

Arizona State University Retirees Association

Report from the Board 2007-2008

Annual Meeting

**April 12, 2008
1:00 p.m.**

**ASU West Campus
University Center
La Sala Ballroom**



ASU West Campus

ASURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

<u>Term Expires 4/2010</u>	<u>Term Expires 4/2009</u>	<u>Term Expires 4/2008</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Members</u>
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Connie McNeill 5801 E. Lafayette Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85018 mneill@cox.net	Ted Cary 1616 E. Fremont Drive Tempe, AZ 85282 (480) 831-1653 cpcary@juno.com	Maxine LaRoux 22 W. Del Rio Drive Tempe, AZ 85282-3613 (480) 966-9007 laroux@imap3.asu.edu	Andrew Hamilton Classified Staff ASU Main UMC 5612 (480) 965-4798 Andrew.Hamilton@asu.edu
Val Peterson 2396 W. Shannon St. Chandler, AZ 85224 (480) 659-6668 val.peterson@cox.net	Bob Francis 534 E. Pebble Beach Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282 (480) 968-0535 Bfrancis421@hotmail.com	Joan Leard 5020 N. Granite Reef Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250 (480) 947-6119 jleadr@asu.edu	Wilma Mathews Public Affairs (480) 727-6031 wkm23@asu.edu
Mary Stevens 750 E. Northern Ave. No. 1121 Phoenix, AZ 85020 (602) 758-3750 Mary.Stevens@asu.edu	Douglas Johnson 1333 E. Catamaran Dr. Gilbert, AZ 85234 (480) 545-0719 Doug.Johnson@asu.edu	George Umberson 3843 E. Coconino Phoenix, AZ 85044 (480) 893-8250 george.umberson@asu.edu	Elmer Gooding Emeritus College (480) 831-2990 Elmer.Gooding@asu.edu
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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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P.O. Box 873308	
Tempe, AZ 85287-3308	
ASURA FAX	(480) 965-7807
ASURA WEBSITE	http://asura.asu.edu
ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	(602) 240-2000
3500 North Central	or
Phoenix, AZ 85012	1-800-621-3778
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	(602) 542-4900
100 North 15th Avenue	
Phoenix, AZ 85007	
AREA CODES:	
602 – Phoenix and North Phoenix	480 – East Valley
623 – West Valley	520 – Tucson and
928 – All other locations in AZ	Southern AZ

Office Volunteers

Carolyn Minner



We appreciate all of our volunteers, many of who have been with us since our organization was established in 1991. These dedicated members keep our office running smoothly, and each is always ready and willing to serve on committees and provide assistance when we have a large mailing. Some go a step further and serve on the Board.

We are very fortunate to have such an energetic and talented group but we still need a few more volunteers to round out our office coverage. The ASURA office hours are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The volunteers listed below cover the office during the hours noted. If you are interested in joining our volunteer staff, please contact us at (480) 965-7668.

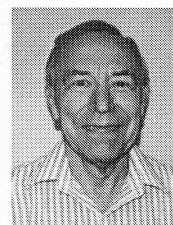
Monday Morning	Available
Monday Afternoon	Available
Tuesday Morning	Carole Moore
Tuesday Morning (Sub)	Helen Seaton
Tuesday Afternoon	Available
Wednesday Morning	Carolyn Minner
Wednesday Morning	Bob Beeman
Wednesday Afternoon	Available
Thursday Morning	Maxine LaRoux
Thursday Afternoon	Available
Friday Morning	Joan Leard
Friday Afternoon	Available



Carole Moore



Carolyn Minner



Bob Beeman



Maxine LaRoux

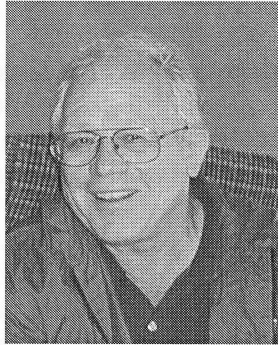


Joan Leard



Helen Seaton

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Doug Johnson

The ASURA seeks to further the welfare of retirees, by advocating at the university, legislature, retirement systems, and in the healthcare arena. ASURA also promotes educational, service, and social activities to enrich the lives of our members and the university community. During 2007-08, ASURA was active in each of these areas and completes the year as a stronger and more vibrant organization. Our successes were due to the efforts of the Board and other dedicated members who made significant contribution to the organization. I have attempted to review a few of the highlights from this year and to recognize some of the outstanding contributions. No doubt this list is incomplete as many people made contributions to make this year a success.

Homecoming was the biggest and best homecoming event that even old timers could recall. ASURA again sponsored a booth and greeted the crowds, old friends, and potential new members. The parade was over a mile long. Yes, there were lots of people having lots of devilishly good fun. A football victory made this day even more special.

The Veterans Day Golf Tournament was a rousing success. We enjoyed good weather and great course conditions at ASU's challenging Karsten Golf Course. Best of all \$\$\$ were raised for the Video History Project. David Scheatzle did his usual outstanding job organizing the event. Bob Francis and his Video History Committee were active producing new DVDs of previously recorded oral histories of prominent ASU leaders. To date 43 histories have been produced.

The Christmas Party was held in the Community Services Building for the first time. We thank the Nursing Program for the loan of their space. Mary Stevens, Val Peterson and a host of others decorated and hosted the event. The Party was a good chance to greet old friends and to catch up on what has been going on. People brought lots of good food for the celebration and went away with good cheer for the holidays.

One of the most appreciated services that ASURA provides members is information and advice on health insurance and Medicare Programs. Insurance programs continue to grow in complexity, and health insurance costs continue to strain our budgets each year, so trust worthy advice and analysis is highly valued. Dick Murra continues to provide insights and guidance that helps inform our decisions.

Jerry Aronson and Bob Mings continue to represent us in legislative matters. The legislature requires a lot of watching especially when there is a budget deficit that somebody will ultimately have to deal with. Alan Johnson was again our man at ASRS. Alan is proving that even old English Professors can get excited about accounting and finance, at least when it pertains to their retirement accounts. He has kept the Board fully informed as to ASRS activities.

David Scheatzle has done it again. He continues to amaze me with the high quality of our Prime Times newsletter. Prime times looks professional, has great pictures, and keeps members informed about the activities of the Retirees Association.

Thirteen of ASURA's fifteen past presidents gathered at Karsten Golf Course to celebrate the organizations growth and success. Good cheer and stories of the early days made this a memorable event. Karsten Golf Course was also the site for a thank you luncheon recognizing Corrine Irvin for 14 years of service as business manager. Long serving office volunteers were also recognized. Those who attended enjoyed an outstanding luncheon. Please say "hi!" to Carolyn Minner next time you stop by our office at 200 CSB. Carolyn joins us as our new Business Manager after 14 years as an office specialist at the West Campus. Carolyn's job has been complicated by the growing pains associated with the start up of the IFAS (web based financial system) implemented by the ASU Foundation. Please be patient while we learn and get the bugs out of this payment system.

Improving communications and keeping up with records was a major goal this year. I am pleased to report that Connie McNeil installed three new Dell computers to replace the obsolete machines we had inherited during the move. The Vista operating system is state of the art, but may challenge many of us to learn a new system. We do plan to use email more extensively for communications. So look for notices of activities, meetings in your inbox. Lois Lehman is already running our list serve. Take a look at the new webpage Connie has uploaded. The fresh ASU style looks great and you will be able to download documents. Maintaining a web based membership roster will give us new flexibility and capability. Point your browser at <http://asura.asu.edu/> and you will be impressed. We are in the process of updating and validating our membership records. Dave Scheatzle, Mary Stevens, and Elmer Gooding, among others, have worked hard converting our records to a digital system. It is a big job, but it should be worthwhile.

Fire damage at the Memorial Union on the Tempe campus forced ASURA to move Education Day to the Student Union on the Polytechnic campus, but we couldn't be happier with the results. The 15th Annual Retirees Day was held on Saturday February 16, 2008. For many of the nearly 100 attendees, this was their first visit to campus. A large cast of contributors was required for Education Day, but Mary Stevens and Sue Blumer provided the leadership for a successful event.

A strong activity program should be the glue that binds members to ASURA. Credit goes to Mary Stevens and Val Peterson for breathing new life into our activities programs. The spring schedule includes a hike, an overnight trip to visit Southern Arizona Wineries (register by April 3), and a luncheon at Shalimar CC. Now this group is organized, I look forward to participating in events like these in coming years.

Joan Leard continues to do great work with the Adopt a Family Program. Helping a family enjoy a few "treats" is a great way to give something back to the community. Sue Blumer again has coordinated our scholarship program, which provides much needed financial help to outstanding students.

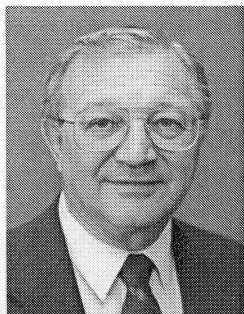
It has been a busy year and a growing experience for me. Thanks to all who made our organizations successful!

Doug Johnson

Activities Committee Report



Mary Stevens



Val Peterson

Having lost our committee co-chairs new Board Members Mary Stevens and Val Peterson were asked to get the Activities Committee organized and plan some activities that would be of interest to ASURA members. That was done and the Committee is moving ahead on activities for our members.

Along the way this committee was instrumental in planning and carrying out a variety of activities including having an ASURA tent at the Homecoming Block Party held on October 27, 2007. The tent was well located and manned by six ASURA members. In December on the 4th a Holiday Social was held in the Community Services Building. This activity provided time for ASURA members to gather as friends and acquaintances to talk, reminisce and enjoy the refreshments provided. About seventy-five (75) people attended the activity. The Activities Committee also provided the leadership to plan and carry out the annual Retirees Education Day program which is highlighted elsewhere in this report. This event was held at the Polytechnic Campus because of the unfortunate fire in the Memorial Union on the Tempe Campus.

Last fall the ASURA leadership screened the interest surveys submitted by members and identified eight (8) areas that seemed to be of most interest to the membership and then proceeded to organize a group to plan activities for each of these areas. The most popular interest areas included: 1) ASU Athletics; 2) Computing; 3) Hiking; 4) Luncheons; 5) Photography; 6) Theatre and Performing Arts; 7) Travel; and 8) Writing Life Stories / Memories. Most of these groups have been organized and are working on activities that will be offered to the membership.

Some of the groups have made great progress and have announced activities planned in their areas. Persons interesting in working with any of these groups may contact the following individuals:

<u>ASU Athletics</u>	Chair Open
<u>Computing</u>	Harvey Smith hsmith@math.asu.edu
<u>Hiking</u>	Anna Marie Shives istaxs@mainex1.asu.edu
<u>Luncheons</u>	Betty Ludlow bettyludlow@msn.com
<u>Photography</u>	Chair Open
<u>Theatre / Performing Arts</u>	Chair Open
<u>Travel</u>	Patricia Moore patricia.moore@asu.edu
	Scott Norton scott.norton@asu.edu

<u>Writing Life</u>	Evelyn Partridge
<u>Stories / Memories</u>	efpartridge@cox.net

Questions or suggestions about participation in this area or ideas for activities may be directed to either Mary Stevens (marystevens0@gmail.com) or Val Peterson (val.peterson@cox.net).

During the year an activities questionnaire was sent out with the membership renewal packet. The

information obtained from these questionnaires is very useful to ASURA as it allow the association to concentrate on programs and activities that are of most interest to its members. These activities give us an opportunity for educational activities and to socialize with former associates and colleagues. Everyone is encouraged to complete the questionnaire to let us know of your interests. If you don't have a questionnaire call the ASURA Office at (480) 965-7668 to obtain a copy. Your input is important for us to serve you better.

ASURA Web Site & Technology

Connie McNeill



In the Fall of 2007, the ASURA board recognized a need for improved planning, coordination and oversight of the use of technology to benefit the ASURA. At the request and suggestion of several Board members, Connie McNeill, who joined the ASURA Board in Fall 2007, volunteered to take on this responsibility.

ASURA Web Site: Bob Beeman created and for several years maintained the ASURA Web site. When Connie volunteered, he graciously and gratefully surrendered this lead responsibility. He has volunteered to help Connie maintain the new site.

In early March, 2008, a new ASURA Web site "went live". The address (URL) is <http://asura.asu.edu>. The new Web site follows ASU's standards on appearance and logo usage, and displays the new ASURA logo that was produced by Public Affairs staff, courtesy of Wilma Mathews. The Web site is housed at no cost to the ASURA on a server provided through ASU's Web hosting services. Services available will allow us to use the new site in a much more active and interactive way than was possible with the prior site, which was housed on an Arizona State Public Information Network (ASPIN) server.

The new Web site has already been used to provide easy access to information about upcoming events, including registration forms when these are needed.

Plans for improving the way the Web site supports the ASURA include:

- Implementing tools that will permit Board members and others authorized to easily create and edit content on the site, so that we will not be dependent on a single person for this.
- Providing for prospective and current ASURA members to apply for membership and to maintain their personal records via a Web screen. This project will take advantage of work that Dave Scheatzle has been doing to clean up the membership database and implement it in MS Access.
- Providing blog services and the ability for members (and possibly others) to comment publicly on articles that are published on the ASURA Web.

- Providing space and content restricted to members of ASURA subgroups. Example uses:
 - Provide documentation on procedures and dates that are important to ASURA officers and staff;
 - Provide a place for committee members to share planning materials, procedures documentation and so forth.

ASURA E-mail Lists (Listservs):

Dave Scheatzle has worked diligently for several years to support use of a Listserv mailing list of the ASURA membership – those who have provided e-mail addresses. The Listserv is hosted by ASU at <http://lists.asu.edu> and is named ASURET. It currently has 561 subscribers.

In February, Dave was able to pass responsibility for the Listserv on to Lois Lehman, who has volunteered to help with various technology support needs. Dave and Connie provide backup to Lois as needed.

Connie and Lois modified procedures for using the Listserv so that Board members and other authorized personnel can send out messages without going through someone else. Connie documented the procedures, and Lois trained Mary Stevens to use them, and Mary has successfully sent out messages about upcoming activities sponsored by the ASURA.

Plans for improving the way Listservs support the ASURA include:

- Implementing an additional Board Members Listserv, so that officers need not each

individually maintain a distribution list for mailings to Board members and support staff.

- Building an interface between the membership database and the membership Listserv, so that these will be “in sync” and not have to be maintained separately.

ASURA Office Technology: The ASURA office has had three computers that were provided as “hand-me-downs” by Public Affairs at the time of occupying the new offices in the Community Services Building. These computers – one in the business manager’s office, one at the reception desk, and one in the work room – needed to be replaced in order to create a more attractive work environment for volunteers and to meet current standards of performance and security, and to accommodate plans for increased use of technology.

During February of 2008, the three computers were replaced. In addition, the scanner attached to the work room computer was replaced. The scanner can be used to digitize printed materials and photographs for use in various publications and projects.

The new computers are Dell Inspiron 530s with Core 2 Q6600 Quad-Core 2.4 GHz Processor and 20” widescreen digital flat panel displays, 3GB memory, 320GB hard drives and 16X DVD +/- RW drive. They are running the Vista Home Premium operating system along with Microsoft Office 2007 Professional. The new scanner is a Canon CS8800F flatbed scanner. This equipment should support office needs for at least 3-4 years.

Plans for improving the way office technology supports the ASURA include:

- Showing officers and staff how to use existing tools and tools that will be implemented – includes documentation and training.
- Updating the membership application and renewal forms for better communication between members and potential members and committee chairs, etc. Mary Stevens is chairing a committee to work on this.
- Generating membership renewal notices from the membership database, to simplify the task of requesting renewals and to make the process more reliable.
- Creating easy-to-use inquiries and reports from the membership database. Dave Scheatzle is working on an MS Access project that will meet many of these needs.
- Possibly obtaining a projector that can be used to facilitate Board meetings and presentations that Board members make or sponsor – to be used in conjunction with a laptop computer. This would require Board discussion and approval.
- Helping the business manager create a bookkeeping system using Quicken. Working with her to interface these books with the membership database, to reconcile records in it with accounts held at the Foundation and, if needed, with bank-held checking and Visa accounts. Helping her set up financial reports needed by the Board using Quicken.

- Putting the office printer on the Ethernet network. Currently it is attached to the computer in the business manager's office, and this means that computer has to be on for anyone to print.

Adopt-A-Family Program

Joan Leard



Two families were adopted for this school year. One family of seven from the Tempe Elementary School District #3 and one family of three from ASU. The ASU mother is a Junior working on an undergraduate degree in special education and works at ASU in the Adult Re-entry Program office. The Tempe school mother attends South Mountain Community College and works. The program completes sixteen years partnering with TESD #3 and four years with the Scholarship Office at ASU.

At the time the Temple family was chosen by the school social worker they were homeless. This worker was able to find them a house to rent and we helped by donating \$200 for their first months rent. We also supplied clothing and food at Thanksgiving time. For the December

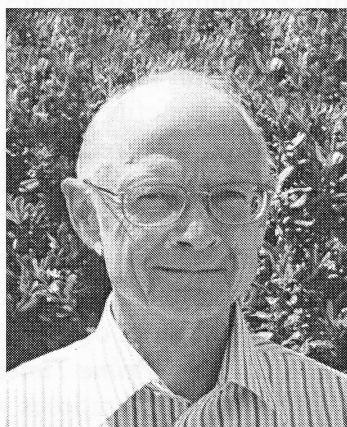
holiday we provided clothes, toys and food. The children have written individual notes of appreciation for their gifts on each occasion.

The ASU family consists of a mother and two children. In the Fall we supplied them with ASU apparel at their request and food for their Thanksgiving holiday. In December we gave them toys, household items and food. Thank you notes were received after donations were made.

The funds used for these purchases came from ASURA member donations and the ASURA treasury. With help from the members we will give these two families Spring clothing items. Please continue to donate so we may keep this outreach program going for many more years.

Arizona State Retirement System

Alan Johnson



Since the last annual ASURA report, the Arizona State Retirement System has won prestigious awards, managed its investments prudently in what became a challenging economy, and worked to keep its fund sound and its service efficient.

In 2007 the ASRS received a national award for meeting professional standards for plan design and administration and another for excellence in financial reporting. The ASRS also was rated a "Top Performer" in a recent nationwide study of pension plans by the Pew Charitable Trust.

For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2007, the ASRS reported earnings of 17.8%, well over the 9.8% for 2005-06 and the 8.5% for 2004-05--a welcome rebound from the negative earnings of 2000-02 and the 2.4% return in 2002-03. The market value of ASRS assets rose from \$24.4 billion on June 30, 2006, to \$28.5 billion on June 30, 2007.

However, by the fourth quarter of 2007 several factors--notably the "sub-prime" mortgage crisis and rising oil prices--produced a serious economic downturn. By the end of January 2008, the market value of ASRS assets had fallen, with the decline of the stock market, to \$26.5 billion. The ASRS's investment consultant, Mr. Terry Dennison, predicts that the downturn will last into the fall of 2009. Fortunately the ASRS has not invested in vehicles based directly on "sub-prime" mortgage debts. At the February 2008 Board of Trustees meeting, Mr. Dennison advised against undue concern and praised the ASRS for its balanced and conservative investment policy.

Because of the increased earnings reported for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the ASRS was able to announce a reduction in the contribution rate for active employees and their employers from 9.6% to 9.45% for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2008

The Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI) which retired ASRS members had come to expect each July 1st was not available

in 2007-08 and will not be available in 2008-09. Arizona Revised Statute 38-367 dictates that the PBI be paid when the actuarially determined return on ASRS investments exceeds 8% during the preceding ten years. Because the negative and low returns of 2000-2003 are included in this span, the benchmark has not been surpassed. The current suspension of the PBI does not affect PBIs which were granted in the past. Retirees will not see any decreases in their monthly pension.

The funding ratio for the ASRS total fund was last determined actuarially on June 30, 2007, and is 83.7%, down from the previous year's 85.3%. ASRS Director Paul Matson has attributed the declining ratio over the past several years to the impact of the poor investment returns in 2000-03, to retiree benefit increases legislated in 2001, and to the very low employer/employee contribution rates in the 1990s. The funding ratio states the relation between the amount of money the ASRS has and expects to take in over a prospective thirty-year period and the amount it expects to pay out in benefits. ASRS Board of Trustees member Dr. Keith Meredith has said that the "healthy range" for funding ratios is between 80 and 120%, but of course full funding is the goal of any retirement plan.

ASRS efforts to maintain the soundness of its fund include a revision of its categories of investment and various legislative proposals for changes in the way its benefit program operates. In April 2007 ASRS policy allocated 6% of its assets to real estate (including real-estate investment trusts), 26% to U.S. fixed-income securities (e.g. bonds), 53% to U.S. equities (stocks), and 15% to international equities. Now the policy allocation remains the same for

real estate and U.S. fixed income securities, while U.S. equity has been decreased to 45%, international equity has been raised to 18%, and 5% has been allocated to a new category, private equities (typically venture capital companies not traded on the public stock markets). Actual investment in real estate has reached about 2%, and implementation of the private equity category is just getting under way. Consultant Terry Dennison applauds the ASRS's expansion of international equities and foresees further expansion of that category by large investors generally in the near future. He also praises the ASRS cautious addition of private equities.

For the recent ASRS legislative proposals please see the Legislative Liaison Council report. In the area of improvements to ASRS service operations perhaps the most important to retirees is the completion of a computerization of its service operations so that office communications are "paperless." Members' records may be summoned up within seconds. The time in which survivor benefits can be initiated has been vastly reduced and has been eliminated in the case of survivors of members with joint-and-survivor annuities if the survivor's name and Social Security number are on record with the ASRS (for more on this, see the Winter 2008 issue of *Prime Times*). Also, by late May ASRS retirees will be able to log on the ASRS website and view their own annuity accounts.

ASRS information is available at its website, www.azasrs.gov. This report is based on that information, attendance at meetings of the ASRS Board of Trustees, and contacts with the ASRS Director and staff.

Education: Annual Retirees Day

Sue Blumer



The fifteenth annual Retirees Day held on February 16, 2006 was a successful despite many unexpected trials and tribulations during the year, including the resignation of our long-time Chair, Joe Wilkinson and the devastating Memorial Union fire on the Tempe campus. Wonderful people came together and made a great day at the ASU Polytechnic campus possible. In spite of the distance and the unfamiliarity of many with that campus, the attendance of 100 showed that our members enjoy and support this activity.

We would like to thank all of the many people who helped, including ASURA President Doug Johnson, Activities Committee Co-chairs and Board members Mary Stevens and Val Peterson and the volunteer office staff, Education Committee members, the ASU Polytechnic staff members, ASURA Board members, and the excellent presenters and luncheon speaker. They all contributed to planning and carrying out the many details and task necessary for such a successful day. The ASU Polytechnic administration and staff were most welcoming and worked hard to help us, especially Vinette Williams, Director of Public Affairs, her assistant Carla Wales,

Dawn Stark, Coordinator of Facilities and Operations, and Daun York, Catering Manager. Their positive attitude helped us to adapt to new spaces and conditions—and they and even put up the many signs that blazed a path to the Memorial Union facility. Dawn Stark and her helpers did quick-changing magic with the partitions in the Cooley ballroom. Daun York provided a tasty luncheon and snacks in the same spaces that were used for presentations, a daunting task indeed.

After a time of greeting friends over coffee and scones, Doug Johnson, ASURA President commenced the program with greetings and announcements. Dean David Schwalm, Dean of the ASU Polytechnic School of Applied Arts and Sciences, welcomed the audience to the campus and provided an interesting history and status report on the campus, its dramatic growth and dynamic programs. Mary Stevens gave further announcements and directions.

The six hour-long educational sessions provided something new and different as well as some of the excellent past topics and speakers. During the first hour, Los Valdes explained and demonstrated some of the principles of chi gong in *Improve Your Well Being with Chi Gong*, a 2000 year-old series of body movements and breathing exercises that are designed to calm the spirit and mind, strengthen the body, reduce stress, and improve balance and posture. He had participants taking part in the exercises for a stimulating experience.

Bruce Merrill, Professor Emeritus and Director of Media Research, Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, in a fascinating and timely talk *Not Politics as Usual*, discussed the first really open election

since the 1950s and how people all over the world are excited about it. He talked about candidates' style, the influence of the media and large corporations, the rise of independents in America, the trend toward mass participation, and changing demographic trends.

Milton Sommerfeld, Professor, School of Life Science, presented a very interesting presentation on *Algae: One Solution to the Energy Problem?* with various audio-visuals. He described various potential uses of algae for energy production and other uses.

During the second hour, Jane Conrow, Librarian Emeritus, displayed her beautiful Afghan hound in a presentation on *Caring and Sharing: Companion and Therapy Pets*. Jane explained and demonstrated how therapy pets can make a positive difference in the lives of those in hospice care, nursing homes, assisted living centers and other similar situations. She explained that the animals love the attention and visiting their special friends who cannot have their own pets, what is involved in being a social pet therapy volunteer, and how to tell whether your own pet is suited for this role. She also showed a video.

Randall Cerveny, President's Professor, School of Geographical Sciences and Director of ASU Office of Climatology, made a presentation about *Weather Oddities*, everyone's familiar everyday topic. Professor Cerveny showed how weird and wonderful the weather really is, and he has the scientific evidence to back up the claims. He maintains international records on weather occurrences as well, and the reality truly surpasses any fiction that one usually conceives. He also showed polished audio-visuals.

Helle Brand of the Banner Alzheimer's Research Institute presented *Alzheimer's Disease—Current Research, Clinical Studies and Programs for the Needs of Caregivers*, a comprehensive discussion on the current state of knowledge about this common concern. She talked about preventive measures, diagnosis, current treatments, research for future advances in treatments, and other pertinent topics. Helle distributed helpful materials as well. She emphasized that the person with this disease is still the same person in essence and deserves that consideration. She also discussed the options and needs of caregivers.

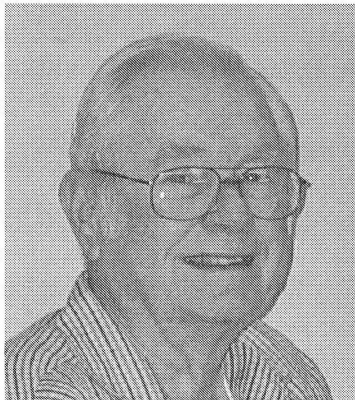
During the interim when the rooms were being rearranged for the luncheon, Vinette Williams showed a slide presentation on the Polytechnic campus. After the meal, our speaker Dennis Burke, Governor Janet Napolitano's Chief of Staff, presented an excellent talk on the current state of affairs in Arizona. He was introduced by Mary Stevens with an impressive recital of his many past positions and accomplishments. Dennis explained in comprehensible language the problems and opportunities facing the State of Arizona today, displaying his extensive knowledge and analysis of the current difficult budget situation and other political issues. After his talk, Dennis opened the floor to question, and the responses from the audience showed how closely they were paying attention. The question-and-answer period went on for a fairly extended period, and he was very interested in and responsive to the questions asked. Our thanks goes to Jeanine L'Ecuyer of the Governor's office and Mary Stevens for help in obtaining this speaker.

After such a successful Retirees Day, ASURA members are invited to become

involved in the planning for next year's event by serving on the Education Committee, by suggesting presenters and speakers, identifying topics for presentation and by putting the event on their calendars.

Health & Dental Insurance Committee

Richard Murra



Health insurance for policy year 2007 didn't present many problems since the plans offered remained relatively unchanged. The high and low option plans introduced by United Care (PacificCare) while significant were apparently accepted as being necessary due to increases in prescription and medical care cost.

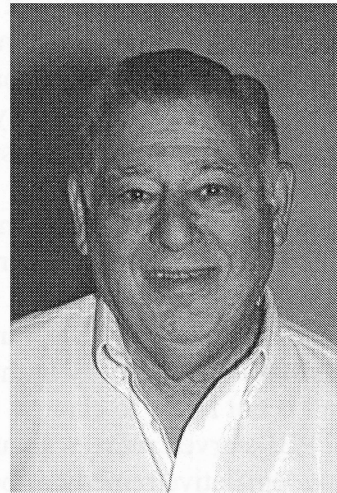
The most significant change was granting the ability to return to the ADOA plans for those retirees that had left the ADOA plan for either medical or dental plan, but retained membership in the other. So long as the member remained an ADOA member of either the medical or dental plan, the member regained the right to return to the ADOA system for both plans.

Retirees, for the most part, rejected resigning from State supported plans in order to join any of the Medicare Part D

plans offered by most of the commercial market. The assurance of stability, subsidy granted and breadth of coverage provided sufficient incentives to remain within the State supported systems. We hope that plans and premiums for calendar year 2009 remain as favorable.

Legislative Liaison Council

Jerry Aronson



The Legislative Liaison Council (LLC) continues to monitor legislative activities impacting retirees and 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 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 2007-2008 year, the Council interacted with other groups sharing common interests. This past November, Aronson and Mings attended the annual gathering of the Coalition of Arizona State Retiree Associations. The Coalition is concerned with the practice of some retirees returning to work without paying into the ASRS Fund and displacing new hires who would pay. Also there is concern with the 10-year averaging method of gains and losses used by ASRS to calculate Fund surpluses that would support Permanent Benefit Increases (PBIs). Coalition members believe a 5-year method would increase the frequency of PBIs, but ASRS has statutory authority in this matter and is not likely to change methods. PBI-starved retirees should not expect any legislative remedy as benefit increases (which are not COLAs) depend entirely on domestic and global investment markets which, at present, are not showing favorable performance. We participated also in ASU Day at the Capitol on February 18. The Alumni sponsors have changed the format for the event, electing not to arrange meetings between volunteers and legislators. For this reason LLC did not recruit attendees although the Alumni Association did invite three of our members (Aronson, Johnson & Mings). We are told that the reason for not having small groups meet with individual legislators is that, in past events, some advocates(not any of ASURA's volunteers) advanced personal agendas rather than adhering to the Alumni Association briefings in support of ASU's budget requests. Thus, at this event, we now have little opportunity to interact with members of the legislature, although the three of us

in attendance did chat briefly with Senator Meg Burton Cahill (D) District 17. The Tri-University Coalition Meeting, usually held in Tempe in February has been postponed until a Fall date yet to be determined.

During the Second Regular Session of the 48th Legislature we have been watching the progress of specific proposals that are of interest to us. During this current session there is no Graded Multiplier Equity Bill. This initiative failed on three prior attempts and proponents have decided to wait for a more opportune time when the economic outlook is improved. Legislative proposals supported by ASRS that would, over the long term, strengthen the Investment Fund (and lower contribution rates) have met with only limited success.

HB2062 proposed a number of changes in the definition of "normal retirement". The 80 point rule would increase to 85 for new hires (on or after July 1, 2009) and a 5-year compensation average would replace the current 3-year average. In addition, terminating members would be limited to a 25% withdrawal of employer contributions. Still making its way through the legislative process, the 85 point and withdrawal provisions have been removed from the bill.

HB2127 provides an ASRS exemption from State unclaimed property procedures. Monies that currently flow into the State Treasury would remain in the ASRS Fund. At present, this bill appears headed for passage. ASURA supports HB2127.

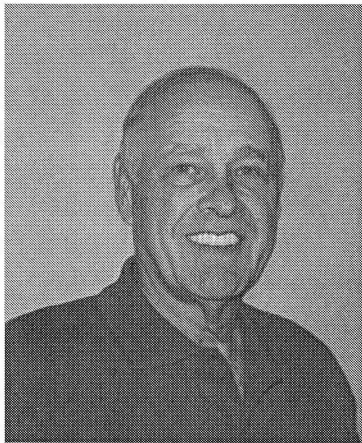
A legislative proposal that would allow certain substitute teachers to opt out of ASRS participation has been killed as

have proposals that would have extended certain rights to unmarried, domestic partners.

Passed by both Houses with bipartisan support and signed into law by the Governor, HB2705 will require ASRS to scrutinize its investments to determine if any of them are in commercial enterprises having business operations in Sudan. The legislation sets forth circumstances in which ASRS would be required to undertake divestment. Although this new law has some potential for weakening the Investment Fund, any small investment loss must be weighed against the social consequences of inaction.

Membership Report

Elmer Gooding



For the past three years our goal has been to reach 1100 members for the ASU Retirees Association. We have not yet reached that goal, but have exceeded 1000 members at least once during that time period. We currently have 941 members on our membership list.

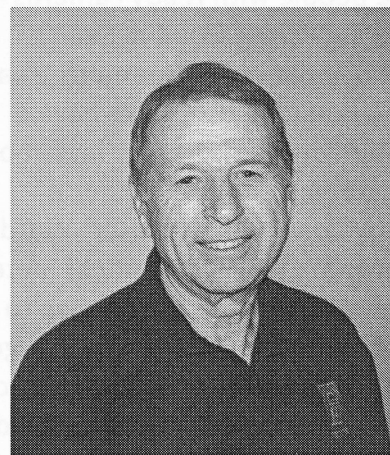
Unfortunately, each year we lose some members due to death or non-renewal of membership and fortunately, we gain members as we contact new retirees. We currently have a large number of

persons who are still on our membership role, but have not made their donation (membership dues) for the current year. We encourage those who have not paid to do so.

We are currently going through a transition in our office to put all members into a computerized data base which will allow us to identify interest groups within our membership and to contact those who express an interest in a particular area. This will help us to better serve our members. It will also allow us to identify those who have not renewed their membership and to contact them more readily. We encourage current members to contact their friends and encourage them to join. As noted in the other reports, the ASURA is doing a lot to represent the interests of all retirees, so please help us in our quest to reach out to those who are not members and encourage them to join.

Prime Times

Dave Scheatzle



In January, we published the Winter 2008 edition of Prime Times. This was my ninth issue as editor. I have hinted to the president for some time that I am ready to give someone else the

opportunity to assemble our newsletter. It has not been difficult to find material to fill the publication. Unfortunately however, the obituaries have been the largest section in this 12 page document. Becky Reiss and Patty Kelley have been reliably dedicated to tracking the ASU Retirees listed our newspapers' obituary sections. Dean Smith has been a consistent contributor of very interesting articles related to ASU History. He wrote a book on the history of first decade of the ASU Retirees Association, and if you don't have a copy, they are available at our office. Carol Moore has frequently provided material from her former work organization – the Library Archives. The organization's activities, past and planned, are given space and probably will increase in intensity. Our members are doing interesting things in their retirement and we get stories from them that are of great interest to our members. Photographs have been important for adding interest to the publication and we have been fortunate to have people with ready cameras – June Payne, Elmer Gooding, Val Peterson and myself. But more "ready" cameras could be used. We have a fairly standard template for layout of the document; something that is currently done with Microsoft Word software. So, there is plenty of material provided and it is the editor's job to cull it and make it fit. Being editor is a good way to get to know all that is going on in the organization and involves attending our monthly Board meetings.

Scholarship Committee Sue Blumer



The Scholarship Committee met in May 2008 to select the recipient of this year's scholarship, Nicole Kennedy, Accountancy major at ASU West. She 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, Nick Perry, received the ASURA scholarship during two academic years. His talk before the annual meeting was well received and demonstrates the importance of this scholarship project for maintaining productive ties with the current students. The scholarship helped to enable Perry to graduate from the Honors Program in the College of Business.

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 and put restraints upon paying the costs of education.

The committee will meet in May 2009 to select the scholarship recipient for next year; the scholarship provides \$5,000 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.

University Club Liaison

Zeke Prust



The University Club of Arizona State University is located in the center of the ASU Tempe Campus at 425 East University Drive in the historic building

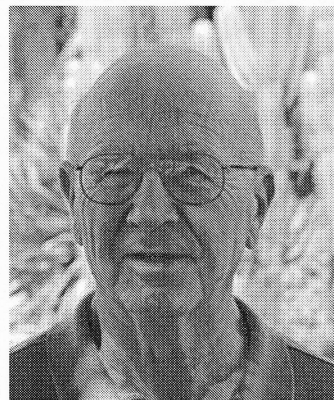
known originally as the Science Hall. The exclusive membership is comprised of current and retired faculty, staff, alumni, members of the community, as well as corporate members. The University Club provides a comfortable relaxed atmosphere for informal dining, gatherings and meetings. The manger of the Club is Debi Smith.

Club membership is available to ASU retirees. For information regarding initiation fee and monthly membership dues, contact Debi Smith at 480-965-0701. Once a retired member turns 75, the dues can be reduced to \$8.00 per month.

The University Club is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Complimentary coffee and tea is served in the Club Room from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is available in The Bistro from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Reservations are requested. The Patio is seasonally available for lunch Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Atlasta Catering is responsible for the University Club dining services. Catering service is also available. The special events have been very successful. Event information is available on the Internet at www.asu.edu/club.

Financial Report

George Umberson



ASU Retirees Association
Summary Balance Sheet / Income Statement
as of March 10, 2008

Balance Sheet:

Available Cash	\$49,846.60
Cash and Cash Equivalents	250.00
Payables & Other Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>
Fund Balance	\$50,096.60

Income Statement

	Year to Date
Revenue	
Contributions	\$ 7,935.00
Other Income	<u>2,454.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$10,389.00
Expenses	
Operational Expenses	\$ 560.63
Travel and Entertainment	766.76
Cultivation	200.00
Management Fees	<u>238.33</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 1,765.72
Net Income	\$ 8,623.28

Changes in Net Assets

Beginning Net Assets	\$41,473.32
Beginning Balance Adjustments	0.00
Net Income	8,623.28
Ending Net Assets	\$50,096.60

