

# prime times @ ASU

Arizona State University Retirees Association Newsletter

SPRING 2020

## ASURA President's Message

submitted by Jan Thompson — ASURA President, 2019-2020



Last fall I started the President's message with "Fasten your seat belts...we're off and running!" and now we're more than halfway to the finish line at a full sprint. It's been a busy and productive fall with soaring membership, activities galore, and more to look forward to in the months ahead. We hope to see you at one or more of ASURA's coming events.

Attendees feasted on a delicious variety of offerings at our Holiday Potluck and Bake Sale in December. Suffice it to say, no one went home hungry. The Seminar Committees must have been especially well-nourished because they continue to present outstanding seminars for our members. Upcoming topics include Elder Law (February 13) and Email Migration/Cyber Security (March 19).

Meanwhile the PRE-retirement Seminar Committee has also been busy increasing ASURA's visibility across all our university campuses with seminars of interest to employees approaching retirement. Seminars on financial readiness, Social Security, Medicare and "Resilience in retirement" have been held at Computing Commons and broadcast via ZOOM, a webcast that reaches employees remotely at their own computers. These seminars, as well as other useful information, can be viewed on our website's Retirement Info page at <https://asura.asu.edu/PlanningRetirement>.

It's not too early to invite you to our Friday, April 17, 2020 **Annual Meeting** where new officers and five new board members will be introduced. This year's meeting also features an outstanding Professor from the School of Sustainability speaking on urban climate issues and their impact on at-risk populations, including the elderly. For more information, please read the "2020 Annual Meeting" article on page 13 of this newsletter. Registration for this event begins in March so check your email in-box for an official announcement and an E-News blast coming your way.

A big thank you to our board members, committee chairs and members, dedicated office staff and all of you for keeping things running smoothly so far this year. Let's continue to "Celebrate Prime Times". Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!

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## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

2020 ASURA Board of Directors' election.  
**Deadline:** February 28, 2020

## Executive Board



(top, left to right)

**President:** Jan Thompson  
**Vice President:** Carl Cross  
**Past President:** Tara Roesler  
**Secretary:** Pat Schneider  
**Treasurer:** Barry Bruns

## Office Staff

**Office Staff Coordinators** - Linda Van Scoy & Nancy Lesko  
**Business Operations Manager** - Carolyn Minner  
**Technology Manager** - Connie McNeill  
**Phone:** (480) 965-7668 (*best to call beforehand*)  
**Fax:** (480) 965-7807

### Office Hours - Fall 2019

<b>Monday</b>	Nanci Beardsley	10:00am -1:00pm
	Beverly Buddee	1:00pm -4:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Nancy Lesko	10:00am -1:00pm
	Linda VanScoy	1:00pm -4:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Tara Roesler	10:00am -1:00pm
	Jeannette Robson	1:00pm -4:00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Bonnie Scheall	9:00am -12:00pm
	<b>Volunteer needed</b>	1:00pm -4:00pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Closed All Day</b>	
<b>Subs:</b>	Gail Horney, Dorothy Meunier, Helen Seaton, Jan Thompson	

## Board of Directors

### Terms Expire April 2020

Barry Bruns  
 Barry McNeill  
 Don Nilsen  
 Tara Roesler  
 Pat Schneider  
 Bill Stasi

### Terms Expire April 2021

Jeff Chapman  
 Jean Duncan  
 Jo Madonna  
 Connie McNeill  
 Jan Thompson

### Terms Expire April 2022

Jane Carey  
 Larry Carlson  
 Evelyn Cesarotti  
 Carl Cross  
 Frank Koonce

## Board Ex-Officio Members

<b>Alumni Association</b>	John Davis
<b>Emeritus College Liaison</b>	Don Nilsen
<b>Human Resources</b>	Judith Cato
<b>University Club Liaison</b>	Carl Cross
<b>University Liaison</b>	Kendra Burton
<b>University Senate</b>	Shirley Rose
<b>University Staff Council</b>	Katie Aguilar

## Committees

### Community Outreach

**Adopt-A-Family:**  
 Ginny Sylvester

**Scholarship:**  
 Joy Shearman & Barbara Fargotstein

**Video History Project:**  
 Barry McNeill

### Events

**Events Committee Chair:**  
 Jo Madonna

**Luncheons/Special Events:**  
 Jean Duncan

**Seminars:**  
 Beverly Buddee

**Pre-retirement Seminars:**  
 Trudy Perez & Liz Badamenti

**Travel:**  
 John Brock

### Finance and Fundraising

**Finance:**  
 Barry Bruns

**Book Donations:**  
 Mary Stevens

**Fund Raising:**  
*to be determined*

### Government and Health Insurance Liaisons

**Government Liaisons:**  
**Legislative** - Jeri Meeks, Pat Schneider, Suzanne Bias, Tara Roesler,  
**ASRS** - Dick Jacob  
**ADOA** - Larry Carlson

**Health Insurance Liaisons:**  
**ASRS** - Dick Jacob  
**ADOA** - Larry Carlson

### Membership and Communications

**E-News:**  
 Barry McNeill

**Membership:**  
 David Schwalm

**Obituaries:**  
 Becky Reiss

**Prime Times Newsletter:**  
 Jeannette Robson

**Website and Database:**  
 Connie McNeill

## Get Out the Vote! 2020 ASURA Board Members Election

submitted by Tara Roesler — Past President & Chair of the ASURA Nominating Committee

Hello ASURA Members! It's that time again and we need to hear from **you**. This is an important process for our organization and it is always our goal to hear from every member. The Ballots have been distributed via email and USPS mail and we need to hear from you by February 28, 2020.

If you have misplaced your ballot or email announcement you can vote as follows:

1. Download and complete a ballot from the ASURA website at <https://asura.wildapricot.org/resources/Ballots/BardBallot.pdf>, **or**
2. Call the ASURA Office at 480-965-7668 and ask for a ballot to be sent, **or**
3. Email <https://asura.asu.edu> with your vote. The email subject should be "ASURA Board Ballot" and the content should contain the names of the candidates for whom you are voting (up to five names) and your name.



Thank you for participating in this election process.

## ASURA Electronic Publications

submitted by Barry McNeill

ASURA has three different electronic (e-mail) publications that you can sign up to receive. The publications are:

- ◆ Event Announcements — seminars, holiday potluck, travel opportunities, etc.
- ◆ Obituary Notices
- ◆ Other ASURA Communications: E-news — a monthly newsletter; an e-mail rather than a paper Board Ballot, etc.

If you are currently not receiving one or more of these publications but would like to, you need to update your ASURA profile. You can do this by visiting the ASURA webpage "Update Your Profile" at <https://asura.asu.edu/updates> and following one of the four options for getting your profile updated.

## What's New on ASURA's Website

submitted by Connie McNeill — Website & Database

We are constantly updating our Association website to do the best job we can of providing you with information about ASURA and about negotiating retirement life.



Recent additions:

- ◆ **Videos of the pre-retirement seminars that ASURA hosts on the ASU campus.** These can be found in our "Retirement Info" menu under "Planning for Retirement". Seminars available so far are "Social Security – With You Through Life's Journey", "Financial Planning for Retirement", and "Understanding Medicare".
- ◆ **Archives of our E-news correspondence going back to 2014.** If you know you read something in an E-news article that you would like to read again, you can look for it under "Publications" – E-news Archives.
- ◆ **Information on what ASU technology access you will have when you retire.** Most services are continued for emeritus/emerita faculty, but many are no longer available to others upon retirement. See Retirement Info – Technology for Retirees – Access to ASU Technology.
- ◆ **Information on how you can donate to ASURA and/or its projects any time.** Available by the "Donate" button on the main menu.

## Welcome New ASURA Members

Abbott, David  
Abbs, Angela  
Aberger, Thomas  
Barrows, Warren  
Beck, Terri  
Bedoya, Pamela  
Borden, Steven  
Burnham, Robert  
Chaplin, Anna  
Chapuis, Jean  
Conrad, Michael  
Cutter, Robert  
Daniels, Shandra  
Davis, Rebecca  
Decker, Scott  
Dempster, Thomas  
Derosa, Corinne  
Dillon, Corinne  
Doerres, Donald  
Donahue, M.

Dustman, Patricia  
Edmonds, Leonard  
Faulkner, Irvin  
Garcia, Antonio  
Green, Monica  
Hanley, Richard  
Harrison, Barbara  
Hesse, Maria  
Hudson, Theresa  
Hurst, Carol  
Igras, Leon  
Javurek, Clayton  
Johnson, William  
Kauffman, Karl  
Koonse, Benjamin  
Kyle, Kathryn  
Kyler, Marilyn  
LaCroix, Leslie  
Lafford, Barbara  
Lee, Sharon

Lehman, Peter  
Lester, Darlene  
Liepmann, Karen  
Lynk, Myles  
Mancini, Janet  
Matar, Bassam  
Mau, Steven  
Mays, Larry  
McBride, Ingrid  
McCarthy, Marianne  
Melody, Noeleen  
Millmyn, Nina  
Miranda, Patricia  
Molina, Sammy  
Napoli, Maria  
Neufeld, Mark  
Pierce-McManamon,  
Francis  
Pompa, Maria  
Price, Larry

Rassas, Maher  
Rastad, Sally  
Rex, Tom  
Roberts, Cheryl  
Scheufler, Stephen  
Sercl, Jo Anne  
Shire, Sandra  
Sideris, Karen  
Snider, Gerald  
Toon, Richard  
Ulrich, Jon  
Vervynck, Paul  
Walker, Stephen  
Warner, Carolyn  
Webster, Douglas  
Weigand, Robert  
Whelan, Mary  
Wielert, Sharon  
Zhao, Zhan-Gong

## ASURA Office Updates

submitted by Linda Van Scoy and Nancy Lesko — ASURA Office Coordinators

Happy New Year ... and New Decade. As we begin 2020 our volunteer office staff is busy collecting RSVPs for the many upcoming events, so call or e-mail us with your reservations and/or questions. Remember the office hours are Monday through Wednesday, 10 AM - 4 PM and Thursday, 9 AM - Noon. The office is closed Thursday afternoon and on Fridays. If you plan to drop by, please call 480-965-7668 first to make sure the office is staffed.

If anyone needs empty boxes for book-donations we have plenty. Just come by and take as many as you want. Then bring them back filled with books, of course!

**ASURA Marketing Box:** We have an ASURA marketing box on wheels that can be borrowed when ASURA participates in public ASU events like staff BBQs,

Day at the Capital, retirement sessions, etc.

The box contains a supply of ASURA bookmarks, ball point pens, luggage tags, copies of *Prime Times*, ASURA information tri-folds, Osher Lifelong learning schedules, membership applications, tablecloth and table-top banner. If you will be staffing an event you may check out the marketing box to set up at the event. Simply call or e-mail the office at <https://asura.asu.edu> to let us know when you will need the box and we will have it ready for you. There is a sign-out sheet you will need to complete.



We do have one office staff opening on Thursday, 1 - 4 PM. If you would like to help out on Thursdays or join our list of substitutes, please let us know.

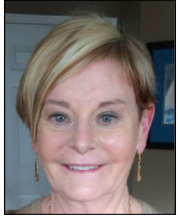
## Volunteers Needed

- ◆ Office staff & substitutes needed. **Contact:** Linda Van Scoy, [lvs@asu.edu](mailto:lvs@asu.edu) or Nancy Lesko, [nclesko@asu.edu](mailto:nclesko@asu.edu)
- ◆ Prime Times Editor/Publisher needed. **Contact:** Jeannette Robson, [jrobson@asu.edu](mailto:jrobson@asu.edu)
- ◆ Committee members needed for various ASURA Committees. **Contact:** Jan Thompson, [jmt6000@gmail.com](mailto:jmt6000@gmail.com)
- ◆ Technology and Website Committee needs volunteers to help maintain ASURA's technology infrastructure. **Contact:** Connie McNeill, [ConnieMcNeill@outlook.com](mailto:ConnieMcNeill@outlook.com)
- ◆ Video History Project needs volunteers to view some of the interviews in its collection and then update with abstracts, table of contents, etc. **Contact:** Barry McNeill, [barry\\_mcneill@outlook.com](mailto:barry_mcneill@outlook.com)

## ASURA Needs Your Old Books!

submitted by Mary Stevens — Book Donations

Are your bookshelves too full? Are you downsizing your office or your home and don't have space for all of your books?



Donate your used books to us, and we will work with our partner, Friends of the Phoenix Public Library, to sell them. We'll use proceeds of the sale to support our programs. Half of the proceeds will be used for our ASURA scholarship that goes to an ASU student, and half will be used for our Video History project. The ASU Foundation, a separate nonprofit organization that exists to support ASU, will provide you with a gift receipt for tax purposes.

If you have books to donate, first box them up. If you need boxes, you can pick some up from our office. Be sure to call before coming to make sure we have boxes on hand and a volunteer in the office.



When boxing your books, please do not overfill the boxes and leave sufficient room to cover or close each box.

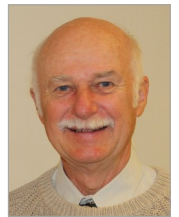
When the books are in boxes: For books that are on an ASU campus, ask Facilities Management to pick them up and deliver them to us. To accomplish this, your department assistant can complete and submit a [FACMAN service request](#) on an on-line form. Facilities will schedule a pickup date with the office assistant. Advise the office assistant to provide your name and department to the FACMAN representative who picks up the books, **or** bring your boxes of books to [our office](#). Parking is readily available by the building. We have a dolly you can use. There is a ramp into the building, and an elevator to the 2nd floor.

If you cannot box your books on your own or cannot bring them to us, please contact Mary Stevens, 602-758-3750 **or** [marystevens0@gmail.com](mailto:marystevens0@gmail.com) **or** [contact our office](#). Provide your *name*, *e-mail address* (if you have one), *phone number* and the *approximate number of books* you would like to donate. Mary or another ASURA volunteer will work with you to get the books transferred.

## Spring 2020 Video History Project Update

submitted by Barry McNeill — Chair, Video History Project

The Video History Project completed two interviews this past fall ... one with Gus Edwards, Professor of Theater and Films and one with Kristin Valentine, Professor of Human Communications in the Hugh Downs School of Communication.



- ◆ Gus Edwards was interviewed by Bonnie Eckard on November 11, 2019. The interview has been edited and is available in the ASU Library's Digital Repository (<https://repository.asu.edu/items/55326>). In the interview Gus talks about growing up in St. Thomas, moving to New York city with all the trials and tribulations associated with becoming an actor and playwright. Gus was ASU playwright-in-residence from 1984-86 and returned permanently in 1988 to teach theater and eventually film. He talks about the film company, Running Wild Films, that he co-founded with a student.
- ◆ Kristin Valentine was interviewed by Fred Corey on December 2, 2019 (*The interview is currently unavailable*). Kristin is an Emeritus Professor of communication at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on performance studies, specifically on fieldwork-based ethnographies of cultural performances in Arizona, Spain, and New Zealand. Parallel to performance ethnography is her interest in communication and creative writing too, with, and for incarcerated women. She was project director of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant that featured the performance and discussion of contemporary Western American fiction in the public libraries of the Phoenix valley (copied from Valentine's ASU research profile) — <https://isearch.asu.edu/profile/215935>.

In the last issue I discussed the need to add some meat, aka metadata, to some of the interview bones in the library collection. Pat Schneider stepped forward to break the ice and added an abstract and table of contents to the Troy Crowder interview. Troy was a longtime assistant to the university presidents.

Now it is your turn to step forward and update one or more of the other interviews. It's a chance to learn a little something you likely did not know about Bob Ellis, Darel Eschbach, Elmer Gooding, Ted Humphrey, Bill Kajikawa, Russ Nelson, Wilma Schwada, Bobby Winkles and many others. We have written directions for doing this work. If you would like to give this a try drop me a note at [barry\\_mcneill@outlook.com](mailto:barry_mcneill@outlook.com) and I'll get you set up (the early bird gets the biggest selection of interviews to choose from).

## Donations Gratefully Received Any Time

submitted by *Connie McNeill* — Website & Database

Did you know that you can donate to ASURA projects any time, and not only when you renew your membership? Your donations are essential to the continued success of our scholarship, video history and Adopt-a-Family projects, and are also of vital help in our daily operations.



Our website has a new “Donate” button in the main menu – on the right side of the page. The donation page tells you how your donation is used and of course *how* you can donate – online credit card payment, check, or donation of books. All are very gratefully received and appreciated. There is also a link to a Foundation page that gives instructions on how you can include ASURA in your estate plan.

The direct link to our donation page is <http://asura.asu.edu/donate>.

## Adopt-A-Family Program Update

submitted by *Ginny Sylvester* — Chair, Adopt-A-Family Program

The 2019-2020 ASURA Adopt-A-Family Program currently supports two families ... one from ASU and the other from the Tempe Elementary School System.

The ASU family includes a mother who is a full-time student at ASU and a father who just completed community college and has transferred to ASU. Together they have six kids — two girls and four boys, between 4 and 9 years of age. They are also raising four adopted children when their own family could no longer take care of them. We provided a Fry’s gift card to this family for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, we were able to get all new outfits for the children, including jackets and shoes, and toys they wanted as well as a few other small treats for new Christmas stockings that we purchased.

The Tempe School family is made up of a single mother with three boys, ages 8, 12 and 13 years old. This family recently moved into their own house and hoped for items for the house. For this family, we supplied a Sprouts Gift card for both Thanksgiving and Christmas as the Mom indicated she loved shopping at Sprouts. We also purchased clothes, shoes and jackets for everyone, and gift cards to Game Stop for the two older boys and a remote-control car for the younger. We purchased some kitchen items for the mom, including a blender, towels and shower curtain and other small items.

I’d especially like to thank my excellent helpers ... Judy May and Henry Stevens ... for their time and energy as we shopped at Walmart, Kohl’s and Target, getting great deals from all the stores. We will also be giving each family food gift cards at Easter to complete the final phase of support of these two wonderful families. We had a wonderful time and we all enjoyed participating in this wonderful program!



Ginny’s living room after the Christmas shopping and wrapping were completed.



Tempe School System Family Christmas Tree loaded with gifts.

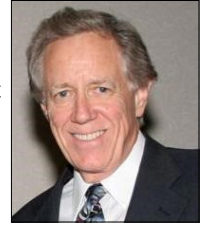


Message from family: “Thank you so much for the gift card to Sprouts. This was truly a blessing for me and my family. Here’s some of the things we picked up for our Thanksgiving dinner.”

## ***Helping a Child Learn to Read ... and Other Volunteer Opportunities You might Find Interesting in the New Year***

*submitted by John Millikin — Retired, WP Carey School of Business and member, ASURA*

When I retired from teaching in 2012 one of the things I noticed was that retirees were no longer part of the United Way campaigns as we were no longer on payroll. Working with the Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) we created Retire United as a focal point for continued involvement in the community. We now have several hundred retirees in Retire United including ASU participants. We have found that many of us who participated as donors over the years now have more time to volunteer.



There are a number of different VSUW programs that benefited from Retiree United volunteers. These include:

- working with area school districts to provide backpacks with school supplies and reading materials to disadvantaged students.
- Project Connect to help get homeless and other poor people connected to right social services, and
- more recently, the Vello program which links adult volunteers online with individual elementary students who can benefit by extra reading support. These students have a computer set up in their classrooms and through a unique app can read while being coached remotely by a volunteer who may be located in their home, office or even on a vacation trip as long as one has a web connection.

Originally Vello was staffed by teams of employees at VSUW partner companies, but we have created a team of Retire United participants to support a specific school and class. This has worked well as I can personally attest! You can get a feel for the program at [Vello Video Library](#). We are seeking ASURA members who would be interested in developing an additional team of volunteers to support another school.

While we always accept donations, there is a no-giving requirement to participate and you can [sign up](#) for free. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact [John Hamilton](#), Retire United Chair or [John.Milikin@asu.edu](mailto:John.Milikin@asu.edu) or (602)370-2941.

[E-News Note: ASURA members, through ASU, do receive annual letters asking for donations to the United Way]

## ***Tri-University Meeting - Fall 2019***

*submitted by Jeri Meeks, Government Liaison*

The 2019 Tri-University meeting was held on October 18th at the Courtyard by Marriott in Scottsdale. University of Arizona Retirees Association President Dotty Sherwood-Cooney put together a great program and ASURA was pleased to have several representatives participating.

Each of the three retiree association presidents spoke about the health of their respective organizations. We discussed our programming, recruitment strategies, best practices and learning opportunities. We also heard from Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) and Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) regarding the 2020 open enrollment. Additionally, we heard from TIAA about the health of their fund.



There were two presentations that created news. The first was from Paul Matson, Executive Director, Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS). Paul spoke about ASRS's three strategic initiatives ... to drive down insurance rates by being self-insured, cyber security and

investment management. ASRS believes that it can save \$40M a year by self-insuring prescription costs for Medicare & non-Medicare retirees, dental care and non-Medicare medical. Representative Livingston will be putting forth a bill this legislative session, clarifying what ASRS can do as far as self-insurance. The goal is to have the self-insured model in place by 2021. Mr. Matson stated that ASRS will probably still use United Healthcare as their provider.

The second presentation was a legislative update from Sabrina Vazquez, Assistant Vice President, City of Phoenix and State Relations, The University of Arizona. Ms. Vazquez is the University of Arizona Lobbyist and she gave us a rundown on ABOR's new funding model. In previous years Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) has asked the state to fund 50% of resident student cost, but the State was reticent to agree to a percentage funding model. This year's funding model is "Workforce Development", with each university focusing on a college/initiative. The University of Arizona will fund Healthcare and Space Defense initiatives. Arizona State University will fund Engineering workforce

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

development. Northern Arizona University will fund Allied Health/Health Services education. Other budgeted asks are for the Teacher Academy, financial aid funds and research dollars. Also, Prop 301 or TRIF monies (a sales tax funding research at the universities) will become unprotected in 2021. ABOR will be working with legislators on a bill that will protect these monies for the universities.

Lastly, we had a chance to meet our new ASU University Liaisons Kendra Burton, Director, Office of Government and Community Engagement and Alyson Perkins, Management Intern from the same office. We look forward to working with them to support ABOR's budget request and keep you current on university initiatives.

## ***Governor's Council on Aging***

*submitted by Tara Roesler & Jeri Meeks, Lobbyists; Suzanne Bias*

The ASU Retirees Association was pleased to be invited to the Governor's Council on Aging meetings at the Capital Building last year and we continue to attend these important meetings this year. At these hour-long meetings, social issues affecting seniors and the disabled, along with existing service provider solutions, are presented by a caucus of legislators, service providers and non-profit organizations. The objective of these presentations is to stimulate discussion with an audience of representatives from retiree organizations, service organizations, emergency service providers such as police and firefighters and concerned citizens.

We have currently attended three Council meetings — "Transportation for Aging Arizonans: Current Challenges and Rising Opportunities"; "Prescription Drugs: Available Cost Savings Programs, State and Federal Efforts addressing the Cost of Prescription Drugs"; and "Utilities: Cost Saving Programs/Solutions for People on a Fixed Income". ASURA has posted the complete minutes of each meeting on our website at <https://asura.asu.edu/GovernorsCouncilOnAging>.

Here's a quick recap of this year's meeting:

### **September 13, 2019 — Transportation for Aging Arizonans: Current Challenges and Rising Opportunities**

Presenters included representatives from AHCCCS, City of Phoenix Dial-a-Ride Program, Lyft, Northwest Valley Connect, Valley Metro's Accessible Transportation division and non-profit ELAINE. The speakers presented their current ADA compliant door-to-door, on-call, concierge and share-a-ride programs for seniors and disabled individuals. Non-profits Northwest Valley Connect and ELAINE have a focused audience – Northwest serves Sun City and Sun City West exclusively and ELAINE primarily serves the homeless community.

When it was time for questions, Firefighters in the audience spoke up about gaps in service, stating that they are called out on hundreds of calls each month for a "fall call" or a "lift assist" when a senior or disabled passenger is left on the curb and cannot get to their front door without assistance. Firefighters are also called when motorized scooters run out of charge. They don't have a way to charge the scooter, but these emergency responders must resolve the issue. Lastly, some drivers for these programs speak with a thick accent and many passengers have reported communication issues.

### **November 12, 2019 — Prescription Drugs: Available Cost Savings Programs, State and Federal Efforts addressing the Cost of Prescription Drugs**

Presenters included representatives from AARP Arizona and the Area Agency on Aging. Prescription drug costs have become a real kitchen-table issue and have stimulated legislative action at the federal level. AARP representative Marie Kenney discussed house bill **HR.3**, which establishes a fair price negotiation program, protects the Medicare program from excessive price increases and establishes an out-of-pocket maximum cost for Medicare Part D. Senate bills **S.1497** caps prescription cost and **S.977** requires transparent pricing. Also, in December 2019 President Trump, along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that, if finalized, would allow for the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada.

Area Agency on Aging representative Bill Cave provided information about various federal and state programs offering reduced prescription costs such as the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Low Income Subsidy (LIS), Medicare Saving Program (MSP), and reduced discounts through Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

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### **January 21, 2020 — “Utilities: Cost Saving Programs/Solutions for People on Fixed Incomes”**

For this information-packed discussion we had representatives from APS, SRP, SW Gas, City of Phoenix Water, Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans and Wildfire. Each of the power suppliers detailed their bill discount and assistance programs – which were very similar. All companies require the customer to provide a SNAP card, showing that they qualify for food assistance, or documentation demonstrating that their income is 150-200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Each company has “medically fragile household” and “safety net” programs, which prevent discontinued power if the bill is not paid on time but require the customer to register within their company’s system. Also, each power company has a dedicated customer service phone line with trained counselors to assist customers and community partners for wellness checks and social services assistance.

Arizona Alliance of Retired Americans representative Dora started her talk by saying “If aging isn’t your issue – it will be.” Truer words never spoken. She reminded us that the average state retirement payout is \$20K annually, just slightly over the threshold that would make a retiree eligible for a power company’s discount programs. Nonprofit Wildfire is an AARP partner and works with 30+ organizations to

provide low income assistance through the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

When it came time for questions, the Firefighters again stepped up with great questions, asking how emergency responders could contact the power companies directly if they arrived at a house where the power had been turned off or equipment was not working. Unfortunately, no representative rallied with a good answer. Another question pertained to data collection — why weren’t the power companies pro-actively asking customers for personal information that would help them qualify customers for discount programs and a medically fragile classification? The power companies all responded that they were cognizant of privacy issues and it was their policy not to ask. That said, all power company representatives acknowledged that there is low program participation due to poor communication.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- ◆ February 25, 2020: House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults - Next steps and findings from the committee.
- ◆ March 17, 2020: Diabetes - the rising number of aging Arizonans with Diabetes; the cost of Insulin; challenges in managing Diabetes.
- ◆ April 28, 2020: Alzheimer’s Disease - updates on legislation, research and supports for families and patients of Alzheimer’s Disease.
- ◆ May 1, 2020: AZ Broadband Strategic Plan – Benefits to Aging Arizonans, Rural and Indigenous Communities

## ***Government Liaison’s Report - Spring 2020***

*submitted by Tara Roesler & Jeri Meeks, Lobbyists and Patricia Schneider & William Stasi*

The 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature Second Regular Session opened on January 13, 2020 and per Governor Ducey’s State of the State address his priorities for this year are securing the state’s water future, expanding economic opportunities while preparing against future economic downturns, keeping students safe, protecting public safety while reducing prison populations and investing in public education – with a focus on results, resources and reforms.

ASU’s Legislative Advocacy Breakfast was held on January 10, 2019. Along with touting ASU’s academic and research achievements, Dr. Crow talked about the University’s (new) Design Aspirations to “leverage our place” by embracing our cultural, socioeconomic and physical setting, “transform society” by being connected

to social needs and be “socially embedded” by connecting with communities through mutually beneficial partnerships. These aspirations, along with ASU’s standing goals of impactful research, encouraging innovation and dedication to student success, support the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) new Workforce Development business plan. This a new approach to ABOR’s state funding request is designed to improve the state’s workforce and support a healthy economy. Each university will develop a Workforce Readiness Initiative; Arizona State University will expand engineering education and research, adding five science and technology centers; Northern Arizona University’s focus will be in healthcare, including mental and behavioral, which is the largest growing private industry in Arizona; University of Arizona will focus on workforce development initiatives in its medical schools and

*(Continued on page 10)*

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space exploration, planetary defense, national security and asteroid exploration centers.

ASURA Lobbyists Tara Roesler, Jeri Meeks and new retiree Suzanne Bias are attending the Governor's Community and Legislative Partners in Aging meetings again this legislative season. Sponsored by the Governor's Council on Aging, these meetings bring together a caucus of Arizona Senators, Representatives and community partners to discuss challenges facing Arizona's seniors. Please see our related article in this Prime Times issue, pages 8-9, for a recap of this year's discussions.

ASURA will also host a table at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual ASU Day at the Capitol on Tuesday February 11 at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza. This is our chance to interact with our legislators, tout our accomplishments and thank our local elected officials for supporting ASU in the past and the upcoming legislative sessions. ASU colleges and departments always provide a great display of current programs and innovations and it's always fun to see what's new at the University.

Bills introduced for consideration this legislative season have been posted on the Arizona State Legislature website and, as usual, there is much to see! This year Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) Health Insurance would like to move to a self-insured funding model and there are several bills posted, addressing this change. Please see Tara's ASRS Healthcare Article in this Prime Times issue, pages 10-11. Also, ABOR's new Workforce Development funding model has generated many pieces of legislation.

An initial list of the bills that are worth watching are included at the end of this report.

Last, but certainly not least, it's an election year! Please engage in your local, state and federal elections! Contact your current legislators and tell them what you think! Do your research and VOTE!

We are pleased to have a growing team of ASU Retiree Association Legislative Watchdogs monitoring the bills as they move through the legislative process, attending retiree related meetings and conferences and working with state and local representatives. My thanks to Tara Roesler, Pat Schneider, William Stasi, Larry Carlson, Dick Jacob, Suzanne Bias and all our members who bring issues affecting retirees to our attention.

Would you like to see what bills have been introduced? What legislative district you live in or who your Senator and Representatives are? The Arizona State Legislature website has all of that and more! Please visit <https://www.azleg.gov/>. Also, would you like to be an ASURA legislative watchdog? We would love to have you! Please contact me with your interest at [jeri.meeks@asu.edu](mailto:jeri.meeks@asu.edu).

**HB2141** – universities; community colleges; constitutions; instruction  
**HB2491** – appropriation; Arizona Teachers Academy  
**HB2238** – universities; public policy events  
**HB2020** – ABOR; tuition; actual cost; deduction  
**HB2460** – ABOR; tuition; deduction; actual cost  
**SB1166** – appropriation; STEM internships

**SB1033** – ASRS; self-insurance program  
**SB1034** – ASRS; required distribution  
**SB1125** – ASRS eligibility; waiting period  
**HB2113** – ASRS; employer; member; contributions  
**HB2357** – ASRS; self-insurance program  
**HB2628** – health care insurance; amendments  
**HB2602** – Arizona High School graduates; tuition

#### **References and Links:**

- ◆ Governor Ducey's 2020 Legislative Priorities per his State of the State address on Jan 13, 2020: <https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/01/governor-ducey-delivers-2020-state-state-address>
- ◆ Arizona 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature First Regular Session Bill Query: <https://www.azleg.gov/bills/>
- ◆ Legislative Districts by address: <https://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/>
- ◆ Contact Information for State Representatives and Senators: <https://www.azleg.gov/memberroster/>

## ***ASRS Group Health Insurance Program***

*submitted by Tara Roesler — Immediate Past President, ASURA*

The Arizona State Retirement System held a series of two meetings (January 13 and January 21) to explain their proposal to self-insure the group health insurance plans they oversee.

### **During the first meeting, presenters explained:**

1. "A self-insured group health plan (or a 'self-funded' plan as it is also called) is one in which the plan sponsor assumes the financial risk for providing health care benefits to its participants."

*(Continued on page 11)*

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2. Why the Arizona State Retirement System was considering self-insurance.
  - a) Premium reduction.
  - b) Ability to fund monthly fluctuations in claims liability throughout the year thus maximizing cash flow advantages.
  - c) More control over benefit design, utilization reporting, monitoring, evaluation and transparency.
  - d) Reasonable and predictable claims experience.
3. The major differences between Fully-Insured and Self-Insured Plans
  - a) Member savings versus profit.
  - b) Risk and margin factored when setting premium under self-insured plans and included as part of the premium in fully-insured plans.
  - c) Premium taxes not assessed on self-funded plan.
4. ASRS experience with self-insurance.
  - a) ASRS Long-Term disability program.
  - b) Pension plans (share similar core principles).
5. Coverage, benefits or other changes.
  - a) Plan design changes are an option for both fully-insured and self-insured plans.
  - b) Would continue the kind of changes beneficial to ASRS members such as lower maximum out of pocket limits and deductible and co-pay modifications for the non-medicare medical plans.
  - c) Self-insured and Fully-insured plans contract with carriers to utilize their network of providers. Therefore, no greater risk of having to change doctors than with existing fully-funded plans.
  - d) No change planned for appeals process.

**During the second meeting, presenters discussed:**

1. What ASRS programs can be self-insured:  
(FI= fully-insured; SI= self-insured)

	Non-Medicare	Medicare
Medical	FI/SI	Medicare Advantage FI Only
Pharmacy	FI/SI	FI/SI
Dental-PPO		FI/SI
Dental-DHMO		FI/SI

2. ASRS estimated annual savings by category  
(projected Dental Savings were not presented):

	Non-Medicare	Medicare
Medical	\$5 M	Not Applicable
Pharmacy	\$5 – \$7 M	\$30 - \$40 M
Total	\$40 M - \$52 M	

3. ASRS presented a premium reduction illustration:

	Current Premium	Proposed Premium
Projected Medical Claims	\$560	\$560
Admin/Risk	\$70	\$70
Projected Rx Claims	<b>\$170</b>	\$120
Taxes/Fees	\$33	\$0
Profit	<b>\$13</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL PREMIUM</b>	\$846	\$750

4. ASRS next steps:
  - a) Engage market via the Request for Proposal process:
    - i) Dental RFPs asking for proposals for self-insured and fully-insured plans (received 1/15/20 and under review);
    - ii) Medical and Pharmacy RFP for self-insured and fully-insured plans (bids anticipated March 2020).
  - b) Obtain passage of necessary Legislation to clarify ASRS' authority to self-insure: SB1033 ASRS Self-Insurance Program ... <https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/BillOverview/72580>.
  - c) Decision-making in late spring/early summer (Health Insurance Advisory Committee members volunteering to participate in the RFPs).
  - d) Communication and preparation in late summer and early fall for November open enrollment.

## ***Annual Holiday Potluck & Bake Sale - December 6, 2019***

*submitted by Jean Duncan — Luncheons & Special Events Committee*

This event is traditionally popular with ASURA members and this year nearly 50 people attended. Members enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones. Attendees were given the option to drop off their food before entering the parking garage which made for a seamless and easy entrance to facility.



Delicious potluck items were enjoyed by everyone in a relaxed and festive atmosphere. Jeri Meeks (with her awesome sales ability) collected over \$150.00 from the Bake Sale. Members had the opportunity to purchase homemade treats that they could take home and add to their holiday

tables. The proceeds from this Bake Sale will be used to help support ASURA's various programs and activities.



*Betty Ludlow, Joy Shearman,  
Marjorie Garrity*



*Jeri Meeks, ASURA Past President  
and Flogger of Goodies*

*(To view other photos from this special event, please visit the [ASURA Photo Gallery](#).)*

## ***Fall Luncheon - November 7, 2019***

*submitted by Jean Duncan — Chair, Luncheons & Special Events Committee*

The ASURA Fall Luncheon was held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at Oregon's Restaurant in Old Town Scottsdale. Approximately 40 attendees enjoyed the delicious Italian buffet served in Oregon's Party Room. Carol Taylor-Tassone baked cookies in the shape of dog bones as party favors for each attendee to enjoy.

The event presenter, Dr. Clive Wynne, is Professor of Psychology and founding Director of the Canine Science Collaboratory at Arizona State University. Dr. Wynne talked about the extensive research he has conducted and has now documented in his new book "Dog is Love" (published in September 2019).

Wynne's studies had a particular emphasis on those areas of human-dog interaction where his science can have the biggest impact on human and dog welfare. So, if you were not able to attend the luncheon and are wondering "why and how your dog loves you" ... you may just have to read Dr. Wynne's book.

An entertaining and fun time was had by all!

### ***Fall Luncheon, Article # 2 — submitted by ASURA member Henry Stevens***

My choice of transportation to the ASURA Fall Luncheon was the local Metro bus. Couldn't have been easier as I hopped on the #72 northbound at the Tempe Transit Center and in 25 minutes or less, got-off at the Thomas and Scottsdale Rd. stop. From there it was a brief walk to Oregon's. Since I arrived a wee early, I chose to remain on the patio for a short spell reading my fresh issue of The Week before joining other retirees inside at the noon hour.

The banquet room was relatively small but had character. No problem finding a seat and making new acquaintances in the process. In fact, the latter is one of the pluses of course in joining the Association and signing-up for events such as the Fall Luncheon. The buffet-style lunch was nicely put together and I, for one, enjoyed the slightly spicy sausage that accompanied the pasta.

Although it has been many rains since I last owned a dog (I live small), Dr. Clive Wynne's lecture on dog love was very interesting and enlightening. How nice it must be to have a good "wit 'bout you" when delivering such a talk, as the Professor (and recently tapped USA citizen) surely did. Looked to me as though his recent publication was selling to boot!



As luck would have it, I waited at the bus-stop all of 5 minutes before heading back south, reflecting on a very pleasant occasion ... all the way.

*(to view photos taken by Gary Kleemann, please visit the [ASURA Photo Gallery](#).)*

## ASU Women's Basketball Game - January 12, 2020

submitted by Jean Duncan — Chair, Luncheons & Special Events

Arizona State women's basketball made school history on Sunday, January 12 by beating a second top-five ranked team in succession. Unranked Arizona State stunned the unbeaten **No. 3** Oregon State team by a score of 55-47 at Desert Financial Arena just two days after upsetting the **No. 2** Oregon team 72-66 on Friday.

It is the first time a team has beaten two AP top-five teams in back to back games during the regular season since 2010. What a fantastic game for the ten ASURA registrants who were lucky enough to attend!

Of course, Sparky was on hand to visit and help cheer on the team. Go Devils!

(for more photos, visit the [ASURA Photo Gallery](#))



Sparky posing with his new buddy, Ethan Duncan while being observed by his grandfather, Chet Duncan, in the background

## Travel Committee Update

submitted by John Brock — Chair, Travel Committee



The travel committee is being active. On February 3, over 30 ASU Retirees and guests attended a John Denver tribute show and dinner at the Star Theater in Mesa.

Our committee is currently planning for 2020-2021 which includes: international travel to the Mediterranean, from Athens to Barcelona later this spring, 2020. This is an Overseas Adventure Travel trip and will include both cruises and on land. We are also looking into potential international travel to Costa Rica and Iceland.

Closer to home, we are trying to get tickets to visit Tovrea Castle, a Phoenix landmark. Perhaps with Detours, a local travel provider, we are also thinking about an overnight trip to Jerome and Cottonwood and/or a trip to southeastern Arizona, either in the latter part of the spring or into next fall. The travel committee is also looking into one or two day events for local activity.

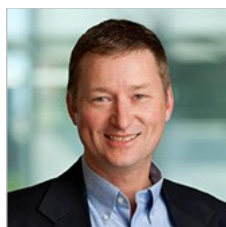
Come join the Travel Committee and help us with planning some great travel adventures. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Tempe Public Library, near its coffee shop.

## ASURA Annual Meeting - April 17, 2020

submitted by Jan Thompson — ASURA President, 2019-2020

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Meeting, to be held on Friday April 17, 11:30-1:30, at Ability360, 5031 E. Washington, Phoenix. We'll be celebrating the accomplishments of the current year and looking ahead to 2020-2021 as we introduce our new officers and 5 new board members. Lunch is free and, as always, there will be carrot cake!

This year's luncheon speaker is ASU Professor David Sailor, Senior Sustainability Scientist at the Julie Ann Wrigley School of Sustainability and the Director of the Urban Climate Research Center, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning.



Dr. Sailor will be speaking on his primary research interests: the intersection of climate with the built environment in urban settings, mitigating the effects of the urban heat island, and the effects of air quality on at-risk populations, with an emphasis on the vulnerable elderly.

Dr. Sailor's current research projects have been funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Register for this event in March on the website at <https://asura.asu.edu> or call the office at 480-965-7668. Directions to Ability 360 will be available on the website or from our office staff. See you at the Annual Meeting!

## *ASURA Calendar of Events: Spring 2020*

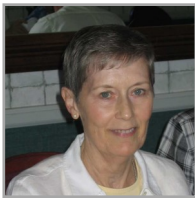
EVENT	DATE	COST
<b>Board Meeting</b> , ASU Community Services Bldg.	Tuesday, February 18	free
<b>Board Meeting</b> , ASU Community Services Bldg.	Tuesday, March 10	free
<b>Seminar:</b> Email Migration & Fraud/Cyber Security, ASU Community Services Bldg.	Thursday, March 19	free
<b>Annual Meeting:</b> Ability 360, 5031 E Washington Avenue, Phoenix	Friday, April 17	free
<b>Board Meeting:</b> ASU Community Services Bldg.	Tuesday, May 12	free
<b>Travel:</b> Local/international trips and activities organized by Travel Committee TBD	Exact dates TBD	<b>TBD</b>

Please put these dates on your calendars. As the events get closer, additional information will be available on our website, <https://asura.asu.edu>, and you will be able to register for the events. As we get more into the spring and fall and as new events are added, email notifications will be sent and updates noted in the monthly E-News blasts.

As a reminder, the committee is always open to any suggestions from our ASURA members as to what events or travel (local and international) you would like ASURA to consider. Please share your ideas with Jo Madonna, Chair of the Events Committee at [jomadonna@cox.net](mailto:jomadonna@cox.net).



## *Obituary Notifications: September 16, 2019 to January 21, 2020*



*submitted by Becky Reiss*

Please note that all obituary notices and photos, when available, are on our website at <https://asura.asu.edu/obituaries>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>ASU Affiliation</i>
Andrews, Judis "Jay" R., Sr.	December 22, 2019	Scholarship Committee
Bailey, Keith Allen	August 6, 2019	Adjunct Faculty, college/department affiliation unknown
Brewster, Arlyn Moores	December 4, 2019	Member, Board of Directors, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
Buchanan, David R.	October 11, 2019	Established scholarships
Castillo, Linda	November 1, 2019	Athletics Department
Everett, Aaron Bernard	October 27, 2019	Taught French
Fenske, Robert H.	October 17, 2019	Emeritus Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Ferguson, Bruce Willis	September 14, 2019	Founding Director, F.A.R. (Future Arts Research @ ASU), ASU Art Museum
Fihn, Nathan G.	September 28, 2019	Faculty Associate of Student Teachers, College of Education
Gardner, Harold W.	November 6, 2019	Biochemical researcher with ASU scientists
Goughnour, Jon	October 21, 2019	Senior Data Analyst, W.P. Carey School of Business

*Obituaries continued on page 15*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>ASU Affiliation</i>
Graf, William L.	December 27, 2019	Regents Professor of Geography
Grossman, Gloria	October 1, 2019	Wife of Louis Grossman, Professor Emeritus of Marketing (deceased)
Hogwood, Geoffrey E.	September 29, 2019	Channel 8 employee
Hurula, Rick Merle	December 6, 2019	Member, ASU Construction Industry Advisory Council
Irvin, Janet Mary	August 22, 2019	English Department, Graduate Research Fellowship; wife of Glenn Irvin, retired ASU administrator and former officer of ASURA
Keim, Robert	January 4, 2020	Information Systems Emeritus Professor, W.P. Carey School of Business
Lovett, Dorothe Marie Boyer	December 8, 2019	College of Engineering
Martin, John “Jack” Francis	December 31, 2019	Lecturer
Mahaffey, Kay	September 16, 2019	Assistant Professor, College of Design
McCarthy, Colonel Michael Edwin	September 8, 2019	College/department affiliation unknown
Merritt, William Mullen	November 27, 2019	Aramark, Polytechnic Campus
Millett, Anna Deane	September 20, 2019	Wife of Max Millet who established Max Millett Family Endowed Fund, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Moore, Aaron Stephen	September 8, 2019	Associate Professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Parsons, Lucy Ann	October 4, 2019	ASU Library
Piergallini, Joanne	November 7, 2019	Assistant, Hayden Library
Polheber, Richard	October 27, 2019	Lecturer
Poling, Norma Jean Erickson	October 30, 2019	Member, 18th Academy of Fellows, College of Education
Presler, Barbara Jill	August 30, 2019	College of Education
Quist, Joel Ednore “Ed”	October 3, 2019	Head groundskeeper for practice fields
Smith, Arthur B.	October, 2019	Professor, College of Business
Smith, Richard L.	September 26, 2019	Emeritus Professor of Industrial Engineering, School of Computing, Informatics and Decision Systems Engineering
Staples, Christopher Raymond	September 9, 2019	NASA Astrobiology Unit, School of Earth & Space Exploration
Sullivan, Col. Milton D.	September 12, 2019	ROTC Instructor
Tizard, Barbara Lou Tiffany	November 25, 2019	Donation of Barbara Tizard Collection of Indian art
von Hagen, Mark	September 15, 2019	Emeritus Professor of history and global studies with a joint appointment in the School of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies and School of International Letters and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts/Sciences
Wilhoit, Theresa “Terry”	December 19, 2019	Member of ASU President’s Club
Wilhoit, William “Bill”	January 5, 2020	Member of ASU President’s Club
Yost, Kenneth Owen	September 16, 2019	College/department affiliation unknown

For updates on the AROHE 2020 conference, please visit <https://www.arohe.org/Conference-2020>



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