

Arizona State University Retirees Association

Report from the Board, 2006--2007

Annual Meeting

April 19, 2007

Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge, 1 p.m.



Photo by David Scheatzle

ASURA's New Home—Community Service Building

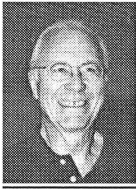
ASURA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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ASURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

<u>TERM EXPIRES 4/2010</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES 4/2009</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES 4/2008</u>	<u>2006-2007 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS</u>
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Arizona State Retirement System	(602) 240-2000 or 1-800-621-3778
3500 North Central	
Phoenix, AZ 85012	
Arizona Department of Administration	(602) 542-4900
100 North 15 th Avenue	
Phoenix, AZ 85007	
Area Codes:	602 - Phoenix and North Phoenix
	623 - West Valley
	928 - All other locations in Arizona
	480 - East Valley
	520 - Tucson and Southern Arizona

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS



Corrine Irvan

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 9 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 Marie Sale'

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 our new office to say "hello" and get acquainted.

Many of our dedicated office volunteers have been on board since the beginning in 1991. We need new volunteers to complete our staff now (for Monday afternoon, Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon).

MONDAY VOLUNTEERS

Monday Morning



Pat Skinner

Monday Afternoon

Vacant, Volunteer Wanted

HELP!

TUESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday Morning



Carol Moore

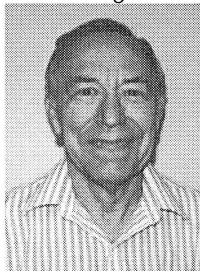
Tuesday Afternoon



Maxine Laroux

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday Morning



Bob Beeman

Wednesday Afternoon



Marilyn Wall

THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS

Thursday Morning



Corrine Irvan

Thursday Afternoon

Vacant, Volunteer Wanted

HELP!

FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS

Friday Morning



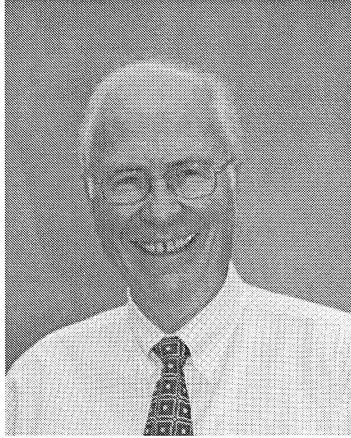
Martha Waltemath

Friday Afternoon

Vacant, Volunteer Wanted

HELP!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Alan Matheson

This was the year of the “move.” After residing in the Visitors Center on campus for 14 years, the Association was notified by the University that it was necessary to change locations because the Center building was slated for demolition. Dates for the move were scheduled and rescheduled, and, over the course of several months, ASURA officers visited several possible sites for the new location. The consensus was in favor of a suite of offices in the Community Services Building off Curry Road in Tempe, north of the Town Lake and of Downtown Tempe. With the University’s concurrence, the Association selected this option. On December 21, 2006, staff members and officers packed our belongings and furniture, and movers took them to the new location the same day. Several days were spent unloading and “settling in,” and, in the process, the Association gained two new computers and a copier. The new site has three interconnecting offices, access to a nearby conference room, and a storage room for overflow. The new location has much more space than the Visitors office, has windows overlooking the Town Lake, and, importantly, unlimited parking. The latter feature is significant, since the Association had some unpleasant experiences with cars being ticketed at the former home. After living in the new quarters for three months, all involved consider them superior to the old facilities. The site is off campus, and this is somewhat disappointing, but most of the business of the Association can be conducted elsewhere, except for printing services and special mailing needs. It is a relief to have the move behind us and to be able to enjoy the new setting. Members are invited to visit our “home” which is pictured on the front cover of this report.

On Veterans’ Day, the annual golf tournament sponsored by the Association was held at the Legacy Golf Course. The event was well-attended, and generous sponsors donated to the cause. Dave Scheatzle organized the tournament and insured its success. Proceeds from the day were earmarked for the Video History Project of the Association. Several thousand dollars came to the account and allowed us to move forward with this important activity. Under the direction of Bob Francis and his committee, new interviews have been conducted, including those of Frank Sackton, Lattie Coor and Bobby Winkles, and the discs are now preserved in the ASU Library. In the recent past, progress on the Project was slowed because of a lack of funds to support it, but the golf money gives new

impetus to the preservation of the observations of those who are an important part of the history of the University.

In November, the Association sponsored a booth on campus as part of the Homecoming celebration. Passersby were greeted with cool drinks and cookies as they watched the annual homecoming parade on University Drive.

An important part of the services provided to members of the Association is information regarding health insurance. In the midst of confusion over several health insurance programs and the need to have meaningful comparisons of the offerings, Dick Murra came to the rescue again by sending written materials to members, conducting workshops for interested persons and furnishing advice through the Prime Times issues. This is an invaluable aid to retirees, and we are all indebted to him as well as to Doug Johnson for their expertise with respect to insurance.

In addition, the Association offered significant information regarding the activities of the State Retirement System and of the actions of the Arizona Legislature in matters affecting retirees, and this is of critical importance to the membership. Scott Norton and Jerry Aronson were the movers in these areas. Also, the Retirees Education Day event in February was outstanding and attracted a large attendance.

Special events for the year included a meeting of the Tri-University officers with representative of the Arizona State Retirement System; a gathering of the past presidents of the Association for lunch and advice; and service by members as judges in the University's College Bowl competition.

I am grateful to all of you for your support during the past year. Special recognition goes to Corrine and her wonderful colleagues who staff the office so devotedly. They are remarkable and keep the organization together. Having the special assistance of Elmer Gooding and Dave Scheatzle during the year has made a considerable difference, and I appreciate sincerely their commitment and service to the Retirees organization: I could not have managed without them. To the Executive Committee, to committee heads and members, to members of the Board, and to all of you who volunteered your time and talent, I wish to express my thanks for your role in making the year successful.

Lastly, I encourage all members to participate in the activities of the Association to insure its vitality and ability to continue to serve in meaningful ways. There is an ongoing need to recruit new members, and each of you is encouraged to assist in this effort with persons from the University who have retired or are near retiring.

Thanks to you all and warm regards.

Alan Matheson

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE



Stan Brown June Bankhead

On December 12th, retirees gathered at the Visitors Center for the annual Holiday celebration. This was the last formal event of the Association to be scheduled at the Center, and a large group of members came to visit together, to partake of Stan's famous beverages and of delightful treats furnished by those who attended. Special recognition was given to Don Robinson for his service to the Association and also to Corrine for her devoted efforts in our behalf. A good time was had by all.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM



Joan Leard

Two families were adopted for this school year. One family of five from the Tempe Elementary School District #3 and one family of four of which the mother is a senior at ASU. This completes 15 years partnering with TESD #3 and three years with the Scholarship Office at ASU.

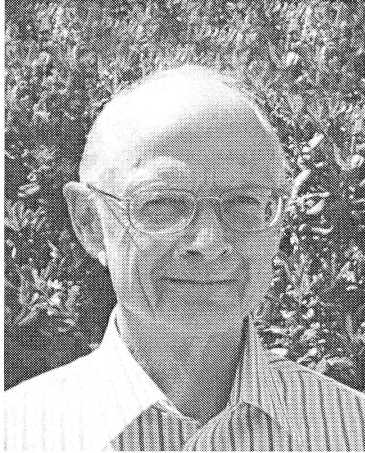
Unfortunately the Tempe family had a horrific year as first the mother and then the father passed away. We remained faithful to the children working with the school social worker and the grandmother who took in the three young children. The three children have written individual notes of appreciation for their gifts.

The ASU family consists of a father, mother and two little girls. The mother is planning to graduate in May and work for a non-profit helping youth and families educationally and financially. She and her family volunteer to help others in many ways and said it would be nice to be able to be assisted in their time of need. Thank you notes were received after donations were made.

We have supplied food store gift cards at holiday times in order for the families to purchase needed food. We have also purchased gifts from a list provided during December holiday time. We also purchased gifts for the three children in the Tempe family during their bereavement periods.

The funds used for these purchases come from ASURA member donations. Please continue to donate so we may keep this outreach program going for many more years.

ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM



Alan Johnson

In 2006-07 representatives of the ASU Retirees Association have met with officers of the Arizona State Retirement System periodically at least four times and have followed its activity at the Arizona Legislature and by means of the ASRS's excellent website. The evidence indicates that the ASRS has been performing well.

In a letter to the *Arizona Republic* newspaper (March 3, 2007), the ASRS Director, Paul Matson, wrote that currently the ASRS has about 487,000 members including 78,000 retirees, who are receiving benefits in excess of \$1.5 billion annually from the ASRS investment fund of more than \$26 billion. Matson notes that three separate, recent audits, including one conducted by a firm appointed by the Arizona Legislature, have found the ASRS to be sound and well run. He notes that the annual rate of return on the ASRS fund's investments in the calendar year 2006 was 14 % and that the 10-year rate of return was 8.9 % despite the downturn in financial markets in 2001-03. The "industry benchmark" and the minimum target for the ASRS is 8 %. Matson also

notes that independent reports rank ASRS benefits "among the best of all public pension plans in the country."

Like most retirement funds around the nation, the ASRS has experienced a decrease in its funding ratio since the year 2001. Simply explained, the funding ratio states the relation between the amount of money the ASRS has and expects to take in over a prospective thirty-year period and the amount it expects to pay out over that period in expenses and benefits. In 2000 the ratio was above 100 %; by June 2005 the ratio had slipped to about 85 %. It is expected to slip a bit lower and then rise in the next few years. Dr. Keith Meredith, Chair of the ASRS Board of Trustees, has said the "healthy range" for funding ratios is between 80 and 120 %, but of course full funding is the goal of any retirement plan. In the ASRS Annual Report for fiscal year 2006 (p. 7), Director Matson says the decline "is primarily due to continued recognition of investment losses for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003." ASRS documents also stress the role of past increases in benefits (e.g., the "graded-multiplier" legislated in 2001), the historically low rates for contributions to the fund by active employees and their employers during the 1990s, and demographic changes, particularly the increase in life expectancies for recent and future retirees.

One consequence of the decline in the funding ratio is an increase in the amount of money which the non-retired employee and the employer who matches the employee's contribution put into the ASRS fund each month. Now 9.1%, the contribution rate is expected to reach about 10% by 2012 and then

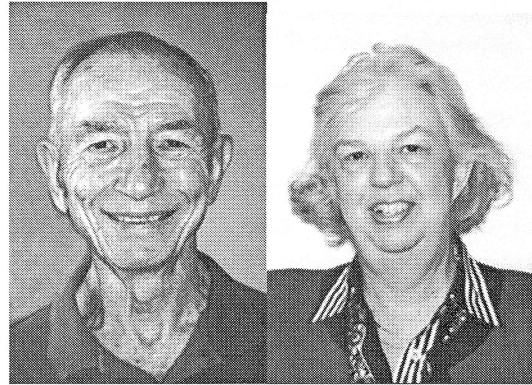
decrease slightly. For retirees, a significant consequence of the current, low funding ratio is the ASRS's suspension of the Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI) for the next several years. Although retirees have grown accustomed to receiving these increases each July 1st, by law the PBI is not tied to inflation or the federal Cost of Living Index. It is determined annually and depends upon the presence of "excess" earnings from ASRS past PBIs, and retirees will not see any decrease in their monthly pension.

The ASRS is taking timely actions to improve its efficiency, to increase the profitability of its investments, and to adjust its benefits program to assure that benefits as a whole are fair and commensurate with the sum of contributions and investment returns. For example, among a number of ASRS bills now in the Arizona Legislature, HB2147 will permit the ASRS to expand its holdings in international stocks, which significantly outperform U.S. stocks, from 20% to 35% of the total of ASRS investments, and HB2141 will address the increasing longevity of ASRS members by increasing the sum of years of service plus years of age required for normal, full retirement from 80 to 85. Among the ASRS's various internal reforms is a re-engineering of information technology which is streamlining its major business processes and making new services available to members and their employers.

The ASRS Annual Report for 2006, the ASRS Strategic Plan for 2006-08, and other, up-to-the-minute reports are available on the ASRS website, www.azasrs.gov. Information is also available at the ASRS Members Services

Center, 602-240-2000 and 1-800-621-3778.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Joe Wilkinson
Chair

Sue Blumer
Co-Chair

The fourteenth annual Retirees Day on February 17, 2007 was well received. The presenters were dynamic and informative and the luncheon speaker was interesting and pleasantly low-key. The number of registered members was nearly 150, somewhat less than in recent years but still quite respectable.

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 thank the Memorial Union Staff who provided the rooms and supported the setup of equipment, the Distinctive Catering personnel who assisted in arranging and serving the tasteful luncheon, the eight presenters who offered enjoyable morning sessions, and the delightful luncheon speaker.

Education Committee Continued

After an hour of welcoming members and enjoying refreshments, the program began with an introduction by Alan Matheson, President of ASURA. The chair of the Education Committee introduced its members and the support staff. Then the co-chair of the Education Committee gave the members guidance with respect to the Day's upcoming events.

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

"Coping with Risk" was the presentation by Gary Marchant, the Executive Director of the Center for Law at the ASU College of Law. This speaker addressed the topic of risk from every conceivable angle, beginning with societal risks and ending with the ethical, pragmatic and instrumental aspects of risks. He concluded that every one of us is a poor risk manager. Among the areas covered in this dynamic presentation were: The Risk Society, The Tendency to Over and or Under Estimate Risk, Risk at Lower Levels, Old Risks vs. New Risks, How to Define Risks, How Some Risks Backfire, How Do We Reduce Risks, and the Role of the General Public in Risk Decisions. Finally, he recommended the book by Peter L. Bernstein titled *Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk* (1998).

"The Phoenix Art Museum: What's New" was presented by Jerry Smith, the Associate Curator of American Art at the Phoenix Art Museum. He gave an

overview of the wide variety of new actions, ranging from the \$50 million expansion to recent art acquisitions for the 18,000 piece art collection to major exhibitions brought from Amsterdam and Naples and Ireland. The facility expansion includes a four story Katz Wing for contemporary and modern art, an addition to the Dorrance Sculpture Garden, and a photography exhibition space for housing three shows a year provided by the Center of Creative Photography. Recent photography exhibitions have included a "Big City" exhibit and a "Keeping Shadows" exhibit. Upcoming are exhibitions of Ernest Blumenshine's work, American mobility, and Arizona Centennial. Mr. Smith has also added several major contributions to the American Art collection, including a 1909 bronze sculpture called "Steel Worker" by Chester Beech, two paintings by Samuel Rosenberg, and a rare Beaux-Arts sculpture entitled Aweate by Louise-Philippe Hebert.

"Birding: An Active Pursuit for Retirees" was the presentation by Herb Fibel, a Tempe lawyer. He began by discussing binoculars and showed examples, as well as instances of bird books and field guides. Next he gave an overview of locally seen birds--ranging from such small birds as sparrows, medium-sized birds such as robins, and large birds such as crows. Arizona appears to have the largest variety of birds of any state in the United States. He passed out a publication of the Maricopa Audubon Society.

"The ASU Campus Arboretum" was the presentation of Louisa Lewis Ballard, the ASU Program Coordinator of Grounds Services. She afforded

Education Committee Continued

attendees a virtual tour of the spacious arboretum, including the portion around such familiar buildings as Old Main and the newly planted areas around the Biodesign Buildings. Additional images illustrated the colorful variation of six landscape zones that comprise the arboretum. She emphasized the importance of lower water use plants. The displays include more than just plants, however. An illustration is the field of 51,000 brilliant yellow and orange flags located on the lawn southwest of Gammage auditorium. Each day some of the flags are moved and arranged in new patterns throughout Birchett Park. Finally, she noted the gleaming copper panel with the ASU logo at the entrance to the campus at Rural and Salado Drive.

"The Key to an Active Healthy Lifestyle" was the presentation by Wayne Phillips, founder and CEO of AgeWELL Initiatives and former ASU professor. He focused on the concept of intrinsic wellness, an approach centered on axiology, the science of values. He stated that knowledge is not the answer; rather, behavior must change. A person cannot change a goal without a change in mindset. He also discussed various aspects to exercising.

"Real Estate Outlook for 2007" was the presentation of Jay Butler, an ASU professor of real estate. He discussed the housing market, especially its growth, and the ways that the new rapid transit may affect the valley and its housing future. Among the slides he displayed were the critical issues of housing, the behavior of housing, the demographics of the Phoenix metropolitan area, the recent interest rates and their effect on

economic development, job growth and workforce changes, the new home market, the median new home prices around the valley, the resale home market and sales prices, the comparative resale prices in the Valley as compared to other areas, the appreciation and affordability of resale homes, and the condominium and apartment markets. As is apparent, he covered all aspects of the real estate market and many questions were asked

"Indian Tribal Governments: Context"

was the title of the presentation by Peterson Zah, the Counselor to the ASU President for American Indian Affairs. He provided a brief history of the Native American Indians in Arizona. His particular focus was on the Anasazi, the builders of the marvelous canal system that laid the groundwork for our modern era. We were reminded of the non-Indian "invasion" of the Indian homelands that often led to mistreatment of the Indian tribes. He described in detail the "mixed" legal status of the reservations within the context of the American constitutional system. One interesting aspect he covered was the legalized casino gambling, which has been a boon to many Indians who have suffered from poverty in the past.

"The Impact of Islam and Muslims on Domestic and Foreign Policies" was presented by Dr. M. Zhudi Jasser, a founding member of the American-Islamic Forum for Democracy. He discussed the important conflicts within the Islamic community, including those of identity, political ideology, cultural, and security. He advocated a change in interpretation of the Koran, with the aim of eliminating the areas which are no

Education Committee Continued

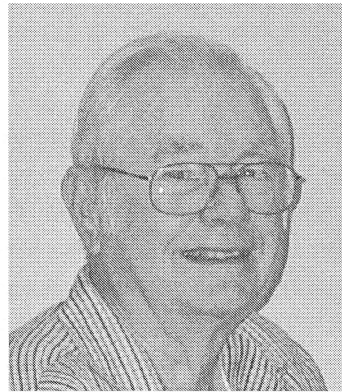
longer relevant or appropriate. One problem of "transplanted" Muslims, he contended, is that they do not identify with their new country. Another problem is that they tend to feed on conspiracy theories. Finally, he listed the four tenets of Islamism and emphasized that his Forum strongly advocates the separation of politics and religion.

The luncheon speaker was Kris Mayes, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission. Introducing her was Alan Matheson. She first summarized her background. After graduating from Prescott High School, she attended and graduated from ASU and then the ASU School of Law. While at ASU she was editor of the State Press. Early in her law career she was appointed press secretary for Governor Janet Napolitano and then selected by the governor to fill a vacancy on the Arizona Corporation Commission. Much of her presentation concerned the roles of the Corporation Commission, which is unique among the states in that the commissioners are elected and thus the acts of the commission are independent of the legislature. Also, its authority is quite broad; in fact, she indicated that a more suitable title for the commission might be the Energy Commission. Among the recent actions of the commission that she related was the pipeline eruption of a few years ago, which affected many homes that were built too closely to the pipeline. She noted that she faced Kinder Morgan, the CEO of the firm controlling the pipeline, and insisted that appropriate steps be taken to replace portions of the pipeline and provide adequate protection to the homeowners. Her presentation was down to earth and relaxed and very well received.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joe Wilkinson, Chair
Sue Blumer, Co-chair
Judy Heilala
Bets Manera
Bruce Mason
Elaine McGovern
Evelyn Partridge
Zeke Prust
Gale Richards
Don Robinson
Dean Smith
Ruth Wineberg

HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



Dick Murra

The open enrollment period for both the health and dental plans offered by the Arizona Department of Administration (Benefit Options Office- ADOA) and the Arizona State Retirement (ASRS) was held primarily during the month of October 2006 for contracts scheduled to begin January 1, 2006. Both ADOA and ASRS provided brochures defining the requirements and the provisions of the plans being offered. Members were cautioned to review the brochures carefully since changes in coverage and premiums to be charged were involved. In spite of this caution many members

assumed that if a retiree did not desire to make any changes then no action was required. This did not mean that changes in coverage and premiums were not involved.

To assist our members to understand the Open Enrollment process a number of discussion group meetings were held during which procedural issues were discussed and basic coverage provisions were clarified. Members attending demonstrated that they still did not understand that even if their retirement check was coming from ASRS that did not confirm that their benefit programs were being provided by the ASRS. At the time of retirement a member had the option of remaining under the benefit programs offered by ADOA. In this case the ASRS served as the premium collection agency only, forwarding the premiums to the respective company. If the retiree elected to transfer their health/dental coverage to one of the plans offered by ASRS, then ASRS collected the premium and forwarded it to the respective company. If the retiree retirement benefit check was not sufficient to cover the premium requirement, the retiree was required to pay premium charges direct to the respective insurance company.

Knowing which agency provides your health and dental insurance is extremely important. Knowing this information allows the retiree to address questions of coverage and claims to the proper company and/or agency.

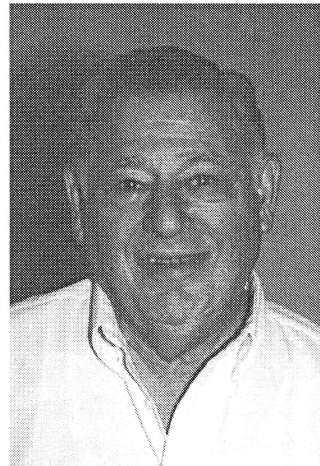
The retention of the subsidies for policy year 2008 appears to be under question. Extensions for the rural subsidy beyond June 30, 2007 is currently under consideration by the Legislature. The

regular subsidy will probably be continued.

Since the prescription coverage offered by ADOA and ASRS plans have been determined to be "equal to or better than" the prescription coverage provided by the Medicare Part D plans most retirees have elected to retain their State supported plans. In that case enrollment in one of the Medicare Part D is not required and no Part D premium will be charged.

Planning for the Open Enrollment for policy year 2008 is now in process. While the agencies are defining the plans to be offered and at what premiums, retirees were advised to address whether their selected plan is meeting their needs and whether any changes should be addressed.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COUNCIL REPORT



Jerry Aronson

The Legislative Liaison Council(LLC) continues to be involved in a broad spectrum of legislation-related activities that can affect, first and foremost, ASU's

Faculty and Staff retirees. Additionally, we keep abreast of legislative initiatives impacting active (ie., preretirement) employees. We exercise public responsibility also by supporting ASU in its roles as an employer and an educational and research institution. The University's strong presence in the community can allow it to be a powerful advocate for retiree welfare and, when we support ASU, we promote our own interests as well.

The LLC is chaired currently by Jerry Aronson who utilizes the extensive experience of Alan Johnson and Bob Mings. Johnson also serves as Chair Pro Tem when Aronson is absent due to traveling, etc. In carrying out its mission, LLC interacts on various levels with the ASU administration, the ASU Alumni Association (and its Sun Devil Advocates Network), the Tri-University Retirees Coalition, the Arizona Legislature (through attendance and/or advocacy at committee hearings and Email, telephone or face-to-face communication), the Coalition of Arizona State Retirees Associations and the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS).

During the 2006-2007 year, the Council intended to participate in ASU Day at the Capitol on February 19. Unfortunately, the event was essentially rained-out. How it might have turned out is questionable, since the Alumni sponsors changed the format for this year's event--electing not to arrange meetings between volunteers and legislators. For this reason LLC did not recruit attendees although the Alumni Association did invite several of our members. The Tri-University Coalition Meeting on February 28, 2007 was held in our new quarters in the Community

Services Bldg. Organizational and cost underwriting responsibilities for this meeting rotate among the three University retiree associations and it was UARA's turn this year. The help of Corinne Irvan in setting-up the arrangements is gratefully acknowledged. Participants included five delegates from ASURA, three from NAURA and five from UARA. The UARA delegation included Keith Meredith, Chair of ASRS Board of Trustees. We were most fortunate also in having the participation of Patrick Klein and Lesli Sorensen from ASRS and Charlie Chittenden (Actuary, Buck Consultants). A considerable amount of time was devoted to the subject of health insurance. Although the Legislature has *studied* the problem, there appears to be no legislative solution to rising costs. ASURA incoming President, Doug Johnson briefed Tri-U delegates on ASU's studies of pre-paid health insurance for retirees. While this approach, currently in the exploratory stages, may benefit future retirees, no relief is in sight for present retirees.

During the First Regular Session of the 48th Legislature we have monitored the progress of specific proposals that are of interest to us.

There appear to be two major casualties in the current session. The Graded Multiplier Equity Bill (HB2360) is failing for the third time but proponents will keep trying. Look for it in the next session. Also HB2196, a two-year extension of the rural health insurance subsidy, appears dead—a victim of House internal politics.

Several legislative proposals supported by ASRS that would, over the long term,

Legislative Liaison Report Continued
strengthen the Investment Fund appear headed for passage.

HB2141 proposes a number of changes in the definition of “normal retirement”. The 80 point rule would increase to 85 for new hires (on or after July 1, 2008) and a 5-year compensation average would replace the current 3-year average. In addition, terminating members would no longer be able to withdraw employer contributions. This bill awaits consideration by the House Rules Committee.

HB2145 would establish more stringent LTD requirements. It passed in the House and is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Retirement Committee (FIIR).

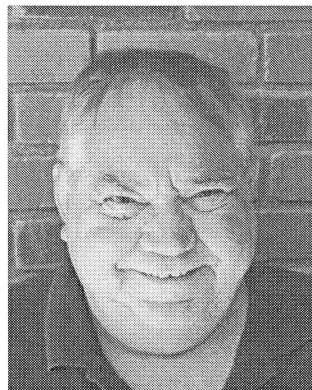
HB2147 would ease Investment Management requirements, establish confidentiality for certain proprietary commercial information connected with ASRS’s investments and increase the Foreign Investment cap from 20% to 30%. It passed in House, passed Senate FIIR and is scheduled by Senate Rules Committee.

SB1199 provides an ASRS exemption from State unclaimed property procedures. Monies that currently flow into the State Treasury would remain in the ASRS Fund. It passed in Senate, passed House Public Institutions and Retirement Committee and awaits consideration by the House Appropriations Committee.

There is one additional piece of legislation that has provoked considerable discussion during our

Board meetings and at the Tri-U meeting. HB2192 would exclude postdoctoral scholars from ASRS participation as is currently the case with UA medical interns. The ASRS Fund would no longer receive contributions from this employee pool but the total number of postdocs is relatively small. These individuals, usually paid from extramural funds, are considered short-term hires (not exceeding 3 years). The provisions of this bill could become exploitive if the short-term expectation is not enforced and there appears to be no enforcement provision at present either in the bill itself or ABOR rules. It passed in House and awaits hearings in Senate FIIR and Rules Committees.

LIVING HISTORY VIDEO PROJECT



Bob Francis

June P. Payne stepped down from chairing the Living History Project Committee since its inception in 2002 and assisted in transitioning the new chair, Bob Francis, over the summer. The Project committee met twice to select new “interviewees.” Committee members include: Bob Francis, chair; Matt Betz; Marvin Fisher; Alan Matheson; Edward Nelson; June Payne;

Zeke Prust; David Scheatzle; Hal White; and Ruth Wineberg.

In addition to the 33 interviews completed under June's leadership, nine more were completed this year giving the ASU Retirees Association ownership of 42 completed interviews. Each recording also exist in an audio and transcribed format.

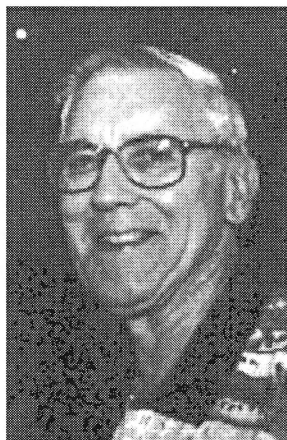
Living History interviews completed this year include: Matthew Betz (Administration and Engineering); Ellamae Branstetter (Nursing); Hal Fearon (Business); Marvin Fisher (Liberal Arts/Sciences); Elmer Gooding (Administration and Business); Dick Murra (Administration); Gale Richards (Public Programs); Leon Shell (Administration); and Bobby Winkles (Athletic Dept.).

The Board of Directors gave its approval for all interviews to also be transferred to a DVD format with five copies (one to be given to each "interviewee," one to the Archives Division of the ASU Libraries, one for office display or "check-out," and two back-up office copies). Production of these DVDs is in progress.

Discussion is currently being held between the Video Project and the Archives Division of the ASU Libraries regarding the Archives serving as the depository and research source for all Project interviews past and future. A contract with Agave Productions has been signed for 2007 allowing them to

continue to assist with the production of interviews and production of any requested DVDs.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Bob Ellis

ASURA had 963 members in mid-March. Our goal is still to reach at least 1,100 members. Human Resources has agreed to provide ASURA with quarterly lists so that we can contact new retirees. This has been very helpful for us to contact potential members.

At this time, 129 members have not renewed their memberships for the current year. We are contacting them to remind them. If you are aware of any potential members, including new retirees, we urge you to encourage them to join our organization. If you know of a potential member, please call our office at 480-965-7668 and we will send a membership packet to them. Your help will be appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



Sue Blumer

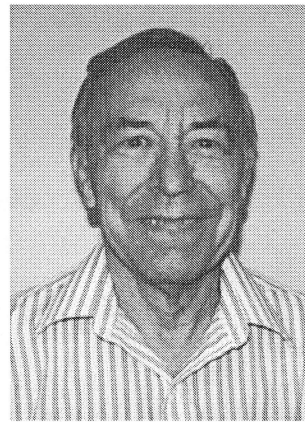
The Scholarship Committee met in May to select the recipient of this year's scholarship, Jarrod Nicholas Perry. Nick Perry is in the Honors Program in the W.P Carey School of Business, with an outstanding community college academic record and significant community service. He will attend the Annual Meeting to meet ASURA members and to speak about his goals.

Last Year's scholarship recipient, Karen Vincent, spoke at the April meeting in 2005 and was well received. The academic goals that she presented were interesting and ambitious.

The scholarship program provides an important means for members to participate in the lives of current students. With tuition and living costs rising, our scholarship makes it possible for a student with outstanding potential to attend ASU. Most of these students face long years to complete their undergraduate degree and their plans for graduate work. They have expressed great appreciation for the opportunities and help received.

The committee will meet in May to select the scholarship recipient for next year. The scholarship is no longer tied directly to in-state tuition, but is set at up to \$5,000 for the academic year. The committee members have shown great interest in the continuation of this project.

ASURA WEBSITE REPORT



Bob Beeman

The Arizona State University Retirees Association website (<http://aspin.asu.edu/asura/index.htm>) is maintained as a service to the members of the Arizona State University Retirees Association, and as an information resource to interested non-members.

The website crashed once during the year, but was quickly put back on line. Modifications and improvements of the website were made during the past year. These were designed to make the site easier to use, and to make the links more identifiable.

The Website was accessed 500 times during the year, and has had almost 3500 contacts since its inception. The Aspin server on which the ASURA Website is

maintained will be eliminated in the near future (things change), but we are assured that a new home for our site will be found and that there will be no (or very little) interruption in the availability of our Website. Please watch for an announcement of our new Web address.

If you would like to see something added to, or changed, in the website to make it more interesting and/or useful, please let Webmaster Bob Beeman know, and we will work on the improvements. If you would like to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the site, that also would be greatly appreciated.

You may contact ASURA Webmaster Beeman at Robert.Beeman@asu.edu, by phone at (480)967-7084, or by leaving a note in the Website mail box or in Bob Beeman's box at the ASURA office.

UNIVERSITY CLUB LIAISON



Zeke Prust

The University Club of Arizona State University is located in the center of the ASU campus in the historic building known originally as the "Science Hall". The General Manager of the Club is Cathy Berdon.

Club membership is available to ASU retirees. For information regarding initiation fees and monthly membership fees should contact Club Membership Coordinator Debi Smith at 480-965-0700. Once a retired member turns 75, the dues can be reduced to \$8.00 per month.

The University Club is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 5:00pm. Complimentary coffee and tea are served in the Club Room from 7:00am until 10:00am Monday through Friday. Lunch, in the Bistro, is available from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Reservations are requested. Atlasta Catering is responsible for the University Club dining Services which includes catering services.

The Valentine's Day Dinner, Mother's Day Brunch and many other events have been very successful. Event information is available on the internet at www.asu.edu/uclub.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE



Marie G. Sale'

We are currently holding 80-85 survey responses from retirees who have expressed interest in some volunteer activity connected to ASU. Although some members who responded to the survey have not fully retired, they will extend themselves to volunteer in times of need.

Most committees mentioned in the survey continue to accept volunteers through ASURA when the need arises. We will continue to connect faculty and staff as we proceed with new surveys.

Peggy Randolph will keep the database up to date, and Marie Sale' will then follow up with phone calls to retirees where interest has been expressed.

Homecoming 2006 activities were spectacular. President Crow stopped by our booth and our ASURA President, Alan Matheson, had the opportunity to chat with President Crow for a while.

It is an honor for me to serve our community through the ASU Retirees Association, and I will do my best to

continue with the Volunteer Activities Committee.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

ASURA OFFICE
P. O. Box 872512 (480) 965-7668
Tempe, AZ 85287-2512

ASURA fax (480) 965-7807

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

Arizona State Retirement System
3500 North Central (602) 240-2000
Phoenix, AZ 85012 or 1-800-621-3778

Arizona Department of Administration
100 North 15th Avenue (602) 542-4900
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Area 602 - Phoenix and North
Codes: 480 - East Valley
623 - West Valley
520 - Tucson and Southern AZ
928 - All other locations in AZ