Publication of AEA-Retired, An affiliate of NEA-Retired

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- Linda Somo      President
- Frank Bing      Vice President
- Julie Horwin    Secretary
- Jean Stephenson   Treasurer
- Kathy Campbell   Past President

**Conduit** Editor  
Frank Bing

## Chapter News

Chapters are an attempt to bring AEA-Retired closer to members. All AEA-Retired members are eligible to join a chapter where they worked or currently live. Meetings usually include an information program, business meeting, lunch or dinner, and time for socializing with friends and colleagues. Anyone interested in forming a new chapter can contact Chairperson **Gary Mehok** at LOJO40@cox.net.

**Glendale/ West Valley Chapter:** Next meeting is October 14 at 4 PM at the Ironworks Restaurant in Glandale. Contact **Susie Sommer** for info at (623) 931-6209 or at ssommer114@aol.com.

**Mesa / East Valley Chapter:** Next meeting is September 8 at 11:30 at the Sunrise Bank Building (formerly Mesa Bank). For information contact **Steve Ramos** at steveramos2@cox.net or 480-924-0771. \

**Tucson Chapter:** Next meeting is August 10 at 10 AM at the AEA Southern Region office. Contact **Aurora Aber** at TheAbers@cox.net or 520-721-7547 for additional information.

**Phoenix Chapter** Next meeting is September 23 at Metro Tech HS. Contact **Mark Rosin** at 602-859-0165 or rosin\_mark@yahoo.com.

**White Mountain Chapter:** For information about this chapter, contact **Gary Mehok** at LOJO40@cox.net.

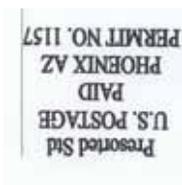
**Prescott Chapter:** To join this chapter contact **Helga Krantz** at bcdhelga@gmail.com.

**Yuma Chapter:** Please contact **Gary Mehok** at LOJO40@cox.net if you are interested in participating in this chapter.

**Paradise Valley/ Scottsdale Chapter:** Next meeting time/ date TBD. Call **Suzan Austin** 480-947-2089, suzanaustin@cox.net.

**Sierra Vista:** Next meeting is in early August, time and date TBD. Please call **Sally Rosen** at (520)249-0233 or e-mail her at Azcatsally@aol.com for more info on the time and dates for the next meetings.

**NEW Northeastern Arizona Chapter**– A chapter is being formed in Northern Arizona. If you are interested, or just want more information, contact Danny Barlow at dsjbarlow@yahoo.com



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