

SUMMER 2024

ASURA President's Message



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submitted by Maria Hesse, ASURA President, 2024-2025

Hi everyone!

With every week that passes I am more and more impressed with the ASU Retirees Association, which continues to deliver effective programs and services through an all-volunteer workforce of fellow ASU retirees.



Our volunteers help retirees stay connected to ASU and informed about issues that might impact their lives. They monitor issues in the state legislature, organize travel and group events, coordinate video histories, provide student scholarships, offer retirement seminars of all sorts, and much more. In the past year, I have participated in online seminars that have helped me better understand Medicare, Social Security, ASRS, ADOA, and I also learned so much in sessions about resources for aging, fitness in one's older years, brain health, and family history research.

Every now and then I hear someone say that they don't want to join any organizations after retirement, not even ASURA. For just **\$30 per year** you have access to an amazing array of resources that keeps you connected and informed, but you are also contributing to our collective power as an organization. Benefits for state employees and retirees are a popular target for those trying to cut budgets. Those are your hard-earned benefits, and the ASURA helps protect those benefits and helps you manage those benefits, which can be confusing at times. Our strength is in our numbers.

Further, your membership in ASURA, by way of the Scholarship, Adopt-A-Family and Video History programs, can help you feel like you are positively impacting your community and contributing to the greater good.

There are many benefits to volunteering with ASURA (or any number of other organizations) including enriching social connections, learning new skills, and feeling happier and healthier. I would love to have you join your fellow retirees in volunteering for the organization in some capacity, or attending our in-person or online events and activities when you are able. But please know, even when you cannot or do not want to come to a luncheon or take a trip with fellow retirees, you are helping all of us through your membership renewal.

If there is anything you'd like to talk over about ASURA, please don't hesitate to be in contact with me. I want you to create a life you love after retirement, and I thank all of the volunteers of ASURA who are contributing to a wonderful retired life for all of us.

Here's hoping you have some fantastic plans for a good summer!

ASURA Executive Board

				
President Maria Hesse	Past President Kay Faris	Vice President	Secretary Partha Dasgupta	Treasurer Jeff Bush

Board of Directors

Terms Expire April 2025 Jo Ellen Alberhasky Beverly Buddee Partha Dasgupta Terrie Ekin Kay Faris Will Stasi	Terms Expire April 2026 Jeff Bush Carl Cross Don Dotts Maria Hesse Kathy Palmanteer	Terms Expire April 2027 Don Doerres Caroline Harrison Richard Knopf Rodney Rogers Jan Meyer Thompson
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Board Ex-Officio Members

Alumni Association	Tim Desch
Emeritus College Liaison	Mark Lussier
Human Resources	Jarred Elias
University Club Liaison	Tara Roesler
University Liaison	Kendra Burton
University Senate	Greg Stone
University Staff Council	Shawn Banzhaf

Committees

<p><u>Community Outreach</u></p> <p>Adopt-A-Family: Ginny Sylvester, Chair</p> <p>Scholarship: Jan Shore, Chair</p> <p>Video History Project: Don Doerres, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Events</u></p> <p>Trudy Perez, Coordinator</p> <p>Seminars: Karen Moses, Chair</p>	<p>Luncheons/Special Events: Kay Faris, Chair</p> <p>Pre-retirement Seminars: Trudy Perez, Chair Liz Badalamenti, Co-Chair</p> <p>Travel: John Brock, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Finance/ Fundraising</u></p> <p>Finance: Barry McNeill</p> <p>Book Donations: Mary Stevens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Membership/ Communications</u></p> <p>Membership: (open)</p> <p>E-News: Barry McNeill</p> <p>Obituaries: Tara Roesler</p> <p>Prime Times Newsletter & ASURA Trifold: Jeannette Robson</p> <p>Websites Co-Chairs: Connie & Barry McNeill</p>	<p>Database Committee: Paul Harper</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Government Liaisons</u></p> <p>Legislature: (open)</p> <p>ASRS: Dick Jacob</p> <p>ADOA: Larry Carlson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Health Insurance Liaisons</u></p> <p>ASRS: Dick Jacob</p> <p>ADOA: Larry Carlson</p>
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Office Volunteers

<p>Office Coordinator: Linda Van Scoy</p> <p>Business Operations Managers: Caroline Harrison, Terrie Ekin & Connie McNeill (backup)</p> <p>Phone: 480-965-7668 (please call before visiting the office)</p> <p>Subs: Jeri Meeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASURA Office Hours 10:00am to 1:00pm</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Monday</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Closed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>Linda VanScoy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>Beverly Buddee/Jan Thompson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>Jeannette Robson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>Closed</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	Closed	Tuesday	Linda VanScoy	Wednesday	Beverly Buddee/Jan Thompson	Thursday	Jeannette Robson	Friday	Closed
Monday	Closed										
Tuesday	Linda VanScoy										
Wednesday	Beverly Buddee/Jan Thompson										
Thursday	Jeannette Robson										
Friday	Closed										

Welcome New ASURA Members

Abbl, Norma
Abston, Deborah
Alvarado, Daniel
Amundson, Sharon
Anwar, Shahriar
Baxter-Potter, Terry
Bedics, Stuart
Brown, Michael
Calleros, Charles
Calvert, Tess
Carver, Ann
Cherry, Nora
Clark, Dena
Covert, David
Fagan, Kenneth
Fields, Kimberly
Friesen, Paula

Galloway, Cynthia
Gallese, Diana
Gebel, Melinda
Gehring, Elizabeth
Hjorth, Robert
Hummert, Ursula
Islas, Mario
Jones, Kimberly
Jowers, Tim
Kennedy, John
Kohnen, Alexander
Laroche, Dominique-Claude
Lau, June
Leland, Jeffrey
Mittelmann, Renate
Naig, Kim
Penn, Phil

Peterson, Russell
Philipps, Cynthia
Quay, Raymond
Rosencrantz, Earl
Saffell, Charles
Sherman, Patricia
Smart, Kim
Sokol, Theodore
St. John, Cheryl
Stephens, Susan
Swartz, Judy
Taylor, Karie
Wenner, Richard
Winfrey, Pamela
Young, Julie

ASURA Needs Your Old Books!

submitted by Mary Stevens, Book Donations

- Are your bookshelves too full?
- Are you downsizing your office or your home and don't have space for all of your books?

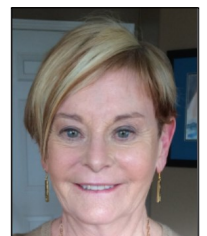


Donate your used books to us, and we will work with our partner, Friends of the Phoenix Public Library, to sell them. The proceeds from the sale of books are used to support the ASURA scholarship that goes to an ASU student and for the Video History Project. When you drop off your books, the office volunteer will give you a Gift in Kind form to complete and sign. The form is sent to the ASU Foundation, a separate nonprofit organization that exists to support ASU. The Foundation will provide you with a gift receipt for tax purposes.

You may drop off your books at the ASURA Office, Community Services Bldg., 200 E. Curry Road, room 201B, Tempe, AZ, 85281. Please call the office before you come to make sure there is a staff volunteer in the office (480-965-7668).

- For books that are on campus, Facilities Management will pick up your books at your department office for a service fee and deliver them to our office. Some departments have paid this fee in the past. ASURA does not have funds to cover the service fee. To arrange a pick-up and delivery, your department assistant can complete and submit a [FACMAN service request](#) on an on-line form. Facilities will schedule a pickup date with the office assistant. Advise the office assistant to provide your name and department to the FACMAN representative who picks up the books.
- **OR** bring your books to [our office](#). We have 2 dollies for your use. Parking is readily available by the building with 3 ramps into the building and 2 elevators to the 2nd floor.

If you are unable to deliver your books to our office, please contact Mary Stevens at (602) 758-3750 or marystevens0@gmail.com or [contact our office](#). Provide your **name**, **e-mail address** (if you have one), **phone number** and the **approximate number of books** you would like to donate. Mary or another ASURA volunteer will work with you to get the books transferred. Thank you so much for your donation!



2024-2025 ASURA Re-entry Scholarship Recipient

submitted by Jan Shore, Chair, Scholarship Committee



The Scholarship Committee was comprised of nine volunteers including Co-Chair Joy Shearman, and Chair Jan Shore. A special thanks to the following volunteers for their commitment to the selection process: Karen Burstein, Evelyn Cesarotti, Tim Desche, Diane Guzy, Mark Lussier, Ginny Sylvester, and Leslie Towill. Your dedication and efforts are sincerely appreciated!

Our Committee works with Julia Layno-Rojas of the ASU Scholarship Office who provided us 12 applicants that met our qualifications. Like in the past few years and since the pandemic, our volunteers have found it much more convenient to conduct the selection process electronically rather than in person.

A majority consensus was reached after a thoughtful and time-sensitive review and selected Keenan Coady to receive the 2024 -2025 ASURA Re-entry Scholarship Award of \$10,000, with equal payments to be made at the beginning of each semester.

Mr. Coady lives in McCook, Nebraska and is pursuing his education online at ASU. He is enrolled in the Fulton College of Engineering, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Our Committee was struck by Keenan's determination despite obstacles to his return to school. Keenan began his undergraduate education in 2008 but had to drop out to support his family. Serious family medical problems took priority and further delayed his education. Despite these obstacles, Keenan recently completed his associate degree with a 3.9 GPA and is prepared to begin his online education at ASU. Keenan's academic references describe his unwavering determination, passion for learning, and strong work ethic.



Also, we were extremely pleased to recently meet in person and hear comments from Bea Ahbeck, our 2023-24 Scholarship recipient, who traveled from Lodi, California to speak at the Annual Meeting on April 17. Bea has faced numerous challenges in pursuing her education, but with the help of our scholarship, is on target to graduate with honors in August 2024, obtaining a degree in Sustainability and plans to work for underserved communities.

ASURA Office Update

submitted by Linda Van Scoy, ASURA Office Coordinator

Summer already?! Did I somehow miss Spring?

In the past the office schedule has changed in the summer to accommodate our volunteers' summer travel plans. However this year we will continue with the current schedule which is 3 days a week, Tuesday through Thursday, from 10AM to 1PM. If you will be coming by the office please call first just to be sure the office is staffed: (480) 965-7668.

Some very good news to report is that we have a new office volunteer joining us soon. Many of you know Jeri Meeks from her work on the ASURA Board and her Legislative Liaison work. Jeri has agreed to be our go-to substitute for office workers who have travel or family plans. This will be a big help to the office. So welcome aboard Jeri!

And, on the other side of the coin, we say a soft farewell to our long-time Business/Membership Manager, Carolyn Minner. Carolyn plans to "re-retire" from most

of her duties but will be on hand as an advisor to our Office Team which has been set in place to continue her important and challenging work. She will be so missed but a life-line away by phone! Thanks Carolyn for your many, many years of dedicated service.

Summer is a good time to clean out your bookshelves and donate them to our ASURA book drive. Call the office to be sure it is open and staffed. You can park right in front of the building and we have a hand cart to help with the transfer.

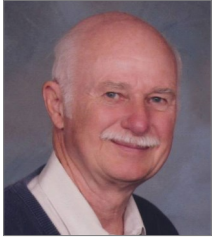
Membership renewals have gone out electronically and in hard copy form. Be sure to send in your checks to renew your ASURA membership and don't forget to make the check out to: **ASU Foundation/ASURA.**



As always, call us if you have any questions we might help you with. Have a safe and happy summer!

Spring 2024 ASURA Annual Meeting

Article & photos submitted by Barry McNeill, Website Co-Chair, E-News & ASURA Finance



The 2024 ASURA Annual Meeting was held at Ability 360 from 1:00 to 3:30 on April 17, 2024. We had 10 past Presidents and seventeen members in attendance who had served on or chaired one of our committees.

Kay Faris, ASURA President, planned and executed a wonderful program. Kay had help from Trudy Perez (refreshments and venue), Jan Shore (scholarship recipient), Connie McNeill (honored volunteer material), Barry McNeill (Video History clips and the Board in selecting a speaker). If you missed the meeting, you missed one of the better Annual Meetings that I've attended.

Prologue – The Arrival

While Kay was scurrying around getting her presentation running and putting copies of the ever popular “Annual Report” on all the tables, ASURA members begin arriving and signing in. Some immediately headed for the snack tables which had candy for their sweet tooth or fruit for their health. Others saw old acquaintances and small discussion groups formed talking of Micheal Angelo or perhaps cabbages and kings. A few were seen leafing through the “Annual Report.”

Chapter 1 – Honorees

At the stroke of 1:20 pm Kay Faris opened the meeting on time and after thanking Trudy for the snacks got right into the business of recognizing five volunteers for their years of service. Kay pointed out, as we all know but sometimes forget, there is no pay for volunteer work – only the realization that they are doing something for ASU retirees.

Before presenting the honorees, Kay outlined the criteria used to select from the long list of volunteers. The criteria decided on was that the volunteer had to have: (1) served as committee chairs/member, board member, office volunteer, etc., for more than 10 years, and (2) appeared to have “retired” from ASURA ... Kay called this retired retired!!! Or retired squared! When the criteria were applied, five members popped up: Becky Reiss, Carolyn Minner, Dave Scheatzle, Elmer Gooding and Dave Schwalm. All but Becky were present.

The recognition was quite nice. Several slides with pictures of the honorees were displayed and while the slides were showing, Kay read a short “history” of the honoree’s ASU and ASURA life, which consisted of one or two slides and text read by Kay. We heard about the member’s work at ASU and particularly with ASURA. At the conclusion of each presentation Kay presented the honoree with a gift.

And what was the gift? Typical of Kay she did not just buy the first thing she thought of but rather spent some time carefully mulling over what would make a good gift. She knew that retirees are at a stage where they don’t need or want another long-lasting doodad or nick knack. So she decided to focus on consumables. Maybe something personal and she pulled a bottle of shampoo out of her “gift” bag. That did not seem quite right, so maybe something more utilitarian and she pulled out a roll of toilet paper. It is not 2020 so maybe this was not such a good idea either. Kay eventually gave up and decided on something she liked, a plant. Each honoree received a beautiful Christmas cactus from the Botanical Garden. Kay was told the plants could live 100 years with good care which did not exactly fit the consumable criteria but they were lovely.

Chapter 2 – Registered Independent

Before introducing the guest speaker, Kay announced something new ... a raffle. Three names were drawn from a bowl and given ten-dollar gift cards (Starbucks, Amazon). By some piece of incredible luck my name was drawn first.

Kay then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Thom Reilly, a professor in the School of Public Affairs and Co-Director, Center for an Independent and Sustainable Democracy at Arizona State University (ASU). He previously had served as Director of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at ASU.

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Dr. Reilly's talk was titled "The rise of the independent voter and what this means for US democracy." During the first part of the talk he spoke on how the founding fathers did not want to have a two-party system and were pretty adamantly against such an arrangement. We ended up with a two party system and he pointed out that, until recently, the two party system actually worked pretty well with checks and balances.

Dr. Reilly presented data showing the increase in the percentage of voters registering as independent. One of his research interests is understanding who these registered independent voters are. I think the main point I got out of the talk was that people who register as independent are more interested in issues than parties. One interesting statistic was that in some demographics, upwards of fifty percent of the young members were registering as independent.

The talk concluded with a discussion of the impact independent voters have on the primaries and the mish mash of laws from state to state defining who can and cannot vote in a primary. He pointed out that in Arizona a registered independent voter can vote in the primary by simply showing up on voting day and asking for a ballot for the party they wanted to vote in.

Chapter 3 – Scholarship Recipient

Before Jan Shore introduced the scholarship recipient, three more names were drawn for the raffle. Jan introduced Bea Ahbeck by saying how easy it had been to pick her out in the pool of applicants. Ms. Ahbeck lives in Lodi California and is enrolled in the College of Global Futures. She continues the growing list of online scholarship recipients from California.

Ms. Ahbeck thanked ASURA for the scholarship and then told us about her path back to school. At eighteen she left home to make her way in the world. She had different jobs over the years, photojournalism being a thread connecting many of the jobs. After being laid off once again she decided it was time to change course and enrolled in ASU. She will graduate in August 2024.

Chapter 4 – Video Clips

Three more lucky attendees won the raffle before Kay introduced Don Doerres, chair of the Video History Project. Kay pointed out that there are 90+ interviews available for viewing on our website. Don said the selection of the video clips was easy this year because we had Video History Project interviews for three of the volunteer honorees. It was fun to hear:

1. Elmer Gooding talked about budget revertments, money sent back to the State at the end of the fiscal year, and how the administration started squirreling away money early in the fiscal year to pay the anticipated revertment.
2. Dave Schwalm talked about the tuition payment scheme that allowed a student, enrolled in ASU but taking some courses from Chandler - Gilbert Community College to pay community college tuition for their courses and ASU tuition for their courses.
3. Dave Scheatzle told about getting the funding for a new Architecture building. The Regents were visiting the campus to see about funding five new buildings. Even though Architecture was not in the top five, it was next in line, so the Regents decided to visit it anyway. It was a rainy day and the Regents saw architecture students working under umbrellas as water was dripping down from the ceiling. Architecture got its new building and Music had to wait.

* **NOTE:** You can view the clips, honoree slides and Kay's remarks by visiting our website at <https://asura.asu.edu/april-2024-annual-meeting>.

Chapter 5 – Leadership Change

Kay mentioned that it had been a pleasure to serve as president, an experience she highly recommended! She went on to thank the following individuals:

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- the continuing Board members: Jo Ellen Alberhasky, Bev Buddee, Partha Dasgupta, Terrie Ekin, Will Stasi, Jeff Bush, Carl Cross, Don Dotts, Maria Hesse, and Kathy Palmanteer;
- those who were ending their three years of service: Rojann Alpers, Barry McNeill, Helene Ossipov, and Tara Roesler; and,
- her executive team: Barry McNeill (Treasurer), Will Stasi (Past President), Partha Dasgupta (Secretary) and Maria Hesse (Vice president).

At this point Kay handed the leadership gavel over to Maria Hesse and the presidency passed on. Maria thanked Kay for her dedication to leading ASURA this past year and said she was looking forward to the next year. Before gaveling the meeting closed, Maria told us an interesting tidbit. It turned out, many moons ago, that Anne Pittman, our third President and source of our carrot birthday cakes, was her tennis coach. Maria closed this very enjoyable Annual Meeting, which was full of fun surprises, and sent everyone over to Trudy to get a slice of ASURA's 34th birthday carrot cake.



2024 Annual Meeting: ASURA Volunteers

Back Row: Kay Faris, Jan Shore, Dave Schwalm, Jan Thompson, Carl Cross, Linda Van Scoy, Connie McNeill, Bev Buddee, Joyce Hartmann Diaz, Will Stasi, Barry McNeill; **Front Row:** Dave Scheatzle, Trudy Perez, Don Doerres, Carolyn Minner, Jeri Meeks.



2024 Annual Meeting: ASURA Past Presidents

Back Row: Carl Cross, Jan Thompson, Connie and Barry McNeill, Jeri Meeks, Will Stasi, Elmer Gooding; **Front Row:** Kay Faris, Dave Scheatzle, Dave Schwalm.



Aleksandra Gruzinska,
Sylvia Myers



Joyce Hartman Diaz, Connie McNeill,
Carolyn Minner, Jeri Meeks, Paul Harper.



Andy & Bea Ahbeck,
2023-2024 Scholarship Recipient



Jeff Bush, Terry Brewer, Carl Cross,
Jan Thompson



Rodney Rogers, Carl Cross, Jan Thompson,
Dorothy & Richard Whitehouse

* NOTE: More 2024 Annual Meeting photos are available at <https://asura.zenfolio.com/584770836>

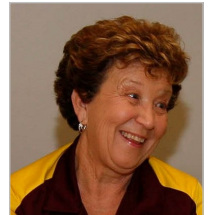
2024-2025 ASURA Calendar of Events - Save the Dates

EVENT	DATE
Pre-Retirement Seminar: Social Security	June 24, 2024
Pre-Retirement Seminar: Buck Financial	July 22, 2024
Seminar: Caregivers and Caregiving	July 22, 2024
Pre-Retirement Seminar: Panel of ASU Retirees	August 26, 2024
Fall Meet and Greet	September 10, 2024
Pre-Retirement Seminar: ASRS	September 23, 2024
Tour: New Mexico (Four Corners) & Albuquerque Balloon Festival	October 6-9, 2024
Seminar: ASRS/ADOA & Medicare Open Enrollment	October date TBD
Pre-Retirement Seminar: Office of Human Resources	October 28, 2024
Pre-Retirement Seminar: Medicare	November 18, 2024
Pre-Retirement Seminar: Social Security	December 9, 2024
Holiday Potluck & Bake Sale	December date TBD
Sicily International Trip: for information, contact Jeff.Bush@asu.edu	March 31-April 16, 2025

NOTE: (dates are subject to change)

Please put these dates on your calendars. When the events get closer, additional information will be available on our website, <https://asura.asu.edu> and the monthly E-News at which time you will be able to register for the events. Also, as we get more into the Fall and Spring and new events are added, you will be notified by email and updates noted in the monthly E-News.

We are always open to any suggestions from our ASURA members as to what events or travel (local and international) you would like ASURA to consider. Please share your ideas with Trudy Perez, Events Coordinator at trudy.perez@asu.edu.



2024 - 2025 Luncheons

submitted by Kay Faris, Past President & Chair, Luncheon Committee

I would like to thank Mary Stevens for her tireless work as Chair of the Luncheons and Special Events Committee for the past several years. She has done a fabulous job! Mary has asked to step back from chairing that committee, so I agreed to move into the position—big shoes to fill! Luckily, I have Mary on speed dial, so hopefully this will be a smooth transition!



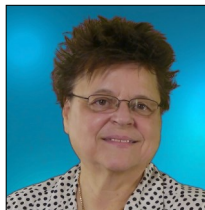
Looking forward to the next year, we are already in plans for our Fall Meet and Greet Luncheon. Please mark the date on your calendars: **Tuesday, September 10**. The location is yet to be determined. We are also planning our ever-famous Holiday Potluck and a special luncheon for the spring. I know Covid set our in-person events back quite a bit. However, I encourage all of you to join us for the events—see old friends and meet new friends! If you have any thoughts or requests that we should consider, please email me at kay.faris@outlook.com.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

ASURA Seminar Committee Report — Summer 2024

submitted by Patricia Schneider, Past Chair, ASURA Seminars Committee

February 2024



The ASURA February 2024 seminar featured speakers from the **Area Agency on Aging**. Alfredo Gonzalez and Marco Mendoza provided valuable information on the services offered by the agency. The services and programs they presented are available within Maricopa County. However, they all mentioned that most of the programs are found in other counties throughout the State of Arizona, but under a different agency. The following link can be used to find the agency in your county - <https://arizonaaging.org/area-agencies/>.

Marco started the seminar by presenting the **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**. SHIP is federally funded by the Administration for Community Living. It is part of a national network with 54 SHIP grantees, one in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are over 2,000 local sites with over 12,500 team members. Its main purpose is to assist in navigating Medicare. Understanding your Medicare choices, how to enroll, plan comparison, coverage and costs, submitting appeals and referral to other resources are just a few of the services they provide. You can contact SHIP at **1-800-432-4040** or if you are resident of Maricopa County at **602-280-1059**.

Marco then discussed the **Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** program. This program handles fraud issues related to Medicare. Marco encouraged everyone to report any incident of a potential scam or fraud to the agency so they can in turn work with Medicare in identifying and provide future prevention for the incidents.

Alfredo discussed the various programs offered by the Area Agency on Aging. The **24-Hour Senior HELP LINE** is the information and assistance program and central intake for the Agency. The number for that line is **602-264-4357**. Next, he discussed the **Senior Adult Independent Living (SAIL)** program which provides case management and services to senior and adults with disabilities who live in the community and need assistance with their daily living activities. From there he discussed the **Long-Term Care Ombudsman** program which provides advocacy for residents in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. **Caring Circles**, which consists of volunteers who provide companionship to seniors 60 years and older to reduce social isolation, was next on the agenda. The **elderSHOP** program provides grocery shopping and grocery home delivery to seniors 60 years and older. Next, Alfredo touched on the **Legal Assistance** program that provides legal assistance and legal resources to seniors. **DOVES** is the program that provides domestic violence prevention counseling to victims of late life domestic violence. Last, but not least, Alfredo presented the services and programs under the **ElderVention Clinical Services Programs**.

* **NOTE:** Please view the ASURA website for more information that includes links to the Agency's resources and other resources (<https://asura.asu.edu/february-2024-area-agency-aging>)

March 2024

“There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers.” — the late Rosalynn Carter

The ASURA March 2024 seminar focused on caregivers and featured speakers from the **Area Agency on Aging, Duet Partners in Health & Aging** and **Trualta**.

Patrica Dominguez from Duet Partners in Health & Aging was the first speaker to present and gave a brief overview of Duet's mission which is based on the concept of one person helping another. Duet partners with individuals,

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businesses, non-profits, and agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging to make that happen. Their goal is to respond to needs that are not being met through other organizations. She focused in on the programs they have for grandparents and the grandchildren under their care. Duet provides opportunities for the grandchildren to be involved in activities outside of the home, such as sports, art programs and fun time gatherings. They also provide opportunities for grandparents to socialize with other grandparents, educational programs, information and referral services, and family support coordination. In addition to the individual programs, Duet provides what they call “grandfamily outing/retreats” which are held monthly and include things like trips to the zoo or museums, bowling or pool parties, just to name a few. Patricia provided the slide deck that accompanies her portion of the seminar, which includes contact information and can be found on the ASURA website noted at the bottom of this report.

Next up was Darci Henry from Trualta. Darci started her presentation by giving us the quote from the late Rosalynn Carter on caregiving. She then went on to describe Trualta which is an interactive eLearning platform to help manage care for individuals at home. There are many topics in the Trualta library that an individual can choose from. The topics are divided into short, quick lessons that have been created by experts in aging and professionally adapted to caregivers. No special apps are required, just a web browser. Darci walked us through the enrollment process and explained how based on information we provide, the system will learn our needs/interests and custom build an educational program based on those needs/interests. In addition to lessons, Trualta provides articles, resources and videos on a wide range of topics. There is also a community chat feature within Trualta where you can engage in discussions with other people on a topic or join a support group. Darci pointed out that the community chat and support group features can be anonymous participation. Last, but not least, Trualta provides webinars for those people who aren’t ready for a support group but need help and answers to questions and concerns they have. Darci’s slide deck for her portion of the seminar which includes contact information can also be found on the ASURA website noted at the bottom of this report.

The final presenter for the seminar was Michael Harper from the Area Agency for Aging. Michael provided information on the programs for seniors and caregivers offered by the Area Agency on Aging. He encouraged those needing agency services to contact the 24-hour Senior Help Line central intake program at 602-264-4357 to get things started. You can either call this number and request that a copy of their resource guide be mailed to you, or you can access the PDF version along with links to the agency’s resources on our ASURA website noted below..

NOTE: (ASURA website, <https://asura.asu.edu/march-2024-caregivers-area-agency-aging>.)

ASURA Legislative Committee Report

submitted by Patricia Schneider, Legislative Committee member

Arizona Retirement Security Coalition (ARSC) — Virtual Day at the Capitol Webinar hosted by Daniella Smith, lobbyist and coordinator for ARSC

Daniella started out by giving an overview of what ASRC is and the role they play in lobbying for the protection of the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS). Next, she introduced the primary “threats” that are always a focus during the legislative session.

- Legislation that would open up either voluntary defined contribution plans or hybrid plans as options for ASRS hires.
- Legislation that would restructure the current plan, forcing ASRS new hires into a mandatory defined contribution or hybrid plan.

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- 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 choice within 30 days to the defined contribution plan option.

She then talked about the secondary “threats”, those that are behind the scenes. These include:

- Bills that deal with proxy advisory firms and/or ESG (environmental, social and corporate government) investments. While not a direct threat to the ASRS, the retirement system can’t control proxy voting for index/mutual funds, as an example, because they don’t always have direct ownership of those investments.
- ESG factors and financial factors are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and we shouldn’t be preventing systems from choosing the best pecuniary option simply because it also involves ESG factors

The ASRS and the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) shouldn’t be prevented from contracting for services with a provider simply because the provider uses ESG factors for other clients. Ultimately, these types of bills could lead to significantly lower returns for public employees who depend on their pensions for lifelong financial security. For these reasons, ARSC works behind the scenes to make sure they don’t become law.

Daniella introduced house and senate legislators who are new to either the house or senate since the last legislative session.

There are four initiatives that passed in the legislature in the 2023 session that ARSC is focused on watching. These will be on the ballot for voters voting in upcoming elections.

- **SCR1015**, which will require that any citizen initiative introduced would require a specific number of signatures from within each legislative district, not simply across the state. Currently, to have an initiative introduced the required number of signatures is as follows:
 - ◇ Constitutional amendment initiative – 15% of the total number of votes cast in the previous governor’s election state-wide.
 - ◇ Regular initiative – 10% of the total number of votes cast in the previous governor’s election state-wide.
 - ◇ Citizen’s referendum veto – 5% of the total number of votes cast in the previous governor’s election state-wide

(Under **SCR1015**, these percentages would be required for each legislative district. As an example, a legislative district in Maricopa county may get the required signatures, but a legislative district in Pinal county may not. In this case, the whole initiative would be thrown out!)

- **SCR1006** which affects compensation that would be paid out to the survivors of first responders who were killed in the line of duty.
- **HCR2039** addresses the emergency powers a governor has during a state of emergency. A ‘yes’ vote supports providing the state legislature to terminate a state of emergency or alter the powers the governor has during that emergency, except in the case of war or an emergency arising from a flood or fire.
- **HRC2033** prohibits any election law in Arizona that is contrary to the direct primary election law currently outlined in the Arizona Constitution. This would be a Constitutional amendment.

2024 Election dates

- Primary Election – July 30, 2024
Last day to register to vote – July 1, 2024
- General Election – November 5, 2024
Last day to register to vote – October 7, 2024

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Daniella then proceeded to give a summary of some of the things that are currently going on at the Capitol.

- Continued contentious relationship between the Democratic Governor and the Republican leadership in the House and Senate, especially members of the Arizona Freedom Caucus.
- The \$2 billion surplus that was left over from the federal pandemic money has been used up and smaller than expected tax revenue now leaves the state with a likely \$835 million deficit for this year and expected \$879 million deficit for next year. The deficit is partially due to the flat tax of 2.5% that was signed into law in 2021.
- Lawsuit filed by Senate President Warren Petersen against Governor Hobbs alleging that the Governor is breaking state law by withdrawing her pending nominations for agency directors and reappointing them as “Executive Deputy Directors”.
- **Proposition 123**, which was approved by voters in 2016 allowed for an increase in a portion of money from the state land trust to go towards education. The proposition is expected to expire in 2025 unless it gets approved by voters again after it passes through the legislatures. There is a difference between the distribution rates that the Republicans are proposing and what Governor Hobbs is proposing. New bills are being proposed by both the Republicans and Democrats to address the distribution.
- **HB2785** was passed by overwhelming bipartisan support which ensures that an automatic vote recount will not disrupt this year’s General election and Arizona’s results arrival to Congress on time. It also ensures that military and overseas voters will receive their ballots in a timely manner.

Daniella reminded us of the things we can do to protect the ASRS.

- Create relationships with your legislators.
- Share now the importance of the 2024 election.
- Sign up for the Action Network (<https://protectpensions.org/states/arizona>)
- Take action when alerts from ARSC are published.
- Leave phone messages for your legislators about bills.
- Personalize any emails or letters sent to legislators. Legislators are known to ignore form letters and emails so the more you can personalize it, especially the subject, the better chance you’ll have that your representative actually reads it!
- Be polite in your correspondence to the legislators.
- Share information about ARSC.

Jessica Thomas, who is both the legislative lobbyist as well as the rules writer for ASRS, presented some updates to the data that can be found on the ASRS website at <https://www.azasrs.gov/content/facts-figures>. The updates include the following:

- **Total Fund**
 - ◇ \$51.7 billion (market value)
 - ◇ 73.1% fund status
- **Demographics**
 - ◇ Active members – over 219,000
 - ◇ Inactive members – over 256,000
- **Returns**
 - ◇ Total fund net rate of return – 8.2%
 - ◇ 10-year rate of return – 8.5%
 - ◇ Rate of return since inception – 9.6%

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- **Contributions**
 - ◊ FY2023-24 – 12.12%
- **Membership**
 - ◊ Over 652,000 members

ASRS has proposed two statute revisions during the 2024 legislative session. The first one, HB2206, affects Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S) §38-760. The intent is to further define the term “contingent annuitant” for an employee who is retiring and chooses a certain retirement option as well as update to A.R.S. §38-783 to clarify that an employee who chooses an Optional Premium Benefit may only identify one contingent annuitant to receive the OPB after the retiree’s death. This bill has since passed in both the House and Senate was signed by the Governor.

The second update is to A.R.S. §38-773, HB2207, which allows the release of the “value of the member’s benefit” to a member’s current or former spouse if the member’s current or former spouse submits proof of service of dissolution, annulment or legal separation to the ASRS. This would align the notification process and disclosure to comply with the Domestic Relations Order legislation that was enacted in 2023. This bill has since died in committee. However, the contents of the bill was added as an amendment to HB2206 which was passed and signed by the Governor.

HB2208 was introduced to allow the continuation of the ASRS as an agency for another 8 years. This bill has passed the House and has been transmitted to the Senate for approval. This bill has since passed in both the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor.

Tony Hutchinson, Executive Director of Keep Oklahoma’s Promise, was next on the agenda and spoke on what is happening with the various retirement systems within Oklahoma and the changes they are undergoing.

Finally, a panel of one senator and two house representatives discussed various questions that were proposed to them. The panel consisted of Senator Ken Bennett (Republican LD1), Representative Betty Villegas (Democrat LD20) and Representative Marianna Sandoval (Democrat LD23). Unfortunately, Representative David Livingston (Republican LD28), who is also a strong supporter of the ASRS and sponsors many bills on its behalf, was unable to participate.

Daniella asked Senator Bennett what advice he would give people who were new to the senate or house. He responded that they should do two things: First be yourself, the real you, and show your sincerity. The second would be to listen. Be willing to put your ego aside as there are more opinions out there than just yours and it’s important to hear them!

Daniella asked all three panel members what advice they would give to people on how best to lobby for issues they care about. All three of them responded by indicating ALL correspondence, whether email or written letter, should be personalized. Form letters or Robo-generated emails are typically ignored. Rep. Villegas said that if she gets an email or letter with the subject of “I am one of your constituents”, she most definitely will read and respond to it. Senator Bennett encouraged people to get to know their representatives. He said all representatives need to get a specific number of signatures so their name can appear on a ballot. He recommended that one way to get noticed was to contact the office of the senator or house member and ask them to send you their nomination papers to get their name on the ballot. Even if you only get a handful of people to sign it, send it back and he can almost guarantee you now have the ear of that legislator!

Another way to be heard is to get registered with the Request to Speak system (RTS). Both Reps. Villegas and Sandoval said they pay very close attention to the responses that are submitted through this system, especially when a bill is being discussed in committee and when it comes up for vote. You can get registered to participate by going to <https://www.azleg.gov> then click on the “Legislative Information” tab, “Request to Speak.” You will see the agenda for upcoming committee meetings. Click on “sign in” and you will be given an opportunity to create an account.

ASURA Volunteers Needed

Office Staff & Substitutes:

Volunteers needed to work one, 3-hour shift per week beginning Fall 2024.

Contact: Linda Van Scoy, lvs@asu.edu

Websites Committee:

Help maintain the content on our websites and the platforms that our websites run on.

Contact: Connie McNeill, connie.mcneill@outlook.com

Video History Project:

Volunteers view collection of interviews, then update with abstracts, table of contents, etc.

Contact: Don Doerres don@azlaborlaw.com

Committee, Government Liaisons & Lobbyist

Contact: Maria Hesse, maria.hesse@asu.edu

Chair, Membership Committee

Contact: Maria Hesse, maria.hesse@asu.edu

Obituary Notifications: January 8, 2024 through May 22, 2024



submitted by Tara E. Roesler

Please note that all obituary notices and photos, when available, are on our website at <https://asura.asu.edu/asu-obituaries>.

Name	Date of Death	ASU Affiliation
Arvizu, Alfred Soto	March 21, 2024	Affiliation Unknown/35 years
Bennett, Jr., Dr. Gaymon Lamont "Will"	February 1, 2024	Assistant Professor of Religious Studies/2014-2024
Bierly, Dr. Margaret Mary	February 20, 2024	Affiliation and Years Unknown
Capin, Justin L.	June 10, 2023	Foreign Languages/Years Unknown
D'Angelo, Dr. Frank J.	March 23, 2024	Professor of English/1970-1995
Forster, Dr. Bruce Alexander	March 19, 2024	School of Management/5 years
Gibney, MD, Dr. John	March 29, 2024	Affiliation and Years Unknown
Glancy, Dr. John James	January 11, 2024	Professor of Engineering/Years Unknown
Goslar, Lt. Col. (Ret), Dr. Martin Dean	February 6, 2024	Computer Science/Years Unknown

Obituaries continued on page 15

Name	Date of Death	ASU Affiliation
Haerle, Jr., John Marshall “Dan”	March 2, 2024	Music/Years Unknown
Hall, Dr. John Stuart	March 28, 2024	College of Public Programs/38 years
Hardy, Dr. Richard J.	February 25, 2023	Affiliation and Years Unknown
Hooper, Bruce Charles	January 21, 2024	Executive Director of Risk and Emergency Management, 2007-2015
Jowers, Tim N.	April 20, 2024	Affiliation and Years Unknown
Kassel, Mary Frances	February 1, 2024	Student Class Registration/Years Unknown
Lacy, Lee M.	April 26, 2024	Mathematics Adjunct Faculty/1987-2014
Manering, Samantha B.	May 4, 2024	Affiliation and Years Unknown
Metha, Dr. Arlene	February 25, 2024	Women’s Studies/1972-1997
Murphy, Candice Joy (nee Ames)	March 27, 2024	Affiliation and Years Unknown
Palacino, Janet	January 29, 2024	Facilities Management/Unknown-2015
Petronio, Sandra	April 20, 2024	Communication/Years Unknown
Pico, Shirley Ann	February 5, 2024	Administrative Assistant, Department/Years Unknown
Rendon, Juan Apolinar	February 10, 2024	Mail Clerk/Years Unknown
Saelens, Dr. Patricia M. “Trish”	February 9, 2024	Education/Years Unknown
Selby III, Dr. Riley (Tead) Halstead	February 5, 2024	ASU ROTC Rifle Cleaner and Records Clerk/Years Unknown
Stage, Dr. Sarah Jane	February 14, 2024	American Studies and Women’s Studies/Years Unknown
Warne, Beverly “Bev” Stabber	April 14, 2024	College of Nursing/Years Unknown
Wheeler, Lanah M.	April 29, 2024	Affiliation and Years Unknown
White, Joni A.	March 16, 2024	Accounting Department/Years Unknown
Widmann, Steve Rall	February 14, 2024	Walter Cronkite School of Journalism/Years Unknown
Woolsey, Bruce Neal	March 6, 2024	Carpenter Physical Plant/Unknown-2005

Wild Apricot Mobile App for Members

Wild Apricot has a mobile app for both Android and iOS mobile devices. There are a number of things you can do with the app, for example:

- See a list of upcoming events and register for them.
- View the details of events you've registered for, and
- Find other members and contact them.

You can download and install the app (Wild Apricot for Members) from the Google Play store or the Mac App store.

Prime Times is issued three times annually by the Arizona State University Retirees Association and offers special editions, as needed. It is compiled and published by Jeannette Robson, printed by AlphaGraphics, and mailed through ASU Mail Services. Articles are always welcome, subject to Board approval.

Mailing Address: Prime Times, ASU Retirees Association, PO Box 873308, Tempe, AZ 85287-3308

Arizona State University Retirees Association: ASURA has a volunteer-staffed office in the Community Services Building, 200 E. Curry Rd., Room 201B, Tempe, Arizona. Office hours are 10:00am-1:00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (closed Monday and Friday).

Phone: (480) 965-7668

Website: <https://asura.asu.edu>