



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

RETIREES ASSOCIATION

REPORT FROM THE BOARD

1996-97

**Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 1997, 2 p.m.
Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona**



[photos from board meeting of 11-14-96]

ASURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1996-97

Terms Expire 4/99

Dorothy Alexander
636 W. Manhattan Drive
Tempe 85282-4729
967-6668

Sue Blumer, Sec.
8517 N. 49th Street
Paradise Valley 85253
948-6632

Bob Ellis
24 E. Bishop Drive
Tempe 85282-3515
967-8239

Leon Kemper
6744 E. Holly
Scottsdale 85257
947-2076

Hal White, Treas.
2020 E. Alameda Drive
Tempe 85282-4002
968-0026

Terms Expire 4/98

Joel Benedict
115 Encanto Drive
Tempe 85281-6624
968-8506

Glenn Overman
512 E. Fairmont Drive
Tempe 85282-3723
967-5562

Nick Salerno
7718 E. Cypress Street
Scottsdale 85257-2226
967-0580

Susanne Shafer
3021 S. Fairway Drive
Tempe 85282-4026
838-0450

Madelyn Wright, VP
992 E. Mission Drive
Tempe 85283-4786
777-0027

Terms Expire 4/97

Don Gieschen, Pres.
1103 E. Concorda Drive
Tempe 85282-2543
966-7497

Jo Ann Hennington
7970 E. Camelback #205
Scottsdale 85251
946-8479

Dick Murra
801 N. Kenwood Lane
Chandler 85226-5928
821-0124

Alfred Thomas, Jr.
2019 S. Dateland Drive
Tempe 85282-2101
967-3767

Martha Waltemath
4836 E. Pima Circle
Phoenix 85004
893-2266

FIVE NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF BOARD, 1996-97

Tom Callarman
'96-97 Pres. Acad. Senate
(Ex-officio)
GHall 116, Mail 2202
965-2222 or -3888

Bob Frazier, for
Human Resources
(Advisory)
ASB 103, Mail 1403
965-7878

Allan Price
VP Institutional Advancement
(Ex-officio)
ASB 205, Mail 2503
965-4980

Carole Johnson, for
Acad. Vice President
(Ex-officio)
ADM 211, Mail 2803
965-1224

Reba Wilson, for
Classified Staff
(Ex-officio)
WHall 109, Mail 1702
965-7184

OTHER NUMBERS	
ASURA Office	965-7668
Activities	
Bob Beeman	967-7084
Leon Kemper	947-2076
Adopt-A-Family	
Maxine LaRoux	966-9007
Education	
Ruth Wineberg	967-8145
Health Insurance	
Dick Murra	821-0124
Legislation	
Joe Milner	838-1797
Membership	
George Morrell	967-4417
Newsletter	
Carolyn Brown	967-2771
Retirement System	
Bob Ellis	967-8239
Gale Richards	966-7635
Scholarship	
Susanne Shafer	838-0450
University	
Frank Hidalgo	965-8889
University Club	
George Morrell	967-4417
Volunteers	
Jo Ann Hennington	946-8479



President's Report

by Don Gieschen, President, 1996-97

First of all I wish to commend this organization—the board members, the chairs and members of the many committees, and the members generally. Our retirees' association is, in my opinion, one of the best volunteer organizations of which I have been an active member. The board and committee members have been a pleasure to work with, and each person fulfills the responsibilities he/she has undertaken. The ASURA office is staffed by a group of loyal volunteers who, week after week, handle the daily business of the association. Our members support the programs and activities of the association to a degree often beyond our best expectations. I have genuinely enjoyed serving alongside the people who make up this organization. They have been among the most delightful, cooperative, and interesting persons whom I have met and with whom I have worked during my almost 40 years at ASU.

Second, I wish to commend those who volunteer their time, energy and talents in serving the interests of our 760 or so members. Their contributions, which I will summarize below, are numerous, and are detailed in separate reports which accompany this message.

This spring, in association with other state retiree organizations, several of our members were active in the difficult task of seeking to introduce and support legislation that would, in one instance, make possible a more reasonable COLA, and in another instance, secure an increase in the health insurance subsidy we receive. They also opposed legislation changing the structure and investment practices of the ASRS (AZ State Retirement System) board, both of which are perceived to threaten the soundness of the ASRS Trust Fund.

In other activities, the monthly meetings of the ASRS board are regularly monitored by a representative or member of the ASURA board and information about its actions and policies passed on to our membership. Similarly, the health insurance providers available through our retirement arrangements are monitored by a board member or representative so that we can provide our membership with information useful for managing their health insurance.

Social activities for members, e.g., dinner and entertainment at the Red River Opr'y, are planned and organized by members of the Activities Committee, as are group tours abroad, e.g., a forthcoming trip to Scotland. Retirees' Day, an annual event which is the responsibility of members of the Education Committee, offers social opportunities together with informational and educational workshops and forums, followed by a luncheon at which there is a speaker.

As a form of community outreach, help to a family with children in a local school is provided by our Adopt-A-Family program. Carrying out this program is the responsibility of a representative of the board, aided by gifts from members. This year was the first that we offered financial assistance to a student through our ASURA re-entry scholarship. Moreover, a variety of volunteer opportunities are made available to our members through the coordination efforts of a member of the board.

In *Prime Times*, edited by a representative or member of the board, our members are kept abreast of board actions and association activities. By reading its pages, members will find information on matters relevant to their status as ASU retirees as well as news about other ASU retirees.

Clearly, the people engaged in these many activities which serve the interests of our membership make a significant contribution to the goals of our association. Of vital importance to all of this are the volunteers who staff the office in the Visitor Information Center. Without these volunteers, including a volunteer office coordinator, our retirees association would not be able to function at all

effectively and efficiently. It is out of this office, as well, that the Membership Committee seeks to maintain and enlarge our membership base.

On behalf of our membership I would thus like to express appreciation for all that the many people in this organization have done. In this context, I also want to thank the officers who served with me on the ASURA board and all the other board members for their cooperation and support.

As a further task, our retirees association, through the appropriate offices on campus, maintains close liaison with the active faculty, staff and administration of the university. The ASURA is committed to furthering the well-being of Arizona State University and is prepared to do what it can, individually or collectively, toward that end. We are in a favorable position to engage in this task since, within the administrative structure of ASU, our retirees association comes under the jurisdiction of the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and thus we have the facilities and resources we need to accomplish our goals.

All of this adds up to a fairly ambitious agenda. Nevertheless, I think that we are an exceptionally effective volunteer organization, generally meeting the challenges of that agenda. I hope that we will continue to function at this level, and that where we have shortcomings we will have the goodwill and energy of our volunteers to overcome them.

Though my tenure as a member of the ASURA board and as its president over this past year ends as of April 9, 1997, I plan to actively support the efforts of this organization and look forward to enjoying the companionship in this effort of the many good people I have come to know over the past four years.

Treasurer's Report by Hal White

Our finances have stabilized so that revenues and expenditures are approximately even.

Balance forward 7-1-96	25,265.68	
Revenue 7/1/96-3/12/97	6,716.76	
Expenditures 7/1/96-3/12/97	(6,058.51)	658.25
Balance as of 3-12-97	25,923.93	
At the meeting of March 13, 1997, the board voted to open a re-entry scholarship fund in the development office. When this is accomplished, our balance will be approximately	(11,000.00)	14,123.93



This leaves us in a position to be able to finance capital equipment purchases as needed, operating supplies, the Adopt-A-Family program, and various other expenditures throughout the year.

ASURA Office Report

by Corrine Irvan, Volunteer Office Coordinator



The ASURA office staff consists of 11 volunteers (10 and a spare)—one each morning and another each afternoon. Hours are 9 to 12 and 1 to 4. These volunteers have a wide variety of duties including processing the mail, making deposits, answering the phone, handling visitors, etc., and they frequently help with large mailouts. Each of them has special duties ranging from updating the rollodex, filing, etc., to making arrangements for special meetings—including room arrangements, refreshments and parking.

Many of the office staff are, or have been, ASURA board members, chairs of committees, or members of committees. They are an active and vital group and ASURA is lucky to have them.

Although members of this group are unpaid, of course, ASURA treats them to a recognition luncheon each spring—a much appreciated gesture.

[President's note: The above description is too modest. These volunteers are more dedicated than many paid office workers whom I have known. My special thanks to Corrine, without whom the organization would fall apart. —DWG]

Committee, Coordinator, and Liaison Reports in alphabetical order

Activities Committee

by Bob Beeman



A twilight dinner cruise around Canyon Lake on the steamboat "Dolly" was enjoyed by 44 ASURA members and guests on the evening of April 30, 1996. All were treated to a grand dinner and a beautiful sunset on the waters of one of Arizona's prettiest lakes.

Late May-early June, 1996 found 38 of our members and guests touring Spain and Portugal on the Collette Tours-hosted "Flamenco Fling." A great time was had by all. Beautiful architecture, exciting history, fascinating cities, friendly folks and a most attentive and excellent guide made each day of this marvelous tour a delight.

A dinner theater experience was enjoyed by 75 members and guests on December 5, 1996. A barbecued chicken dinner with all of the trimmings was followed by a special Christmas season performance at the Red River Opry. As the invitation promised, it was a "Chicken Chompin', Foot Stompin', Socializin' Good Time" for all.

Plans for a 1997 overseas tour are finalized. Reservations are being accepted for a 12-day tour (hosted by Collette Tours) to Scotland and London, England, which will start August 1, 1997. It will include accommodations in two Scottish castles, a visit to the Edradour Distillery, a cruise on Loch Lomond, Holyrood Palace, Glamis Castle, Stirling Castle, Scone Palace, two performances at London theaters, and a city tour of London.

On the drawing board is a spring 1998 tour of the South that will include antebellum mansions, gardens and music of the Old South.

Adopt-A-Family by Maxine LaRoux, Coordinator

Shortly after the ASURA was formed, a decision was made to offer community service by adopting a family. Unlike many organizations, ASURA provides assistance throughout the year.

For several years we have worked closely with Tempe Elementary District #3; the school nurses identify families in need. This school year, our family consisted of a mother with six children—three boys and three girls.

Members' monetary contributions totaled \$440, in addition to \$250 from the ASURA board, plus several hundred dollars worth of in-kind donations. To March 13, 1997, we had expended \$706.58, with the Easter holiday still to be provided for. Funds were carried forward from the previous year to allow coverage of these expenditures. The family has been very appreciative and, as the mother expressed in her thank-you note, "It's nice to tell the children that there are people who care."



Education Committee by Ruth E. Wineberg, Chair

The education committee met monthly (except June and July) from March 1996 through January 1997 to carry out its primary charge: planning and conducting the fourth annual Retirees' Day Program on February 22, 1997. In an effort to increase member interest and participation, the committee decided to expand the program by having eight different topics, each to be presented only one time, instead of four topics which were repeated a second time in previous programs. Also, two concurrent campus tours were scheduled to follow the traditional luncheon.



The eight topics were: Arizona Gardening; Politics in Arizona and the Southwest; Grandparenting; Genealogy; Computer Applications; Women in Arizona Politics: an Historical Perspective; Leisure Reading; and Cartooning for Young and Old. In keeping with past programs, a personality well-known at ASU and in the community at large was invited to be the luncheon speaker. Background piano music during lunch was added this year. Finally, two post-luncheon concurrent campus tours were scheduled: the Computing Commons and the Art Museum of the Nelson Fine Arts Complex. More than 100 members, guests and presenters attended the 1997 program.

Preliminary planning for the 1998 program has begun; rooms in the MU have been reserved.

Education committee members were Ronald Alvarado, Don Gieschen, Milton Kiesow, Elaine McGovern, Barney and Penny Moore, Zeke Prust, Gale Richards, Grant Richardson, Don Robinson, Susanne Shafer, Dean Smith, and Ruth Wineberg, Chair.

Health Insurance

by Dick Murra



ASURA promotes the interests of its membership concerning health and dental plans offered by the AZ State Department of Administration and the AZ State Retirement System. Counseling was provided to members who had questions concerning their open enrollment options as well as in understanding the existence of the two separate health and dental plan structures offered by the DOA and by the ASRS. Understanding these differences is critical since the plans offered by the two agencies provide for different coverages and premium rates.

ASURA officers sought support from members of the legislature for new legislation to increase the health and dental plan subsidy as well as legislation to change the manner in which COLAs were determined. Letters to legislative leaders were sent, and visits to the legislators themselves were made. ASURA seeks to enhance benefits for retirees by actively supporting initiatives introduced by the legislature and by promoting legislative issues with the coalition of state retirees' organizations: ASU; U of A; NAU; AEA—Retired; AZ Retired Teachers' Association; and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

Legislative Task Force

by Joe Milner, Legislative Liaison



As of this date the efforts of the task force were not very productive unless one concludes that holding your own with this legislature is a victory of sorts.

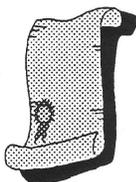
The House and Senate bills to reduce the cost-of-living threshold for the excess earnings COLA from 9% to 8% got nowhere.

We had discussion with Representative Hart on the House bill to increase the health insurance premium benefit by \$30 per month. He agreed to hear the bill, but because the agenda was so crowded, it was one of many bills that didn't reach the floor simply because "time ran out." This increase would have been most helpful for those retirees who do not live in a county with HMO coverage. However, we understand that, through ASRS, HMOs will be available in most Arizona counties for the next benefit year.

It is our intent to work closely with the ASRS Coalition again next year, beginning early with a concerted effort to increase the COLA for retirees. It is our plan to begin in the early fall, as most work must be completed by the time the legislative session begins. We shall utilize the list of many ASU retirees who have volunteered to either call or write their legislators to support bills affecting both the retirees and ASU in general.

Membership

by George Morrell



ASURA will end the 1996-97 year with an approximate total enrollment of 750. Of that total, 730 are regular members and 20 are associate members.

Recruitment of members is ongoing. Our goal for the 1997-98 year is to bring in at least 50 new members for a total of 800, or more.

Arizona State Retirement System by Bob Ellis, ASRS Liaison, with Gale Richards

The ASRS Board of Directors is responsible for administering the 16 BILLION dollar trust fund from which members' pensions and insurance subsidies are paid. The board meets the third Friday of every month on the tenth floor of the ASRS building at 3300 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. The ASRS Investment Council, which recommends trust fund investments, usually meets sometime prior to the board meeting. Several times this year the board and the council have held a joint meeting.



ASURA representatives attend ASRS board and investment council meetings and have testified before those boards to indicate the ASURA board's position on matters which are under discussion.

ASURA is also a member of a state retirees' coalition, the membership of which was discussed in the health insurance report above.

Our board has taken positions opposing the reorganization of the State Retirement System to merge the council and the board into one unit which will be wholly responsible for all management and investment affairs.

Our board has joined with the coalition in supporting legislation that would reduce the COLA indicator from 9% to 8%, increasing the COLA cap from 3% to 4%, increasing the insurance subsidy an additional \$30 per month, and opposing legislation which would permit ASRS to raise the amount of internally-administered investments from 20% to 50%.

Scholarship Committee

by Susanne Shafer, Chair

(report dated March 20, 1997)



The ASURA board announces with regret the sudden death of Sue Shafer on March 28, 1997. Sue was a very good friend to many, a dependable member of our organization, and a very hard worker for retirees' causes. She not only chaired the scholarship committee, but was a board member and a member of the education committee. She will be sorely missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

The committee members were Sue Blumer, Bob Beeman, Mat Betz, Diana Regner, Hal White, and Susanne Shafer, chair. We met in order to plan a follow-up on our first scholarship recipient's progress. Jonathan D. Wayne is a student in fine arts. He has made steady progress in his studies throughout the year.

We also discussed the general financing of the scholarship. Hal White outlined in detail how we could more economically finance the scholarship by going through the ASU Foundation.

We reviewed the printed announcement of the scholarship which is available from the Scholarship Office in the Student Services Building.

Future agendas include meeting again to decide whether Jonathan Wayne qualifies for a renewal of the scholarship (assuming he applies for it).

The committee will arrive at a plan for the continued financing of the scholarship after receiving advice on the question from the full ASURA board.

If a second awardee is to be selected, the committee shall do so as rapidly as is advisable.

Respectfully submitted, *Susanne M. Shafer, Chair*

Volunteer Activities

by Jo Ann Hennington, Coordinator



During the 1996-97 academic year, ASURA members donated hundreds of hours of service to areas on campus, such as the University Libraries, the College of Extended Education's Elderhostel program, ICA tutoring, Gammage Auditorium, Art Museum, Arboretum/Greenhouse, Student Registration, Mail Services, Constituent Outreach Tour Guides, and the Wellness Program. In addition, ASURA was contacted by other campus offices for assistance with special events or projects.

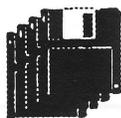
Our retirees did not replace any paid employees when performing the various volunteer activities. And, since retirees are eligible for parking permits, they were able to park on campus gratis.

A heartfelt "thank you" to the many ASURA members who donated so generously of their time! Many offices and areas on campus have had budget cuts, so they do need volunteer assistance.

ASURA members—if you have a particular office or area on campus which you would like to assist, please let me know by calling 946-8479.

Prime Times

by Carolyn Brown



Deadlines for submission of copy for the newsletter are as shown below.—the Friday before the board meeting every other month (five issues). Early submission allows me to get the issue out faster, since I can get much of it set up before the board meeting.

Month	Mtng Date	Copy Due
September 1997	11	5
October 1997	9	No newsletter
November 1997	13	7
December 1997	11	No newsletter
January 1998	8	2
February 1998	12	No newsletter
March 1998	12	6
April 1998	9	No newsletter
May 1998	14?***	8

*** Date to be confirmed by new president.

No meetings or newsletter, June, July, or August unless emergencies arise.



Anniversary Report 1996-97

ASU Retirees Association

Box 872512

Tempe, AZ 85287-2512

President:

Don Gieschen

Vice President:

Madelyn Wright

Treasurer:

Hal White

Secretary:

Sue Blumer

Volunteer Office Coordinator:

Corrine Irvan

Office:

(602) 965-7668

Congratulations to Lute Olson and the U of A basketball team for a job well done!! In case you've been out of touch since March 31, they won the NCAA national championship.

They, along with the Sun Devils going to the Rose Bowl, helped prove to all the easterners that "West of the Pecos" is more than a movie title. People actually live out here and do very well, thank you viddy much!