

**MINUTES OF February 14, 2023
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING**

Board Members Present: Partha Desgupta, Terrie Ekin, Kay Faris, Barry McNeill, Helene Ossipov, Tara Roesler, Pat Schneider, William Stasi, Mary Stevens

Board Members Absent: Jo Ellen Alberhasky, Rojan Alpers, Bev Buddee, Kathy Gunn, Mark Henderson, Trudy Perez

Ex-Officio Members Present: Kendra Burton

Committee Chairs Present: John Brock, Carl Cross, Paul Harper, Connie McNeill, Jan Shore

Executive Staff Present:

Guests Present:

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Stasi called the meeting to order at 10:00.

II. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME TO GUESTS

Kendra Burton, University Affairs Liaison, was introduced.

III. ADOPTION OF TODAY'S AGENDA

A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Kay to accept the agenda for today's meeting. Motion carried.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF January 10, 2023 BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Terrie and seconded by Barry to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2023 Board meeting. Motion carried.

V. University Liaison – Kendra Burton

Kendra presented on what's happening and what's been proposed during the current legislative session. The state investment initiative, also known as The New Economy Initiative, is making available funds to the three State universities. ASU is in line to receive \$119 million that will be focused on supporting Engineering in the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering. The intent of the funding would be to provide retooling of the workforce, working with industry to create pathways to new skills to supplement and enhance the industry workforce.

She also indicated that a "skinny budget" has been passed by the Legislature, but presumed it would be totally vetoed by the Governor, or at least there would be line item vetoes.

There are a few bills that were introduced that affect the ASRS, but none of them would have negative impact on the existing plan.

VI. **FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURER'S REPORT** –, Barry McNeill

There was no financial statement for this month. One item that was discussed was the cost of the Yellow Sheet Report. The cost of \$600 is for a 2 month subscription, not a yearly subscription. After some discussion, it was believed that this subscription would not be renewed after the initial 2 month subscription we already paid for ran out. A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Pat to cancel the subscription to the Yellow Sheet Report. Motion carried.

VII. **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS** (*5 minutes or less, please*)

- ASU Alumni Association – TBD
N/A
- Emeritus College Liaison – TBD
N/A
- Human Resources – Lynna Soller
N/A
- University Club Liaison – Tara Roesler
Nothing new from the University Club.
- University Senate – Penny Dolin
N/A
- University Staff Council – Shawn Banzhaf
N/A

VIII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS** (*5 minutes or less please*)

- Community Outreach Committee – Subcommittee Reports
 - Adopt-A-Family – Ginny Sylvester
N/A
 - Scholarship Committee – Jan Shore
At the last meeting, Penny Dolin requested more information on the ASURA Scholarship. Jan sent Penny this information. Jan has also been in touch with everyone who has expressed interest in serving on the committee. There are 8 members now who will meet the first week in March and review all the applications received from the Scholarship Office. Jan has also confirmed that last year's recipient, Sylvia Gonzalez, will be able to attend the annual meeting.
 - Video History Project – Barry McNeill
The interview with Jeremy Rowe needs to be rescheduled. However, an interview with Barbara Stark from Anthropology was held. Carl reported that we are still waiting for the Library to hire someone to support the new system being used for tracking the metadata for the archives we use for the video history recordings. Barry suggested that the Executive Committee (or a subset of the committee) meet with the new head of HR

to let him know what we do and bring up the Library situation as one of the topics we cover with him. Connie suggested that we meet with someone from the Library, perhaps the Librarian, to get support before presenting this to HR. Barry will pursue setting up a meeting with the Librarian, Jim O'Donnell.

Side note to this discussion was discussion on setting up a meeting with the new head of HR, Michael Latsko, at his office with the Executive Committee after the meeting with the Library has taken place. During this meeting, an overview of who we, ASURA, are and what we do will be presented.

- Events Committee & Subcommittee Reports
 - Events Committee Coordination – Trudy Perez
N/A
 - Luncheons & Special Events – Mary Stevens
The Annual Meeting will be held at Ability 360 on April 19, 2023 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. There was discussion about catering refreshments for meeting, perhaps coffee and bagels. Partha will arrange for the refreshments - bagels/coffee and the carrot cake, for the meeting. An announcement will go out to all of the members inviting them to attend.

Friendship Village luncheon

As of this meeting, there were 48 people signed up for the luncheon.

- Seminars – Pat Schneider
The January seminar was a presentation by representatives from the Area Agency on Aging. They covered everything from the programs and services they provide to individuals and caregivers as well as the services they provide in relation to Social Security and Medicare. It was very well received and recommended that we hold this same seminar on an annual basis.

The February seminar was presented by Duane Roen and covered information on how to research your family history (family tree). Duane provided several resources and suggestions to help in researching your roots.

AROHE sent information on a seminar on Alzheimer's and memory they will be presenting on April 18, 2023. This will be posted on the ASURA website under the affiliated events.

- Pre-Retirement Seminars – Trudy Perez, Liz Badalamenti
N/A
- Travel – John Brock
John presented the travel opportunities that are being scheduled, both locally and internationally.
 - March 2024 – Costa Rica with Overseas Adventure Travel
 - Silver Star Theater in Mesa
 - March – Variety Show Spectacular

- April – True Country
 - Fall 2023 – Possible in state trip either to Tombstone, Kartchner Caverns or other areas in the Southeast part of the state.
- Finance Committee – Barry McNeill
 - Book Collection – Mary Stevens
 - The Friends of Phoenix Public Library have changed the way they will be handling book donations. They will no longer be selling books as they have done in the past as the overhead costs for continuing on with this program are too high. They have offered an alternative program for us which will still allow us to collect books, but the proceeds we receive will not be based on the actual sale of the books but rather at a per pound rate. This rate will be \$.02 per pound for all of the books collected by ASURA. They will continue to pick up all of our donated books. Friends will provide us with two (2) large containers for the books. Each container holds approximately 2-3 tons and will be placed on pallets that can be moved around using a forklift. While we most likely won't be getting as much payback as we have in the past, we still will get funds to support the Scholarship Fund and the Video History Project and still have an outlet for used book disposal! Individual tax donation amounts are not affected by this change. A motion was made by Connie and seconded by Partha to accept the new program. Motion carried.
- Government Liaison Council – Tara Roesler
 - Legislature –Tara Fuchs-Roesler, Pat Schneider
Pat provided a brief recap of the Virtual Day at the Capitol. Primary focus was on the upcoming Legislative session. Just a few bills that affect the ASRS have been introduced, none that have any negative affect. Several bills regarding voting, voting registration and early ballots have again been introduced. Also stressed was the importance of getting to know who your representative/senator are and to be in communication with them. It was highly advised that when you do contact your representative/senator to NOT use form letters! Get specific and it will get their attention over a form letter.
 - ASRS Liaison – Dick Jacob
N/A
 - ADOA Liaison – Larry Carlson
N/A
- Health Insurance Liaison Council
 - ASRS – Dick Jacob
N/A
 - ADOA – Larry Carlson
N/A

- Membership and Communications Committee – Subcommittee Reports
 - E-News – Barry McNeill
We were contacted by member of a University of Minnesota research team that is doing research on a smartwatch to help with memory concerns. Barry will include information on the study and where people interested in participating can get more information and signup.
 - Membership Update – Carl Cross
The membership report for the past quarter is attached to the minutes. Carl had nothing else to add.
 - Obituaries – Tara Roesler
Tara asked if it would be possible to add years of service and job title to the membership database so she could include this information in the obituaries.
 - Prime Times – Jeannette Robson
N/A
 - Web Site – Connie McNeill, Barry McNeill
Perla Vargas is now trained to add content to the home page of the website and has also been added as an administrator on the site.
 - Database – Paul Harper
Paul is looking to add additional information to the membership database in the contact information area. This would include the job title of the person when they retired. He will also check with HR to see if he can get the years the member worked at ASU added.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Annual meeting and signing of contract
William will sign the contract today and give to Mary to return to Ability 360.
- Preparation of annual reports for the annual meeting
It's time to prepare the annual report. All reports should be sent to Barry and William by March 15, 2023. Pat will send out a note to all committee chairs asking them to submit their reports.
- New Board members ballot mailing
Voting ends on February 28, 2023. Tara will report on the results at the next (March) Board meeting.
- Business Manager
Connie has produced two lists of people who held positions as business managers or related areas when they worked at ASU who potentially could serve in one or more of the Business Manager roles. An email will be sent to all Board members and Committee chairs with these lists asking them to review and recommend anyone on the list, or others they may know, who might be interested in the role(s). All responses should be sent to Kay. Connie has

updated the Business Manager roles and responsibilities on the ASURA volunteer website.

- Interim method of bill payment, deposits to Foundation and contract signing
William will sign the contract for the annual meeting.
- Open volunteer positions
The office staff still needs additional staff. The Government Liaison committee is also still in need of a lobbyist.
- New Board and volunteer executive committee positions
Kay will be working on putting together the new executive committee for the 2023-24 term.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting – **March 14, 2023 in person at CSB 203A**
9:15 am Executive Committee
10:00 am Board Meeting

XII. ACTION ITEMS

XIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

	Current 1/15/2023	Last Year 1/7/2022	Change
Current-year members	857	756	101
Renewals from prior years (any prior year)	521	515	6
Introductory members	336	241	95
Paid for the current year, now deceased	0	3	-3
Last year's members - not renewed	254	273	-19
Members last year, now deceased	3	12	-9
By retired-from organization			
Retired from ASU	838	734	104
Retired from another university	2	2	0
Former ASU employee, retired elsewhere	3	5	-2
Still employed at ASU	14	15	-1
By time since first joining			
In introductory period	336	241	95
Members for 0-2 years (excl Introductory)	103	58	45
Members for 3-5 years	121	142	-21
Members for 6-10 years	75	79	-4
Members for more than 10 years	223	236	-13
By former employment category			
Faculty and faculty w/ admin appt	341	312	29
Academic professional	45	47	-2
Staff	438	370	68
Administrative	33	27	6
Having an Arizona Address	795	701	94
Logged in to member-only site (ever)	290	257	33

Available on request (examples)

- How many want to receive obituary notices
- How many have shown interest in volunteering
- How many have made an optional donation
- How many have logged in as members

CHANGES TO THE ASURA/FRIENDS BOOK DONATION PROGRAM

Presented by Mary Stevens, Chair

February 14, 2023

BACKGROUND

In September 2011, the ASU Foundation/ASURA entered into an agreement with the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library, a non-profit organization that supports Phoenix public libraries. Our members donate their books to ASURA, Friends picks up the books, prepares them for sale, posts them and sells them on-line to various sellers. The proceeds we receive support our annual scholarship and the video history project. Between 9/2011 and 12/2021, the proceeds totaled in excess of \$16,000.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PROGRAM

On January 21, 2023, Jason Peterson, the Friends Coordinator, called me to advise that program is no longer sustainable due to economic constraints caused by Covid 19, increases in selling, shipping and transportation costs, labor costs, and inflation. Friends is cancelling these agreements with its clients and provided a 30-day, Notice of cancellation February 1, 2023, effective March 1, 2023.

PROCEEDS DUE ASURA

Friends owes ASURA sales proceeds for 3 quarters, the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2022 and 1st quarter of 2023. We will receive those proceeds.

NEW PROGRAM OFFERING

Friends entered a contact with a large on-line book seller who will accept donated books directly from Friends and assume all responsibilities for pricing, posting, shipping and other costs Friends used to incur, reducing Friends costs of operation significantly. Friends is now offering a much-scaled back program to its clients. Friends will pay us 2 cents per pound of all the books it collects from ASURA, not just the books that sell. Friends will continue to pick up our donated books which we will need to place in large red bins that Friends will provide. Friends transfers the books to very large containers, called Gaylords. A Gaylord holds 2 to 3 red bins of books. Each Gaylord is placed on a pallet, weighed and forklifted onto transportation vehicles and sent to the Friends contractor. Friends will pay us by check each month rather than quarterly.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Photo of a Gaylord on a palette, which together weigh 70 pounds. When our books are placed into the Gaylord and weighed, 70 pounds will be deducted from the total pounds for the Gaylord and pallet.
2. The form of agreement the Foundation/ASURA will enter with Friends if the Board decides to participate in this new program.
3. A draft motion.

COMMENT

ASURA provides a service to our members by relieving them of books they no longer need. The program has been successful in earning proceeds which support our special projects.

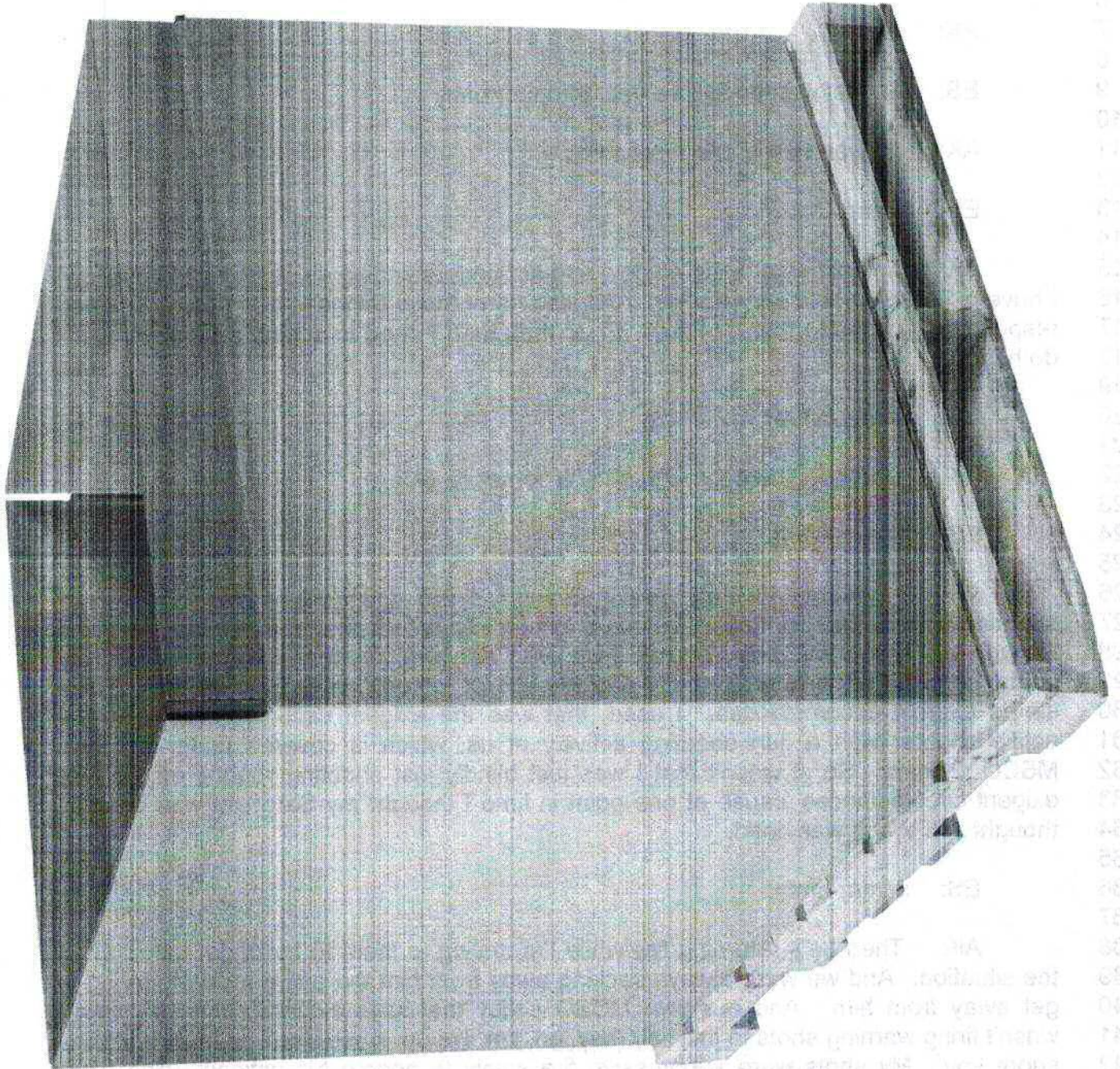
Our proceeds will decrease substantially but are some proceeds are better than none?

RECOMMENDATION

My recommendation is to enter into a new agreement with Friends of the Phoenix Public Library.

Gaylord

Pallet



Per Pound Book Buying Letter of Agreement

This is a letter of understanding between The Friends of the Phoenix Public Library and _____: This agreement, which may be terminated at any time for any reason by either party, will define the terms in which the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library will purchase your bulk books.

The Friends of the Phoenix Public Library agree to:

- Pay .02 (2 cents) per pound for usable books, CD's, and DVD's.
 - Magazines/Newspapers or damaged items will not eligible for this program. The Per Pound Rate is based on the net weight of the shipment received at the Friends of the Phoenix Library warehouse. A tare weight of 70 pounds per Gaylord will be deducted from the gross weight to determine net weight. Friends of the Phoenix Public Library reserves the right to modify the Per Pound Rate due to changes in marketplace conditions by providing seller notice of thirty (30) days. The seller retains the right to reject Friends of the Phoenix Public Library's modification to the Per Pound Rate, thereby terminating this Agreement.
- Pick up books in a timely and orderly fashion.
- Disperse payment on a monthly basis.

_____ agree to:

- Select and collect books, CD's and DVD's
- Contact Friends of the Phoenix Library when a pickup is needed

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: Jason Peterson

Title: Executive Director

Contact Information

Please list the individual whom should be contacted for any necessary communication regarding the Per Pound Book Buying partnership. Also, please list exactly how you would like your disbursement check made out. Your check will be mailed to the person listed on this form unless you instruct us otherwise.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zipcode: _____

Check made out to (if different than Organization above): _____

DRAFT MOTION

Due to the cancellation of the current agreement between the ASU Foundation/ASURA and the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library (Friends), effective March 1, 2023, I move that the ASURA Board enter into a new agreement with Friends to collect books donated by our members and others. Friends will pay ASURA 2 cents per pound for our collected books, less 70 pounds, representing the weight of the equipment used by Friends to transport the books it collects.

**Arizona Retirement Security Coalition
Virtual Day at the Capitol
February 3, 2023**

The Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC) sponsored “*Virtual Day at the Capitol*” was held on Friday, February 3, 2023 via Zoom. The host for the event was Daniella Smith, Lobbyist and Coordinator, Arizona Retirement Security Coalition. The agenda for the day consisted of a presentation by Daniella, a presentation by Jessica Thomas, ASRS Legislative Liaison and a presentation by Kendal Killian, Executive Director, National Public Pension Coalition. Also on the agenda was a Legislative panel made up of Rep. Nancy Gutierrez (D), Rep. Steve Montenegro (R), Sen. Mitzie Epstein (D) and Sen. J.D. Mesnard (R).

Danielle started her presentation by presenting the leadership in the 2023 Arizona Legislature. She also identified the Committee Chairs for both the House and the Senate.

She then went into the agencies/businesses that were key “attacks” on the public pension system. ASU and UArizona were identified as the universities that tend to propose legislation that could negatively impact the state pension plan. Next, she identified the “threats” that the ARSC looks for each year during the legislative sessions. These include:

1. Legislation that would open up either voluntary defined contribution plans or hybrid plans as options for new ASRS hires.
2. Legislation that would restructure the current plan, forcing ASRS new hires into a mandatory defined contribution or hybrid plan.
3. Legislation expanding the number of university and college members already allowed to choose between a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan, and/or switch the default for not making a decision within 30 days to the defined contribution plan options.

In 2022 there were two (2) bills that were introduced that were a threat to the plan. The first one had to do with the threat as defined in statement “1.” above. The second had to do with restricting where ASRS could invest money, in particular companies that donate or invest in organizations that promote abortions for minors and/or “sexually explicit material” in K-12. Both bills failed to pass. Danielle credited the efforts by ARSC for preventing these bills from being passed. This year, there is again a bill that would restrict ASRS from investing money, in companies that donate or invest in organizations that promote abortions for minors and/or “sexually explicit material” in K-12. No legislation has been introduced by any of the universities. Danielle felt confident that there will be no threats to the ASRS plan for 2023, unless a bill gets introduced via the “strike everything” amendment.

Next on the agenda was Jessica Thomas. Jessica indicated there were three (3) bills introduced that could impact ASRS, but in a positive way. The first would allow new employers to join the ASRS using one of the supplemental plans that is available. This would allow smaller municipalities who may not be able to afford participation in the full ASRS plan, the ability to offer a less costly plan, but still have it managed by ASRS. The second bill extends the timeframe in which a person can make changes to their retirement plan election. The third bill allows an employer flexibility on when they start contributing funds to the plan.

Kendall Killian, Executive Director, National Public Pension Coalition, presented next. Kendal gave a brief overview of “who they are” and “what do they do”. The NPPC was founded in 2007 as a non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving secure retirement benefits for public employees. Its mission is to protect and advance the benefits of America’s “hard-working public employees who deliver the services our communities rely on.” They are a working network of national and state-based organizations. A main goal of NPPC is to educate policymakers and the general public on the impact of pensions, not just for the public worker, but for the community and economy at large. They support state public coalitions through financial assistance as well as utilize digital strategies to support state pension coalitions in their work to education policy makers.

Kendal then went on to tell a few stories about how NPPC is helping and making an impact in some of the states who are members. Nothing specific to Arizona, unfortunately!

The Legislative Panel was last on the agenda. Danielle served as moderator and asked questions related to what their goals were for the current legislative session. She also fielded questions from those participating in the event. One thing each of the panel members stressed was the importance of getting to know your House and Senate representatives and to actively communicate your concerns to them. They indicated that when sending communication via email/mail to be specific in what you are addressing. If they see a correspondence is a form letter, they tend not to pay as much attention to it as one that is very specific regarding the concern. They also encouraged people to call their office and setup appointments to meet with them. They suggested signing up for “Request to Speak” (RTS). A person may not always get time to speak on the floor, but it is another avenue to communicate with the Legislature.

Patricia (Pat) Schneider
Government Liaison Committee