



# AASRA NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with NRTA, a division of AARP  
Spring, 2023



Dear AASRA  
Members,

Welcome to  
our pre-  
convention  
newsletter.  
There is lots  
of information

shared in this newsletter please  
make sure to read every page  
carefully. The plans for our in-  
person convention are coming  
along beautifully. Barbara Weber  
and her committee have done a  
marvelous job arranging guest  
speakers, decorations, meeting  
room layout, publicity,  
refreshments and many other  
details.

The members of the Governing  
and Business Documents  
Committee have been hard at  
work. Please read through the  
articles for the changes to the  
Constitution-Bylaws. Some are  
minor changes and others are  
additions. Please be ready to vote  
at the Convention.

Enjoy your newsletter and I'll see  
you on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Henderson, AASRA  
President

## Renewing Our Friendships With AASRA AASRA Convention

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Church of the Beatitudes – Nelson Hall

555 W. Glendale Ave.

Phoenix, Arizona 85021

### Tentative Schedule

**9:00-10:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> session**

**10 – AASRA President, Mary Henderson presiding**

**Welcome, Pledge Of Allegiance, Thought for the Day and  
Introductions of Officers**

**10:15 Greetings from Dana Kennedy, AARP**

**10:45-11:15 Business Meeting**

**Roll call of the Units, Approval of 2022 Convention Minutes,  
Treasurer's Report, New Business: Presentation of the Slate of  
Officers, Nominations from the Floor, Election of Officers**

**11:15-11:45 ASRS News, Paul Matson, Director, Arizona State  
Retirement System**

**11:45-12:00 Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Christine  
Marsh**

**12:00 – 12:45 – Lunch Break**

**General Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> session**

**12:45-1:00 Announcements & Introduction of AMBA  
Representative by Kristi Koziol**

**1:00 -1:30 Legislative Update, John Moody, Legislative  
Consultant**

**1:30-2:45 Business meeting, Mary Henderson Presiding  
Constitution & Bylaws Changes, Lois Snyder Fund, AASRA  
Scholarship Fund, Community Participation & Installation of New  
Officers**

**2:45-3:15 Time of Remembrance - Maria Robledo, Barbara  
Kooistra, Mary Strebe & Sandy Marshall**

**3:15-3:30 50/50 Raffle - Marge Threewit**

**3:30 Adjournment - Mary Henderson**

## RENEWING OUR FRIENDSHIPS WITH AASRA

*Join us for a day of FUN & FELLOWSHIP!*

Are you ready for a great day with your fellow AASRA members from throughout Arizona? **Our State Convention is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM and we would love to have you join us!**

Registration forms are now available on AASRA's website or from your local Unit. We are also including one in this newsletter! Please complete the form and send it to our Treasurer, Katie Elgar, at the address on the bottom of the form. It's as easy as that!

Our Convention will begin with a Continental breakfast and fellowship time from 9:00-10:00. Both breakfast and lunch are included in the \$40 registration fee. Please let us know on the registration form if you have any dietary restrictions so we can do our best to accommodate you. Our lunch will be a boxed lunch that will include a sandwich, chips, and a cookie.

We have scheduled some wonderful and informative speakers. Paul Matson will speak to us on ASRS news, John Moody will give a Legislative update, Dana Kennedy will speak on our partnership with AARP, and Arizona State Senator Christine Marsh will be presented with the Legislator of the Year award. The Memorial Committee is planning a beautiful Time of Remembrance for members who have passed since 2020.

There will be opportunities for members to support the AASRA Scholarship Foundation as well as have a chance to be entered in a gift card drawing. Anyone making a contribution of \$20 or more to the Scholarship Foundation will automatically be entered in the drawing. Thank you to Units who have donated a gift card for the drawing. We will also have a 50/50 drawing the day of the Convention.

The Convention Committee is very excited to be meeting in person again and has been planning for months to make the Convention an enjoyable time for all attendees. Please make it a priority to join us on Tuesday, June 6th, at the Church of the Beatitudes, 555 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85921. **You can access the parking lot from 7th Avenue a short distance south of Glendale Avenue.**

More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact me. [barb.weber@yahoo.com](mailto:barb.weber@yahoo.com)

*Barb Weber, Convention Committee Chair*

## Support Future Educators

As an AASRA member I am proud that we have a way through the AASRA Scholarship Foundation to support future educators. Each year we give a \$2,000 scholarship to someone planning to become a teacher at each of our three state universities, ASU, NAU, U of A. Each university's



college of education gives us three very fine candidates. Then the scholarship committee chooses the one that best meets our criteria and ideals.

**Of course, we are always in need of more money to make this happen.** Donations may be given at any time, but we make a special push at convention time. Your \$20 or more donation now through the convention, will get you a ticket for our raffle for a gift card. Gift cards are given by each unit. **You can send your donation or gift card(s) to Marge.**

**You don't have to be present to win.**

Marge Threewit  
5401 W Dailey St #3046  
Glendale, Az 85306

**At the convention, we will also have a 50/50 raffle for attendees. Bring cash or your checkbook!!**

Thank you!

*Marge Threewit, AASRA Scholarship Treasurer*

## Bring these Items to the Convention:

Old glasses for Lion's Club,  
Empty prescription & vitamin bottles for Nourish  
Phoenix  
Aluminum pop tabs from cans for Trinity  
Lutheran Food Bank  
Travel hygiene items for Refuge Welcome Center  
Collect from Friends and Neighbors, too  
School Retirees are at the forefront in promoting  
for and participating in community service  
activities and events.

## What will be voted on at the Convention

These 4 packages for AASRA Constitution and Bylaws changes will be voted on at the AASRA State Convention on June 6, 2023. The AASRA Board of Directors have given the Governing and Business Documents Committee permission to present these changes to AASRA members at the annual meeting for a vote.

These Constitution-Bylaws packages must be approved by a two-thirds vote of AASRA members present at the Annual Meeting/Convention of AASRA and become effective at the close of that Annual Meeting. The proposed changes must be submitted to all members at least 30 days before the date of the Annual Meeting. Publication in the NEWSLETTER shall serve to meet this requirement.

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates deletions  
*Italics* indicates new language.

### PACKAGE 1: Legislative Team Committee name change to Legislative Committee

**Constitution** change: Article V – Officers, Sec. 7, A. Standing Committees, 2. Legislative Team Committee

**Bylaws** change: Article IV – Duties of Standing Committees Sec. 2 The Legislative Team Committee

**Rationale:** The term "Legislative Committee" is a more accurate designation for this group than "Legislative Team". It is also more appropriate wording in the list of Standing Committees in Section 7.

### PACKAGE 2: Communications, Correspondence, and Publications Committee name change and added duties

**Constitution** change – Article V – Officers, Sec. 7 Standing Committees, 8. Communications ; ~~Correspondence, and Publications~~

**Bylaws** – Article IV – Duties of Standing Committees, Sec. 8 The Communications ; ~~Correspondence, and Publications~~

### Sec. 8 The Communications, ~~Correspondence, and Publications~~ Committee

Shall assist the President in communicating with the local units and creating publications for the association. The NEWSLETTER Editor shall be a member of the committee.

*A. Shall include the AASRA NEWSLETTER Editor, AASRA Webmaster, and Social Media designees*

*B. Shall, in cooperation with the President, receive and edit materials for AASRA publications*

*C. Use and maintain current electronic communication platforms including the association website and social media (such as Facebook, Twitter) to inform members and increase membership*

*D. Create, in cooperation with the membership chair and the legislative liaison, publications to increase knowledge of the Arizona State Retirement System, the ASRS Defined Benefit Plan, any threats to our pension or pension system association, or to further the Purposes of the Association. (Constitution, Article II, Sec. 1, A–E).*

*E. Encourage units to communicate their meeting plans to be promoted on social media for advance publicity*

*F. Encourage Board and all members to communicate state, local units and individual members' activity by writing and submitting articles to the AASRA NEWSLETTER Editor for publication or for use on other platform*

*G. Publicize information provided by the Convention Committee to promote the AASRA Convention*

*H. Inform members of NRTA, AARP and AARP Arizona priorities each year in consultation with the AARP Arizona Liaison to prepare publications*

*I. Include "Friends of AASRA" members in mailings of electronic newsletters and publications*

**Rationale:** These changes will streamline the name of the committee and give definite duties to the committee. The duties will guide the committee to increase interaction with members, units, other committees and the Board; and to develop a public profile in our communities.

**PACKAGE 3: Constitution change: Article VII — Dissolution**

Sec. 1 Upon dissolution of the Association, ~~its net assets shall be transferred to the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) or to the AARP. the~~ Board shall direct the disbursement of funds remaining in the treasury.

Sec. 2 Remaining funds shall be disbursed according to the priorities listed in Article IX of the Bylaws

**Rationale:** In order to further the goals of the Association, it directs the AASRA Board regarding disbursement of funds.

**Bylaws addition: Article IX – Dissolution**

*Upon dissolution of the Association, the Board shall direct the disbursement of funds remaining in the treasury. The following priority order shall be followed for disbursement:*

- 1) any outstanding financial obligations of the Association,
- 2) the Lois Snyder Fund,
- 3) the AASRA Scholarship Foundation, an Arizona-based 501(c)(3) charity,
- 4.1) Arizona-based 501(c)(3) charities whose goals and objectives align with the purposes of the Association.
- 4.2) 501(c)(3) charities that focus on children and/or public education in Arizona.
- 4.3) 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations that support public education in Arizona.
- 4.4) 501(c)(3) charities endorsed by AARP and/or NRTA.

**Rationale:** The specific procedure for following the Constitution Article VII should be listed in the Bylaws. Additionally, should this priority list need to be changed, it is properly done as a Bylaw change.

**PACKAGE 4: Delete the Retirement Planning Committee from constitution and bylaws**

**Constitution Change:** Article V – Officers, Sec. 7, A. Standing Committees,

**Delete – 6. Retirement Planning** Then renumber the remaining Standing Committees.

**Bylaws – Article IV – Duties of Standing Committees, Delete all of Sec. 5 The Retirement Planning Committee: Shall encourage active school employees to begin to prepare well in advance for retirement by sponsoring and conducting pre-retirement planning programs.** Then renumber the rest of the Standing Committee sections in the Bylaws.

**Rationale:** AASRA is not qualified to do what the Retirement Planning states and AASRA does not have access to active school employees.

Before the Annual Meeting/Convention, please study these Constitution-Bylaws packages and their rationales. Be prepared to vote. Thank you.

*Governing and Business Documents Committee*

**Legislator of the Year – Christine Marsh**



On March 27th, the Board of Directors approved the Legislative Team’s recommendation to name Arizona State Senator Christine Marsh our Legislator of the Year for 2023. We will invite Senator Marsh to accept this

award at our upcoming Convention on June 6, 2023.

Senator Marsh is a member of the Democratic Party representing Legislative District 4. She is currently in her second term, having won re-election last November by defeating Republican candidate Nancy Barto by 1 percentage point, approximately 1200 votes. Due to legislative redistricting, both candidates ran as incumbents in the new LD4.

## Who She Is

Christine Marsh grew up in her legislative district. She attended schools in the Scottsdale Unified School District and graduated from Chaparral High School. She started running in her neighborhood and the Phoenix Mountain Preserve at age 12, pursued track in high school and attended UCLA on an athletic scholarship, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. She later received a master's degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University.

She began her teaching and coaching career at Chaparral High, teaching junior and senior English for 25 years before moving to middle school. In 2016, she was named Arizona Teacher of the Year, which provided her the opportunity to travel the state and see first-hand the issues faced by Arizona's teachers. Christine is a former foster mother and a mother to two sons. She continues to teach while serving in the legislature...and she still runs in the Mountain Preserve every day.

## An Educator's Legislator

*"A few years ago, a student asked me if Arizona kids were worth less than kids in other states. I was shocked by his question, and responded: "Of course not!" Continuing, he asked, "Well, why are Arizona's students funded so far below the national average in per-student funding? It sure seems like Arizona values its students less than other states do." That's when I realized that we—as a state—are failing our children." ("Why I'm Running" <https://www.christineportermarsh.com/why-i-m-running>)*

This was a defining moment for Christine Marsh. She knew that public education needed to become a much higher priority for our state. After being named Arizona Teacher of the Year, she traveled across the state advocating for students and teachers. She saw firsthand how critically underfunded our schools have become. That is when she made a fateful decision. In her words, "I'm done watching, and I'm running for the State Senate".

Since being elected to the Senate in (then) Legislative District 28, Senator Marsh has kept the promise she made to her students, colleagues and constituents. She

has fought tirelessly for public education in Arizona. Senator Marsh currently sits on the Senate Education, Judiciary and Transportation and Technology Committees. She introduces and supports bills to improve public school funding, limit class sizes, improve education employees' salaries, limit ESA voucher expenditures, and provide needed services to students.

**Senator Marsh is truly an educator's legislator.** For more than 30 years, she has dedicated herself to teaching her students. Now she has taken that commitment to the state Capitol where she is working tirelessly to teach our legislature that Arizona kids are not worth less than kids in other states!

*Joe Carter, Legislative Team Chair*

**Every member, please check with your unit to see if it has your correct mailing address, email address and phone number. You don't want to miss any information coming from your unit or AASRA. Units make sure you notify our AASRA state president and treasurer of member contact changes.**

## Unit Bits and Pieces

**East Valley** Unit met its goal of one \$1000.00 EVSRA scholarship to ASU Dept. of Education for the 2022-2023 school year. Its Scholarship Committee raised money for the scholarship by holding a December Holiday Basket Raffle and A Spring \$100.00 Bookmark Raffle. It has 111 members.

**Kachina** Unit discussed whether to continue with its donation to the **Lois Snyder Fund**. After discussion, it was agreed to continue with this \$50/year donation. Syd and Ed Bowersox presented a program on the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA. They lived only 10 miles from the crash site and immediately volunteered to help following the crash. It was a very moving presentation. Afterwards members who wanted to, shared where they were on 9/11 and what they remembered.



**Northwest Unit** has a very active membership. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, nineteen members attended the Zoom Legislative Awareness Day. Brenda Holt, AARP was the February speaker about Brain Health. In March Terri Alexon, AZ Corporation Commission was speaker about Fraud.

Pictured L to R: Terri Alexon, Lori Good, NW President  
Photo by Judy Weber

**Pima County Unit** - The Gaslight Theatre performance of “Robin Hood” was a draw for a scholarship fundraiser on April 16. The ticket sales netted \$468.45 and additional \$210 through personal donations. A \$2500 scholarship for an education student at the U of A will be given for the 2023-24 year.

The April speaker was Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott. Brittany Smith, the Development Manager, Communications & Events of Youth On Their Own (YOTO) in Tucson was the March speaker. YOTO's mission is to help middle and high school students who are homeless or have housing challenges in their lives.

PCSRA Book Club has read and discussed these books: **The Secret Diary of Hendrick Groen** By Hendrick Groen, **Laughing Boy: A Navajo Love Story** by Oliver La Farge, **The All Girl Filling Station** by Fannie Flagg, **West with Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge and **There There** By Tommy Orange. You may want to choose a book to read from these titles.



The AASRA Newsletter is published three times a year.  
AASRA, 7250 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 302, Phoenix, AZ 85020-5279.,  
President - Mary Henderson Secretary- Joanna Haspels, Treasurer- Katie Elgar,  
Co-Executive Director(s)- Kristi Koziol, Newsletter Editor-AnnJi Craig-Wooten.

[www.aasra.org](http://www.aasra.org)

Facebook – All Arizona School Retirees Association



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AASRA - All Arizona School Retirees' Association





**RENEWING OUR FRIENDSHIPS WITH AASRA**

**AASRA State Convention Registration Form**

June 6, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Reception and Registration

Church of the Beatitudes – Nelson Hall

555 W. Glendale Ave

Phoenix, Arizona 85021



**Please print.**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ **5-digit zip code** \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle whether or not you will attend the following events:**

Continental Breakfast (9:00–10:00 AM)      yes    no

Lunch      yes    no

*Dietary Restrictions (circle): Diabetic, Gluten Free, Vegetarian*

**Convention cost per person                                      \$40.00                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Convention Registration Deadline May 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Community Service: Bring old glasses for Lion’s Club,  
Empty prescription & vitamin bottles for Nourish Phoenix  
Aluminum Pop Tabs from cans for Trinity Lutheran Food Bank  
Travel hygiene items for Refuge Welcome Center**

**Mail this registration form and a check made payable to AASRA to:**

Katie Elgar / AASRA  
16202 N. 36<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85053-2960

*Photo Release: By attendance at this event participants are granting their permission to be filmed, videotaped, audiotaped or photographed by any means and are granting full use of their likeness, voice, and words without compensation.*

No Site Registration or Full Refunds

Treasurer’s use only: Check number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount received \_\_\_\_\_ Date received \_\_\_\_\_