



Arizona State University Retirees Association

Report from the Board, 2003 — 2004

Annual Meeting

April 8, 2004

Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge, 1 p.m.



Old Main

ASURA Board of Directors 2004 — 2005

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President's Report ... by Floyd Land

I will admit to some trepidation as I became the 13th president of the organization without having attended one meeting in the capacity of vice-president. I guess I can lay claim to having had the shortest tenure as vice-president in the history of the organization. In addition to that somewhat intimidating beginning, I was unable to attend the annual meeting last April to accept the transfer of the gavel from out-going president Quentin Bogart due to my commitment to jury duty. I became president in absentia and have made every effort since that date to fulfill the duties of the office with Quentin's help as the IPP (Immediate Past President) and with the unwavering support of **Corrine Irvan** and her office support staff.

Early in the year we were able to meet with Vince Renzulli, the new Vice President for Public Affairs, to review the relationship between ASURA and his office. We are most appreciative of the support we receive from this area. They supply our link to the university in general. This relationship becomes ever more important as the university continues to grow and as realignment and space issues surface.

Another key event this year was a meeting hosted by ASURA's legislative liaison officers, Alan

Johnson and Bob Mings. The legislative committee members and officers from the retiree's organizations at ASU, NAU, and the U of A met in our office meeting area for a day of reporting and collaboration on legislative and insurance issues and how we can work collectively to bring about actions that have a positive impact on the membership of our three organizations. This was a very informative and worthwhile meeting. Plans are being made to get the group together again this summer to continue planning strategies for working for the good of the organization.

We continue to look forward to reports at our monthly meetings from our ex-officio members from Human Resources-**Christine Cervantes**, Academic Senate President **Tony Garcia**, Academic Vice Presidents Office **Linda Van Scoy**, **Lynn Carpenter** and **Karen Hammann**, Classified Staff **Joan Leard**, and the University Liaison's office **Nancy Jordan**. The representatives from these areas take time out of their very demanding schedules to share what is happening in their organizations. ASURA is very appreciative of the time they give and the wealth of information these representatives bring to our meetings.

You will have an opportunity in this publication to read reports from all the standing committee chairs, but I want to personally recognize them for their efforts and dedication to you the members of ASURA.

George Morrell has served as chair of the Membership Committee, and has worked to keep our membership at or near the 1000 mark. One of the challenges George and his committee face is getting names and addresses of prospective members because of the issues related to the privacy act. We will need to become very creative in how we secure potential members' names. Undoubtedly the committee will be relying on assistance from each of you to help keep us informed about friends from your departments on campus that are making plans to join this wonderful world of retirement!

Alan Johnson and **Bob Mings**, Legislative Liaison Council, **John Bell** and **Gale Richards**, State Retirement System Liaisons, along with **Dick Murra** and **Denis Kigin**, representatives of our health care systems, all have been diligent in keeping an eye on and reporting back to us on the upcoming issues that can affect the members of our organization. We know



that the weeks and months to come will be very interesting as these individuals keep a keen eye on the political happenings at various state agencies.

Peggy Randolph, the new Volunteer Co-coordinator, assisted many agencies by placing volunteers from ASURA with their organizations. She continues work on a database from which she can draw names as requests come in. **Tom Dezelsky**, the new chair of the Activities Committee, is working to develop more programs that will appeal to the needs of our members.

Our Adopt-A-Family program, under the direction of co-chairs **Jeri Goldfader** and **Geri Roth**, saw a need to restructure. Even with that challenge, they have been able to continue assisting families with special needs.

You will find **June Payne's** report on the ASURA's "Video History Project" very interesting as they are entering their final stages of the project. Our collective hats are off to June for the time and

talent she has dedicated to this project.

When we talk about ongoing change, nothing changes faster than the technological challenges of the computer world. **Bob Beeman** continues to work at keeping our web site up to date and to find better ways to link it with the university homepage.

Martha Waltemath continues to be responsible for the planning and logistics of our annual meeting. She is also one of our key volunteers in the office, and I will miss her friendly phone reminders of meeting times and places.

A special note of appreciation goes to **Rochelle "Rocky" Mackey** for the time and talent she contributes to publishing our *Prime Times* newsletter. My wish would be that we could all be better at getting information to her in a timely manner to make her difficult task much easier.

The ASURA Executive Committee has been very supportive of this president and I recognize them here for their contributions: Past President, **Quentin Bogart**, Vice President, **David Scheatzle**, Secretary, **Martha**

Merkle, Treasurer, **Michael Lupnacca**, and Newsletter Editor, **Rocky Mackey**.

A special recognition, not only from your president but on behalf of the entire membership as well, goes to the volunteer office staff. Corrine Irvan, our office manager, and the volunteer office staff keep the office open, and provide the "human" touch to the incoming phone calls and assist with the many projects that are needed to keep our organization running smoothly. The volunteers this year have been: **Pat Skinner, Gale Richards, Esther Hardesty, Carol Moore, Maxine LaRoux, Bob Beeman, Ed Scannell, Marilyn Wahl, Martha Waltemath, and Dorolis Wade**. Our "hats" are off to this group. If you have a free afternoon or morning, please contact Corrine. I know that she could use a couple more volunteers to round out her staff.

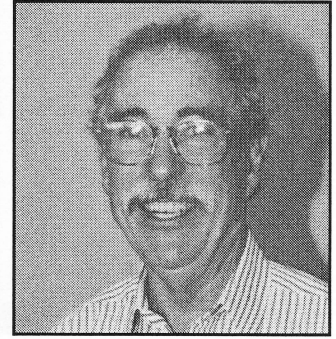
This has been a great experience, and I appreciate the privilege of serving as your 13th president.

Activities ... by Tom Dezelsky

The committee got a late start, but did promote a trip to Rocky Point by bus. The next trip in the planning stages is to

Kartchner Caverns in the fall. The committee is small (four members), but is in the process of enlarging. Goals for 2004-2005 include providing membership for

restaurants, bed and breakfast inns, hotels, and the like for all retirees from Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University and the Community Colleges.



Adopt-A-Family ... by Jeri Goldfader & Geri Roth

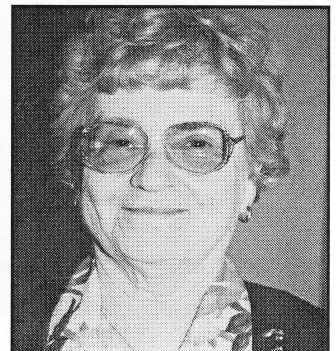
Another successful year ended with the Easter delivery to our families—a single mother with four children and a single father with three children—thus completing a 12-year association for the Adopt-A-Family Program and the Tempe Elementary School District #3 in assisting needy and deserving families. Deliveries were made throughout the year. We were able to fulfill almost all of their Christmas “wish list” requests.

Loss of the “Clothesline” and storage space restrictions for donated items caused a change in our

program. We now utilize numerous market and store gift cards for about 80% of our deliveries. This works extremely well and allows the parents to do their own shopping. Several thank-you notes have been received expressing gratitude for the wonderful generosity of ASURA.

Jeri G's retirement as Adopt-A-Family coordinator was brief, and she has worked hand-in-hand with Geri Roth who volunteered as a co-coordinator. Both will explore new and better ways to involve more ASU faculty, staff and students in ASURA's community service.

The committee includes Janis Newman and Rhoda Tucker. The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University again assisted our program in lieu of their traditional holiday celebrations, and we extend grateful thanks to them. Thanks also to our most generous ASURA members and to everyone both on and off campus who have helped this wonderful community project with monetary and gift donations. We feel extremely fortunate that so many have been part of Adopt-A-Family and we look forward to another good year.



5

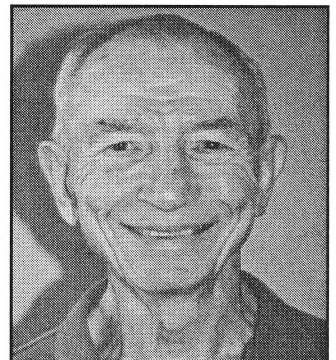
Education ... by Joe Wilkinson & Sue Blumer

The Eleventh Retirees Day, February 21, was well received by the more than 160 attendees. All of the events were held on the second floor of the Memorial Union. The day started with greetings from ASURA President Floyd Land, and Education Committee Chair Joe Wilkinson. The key

speaker for this preliminary session was Dick Murra, who reviewed the status of health care for ASU retirees.

During concurrent morning sessions, participants chose from a wide variety of topics. In the first hour they could: learn about American artists and their paintings, including those

then in the American Beauty exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum; the political picture leading to the national elections in December; the state of Arizona forests and the danger of forest fires; or ways to manage personal finances in retirement dur-



Education continued on page 6.



ing uncertain times. During the second hour they selected from the following: developments related to the Arizona Biodesign Institute on the ASU campus; means of keeping fit and well while in the retirement years; the nature of architecture in desert cities; or ways of gardening and landscaping in the Valley.

The featured speaker at the luncheon was ASU President Emeritus Lattie Coor, who has remained

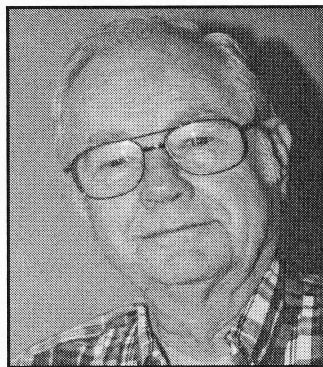
extremely busy with the Center for the Future of Arizona, which he founded and directs. He talked about one of its major concerns—increasing the graduation rate at high schools in Arizona, where the dropout rate is unacceptably high, especially among minorities. He also discussed his participation on a three-member commission to survey the state of universities in Iraq and to recommend methods to aid them in functioning normally again. At the end of his talk he an-

swered several questions from members. Don Robinson presented him with a caricature as a memento of the occasion.

The Education Committee, co-chaired by Sue Blumer, includes Chuck Elliott, Fred Fehr, Don Gieschen, Betty Greathouse, Bets Manera, Elaine McGovern, Evelyn Partridge, Zeke Prust, Gale Richards, Don Robinson, Dean Smith, Lou Weschler, and Ruth Wineberg.

Health Insurance through ADOA ... by Dick Murra

6



This policy year has been one of indecision for Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA). First the Legislature instructed ADOA to develop a self-insurance program for State employees and retirees who elected to retain their Health and Dental insurance with the State. Then the Legislature told ADOA not to develop Self Insurance.

The decision was up to ADOA, however, and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were drafted, proposals received and analyzed, contracts written, and presented to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review as required. The Committee has delayed discussing the contracts. While wait-

ing, ADOA requested cost figures from Cigna to extend the existing contract with them for an additional year.

As of March 2004, we do not know what is going to happen with the Health Insurance program. ADOA elected to remove the Dental Insurance programs from the self-insurance program at least for policy year 2004/2005. Those contracts had been introduced last year with favorable coverage and rates. Extensions are possible for five years.

The outcome for Health Insurance is anyone's guess. The State will have to provide some form of health insurance

for the coming year or face a very angry populace of active and retiree employees. An open enrollment period will be held for policy year 2004/2005 beginning October 1, 2004.

ADOA is looking at the possibility of awarding additional contracts to provide vision care and long-term care for some eligible participants.

Health Insurance on the national scene is in a state of flux. Medicare changes, increases in prescription costs, and lower profit margins for health insurance carriers are raising serious issues that will need to be reviewed, analyzed and discussed.

Health Insurance through ASRS ... by Denis Kigin

Health care coverage remains one of the most complex and challenging aspects for retirees. The goal is to obtain quality care at affordable rates. Perhaps the most important decision facing a new retiree is what insurance plan should be selected.

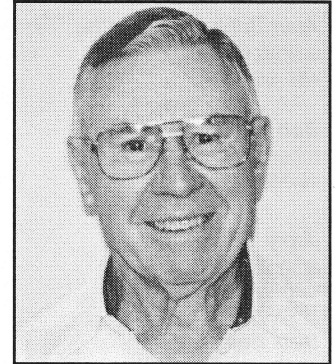
For those individuals and families who have been

covered under the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS), the current health insurance vendor is PacifiCare. Their contract ends December 31, 2004.

Health care coverage through ASRS has been bid out, and an RFP is now in the hands of seven major health insurance vendors. These vendors include Aetna, Blue Cross/

Blue Shield, Cigna, Healthnet, Humana, PacifiCare and United Health-care.

Responses from the vendors were requested for mid-March. The successful vendor is to be named by mid-June. Open enrollment will begin in October 2004, with program implementation on January 1, 2005.



Legislative Liaison ... by Bob Mings & Alan Johnson

The Legislative Liaison Council communicates with a wide variety of agencies and individuals who hold prospects for affecting retiree welfare in Arizona.

These include: Sun Devil Advocates Council, Tri-University Retirees Coalition, District Legislative Receptions, Legislative Committee Hearings, Arizona State Retirees Coalition, Special Statewide Healthcare Taskforce, Ad Hoc State Retirees Healthcare Benefits Committee, Statehood Day Legislative Picnic and Lobbying event, plus selected Senators, Representatives and state agency employees.

We are pleased to be among active supporters of three bills that passed at the end of the 2003 legislative session. The first continued the rural health insurance enhanced subsidy through June 2005.

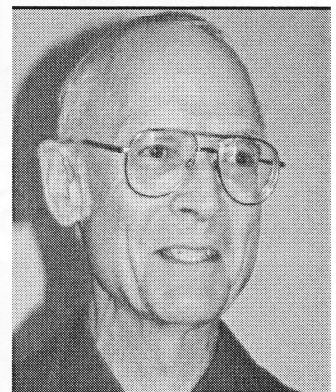
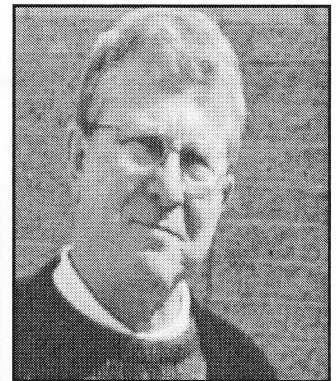
The second allowed retiring state employees the option of paying a small increment on their health insurance premium so that their surviving spouse will continue to receive a premium subsidy. The third funded research infrastructure construction for universities, including ASU. A special thanks goes to all Legislative Liaison Council volunteers for their assistance with these successes.

At present we, along with our allies, support an array of Arizona State Retirement System sponsored legislation that amounts to housekeeping measures designed to protect our retirement funds. We also support a bill assuring that two married state retirees with family coverage will receive a subsidy no less than the amount awarded for two single coverages. In addition, we are lobby-

ing in support of ASU's efforts to obtain core funding from the Legislature for employee pay increases and growth-related expenses.

Finally, we are monitoring retiree health insurance bills and the progress being made toward the adoption of a self-insured approach to health insurance. A majority of states already have some form of self-insurance.

We are in the process of enlarging our pool of retirees available on short notice to participate in legislative hearings during the remainder of this Session. We are optimistic that our expanded presence will enhance our recognition among legislators, thereby increasing our effectiveness.



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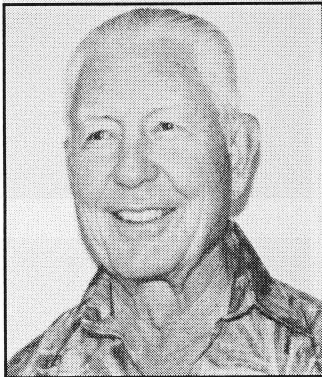
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8

Membership ... by George Morrell



Membership in the Arizona State University Retirees Association has fallen slightly this past year. We will end the 2003-04 year with approximately 975 members. The number will fluctuate during the year with enrollment of

new members, deaths, and some dropouts. We have had some difficulty this year getting addresses of recent retirees. This hinders the recruitment process. It is the long-term goal of the committee to increase

our membership to 1,100—the more members we have, the louder we can speak for the membership. Recruitment continues throughout the year.

Retirement System ... by Gale Richards & John Bell



Retirement Committee members attended nine of the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRA) Board of Directors monthly meetings in the last year. One of our most notable observations was the adaptation of the Board and the System to the new Executive Director, Paul Matson.

We sensed an easy comfort level between the

Board and Mr. Matson, and an increased openness of the Board with him and with the ASRS staff. There seems to be increased sensitivity toward addressing the needs of the clients of the System, developing better communications and making serious efforts to make it easier to access information and assistance.

The staff has recently gone through a process of developing a formal “vision” for the System, and they have solicited input from those of us who have regular contact with them. Someone from the ASRS staff has attended meetings of the coalition of university retirees associations,

Retirement continued on page 9.

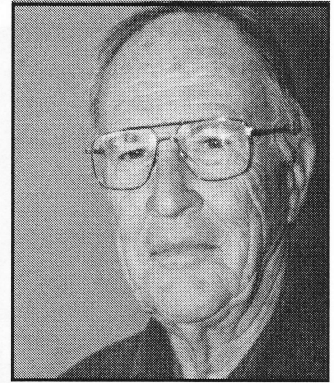
and they have been especially helpful with our questions about health insurance.

A very encouraging observation, listening to the reports of the various fund managers handling ASRS investments, is that the economy seems

to have rebounded and continues to do so. The funds have regained nearly 25 percent over the past year, and so far in 2004 fiscal year they are up 18 percent.

We have been very impressed with the

manner with which the Board and the staff of ASRS have conducted the business of handling our retirement funds. In fact, ASRS received a national award recently for its outstanding accounting and fiscal reporting process.



Scholarship ... by Sue Blumer

The Scholarship Committee met in May 2003, to review scholarship applications for the 2003-04 academic year. Suzanne

Steadman had developed an evaluation form.

The scholarship was awarded to Karen Vincent, an art history major with an outstanding com-

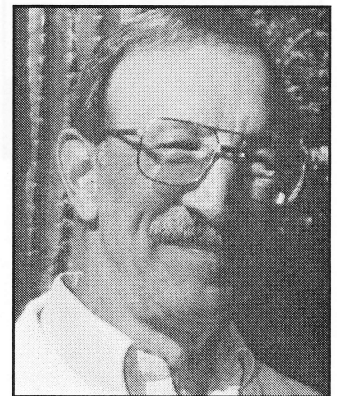
munity college record and strong career goals.

The committee was very supportive during the year with its attendance and participation.

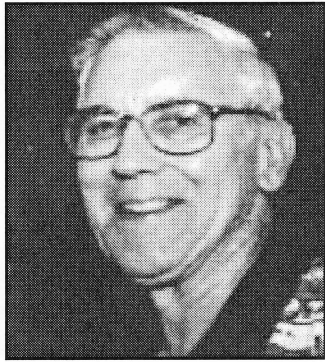


Treasurer's Report ... by Mike Lupnacca

Balance Forward — July 1, 2003		\$23,268
<i>Revenue:</i>		
Membership Dues	2,306	
Adopt-A-Family	170	
Interest	-0-	
	total revenue	2,476
	total balance forward & revenue	25,744
<i>Expenditures:</i>		
Video Project	3,332	
Scholarship Fund	3,508	
Adopt-A-Family	740	
Retirees Day subsidy	1,026	
Supplies, miscellaneous	1,929	
Administrative Services Charges	368	
	total expenditures	10,903
Ending Balance — March 11, 2004		\$14,841



University Club ... by Bob Ellis



Greg Rush, Director of ASU Auxiliary Business Services, now manages the University Club. Advisory Board President is Bill Verdini from the College of Education. Atlasta Catering is responsible for Club dining services.

Recently the Club has engaged in an Oktoberfest celebration and a Chinese Lunar New Year party. The first of three luncheon colloquia was held on February 24 with Regents' Professor Jeffrey Murphy. Wellington

Reither, Dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design spoke on March 30, and on April 27 Stuart Lindsey, Nadine and Edward Carson Presidential Chair in Physics, will speak.

Amended by-laws were approved by the Board in December and new billing procedures were adopted in January. Changes in the newsletter are coming. The Board also approved a dues increase beginning July 1, 2004.

The Club is open weekdays from 7a.m. – 5 p.m. with free coffee, tea, and hot chocolate at the Club Room from 7a.m. – 10 a.m. Lunch is served from 11a.m. – 1 p.m. with reservations preferred.

Shana Blixt (480-965-0700) is in charge of Member Services and Club Dining Reservations. Erin Maxwell (480-965-2502) is in charge of Special Events planning. The Club web site is www.asu.edu/uclub/

Video History Project ... by June Payne

10



Twenty interviews have been completed and are being transcribed for the continuing Living History Video Project (LHVP) sponsored by ASURA. There are more retirees on the committee's list to be interviewed and taped. Plans call for another ten to be done in 2004.

The transcriptions serve as tools when the individual tapes are edited. They also make the video tapes more valuable for archiving. The professional editing process will identify "out-takes" for short presentations. The committee hopes to use on-campus services to save expenses.

Six volunteers are transcribing the tapes, but more are needed. Flyers

requesting help were distributed at the Retirees Day. The transcriptionists are: Mary Jenkins, Alan Johnson, Peggy Randolph, Rebecca Reiss, Marguerite Shumway and Dennis Palumbo.

This project was funded with an initial grant of \$3,000 from ASURA, and a grant of \$5,000 from the ASU Development Office. More funds are needed.

Taping of the first 20 interviewees took place in 2002 and 2003. They were: Loretta Bardewyck, Brent W. Brown, Troy Crowder, Donald V. Dotts, Roy Doyle, John L. Ed-

wards, Robert Ellis, James W. Elmore, William Huizingh, Bill Kajikawa, Denis Kigin, Alan Matheson, Victor J. Miller, Carleton Moore, George Morrell, Bonnie Peplow, Anne Pittman, Ross Rice, Nick Salerno and Dean Smith.

Members of the LHVP Committee are: June Payne, chair, Don Dotts, Bob Ellis, Zeke Prust, Marilyn Wahl, Hal White, and Ruth Wineberg. Mat Betz is advisor emeritus. Quentin Bogart and Pam Stevenson are committee advisors.

Volunteer Program ... by Peggy Randolph

A volunteer force of over 120 ASU retirees offered their time and talents to some 25 or more different functions or activities over the year. There is a waiting list at some of our more popular volunteer placement areas, such as the ASU Art Museum and Gammage Auditorium, where some of our members have been helping for years. And ASURA was called on for more special events than usual this year, as the community recognizes the value of our collective experience.

Special events at which ASURA provided volunteers were:

- National Masters

Swim Meet held at ASU this year, which featured swimmers from all over the nation, including some in their 90's as well as former Olympic medallists.

- Evaluation of the Arizona Department of Transportation's electronic highway messaging system – a collaborative effort between ADOT and ASU's School of Environmental Design.
- Evaluation of ADOT's 511 telephone message system.
- Assistance to the College of Architecture in organizing and cataloging their slide

collection.

- Judges and other assistants at the Central Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at ASU for youths from 4th grade through high school.
- Distribution of student loan checks and scholarship funds at the beginning of fall and spring semesters.

Volunteers are discovering that being involved and helping others adds zest to life and keeps us active and young. So next time that volunteer sheet rolls around with your renewal application, sign up!

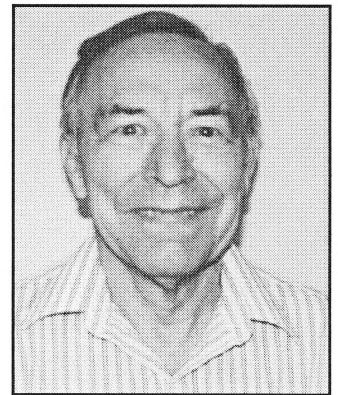


Website Home Page ... by Bob Beeman

The ASURA Website is alive and well. Surfers can find the Board of Directors, Association Committees, By-Laws, the latest issue of

PrimeTimes, a calendar of Board meetings and member events, a listing of current activities available to members, and other items of interest

to the membership. Webmaster Bob Beeman (bobbeemansr@juno.com) welcomes assistance in the maintenance of the website.



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

Office Volunteers ... by Corrine Ivan



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. 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 multi-talented group. Pat Skinner and 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!

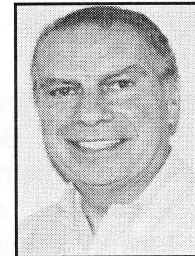
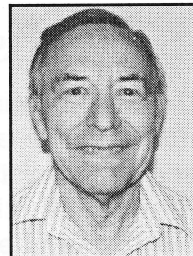
Monday
 Morning—**Pat Skinner**
 Afternoon—**Gale Richards**



Tuesday
 Morning—**Carol Moore**
 Afternoon—**Maxine LaRoux**



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



Thursday
 Morning—**Corrine Ivan**
 Afternoon—**Volunteer needed**
 (training required)



This space reserved for a volunteer like you. Training required.

Friday
 Morning—**Martha Waltemath**
 Afternoon—**Volunteer needed**
 (training required)



This space reserved for a volunteer like you. Training required.