

AASRA Convention - 60 Years Going Strong!

June 6-7, 2017

MONDAY, JUNE 6th (Tentative Schedule)	
3:30 to 5:00 pm	Early Registration (near Ballroom Salon A&B) (The hotel check-in time is 3:00 pm)
5:30 pm -7:30 pm	SOCIAL MEET UP at Garcia's 3301 West Peoria Phoenix, AZ 85029 (Make hotel shuttle arrangements with front desk)
TUESDAY, JUNE 7th	
6:30-8:30 am	BREAKFAST BUFFET (All meals included in registration fees. You do not need to stay at the hotel.)
7:30-8:45 am	Registration (near Salon A & B)
9:00 am	GENERAL MEETING Jerry Holmes, AASRA District 6 Vice-President
10:30-11:30 am	GENERAL MEETING - Election and voting
12:00 pm	LUNCHEON BANQUET Jeri Williams, Phoenix Chief of Police
1:30 pm	Presentation AMBA Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations Membership: Janet Fee and Barbara Weber
4:30-6:00 pm	On your own
4:30-7:30 pm	Photo Booth (take a souvenir photo)
6:00 pm	DINNER BANQUET - Awards - Installation of Officers - Raffles - Entertainment!
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8th	
6:30 – 8:30 am	BREAKFAST BUFFET
9:00-10:15 am	GENERAL MEETING
10:30 am	TIME OF REMEMBRANCE Convention ends after the Time of Remembrance Hotel check out is 12:00 noon.

Join the celebration
**AASRA for Sixty
Years!!!**



At the
Four Points by Sheraton
Phoenix North
2532 W. Peoria Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Hotel reservations - ask
for All Arizona School
Retirees Association
Group Rate for Rooms at
\$79 per night.
1-888-627-9057

**The registration fee is
\$60 for 60 Years Going
Strong! Use the form
inside the newsletter.
Registrations are due
Wednesday, May 24.**



AASRA began as Arizona Retired Teachers Association (ARTA) when organized January 9, 1957. In 1998, the name was changed to All Arizona School Retirees Association (AASRA). **All retired school employees are eligible to become members of the organization.** Two precursors of the organization were in Tucson and Maricopa County.

Proposed 2017 AASRA Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

The Constitution, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee presents additions, wording and editorial changes to the Board for approval and send the constitutional and bylaw changes to the convention attendees for review and approval.

As per our constitution, any changes to the constitution must be presented to the membership at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting (convention) via the *Newsletter*. The constitution will be amended when approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting and becomes effective at the close of the last regular session of that Annual Meeting.

The Committee is presenting to you **two constitution/bylaws amendment packages**.

Items in "*Italics indicates new wording*".
~~Strikethroughs indicate deletion of wording.~~

Changes will be in regular or bold type to indicate the changes more clearly to you.

Package A

Purpose: Provide a more appropriate name to a committee and make a few changes to its duties.

Constitution change: Article V –Officers, Sec. 7 Standing Committees

A. Standing Committees shall be:

~~9. Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee:~~

9. ***Governing and Business Documents*** Committee

Bylaws change: Article IV – Duties of Standing Committees, Sec. 9

Sec. 9 The ~~Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures~~ ***Governing And Business Documents*** Committee:

A. Shall periodically review the constitution, bylaws, policies, ~~and~~ procedures ***and contracts***.

B. Shall advise the Board and members on additions, deletions, corrections, and other recommended changes.

C. Review, interpret, and/or initiate appropriate actions on petitions to amend Association governing ***and business*** documents. ***Consultants may be used as needed.***

D. Review requests for amendments to the constitution, bylaws, policies, ~~and~~ procedures ***or contracts*** and propose wording for such amendments. The committee ***may*** drafts ~~of~~ amendments, or may review and edit/approve the language of amendments proposed by members.

E. Review, evaluate and formulate changes to ~~Policy & Procedures~~ ***Governing & Business Documents*** manual.

Package A Rationale: The current committee title is very specific and very long. The committee believes the new title for the committee is general and includes other documents that may need to be reviewed. A consultant may be needed in some technical circumstances.

Package B – an addition

Purpose: Add a long time committee to Standing Committee status in our constitution and bylaws.

Constitution change: Article V –Officers, Sec. 7 Standing Committees

A. Standing Committees shall be:

10. Convention Committee

Bylaws change: Article IV – Duties of Standing Committees, Sec. 10

Sec. 10 The Convention Committee:

A. Shall work with the President, President-elect, and immediate Past President to arrange an annual meeting (convention).

B. Shall work with the Treasurer and President to create a convention budget.

C. Shall submit records of meetings, budgets, contacts and contracts for association to the executive director.

D. Shall keep the Board and units informed of the convention.

E. Shall gather all materials from Board members and units to run the convention.

Package B rationale: The addition of #10 Convention Committee to Standing Committee status is greatly needed. This committee works year around and handles a very large budget. It has had no mention in our governing documents. Standing Committee status makes the chairman a full Board member and outlines duties to better guide and manage the committee. (Current and past Convention chairmen gave ideas for the duties and ideas for procedures which will be written later.)

Nominations

Steve Poe, Nominating Committee chairman, is pleased to report that all positions to be elected, except for one, have been filled. The candidates for state officers to be elected at the next convention include: as **Treasurer**, Sue Secrest, as **Secretary**, Pearl Nancarrow, and for **President-Elect**, Jerry Holmes. For **Regional Vice-Presidents: District 2**, Debbie Duncan, **District 4**, Bob Ingram, **District 6**, to be decided, and **District 8**, AnnJi Craig-Wooten.

According to the AASRA Constitution, Article V, Section 4 A&B, the current VP for District 6, Jerry Holmes, will continue in that position until a replacement can be either elected at the 2017 Annual Meeting, or appointed at a later time by a majority vote of the AASRA Board of Directors. The members of the Nominating Committee have been apprised of the filling of these positions.



Units bring these items to the Convention:
Lots of smiling members
Your unit's display board
Basket or quality item for the Scholarship Raffle



Members bring plenty of cash and/or checkbook to donate to the Scholarship Foundation events!

President's Corner



Hello everyone from your All Arizona School Retirees Association leader. As I continue into my final days as your President, I'm looking forward to my second retirement.

It has been a privilege to be the President for the last three years of Arizona's oldest group of school retiree employees. **Of all my duties I think I have enjoyed visiting local units around the state the most. I enjoy meeting members and spreading the AASRA message to everyone.** Since I live in Kingman, all the travel has been difficult for me. My car has many more miles since I began four years ago as President-Elect.

I have **many people I want to say Thank You to**, who helped me get started in AASRA and brought me to this point. **If you want to hear my list you will need to attend our Annual Meeting/Convention on June 6-7. I wish all of you would show your support for AASRA by attending**, I'm sure you will enjoy yourself as we celebrate our 60th year with a big birthday party!

I want to thank all the members who gathered at the Capital in February for our Legislative Day. Joining forces with Delta Kappa Gamma was a huge success. We should continue this combination.

Scholarship Raffle Fundraiser

The raffle will not have tables and tables of items as in the past. **Units are making gift baskets and bringing other higher value items.** There may be only 10 – 20 items.



Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10, 10 for \$15, and 17 for \$20. The **50/50 raffle** tickets will still be \$1 or 6 for \$5. This is the **biggest and only fundraiser for the Scholarship Foundation.** The scholarships go to education students – one at each of the three state universities. Wouldn't it be wonderful to break last year's amount of just over \$2000? **If every member in the state donated \$10, we would have enough funds for 3 scholarships and be able to raise the amount awarded.**

AASRA and DKG Join Forces at the Arizona Legislature

On February 15th, members of AASRA and Delta Kappa Gamma met at the Arizona Capitol for our first joint Legislative Awareness Day. We were greeted by John Moody, AASRA's legislative consultant, who briefed us on the day's activities.



Joye Sterrett, DKG & Duane Nelson, AASRA

Then we assembled in the old Senate chambers in the Capitol Museum, where we listened to Senator Katie Hobbs and Representative Randall Friese as they highlighted some of the proposed legislation for this session. These included:

Senate Bill 1281--expands Empowerment Scholarship Accounts. This is an expansion of school vouchers, which AASRA opposes. (was passed and signed into law)

Senate Bill 1174--forces school districts that receive federal desegregation funds to hold a special election every seven years to continue receiving these funds. This is problematic and could end up in court if passed. AASRA opposed any legislation that potentially reduces school funding.

We also heard from AEA lobbyist Stephanie Parra about this and other proposed legislation affecting education.

After lunch we split our group of approximately 35. Some of us attended the afternoon session in the Senate, where Senator Hobbs introduced us from the floor. Others went to the House, where Representative Lela Alston, an AASRA and DKG member, introduced our group. We concluded our day with a tour of the Capitol Museum.

Everyone who attended praised the combined efforts of AASRA and DKG. We look forward to working together next year. Joe Carter, Legislative Team Chairman



AASRA finally catches up with Macario Saldate, AASRA 2016 Legislator of the Year. A framed award was presented February 15, 2017 by Duane Nelson, AASRA President.

Photos by Judy Weber

2017 Legislator of the Year Heather Carter

At their March 20th meeting, the AASRA State Board approved the recommendation of the Legislative Team to give our Legislator of the Year award to Arizona State Representative Heather Carter. Rep. Carter represents District 15, which spans north Phoenix, north Scottsdale and parts of Cave Creek.



Rep. Carter, a Republican, has served in the Arizona House since 2011. She is currently the chair of the House Committee on Health, vice-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Throughout her tenure, Rep. Carter has consistently championed health care issues, such as relief and financial assistance for caregivers, and advancements to public education in Arizona. Several years ago, she broke party ranks to support Governor Brewer in the expansion of Medicaid in Arizona.

When not at the Legislature, Mrs. Carter is a clinical associate professor - education leadership at ASU. She has taught middle school English and Social Studies in the Paradise Valley Unified School District. She lives in Cave Creek with her husband and daughter.

Joe Carter, Legislative Team Chairman

Just a friendly reminder from your state treasurer –

If you have not paid your 2017 dues, this will be the last state newsletter that you will receive until your dues are paid. Renewal notices were sent out in

November to those who had not yet paid. Thanks to those persons who responded in a timely manner.

There is a very simple way to solve the problem of keeping your dues current. Sign up for ADD (automatic dues deduction). This makes your job and my job much easier. Approximately 60% of our members are enrolled in ADD. I have not heard a single complaint from those members. Join the ranks and rest assured that your dues are always paid up and current. If you are still not convinced, you can continue to pay your dues by cash or check annually.

Whichever way you choose, just please make sure that they are paid.

Around the State

The January **Kingman Area** meeting was held at the Garlic Clove Restaurant. 24 members were present + 2 new members. **Duane Nelson** spoke on the history of the Lois Snyder Fund and installed our new officers.

Westside Unit had **Judy Weber**, member of NW Unit, presenting slides, pictures, medals and awards from the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. The March speaker was Frank Barrios, author of *The History of Mexicans in Phoenix*.

Ed Ragland, Graham-Greenlee Unit, has led a junior basketball league for 5th and 6th graders for 39 years. Former players and their parents plus community members have raised money to build a new outdoor basketball court on 8th Ave. and have dedicated it to him.

The **Phoenix/Scottsdale Unit** hosted State Senator (Dist. 28) Kate Brophy McGee, AASRA's Legislator of the Year awardee in 2015, for a very informative session about K-12 public education. She supports public education, and pointed out the dangers of any voucher program, partly because of the lack of oversight of how the vouchers are actually used by many recipients.

San Pedro Unit President **Dorothea Herman** gave legislative tips, encouraged the unit members to attend the convention, and decided what to take for the convention raffle. The members had a lively discussion on current events.

The **Saguaro Unit** supports a local food bank, the Homeless Youth Connection, the Ronald MacDonald House, and new teachers in local districts with gift cards.

Westside Unit has raised their **Murphy** Mini-Grants to \$100 as of September 2017. Since September, twenty \$100 grants have been made. Since it began in 2006, 187 \$50 mini grants have been awarded. Twenty \$150 grants were awarded after receiving a NRTA grant of \$2,000. The total in grants awarded is \$14,450 to 228 beginning teachers.

The **Kingman Area Unit's** March meeting featured hospice services in the area.

For the **Pima County Unit** April field trip, the Empire Ranch Foundation sponsored a Spring Trail ride. There is a three hour trail ride scheduled for those who want to try. For all attendees, there will be lunch, western music, storytelling and tours of the historic ranches' facilities.

Northwest Unit had as speaker, Elizabeth Banta, Executive Director of DUET. DUET offers caregiver support. Duet programs are free of charge and donations to it are tax deductible. **Marilyn Duerbeck**, a long-time Duet volunteer, was in the audience. Marilyn expressed how much she enjoys helping the people she is matched with. Marilyn has shopped for 7 different Duet "neighbors" – averaging over 2 years each, until their situations changed.



Marilyn Duerbeck, Elizabeth Banta, and Marge Threewit

The **Saguaro Unit's** guests in February and March both dealt with farming, albeit in different ways. In February, Leatta McLaughlin of the Arizona Dept. of Agriculture gave a fascinating description of ranch "Brands", during which she described branding techniques, a brand's composition, and regulations concerning brands. She showed several Arizona brands and described them. In March, the Future Farmers of America was represented by Matt Colville, a student at Buckeye Union High School, who briefly described the contemporary directions of the organization, then moved on to discuss genetically-modified crops, especially corn and cotton. He stated categorically that there has not been any connection discovered between consumption of GMC's and any genetic disorders.



Huachuca Area Unit's February meeting featured a speaker, who is an expert on birds, presented a photo lecture on "Birds, Bugs, and Other Things that Fly".

Westside Unit heard Paula Wright speak on AARP Community Outreach in April

At the **Pima County Unit**'s March meeting, entertainment was provided by an Irish dance troupe. **Jerry Holmes** presented information on bills currently being considered by the AZ legislature that focus on education or ASRS. Dr. Nicholas Clement presented excerpts from his book, *Legendary Teacher Stories - How To Catch A Swamp Frog*, a heartfelt tribute to the legendary teachers that impacted him both as a student and as an educational professional. The book tells the story of the adults in his life who went above and beyond and impacted and molded his future.

Copper Center Unit heard from the Globe School District Superintendent Jerry Jennex in January. He told about his background. He has been in Globe 4 years. He related information about the 4 day school week, Native American student items, the Capture Hearts, Empower Minds program and philosophy, and many other interesting items.

Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle, a longtime educator and school board member in Tucson, was honored with **Pima County Unit** Community Service Award at the April meeting. Mary Belle served the educational community. Her positive attitude and love of children is reflected in her commitment to education. Her enthusiasm, innovativeness, and genuine concern for education are exemplary. Her flexibility in working with students, teachers, parents and the public has earned her the enviable reputation of an excellent educator who truly cares for people. She served as secretary, teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and governing board member in Tucson Unified School District for the past fifty years. She was presented the Outstanding Educator Award by the University of Arizona Alumni Council of the College of Education in 1997 and awarded a "Woman on the Move Award" by the YWCA in 1991. In December 2000 she received the Arizona School Boards Association "All Arizona School Board Award."

A hand stitched sampler made by Mary Lou Sykora of **Kachina Unit**. These are its thoughtful words: "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can." Well said!



The **Huachuca Unit** honored two members, who continue to give their time to students of the Sierra Vista Unified School District.

Barbara Williams (left) and **Connie Johnson** (right) were both elected to the Sierra Vista School Board last fall.



Before retiring, Barbara taught at both the Junior and Senior high levels. When she retired in 2014, Barbara had received many awards and honors including the Distinguished Social Studies Teacher Award for Arizona in 2008 and the Teacher of the Year in Cochise County in 2011.

Connie enjoyed twenty-five years of teaching on Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista and served as a principal for an additional twenty years. During that time, she was elected and has continued to serve on the Sierra Vista Unified School District School board for the past thirty-five years.

Dr. Vicki Balentine, Ph.D., the ex-Superintendent of Amphitheater Public Schools, will be the **Pima County Unit's** May speaker. Her talk is entitled: "How to be Retired".

Kachina Unit has been collecting school supplies for its local schools. All of the supplies they collected have been delivered to the schools. Again, thank you if you helped out with this! The April meeting program was on "Writing from Diaries". In May, the group will have a picnic and potluck at Kiwanis Park with an installation of officers.

East Valley Unit had Jean Mills from the Museum Association of AZ as speaker and heard a representative from the Tempe Fire Department for another meeting. It continues to donate to Treasures 4 Teachers, I-Help, Justa Center and collect pop-top tabs.

Pinal Unit had as speaker Mayor Craig McFarlen. He spoke about his plans for the future of Casa Grande.

At the **Northwest Unit**, Sally Underwood from, ASU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, showed slides and handed out class schedules for the daytime classes. There is a \$20 yearly fee, with classes starting at \$10.

Health & Wellness News

Spring into Spring!

Now's the time to get fit and healthy. One way is to join a health club that features Silver Sneakers. Many feature indoor tracks, water aerobics, yoga, and more to keep you healthy and happy! To find a location near you, check out silversneakers.com. No SilverSneakers in your area- join another club or exercise in the cool of the day.



Enjoy the best of the summer's produce. Here's a list of the ten most nutritious fruits and vegetables:

- berries
- garlic
- peaches
- shell peas
- tomatoes
- melons
- radishes
- corn
- broccoli
- cucumbers



Stay Safe in the Sun
With summer quickly approaching, remember these safety tips:

- use sunscreen (15 spf or higher)
 - wear loose fitting clothes
 - use a beach cover-up
 - wear hats and sunglasses
 - find spots with shade
 - stay hydrated by drinking lots of water
- Barbara Webb, Health & Wellness, Chairman

New Scholarship Foundation Member

Joanna Haspels is the new Executive Secretary for the Foundation. Alice Reule is stepping down as she becomes the Delta Kappa Gamma State President. Joanna will be taking care of the business of the Foundation. She will work closely with Marge Threewit, the Foundation Treasurer. Joanna is the AASRA District 5 Vice-President and a member of the Kingman Area Unit. Welcome, Joanna, to the Scholarship Board.

ASRS News

ASRS IS AN EARNED BENEFIT!

The total fund is \$35.55 billion as reported on February 6, 2017 at the Board Meeting on February 24th. The March meeting was canceled.

The Board has only 4 Board members. Since the December meeting, the Board could not do business as there was no quorum. The Governor has appointed 5 members. These nominees need to be confirmed by the Senate. There are three more openings, which need to be appointed. Named board members so far are:
Michael Robert Miller – Educator
Rene G. Guillen – Political Subdivision of State Employees
Thomas Paul Manos – Retiree (has served on the ASRS Board)
Kevin McCarthy – Public member #1 (has served on the ASRS Board)
Harry Amidon Papp – Public Member #3
David Clark Partridge – Public Member #4
(Governor Ducey has appointed 1 or more since March.)

Pat Klein will be retiring from ASRS effective April 22, 2017. He has been a wonderful friend to AASRA. Dave Cannella, the agency's Public Affairs and Communications Manager will be our contact for future ASRS presentation needs. Dave may be reached at 602-240-2016 or at DavidC@azasrs.gov.

PENSION ATTACKS - WE must continue to be alert to groups who are trying to destroy our pensions both on national and state levels.

There is Strength in Numbers!

AASRA has been the watchdog for Arizona's retired school personnel for 60 years. We get our strength from our membership and volunteers.

You can go to dinner for \$30.00, the cost of annual dues, or know you are helping to keep your future secure by joining AASRA. **We need your support and help with your membership. We are asking you to volunteer for committees at your local units and at the State level. Join us at the Convention and learn how you can help AASRA.**
Janet Fee, ASRS Liaison

A generous basic state pension is the least a civilized society should offer those who have worked hard and saved through their whole lives.

George Osborne - British Conservative Party politician

Volunteers for the State Level

Our organization has been going strong for 60 years. **BUT how much longer will it be going strong**, if more members don't take the step to being a leader at the state level. Yes, many of the Board members have been there for years and years. **Have they denied you a chance to be a state leader? Or do you just think they will be there forever and take care of things?** To become President-Elect, a requirement is to be on the Board for 2 years. Our Executive Directors, who handle the day to day actions of the organization, want to step down. Garry York was our 1st executive director starting in 2003 after serving a term as president. Garry's health has been declining. Janet Fee came on board to help Garry. Janet plans to leave in another year. **Will you take on the duties of an executive director? Will you take on a committee chairmanship or be a District Vice-president or another leadership role, even one at the unit level?**

Will YOU help keep our organization strong?

Wanted AASRA Membership Committee Chairperson For 2017-2019

Looking for a volunteer to assume the Membership Chairperson for AASRA.

You would be a member of the state board and attend meetings four (4) times a year.

Some of your duties include encourage membership in the Association, keep a current membership list in coordination with the Treasurer, update membership and renewal forms in collaboration with units, and send annual renewal notices as requested by the units. Reimbursement for mileage in traveling to units will be provided.

Membership is the life blood of AASRA.

Be a participating member at the state level.

Please call Roger Tabar, AASRA President-Elect at 1-520-456-9114 or by e-mail at cirplet@juno.com.

Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)

is proud to partner with AASRA to
provide you a number of helpful benefits.

These benefits available through your association include:


- Cancer coverage
 - Hearing solutions
 - Life Insurance
 - Emergency air and ground evacuation
 - Deeply discounted Restaurant.com gift cards
 - Deals on electronics and other products
- ...and much more!

To find out more, visit
www.myAMBAbenefits.info/aasra
or call 800-258-7041



Please send your information and photos about your Unit and members to azredsunset@cablone.net. Please send **convention** information and pictures of award winners, happenings and other items. **Send any items from May into September by September 14.** Send in an email or attach as a Word document or photos in JPG format.

Do it when it happens!

 The AASRA Newsletter is published three times a year. AASRA, 16165 N. 83rd Avenue Suite 201, Peoria, AZ 85382-5816. President-Duane Nelson, President-elect-RogerTabar, Secretary-Pearl Nancarrow, Treasurer-Sue Secrest, Co- Executive Directors-Janet Fee & Garry York, Newsletter Editor-AnnJi Craig-Wooten. **ww.aasra.org** Facebook –All Arizona School Retirees Association