



# Annual Report from the Board 2016-2017



2016 Meet and Greet Pizza Party

This report is for distribution at the Annual Meeting  
April 1, 2017, 11:30 a.m.  
ASU Tempe Campus, Memorial Union Alumni Lounge

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## ASURA BOARD AND OFFICERS

### 2016-2017 (outgoing)

#### Officers

Jeri Meeks, President  
Jim Fordemwalt, Past President  
Tara Fuchs Roesler, Vice President  
Bev Buddee, Secretary  
Barry Bruns, Treasurer

#### Board Members (term expires)

Anthony Brazel (4/2019)  
Barry Bruns (4/2018)  
Bev Buddee (4/2018)  
Jay Q. Butler (4/2019)  
Larry Carlson (4/2017)  
Joyce Hartman Diaz (4/2017)  
Jim Fordemwalt (4/2016 + yr as past Pres)  
Bob Francis (4/2018)  
Larry Mankin (4/2018)  
Barry McNeill (4/2017)  
Jeri Meeks (4/2019)  
Trudy Perez (4/2017)  
Jeannette Robson (4/2017)  
Tara Roesler (4/2019)  
David Schwalm (4/2019)  
Barbara White resigned 9/2016 replaced by  
Connie McNeill (4/2018)

#### Ex-officio Members

Judith Cato, Human Resources  
Jim Fordemwalt, University Club  
Don Nilsen, Emeritus College  
Rhonda McClintock, Alumni Assoc.  
Chuck Elliot, University Senate  
Abby Polito, University Affairs  
Katie Aguilar, University Staff Council

### 2017-2018 (incoming)

#### Officers

Jeri Meeks, President  
Past President - Vacant  
Tara Fuchs Roesler, Vice President  
Betty Landon, Secretary  
Bill Moor, Treasurer

#### Board Members (term expires)

Anthony Brazel (4/2019)  
Barry Bruns (4/2018)  
Bev Buddee (4/2018)  
Jay Q. Butler (4/2019)  
Bob Francis (4/2018)  
Betty Landon (4/2020)  
Larry Mankin (4/2018)  
Connie McNeill (4/2018)  
Jeri Meeks (4/2019)  
Bill Moor (4/2020)  
Don Nilsen (4/2020)  
Kathleen Renshaw (4/2020)  
Tara Roesler (4/2019)  
Pat Schneider (4/2020)  
David Schwalm (4/2019)

#### Ex-officio Members

Judith Cato, Human Resources  
Jim Fordemwalt, University Club  
Don Nilsen, Emeritus College  
Rhonda McClintock, Alumni Assoc.  
TBD, University Senate  
Abby Polito, University Affairs  
Katie Aguilar, University Staff Council

## ASURA OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As this year's ASURA President I am pleased to present the 2016-2017 Annual Report. As I collated the data I couldn't help but be impressed with the investment of volunteer time and talent that resulted in this year's outstanding programs, seminars and events. As you review this document I believe you will share my appreciation for what our members have accomplished through their individual efforts and within their chosen committees.

In response to member requests, this year's activities were focused on health and well-being. Our seminars concentrated on health initiatives such as nutrition, physical therapy and living well with hearing loss. We coordinated informational sessions on Medicare 101 and Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) and Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) open enrollment options for Medicare eligible retirees. In line with this focus our Annual Meeting presentation speaks to a university-based retirement community opportunity intended for ASU faculty and staff retirees and located close to the university and downtown Tempe.

Our Government and Health Insurance Liaisons continue to do the herculean job of tracking and reporting on legislative bills and insurance plan changes that could affect retirees. This year ABOR continues to innovate its health care and retirement plan options while the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) is taking legislative action to protect its investment pool. In addition, the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs could be affected by the new President's policies. There's a lot to watch and we appreciate their efforts

We are encouraged by a stable membership and continue to look for ways to reach more retirees and attract them to our organization. This year we changed our new member policy, automatically inducting new ASU retirees into the organization. Our Luncheon and Special Events Committee outdid themselves with parties, luncheons and potlucks – creating wonderful networking opportunities for our community. Our Travel Committee continues to offer outstanding international, statewide and local trips. ASURA representatives provided an information table at all four ASU Staff Appreciation BBQ days and ASU Capital day, increasing our organization's visibility and accessibility. Our website continues to evolve, offering comprehensive organizational information as well as links to relevant resources and affiliated organizations. The *Prime Times* newsletter keeps everyone current on ASURA happenings and our *E-News* blasts provide our membership with timely relevant news and opportunities for involvement.

comprehensive organizational information as well as links to relevant resources and affiliated organizations. The *Prime Times* newsletter keeps everyone current on ASURA happenings and our *E-News* blasts provide our membership with timely relevant news and opportunities for involvement.

This year we changed our meeting day from Wednesday to Tuesday to facilitate board member's busy schedules. We were pleased to complete our current year Board with the mid-term appointment of Connie McNeill. Ex-Officio Board Liaison positions were filled by Emeritus College representative Don Nilsen and Chuck Elliott from the University Senate. In addition, we welcome 2017-18 board members Betty Landon, Bill Moor, Don L. F. Nilsen, Kathleen Renshaw and Pat Schneider.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee, Board members, Committee and Sub Committee Chairs and Ex-Officio members for their service this year. I am pleased to be counted among this intelligent and fun group of active volunteers. If you'd like to join us there are many volunteer opportunities and we would love to have you - please contact me at [jeri.meeks@asu.edu](mailto:jeri.meeks@asu.edu) to get started!

Jeri Meeks  
ASURA President  
e-mail: [jeri.meeks@asu.edu](mailto:jeri.meeks@asu.edu)

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

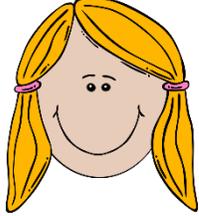
Submitted by Linda Van Scoy and Nancy Lesko

ASURA is fortunate to have an amazing staff of volunteers who keep our organization running smoothly. At this time we have 7 regular staff and 4 substitute volunteers who handle the day to day office operations. The staff work closely with our Business Manager, Carolyn Minner, who insures business transactions are handled through the ASU Foundation. Carolyn takes care of all purchasing and ASURA mailings, and maintains the membership data base.

Staff duties include greeting the public in person and on the phone, assisting board members and committee chairs with scheduling meetings, reserving rooms, handling event registrations, overseeing the book donations and pick up, and processing membership renewals and payments. The office staff is regularly called upon to direct retirees to proper sources of information within ASU and to outside agencies, when appropriate.

Our office hours are 9-12 and 1-4 Monday through Thursday, CLOSED Fridays. At this time we have the office covered for all shifts except Monday mornings. We hope to have that filled soon, so if you are interested in this time slot please let us know. Or you can also sign up to be a substitute to cover for regular volunteers when needed.

Below is a pictorial listing of our hard-working volunteers:

 Mena Bell Monday Afternoon	 Bev Buddee Wed. Afternoon	 Maxine LaRoux substitute	 Joan Leard substitute	 Nancy Lesko Tuesday Morning
 Dorothy Meunier substitute	 Carolyn Minner Business Manager	 Jeannette Robson Monday afternoon	 Tara Roesler Wed. Morning	 Bonnie Scheall Thursday morning
 Helen Seaton substitute	 Linda Whatley Thursday Afternoon	 Linda Van Scoy Tuesday Afternoons	 This Could Be YOU - Volunteer	

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Community Outreach Committee identifies and promotes opportunities for members to donate or volunteer resources to better our community. It also oversees outreach programs designated by the Board. The committee currently oversees three projects and coordinates with and supports activities of two other ASU organizations. The projects are: Adopt-a-Family, Video History Project, and Scholarship. The organizations with whom we coordinate are the Emeritus College and the University Club. Reports from the chairs of these outreach efforts follow.

### Adopt-a-Family Program



The ASURA board has budgeted funds for the Adopt-A-Family program again this year. As usual we have adopted a family chosen by a Tempe School System social worker and a family chosen from ASU returning students.

The Tempe family is a mother with boys 12 and 14 and the ASU family a mother studying Native American Law in the law school with children ages 11, 7, 4 and 2.

With the appropriated funds we were able to buy clothing, school supplies, toys, food cards for holiday meals and other items as requested.

Unusual this year was a request for a desk top computer for the boys 12 & 14 so they can do their homework. We were able to fulfill this wish for a very grateful mother who requested nothing for herself.

I never meet these families; but, receive many thanks from the social worker and ASU employee that distribute the gifts. I am told over and over again that our effort makes a difference in the lives we touch.

Joan R Leard  
ASURA Adopt-A-Family Chair  
e-mail: [joan.leard@gmail.com](mailto:joan.leard@gmail.com)

### Video History Project



**Interview Progress:** To date, the Video History Project has completed 120 interviews, 72 of which have been done in house. Interviews done since the last Annual Report are: Sherrie Schmidt, Mort Munk, Gary Kleeman, Mary Rothchild, Winifred Doane, and Herman Frazier. Those who have been interviewed are listed on the ASURA Website <https://asura.asu.edu/videohistoryinterviews> under Projects/Video History.

**Video History Website:** We have added video clips to the ASURA web site since last year, for a total of 95 clips.

**Donations:** We are very happy to have received \$520 in donations for the Video History Project, reported in the 2/28/17 financial report.

**Library Repository.** We continue to transfer our edited video files to the ASU Library Repository. During this period, fifteen interviews have been added to the Library's server. These new interviews are: Doug Anderson, Mathew Betz, Ella Mae Branstetter, Brent Brown, Barbara Eschbach, Eugene Grigsby, Dan Jankowski, Gerry McSheffrey, Robert Oliver, Clyde Parker, Richard Peck, Val Peterson, Gale Richards, Dean Smith, Lou Weschler and Bobby Winkles. To access these videos, you need to go to the following address on your web browser: <https://repository.asu.edu/collections/199>. In the upper right hand corner of that page, there is a "sign in." Do this, using your ASURITE account and password. If you don't use your ASURITE account and password, all the available interviews will not be visible/viewable. Click on the person's name whose interview you want to view. A new page will open showing that person's name in red. Click on the "download" selection.

**Selection Committee:** Because we had an active list of 28 names from our 2016 selection committee meeting, we did not convene a selection committee this past year. Becky Reiss diligently pursued and persisted in scheduling these persons for interview.

**The Video Crew:** The video crew volunteers their time as well as our scheduler (Becky) to conduct and edit the interviews and the success of the Video History Project rests on their shoulders. Thanks, goes to Linda Van Scoy, Roger Carter, John McIntosh, Becky Reiss and me. We also receive technical support from Connie McNeill and administrative support from Carolyn Minner.

Dave Scheatzle,  
ASURA Video History Project Chair  
e-mail: [scheatzle@asu.edu](mailto:scheatzle@asu.edu)

### Scholarship Committee



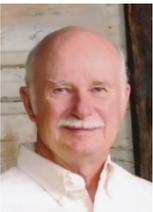
Sue Blumer and Joy Shearman are co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee. The committee, meeting in April, 2016, selected Marcene Hoover-Bennett as the recipient of the 2016-17 scholarship. Ms. Hoover-Bennett is a Native American from the Many Goats clan of the Navajo tribe, with three children, who plans to attend law school for Indian and Environmental Law after completing her undergraduate degree.

Serving on the committee allows members to participate in the lives of current students in all of our campuses and to see what unusual and diverse life stories these students bring to the university. Since they are reentry students, these students face extra challenges in completing their undergraduate degrees and graduate studies. Thus, our scholarship is a powerful means to help one student at a time. The scholarship, funded by contributions from our members for that purpose, from book sales, from earnings on the scholarship endowment fund, and from the operations budget, will provide \$5,000 for the next academic year.

Scholarship Committee members review the applications each year and take their jobs seriously. Their comments noted how well-qualified many of the applicants are. Their diverse interests and background, their outstanding academic and community achievements, and their academic and professional goals exemplify ASURA scholarship history. The ASURA scholarship program provides outreach across ASU's campuses and colleges.

Sue Blumer  
ASURA Scholarship Committee Co-Chair  
e-mail: [sueblu@asu.edu](mailto:sueblu@asu.edu)

### EVENTS COMMITTEE



The Events Committee was chaired by Barry McNeill. The committee is an "umbrella" committee made up of the chairs of the various event subcommittees and its purpose is to provide for the coordination of dates and activities between these subcommittees. These committees and the chairs are: Travel – John Brock; Seminars – Bev Buddee; Luncheons and Special Events – Joyce Hartman Diaz; Pre-retirement Seminar – Trudy Perez.

#### Coordination of Calendar of Events

During the late spring of 2015, the various committee chairs were asked to determine a tentative schedule for the events that the committees planned to offer during 2016-2017. The committees were asked to spread the events throughout the year and to keep in mind the already established dates for some events, such as the Meet & Greet and Annual Meeting. The Events Committee chair reviewed the dates and plans in order to identify and resolve possible scheduling conflicts. This information was shared with the various committee chairs and the activity calendar of activities was established.

### **Promotion of Events**

Seventy-nine percent of our members requested and received e-mail notifications for all ASURA organized events. All events were published on the ASURA events website and any member with an internet connection could register online by visiting this website. Further, past events stories are available on the ASURA website. We continued to advertise activities not organized by ASURA but which might be of interest to our members, e.g., Emeritus College Colloquia.

For the twenty-one percent of our members who do not want or cannot receive e-mail event notification an upcoming calendar of activities was published in each issue of *Prime Times*. In addition to the calendar *Prime Times* carried past event stories and promotional material for upcoming events.

Barry McNeill  
ASURA Events Committee Chair  
[barry\\_mcneill@cox.net](mailto:barry_mcneill@cox.net)

### **Luncheons and Special Events**



The Luncheon and Special Events Committee put on four events this past year. The committee is chaired by Joyce Hartman Diaz with Beth Fordenwalt and Gretchen Hirni as the other members.

#### **September 14, 2016 Meet and Greet Pizza Party**

The annual meet and greet event was held in mid-September, allowing the board an opportunity to meet [and greet] new and returning members. The event began with a panel of retirees; each told their work experiences. One panelist worked and retired, one retired and then worked part time as a retiree, and one retired and returned to full time work. Each discussed lessons learned as retirees. This was followed by a Q&A session, and then culminated with pizza and social time. The new board and committee chair members were then introduced. Various committee chairs had an opportunity to speak about their plans for the upcoming year. About 50 members, current and new, attended.

#### **October 11, 2016 Fall Luncheon**

The Fall luncheon was held at the Karsten Golf Course. Fifty-four retirees and guests enjoyed a sit down luncheon and remarks by our own 'Wallace and Ladmo Show' personality, Pat McMahon. In addition to acting in the more than 100 characters on the show, Pat is also well known as a writer, broadcaster, and [we learned] a recording artist. Among his many accolades, he has earned the Arizona Broadcasters Lifetime Achievement Award. He was an extremely engaging speaker, and left us wanting more.

#### **December 16, 2016 Holiday Potluck**

Forty-five ASU retirees and guests attended the annual ASURA Holiday Potluck. Guests brought a large variety of delicious holiday food and treats. This annual event consistently includes delightful food, and quite a bit of socializing-- enjoyed by all. Our annual bake sale netted \$164.06 for the association. The goodies on the bake sale table disappeared way too fast, hopefully next year more members will bring treats for the sale, so no one leaves disappointed. Thanks to all those Christmas Elves who helped with the set-up and clean-up. This annual event offers a chance to break bread, relax, and socialize away from a hectic and somewhat stressful December duties.

#### **Spring Luncheon, 2017**

Our Spring Luncheon is anticipated to be on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Shalimar Golf Resort. Our speaker will be Marshall Trimble, AZ Official State Historian. More on this event by mid-April.

Joyce Hartman Diaz  
ASURA Luncheons and Special Events Committee Chair  
e-mail: [joyceh\\_diaz@hotmail.com](mailto:joyceh_diaz@hotmail.com)

## Seminars



Six seminars were presented this year by the Seminar Committee, co-chaired by Beverly Buddee and Trudy Perez. Committee members were Jay Q. Butler and Ruth Jones.

### **September 14, 2016**

#### **Things I Wish I Had Known When I Retired**

This panel discussion for recently retired members on lessons learned during the retirement process was led by Joy Sherman, with significant contributions by Larry Carlson and Bonnie Scheall. The session was held in conjunction with the annual Meet & Greet Pizza Party.

### **October 20, 2016 – 63 attendees**

#### **Health Care Seminar: Medicare-ADOA-ASRS Open Enrollment**

Mark Granoff, AARP Community Educator Program Volunteer, presented overviews of Medicare, Medicare Advantage and supplemental plans, and prescription drug plans with clarity, enthusiasm, and good humor. Open enrollment managers Elizabeth Shaefer, ADOA, and Julie Lockwood, ASRS, presented information on their respective plans and addressed attendees' questions.

### **January 19, 2017 – 21 attendees**

#### **Nutrition and Physical Therapy**

ASU Professor Emerita Linda Vaughan, retired Director of the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion, presented a very informative talk entitled "Nutrition to Optimize Health, Now and in the Future." Professor Vaughan covered a number of topics including theories of aging, age related changes to the body, nutrition guidelines as you age, some common health problems, and finished with a discussion of "Best" dietary Patterns for Long Term Health. Noah Arenson, a Physical Therapist and partner in Contact Physical Therapy, was our second speaker. Mr. Arenson briefly discussed types of rehabilitation environments and specialty areas of physical therapy. He also discussed the goal of physical therapy which is to diagnose, manage, and treats disorders and injuries of the musculoskeletal system. Physical Therapists not only treat patients with a variety of methods in the clinic setting, but also send the patients home with exercise programs to continue their progress to good health and wellbeing.

### **February 9, 2017 – 42 attendees**

#### **Living Well with Hearing Loss**

Dr. Kathryn Wexler, Clinical Associate Professor at the ASU Audiology Clinic, spoke about the 4 types of hearing loss and some common causes for hearing loss. She then educated the audience on hearing testing, the process, the audiogram (test results), and what it all means. The presentation then moved to hearing aid devices and finally to some "tools" available to both the hearing impaired and those communicating with the hearing impaired to maximize their communication skills. Dr. Wexler's presentation is available on the ASURA web page on past ASURA events.

### **March 9, 2017 – 35 anticipated attendees**

#### **Medicare 101**

This presentation features speakers from the Area Agency on Aging, SHIP Benefits Assistance Program and the Social Security Administration. This seminar will provide important information on the types of plans and coverage of Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medigap insurance plans, and other public and private health insurance coverage options. It will also speak to pitfalls in coverage of which individuals should be aware.

### **April 6, 2017 – future seminar**

#### **Senior Living Options Seminar**

The interesting and highly informative seminar on "Living Options for Seniors" will feature Martha Batista and Stephen Chung, professionals with a senior living and care referrals company, who will present information on options ranging from independent living to skilled nursing facilities, and everything in between. Their

presentation includes detailed descriptions of each category, comparisons, cost ranges, and tips on how to choose what's right for the individuals.

Beverly Buddee  
Seminar Committee Co-Chair  
e-mail: [buddee@asu.edu](mailto:buddee@asu.edu)

## Travel



The Travel Committee has been fairly busy planning and carrying out local, regional, national and international events. Last spring, in early April, 24 ASU RA members and guests toured Tovrea Castle and then enjoyed lunch at the Stockyards Steakhouse. In late November 2016, twenty-two members enjoyed a buffet dinner and the rock 'n roll music of the "Rhythm Cats". The first weekend of December, ASU RA members had the opportunity to attend the Phoenicians barbershop chorus Christmas show at Skyline High School in Mesa.

Upcoming is a local tour of Tovrea Castle on Saturday, April 8, 2017. A British Isles trip in September 2017 is nearly filled. Planning for a lunch and tour at Wrigley Mansion has been postponed to the fall or winter of 2017/2018, as is the trip to SE Arizona. We are planning an international trip to Chile and Argentina, with the Patagonia region being the area of interest, for March 2018. Information meetings promoting that trip will begin in April. Our committee will continue the monthly meetings and carry on searching for activities that draw participation from ASU RA members.

John Brock  
ASURA Travel Committee Chair  
e-mail: [john.brock@asu.edu](mailto:john.brock@asu.edu)

## FINANCE COMMITTEE



The members of the 2016-2017 Finance Committee were Barry Bruns - chair, Connie Mc Neill, Carolyn Minner, Bill Moor, and Jerry Snyder.

At the December Board meeting the committee presented the results of its annual review of expenditures. The committee found that revenues and expenditures were reasonable and consistent with the budget and in agreement with applicable ASU Foundation records. The full report is included with the December minutes.

In January, 2016, the Board suspended its \$10,000 scholarship for 2017 and years thereafter until the financial health of the Association improved. Given near break-even financial results for FY 2016 due to certain expenses having been prepaid in the prior year but still an extremely tight long-term financial situation for the Association, not supporting a \$10,000 scholarship for the foreseeable future, the Committee recommended that a \$5,000 scholarship be made available for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. The Board approved this recommendation at the December Board meeting with the stipulation that the ability to offer this scholarship be evaluated each year, based on the previous year's financial performance.

Barry Bruns  
ASURA Finance Committee Chair  
e-mail: [bruns@asu.edu](mailto:bruns@asu.edu)

**Book Sale**



In 2011, the ASU Foundation/ASURA entered into an agreement with a local non-profit organization, Friends of the Phoenix Public Library (“Friends”). Per the agreement, Friends sell books donated by our members, other ASU retirees and anyone else who wishes to donate. Friends sells the donated books on-line, retains a 15% commission and splits the sales proceeds with ASURA every quarter. Friends started selling ASURA-donated books in July 2011. Donors deliver their books to the ASURA office and sign a gift donation form, which is forwarded to the ASU Foundation. The Foundation sends each donor a gift receipt/ thank-you letter.

When he was the Chair of the ASURA Membership Chair, Elmer Gooding made an arrangement with the ASU Human Resources Department to have a representative of ASURA attend meetings of ASU employees who are retiring within a few months. During the meetings, attendees receive information about the donated book sales program and a form to complete if they have books to donate. Mary Stevens is the ASURA contact for donors to arrange for receipt of their books. In 2014, Linda Van Scoy arranged for the use of the Community Services Building room 257 as a storage room for donations. Board member and office volunteer, Jeannette Robson, arranged with Alpha Graphics to provide free, empty boxes to ASURA for our books. Jeannette picks up and delivers the empty boxes to the storeroom regularly.

In 2013, the Board approved Connie McNeill’s suggestion to enclose a book donation form with new and renewal applications to notify more people about the program.

With Business Manager Carolyn Minner’s able assistance, the proceeds realized for each fiscal year since the Program began are: (rounded)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
7-12-2011	\$72
2012	\$1,092
2013	\$468
2014	\$718
2015	\$1,486
2016	\$1,297
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,105</b>

Proceeds from book sales are transferred to the ASURA Special Projects account and are used to support ASURA’s annual scholarship and the Living History Video Project.

Many thanks to Connie McNeill, Carolyn Minner, Linda Van Scoy and Jeannette Robsen for their continuing assistance with the program.

Mary Stevens  
ASURA Book Donations Chair  
e-mail: [marystevens0@gmail.com](mailto:marystevens0@gmail.com)

## GOVERNMENT LIAISONS

The Government Liaison Committee acts as an agent of the Board to provide advocacy in relation to the Arizona State Legislature, the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and such other agencies as the Board may designate. Per the ASURA Bylaws, the Committee is charged to exert influence on targeted agencies as approved by the ASURA Board and in consultation with the Arizona State University Retirees Association (ASURA) Officers.

### Legislative Liaison Committee



Government Liaisons Jeri Meeks, Tara Roesler and Larry Carlson worked collaboratively with stakeholders to keep our membership informed of any potential changes to their retirement programs and/or insurance options. Together they attended ASRS External Affairs committee meetings, Arizona Educator Association – Retired seminars and ASU’s Capital Day. This fall we met with ASU Government Liaison Steve

Miller to talk about ASU’s priorities for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Season. Also, ASURA Lobbyists Tara and Jeri took a tour of the Capital House and Senate buildings and signed up for the new Arizona Legislator Request to Speak and Bill Position online system.

We were pleased to coordinate the Tri-University Retirees Association meeting again this year, reconnecting with University of Arizona Retirees Association (UARA) and Northern Arizona University Retirees Association (NAURA) colleagues. This year’s conversations included retiree association organizational structure, university support and recruitment strategies as well as Arizona Board of Regent’s (ABOR) legislative priorities. With health insurance plans on the table again this year NAURA spoke about their non-Arizona Department of Administration program; although a very good plan it is no better or less expensive than the state negotiated employee health care contract. The meeting ended with a wonderful lunch, a promise to keep in touch and an agreement to meet again next year.

The ASURA Government Liaison team started the year at ASU’s Capital Day where Dr. Crow laid out ASU’s and ABOR’s legislative priorities for the year. As always the state budget was at the top of the list; the Enterprise (comprised of ABOR, ASU, UA, NAU) was very pleased with the states adoption of the proposed per-resident-student funding model last year. This year’s fiscal push is to increase state funding for resident-student education costs to 50% of actual, using a three year “phase in” program. The second initiative addressed university employee health care plans and a strategically planned transition from the state health benefits plan to a tri-university health insurance plan or individual plans for each university. ABOR also proposed employee benefits eligibility at 30 hours per week, instead of the state mandated 20 hours per week, in line with federal regulations. NOTE: the US Department of Labor does not set a minimum hour limit for employee benefits eligibility – ABOR is referencing the Bureau of Labor Statistics who collects national employment/unemployment data and lists those who work 30 or less as part time. The last ABOR initiative is to consolidate ASU Campus budgets (ASU Tempe, Downtown, ASU East and ASU West).

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Season started in January 2017 and our Government Liaisons went “on the hunt” for bills related to retirees. ABOR’s initiative to separate the universities from the state health care system was unrealized in this year’s bills. ASU’s request to combine all ASU Campus budgets, HB2311, has passed House and is in Senate. There is also ASRS sponsored legislation, SB1178, focused on mitigating employer withdrawal from the Arizona State Retirement System, with benchmarks that would indicate non-participation in the program and funding solutions for employer retirees moving forward. I feel sure this is in response to the university’s promotion of Optional Retirement Plans (ORP) for new employees this past year. The Governor’s 2018 budget supports the university with several pots of money; in addition to the general state allocation it redirects certain state privilege tax revenues to the universities for infrastructure debts and also contains for an additional state appropriation of \$155,000 to ASU for increased retirement costs. At this writing the 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session is still open and bills are working their way through committees.

Also, ASU Human Resources met with the ASURA Board to present information on ASU's planned adjustments to the current Fidelity and TIAA Optional Retirement Programs and 403B plans. Captrust presented information on retirement program freezes and migrations to be rolled out November 2017 and implanted Spring 2018. The presentation and Q&A was focused on how these changes will affect retirees.

Lastly we encourage all retirees to keep a mindful eye on the federal health care program moving through the House and the Senate. Please proactively contact your representatives to express your opinions and concerns regarding health care coverage and the proposed deep budget cuts to Medicaid.

A special thank you to Larry Mankin, past government liaison committee member Hal White and the many members of the Board who participated in this year's discussions. Your input is invaluable.

Jeri Meeks

Legislative Liaison Committee Chair and Registered Arizona Lobbyist

e-mail: [jeri.meeks@asu.edu](mailto:jeri.meeks@asu.edu)

Larry Carlson

Legislative Liaison

e-mail: [Lawrence.carlson@asu.edu](mailto:Lawrence.carlson@asu.edu)

Tara Roesler

Legislative Liaison & Registered Lobbyist

e-mail: [troes7718@msn.com](mailto:troes7718@msn.com)

### Health Insurance Liaisons



This Year's Insurance Plan Updates: The Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) reported that response to the five new medical plans with varying degrees of premiums, deductibles and co-pays for non-Medicare eligible members was very good. ASRS extended the open enrollment date for non-Medicare retirees an additional month to allow for customer changes. NOTE: Medicare eligible employees can technically change their elections any month, with changes effective the following month. Also, Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) retirees are eligible for ASRS retiree health insurance plans; university employees who retired with an ORP are eligible to enroll in the ASRS health insurance program as well as continuing with the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) Benefits Options health insurance plans.

ASRS Liaison Larry Carlson attended several ASRS External Affairs **meetings** this year as ASRS looked for ways to quantify the cost of unfunded liabilities from agencies who may no longer participate in the System due to non-enrollment, privatization or bankruptcy. The resulting legislation is ASRS sponsored bill SB1178, focused on mitigating employer withdrawal from the Arizona State Retirement System, with benchmarks that would indicate non-participation in the program and funding solutions for employer retirees moving forward. This legislation, if approved and put into law, will **help keep ASRS contributions from both the employee and employer lower.**

Your Liaisons have been following several bills this legislative session: HB2166 ASRS; return to work, HB2167 ASRS; contributions, HB2168 ASRS; reinstatement, HB2169 state retirement; waiting period, SB1052 ASRS; optional retirement benefits; overpayment, SB1053 ASRS; board powers, SB1178 ASRS; nonparticipating employers along with approximately twenty other K-12 and non-insurance or retirement related ASU Impact bills. At the writing of this article the 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session is still active and these bills are being reviewed in the House and Senate.

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## MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Membership and Communications Committee, chaired by Dave Schwalm is an “umbrella” committee made up of the chairs of five subcommittees. The sub-committees and their chairs are: Membership, Dave Schwalm, E-News, Jo Madonna, Prime Times, Jeannette Robson, Obituaries, Becky Reiss, and Database, Website & Technology, Connie McNeill. Dave Schwalm chaired the committee.

### Membership

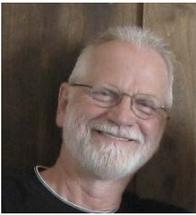


Table 2 at the end of the report gives an overview of membership, comparing this year to last year. Membership increased a bit this year, reaching a high of 569 in March 2017, compared to 539 at the same time in 2016. This increase reflects, to some extent, the early impact of a new policy, enacted at the September 2016 meeting, of automatically enrolling all new retirees for a year of free membership. We will be monitoring the impact of this change, with a focus on the number of these enrollees who renew their membership after the free trial year. The number of our members who made donations in addition to their dues increased significantly this year.

We have continued the practice of attending HR’s pre-retirement sessions throughout the year to introduce retirees to ASURA. Our research has shown this to be an effective recruiting activity. Over the coming year, we will continue to work on increasing the number of members who participate in the various activities we offer. Volunteer organizations of all kinds have, for whatever reasons, been experiencing declines in membership and participation in recent years. In this context, ASURA is doing quite well.

Dave Schwalm  
Membership Committee Chair  
e-mail: [David.Schwalm@asu.edu](mailto:David.Schwalm@asu.edu)

### E-News



E-News is the ASURA Monthly Electronic Newsletter and it is used to keep ASURA members abreast of current items of interest. It is published each month from August through May. The E-News editor is part of the Membership and Communications Committee.

Each month E-News briefly showcases a couple of topics that the Board thinks will be of particular interest to members. Often additional information about these topics can be found by electronically linking to more in-depth material. Also included each month is a list of up-coming ASURA events and events sponsored by other ASU affiliated groups.

Jo Madonna  
E-News Editor  
e-mail: [jomadonna@cox.net](mailto:jomadonna@cox.net)

### **Prime Times Newsletter**



The ASURA newsletter, *Prime Times*, is published three times a year and contains news and photographs about ASURA activities and people as well as information articles of general interest to its members.

ASURA members may not be aware of all the organization's activities and, through the *Prime Times* as well as the ASURA website, are kept updated on the many opportunities allotted its membership:

- Adopt-a-family, Video History, ASURA Scholarship, and Book Donation projects;
- international and regional travel opportunities;
- luncheons, seminars, and workshops; and
- monitoring of activities related to Arizona legislation and the ASRS and ADOA retirement benefits.

Current information on the ASURA board members, committee chairs, and its great office staff is also included in each issue. Articles of past and upcoming activities and events sponsored by the ASURA are special features of the newsletter along with information on upcoming travel and other events for our member's consideration.

Through very informative articles and updates on the various legislative and health insurance/Medicare issues, ASURA Government and Health Insurance Liaison volunteers have done an exceptional job relating what's going on in Arizona and how it pertains to retirees. We always encourage our members to suggest other items of interest they would like to have covered in the *Prime Times*.

The Spring 2017 issue premiered its first "Advertisement" section which will offer home computer services, housing services, living support services, insurance, financial and estate planning services, etc., that will include at least a 5% discount off the total cost for ASURA members.

Past *Prime Times* issues from fall 2010 through spring 2017 are available online at <https://asura.asu.edu/PrimeTimes>. Beginning with the summer 2015 issue, those members who had signed up to receive association e-mail notifications are also being sent the monthly "ASURA E-News" by e-mail that includes an easy link to the on-line **color** version of the *Prime Times* newsletter. Black & white paper copies continue to be mailed through ASU Mail Services.

Jeannette Robson  
*Prime Times* Designer/Editor  
e-mail: [jrobson@asu.edu](mailto:jrobson@asu.edu)

### **Obituaries**



ASURA sends ASU employee edited obituaries by e-mail to those members who have indicated that they wish to receive them. The notices are also posted on the ASURA website and in the next issue of the ASURA newsletter *Prime Times*. Letters of condolence are sent to the deceased member's surviving partner. The ASURA membership rolls over to the surviving partner. Before the condolence letter is sent out the President and Membership Chair are asked if they know the deceased and would like to add something to the letter

Becky Reiss  
Obituary Notifications Coordinator  
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## Database, Website and Technology Equipment Report



Our technology team consists of Barry McNeill and me. We are helped with both our website software and our office and meeting technology by very professional and supportive people from the University Technology Office (the UTO).

### Website

Routine changes to the underlying software used for our website were made by the UTO, and I applied these on a regular basis to keep our site up to date.

Linda Van Scoy maintains the Video History pages, Carolyn Minner the obituaries, Barry McNeill the past events, Bev Buddee the Board meeting minutes, and Barry and I the rest of the pages. Barry and I made some minor changes to instructions that people use because sometimes routine and required updates of the software that we install on our website make things look a little different or operate a little differently.

### Photo Gallery Maintenance

During the year Barry and I added event photos and volunteer portrait-type photos to the ASURA photo gallery, which can be reached from our website. The photos were taken by Elmer Gooding, Dave Scheatzle, Don Nilsen, Barry McNeill and others. We thank all those who send us photos, so we can have this pictorial record of our activities and volunteers. The *Prime Times* designer/editor uses photos from the gallery in preparing each issue, and we use them on our website.

### Membership & Events Database

In January of 2017 we implemented a new Board policy to automatically make all new retirees Introductory members of the ASURA. Introductory memberships are free through June of the year following enrollment. The first group of retirees who were thus automatically enrolled were those who retired in the 4<sup>th</sup> calendar quarter of 2017. Implementation of the policy required changes to our method of importing retirees to our database, to letters sent, to information provided on our website and other publications, instructions to our volunteers who handle membership, etc.

The company that hosts our Membership and Events Database, Wild Apricot, made some upgrades to their software during the year. There are some new features that may be of some value, primarily in handling of events. The changes did require updating the instructions we have written for the volunteers who maintain our records in Wild Apricot: Carolyn Minner, Becky Reiss, some of the office staff, and Barry and I.

### ASU's Conversion to Office 365 and "the cloud"

In early 2017 ASU's UTO moved retiree Exchange/Outlook e-mail accounts from a server owned and operated by ASU to "the cloud" – i.e., servers owned and operated by Microsoft. This required some individuals to make some changes to their desktop and mobile device applications. I worked with the UTO somewhat on the information they disseminated to retirees and I also notified our members myself through e-News and *Prime Times* about what was going on and where to find instructions and help.

Connie McNeill  
Web & Database Committee Chair  
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## TREASURER'S REPORT



Table 1 in the Report Appendix shows the current budget and operating expenditures for ASURA through February 28, 2017. Carolyn Minner, the ASURA Business Manager, does an excellent job of keeping track of our expenditures and preparing this report each month.

The overall budget picture for ASURA remains extremely tight. The main operating account began the new year with a \$24,980 carry forward balance, providing a reasonable cushion for fiscal 2016/2017. The 2016/2017 budget was developed during the summer with input from various Board members with the goal of preserving as much of the carry forward as possible, and was approved at the first Board meeting in September. This budget projects a year end balance \$23,692, thus maintaining a reasonable carry forward into next year.

ASURA continues to receive excellent support from ASU in the form of financial resources (\$7,000) and office and meeting space. This critical support allows ASURA to better service its many ongoing projects.

The scholarship endowment began the year with \$51,785. These funds are invested on behalf of ASURA by the ASU Foundation, with our primary goal being long-term growth. While growth is our desired goal, because of the current financial conditions, the Board has approved the use of the endowment earnings to fund current scholarship expenses until the Board's financial situation improves.

While our financial situation remains tight, ASURA continues to remain in good financial condition. With the varied support from ASU and our totally volunteer staff, ASURA will be able to continue to offer its many excellent program and services.

Barry Bruns  
ASURA Treasurer  
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## **APPENDICES**

**Table 1 – Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, as of February 28, 2017**

Account Categories	Budget	Actual YTD Amount
<b>ASURA Operations</b>		
<b>ASURA Operations - Income</b>		
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>24,980</b>	<b>24,980</b>
<b>Current Year Revenue</b>		
Event Registration Fees & Donations Collected	2,000	1,692
Membership Dues	12,000	6,290
General Operations Donations	1,500	677
Holiday Bake Sale 2015	100	163
5% Gift Assessment	-750	-339
<b>Total ASURA Operations Current Year Revenue</b>	<b>14,850</b>	<b>8,483</b>
<b>ASURA Operations - Expenses</b>		
<i>Printing and Mailing Costs</i>		
Membership Drive	200	134
<i>Event Costs</i>		
Paid Events	2,000	1,534
Meet & Greet (Refreshments)	500	192
Seminars	250	0
Holiday Potluck & Fundraiser	100	41
<i>Other Operations Costs</i>		
Scholarship Award	7,085	7,085
Business Luncheons & Service Appreciation	300	120
Technology Services	1,000	258
Office Equipment & Supplies	3,000	776
Marketing Tools	1,000	0
AROHE Membership Dues	120	0
Lobbyist Registration Fee	50	0
Foundation Transaction Fees	150	98
Transfer to Adopt-A-Family	383	600
<b>Total ASURA Operations Expenses</b>	<b>16,138</b>	<b>10,837</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance for Current Year</b>	<b>-1,288</b>	<b>-2,354</b>
<i>Uncommitted ASURA Operations Funds</i>	<i>23,692</i>	<i>22,626</i>

Account Categories	Budget	Actual YTD Amount
<b>Human Resources Income</b>		
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,219</b>
<b>Current Year Allocation</b>	7000	7000
<b>Total Human Resources Current Year Revenue</b>	<b>8,219</b>	<b>8,219</b>
<b>Expenses Charged to Allocation</b>		
Annual Report	100	0
Bylaws & Ballots	200	43
Annual Meeting	600	0
Meet & Greet Luncheon	202	202
Office Equipment & Supplies	500	401
Prime Times Fall/Spring/Summer	3,000	1,821
Room Fees	100	100
Copier/FAX Equipment Annual Lease	1,144	1,143
Membership Drive	1,673	708
8.5% Administrative Service Charges	700	376
<b>Total Subsidized Expenses</b>	<b>8,219</b>	<b>4,793</b>
<i>Uncommitted HR Funds For Operations</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,425</b>

<b>Special Projects</b>		
<b>Special Projects - Income</b>		
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>504</b>
<b>Current Year Revenue</b>		
Friends/Phx Library Book Sale Net Income	1,500	873
<b>Total Special Projects Current Year Revenue</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>873</b>
<b>Special Projects - Expenses</b>		
Transfer out 1/2 of Book Sale Income to Scholarship	1,002	538
Transfer out 1/2 of Book Sale Income to Video History	1,002	538
Foundation Transaction Fees		44
<b>Total Special Projects Expenses</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>1,120</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance for Current Year</b>	<b>-504</b>	<b>-247</b>
<i>Uncommitted Special Projects Funds</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>256</b>

Account Categories	Budget	Actual YTD Amount
<b>Adopt-A-Family</b>		
<b>Adopt-a-Family - Income</b>		
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>480</b>
<b>Current Year Revenue</b>		
Adopt-A-Family Donations	1,200	335
5% Gift Assessment	-63	-16
Transfer from Operations	383	600
<b>Total Adopt-A-Family Current Year Revenue</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>920</b>
<b>Adopt-A-Family - Expenses</b>		
Adopt-A-Family	2,000	1,276
<b>Total Adopt-A-Family Expenses</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,276</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance for Current Year</b>	<b>-480</b>	<b>-356</b>
<i>Uncommitted Adopt-A-Family Funds</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>124</i>

<b>Video History</b>		
<b>Video History - Income</b>		
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>7,882</b>	<b>7,882</b>
<b>Current Year Revenue</b>		
Video History Donations	750	520
Transfer in 1/2 of Book Drive Proceeds from Spec Proj	1,002	538
5% Gift Assessment	-38	-26
<b>Total Video History Current Year Revenue</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>1,033</b>
<b>Video History - Expenses</b>		
Office Supplies	300	0
Electronic Storage Space	925	754
Transcripts for Interviews (15 @ \$150)	2,250	0
<b>Total Video History Expenses</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>754</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance for Current Year</b>	<b>-1,761</b>	<b>279</b>
<i>Uncommitted Video History</i>	<i>6,121</i>	<i>8,161</i>

<b>Scholarship Endowment Fund</b>		
<b>Scholarship Endowment Principal (40003616)</b>		
Balance July 1	51,785	51,785
Invested Funds Gain (-Loss)	1,000	3,151
Payout to Endowment Spending - FY16	-1,682	-1,765
Reinvest FY16 Payout	0	0
Current-Year Contributions	1,600	603
Foundation Management Fees	-740	-740
<b>Total Scholarship Endowment Principal</b>	<b>51,963</b>	<b>53,034</b>
<b>Scholarship Endowment - Spending</b>		
Balance July 1	3,254	3,254
Payout from Endowment Principal - FY16	1,682	1,765
Reinvest FY16 Payout	0	0
Transfer from Special Projects (Book Sale Proceeds)	1,002	538
ASU Scholarship	-2,915	-2,915
<b>Total Scholarship Endowment Spending</b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>2,643</b>
<b>Total Scholarship Endowment</b>	<b>54,986</b>	<b>55,676</b>

**Table 2 – Membership Totals as of March 4, 2017**

<b>Counts</b>	<b>As of 3/4/2017</b>	<b>As of 3/4/2016</b>	<b>This Yr -Last Yr</b>
<b>Current-year Members</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>30</b>
Renewals from prior years (any prior year)	456	484	-28
Introductory members <sup>1</sup>	113	55	58
Paid for the current year, now deceased	4	6	-2
<b>Last Year's Members - Not Renewed</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>-20</b>
Members last year, now deceased	0	1	-1
<b>By Retired-from Organization</b>			
Retired from ASU	549	525	N/A
Retired from another university	1	0	N/A
Former ASU employee, retired elsewhere	5	4	N/A
Still employed at ASU	14	10	N/A
<b>By (Approx.) Time Since First Joining</b>			
Members for 0-2 Years	141	71	70
Members for 3-5 Years	51	86	-35
Members for 6-10 Years	163	175	-12
Members for more than 10 Years	214	207	7
<b>By Communications They Want to Receive<sup>2</sup></b>			
Upcoming Event Announcements (e-mail)	447	402	45
Obituary Notices (e-mail)	317	323	-6
Prime Times (US Post)	503	476	27
Other ASURA Communications (e-mail)	374	350	24
None of The Above	11	13	-2

<b>More Counts</b>	<b>As of 3/4/2017</b>	<b>As of 3/4/2016</b>	<b>This Yr -Last Yr</b>
<b>By Former Employment Category</b>			
Faculty and Faculty w/ Admin Appt	257	248	9
Academic Professional	33	33	0
Staff	157	153	4
University Staff (Service Professional)	94	73	21
Administrative	257	248	9
<b>Having an Arizona Address</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Level of Activity</b>			
Checked at least one volunteer area	122	107	15
Attended at least one event this year	130	147	-17
Attended an event ever	290	288	2
Logged in to Members-only Site (ever)	134	<b>122</b>	12
Made an additional donation this year	145	152	-7
<b>Non-members in Database</b>			
Was a member at some time	175	222	-47
Never a member	621	698	-77
<sup>1</sup> Includes the 36 4th Qtr new retirees who were automatically admitted.			
<sup>2</sup> All members receive the annual Board of Directors ballot, and membership renewal notices. Those with e-mail addresses also receive confirmation notices (by e-mail) about renewal, event registrations, and donations.			
<b>Note:</b> Since membership enrollment forms are mailed in May, we begin processing them, with associated dues and donations, before the start of the membership/fiscal year. Therefore, it is not possible to use these counts to determine the correct dollar value of membership dues in the current fiscal year			