



Minutes of the

ANNUAL MEETING^[1]_[SEP]

Arizona State University Retirees Association

April 24, 2018, 11:30am - 2:15pm

Prior to the beginning of the formal meeting, members in attendance enjoyed time for casual conversation and lunch.

Welcome Remarks and Association Overview – Jeri Meeks

The meeting was formally opened at 12:04 p.m. by President Meeks welcoming guests. She also recognized and thanked the Board members, committee and sub-committee chairs, and office staff volunteers. During opening remarks, President Meeks noted that she had completed a Masters degree in Liberal Studies with Masters Certificate in Museum Studies and an overriding theme of finding happiness. Contributing to a feeling of happiness are health, diet, and sustainability – spending time with others, developing relationships, cultivating a social network of healthy, happy friends who care about you, and finding pleasure, purpose and pride. One way to achieve a feeling of wellbeing and happiness is to volunteer.

Pursuing Our Passions Makes for Happy, Healthy Lives. Presenters were Nancy White from the Desert Botanical Gardens, Will Russell from the Arizona Site Steward Program and Kaela Hoskings from the Phoenix Art Museum.

President Meeks introduced the 3 speakers: Nancy White from the Desert Botanical Gardens, Kaela Saenz Oriti Hoskings from the Phoenix Art Museum, and Will Russell from the Arizona Site Stewards Program.

Ms. White is the Program Director for Volunteer Services at the Desert Botanical Garden. In this position she is responsible for recruiting, training and overseeing the activities of 700 volunteers. She is certified in Nonprofit Management, a certified trainer for the National Association of Interpretation, a Master Gardener, has a passion for environmental education and has been a volunteer all her life. Professionally, Ms. White has served as Executive Director of a Girl Scout Council in Ohio and, in Arizona, has worked for United Way and served as Director of Fund Development at Hospice of the Valley.

Ms. Hoskings is the Gerry Grout Education Director at the Phoenix Art Museum. Prior to joining the Phoenix Art Museum, she served as the Director of Education at Artspace San Antonio for 5 years, the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas, Austin, the Modern Art Museum of Fort worth, and the Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin. In 2014, Ms. Hoskings was awarded the Outstanding Art Educator, Museum Education Division of the Texas Art Education Association. She is a lifelong member of the Girl Scouts and currently serves as a fund developer for the World Foundation of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Dr. Russell is the Cultural Resources Manager, State Parks archaeologist and tribal liaison for the Arizona State Parks and Trails and recently served as the Director of the Arizona Site Stewards Program. Dr. Russell has worked in Southwestern archaeology for over a decade. His research, focused on the Mimbres region of southwestern New Mexico and the Perry Mesa region in Central Arizona, examines the early development of social inequality through the lens of ritual practice.

The Phoenix Art Museum: Brian Eno is quoted as saying, “stop thinking about art works as objects and start thinking about them as triggers for experiences.” With that in mind. Ms. Hoskings noted that the Phoenix Art Museum is moving in a new direction, wanting to reflect the community, to be full of life and experiences for its guests. The target audiences are families, teens, millennials, and seniors. To more successfully reach these target audiences, the museum has diversified programs and taken an interdisciplinary approach with non-traditional formats including performances, workshops, and more. Families are being defined as what

we individually identify as our family versus the traditional 2 adults/2 kids unit. Teens: a Teen Art Council has been created to develop programs that interest teens, i.e. a poetry night where teens wrote and read their poems before their peers. Millennials: paid internships available; hiring education specialists who are hosting faculty nights to teach teachers about what's going on and how to build art into their programs. Seniors: arts engagement programs and an Alzheimer program featuring a tactile learning experience. There is a monthly coffee and donut seminar, senior prom night the first Friday of each month with live music, and a mindfulness and slow art program. Ms. Hoskings also talked about the Lemon Art Research Library, the largest art library in the Southwest. With its outstanding special collections, it is a beautiful place to come and learn about art. Currently there are 150 docents who conduct tours on site and do community outreach, as well as community volunteers. The Phoenix Art Museum is always looking for docents and community volunteers and will work around your schedule. Ms. Hoskings invited the audience to consider volunteer opportunities at the Museum.

Arizona Site Steward Program: Dr. Russell noted that the Site Steward Program is charged with preserving and protecting Arizona's cultural resources. The program started in 1986 when Bruce Babbitt, then Governor of Arizona, recognized the need to protect Arizona's cultural resources. The Mission of the program is: 1) Site monitoring. Volunteers are assigned sites to monitor - the most endangered - site visitation, evidence collection and recording; and reporting to land management and law enforcement; 2) Education and outreach; 3) Site mitigation and stabilization; 4) Program operation and support.

Mission #1: Site monitoring is to discourage damage to sites and to assist law enforcement when looting of burial sites is discovered. There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities including administrative tasks, rafting and/or hiking trips to check on sites, etc. Crime scene management is an important part of what the program does where looting occurs. Volunteers are trained in the proper way to collect evidence, photograph boot and tire prints, etc. and have played an important role in catching some of the criminals. Desecration of burial sites is a federal offense.

Mission #2: Volunteers are also active in education and outreach programs for kids K-12 to teach respect, and to mountain biking and hiking groups on what to be mindful of when out in the wilderness.

Mission #3: Mitigation and stabilization – working with various groups to bring back sites to their original condition.

Mission #4: Program operation and support – working with various private, state, and federal agencies and organizations.

This program is recognized around the world and several programs across the country have been modeled after it. Volunteers develop life-long friendships and are passionate about archaeology and about giving back to future generations. 90% of the Arizona Site Steward Program are retirees. Dr. Wills invited the audience to consider this volunteer opportunity.

The Desert Botanical Garden:

Ms. White punned that the Desert Botanical Garden has grown healthy and happy volunteers for more than 70 years. Currently there are 800 volunteers who provide 65,000 hours of time, serving in 19 assignments.

The Mission of the Garden reads: “The Garden’s commitment to the community is to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world with emphasis on the Southwestern United States. We will ensure that the Garden is always a compelling attraction that brings to life the many wonders of the desert.”

Volunteer opportunities abound in all areas of the Garden, including research and conservation, education, the herbarium, children’s education, interaction with visitors, school tours, selling memberships, conservation, taking care of visiting art exhibitions, photography, and more.

Tools for happy volunteers include: clear expectations, matching the volunteer with their passion/interest; training to fit the job, from explicit to on-the-job; clear communication on a weekly basis using an online system; used in all phases of strategic planning; continuing education; reward and recognition programs.

Ms. White talked about the camaraderie that develops as volunteers from all age groups work together. As 80% of Garden volunteers are retirees, she extended the invitation to the audience to consider joining the fun at the Garden.

Lively conversation followed the presentations with a Q&A period.

Remarks by Scholarship Recipient Stephanie Watson

Scholarship Committee Chair Joy Sherman thanked the organization for making the scholarship possible and the members of the Scholarship Committee for their good work. She then introduced this year's recipient, Stephani Renee Watson.

Ms. Watson again thanked the organization for the scholarship and the opportunity it afforded her to attend ASU. Raised in Folsom, California, and a member of the Choctaw Indian Tribe, she earned AA degrees while working in the corporate realm in her native California before transferring to ASU as a junior. Ms. Watson noted that the scholarship had been a source of motivation to keep going. She will graduate with honors this May with dual degrees - a B.S. in Political Science and a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies. Inducted into many honor societies for her high marks, she displayed many of the cords that she will wear at commencement. She also shared that she has been accepted into the ASU College of Law.

Video History Project Interview Clips

Project Committee Chair Dave Scheatzle introduced the committee members and thanked them for their work. He then noted that the Video History Project began as an effort to record the history of ASU's development through the people who were part of it and has continued that process. He showed clips from recent interviews with Barry Bruns, Richard Peck, Walter Harris, Madelyn Wright, Brent Brown, and Clyde Parker.

Handing over Leadership and Introduction of New Board Members and Officers for the 2018-2019 Term

President Meeks thanked outgoing Board members, Barry Bruns, Bev Buddee, Connie McNeill, Larry Mankin, and Bob Francis. She then welcomed new Board members Jean Duncan, Jeffrey Chapman, Jo Faldtz, Jo Madonna, and Jan Thompson. President Meeks then introduced incoming President Tara Fuches Roesler and turned the meeting over to her.

President Roesler thanked outgoing President Meeks for her work over the last 2 years and presented her with a token of her appreciation. President Roesler welcomed the new Board members and introduced the incoming slate of officers: Jan Thompson, Vice president; Bill Moor, Treasurer, Patricia Schneider, Secretary; and Jeri Meeks, Past President.

Closing Remarks by President Tara Roesler

President Roesler thanked committee and sub-committee chairs for their past work and continuing service. She noted that good things are planned over the next year. While most of the committee chair positions are filled, there are a couple of opportunities to serve. In particular, President Roesler said she is looking for a fund raising chairman with the goal of generating enough funds to guarantee the ASURA scholarship in perpetuity. She reminded attendees that the ASU Retirees Association was established because of the need to lobby on behalf of retirees and retiree benefits with health insurance a big component. As such, there is a need for an individual to serve as the ASRS legislative liaison. There is also an opening for a liaison for the University Club. Other goals for the upcoming term are growth in membership and establishing a mentorship program for new retirees to be paired with “old” retirees, the goals of which are to get and retain more members and increase new member participation in the organization.

President Roesler thanked the audience for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.