



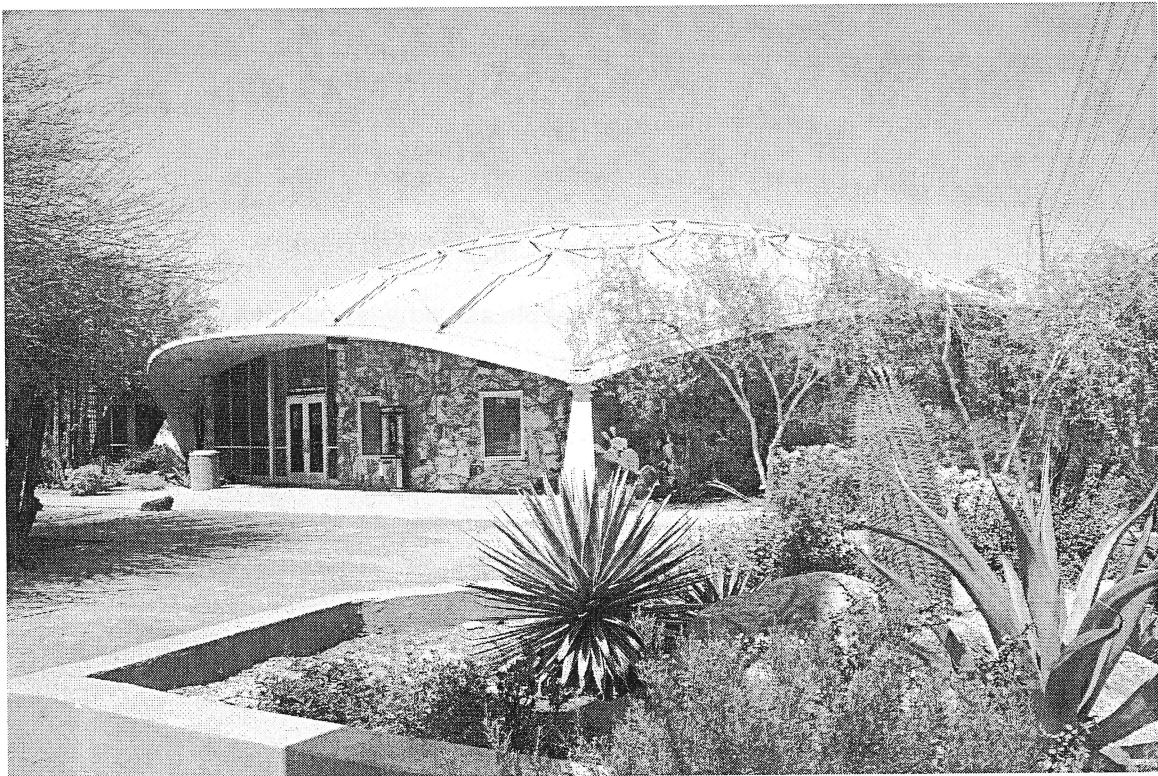
Arizona State University Retirees Association

Report from the Board, 2004—2005

Annual Meeting

April 21, 2005

Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge, 1 p.m.



ASURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

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Phoenix, AZ 85012

(602) 240-2000 or 1-800-621-3778

Arizona Department of Administration
100 North 15th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-4900

Area Codes: 602 - Phoenix and North Phoenix
623 - West Valley
928 - All other locations in Arizona

480 - East Valley
520 - Tucson and Southern Arizona

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announced when appointed.

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University Club Liaison

To be elected in May

Volunteers

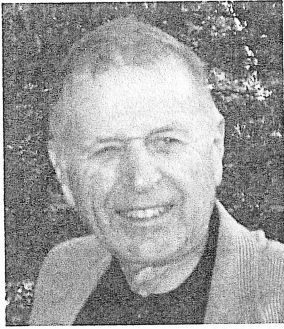
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Website

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By David G. Scheatzle



David Scheatzle

I must first thank those who served our members and at the top of that list is Corrine Irvan, who again wins the top volunteer award for the fourteenth consecutive year. She trains in a new President every year, trains all of the office staff as well as the committee chairs, and ensures that everyone knows their deadlines.

After Floyd Land passed the gavel to me last April, I received advice from Floyd and Quentin Bogart (outgoing past-president) on how to proceed.

Shortly, Quentin, Elmer Gooding and I met with our University sponsor, Virgil Renzulli -- VP of Public Affairs to discuss mutual objectives. He asked for our support in advocating for the University's interests at the State Legislature, and promised the support of his staff in fulfilling our objectives. Later, we were able to obtain the names of new retirees from Christine Cervantes, Director of

Human Relations, to help with membership recruiting.

A slow summer was punctuated with a luncheon of twelve of our past-presidents. I asked for and received advice from all of them.

I also met with Diane McCarthy, Director of the Alumni Association and discussed how we might aid each other in achieving our objectives.

In late summer, our resident health insurance advisor, Dick Murra, got very popular because of changes to be implemented in October. With the logistical help of Corrine and the office volunteers, he conducted insurance seminars to standing room only sessions in our conference room.

Another Very Successful Retirees Day. Thanks to the excellent planning and choices of our Education Committee headed by Joe Wilkinson, we received many compliments on a top-notch February program. This one event alone makes our annual membership investment worthwhile.

Activities. We are indebted to Stan Brown and Mike Lupnacca for their work on activities. Over the years, this committee's membership has dwindled so Stan and Mike were

working by themselves. They helped set up our tent activities at the Homecoming and produced a well-attended and much enjoyed Holiday Reception at the Visitor Information Center. In November, a luncheon program at Mayo Clinic was superbly presented and greatly appreciated by fifty of our members. Also in November, we organized the Veteran's Day Golf Benefit in which 85 people participated and raised \$2700 for our Video History Project.

With the help of a newly designed membership/renewal questionnaire that will identify various interest groups, we hope to invigorate our activities program for 2005-2006.

Legislative Liaison. You will see the committee's report in the following pages, but we owe our appreciation to Jerry Aronson and Alan Matheson for stepping in as co-chairs of this committee. This most important aspect of ASURA's service to our members is quite complex and time consuming, particularly in the Spring when we all like to be out enjoying our weather. And thanks to the previous co-chairs Alan Johnson and Bob Mings who stood ready to assist and advise.

Communication with members. We made some changes to the Prime Times format and established an editorial board to help develop articles of interest to our members. Currently serving on our editorial board are: Judith Smith (with layout by her husband and associate member Grant Smith), Joann Weschler, Brenda Scheatzle, Ann Patterson, Becky Reiss, Dean Smith, June Payne, Dick Murra, Carol Moore, Elmer Gooding and Dave Scheatzle. With this staff of contributors, we hope to have an expanded newsletter. Also contributing to our newsletter are Becky Reiss and Patti Kelley who review obituaries to make certain that our readers are fully informed when our colleagues pass on. We established a "Listserv" account that allows us to communicate by email with all of those who have an account. Currently we have just over 600 names on our list, out of our roughly 1000 members.

Office Location. We've heard unofficially that the demise of the Visitor Information Center is at least one year away. The current master plan shows our corner of the campus scheduled to be cleared for the Honors College dormitories. However, there

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By David G. Scheatzle

are on-going discussions within the University about the future of the geodesic dome and how it might be incorporated within the new dormitory project. In the meantime, we have acquired additional storage space in the building so that we could clear the many boxes of publications out of our second office/conference room.

History of ASU: This should continue to be a high priority for our organization. The recent mass changes at the higher levels in the University's management may not give enough emphasis to

remembering the past. The contributors who brought our institution to its status today should not be forgotten. It is up to us to promote the recording of the ASU's history. We should rededicate our efforts on the Video History Project and initiate alliances that will cause ASU's written history to be continuously updated.

Changes to ASURA: We continually must change. A new "crop" of retirees join us every year, bringing new skills and interests that we should use to refresh our committees. We appreciate what

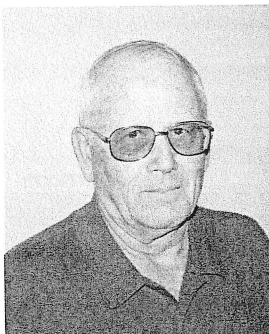
our founding members put in place for us. Many great traditions have been established that we can build upon to make ASURA even more valuable to our members. I suggest that we initiate another tradition of a fall welcoming event for all new ASU retirees (from over the past year), both members and non-members. This will give us an opportunity to welcome our new members and to encourage the recently retired "not-yet members" to join. Also, we can enlist new committee members – something that is needed to keep our

organization "fresh." I am proud and excited that Elmer Gooding will be following me as the 15th President. He brings a great perspective to our association, with his experience in the "upper hallways" of the University

Finally, thanks to the all the members of the Board of Directors and the committee chairs whose reports follow, and to all the volunteers who have served us. The office volunteers are particularly valued for their year round dedication to answering our calls and keeping a presence at the University.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Henry Spomer



Henry Spomer

Balance Forward – Beginning Balance July 1, 2004 **\$19,703**

Revenue:

Membership Dues	1,700	
Adopt A Family	1,150	
Video Project (Golf)	11,747	
Mayo Clinic	429	
Scholarship	25	
Total Revenue		<u>15,051</u>

Total Bal Fwd & Revenue **34,754**

Expenditures:

Adopt A Family	1,067	
Video Project (Golf)	6,664	
Mayo Clinic	458	
Scholarship	3,973	
Retirees Day Subsidy	1,311	
Supplies/Miscellaneous	1,398	
Adm Svcs Charge	742	
Total Expenditures		<u>15,613</u>

Ending Balance---March 9, 2005 **\$19,141**

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

by Corrine Irvan



Corrine Irvan

Many of our dedicated office volunteers have been on board since the beginning in 1991. We have 2 new volunteers to complete our staff now. Our thanks to ALL of them—they keep the office up and running. The volunteers pictured below take care of the office on the days noted. Morning volunteers work

from 8 a.m. to noon; afternoon volunteers work from 1 to 4 p.m. In addition, many of these volunteers help with big mailings, are on various committees, and some have served, or are serving, on the board. They are an energetic and multi-talented group.

Pat Skinner, Martha Waltemath, and Marilyn Wahl help with refreshments and cleanup for Board meetings, while various ASURA members including some office workers, help with special mailings.

Do call or stop by the office to say "hello" and get acquainted.

MONDAY VOLUNTEERS

Monday Morning



Pat Skinner

TUESDAY VOLUNTEERS

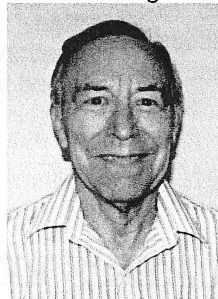
Tuesday Morning



Carol Moore

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday Morning



Bob Beeman

THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS

Thursday Morning



Corrine Irvan

FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS

Friday Morning



Martha Waltemath

Wednesday Morning

Monday Afternoon



Gale Richards

Tuesday Afternoon



Maxine Laroux



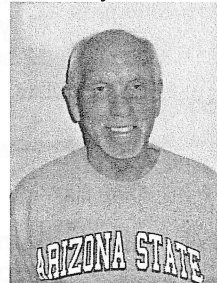
Ed Scannell

Wednesday Afternoon



Marilyn Wall

Thursday Afternoon



Doug Sanford

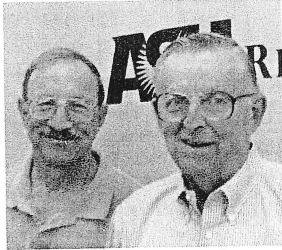
Friday Afternoon



Sheila Nienaber

ACTIVITIES REPORT

by Mike Lupnacca and Stan Brown



Mike Lupnacca

Stan Brown

Last November was a busy month for activities. On November 4, we participated in the 2004 Homecoming Block Party in front of Old Main with an ASURA tent and served refreshments to visitors who stopped by. Then on November 11th, we organized

the Veteran's Day Golf Benefit in which 85 people participated to raise \$2700 for our Video History Project. On November 17th, a luncheon program at Mayo Clinic, organized by Susan Dolbert, was superbly presented and greatly appreciated by 50 of our mem-

bers. Then in December, the second annual Holiday Reception at the Visitor Information Center was well attended and much enjoyed. Dick Murra particularly enjoyed Betty Greathouse's sweet potato pie!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

By Jeri Goldfader and Geri Roth



Jeri Goldfader



Geri Roth

Our year officially began last May with several planning meetings over the summer and a visit with Tempe Elementary School District #3 social worker in August. A grandmother, mother, son, and daughter were selected and our 13 year-association with TESD #3 continues to thrive. In order to choose our first ASU student, we worked closely in August with representatives from the Scholarship Office and devised a special application form. Entries were carefully reviewed and in October, a senior reentry student studying Elementary Education, (with a husband and five children ranging in age from 5 to 15) was selected. She has proven, over the last six months, to be an excellent choice.

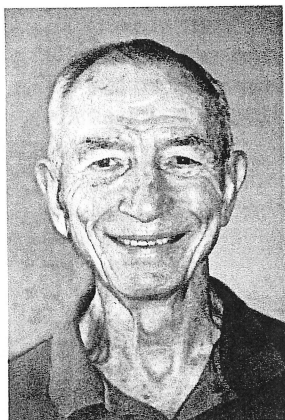
Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines Day, and Easter deliveries have been made and each family member received at least one of his/her holiday "wish list" items in December. Our practice of utilizing mainly market and store gift cards has worked out extremely well and allows each person the opportunity to purchase personal and more meaningful gifts. We received several thank-you notes from our families and they are extremely grateful that they have been selected to participate in our program. We extend our special thanks to ASURA members, employees of the Office of the Executive Vice Presidency, many local and national corporate sponsors and ASURA friends who have

bolstered our budget and supported us by donating, purchasing, and wrapping gifts. Our thanks also to volunteer committee members Kathleen Jones, Lise Jonnson, Betty Parker, Kathy Sweeney, and Susan Taylor Sharp for being part of our Adopt-A-Family Program.

We are proud that our program assists local needy and deserving families throughout an academic year and not just on a one-time basis and we are especially pleased that we could help one of our own ASU students this past year. We look forward to your continued interest and participation in the coming year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by Joe Wilkinson, chair and Sue Blumer, co-chair



Joe Wilkinson



Sue Blumer

The twelfth annual Retirees Day on February 19, 2005 was very successful. All of the presenters were interesting and the luncheon speaker was excellent and humorous. The registered members totaled 182, which set a record for Retirees Days. Two reasons may account for the large number of registrations: A second mailing was done in January, and Pat McMahon is an attractive Valley personality known to all. Several of the presenters, as well as

some invited guests, increased the number of those specifying lunch to 188, although the inclement weather and other factors caused a few members to miss the lunch as well as the morning sessions.

The Chair and Co-chair would like to recognize the efforts of the members of the Education Committee, the Volunteer Office Staff headed by Corrine Irvan, and the ASURA board members in planning and carrying out the many details and arrangements necessary to the culmination of a successful Retirees Day. We also wish to thank the Memorial Union Staff who provided the rooms and supported the set-up of equipment, Distinctive Catering personnel who assisted in arranging and serving the tasteful luncheon, and the ten presenters who offered eight enlightening and enjoyable sessions. Finally, we greatly appreciated the luncheon reminiscences that were humorously offered by Pat McMahon.

After an hour of welcoming members and enjoying refreshments, the program began with an

introduction by David Scheatzle, President of ASURA. The chair of the Education Committee introduced its members. Then Fred Fehr, a member of the Committee, described a survey of the membership concerning possible participation in panel and small group discussions at future Retirees Days on such topics as travel, hobbies, etc. Then the co-chair of the Education Committee gave the members guidance with respect to the Day's upcoming events, including a room change.

The highlights of the morning were eight sessions, each of which is summarized below. The sessions were followed by the luncheon and speech by Pat McMahon, the latter also being summarized after the session summaries.

After lunch those who had questions about healthcare plans were able to attend a session with Dick Murra, the ASURA expert on healthcare plans.

WATER PROBLEMS IN ARIZONA was the presentation by Jack Pfister, the retired general manager of SRP,

ASU professor emeritus, and former President of the Board of Regents. In assessing the needs of water management, he declared that we must manage our water as if each year were a drought year, since we live in a desert with limited local precipitation. Through care management of limited water supplies, such as currently undertaken by SRP, it is possible to support more than double the state's current population. He predicted that reclaimed sewage water will become an important source of potable drinking water, and that water rights owned by Indian tribes will produce revenues rivaling or exceeding those from gaming. Although rural areas have less secure water supplies than urban areas, it is likely that they will develop water supply, conservation, and recycling systems comparable to those in the urban areas.

SOCIAL AND CONSUMER DECEPTIONS was presented by Robert Cialdini, an ASU Regents Professor of Psychology. He presented some of the psychological devices used to influence and persuade con-

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(Continued)

sumers toward a certain product. One principle involves recapitulation—trying to create a situation in which one is obliged to respond favorably, since a "favor" has been received. Another is scarcity, since people desire that which is in limited supply, or "exclusive information"—in which a sales agent or rep has a confidential source that told only him or her about a product, idea, or enterprise—and now is the only time to take advantage of it. A third principle is authority—"if an expert or professional states something, it must be true." Still another device is to obtain a commitment, like a filled out form and/or a signature, so that the consumer is personally involved. The fifth principle is consensus, e.g., "Everyone is doing it or buying it". The final principle follows from the phrase "Liking flows from positive connections", such as being from the same state or having a similar complimentary feature.

THE ALPHABET OF TOMORROW was the presentation of Alberto Rios, an ASU Professor of English. In this esoteric presentation of the poetic imagination, Professor Rios analyzed the "interesting blurbs" that make up the beginning letters of our alphabet and exposed their origins in the Rosetta

Stone as well as the Greek, Phoenician and North African alphabets. These letters were symbolic at the time of their invention and are relevant to our lives today. For instance, he showed how the A (alpha) depicted an ox wearing a yoke, the sign for food. He emphasized that as in poetry our understanding grows by not moving but by focusing on the past and subsuming it within the present.

ASSISTED LIVING FOR SENIORS was presented by Becky Barclay, Consultant in the areas of Nursing and Assisted Living Services. She discussed a variety of matters related to assisted living, including the needs of seniors and their options, such as admission to nursing homes, assistance available in private homes, and application for Medicaid assistance. She distributed a pamphlet to assisted living services, and also recommended a pamphlet entitled "The Five Wishes", which provides a marvelous means of beginning or completing a living will and related documents that document the wishes of seniors. Ms. Barclay answered questions on all these subjects.

THE RISE OF CHINA AS AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER was the

presentation by Steven MacKinnon, an ASU Professor of History. He discussed the contemporary posture of the Republic of China under eleven headings, beginning with the redistribution of land and privatization of income and ending with a post 9/11 urban economy. Between these two headings he described how the rise in China of a "capitalist/communist" movement began in the countryside and moved to the eastern coastal cities. Clearly the China of today is developing its economy at the fastest pace in the world; however, we should not forget that its middle class only numbers roughly 100 million in a total population of 1.3 billion. Also, in spite of such flare-ups as disagreements over the status of Taiwan, China seems to be reaching out to the Middle East, South America, Africa, as well as the U.S. by appearing to display itself as a responsible and cautious player in global politics. As a result it is gaining increased clout nearly everywhere, including such sensitive nations as Iran and Korea. While acting as a dancing partner with such firms as Wal-Mart, China is surprisingly buying more American government bond debt than any other country in the world. Thus, a key question remains: Will

China join the U.S. as a co-equal imperial power or will it instead replace the U.S. as THE single dominant world power?

AMERICA'S FIRST IMPRESSIONIST PAINTER IN CLAUDE MONET'S GIVERNY was presented by Tom Loughman, Curator of European Art at the Phoenix Art Museum. Theodore Robinson, America's first impressionist, was a classically-trained successful artist who sought to adopt the fresh brushwork and vibrant palette used by his friend and mentor, Claude Monet. Robinson and Monet shared techniques over shared meals, caught up on the news of the latest exhibitions, and discussed the progress of their latest paintings during Robinson's stay in Giverny. Tom described the life story of this exceptional American artist and discussed his painting techniques and apparent professional growth. He illustrated this discussion with slides of some of Robinson's 50 paintings being exhibited at the Phoenix Art Museum until May 8 of this year (together with several of Monet's masterpieces such as the haystack series and Rouen Cathedral.)

INVESTMENT PLANNING: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS was hosted by Nyle Gentry, a

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(Continued)

Financial Consultant at Portfolio Dynamics. He began by reviewing the basic concepts of investment planning. Then he spent the remainder of the hour answering a variety of questions that ranged from the overall structure of an investment program to specific types of investments.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRAVEL was coordinated by Fred Fehr, who introduced the three discussants: Sam Hardy, Eileen Giles, and Evelyn Partridge.

Sam Hardy was effective in discussing the "global volunteers" program. He has personally been to many countries—Australia, China, Greece, etc.—and has taught or done whatever is most needed for the peoples' welfare. Evelyn has been associated with "Holiday Fellowships",

which sponsors walking holidays and stays at country houses in England, Scotland, and Wales. She gave a clear explanation of the program and distributed illustrated booklets.

Eileen Giles presented a fine video of the Elderhostel program; which promotes continued learning for seniors on field trips, cultural excursions, or even aboard ships. After an introduction to the program, she did an entertaining comedy routine concerning some real and fictional elements of her own past travels. Although the overall program varied somewhat from the announced version, the audience seemed to find it enjoyable.

The luncheon speaker, Pat McMahon, was introduced by Bob Ellis, the first president of ASURA. He noted that Pat has been well

known to the Valley for many years and recalled many of his achievements in a humorous manner that set the stage for Pat's presentation. Pat kept the large luncheon crowd laughing for the next 50 minutes. Pat first recalled how he came to the Valley back in the '50s and how he joined the Wallace and Ladmo show as Gerald. He described many of the astounding events that occurred and the rewarding features of the show, both to him and to the audience. He concluded by discussing many of the personalities that have appeared on his current television and radio shows and recalled stressful but funny incidents related to their appearances. Many of the attendees have commented on this enjoyable talk.

At 2:15 p.m. Dick Murra met with a number of attendees in the Pima Room to answer questions concerning the current status of health-care plans and to speculate on possible changes that might occur during the next open period later this year. Dick emphasized that for those under a Medicare seniors plan, the primary caregiver should be listed as Medicare and the insurance plan (e.g., UHC) should be the secondary provider. Also, those under United Healthcare should complete a Medicare Cross-over Enrollment Form and submit it to the listed address, as well as those under Barrington. He forecasted that Cigna would not likely be an option for the coming years. His advice on problems with any plan is to call directly to the ADOA Benefits Office.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By George Morrell



George Morrell

Membership in the Arizona State Retirees Association remains about the same as last year. We will end the 2004-2005 year with approximately 1,000 members. The number will fluctuate during the year with enrollment of new members, deaths, and some dropouts.

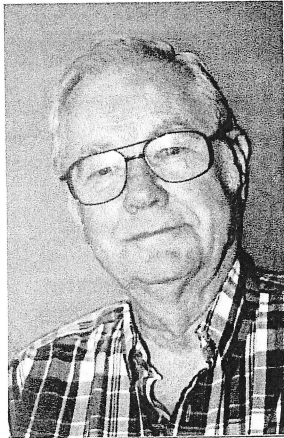
We have recently received additional lists with addresses of recent retirees which will help in the recruitment of new members.

It is the long term goal of the membership committee to increase the number of members to 1,100. Present members

could help us attain that goal by suggesting membership to any colleagues you know who are not currently members. The more members we have, the louder we can speak for the membership. Recruitment of new members continues throughout the year.

HEALTH INSURANCE REPORT: POLICY YEAR 2004/2005

by Dick Murra



Dick Murra

This was a year of apprehension with the Department of Administration introducing a new contracting methodology. They were looking for ways to reduce the cost of health insurance while at the same time continuing to offer a broad spectrum of coverage to the retiree. The concept of self insurance was set up to save the contingency funds which were normally included by insurance companies so as to protect themselves from unexpected losses. Another reason for changing the health insurance methodology was to offer expanded coverage to all retirees throughout the state and more than one selection was to be made for metropolitan areas.

Having to choose from six companies offering plans having different premiums and benefit formulas made the open enrollment process complex and time consuming. Our association initially

offered four briefings to explain the plans being offered and some of the considerations that should be taken into consideration in making a selection. Registration to attend those briefings filled up immediately and our association was able to schedule two additional briefings. Briefings were also being offered by ADOA at several locations throughout the state and at ASU.

Not having Cigna as one of the successful contractors meant that many retirees had to select other doctors. This resulted in creating a high degree of dissatisfaction.

Another area of difficulty involved the procedures to be used in settlement of claims. During the years in which Cigna was the sole providing contractor the process being accomplished within the framework of one company went smoothly. As it turned out United Health Care and Harrington had not established the procedure of having the claim processed directly to Medicare and having Medicare electronically send a copy of their settlement to the company identified to settle the remainder of the claim. The extended period of time required to arrive at an acceptable solution has created a high degree of dissatisfaction with the ADOA program. The scope of

effort required to introduce the new self-insurance program was huge and some problems would normally be expected. Nevertheless, dissatisfaction with the program is running high.

The Benefits Options Office should be complimented for their continuing effort to settle problems brought to their attention. They have given the retiree every consideration in settling the individual problems presented.

Of significant interest is the ability of ADOA to negotiate new contractual instruments to offer additional plans to members of the rural counties. This effort was driven by the likelihood that the rural subsidy would not be extended beyond June 30, 2005. Their only option has been the PPO plan which is expensive. A special open enrollment period scheduled for May 2005 is being held up pending the outcome of the rural subsidy bill in the legislature.

OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES

Arizona State University is still working to identify within our membership list the health plan to which a member is enrolled. Having this information available will give our office the ability to send information only to those members who

are affected by the information being sent. That is, if you are in the plans offered by ASRS you will not receive information intended for members enrolled in the Benefits Options programs offered by ADOA and visa versa.

Richard Murra who has provided coverage of the Health insurance Program is looking for a person to understudy his efforts on our behalf. If you or some member you know would like to volunteer please advise by sending your nomination to the ASURA Office. The effort will require developing an extensive knowledge of health insurance contracts, their terminology, and their interworking relationship with the State sponsoring agencies. It would require developing a close relationship with the management of the State agencies involved. Time requirements are extensive during open enrollment periods. The selected individual should have a sincere desire to champion the benefits and interests of the individual member. The above is not a complete statement of the effort that is required, but is intended to put the individual on notice that significant time and effort will be required.

ASRS HEALTH CARE COVERAGE THROUGH PacifiCare

by Denis Kigin



Denis Kigin

The contract with PacificCare Life Assurance Company of Santa Anna, California was due to expire on December 31, 2004.

With this in mind, the ASRS issued a RFP to interested providers early in the year with several major health-care insurance providers early in the year with several major health insurance vendors responding. Paralleled with this action, ASRA appointed a twelve member Retiree medical benefits Program Evaluation Committee.

The major objectives of the health care program for ASRS included (1) constrained

costs, (2) reasonable access to quality providers, and (3) to maintain financial viability of the 401 (h) fund which is the Premium Benefit Program.

The evaluation committee began interviewing representatives of the interested vendors in April 2004. Final interviews were held in May 2004 with the recommendations of the committee forwarded to the ASRS full board in June. Approval of the favorable proposal followed with the imple-

mentation process set in place.

The proposal of the PacificCare Life Assurance Company of Santa Anna, California was selected as the ASRS healthcare provider. The fees for the 2005 coverage were identical with those of 2004 with the same health care benefits. The plan began on January 1, 2005 Fortis Benefits Insurance Company of Clinton, Iowa continues as the dental care provider.

LIVING HISTORY VIDEO PROJECT

By June P. Payne



June Payne

This project has experienced much interest from both retirees and present employees at ASU. Funding has been generous from the ASU Foundation, from events such as the golf tournament, and from individual donations. At present, there is about \$5000 in the budget for this project.

The Board of Directors accepted the LHVP Committee's recommendations to continue the project for at least one more year (through 2005), and to video tape the histories of at least 10 to 12 more people. These and the finished 20 video histories will be deposited in several archival institutions

for research and reference, as well as being edited for historical programs.

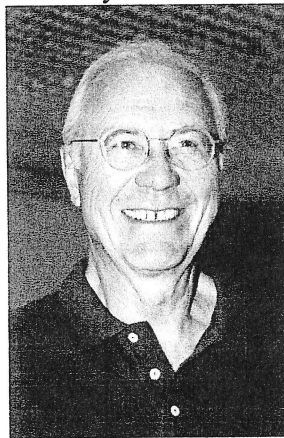
Many thanks to all who have helped, not only with donations, but also with their time and efforts to make this a truly viable project.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COUNCIL REPORT

By Jerry Aronson and Alan Matheson



Jerry Aronson



Alan Matheson

The Legislative Liaison Council (LLC) oversees a broad spectrum of legislation-related activities that can affect the well being of the University, its Faculty and Staff Retirees and its active (i.e., pre-retirement) employees. The University, with a strong presence in the community, can be a powerful advocate for retiree welfare. In exercising our public responsibility by supporting ASU in its roles as both an employer and an educational institution, we promote our own interests as well.

During this current year (2004-2005) Jerry Aronson and Alan

Matheson have become the new LLC Co-Chairs, replacing Alan Johnson and Bob Mings. Johnson and Mings, with their considerable experience in the legislative process and free from the more mundane aspects of LLC administration, continue to be highly active in working for retiree benefits.

In carrying out its mission, LLC interacts on various levels with: ASU administration, ASU Alumni Association (and its Sun Devil Advocates Network), Tri-University Retirees Coalition, Arizona Legislature (attendance and/or advocacy at committee hearings and email, telephone, or face-to-face communication), Coalition of Arizona State Retirees Associations and the Arizona State Retirement System.

Currently we are monitoring a number of bills in the State Legislature. One bill supported by ASURA seems to be progressing toward passage: a two-year extension of the health-care premium subsidy for rural residents. The Arizona State Retirement System ASRS is currently securing HMO coverage in more rural areas, and the rural subsidy will (as before) apply only in the areas without HMO coverage. Unfortunately two other bills supported by

the ASURA appear to be dead for the current session: (1) a "spousal consent" bill that would require consent or waiver by a spouse in order for an annuitant to select or change his/her beneficiary; and (2) a "graded-multiplier" equity bill. On May 8, 2001, the ASRS's shift from 2.1% to a graded multiplier in the formula for calculating annuities resulted in larger annuities for employees retiring on or after that date. The equity bill would grant equal treatment for those who retired before that date. Members of LLC spent considerable time and effort with the objective of persuading legislators to support both bills and especially the graded-multiplier equity bill. The equity effort began last November with the formation of a committee of the Coalition of Arizona State Retiree Associations. Our seasoned veterans, Johnson and Mings, joined four retired school teachers in a plan to give this matter visibility before the Legislature. Passage in the current legislative session was thought to be a remote possibility at best. Surprisingly, this legislation (HB2552) has surpassed all expectations having passed in all assigned committees in the House of Representatives. Despite intense lobbying by LLC, Arizona Education Association retirees, and the

Coalition of State Retiree Associations, the House Speaker has withheld the bill from a floor vote due to budgetary pressures.

On another front, bills in both houses proposing ASRS employer contribution rates that are substantially lower than rates determined to be necessary by ASRS actuarial analysis, seem to have been blocked or amended to blunt their objectionable provisions. It appears that the strong opposition mounted by ASRS and by LLC as well as other retiree organizations has, for the present, thwarted legislative intervention in ASRS rate setting.

Another area of concern is possible legislation addressing the future of retiree health care insurance. LLC has examined the legislature-commissioned *Mercer Report* which cites a number of options that may (or may not) curtail the rising costs of health insurance. A premature Senate proposal (SB1359) that would consolidate all State retirement systems under DOA is apparently on hold in favor of an alternative (seemingly more prudent at this juncture) that would establish an appointed committee to study the issue (SB1360). We will continue to monitor these bills.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COUNCIL REPORT (continued)

On February 21 ASU Day at the Capitol, an event sponsored by the ASU Alumni Association, provided once again an opportunity for members of the ASU "family" to interact in a casual manner with legislators and their staffs. In morning and afternoon sessions

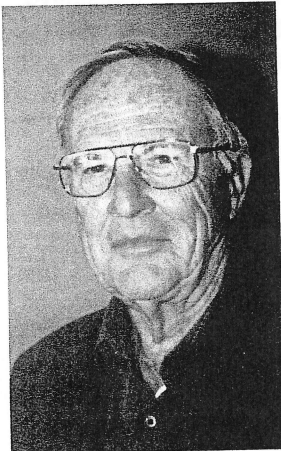
small groups (3 to 4 persons) consisting of administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and public boosters met with available members of the Legislature. Although the main purpose of these meetings

is to lobby in favor of the University's budget request, other topics of conversation evolved. At mid-day, participants enjoyed a picnic lunch served on Bolin Plaza. LLC volunteers played a significant role in this event

accounting for one-quarter of the approximately 60 advocates volunteering to meet with legislators. These LLC volunteers are to be commended for their service.

LIAISON TO THE STATE RETIREMENT BOARD

by John Bell and Gale Richards



John Bell



Gale Richards

The ASRS Board of Trustees is reporting a modest turn-around in the returns on investments during the past year, reaching 7% or more in some investments.

However, the improvement is not a sufficient recovery to avoid the necessity of increasing the contribution rate for active employees and employers in the system. The new rate will become 8.25%, including the 0.5% for long term disability, beginning in July of 2005. There are actuarial predictions that this rate could rise to 10% or more in the future.

During the past year, the Board adopted a new mission and vision statement that contains a very strong emphasis upon client services. This emphasis has become very evident in the manner in which the Board conducts its business.

In the past, the Board has conducted at least one of its monthly meetings in Flagstaff and another in Tucson. Beginning with this year, they will no longer be doing this. Instead, they have scheduled several regional meetings featuring the Director and several staff members and at least one Board member.

These meetings are intended to provide more useful information about the ASRS and answer questions of clients which they believe will be more helpful than observing a Board meeting.

For information about these meetings and other information about ASRS, to the website: www.asrs.state.az.us.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

by Sue Blumer



Sue Blumer

The Scholarship Committee has met several times during the past year. In May it met to select the scholarship recipient for the 2004-05 academic year. Karen Vincent, last year's recipient, was selected for the second year because of her outstanding academic record and other factors. Her talk at the annual meeting was

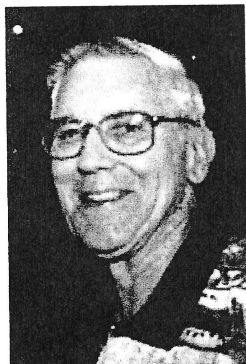
well received. She is an art history major with strong academic and career goals.

The committee met during December and January to consider the criteria and format of the scholarship application. After some deliberation, it recommended several changes, which were approved by the Board.

The amount of the scholarship will no longer be tied directly to in-state tuition, but was set at \$5,000 for the academic year. The committee will meet in May to select next year's scholarship recipient. It has been very supportive, with members showing great interest in our continuation of this project.

UNIVERSITY CLUB LIAISON

by Bob Ellis



Bob Ellis

The University Club is located in the center of the ASU campus in the historic building known originally as the "Science Hall". The Club is managed by

ASU's Auxiliary Business Services and the new Director of the Auxiliary is Sam Wheeler—who joined ASU from NAU on March 14th.

Club membership is available to ASU retirees. For information regarding initiation fees and monthly membership costs contact Club Membership Coordinator Debi Smith at 480-965-0700. Retirees who are members and have turned 75 years of age can have their dues

reduced to \$8.00 per month. Debi Smith can help you apply for this benefit.

The Club is open Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lunch in the Bistro is available Monday – Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with reservations for lunch preferred. Complimentary coffee and tea are served in the Club Room Monday- Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Atlasta Catering is responsible for Club dining services includ-

ing catering events.

Several events are planned for the near future including Colloquia luncheons, a Spring Fling Mixer, and a Mother's Day Brunch. For event information and reservations contact Debi Smith.

Information about the Club is available on the internet at www.asu.edu/uclub and the email address is uclub@asu.edu.

ASURA VOLUNTEERS REPORT

by Peggy Randolph



Peggy Randolph

Over 100 ASU retirees again offered their time and talents to the many different functions

listed on our annual "Volunteer Opportunity" list. Always popular are the ASU Art Museum and Gam-mage Auditorium, where there continues to be a waiting list for volunteer placement and where some of our members have been helping out for years. In addition, ASURA was called upon for a number of special events this year, as the community recognizes the value of our collective experience.

Five special events at which ASURA provided volunteers were:

- (1) CARSEF (Central Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair for youths 4th grade through high school)
- (2) Evaluation of ADOT's 511 telephone message system.
- (3) Friends of Channel 8 team answering calls during one of KAET's pledge nights.

(4) First annual ASU Veterans Day Golf Tournament

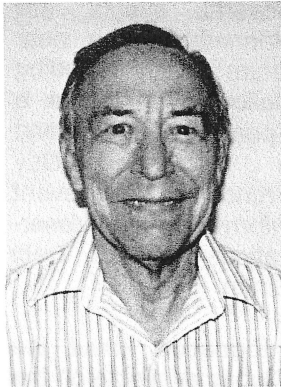
(5) Intel's 2005 International Science and Engineering Fair

Researchers are discovering what our volunteers have always known: that helping others adds years to our lives by keeping us active, involved, and interested in life's activities—truly a win-win situation.

ASURA WEBSITE REPORT

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

by Robert Beeman



Bob Beeman

Several additions and improvements to the ASURA Website (<http://aspin.asu.edu/asura/index.htm>) were made during the past year. By the end of February, 2005 the site had received 2,018 contacts or "hits".

Suggestions for additions, deletions, or improvements to the site are always welcome, and will be given serious consideration. Assistance in maintaining and/or improving the site would be more than welcome; it would be met with open arms.

Please let you ASURA Webmaster, Robert (Bob) Beeman, know of your interests, questions and/or concerns regarding the Website. Bob may be contacted by email at bobbeemansr@juno.com or by phone at (480) 967-7084.