



# Arizona State University Retirees Association

Report from the Board, 2001—2002

## *Annual Meeting*

April 18, 2002

Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge, 1 p.m.



*Old Main*

# ASURA Board of Directors 2002 — 2003

Terms Expire 4/2005

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# President's Report ... by Mat Betz

This marks the eleventh year of our organization—a very good year for ASURA. We have grown in both membership and activities, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers. Without their time and expertise there would be no ASURA as we know it.

Throughout this report you will find details about the committees, all of which have been active. Much of the emphasis in the fall concerned the major changes in health insurance. Dick Murra spent numerous hours on our behalf in tracking the changes, communicating them to us, and then on the phone answering our questions.

Jeri Goldfader, chair of our Adopt-A-Family program, was joined by Shiela Millhollon who established the "Clothesline" table on the campus and enlisted the aid of several ASU offices. The response was more than expected. As a result we plan to increase the number of families receiving assistance from two to three next year.

The Activities Committee under Joe Schabacker and Betty Ann Wood has offered more travel opportunities. The highlight this year was the trip to China. The committee would like to see many more members participate in the future.

The Education Committee conducted an excellent Retirees Day in February with outstanding speakers, including ASU's own Senator Harry Mitchell who spoke at lunch. He described his youth in the Payne Training School, Tempe High and ASU. The attendance was the largest ever.

The Legislative Liaison Council, led this year by Bob Mings and Alan Johnson, spent countless hours at the legislature in the spring to bring our concerns, as well as those of the university, to the attention of legislators. Through their efforts ASURA was well represented at the ASU legislative picnic in February.

We added two additional projects in the spring. Some time ago you received a form for the proposed ASURA Corps. The purpose of this corps is to more broadly publicize our members' availability and interest in consulting, volunteering or acting as a speaker. If there is adequate response,

a directory will be published and distributed to public, private and educational entities in the Valley. I urge you to complete and return the form if you are interested in being part of the project. Additional forms are available in the ASURA office.

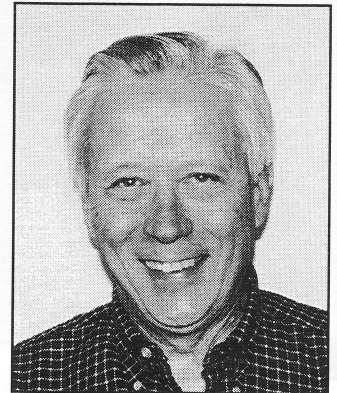
At its February meeting the board approved an oral history project involving longtime ASU faculty and staff. The focus will be on what it was like to work (or be a student) at ASU in the fifties and sixties. June Payne will chair a new committee to direct this project. Please contact June if you have an interest in serving on the committee or want to nominate someone to be interviewed.

Carolyn Brown, editor of our newsletter, *Prime Times*, passed away on March 3 after several weeks in the hospital. She contributed so much to *Prime Times* over the past years with her fine editing and layout work, her patience with late submissions from chairs and officers, and the humor that became a hallmark of the publication. She will be both missed and remembered. The Brown family has established the Carolyn Brown Memorial Fund through ASURA. Contact the office if you wish to contribute.

Your new *Prime Times* editor is Rochelle (Rocky) Mackey. She brings considerable experience to the endeavor. With very short notice, and no transition period, she has assumed the responsibility for this annual report and future issues of *Prime Times*. We appreciate her willingness to volunteer, and we look forward to having her at the board meetings and working with her.

As always, your officers, board members and committee chairs owe so much to Corrine Ivan and the members who each spend hundreds of hours each year in the office. They deserve everyone's appreciation for their tireless efforts.

It has been a pleasure and an honor for me to be your president this year. ASURA is truly an outstanding and worthwhile organization. Thank you one and all.



# Treasurer's Report ... by Peggy Randolph



Revenues and expenditures remained relatively stable, enabling us to meet our financial obligations and purchase operating supplies and capital equipment as necessary throughout the year.

In addition to operating expenses, major expenditures for the year include assistance to the Adopt-A-Family program, donation to the Scholarship Fund, and a subsidy to fund Retirees Day. An outlay of funds in this coming year will be seed

money for a project to record the oral history of ASU.

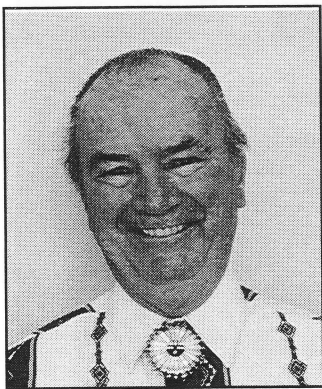
A large portion of our annual revenue from membership renewals is deposited between April 1 and June 30. Revenue from dues for the fiscal year ending June 30 is expected to be approximately \$9,800.

Below is an abbreviated financial statement for the period July 1, 2001 to March 13, 2002.

Balance Forward — July 1, 2001		\$11,797
Revenue:		
Membership Dues	3275	
Adopt-A-Family	447	
ASURA Books	42	
Interest	<u>256</u>	
		<u>4,020</u>
		15,817
Expenditures:		
Scholarship Fund	2344	
Adopt-A-Family	991	
Retirees Day subsidy	970	
Supplies, miscellaneous	1425	
Administrative Services Charges (ASU Foundation)	<u>550</u>	
		<u>6,280</u>
Ending Balance — March 13, 2002		\$9,537

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# Activities ... by Joe Schabacker and Betty Wood



In developing its offerings, this committee met monthly throughout the year. We were assisted by Corrine Irvan and volunteers to get out eight mailings to all members.

A survey to determine member interests had a return of 12 percent.

Responses to the activities planned were disappointing, as three trips had to be cancelled. The enrollments in seven others were just enough to break even. Participants gave these programs—Ludwig Dance Program, Southwest Men's Gymnastics Cup, Norman Rockwell Exhibit, Kartchner Caverns, Tucson Biosphere, China and Christmas Lights in Sedona—rave reviews.

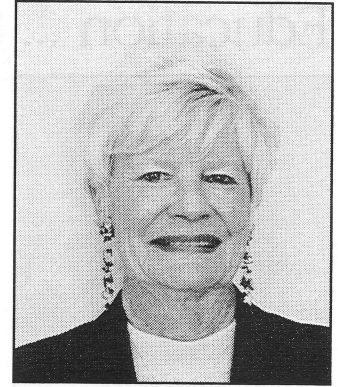
The committee has spent considerable time and thought on ways to increase the number of participants for each program. Recognizing that activities that cost more than \$300 do not fit the financial means for most of our members, there will be just one "high ticket" trip each year. This may be an international tour e.g. China in 2001 or the Kansas City / Branson tour scheduled for October 2002.

For the most part our activities will be short travel / low cost / mostly local events. When possible we will provide carpooling opportunities to reduce travel and parking costs. Especially 4-U Travel continues to offer good service.

Activities, continued from page 4

Promotions will be done through *Prime Times* and special mailings; committee members will conduct telephone campaigns to keep from canceling a trip that is close to the break-even point. We

may offer a discount for early enrollment, and through our mailings we will continue to ask for suggestions from members. We have written a job description for the newly created Trip Coordinator position.



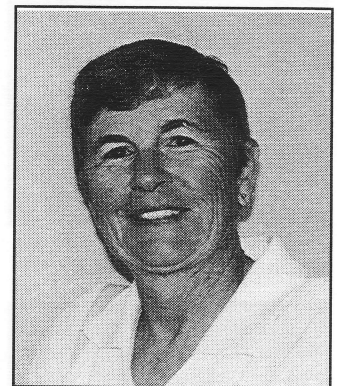
## Adopt-A-Family ... by Jeri Goldfader & Shiela Millhollon

The Adopt-A-Family Program is finishing its tenth and most successful year to date. We have continued our association with the Tempe Elementary School District #3 and are currently helping two needy and deserving families. In one there are working parents and three sons—ages 7, 8 and 9; the second is a working mother who also attends school part-time and supports one son, 10, and a daughter, 3. Because we did not get information on the families until mid September, our deliveries this past year started in October and continued in November, December, February and March. A final delivery will be made by early May.

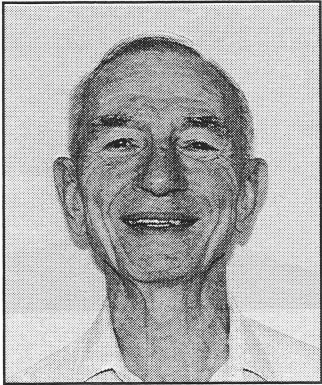
Several positive changes have been made this year. Shiela Millhollon agreed to be a co-coordinator (definitely a plus) and she has extended the program by initiating the "Clothesline." She and her husband, Archie, have set up an ASURA Adopt-A-Family booth on the ASU Cady Mall near the fountain several days each month. They encourage faculty, staff and students to participate in our wonderful program by picking up paper clothing cutouts listing needed items for our families and then returning on the following appropriate dates with the actual items for us to pass on to our adoptees. This is an innovative effort on Shiela's part, and our deepest gratitude goes to her and Archie, and to the many persons who have generously given so much to us in the form of new clothing, toys and badly needed household items. Also, several offices on campus selected our program in lieu of their traditional Christmas celebrations this past year. Our grateful thanks go to the personnel in the Office of

Payables and Administrative Services and Institutional Analysis. There were literally carloads of gifts from these caring persons. The Provost's Office will continue with another "gift giving" session prior to Easter. Word has spread around the campus and several individuals from other offices have also given us some beautiful linens, clothing and toys for the families. The response to our program has been overwhelming. We feel so fortunate that so many have been a part of Adopt-A-Family this past year and we hope that the generosity will continue in the future.

Little would be accomplished without the dedication of our 2001 – 2002 committee members who help with shopping, wrapping and delivering gifts. Our personal thanks go to Lise Jonsson, Eleanor Jordan, Ruth Ludemann, Judy Riden and Helen Mancini (not an ASU retiree but a good friend) for their excellent assistance. These women continue to make our work a labor of love. A special thanks also goes to the many ASURA members who so generously participate in our program with monetary gifts. Checks are always welcome (made payable to the ASU Foundation with an AAFP notation) and will continue to help our families through the remaining spring months and the beginning of the 2002 – 2003 season. We are proud that our Adopt-A-Family program continues its reputation of assisting families throughout the year and not just on a one-time basis.



## Education ... by Joe Wilkinson & Sue Blumer



The ninth annual Retirees Day was a well-attended event, with 144 members registered, the largest ever. We hoped to have more members register, and propose in the future to do a second mailing.

The chairs commend the Education Committee members—Jim Ames, Don Gieschen, Betty Greathouse, Bets Manera Elaine McGovern, Evelyn Partridge, Zeke Prust, Diana Regner, Gale Richards, Don Robinson, Dean Smith, Louis Weschler and Ruth Wineberg—the volunteer office staff and the ASURA Board, all of whom devoted numerous hours toward making the day a success. Thanks also go to the Memorial Union staff, Distinctive Catering, the presenters and our luncheon speaker, Senator Harry Mitchell.

The program sessions were informative, well attended and well received. Brief recaps follow, with attendance figures in parentheses at the end of each statement.

**INSIDE ARIZONA HIGHWAYS: ARIZONA'S WINDOW TO THE WORLD** presented by Bob Early who has edited the magazine for 12 years. He traced the publication's history from 1925, when it started as a technical highway engineering journal, through the 30-year period when Raymond Carlson made it into a national and internationally acclaimed publication. Today it has the largest circulation of any state magazine. One issue, devoted to Indian jewelry, sold more than 1 million copies. The magazine has other revenue sources, including an annual calendar, that are profitable sidelines. Early also gave prospective contributors a summary of what is needed for acceptance of photos and articles submitted for publication. (48)

**LEISURE READING AND WRITING** was presented by Pierre O'Rourke. He offered several approaches to aid in writing, stressing the importance of keeping a journal that lists scheduled activities and records of ideas as they arise. He shared his experiences with writers of screen plays and authors of books and articles. He made suggestions to help motivate people to read and stay interested in reading as a pastime. One book recommendation was Og

Mandino's *The Greatest Salesman in the World*. (30)

**EXERCISE AND AGING: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES** was presented by Pam Swan, ASU professor of exercise. Emphasizing that exercise is important for all ages, and should be fun, she offered four principles of exercise—begin and end each session with stretching routines; breathe properly throughout the exercise circuit; perform weight-oriented exercises slowly to avoid momentum; and bend such joints as knees to avoid hyper-extension. She demonstrated several simple exercises. (37)

**SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT DEPRESSION, DEMENTIA, OR MEMORY LOSS?** was presented by Morley Shaw. He discussed depression as a response to loss, i.e. loss of a loved one or independence. Grieving is the natural response to such losses but can lead to depression. Concentrating on activities and avoiding schedules that are too regular can reduce memory loss. Dementia usually begins with memory loss and can result in the loss of other cognitive functions. Trauma such as a stroke or Parkinson's disease also causes memory loss. (23)

**ESTATE PLANNING** was presented by Theron Hall, an attorney with Morris, Hall, Holdsworth and Kinghorn. He explained the value of estate planning and described the latest tax laws dealing with probate and trusts. Patty McGrath of Mass Mutual Financial Group discussed investments for retirees. (42)

**TWO ARTISTS, ONE PASSION** was presented by Robert and Louise McCall, local artists who met in New Mexico. They showed slides of their work and offered stories that provided a glimpse into their 56-year marriage. Louise is a landscape artist while Bob is known for space paintings done for *Life Magazine* in the 1950s, NASA in the 1960s and Stanley Kubrick's movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." The couple blended their art styles for a mural in the Johnson Space Center and a stained glass window in the Valley Presbyterian Church Chapel. (40)

A TRUE ARCHITECTURE FOR THE DESERT SOUTHWEST introduced the development of desert cities in the Middle East and the style of their architecture. John Meunier, who is retiring as Dean of the ASU College of Architecture at the end of this year, offered contrasts with the architectural styles found in Arizona. These combine English, Native American and Spanish elements. He also talked about energy conservation in desert cities. (39)

In GARDENING WITH BIBLICAL PLANTS Vic Miller, mingled personal anecdotes with interesting facts about Biblical plants similar to many found in the Arizona desert. He showed samples, such as the fig leaf, the banana leaf, the laurel leaf (dried it is the bay leaf used in cooking), the pomegranate, and the pod from the honey

locust tree. The latter may have been the "locusts" that provided John the Baptist's diet in the wilderness. (17)

HARRY MITCHELL, ARIZONA STATE SENATOR provided highlights of his career as the luncheon speaker. He reminisced about teaching government at Tempe High School, serving on the Tempe City Council and as Mayor of Tempe. He also recalled his own student days. Leadership roles in a variety of organizations were among the achievements he described in a self-effacing, humorous manner. He got a laugh out of Don Robinson's cartoon depicting him as a young sprout ready to take on the world.

## Health Insurance ... by Dick Murra

The open enrollment period for Health and Dental Insurance for the year 2001 – 2002 revealed a new situation for health insurance coverage. Due to a gross increase in premium costs, if the existing plans were to be continued in the Department of Administration plans, a decision was made by ADOA to re-compete the plans. This did not result in significantly lower premium costs. In an attempt to get better bids, the vendors were asked to bid on an all or none basis for health insurance. Providing health insurance to eligible employees and retirees living in rural areas also was a stumbling block. Only Cigna offered an acceptable package. Premium cost, co-pays and prescription co-pays were not accepted with open arms. Of significance was the \$40 co-pay for non-formulary drugs. This dissatisfaction was further enhanced by limitations placed on the formulary, meaning that some non-formulary drugs were not covered. This was not the general understanding at the time of entering into the contract. The problems continue to receive attention but relief is not expected in the near term, if at all. Nationally health care cost continues to escalate, and we are experiencing that trend. State and Federal issues are being studied.

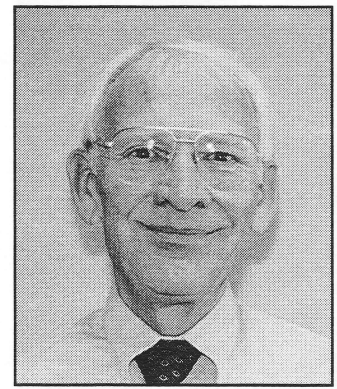
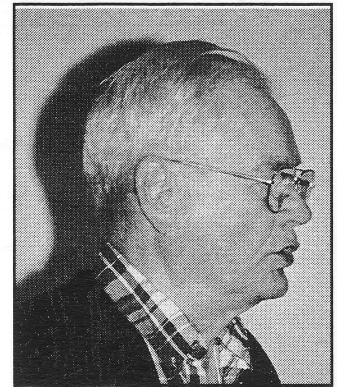
We will find out what the policy year 2002 – 2003 has to offer when the ADOA open enrollment occurs in July, August or September. The exact period is to be announced.

Retirees lost out on eye care with the new Cigna contracts. The State did not include eye care in the health insurance specifications. A separate contract was negotiated for eye care for active employees. According to ADOA, law does not allow the inclusion of coverage for retirees unless included in the Health Insurance package. So, again retirees are left to fend for themselves. Other private plans do exist and AARP offers reduced rates with selected eye care vendors. Sears and Pearl Vision are two of their providers but you must be a member of AARP to be eligible.

The Plans offered by the Arizona State Retirement System did not escape without problems. Most of the premium costs imposed by PacifiCare doubled. This, plus a continuation of formulary problems, presents the major issues for members in those plans.

Fortunately dental insurance plans were not significantly affected for year 2001 – 2002.

Continued on page 8



At the present time, ADOA has requested new proposals for dental care for the policy year 2002 – 2003. Evaluation bids will take place in March with a contract effective date of October 1, 2002. The ASRS dental plans continue to December 31, 2002. If any changes are to be effected it will be announced in the Open Enrollment package due out in the October / November time period.

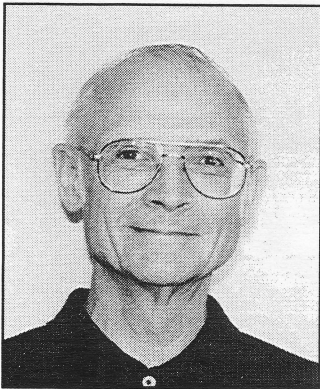
The only bright spot was the increase in subsidy by the Arizona Legislature. Of significance was the new subsidy addition for persons living in rural areas. This increase, while only approved for a limited number of years, allows affected

employees / retirees to enroll at significant savings in premium charges. Health Insurance issues will determine whether the added subsidy will be continued in the future.

The biggest foul-up during the past year affected members who were required to pay their premiums direct. Cigna failed to initiate a billing and collection plan giving promises after promises that a plan was due out soon. The situation has now deteriorated to the point that the state will again take over the collection of premiums effective April 1, 2002. A lot of data concerning who has paid what and what is due complicates the process. ADOA will work with affected retirees in establishing a payment plan for past premiums due. By the time this article comes out I hope the procedural problems will be solved.

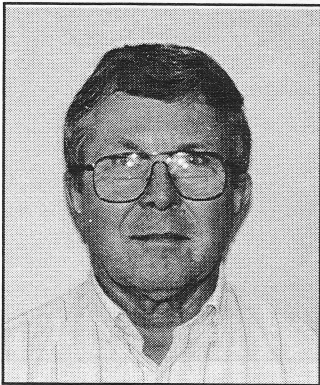
## Legislative Liaison ... by Alan Johnson & Bob Mings

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As in the past, the Legislative Liaison Council of the ASU Retirees Association continues close communications with key organizations affecting the collective welfare of our members. These organizations include both houses of the Arizona Legislature, the ASU Sun Devil Advocates Council, the Arizona State Retirement System, and the Arizona Coalition of State Retiree Organizations. Our members have been especially active in contacting state legislators by means of e-mails, attendance at legislative hearings, phone calls, and letters.

had already retired. We are now supporting a bill in the current session that grants equity for all retirees in the form of a compensatory increase in the annuity payments of those who retired before last spring's bill went into effect.



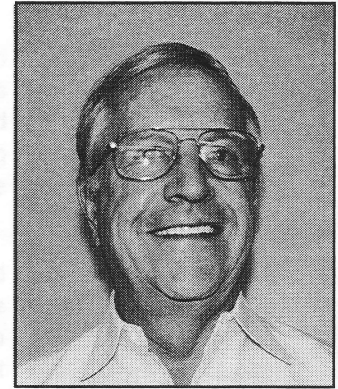
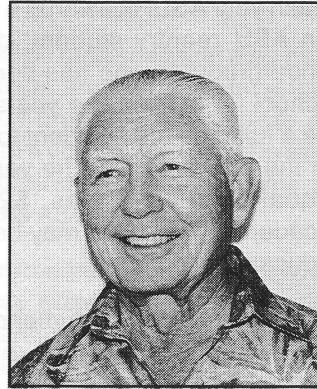
In late spring, 2001, the Legislature passed two important measures that were strongly supported by ASURA and the Council. One substantially increased the state health insurance subsidies for retirees in the state-contracted health insurance programs. The other increased the "multiplier" in the formula used for figuring the retirement annuity payments for future state retirees. The change yields higher annuity payments for employees retiring after the passage of the bill than they would have received under the old formula. Unlike a similar bill in earlier years, however, last spring's measure did not include a compensatory increase in annuity payments for state employees who

Among other activities during the past year, we invited District 27 legislators to the November 2001 ASURA Board Meeting. Both Senator Harry Mitchell and Representative Meg Burton Cahill attended. Representative Laura Knaperek was unavailable but expects to attend a similar meeting later. In February 2002 we recruited ASURA members to attend the very popular ASU-sponsored Statehood Picnic for Arizona Legislators held annually in Wesley Bolin Park. More than twenty of us participated, demonstrating the importance of higher education to our legislators. Also, since fall 2001, we have been monitoring the progress of two special ad hoc legislative committees exploring new alternatives for retiree health insurance. Finally, both last fall and in the current legislative session, we have provided support to ASU efforts to protect the university from budget cuts and to secure and preserve employee pay increases.



## Membership ... by George Morrell & Leon Shell

Membership in the Arizona State University Retirees Association is steadily increasing. We will end the 2001 — 2002 year with approximately 1,000 members. This number will fluctuate during the year with the enrollment of new members and some dropouts. It is the long-term goal of the committee that we maintain a steady increase in our membership. The recruitment process continues through the year.



## Retirement System ... by Gale Richards & Quentin Bogart

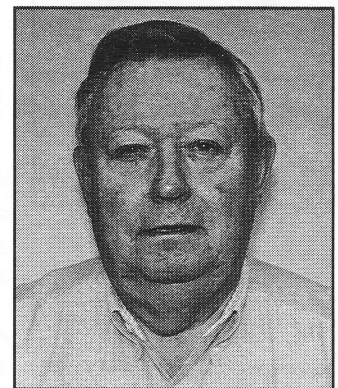
It's been a pleasure to represent you and your interest in our oversight work with the Arizona State Retirement System during the past year. The subcommittee has been faithful in its representation of ASURA and its members at the ASRS Board meetings during the period.

At this writing, we can safely report to you that the System's funds are beginning to see fairly strong gains once again in spite of experiencing some investment losses due to the recession's fluctuating stock and bond markets. Because the System's assets are so widely diversified, its losses have been more modest than have those of most other retirement funds. We continue to be well funded and in good health.

As you can imagine, the members of the 2002 Arizona State Legislature have had their hands full trying to produce a viable budget amid dropping tax revenues. This presents a clear and ever present danger to the fund. Certain legislators are eyeing the ASRS "surplus" with the idea of allowing state employees to defer contributions to ASRS. This would give the employee more usable income in the short term. ASRS actuaries estimate such action would remove \$167 million from the surplus—that could ultimately impact us all. Please lobby your local legislator to make the Legislature stop any bill that might have a negative effect on the fund. A couple of bills

extending medical insurance subsidies to retirees living in non service areas both in rural Arizona and out-of-state are in committee. There are a few additional bills that either will have no major impact, or stand little chance of passage, that are floating around in committees. However, we suggest you read the summary of ASURA's legislative oversight subcommittee for a more detailed report on current legislative activity (also included in the 2002 ASURA Annual Report).

Although little of the news in this report can be termed "exciting," your subcommittee leadership is pleased to have recruited Glenn Wilt, distinguished professor of finance in the College of Business Administration, and John Bell, distinguished professor in secondary education in the College of Education, to active membership with us in our oversight activities. Glenn is a consultant and expert witness in the area of finance, while John is a consultant to Arizona schools seeking affiliation or continued affiliation with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Both are knowledgeable additions to our subcommittee. Quentin Bogart will be stepping away from his duties of ASRS oversight in April because of other duties with ASURA.



## Scholarship ... by Sue Blumer



Each year ASURA awards a scholarship to an ASU reentry student, defined as an undergraduate who has been out of high school for at least five years and who will be a full-time ASU student for the first time in the fall semester. The yearly stipend is equal to in-state fees, \$2,344 for this academic year, but it may be used for any educational purpose.

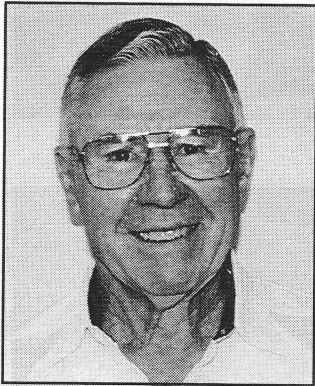
The committee recommends the review procedure and criteria, evaluates the applications, and selects the recipient. This year the committee awarded the scholarship to Sarah Potter, an anthropology major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who presented an excellent academic record on entry to ASU.

The committee met to review the procedures and criteria that were not changed in substance from the previous year. Dr. David Mata, ASU Scholarship office, coordinated the details of the application process, sending the application forms to various offices on and off campus. The deadline for applications for the coming academic year is April 30. The committee will meet in May to review and award the scholarship for next year. This year the committee included Diana Regner, Betty Greathouse, Lester Hendrickson, Ivan Saddler, Monte Allen, Eleanor Jordan, C. B. Gambrell and Sue Blumer, chair.

The amount in the endowment fund is more than \$21,000.

## University Club ... by Denis J. Kigin & Charles Woolf

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The Arizona State University Club, a membership organization, is open to Alumni, community, corporate, and faculty and staff currently employed or retired. Members pay moderate monthly fees. The ASU President appointed the Director of Inter-collegiate Athletics to oversee club operations; an 15-member advisory board represents members' interests. Fine Host Corporation provides the food services.

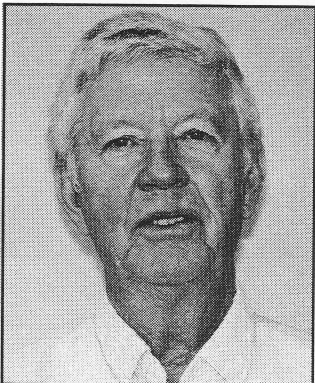
The Club celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 29 with live entertainment, door prizes and the opening of a special art exhibit commemorating the celebration.

The biggest need for the University Club is participation by members in its various activities. In addition to special meetings and receptions the Club features breakfast, lunch, casual dining, happy hour on Thursdays, Friday dinners and monthly Sunday brunch.

Club members participated in numerous community activities throughout the year,

including Toys for Tots at Christmas, sneaker tours of the campus Arboretum and the Spring Community Project for the Thomas J. Pappas School in Phoenix.

Make a date for a Friday night dinner at the Club—you won't be disappointed!!



## Volunteer Program ... by Vivienne Gardner

While the proper ASU offices have been notified about the willingness of ASURA

members to volunteer time in their departments, no requests for assistance have been received to date.



## Website Home Page ... by Bob Beeman, Bob Frazier & Dick Murra

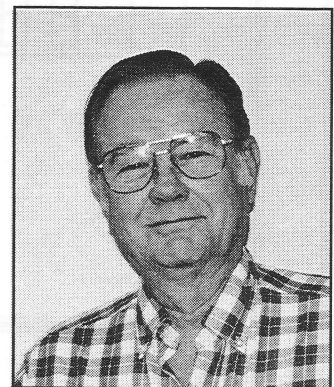
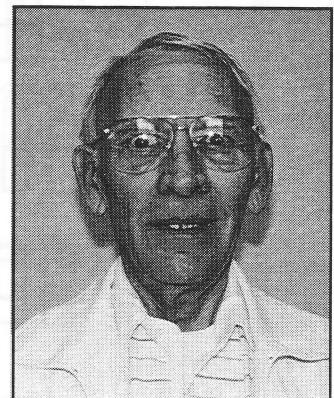
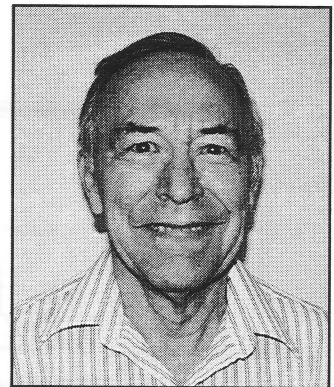
The ASU Retirees Association has established an Internet Home Page noted below.

This Home Page includes the *Prime Times* newsletter, a Calendar of Events, Board of Directors, Board minutes, Association Committees, Scholarships and Volunteer Activities, as well as links to the Arizona Department of Administration, the Arizona State Retirement System, Arizona

Legislature, Social Security Administration, et. al.

Details of Activities Committee offerings, as well as a map showing the location of ASURA members, will be added soon.

Members are invited to visit the site and to forward comments and suggestions to the Website Committee, attention Bob Beeman, at the ASURA Office.



<http://aspin.asu.edu/asura/index.htm>

# Office Volunteers ... by Corrine Irvan



Thanks to ALL our dedicated office volunteers who help keep the place up and running. Many of them have been on board since the beginning in 1991. Our newest recruit is Sharon Corea, formerly with the Provost's Office at ASUW and MU at Main. The following people take care of the office on the days noted. Morning volunteers work from 9 a.m. to noon; afternoon volunteers work from 1 to 4 p.m. Of course, many of these volunteers help with big mailings, are on various committees, and some have served on the board. They're a multitalented group. Lee Weber, Pat Skinner, Martha Waltemath help with refreshments and cleanup for Board meetings, while various ASURA members, including some office workers, help with special mailings.

Call or stop by to say "hello" or to sit in the rocking chair for awhile!

## Monday

Morning—**Pat Skinner**  
 Afternoon—**Gale Richards**  
 Filing Project—**Sharon Corea**



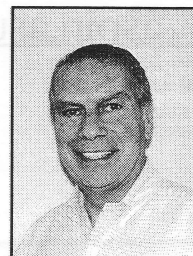
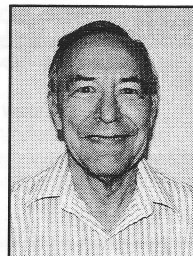
## Tuesday

Morning—**Esther Hardesty**  
 Afternoon—**Maxine LaRoux**



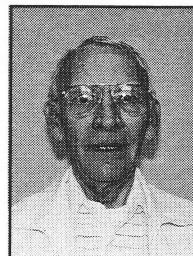
## Wednesday

Morning—**Bob Beeman**  
**Ed Scannell**  
 Afternoon—**Marilyn Wahl**



## Thursday

Morning—**Corrine Irvan**  
 Afternoon—**Bob Frazier**



## Friday

Morning—**Martha Waltemath**  
 Afternoon—**Dorolis Wade**

