

RATIONALE FOR AASRA DUES INCREASE 2023

At the November 2021 meeting, the AASRA Board **voted to increase state dues from \$20 to \$30. This increase will take effect in January 2023.** We have not increased AASRA state dues since 2006. During those 16 years, consumer goods and services have increased by almost 40%.* Additionally, in 2005, dues were artificially low, at only \$14 annually. For over 10 years, we have been doing much more **to protect our defined benefit pension system (ASRS)** from attacks by special interest groups intent on replacing our pension system with a 401(k) style, defined contribution, retirement savings plan. We have **employed a legislative consultant** and **joined the Arizona Retirement Security Coalition** to monitor and lobby for or against proposed legislation, **added Zoom and MailChimp accounts** to improve communications, **expanded our online presence** through our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. We have greatly increased outreach to our members about pension issues, health and safety topics and community involvement.

16 years ago, we did none of these activities, all of which benefit our members, who have come to rely on what we are doing for you. Finally, even with this increase, AASRA is still an incredible bargain at \$40-\$46 per year (state + unit dues), an increase of only \$10 annually (83¢ per month on ADD). Similar organizations charge \$85 to \$105 per year. Some of their dues go to affiliated organizations that are out-of-state, while **every dollar of your AASRA dues stays right here in Arizona to benefit you, our valuable members.**

*\$1 in 2006 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$1.39 today, an increase of \$0.39 over 16 years. The dollar had an average inflation rate of 2.10% per year between 2006 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 39.46%. This means that today's prices are 1.39 times higher than average prices since 2006, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index. A dollar today only buys 71.94% of what it could buy back then.

Between 2006 and 2022:

Gas prices increased from \$2.32 per gallon to \$3.41

Bread prices increased from \$1.05 per loaf to \$1.55

Egg prices increased from \$1.45 per carton to \$1.93

Chicken prices increased from \$1.06 per per 1 lb of whole chicken to \$1.62

Electricity prices increased from \$0.11 per kWh to \$0.15

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics as of January, 2022