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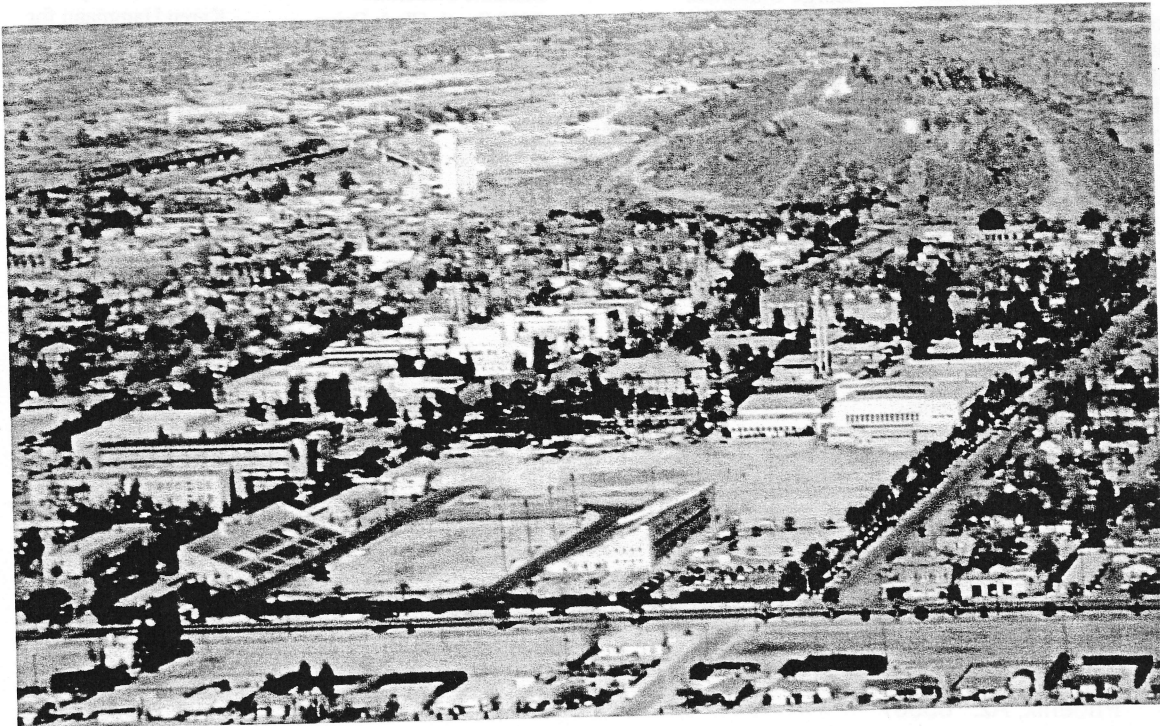
# Arizona State University Retirees Association

Report from the Board, 2005--2006

## Annual Meeting

April 20, 2006

Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge, 1 p.m.



Arizona State College 1955

# ASURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

## ASURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007

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Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-4900

Area Codes: 602 - Phoenix and North Phoenix  
623 - West Valley

480 - East Valley  
520 - Tucson and Southern Arizona

# ASURA OFFICE, OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## ASURA OFFICE



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**Vice President**  
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**Secretary**  
To be appointed

**Treasurer**  
To be appointed

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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To be appointed

**Adopt-A-Family**  
To be appointed

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**Insurance – ASRS**  
To be announced

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**Website**  
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## Office Volunteers



By Corrine Irvan

Our thanks to ALL of them--they keep the office up and running. The volunteers pictured below take care of the office on the days noted. Morning volunteers work from 8 a.m. to noon; afternoon volunteers work from 1 to 4 p.m. In addition, many of these volunteers help with big mailings, are on various committees, and some have served, or are serving, on the board. They are an energetic and multi-talented group.

Pat Skinner, Martha Waltemath, and Marilyn Wahl help with refreshments and cleanup for Board meetings, while various ASURA members including some office workers, help with special mailings. Do call or stop by the office to say "hello" and get acquainted.

Many of our dedicated office volunteers have been on board since the beginning in 1991. We have one new volunteer to complete our staff now.

### MONDAY VOLUNTEERS

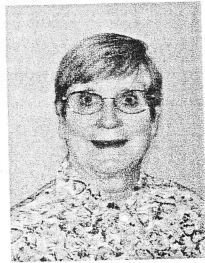
Monday Morning



Pat Skinner

### TUESDAY VOLUNTEERS

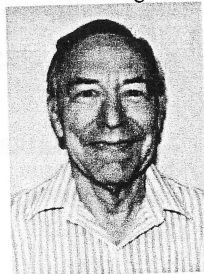
Tuesday Morning



Carol Moore

### WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday Morning



Bob Beeman

### THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS

Thursday Morning



Corrine Irvan

### FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS

Friday Morning



Martha Waltemath

Monday Afternoon



Delores Sperstad

Tuesday Afternoon



Maxine Laroux

Wednesday Morning



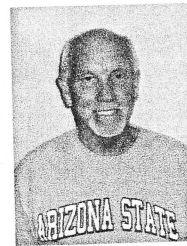
Ed Scannell

Wednesday Afternoon



Marilyn Wall

Thursday Afternoon



Doug Sanford

Friday Afternoon



Sheila Nienaber

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Elmer Gooding

The 2005-2006 year was busy, exciting and rewarding. The most rewarding part of my year as president was working with so many wonderful friends in the ASU Retirees Association. I thank all of the volunteers who helped to make this a successful year. I especially thank and recognize Corrine Irvan, who is in her 15<sup>th</sup> year of not only managing the ASURA office, but doing so much for our group. Our association is blessed to have Corrine to run the office, direct the office volunteer activities and directly or indirectly manage so many of the functions of the ASU Retirees Association. Her guidance throughout the year was very helpful to me.

Corrine's team of office volunteers also helped to keep our organization going so well. The office volunteers are: Pat Skinner, Delores Sperstad, Carol Moore, Maxine Laroux, Bob Beeman, Ed Scannell, Marilyn Wall, Doug Sanford, Sheila Nienaber and Martha Waltemath. Martha also was responsible for organizing the ASURA Annual Meeting. We are so grateful for these willing volunteers.

I also extend my deep appreciation and special recognition to our past-president, David Scheatzle, who was always there to provide guidance and direction to me throughout the year. David also organized

and managed the Veteran's Day golf tournament—which raised significant funds for our Video History Project. In addition to attending countless meetings throughout the year, David also managed our data base, conducted a special interest survey, set up a list-serve for our members with email addresses and published PrimeTimes with an attractive new format.

As their terms end, we all recognize the five members of the board of directors who have faithfully served our organization and will complete their terms in April 2006. The five board members who are completing their terms are Brent Brown, Betty Greathouse, Nancy O'Bannon, Henry Spomer and Joe Wilkinson. We are all grateful to Betty Greathouse for her years as the skillful secretary of ASURA. Betty was able to organize the minutes and capture the discussions and actions of our association. Hank Spomer has also served us faithfully as treasurer for the past two years. Our finances were in good hands with Hank's handling of our funds. Joe Wilkinson has served not only on the Board, but also co-chaired (with Sue Blumer) the education committee. The committee's description of the very successful ASU Retirees' Day is included in this report.

We now welcome five new board members who now begin their terms. The newly elected board members are: Mat Betz, Ted Cary, Bob Francis, Doug Johnson and Doug Sanford. Mat had previously served as ASURA president, Bob Francis organized our Homecoming "tent" last November and Doug Sanford has served as one of our office volunteers. We extend to them a warm welcome.

Our Adopt-A-Family program has been managed so well by Jeri Goldfader and Geri

Roth. Jeri Goldfader has managed this worthwhile endeavor for nearly a decade and Geri Roth has been there to help lead the effort for the past two years. Both Jeri and Geri have asked to have someone else take over this effort, so we are searching for new leaders for the Adopt-A-Family committee.

Our two health insurance experts—Dick Murra for ADOA and Denis Kigin for ASRS—have helped so many of our members with an ever-changing health insurance environment. We appreciate their leadership and their many years of faithful service to our members.

Our Legislative Liaison, Jerry Aaronson had a very busy year in tracking and influencing legislation on behalf of our members. His detailed and important updates throughout the year were very important in keeping our board informed. He was assisted by Bob Mings and Alan Johnson—who headed up this effort for many years.

After years of leading our membership committee, George Morrell asked to step down from this responsibility. Bob Ellis graciously agreed to assume the membership committee leadership. Since Bob Ellis moved to this position, he gave up his responsibilities as liaison to the University Club. Zeke Prust has taken on the responsibility of being the liaison to the University Club and has kept the board well informed.

Gale Richards also asked to be relieved of his responsibilities as liaison to the Arizona State Retirement System. Quentin Bogart and M. Scott Norton are co-chairing this important function and representing our members very well.

Peggy Randolph asked to have someone else take over her work as head of the Volunteer Activities Committee. Marie Sale' agreed to assume this responsibility and is carrying on the successful work that Peggy did for years.

Stan Brown and his Activities Committee served ASURA by organizing several trips and our Christmas/Holiday Party. Stan has indicated his desire to pass this responsibility on to someone else this coming year. We are now seeking someone to take on this role.

We are all grateful to Vice President Virgil Renzulli, and his staff--especially for the continuing support of Wilma Matthews.

As my term as your ASURA president for 2005-2006 comes to an end, I extend my appreciation to Alan Matheson who will assume the position as president for 2006-2007. Alan's wisdom, guidance, support and counsel have been so valuable to me throughout this past year. ASURA will be in good hands with Alan Matheson at the helm of our organization.

Again, I thank all of our wonderful volunteers for making this a great year for ASURA.

## TREASURER'S REPORT



By Henry Spomer

**Balance Forward-Beginning Balance July 1, 2005** **\$18,757**

### Revenue:

Membership Dues	\$	5,040
Adopt a Family		100
Video Project (Golf)		29,991
Scholarship		<u>55</u>

Total Revenue **\$35,186**

Total Bal Fwd & Revenue

**\$53,943**

### Expenditures:

Adopt a Family	\$	1,014
Video Project (Golf)		17,515
Computer Upgrade		863
Scholarship		4,047
Retirees Day Subsidy		1,207
Supplies/Miscellaneous		1,261
Adm Svcs Charge		<u>1,368</u>

Total Expenditures **\$27,275**

Ending Balance – March 9, 2006

**\$26,668**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



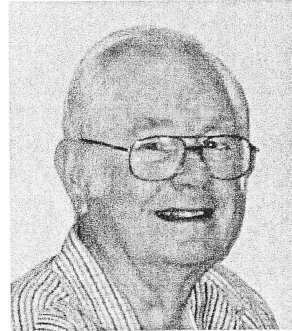
By Bob Ellis

Membership: As of 12-7-2005, ASURA has 979 members. We lost a couple of members during the month. Our goal is still at least 1,100 or more. Christine Cervantes will be providing us with quarterly lists to recruit.

Renewals: We are down to 89 members who have not renewed as yet for fiscal year July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006—the current year. This is good for this time of year. We will send out third notices for renewal later in the year. On the plus side, we have increased the number of members who renewed for more than one year.

Parking Urgent Notice: If you have a decal on your windshield or a hanging decal for retiree parking, please do not park in the spaces marked “ASU Visitor Information Center.” Instead, park in the other parking places within the lot. You will not longer have to sign in at the front desk unless you do not have a decal. If you do not have a decal, continue parking in the “ASU Visitor Information Center” spaces, or request a decal.

## HEALTH / DENTAL INSURANCE ADOA - COMMITTEE REPORT



By Richard Murra

The Arizona Department of Administration delayed the 2005/06 Open Enrollment period for retirees who elected to retain their Health and/or dental insurance programs with the ADOA. The Federal legislation that provides for prescription drug coverage for retirees on Medicare caused considerable complexities in programs to be offered to retirees. In order to assure compatibility of the PART D Medicare plans with programs offered by the State of Arizona, the normal start date for the 2005/06 program year was moved from October 1, 2005 to January 1 2006. The plans and premiums for the current year programs remained the same during the extended period.

The change in the program year resulted in both the Arizona State Retirement System and the Arizona Department of Administration having their Open Enrollment Period at the same time. Retirees who elected to remain in the ADOA programs had the opportunity of remaining in the ADOA program or transferring their enrollment to the ASRS programs. Members who were currently enrolled under ADOA and desired to



transfer to a program offered by ASRS were reminded that they would not be allowed to return to the ADOA programs at a later date. Once out of ADOA return to programs offered by ADOA is not an option.

All health insurance plans offered by ADOA provided prescription coverage that was considered to be better than or equal to the Medicare plans offered in response to the new Federal Medicare provisions. With that understanding, retirees could elect to continue in their ADOA plan and not have to enroll in one of the Federal offered programs. If a retiree did choose to enroll in one of the Medicare sponsored plans, the retiree would lose coverage under the ADOA since enrollment in more than one prescription plan is not allowed. Also the retiree would then also lose the subsidy provided in support of the ADOA plans. In spite of being informed a multitude of times that enrollment in one of the Medicare Part D plans was not required when the retiree elected to remain in one of the State of Arizona sponsored plans, many retirees continued to ask if they were required to enroll in a Part D plan. Retirees were counseled to retain their State sponsored program rather than enroll in the Medicare Part D plans. This proved to be good advise since considerable problems were experienced by persons who did enroll in a Part D plan.

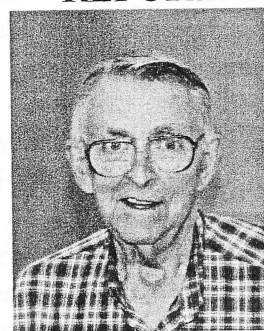
This is not to say ADOA plan enrollees did not experience problems. The biggest problem seemed to be getting correct cards issued with correct information sited. Hopefully this has been corrected and will not occur in the future. ADOA Benefits Office will require prior review of the cards prior to issue by the company

to the enrollee. Failure of members who reached age 65 and became eligible for Medicare to advise ADOA and/or their health insurance carrier resulted in the member having to pay a part of incurred cost which would normally have been paid by Medicare. Again, members should inform your agency and your carrier and furnish a copy of your Medicare card.

Increases in premium cost are and will continue to be the most troublesome issue. This issue is not limited to the health and dental programs offered by the State of Arizona. It is a national problem that does not appear to have a ready solution.

Planning for the next Open Enrollment will begin shortly. Our organization will be represented on the planning committee.

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT



By Stan Brown

Travel was the main interest of members this year. A questionnaire was sent early in the Fall regarding possible excursions, and 148 persons responded positively. The options were attractive, and some of the trips were highly successful, particularly one to Rocky Point in Mexico. Unfortunately, the travel agency with responsibility to follow through with the details did not perform well, and some of

the trips did not take place. Obviously, the interest among members is strong, and future arrangements for travel should be made. A successful Christmas Open House drew many of our members in mid-December, and a good time was had by all.

### **ASRS RETIREE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**



Denis J. Kigin

1. The ASRS Retiree Health Care Program is now the Secure Horizons Group Retirees Medicare Advantage Plan through PacifiCare
2. Under the Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare is no longer the primary insurer.
3. Health insurance premiums for 2006 remain the same as for 2005.
4. Retired members are eligible for the standard subsidy benefit.
5. The former Senior Supplement Plan now is known as Secure Horizons Direct.

6. PacifiCare is the provider for Medicare prescription drug coverage through Prescription Solutions.
7. The maximum annual prescription drug benefit increased from \$2000 to \$2250 after January 1, 2006.
8. Fortis Benefits, the ASRS dental provider, has a new name—Assurant Employee Benefits.
9. The high option indemnity dental plan benefit increased from \$200 to \$2500.
10. United Health Care Group of Minnetonka, Minnesota, has agreed to acquire PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. based in Cypress, California.

The transition to Secure Horizons was not without problems. Immediately after 1-1-06, glitches in the system surfaced. Members were unable to get prescriptions filled, were rejected for coverage at health service agencies, and long-standing Doctors' offices were reluctant to accept the new system. Telephone calls to the numbers provided resulted in being placed on hold for in excess of 60 minutes in many situations. Many members expressed concern that Medicare was no longer their primary insurer. This continues to be a bone of contention since some members believe they have lost a vital link in their overall health coverage.

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE



By Marie G. Sale'

Responses to surveys and other material regarding the volunteer activities committee were passed to me from Peggy Randolph.

I have made several contacts in connection to filling the space of our Adopt-A-Family program, and have given those phone numbers and names to the current Chair, Jeri Goldfader, at our last Board Meeting.

David Scheatzle, Peggy Randolph and I met regarding the input data on our computer so as to easily connect retired ASU faculty with current employees, those at least who may appreciate the help as a volunteer in their department at this time.

In reference to future surveys, I phoned most departments on the survey and most have responded with a positive note. "Yes, they will still continue to need help from time to time for volunteer work with those individuals who have already retired."

It was another great experience for me on Monday February 20 – Statehood Day for Arizona when I participated in activities with legislators. Our legislators, at least those I visited with, were positive and very supportive in respect to this year's budget and ASU.

It has been a great pleasure for me this past several months working with the ASURA Board and will continue to assist whenever necessary.

NOTE: The College of Extended Education is now named "University College". Dean Gail Hackett and Associate Dean Fred Corey will probably be in need of volunteers as the Downtown Campus begins to evolve--perhaps as Campus Ambassadors.

## LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COUNCIL REPORT



By Jerry Aaronson

The Legislative Liaison Council (LLC) oversees a broad spectrum of legislation-related activities that can affect, first and foremost, ASU's Faculty and Staff retirees. Additionally, we keep abreast of legislative initiatives impacting active (i.e., pre-retirement) employees. We exercise public responsibility also by supporting ASU in its roles as an employer and an educational and research institution. The University's strong presence in the community can allow it to be a powerful advocate for retiree welfare and, when we support ASU, we promote our own interests as well.

The LLC is chaired currently by Jerry Aronson who utilizes the extensive

experience of Alan Johnson and Bob Mings. Johnson also serves as Chair Pro Tem when Aronson is absent due to traveling, etc. In carrying out its mission, LLC interacts on various levels with the ASU administration, the ASU Alumni Association (and its Sun Devil Advocates Network), the Tri-University Retirees Coalition, the Arizona Legislature (through attendance and/or advocacy at committee hearings and Email, telephone or face-to-face communication), the Coalition of Arizona State Retirees Associations and the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS).

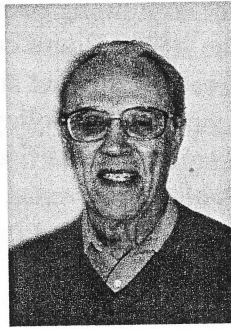
During the 2005-2006 year, the Council has had extensive involvement in two important events. One was ASU Day at the Capitol which took place on February 20, 2006. During this event, sponsored by the Alumni Association, ASU administrators, Faculty and volunteer advocates met informally with legislators to gain support for the University budget request. Our members made an outstanding contribution to this endeavor--accounting for almost two-thirds of the total number of volunteer advocates. Special thanks are due to: Bob Beeman, Carol Berg, Quentin Bogart, Brent Brown, Bob Ellis, Elmer Gooding, Len Gordon, Dick Jacob, Alan Johnson, Gary Krahenbuhl, Alan Matheson, Bob Mings, June Payne, Zeke Prust, Marie Salé, and Suzanne Steadman. The other event was the meeting of the Tri-University Coalition on February 15, 2006. Organizational and cost underwriting responsibilities for this meeting rotate among the three University retiree associations and it was our turn this year. The help of Corinne Irvan in setting-up the arrangements is gratefully acknowledged. Participants included eight delegates from ASURA, six from NAURA and seven from UARA. The UARA delegation included Keith Meredith, Chair of ASRS Board of Trustees. We were most fortunate also in having the

participation of Paul Matson, Director of ASRS and Patrick Klein, ASRS Assistant Director for External Affairs. In addition, Bob Bloom, Co-Chair of the Coalition of Arizona State Retirees Associations and Dan Cadriel, Senior Business Manager of Pacific Care were present. The results of this highly successful meeting are too extensive to be presented here, but it can be noted that much of the fear and consternation arising earlier this year over the serious problems with health insurance were either put to rest or diminished considerably. In addition, Matson's and Klein's responses to certain questions make it possible for us (ASURA) to support certain pending legislation with which we had prior reservations. Any member seeking details of the proceedings of this meeting can contact LLC ([jerrya@asu.edu](mailto:jerrya@asu.edu) or the Association office).

During the Second Regular Session of the 47<sup>th</sup> Legislature, we have monitored the progress of certain proposals supported by the Board. Graded Multiplier Equity (HB2390) is dead for the present and will probably be rekindled in the next session. The Spousal Notification bill (HB2082) has fared much better. It passed in the House and in the Senate Finance Committee. Also there are a number of bills, favored by ASRS, that would, if passed, improve the ASRS financial position (funding ratio) by retaining monies that currently are lost due to: employer retirement incentives; or withdrawal of **employer** contributions by terminating members; or costs arising from unlimited changes of benefit option on the part of certain retirees. Passage of any or all of these proposals will help to stem the inflation of contribution rates for active members and provide greater security for retired members. Bills in this category which are supported by ASURA are HB2101 (passed in House and alive in Senate), HB2103 (passed in House and moving well in Senate), HB2340 (passed

both House and Senate and sent to Governor) and SB1167 (passed in Senate and alive in House). Bills of lesser import are being watched also.

## ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM REPORT



By Quentin Bogart & M. Scott Norton

The several meetings of the ASRS Board of Trustees during the year focused primarily on investment matters and accompanying reviews of the investment managers who are handling the investment packages. Closely related to these important agenda items were on-going reports concerning the status of the nation's economy and its influence on the investments of the ASRS. The Board's investment consultant, Mr. Terry Dennison, reported to the Board on several occasions. At the most recent ASRS Board meeting in February, 2006, Mr. Dennison summarized the state of the economy by noting that inflation is beginning to pick up and the trade deficit of the U.S. is becoming problematic in that the U.S. is spending approximately \$33 billion more dollars than it is earning; the trade deficit has reached about 6%. China is the nation's biggest supplier of foreign goods and, according to Dennison, the economy should remain stable as long as the U.S. buys Chinese products and, in return, China continues to buy U.S. bonds.

In regard to ASRS investments, the poorest

performing equities were found in the fields of consumer discretionary goods and telecommunications. The ASRS, along with its investment managers, establishes investment targets in relation to expected earnings. For the month of December, 2005, the overall investment target was missed by .9%. That is, the return on investments overall was 6.6%, while the target was 7.4%. Thus, investment fund earnings were approximately 1.4 billion dollars. ASRS has approximately \$21.6 billion dollars of investment capital. Although the investment return for the year was considered as being "good," long-range considerations for the operation of ASRS viewed the returns as being below projections. The ASRS Board evaluates the productivity of its various investment managers on a continuous basis. Two of the three investment managers were judged as doing "OK." A third company, Byram Capital, the equity small cap manager, was terminated, and these funds were moved to Melon Capital Investment.

At the ASRS Board meeting on March 17, 2006, the Board unanimously approved a recommendation to terminate Cortland Partners, the current real estate investment representative, and replace that company with a new representative, the Townsend Group.

The previously mentioned \$21.6 billion in ASRS investment capital is placed in four primary investment categories: domestic equities, 57%; international equities, 17%; fixed income, 25%, and real estate, 1%. Of course, return on investments is of high priority to the operations of ASRS. Costs of operation continue to increase. If investment returns do not provide adequate financial support, the likely result is the need for an increase in ASRS member contributions.

The ASRS Board dealt with many cases during the year relating to members'

complaints, requests, and appeals. The request of Coconino County ASRS health care members for the continuation of a health care subsidy for retirees was one such matter.

Coconino County members complained that there was an insufficient number of physicians available to handle their health care needs and that the rural subsidy should be extended. The ASRS Board later denied the request based on its reported evidence that a sufficient number of physicians were not available to provide care to ASRS members. Other cases commonly centered on requests by members to include certain work experiences in relation to their retirement packages, persons who returned to work fulltime too early and ultimately were denied certain benefits, persons who received retirement benefits but were not eligible to do so, and general pleas by individuals asking the Board to reconsider a mistake made by the member that resulted in loss of benefits.

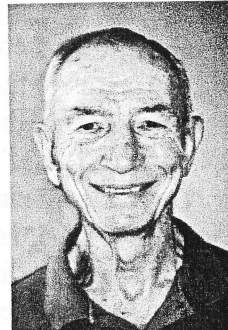
March 30, 2006, was the last date to hear bills by the State Legislature. Thus, at the March 17, 2006, meeting of the Board, the status of ASRS related retirement legislation was reviewed. Ten bills of special interest to the Board were tracked by ASRS representatives in relation to their status in the legislative process. HB 2082, HB 2105, and HB 1167 are mentioned briefly in this report. HB 2082 is concerned with benefit election/spousal notification. The original legislation required spousal consent before naming or changing a beneficiary or contingent annuitant to someone other than the current spouse. The proposed legislation calls for spouse notification only. HB 2105 centered on investment management qualifications. In brief, the legislation would eliminate the requirement that ASRS managers have more than three years experience handling institutional investments of at least \$250 million. HB 1167 was concerned with optional forms of retirement.

As introduced, after benefits begin, a state retiree may exercise a one-time election to rescind the joint and survivor annuity option if the annuitant named originally dies or ceases to be a contingent annuitant under the terms of a qualified domestic relations order. None of these bills had been approved by the State Legislature at the time of this report. Each bill remained at some point in the legislative process as of March 17, 2006.

Other continuing considerations and actions of the ASRS Board centered on legislative interest that impact state retirement in Arizona, Board policy matters, the ASRS strategic plan, the fiscal year calendar of activities and events, and personnel matters related to staff and its director, Paul Matson.

For more information concerning the ASRS Board meetings and other work of the ASRS, use the website: [www.asrs.state.az.us](http://www.asrs.state.az.us)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT



By Joe Wilkinson & Sue Blumer

The thirteenth annual Retirees Day on February 18, 2006, was very successful. All of the presenters were dynamic and informative and the luncheon speaker held everyone's attention. The number of registered members reached 179, almost equal to the record of 182 set last year. This large total may be due to a second mailing in January, as well as to the fond memories of

last year's Retirees Day. Several distinguished guests, as well as some of the presenters, increased the number of attendees having lunch.

The Chair and Co-Chair would like to recognize the efforts of the members of the Education Committee, the Volunteer Office Staff headed by Corrine Irvan, and the ASURA board members in planning and carrying out the may details and arrangements necessary to the culmination of a successful event. We also wish to thank the Memorial Union Staff who provided the rooms and supported the setup of equipment, the Distinctive Catering personnel who assisted in arranging and serving the tasteful luncheon, and the eight presenters who offered seven enjoyable morning sessions. Finally, we greatly appreciate the luncheon speaker, who very adequately filled in for Attorney General Terry Goddard after he was forced to withdraw upon the death of his father.

After an hour of welcoming members and enjoying refreshments, the program began with an introduction by Elmer Gooding, President of the ASURA. The chair of the Education Committee introduced its members and noted the change in the luncheon speaker.

Then, the co-chair of the Committee gave the members guidance with respect to the Day's upcoming events, including the after lunch question and answer period in the Pima Room.

The highlights of the morning were seven sessions, each of which is summarized below.

The sessions were followed by the luncheon and a speech by F. Miguel Valenti. After lunch, those who had questions about the ASRS pension plan were able to attend a session with Pat Klein, the Assistant Director of External Affairs for ASRS.

"Finding Resilience Solutions that Meet the Challenges of Aging" was the presentation by Alex Zautra and John Hall, two ASU professors. Their presentation was based on sound research and accompanied by overheads. Handouts were also available to explain the workings of a new research program that is aimed at restoring homeostasis (internal equilibrium) in the body, in order to preserve and improve the quality of an individuals' community life. They pointed out that people have an innate ability to rebound in difficult times. This ability needs to be nourished so that we can combat negative events. A method known as resilient solutions allows us to move along two continuums, from disease to an absence of disease and from the absence of health to good health. By creating a Resilience Index, we can help diminish the risks due to genetics, chronic pain, childhood trauma, and so forth.

"Historical Destinations in Arizona" was the presentation of Malcolm Comeaux, an emeritus ASU professor of geography. Before a large audience of more than 70 attendees, he first broke down the state into four major areas and showed with map slides several well-known tourist sites. Then, he presented an even more valuable and fascinating tour of "out-of-the-way" locales. While some of the sites he showed on slides are difficult to reach, he offered to explain the means of visiting them, using route information if needed.

"Art Exhibits at ASU" was the presentation by Laura Stewart, a curator for education at the ASU Art Museum. She led the small audience on a virtual tour of the Museum. After a brief discussion of the museum and its collections, she explored such venues as the Ceramics Research Center, the Americas permanent collection, the current collection

of baskets on loan from the Libermans, the current show of recent Latin American painting and sculpture, and the extensive print collection on campus. In response to questions, she explained how to become active in the museum and listed the kinds of shows that are forthcoming this spring.

“Cartooning for Fun” was the presentation by Don Robinson, a member of the Education Committee. Hew demonstrated the basics of cartooning and provided various tips for learning to draw cartoons and caricatures. Since the presentation was a repeat of a session that he held in 2001, the attendance was sparse. However, those attending enjoyed the session.

“Jazz in Arizona” was the presentation hosted by Joan Leard, a member of the ASURA board, former business manager of the Memorial Union, and assistant director of Jazz in Arizona. Three key members of Jazz in Arizona took part in the presentation: Patricia Myers, a founder of the group, described the jazz venues in the Valley during the sixties and the decades since, including the old Riverside Ballroom; Delphine Cortez employed her velvety singing voice to interpret old jazz favorites such as “Fever” and “Route 66”; and Joes Goldfathen accompanied Delphine on his keyboard. Patricia Myers concluded the presentation by describing the current jazz scene in Arizona State University

“The Perils of Nation Building” was the presentation by Steve Batalden, an ASU professor of history. Hew explained the terms of the Dayton Accord, as well as its major failure—that ethnic groups rather than citizenship groups were empowered. The Accord created the sovereign state of Bosnia/Hercegovina, and, from a military point of view, an IFOR that persists even after the U.S. forces have left the country.

The Office of the High Representative and EU Special Representative have become a powerful force in that state and are likely to exhibit the same force in Iraq. One of the main goals of the High Representative is to study at Sarajevo University the role of religion in the government, with one aim being to apply this knowledge gained to the disparate groups in Iraq. Roughly 35 members were in attendance and found his remarks to be brilliant and insightful.

“Searching for Our Earliest Ancestors” was the presentation by Don Johanson, an ASU professor of anthropology. An internationally-honored palaeoanthropologist who has led successful digs across northeast Africa and the Middle East, he demonstrated why scientists now agree that human life had its origins in Africa. One significant piece of evidence is the DNA of humans and chimpanzees almost completely (99%) agree, so that humans and monkeys derive from branches of the same tree. Another point of interest is that racial and other differences are largely products of the locales in which humans reside. For instance, dark skins are the norm at the equator, while the light skins of Nordics are due to living far north of the equator. Professor Johanson was the discoverer of “Lucy”; other early pre-human remains have been found since that discovery and still more should be found in the future. His audience of roughly 50 attendees was held spell-bound during this presentation.

The luncheon speaker, F. Miguel Valenti, is a professor of Film in the College of Theatre and Film. He kindly assumed the role of speaker when Terry Goddard could not participate. Professor Valenti began his speech by indicating how many hours that children of various ages were spending in front of television or a computer monitor, suggesting the extent of influence upon them.



He reflected on the rules concerning filmmaking and television over the years. He also made reference to studies relating to violence, sex, and language usage in film and television production. Another topic concerned the development of a new program that he has started at ASU, consisting of four pillars: the integration of theatre and film, the emerging total digital environment, the role of story telling, and the concept of ethics. This program is intended to be competitive with several other established university programs. Professor Valenti delivered these ideas with enthusiasm and humor, and the audience was very attentive.

At 2:15 p.m., Pat Klein was introduced by Denis Kigin to a group of attendees in the Pima Room. He discussed the ASRS pension plan and recent developments. He answered questions clearly and fully.

Education Committee members, in addition to the chair and co-chair, include Judy Heilala, Bets Manera, Bruce Mason, Elaine McGovern, Evelyn Partridge, Zeke Prust, Gale Richards, Don Robinson, Dean Smith, Lou Weschler, and Ruth Wineberg.

## LIVING HISTORY REPORT



By June Payne

With continued help from those ASURA members devoted to the success of the Living History Video Project, this endeavor reached a high plateau this year. In November, David Scheatzle helped stage a golf tournament

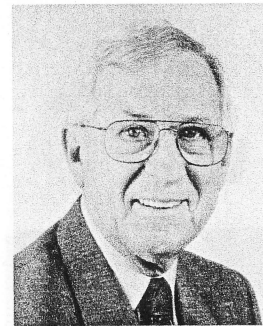
which brought in nearly \$20,000 for the LHVP budget. Personal donations from several others met immediate monetary needs.

In January and February, another 13 interviews were video taped. A special "round-table interview with Frank Sackton, Brent Brown and Russ Nelson was done in the KAET-TV studios, courtesy of Greg Giczi, general manager, and Jeff Halbert, assistant production manager.

Video tape transcriptions are being done by Bonnie Leverton and should be finished when this report reaches the membership. A fourth group of inter-viewees will be selected for this spring and early summer

A new chairman will take over this project as June P. Payne steps down (but hopes to remain involved somehow!), and she extends heartfelt thanks to all who have made this project so successful. "Let's keep it going!"

## UNIVERSITY CLUB LIAISON



By Zeke Prust

The University Club is located in the center of the ASU campus in the historic building known originally as the "Science Hall". The University Club is managed by ASU's Auxiliary Business Services and the Director is Sam Wheeler.

Club membership is available to ASU retirees. For information regarding initiation

fees and monthly membership fees should contact Club Membership Coordinator Debi Smith at 480-965-0700. Once a retired member turns 75, the dues can be reduced to \$8.00 per month. For information call Debi Smith.

The University Club is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 5:00pm. Complimentary coffee and tea are served in the Club Room from 7:00am until 10:00am Monday through Friday. Lunch, in the Bistro, is available from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Reservations are requested. Atlasta Catering is responsible for the University Club dining services which includes catering services.

The Colloquia Luncheons, Valentine's Day Dinner, Mother's Day Brunch and other events have been very successful. Event information is available on the internet at [www.asu.edu/uclub](http://www.asu.edu/uclub).

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



By Sue Blumer

The Scholarship Committee met in May to select the recipient of this year's scholarship, Jarrod Nicholas Perry. Nick Perry is in the Honors Program in the W.P Carey School of Business, with an outstanding community college academic record and significant community service. He will attend the Annual Meeting to meet ASURA members and to speak about his goals.

Last Year's scholarship recipient, Karen Vincent, spoke at the April meeting in 2005 and was well received. The academic goals that she presented were interesting and ambitious.

The scholarship program provides an important means for members to participate in the lives of current students. With tuition and living costs rising, our scholarship makes it possible for a student with outstanding potential to attend ASU. Most of these students face long years to complete their undergraduate degree and their plans for graduate work. They have expressed great appreciation for the opportunities and help received.

The committee will meet in May to select the scholarship recipient for next year. The scholarship is no longer tied directly to in-state tuition, but is set at up to \$5,000 for the academic year. The committee members have shown great interest in the continuation of this project.

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM



By Geri Roth & Jeri Goldfader

The 2005-06 season was an extremely successful year. We worked with two families—one, a mother, father and two children from the Tempe Elementary School District #3 and one consisting of a returning

student from ASU, married with two very young children. This completes 14 years partnering with TESD #3 and a two-year association with the Scholarship Office at ASU.

Our ASU student is a delightful young man who is completing his second undergraduate degree and hopes to continue his schooling with a Ph.D. in mind. Although we have not personally met our TESD family, the community liaison has informed us of their tremendous appreciation of ASURA's generosity. Six deliveries were made prior to the major holidays, and each family member received many of his/her holiday "wish list" items in December. By utilizing mainly market and store gift cards throughout the academic year, our work as coordinators has been kept to a minimum, and it has also allowed each person the opportunity to purchase more meaningful gifts. We have received several thank-you notes from our families throughout the year, and they are extremely grateful to have been selected as participants in our program.

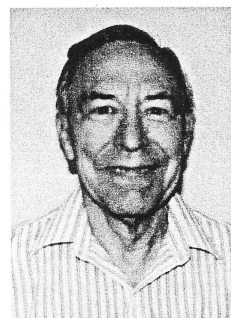
As always, we extend special thanks to ASURA members, the remarkable ASURA office staff, employees of the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University, many local and national corporate sponsors and ASURA friends who have not only bolstered our budget but who have supported us by donating, purchasing and wrapping gifts.

We are always so proud that our program assists local needy and deserving families throughout an academic year and not just on a one-time basis and are especially pleased that we could once again help one of our own ASU students this past year. Although we are both stepping down at this time from our duties as coordinators, we want you all to know how grateful we are to have had the

opportunity to work so closely on such a worthy community project with so many of our former ASU colleagues and friends. It has truly been a labor of love. Thank you all for your friendship and your support over the many years. We look forward to new and innovative ideas from the next generation of retirees who will take the Adopt-A-Family Program to bigger and better heights. It is our sincere hope that you will continue your interest and participation in this remarkable program and support the new coordinators when they are appointed.

### **ASURA WEBSITE REPORT**

[HTTP://ASPIN.ASU.EDU/ASURA/INDEX.HTM](http://aspin.asu.edu/asura/index.htm)



By Robert Beeman

The ASU Retirees Association Website (<http://aspin.asu.edu/asura.htm>) suffered several outages during the past year. The last one occurred near the end of February. Information Technology, who maintains the site, said that the "server" in which the ASURA files are stored, 'crashed'. The I. T. staff was unable to revive the server from this final illness and the Website files were migrated to a new server.

Minor changes and improvements were made throughout the year, to make the site easier to use and to navigate. The Website was contacted nearly nine hundred times during the past year, and from its inception has had nearly twenty nine hundred contacts.

This Website is maintained as a service to ASURA members. If you know of some thing that could be done to make the site more useful or informative, please let Bob Beeman know and we will work on the suggested improvements.

If you are willing and able to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the site, that too, would be most welcome.

You may contact ASURA Website Webmaster Beeman by email at robert.beeman@asu.edu, by phone at (480) 967-7084, or by leaving a note in the Website box or Webmaster Beeman's box at the ASURA office.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

ASURA OFFICE  
P. O. Box 872512 (480) 965-7668  
Tempe, AZ 85287-2512

ASURA fax (480) 965-7807

ASURA WEBSITE  
<http://aspin.asu.edu/asura/index.htm>

Arizona State Retirement System  
3500 North Central (602) 240-2000  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 or 1-800-621-3778

Arizona Department of Administration  
100 North 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue (602) 542-4900  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Area Codes: 602 - Phoenix and North  
480 - East Valley  
623 - West Valley  
520 - Tucson and Southern AZ  
928 - All other locations in AZ