

# **Arizona State University Retirees Association**

**Report from the Board 2009-2010**

## **Annual Meeting**

**April 17, 2010  
1:00 p.m.**

**ASU Tempe Campus  
Memorial Union  
Alumni Lounge MU 202**



Attendees at Retirees Day, February 20, 2009



## ASURA BOARD AND OFFICERS

### 2009-2010 (outgoing)

#### Officers

Mary Stevens, President  
Val Peterson, Past President  
Connie McNeill, Vice President  
Jo Madonna, Secretary  
Joyce Hartman Diaz, Treasurer

#### Board Members

Gary Anderson  
Bob Barnhill  
Joyce Hartman Diaz  
Jim Fordemwalt  
Elmer Gooding  
Doug Johnson  
(beginning 1/2010)  
Jo Madonna  
Connie McNeill  
Rose Minetti  
Carolyn Minner  
Bill Moor  
Lonnie Ostrom  
(4/2009 thru 12/2009)  
Val Peterson  
Bill Stasi  
Mary Stevens  
Lou Weschler

#### Advisory Board Members

Rojan Alpers, University Senate  
Sheree Barron, Human Resources  
Rubert Muscari, Univ. Staff Council  
Eric Sloan, Public Affairs

### 2010-2011 (incoming)

#### Officers

Connie McNeill, President  
Mary Stevens, Past President  
David Schwalm, Vice President  
Jo Madonna, Secretary  
Joyce Hartman Diaz, Treasurer

#### Board Members

Gary Anderson  
Joyce Hartman Diaz  
Jim Fordemwalt  
Elmer Gooding  
Dick Jacob  
Doug Johnson  
Jo Madonna  
Wilma Mathews  
Connie McNeill  
Rose Minetti  
Carolyn Minner  
Bill Moor  
Dave Scheatzle  
David Schwalm  
Joy Shearman  
Bill Stasi  
Mary Stevens

#### Advisory Board Members

Sheree Barron, Human Resources  
Eric Sloan, Public Affairs  
TBA, University Senate  
TBA, University Staff Council

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

#### ASURA OFFICE

P.O. Box 873308  
Tempe, AZ 85287-3308  
<http://asura.asu.edu>

(480) 965-7668  
FAX: 480-965-7807

#### ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

3300 North Central Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
<https://www.azasrs.gov/>

(602) 240-2000 or  
1-800-621-3778

#### ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

100 North 15th Avenue, Suite 103  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
<http://www.benefitoptions.az.gov/>

(602) 542-5008 or  
1-800-304-3687

## OFFICE VOLUNTEERS



**Carolyn Minner**



**Carol Moore**

Carolyn Minner, our volunteer Business Manager, handles all purchasing, mailing and other business transactions for the Association. She also maintains the membership database and the e-mail distribution lists. This year Carolyn “rediscovered” our Scholarship Endowment (forgotten about for the past few years), and she added an event accounting report to the financial information the Board receives each month.

Our dedicated Front Desk staff, ably coordinated by Carol Moore, keep our office running smoothly, and they cheerfully help everyone who interacts with the ASURA.



Carol Berg



Carolyn Lanners



Maxine LaRoux



Joan Leard



Betty Norris



Jeannette Robson



Ed Scannell



Anna-Marie Shivers



Janet Soper



Linda Van Scoy

Front Desk Shifts – office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm

Monday A.M.....*Carol Berg*  
 Monday P.M.....*Betty Norris*  
 Tuesday A.M. .......*Carol Moore*  
 Tuesday P.M. .......*Linda Van Scoy*  
 Wednesday A.M.....*Jeannette Robson*  
 .....*Ed Scannell*  
 Wednesday P.M. .......*Carolyn Lanners*

Thursday A.M.....*Maxine LaRoux*  
 Thursday P.M. .......*Janet Soper*  
 Friday A.M. .......*Anna-Marie Shivers*  
 Friday P.M..... Available  
 Substitutes.....*Helen Seaton*  
 .....*Joan Leard*



**Jack Sarrett**

Connie McNeill and Jack Sarrett are technology support volunteers for the ASURA. They help office staff and Board and committee members with technology use. They also install and support ASURA equipment. This year new keyboard trays were installed in the office and work room, and a new projector was purchased for use in meetings and presentations. In addition, 3 terabytes of AFS server space were leased for secure storage of ASURA digital materials, with the Living Video History Project being the major user.

We always welcome any and all assistance from those interested in getting involved. If you are interested in joining our volunteer staff, please contact us at (480) 965-7668.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Mary Stevens**

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president in 2009-2010. Hugh Downs, our keynote speaker at Retirees Day, titled his talk, "Older Then, Younger Now." Throughout the year, I have observed first-hand how our members embrace this concept. It is most gratifying that so many of you support and participate in ASURA programs and bring your depth of experience, expertise, and strong work ethic to our organization. My special thanks to the 2009-2010 fellow officers, Board members, office volunteers, liaisons, committee chairs and members who contributed so much of their time, effort, and energy to the continued success of ASURA. ASURA continued its most important and well-established programs, expanding some and adding new activities with the goal of meeting the interests of members. Let's re-cap to especially recognize the effectiveness of our volunteers.

### **Scholarship Endowment**

In 1997, under the direction of then Vice-President Hal White and President Madelyn Wright, ASURA transferred \$11,000 of its funds into a scholarship endowment account set up through the ASU Foundation. Additional contributions were made between 1998 and 2002. The current value of the endowment is over \$21,000. Interest earnings are over \$9,000 and may be expended for scholarships. In the coming year, the Board will determine ways to continue to fund the endowment, possibly through some fundraising activities.

### **Community Outreach - Adopt-A-Family, Scholarship, Living History Video Project**

Once again, Joan Leard provided her outstanding leadership. She selected a family of six recommended by Tempe Schools and a family from a large group identified through ASU Financial Aid Services. These families received clothing, food and school supplies throughout the year.

Sue Blumer again chaired the Scholarship Committee, which selected a very worthy returning student. At its May 2009 meeting, the Board approved an increase in the amount of the scholarship from \$5000 to \$6500 in response to university tuition increases.

In May 2009, Linda Van Scoy, Chair of the Living History Video Project, proposed the purchase of video equipment to enable her Committee to continue the Project in-house, resulting in significant savings and greater efficiency. Of course, this improvement would not have been possible but for the efforts of Linda, Dave Scheatzle, and John McIntosh, who now conduct and tape all of the interviews.

### **Event - Retirees Day**

Val Peterson and his Committee planned and provided a terrific Retirees Day program in 2010 with eight presenters and a very special keynote speaker, Hugh Downs. Mr. Downs entertained us with his top ten interviews, which he categorized as Best Interview, Worst Interview, Most Embarrassing Interview, etc. Then he motivated us with his theme of "Older Then, Younger Now." He is the perfect individual to present such a theme. At 89, he is still very much involved in several projects and pursues new interests. The success of Retirees Day was directly correlated to the diligence, competence and organizational skills of Val who stayed totally on top of the event planning for at least seven months.

### **Events - Luncheons and Travel**

Jo Madonna, Bill Stasi, Gary Anderson and Barbra Bradford Eschbach organized interesting and fun events which many members attended. Jo's potluck Holiday Party was a success once again, with many attendees and delicious dishes that our members contributed.

A first for ASURA this year was the Breakfast/Fashion Show that Barbara Bradford suggested and then totally arranged with Dillard's-Chandler. The high fashion models were our retirees, who learned the runway strut in no time at all.

Travel Co-Chair, Bill Stasi, assisted by Beth and Jim Fordemwalt, planned a wonderful two-day trip, which included a ride on the Verde Canyon Railroad and overnight at the ghostly Grand Hotel in Jerome. This trip was a sell-out, as was the most recent outing to the Olive Mill and Dolly Steamboat. For the first time in several years, ASURA is going international with a 22-day tour of China, organized by Travel Co-Chair, Gary Anderson, departing on May 17.

### **Finance Committee**

Chaired by Joyce Hartman Diaz, the Finance Committee assumed a new responsibility, to review and report to the Board on the scholarship endowment account discussed above. The Committee discovered that ASURA had never entered into an endowment agreement with the ASU Foundation. Joyce is working with the Foundation and the Scholarship Committee in drafting an agreement for the Board to approve.

### **Membership Committee**

Under the leadership of Elmer Gooding and Connie McNeill, the Committee conducted the membership drive in May 2009 and followed up with an additional two mailings to encourage potential members to join and current members to renew. Their efforts were successful. In September 2009, ASURA had 570 paid members and now has 689.

### **Prime Times**

This year, Janet Soper and Wilma Mathews assumed responsibility for *Prime Times* and were an excellent team. Janet did layout and Wilma edited the articles members submitted. Most of our communications are sent by electronic mail to members who agreed to that form of communication and mailed to members who do not have email addresses or indicated a preference for a mailing. *Prime Times* is one of the few publications we continue to mail to all of our members, including those members who reside outside of Arizona, to assure they are informed about our projects and activities.

### **Technology and Web Site**

Connie McNeill continued to update and maintain the ASURA Web site, which she developed last year. The home page includes notices of upcoming events, complete with promotional photos and access to registration forms. Members can also access the revised By-Laws, names and email addresses of Board and committee members and liaisons, other general information through the web site. Connie developed several databases of information that she can provide in various formats to the Board and committees. Last year, Connie facilitated a significant change to reduce hard copy mailings to members by sending communications by e-mail distribution for members with email addresses. This change is successful and reduces mailing costs considerably. Connie continues to provide ASURA with her expertise and skills, which so benefit our group and keep us functioning in a high-tech world.

My sincere thanks to all of you who made so many contributions to the success and continued viability of ASURA this year.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Community Outreach Committee identifies and promotes opportunities for members to donate or volunteer resources to better our community. It also oversees outreach programs designated by the Board. The committee currently oversees three projects and coordinates with and supports activities of two other ASU organizations. The projects are: Adopt-a-Family, Living History Video Project, and Scholarship. The organizations with whom we coordinate are the Emeritus College and the University Club. Reports from the chairs of these outreach efforts follow.

### Adopt-a-Family Program



**Joan Leard**

Two families were adopted for this school year; one family of six from the Tempe Elementary School District #3 and one family of three from ASU.

The Tempe family consists of a mother, father, girls 14, 12, 7 and a boy 8. The father has been laid-off and this is the first time they have ever had to ask for assistance. They have sent thank you notes and are very grateful for all we have supplied to them. They requested board games at Christmas so they could play together. We have included art supplies, board games and toys in the packages of clothing and food we have given to them.

The ASU family consists of a mother with a son 5 years old and a daughter 11. The mother is a Junior at ASU after completing her associate's degree at Phoenix College with a 3.6 GPA. Her goal is to obtain her bachelor's degree and have her children excel in school. She works on the PTO committees at her children's elementary and middle schools because she wants to stay involved in helping out the schools. We helped them with art & craft supplies, household items, and games as well as clothing and food.

The funds used for these purchases come from ASURA member donations and the ASURA treasury. With your help we will continue to give two families struggling with education for a better life and everyday expenses a helping hand. Please continue to donate so we may keep this outreach program alive and well for many more years.

### Living History Video Project



**Linda Van Scoy**

The ASU Retirees Association Living History Video Project (LHVP) completed eight interviews this year which brings the grand total to 57, with 6-8 additional interviews planned for this spring/summer. The majority of the interviews have been transcribed in digital and hard copy format. The DVDs may be borrowed from or viewed in the ASURA office. The average run time is 1-1.5 hours.

The LHVP committee members include Elmer Gooding, John McIntosh, June Payne, David Scheatzle, Linda Van Scoy (chair) and Hal White.

The video history interviews were initially handled by an outside company. This year, because of current and projected budget limitations, we decided to produce the DVDs in house using ASURA volunteers. With Board approval, we purchased a camera and supplies that allow us to conduct the interviews and produce the DVDs internally. The savings realized will insure we can continue the project for several years. We owe enormous thanks to Dave Scheatzle and John McIntosh—our video crew. They volunteer their time and expertise to produce and edit a professional product.

*Community Outreach Committee, continued*

We continue to work on editing the DVDs to produce highlights of each interview that will eventually be available on the web site.

Below is a list of the interviews conducted to date:

Charles Backus (Engineering, East/Poly Campus)	Bruce Mason (Political Science)
Loretta Bardwyck (Nursing)	Alan Matheson (Law)
Mat Betz (Civil Engineering/Administration)	Gerry McSheffrey (Architecture, West campus)
Ellamae Branstetter (Nursing)	Arlene Metha (Counseling Psychology)
Brent Brown (Public Affairs, Institutional Advmnt)	Victor J. Miller (Agriculture)
Hugh Burgess (Architecture)	Carleton Moore (Chemistry & Geology - meteorites)
Lattie Coor (President)	George Morrell (Purchasing)
Troy Crowder (Journalism, Telecomm)	Paige Mulhollan (Executive VP/Provost)
Don Dotts (Alumni Association)	Dick Murra (Human Resources)
Roy Doyle (Education)	Russell Nelson (President, Business)
John Edwards (Education)	Lonnie Ostrom (Development & ASU Foundation)
Bob Ellis (KAET-TV)	Clyde Parker (Gammage)
James W. Elmore (Architecture)	Bonnie Peplow (News Bureau)
Hal Fearon (Purchasing/Management)	Anne M. Pittman (Physical Education – tennis)
Marvin Fisher (Languages and Literatures)	Ross Rice (Political Science)
Margaret Gisolo (Dance)	Gale Richards (Human Communication)
Milton Glick (Provost)	Frank Sackton (Public Affairs and many other hats!)
Elmer Gooding (Economics/Administration)	Nick Salerno (English)
Leonard Gordon (Sociology)	Joseph Schabacker (Management)
Betty Greathouse (Curriculum & Instruction)	Wilma Schwada (former ASU first lady)
Eugene Grigsby (Art)	Leon Shell (Student Affairs)
William Huizingh (Accounting)	Dean Smith (ASU Historian, Publications)
Bill Kajikawa (Athletics)	Rudy Turk (Art Museum)
Denis Kigin (Technology & Continuing Education & Summer Sessions)	George Umberson (Music)
Jack Kinsinger (Provost)	Linda Van Scoy (Provost's Office)
Frank Kush (Athletics - football)	Louis Weschler (Public Affairs)
Beth Lessard (Dance)	Bobby Winkles (baseball)
William Lewis (Engineering, Information Technology)	
Eugene Lombardi (Music - University Symphony Orchestra)	

There is also a videotaped “roundtable” with Brent Brown, Russell Nelson and Frank Sackton.

Nominations for retired faculty and staff as candidates for consideration are welcome. Please send nominations with a brief justification to:

ASU Living History Video Project  
ASU Retirees Association  
PO Box 873308  
Tempe, AZ 85287-3308  
E-mail: [lvs@asu.edu](mailto:lvs@asu.edu)

We also welcome anyone who would like to work on this project especially with editing the interviews.

### **Scholarship Committee**



**Sue Blumer**

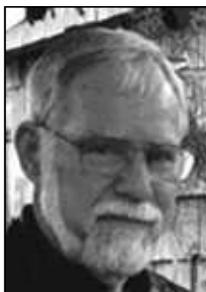
The Scholarship Committee met in April to select the recipient of this year's scholarship, who has maintained an outstanding academic record since entering ASU. She will attend the annual meeting to meet ASURA members and to speak about her goals. She wrote a beautiful letter expressing her gratitude for the scholarship.

Last year's scholarship recipient attended the annual meeting. She was well received and demonstrated the importance of this scholarship project for maintaining productive ties with current students.

This scholarship program provides an important means for members to participate in the lives of current students. Most of these students face long years to complete their undergraduate degree and their plans for graduate work. Since they are reentry students, further delays in completing their degrees would make it difficult for them to fulfill their potential. Furthermore, tuition and living costs continue to rise even in these severe economic times.

The committee will meet in April to select the scholarship recipient for next year. The scholarship provides \$6,500 for the academic year. Committee members have provided valuable ideas and input in selecting the recipient and working on the parameters and language of the offering. The excellent students with unusual personal stories and financial needs who apply for the scholarship make selection difficult but rewarding. We are reminded of the diverse interests and background of our students, of their excellent academic and community achievements, and of their purposeful academic and professional goals.

### **Emeritus College Liaison**



**Lou Weschler**

I was able to attend only about half of the meetings of the ASURA Board and the Emeritus College Council because of health issues. I did, however, receive copies of written reports and minutes from both via the Internet.

Often, I was able to forward copies of reports and items from respective minutes from one to the other board. Those from the ASURA forwarded to the Emeritus College usually dealt with Health Insurance, Arizona Retirement System and pending legislative bills affecting retirees. The information forwarded from the Emeritus College to the ASURA usually dealt with announcements of short courses and presentations organized by the Emeritus College.

At the meetings I was able to attend, I took notes and made announcements or raised issues suggested to me by members of both organizations. I asked the Dean of the Emeritus College and the President of the ASURA to let me know of issues they wished raised at their counter-part meetings.

I wish to thank persons who belong to both organizations for filling in the liaison functions during my protracted absences.

It always had been my hope that the Dean or past Dean and President or Past President would attend the monthly meetings of both organizations. I highly recommend that.

### **University Club Liaison**



**Jim  
Fordemwalt**

The University Club is still trying to increase its membership with its special membership drive. Initially this drive was to waive the \$100 membership fee if the new member would pay the first 6 months dues in advance. For regular membership this came out to \$120. For Retirees, this would have been \$80. However, they have now decided that it would be better to charge the \$100 membership fee, and waive the first 6 months dues. This is an advantage to regular members, and they have yet to determine how to handle Retirees. I believe that there will be a similar reduction for Retirees.

The University Club has regular Colloquia for members, the most memorable of which featured as the special guest speaker retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. These colloquia are held on a regular basis for members, and feature guest speakers from all walks of life. Other regular features for members are "Wine-Down Wednesday" and "High Tea", in addition to the meals in the Bistro.

The Club has returned to profitability since the Spring Semester has begun, thanks to an increase in the Lunch attendance & some belt tightening measures; however, the Club is looking for an increase in membership and greater outreach to the University Community to help bolster the financial condition.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Events Committee plans for and provides educational programs and activities consistent with interests of ASURA members. Currently, the Events Committee consists of three separate subcommittees – Luncheons, Retirees Day, and Travel. Reports from the subcommittee chairs follow.

In addition to the events planned by these three subcommittees, ASURA member Barbara Bradford Eschbach planned and organized a Fashion Show and Breakfast held on January 12, 2010. This event was attended by about 40 people, including the 19 ASURA members who volunteered to be models. By all accounts, the show was a success -- enough so that the Board said it might well like to do it again next year!

### Luncheons



**Jo Madonna**

Continuing what has become a festive part of the holiday season, the Luncheon Committee organized the ASURA Annual Holiday Pot Luck. It was held on Thursday, December 17, 2009. Volunteers transformed 2 adjoining classrooms in the Community Services Building into an inviting atmosphere for a pleasurable gathering of ASURA members. Over 40 people were in attendance and everyone brought plenty of delicious food and good cheer. As always, the chance to visit with old and new friends was the best part.

In 2009/10 this was a committee of two, Bonnie Scheall and Jo Madonna (chair). For the upcoming year, the committee recommends expanding its membership, as well as organizing at least one more luncheon during the fall.

### Retirees Day



**H. Val  
Peterson**

The seventeenth annual Retirees Day was held on Saturday, February 20, 2010, and while the weather outside was a bit blustery and rainy, inside the Memorial Union on the ASU Tempe Campus where the event was held, the atmosphere was festive, relaxed and positive.

Retirees Day was primarily planned and carried out by the Retirees Day Committee. The committee had eight members including H. Val Peterson, chair, John Bell, Sue Blumer, Dennis Ederer, Joyce Hartman Diaz, Bob Mings, Donna Portz and Jack Sarrett. The committee was formed following the Annual Meeting in 2009 and the committee held its first meeting in September 2009. The committee met thereafter each month through March 2010. In their planning process the committee determined that it wanted to provide educational programs for four concurrent sessions in each of two one-hour long sessions or a total of eight educational sessions. Then the group developed eight separate topic categories for each of the educational sessions. The eight topics hammered out by the committee included politics, health care, the arts, science, business, history, travel and personal development. Once the topics were identified they sought to determine the best qualified individual to present each of the topics. And then highly qualified individuals were identified in each of the areas who had demonstrated expertise in a subject related to each of the eight topics. And then the program developed from that point forward.

At the same time the educational program was being developed, the committee also identified high-profile speakers to consider for the keynote speaker at the luncheon. Many names were discussed but the committee settled on Hugh Downs, a highly respected TV journalist and political commentator. And the chair moved forward in pursuit of retaining Mr. Downs for this purpose.

The program came together quite nicely by plenty of planning, determination, and attention to detail. The final educational program included the following presenters:

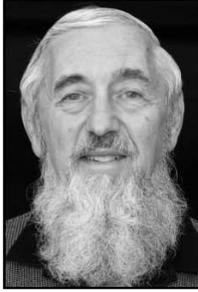
- *Social Barriers to Renewable Energy* — Martin J. (Mike) Pasqualetti, Professor, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, ASU
- *The Arboretum at ASU: Celebrating 20 Years of Trees* — Ellen Newell, Associate Director of Facilities Ground Services; Deborah Thirkhill, Volunteer Coordinator, Grounds Services / Arboretum
- *Lesser-Known tourist Attractions in Arizona* — Jeff Reed, Travel Professional & Owner of Travel Club for Seniors
- *Extreme Speech and Democracy* — James Weinstein, Professor of Constitutional Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU & Author of book, "Extreme Speech and Democracy."
- *Art as Political Communication* — Lou Weschler, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Affairs, ASU
- *Will Health Care Reform Make Us Healthier?* — Marjorie Baldwin, Director & Professor, School of Health Management and Policy, ASU
- *Trusts, Wills and End-of-Life Planning* — Charlotte Fox, Author of book, "And Then There Was One"; Patti Shelton, Attorney at Law
- *Writing Your Personal History* — John Bell, Moderator; Panel Discussion by Len Gordon, Professor Emeritus, Dean of Emeritus College, ASU; Dick Jacob, Professor Emeritus, Founding Dean of Emeritus College; Winifred Doane, Professor Emeritus, Member & Newsletter Editor of Emeritus College, ASU

Mr. Hugh Downs was very gracious in accepting our invitation to speak as our keynote speaker for the event. The luncheon crowd was quite eager to hear his talk since to their generation he was one of the most familiar American television figures in the history of television. He was anchor for ABC News' 20/20 from 1978 to 1999, concentrating on issues of medicine, science, family, adventure, aging and the arts. Hugh Downs has enjoyed a distinguished career in radio and television as a reporter, newscaster, interviewer, narrator and host. He titled his speech, "Older Then, But Younger Now" which was taken from a line in a Beatles song that goes, "Ah but I was so much older then--- I'm younger than that now." In his trademark relaxed and conversational style and remarkable presence, his speech outlined some of his far-reaching experiences. He was very entertaining and quite passionate about his philosophy of aging and the discrimination he sees exhibited toward "senior citizens" today. His thoughts and ideas are sure to be remembered by our group for many years to come.

There were 135 attendees at the Retirees Day event which included 10 non-member guests of ASURA members, as well as 14 presenters and the keynote speaker and their guests. The attendance at the various educational sessions was quite balanced and many guests commended about the good diversity of topics. Around 80 evaluations were received and analyzed. Committee members received many comments about the excellent program and that Hugh Downs and the other presenters had helped make the event a memorial one.

Many individuals helped the Retirees Day Committee make the event successful by their help and goodness. In addition to the Retirees Day Committee members these individuals included Mary Stevens, ASURA President, Connie McNeill, ASURA Vice President, Carolyn Minner, Joan Leard, Zeke Prust, Bob Ellis, Dave Scheatzle, John McIntosh, Carol Moore, Carol Berg, Maxine LaRoux, Anna Marie Shivers, Carolyn & Nick Lanners, and other volunteer office staff. These individuals all serve as volunteers and the event could not move forward in its present configuration without their help. Thanks to all who helped.

## Travel



**Bill Stasi**

The Travel Committee has provided two trips during the last year. The first trip was the Verde Canyon Train trip in November of 2009. This trip was first class all the way and included about 40 individuals with an overnight stay in Jerome, Arizona, at the Jerome Grand Hotel. The fall weather was delightful and the scenery was opulent on the Verde Canyon Railroad train ride.

The second trip was to the Olive Mill / Dolly Steamboat in March, 2010, where 40 individuals tasted wine with lunch at the Olive Mill, then enjoyed a cruise on a paddlewheel steamboat at the other Grand Canyon in Arizona, on Canyon Lake. These two trips included about 80 members and guests to enjoy adventures and socialize with fellow colleagues.



**Gary Anderson**

Upcoming trips include an international trip to China in May, 2010, with 20 individuals. Gary Anderson put a tremendous amount of time and effort into planning this trip, which surely will be the "trip of a lifetime" for those lucky enough to be going.

The group continues planning for future trips. Trains, planes, boats, or buses will take you to new cultural and educational destinations next year. Our next trip will be in October 2010 to the Copper Canyon in Mexico. Check the ASURA Web site for information about this and other upcoming events.

The communication of travel events with information and registration forms on the ASURA Web site and news in *Prime Times* has developed a good following. The Travel Committee of 11 individuals, some new this year, has continued to provide new energy for this group.

The committee members are Gary Anderson Co-Chair, Willis Buckingham, Beth Fordemwalt, Jim Fordemwalt, Sara Gutierrez, Gary Kleemann, Ruth Ludemann, Patricia Moore, Norm Perrill, and Jean Stengel. I would also like to applaud the office staff for their support and Carolyn Minner with the financial accounting for these events. Last but not least the support with the Web site from Connie McNeill has made a difference in providing a source of information for all members on travel events.

A travel survey was distributed at this year's Retiree's Day event to help the travel committee identify locations where ASURA members and their guest want to enjoy memorable moments in time. A new trip survey was implemented for travelers to provide feedback on each trip. This will be a planning tool to improve future trips. Gary Anderson, Beth and Jim Fordemwalt put this together and did a great job. This survey will aid in the development of a new long range travel plan the committee is developing. This plan will include local, regional and international trips.

Individuals interested in providing input for future travel activities and joining this committee should contact [wstasi@asu.edu](mailto:wstasi@asu.edu) or [gwander@asu.edu](mailto:gwander@asu.edu). We want to get you more involved with ASURA and the various event Committees.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee was formed via the recently passed updated ASURA Bylaws. Its functions are:

- A. *Annually review expenditures of the association for reasonableness and consistency with the budget.*



**Joyce Hartman  
Diaz**

The committee reviewed financial reports from the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The committee concluded that budgeted funds were spent in a reasonable manner and were consistent with the budget. This report was given at the November 9, 2009 board meeting. Final financial reports are unavailable until Fall of the following fiscal year, 2009-1010 financials will be reviewed by the 2010-2011 Finance Committee.

- B. *Make recommendations regarding current and future financial matters related to the business of the association.*

The committee recommended that all events stay within their projected budgets, and that each event chair set a date when funds can no longer be returned due to an event cancellation, depending on the cost and nature of the event.

In November, President Mary Stevens requested that the committee review and offer recommendations on the following items.

1. Possible fund raising activities

The committee recommended one feasible fund raising activity on which the past president will work with an appointed committee in 2010-2011.

2. The ASURA Scholarship Endowment, recently discovered, along with its associated spending account. President Stevens also requested that the committee work on finalizing the endowment agreement for this fund with the ASU Foundation.

The committee reported as follows:

- ASURA established a Scholarship Endowment in 1997. Somehow the endowment was forgotten until recently. The initial \$11, 000 gift has been supplemented with additional gifts and interest, so that the value of the endowment fund is now approximately \$21,000. This money has generated available funds of approximately \$9,000 for distribution to our annual scholarship.

- The Committee reviewed the endowment background information, the recommended use and the original intent of the Scholarship Endowment and spending account. The committee plans to have the final Endowment Agreement ready for board discussion and voting in March / April, 2010.

ASURA members and friends will be pleased to know that in the future they will be able to contribute to the Scholarship Endowment through the ASURA office and/or on the membership renewal forms. If you wish to contribute now, you may send a check made out to the ASU Foundation (ASURA Scholarship Endowment) to ASURA, PO Box 873308, Tempe, AZ 85287-3308. More information on the scholarship can be found on our Web site: <http://asura.asu.edu>.

## GOVERNMENT LIAISON COUNCIL REPORT

The Government Liaison Council acts as an agent of the Board to provide liaison and advocacy in relation to the Arizona State Legislature, the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and such other agencies as the Board may designate. Per the ASURA Bylaws, the Council is charged to exert influence on targeted agencies as approved by the ASURA Board and in consultation with the ASURA officers. Reports on activities related to the State Legislature and to the Arizona State Retirement System follow.

### **State Legislative Liaison**



**Jerry Aronson**

The Legislature Liaison Committee carries out two functions on behalf of the ASURA. One function is to monitor the regular sessions of the State Legislature and to report to the Board on any pending bills that, if passed, would impact present and future retirees. If warranted, the Board will authorize the Group to present its position to the Legislature. Currently, we have four non-compensated, registered lobbyists carrying out this responsibility. Our other duty is to take care of local arrangements for the annual Tri-university (Tri-U) meeting which is attended by representatives of the retiree associations of the three state universities (ASURA, NAURA and UARA).

The 2009 Tri-U meeting was held in the Fulton Center at ASU on October 20. Following brief welcoming remarks by ASURA President, Mary Stevens, Paul Matson, ASRS Director was introduced. Matson began his remarks with an update on the financial status of ASRS and followed with a discussion of legislative initiatives. Following Matson's presentation, Ed Rappaport, the ASRS Benefits Program Administrator, provided an update on ASRS health insurance plans for the coming year. Phil Hamilton, at the time, Director of Benefit Options for ADOA (Hamilton has since left ADOA), followed the ASRS presentations. He spent considerable time explaining factors contributing to the problems encountered during the last ADOA health insurance open enrollment. The meeting concluded with an open discussion of how each of our associations interacts with its respective university. The next Tri-U meeting will take place in October, 2010.

We have been following legislative activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the 49<sup>th</sup> Legislature. The main piece of legislation is HB 2389, proposing design changes in the ASRS Plan as follows:

1. The average monthly compensation used in the benefit calculation will change from the average of the highest 36 months in the last 120 months to the average of the highest 60 months in the same period.
2. One of the normal retirement date definitions will increase from 80 to 85 points (age + years of service).
3. For a terminating ASRS participant (except those terminated by an employer reduction in force or position elimination) employer contribution refunds will be eliminated.

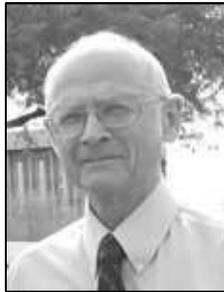
The above changes, if passed, will apply only to employees hired on or after July 1, 2011. Our lobbyists supported these changes except that we urged (according to the Board's preference) a 25% limit on employer contribution refunds. Also included in this bill is a provision that would permit a person appealing a LTD decision to request that the ASRS Board hear the appeal in executive session.

A provision, supported by ASURA but removed from the pending bill, is the requirement for employers of leased or contract employees to pay an "alternate contribution rate" for retired ASRS *Plan* members who return to work before 12 months have elapsed since retirement and who perform

services that would otherwise be performed by a contributing employee. HB 2389 has passed in the House and awaits action in the Senate where we anticipate passage.

The ASURA Board opposed HB 2341 which would establish a new “Arizona State Defined Contribution Retirement System”. This proposal appears to be dead in the current legislative session. Also opposed by ASURA, SB 1011 permitting Faculty to carry concealed firearms on campus, is not moving forward.

### **Arizona State Retirement System Liaison**



**Alan Johnson**

During the past year activity at the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) has mainly been a response to the US and global economic crisis which began in late 2007 and seems to have reached its low point in March 2009. With a historic drop in financial market values, the value of the ASRS fund dropped from \$28 billion in June 2007 to \$16.7 billion in March 2009. This drop in value affected all four categories of the ASRS total fund: the Plan, the “System,” which stopped receiving new members in 1971 and provides benefits to about 1600 members and survivor beneficiaries, the health-insurance supplement fund, and the long-term-disability fund. Since March 2009 the ASRS fund has slowly recovered to more than \$23 billion.

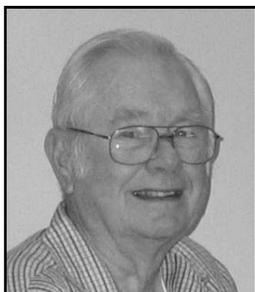
The ASRS’s traditionally conservative, long-term approach to investing left it in relatively better condition than many other public retirement programs. To assure a reliable flow of cash – for the timely payment of benefits, for example – the ASRS curtailed investment in areas that tie up capital for very long periods of time, notably private equity and real estate. To improve investment performance, the ASRS has rearranged the allocation of its investments, reducing the allocation to public equities (stocks), allocating a bit more to private equity for the future, and introducing a category called “inflation-linked assets” (for example, commodities). Completion of a computerization of ASRS’s service operations by the middle of 2009 has led to considerable savings within the organization. The result of the long-term approach and this year’s efforts is that the fund is secure and can meet its present and foreseeable future obligations. In February 2010 a retrospective report on the fifty states’ public retirement systems by the Pew Charitable Trust ranked Arizona as a “top performer.”

ASRS Director Paul Matson has reminded the members of the Plan that it is a “defined benefit” program. As such, its benefits are guaranteed. For the members of the old “System,” 2009-2010 has been dramatic. Guided by 56 years of legislation dealing with the “System,” the ASRS has operated on the conclusion that only the portion of a “System” member’s benefit derived from employer and employee contributions, plus a set rate of interest, was guaranteed. Annual earnings of the “System” fund beyond that amount were distributed as supplementary payments or credit. A state-approved ASRS rule stated that when the ability of the market value of the “System’s” fund to meet its long-term obligations falls below 95%, the supplementary benefits may be reduced or eliminated. Director Matson informed “System” members of this possibility in February 2009 and also asked the Arizona Attorney General for a ruling on the issue. On November 24, 2009, the Attorney General

ruled that the Arizona Constitution's Article 29, forbidding diminishment of retirement benefits, applies to the supplementary as well as the guaranteed benefits.

During the past year, I have attended nine of the ten regularly scheduled public meetings of the ASRS Board of Trustees; I have carefully reviewed the reports on membership-service that were distributed at those meetings; and I have kept abreast of ASRS's legislative initiatives. I've also conferred occasionally with staff personnel, particularly with Director Matson and External Affairs Liaison Lesli Sorenson. I have extensively researched the "System" benefits issue and have corresponded with several ASURA members about it. I've received no complaints this year from ASURA members about ASRS service operations. For legislation bearing on the ASRS, see Jerry Aronson's report on ASURA's oversight at the State Legislature. For information about the ASRS, see its website, [www.azasrs.gov](http://www.azasrs.gov).

## HEALTH INSURANCE LIAISON REPORT



**Dick Murra**

The ADOA open enrollment period offered new plans at the expense of an old plan. Members were offered four providers, Aetna, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona, Cigna, and United Healthcare. All providers offered EPO plans and all but Cigna offered PPO plans. The Secure Horizon plan was offered as an extension to December 31, 2009. Members who elected the extended plan were required to select one of the other offered plans in November with the newly selected plan to become effective January 1, 2010. All of the EPO and PPO plans provided benefits for the 2010 calendar year.

Only two dental plans were offered, Indemnity/PPO Plan by Delta Dental and Prepaid/DHMO Plan by Total Dental Administrators Health Plan, Inc.

In general the open enrollment for ADOA was accomplished rather smoothly with few problems.

The open enrollment for the ASRS plans basically remained the same as was offered for 2009. Only non-Medicare Indemnity plan members were required to re-enroll. Other members did not have to re-enroll if they did not desire to change their current plan. The offering by ASRS of a Secure Horizons Plan and a Senior supplement plan was attractive to some ADOA members who were due to lose coverage in the ADOA Secure Horizon Plan. Again, the open enrollment went off rather smoothly especially due to a retiree not having to do anything if they did not desire to change plans.

Premium increases for the ADOA were significant. The ASRS managed to control cost of their plans. The national climate for medical and dental is not favorable and will likely remain so until the call for a universal health plan is settled. The availability of stable health and dental plans to retirees is a big plus during these unstable times.

## MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



**Elmer Gooding**

The Membership and Communications Committee is responsible for stimulating and developing Association membership. It is also responsible for promoting and facilitating communication with the membership using such methods as newsletters, electronic mail, and the Association Web site.

This year the membership information was computerized (put into a database) which has allowed us to better serve and more efficiently contact our members. Special thanks to Connie McNeill, David Scheatzle and Carolyn Minner for preparing the data for our use. Our membership database lists over 1500 retirees; however, only about 700 have made their annual membership contribution to date.

Of those who have paid, approximately half of our members prefer to receive information via e-mail and the other half prefer to receive information through the U.S. Postal Service. In a year of “tight” budgets, using the e-mail option has helped us contain our mailing costs.

We gained 144 new members this past year! Unfortunately, almost 100 of last year’s members did not renew their membership in ASURA.

We received excellent information from Human Resources regarding new retirees and each quarter we sent a special invitation for the new retirees to join ASURA upon their retirement — although those currently working are also invited to join. As a service to those who will be attending pre-retirement meetings, in March 2010 we began making regular presentations about the functions and the services of the ASU Retirees Association to those anticipating retirement.

This year we added a new service for our members who use e-mail. Thanks to the volunteer work of Becky Reiss, our members receive timely notices of the obituaries of our colleagues who have passed away. Of those on our e-mail list, 89 percent chose to receive the e-mail notices of the obituaries and 11 percent chose to receive e-mail notices without the obituaries.

We welcome all ASU retirees—staff, faculty, academic professionals, administrative and service professionals—into our membership.

Following are reports by Mary Stevens on our *Prime Times* newsletter and Connie McNeill on our Web site, database and e-mail distribution lists.

## Prime Times Newsletter



**Wilma  
Mathews**

In 2009/2010, your new editors, Janet Soper and Wilma Mathews, compiled and published Summer and Winter issues of the ASURA newsletter, *Prime Times*. It is anticipated that a Spring/Summer issue will be forthcoming. The Summer 2009 issue presented photos and short bios of the 2009/2010 Board members, and contact information for Officers, Committee Chairs, Liaisons and Office Staff. The Travel Committee told members of recent past trips and announced the upcoming China trip in May 2010. Dean Smith contributed an article on Grady Gammage and his English teacher, who became his wife. Roger Carter provided a most interesting article on a summer trip on the waterways of England. Linda Van Scoy and Alan Johnson provided status reports



**Janet Soper**

on the Living Video History Project and the Arizona State Retirement System.

The Winter 2009 issue highlighted the upcoming 2010 Retirees Day with featured speaker, Hugh Downs, and announced a first for ASURA -- a breakfast and fashion show at Dillard's starring members of ASURA as models. Jerry Aronson gave a thorough report on the Tri-University meeting with representatives of retirees from the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University. Jerry discussed the presentations of guest speakers Paul Matson and Ed Rappaport of the Arizona State Retirement System and Phil Hamilton from Arizona Department of Administration. This issue reflected a change in the way ASURA keeps members informed of obituaries of people associated with ASU. The issue also included fun photos from the Verde Canyon Railroad /Jerome trip organized by the Travel Committee.

Dave Scheatzle, former long-time editor of *Prime Times*, suggested three issues of our newsletter per year rather than four, as had been produced in some prior years. This seems to be appropriate and necessary as cost increases in printing and mailings impact our budget. Our thanks to Janet and Wilma for their outstanding efforts this year.

Mary Stevens

## ASURA Web Site, Database, and E-mail Distribution Lists



**Connie McNeill**

ASURA's Web site, <http://asura.asu.edu> "went live" in its current form about two years ago. During this past year it has grown from about 150 pages to over 200 pages. New information is being added all the time. The site seeks to provide information of interest to our membership, including information on events, on people, and on such "hot topics" as volunteering and health care. We especially like to have lots of interesting photos of our people and activities, and Val Peterson and Dave Scheatzle are great at taking these and sharing them for use on our site.

The most significant addition to the Web site this year has been in the area of obituaries. Obituaries collected and edited by our obituaries volunteer editor, Becky Reiss, are posted on the site shortly after she distributes them to membership via e-mail. If photos can be located, they are added to the obituary information that Becky provides.

The ASURA Web site is fairly well used, currently averaging between 1,000 and 3,000 "hits" per day, typically involving 100-130 "visits". This is over double the activity of a year ago.

Our membership database is maintained through a Microsoft Access application. The database and application are housed on leased space on an ASU server so that those who need access can get to it from “anywhere”, and can share it reasonably easily. We are using the database to report to the ASURA Board on our membership enrollments and associated demographics. We use it to generate mailing files for our events, to maintain our e-mail distribution lists, to prepare lists of people who might be interested in volunteering or attending special events, and of course to solicit new and renewed memberships. Improvements in the past year included adding information about events attended, automating import of new retirees, and preparing a standard monthly Membership Report. Since the database and application are maintained by a single volunteer, there is some exposure to the Association, and we will be exploring the possibility of shifting to a for-fee service for membership records.

We currently have an e-mail distribution list for members who prefer e-mail communication, slightly over half of our membership. This year we added a separate distribution list for members who wish to receive the e-mail obituary notices that Becky Reiss prepares. Finally, we have a shared distribution list for Board members and others who regularly attend Board meetings.

We encourage every ASU retiree who has an e-mail address to provide it to us. This can be done by phone, mail, FAX or e-mail – see <http://asura.asu.edu/contact>. Also please remember to inform us if you change your e-mail address. Or, better yet, use an ASU e-mail address that will remain constant even if you change ISPs (Internet Service Providers). For information on why and how to do this, see <http://asura.asu.edu/UsingEPO>.

If you have interest in helping maintain our Web site (technology and/or content) or our membership database (the technology, not the data), please contact Connie McNeill, [Connie.McNeill@asu.edu](mailto:Connie.McNeill@asu.edu). Your assistance would be very welcome.

## TREASURER'S REPORT



**Joyce Hartman  
Diaz**

As the fiscal year 2009-2010 ends, I wish to acknowledge and thank the hard work and dedication of Carolyn Minner, ASURA Business Manager. She has overseen the budget reports, spent our resources wisely, and generally managed the budget in a most professional manner. The current budget reports are included in this report.

Under the leadership of Val Peterson, former president of the ASURA, a formal budget was established last fiscal year for our organization. This fiscal year we have made some slight modifications to our budget format as circumstances dictated. The Board is now planning budgets to reflect the needs of ASURA, while being cognizant of following budgetary restraints; the formalized budget is a great working tool for the Board.

Due to the difficult economic times this year, the Board has looked for ways to curtail unnecessary expenses. We have implemented more on-line information, and utilized e-mail messages whenever possible. We thank the membership for supporting this effort. If you haven't seen our website recently, do check it out at <http://asura.asu.edu>.

Last year the Board approved separation of the Operating budget from the Special Events budget. This year Carolyn Minner has graciously agreed to add a review of specific expenses in each of our special projects, luncheons and travel events. By agreeing to take on this extra task, she will be able to present the board with more specific details on our events so changes can be adopted where needed. Again, thank you Carolyn. As we enter next fiscal year with a slight surplus, our budget should stay solvent and allow us some flexibility

In last year's membership drive we implemented an increase in the dues to \$20. Thank you for supporting this dues increase, which we found necessary to continue to bring you information on our health coverage and legislative actions, update office equipment as needed and offer you interesting and educational events.

	<b>FY 2010 Budget (Revised &amp; Approved 2/2010)</b>	<b>Year To Date Amount</b>	<b>Budget Minus YTD</b>
<b>Operations - Expenses</b>			
<i>Printing &amp; Mailing Costs</i>			
Events	2,250	896	1,354
Board Ballots	500	513	-13
Annual Report	115	0	115
Prime Times	2,775	1,755	1,020
Membership Drive	1,320	641	679
<i>Subtotal Printing &amp; Mailing</i>	<i>6,960</i>	<i>3,804</i>	<i>3,156</i>
<i>Other Operations Costs</i>			
Office Equipment & Supplies	3,650	2,056	1,594
Phone/FAX Service	1,290	1,930	-640
Foundation Fees	700	544	156
<i>Subtotal Operations Costs</i>	<i>5,640</i>	<i>4,530</i>	<i>1,110</i>
<b>Total Operations Expenses</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>8,334</b>	<b>4,266</b>
<b>Operations - Source of Funds</b>			
Balance forward	23,640	23,640	0
Public Affairs	7,000	6,530	470
Membership "dues" Donations	15,415	6,695	8,720
General Operations Donations	2,000	1,342	658
Event Collections excess (+)/deficit (-)	500	511	-11
<b>Total Operations Funds</b>	<b>48,555</b>	<b>38,718</b>	<b>9,837</b>
<b>Operations Net - Income Less Expense</b>	<b>35,955</b>	<b>30,383</b>	<b>5,572</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Special Projects - Expenses</b>			
Foundation Fees	100	28	72
Scholarship	6,500	6,500	0
Adopt-a-Family	2,000	1,231	769
Video History	7,700	4,843	2,857
<b>Total Special Project Expenses</b>	<b>16,300</b>	<b>12,602</b>	<b>3,698</b>
<b>Special Projects - Source of Funds</b>			
Balance Forward	30,280	30,280	0
General donations	1,150	910	240
Golf tournament, fund raisers	0	0	0
Scholarship Endowment - spendable	9,146	9,637	-491
<b>Total Special Project Funds</b>	<b>40,576</b>	<b>40,827</b>	<b>-251</b>
<b>Special Projects Net - Inc. Less Exp.</b>	<b>24,276</b>	<b>28,225</b>	<b>-3,949</b>

**Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, as of 2/28/2010**