

**ASU Retirees Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023**

President William Stasi opened the Annual Meeting by giving a brief overview of this past year outlining the highs and some of the lows. He pointed out that we had new members step up and join the various committees the Association offers. Some of these committees welcomed new committee chairs this past year. We had two excellent reports this past year from two of our ex-officio members. Penny Dolin, representing the Faculty Senate, presented a great overview of the updates and changes to faculty positions and titles. Kendra Burton, government liaison, presented an overview of the current legislative session, bills that may or may not have any impact on the Universities and retirees and well as new University funding that will support engineering in the Fulton School of Engineering. He also mentioned that the Annual Report is on the ASURA website.

President Stasi then called on committee chairs to give an overview of the past year. Connie McNeill reviewed the new Volunteers website where volunteers and interested volunteers have a one-stop place to find out information about the roles/responsibilities of the various volunteer positions. Barry McNeill gave an update on the Video History Project indicating that interviews were now starting up again. Barry also gave an update as chair of the Finance Committee and highlighted the growth of the endowment fund. He commented on the generosity of the membership that has enabled this fund to continue to grow and provide substantial funds to the ASURA scholarship recipient. Pat Schneider gave an overview of the seminars. The seminars were offered to not only ASURA members and guests, but also to participants from NAU and UArizona. Trudy Perez indicated the success of the pre-retirement seminars as they moved to a monthly schedule. John Brock, chair of the Travel Committee gave a summary of the trips that were sponsored by ASURA over the past year and a brief rundown of those being considered for the next year. Mary Stevens gave an update on the book sales and the new arrangements that have been put into place with the Friends of Phoenix Public Library.

Dr. Dennis Hoffman, a professor of economics in the W.P. Carey School of Business, presented on the Economic Update Outlook, which covered both national and state economic trends. His presentation included multiple graphs and charts showing how the economy has fared over the past years since 1950. He included discussion on jobs and wages, globalism vs nationalism and overall economic growth/decline. A copy of his presentation can be found [here](#).

Jan Shore introduced the current ASURA scholarship recipient, Sylvia Cejar-Gonzalez who spoke briefly about her background as a young child born in Mexico who didn't want to come to the United States, but now would never go back! She is pursuing her bachelor's degree online in Political Science and wants to go on to get a master's degree in non-profit management so she can give back to the community. She thanked the ASURA for the scholarship and said

“thank you for changing the life of a little girl who didn’t want to come, but now doesn’t want to leave!”

President Stasi then proceeded with the “changing of the guard” thanking the Board members whose term has ended – Kathy Gunn, Mark Henderson, Trudy Perez, Patricia Schneider and Mary Stevens. He then passed the gavel to Kay Faris who retired in 2022 as a Senior Associate, Dean of Students, Special Advisor to the Dean for W.P. Carey School of Business. Kay, in her first act as President, introduced the new Board members – Jeff Bush, Carl Cross, Don Dotts, Maria Hesse and Kathy Palmanteer and gave a brief bio for each. The Executive Committee for 2023-24 will consist of Kay Faris, President, Will Stasi, Immediate Past President, Partha Dasgupta, Secretary and Terrie Ekin, Treasurer. Kay thanked Will for all the work he did in the past year filling vacancies in committee chairs and promoting volunteer opportunities within the Association.

The event concluded with Kay telling the story behind the tradition of having carrot cake at the annual meeting. Anne Pittman, the second ASURA President from 1993-94, apparently had a sweet tooth and in particular one for carrot cake! So at the annual meeting where she was President, carrot cake was served and thus the tradition began! All attending were invited to enjoy a piece of carrot cake, or take a piece home with them!

During the meeting, Bill told a story to provide a bit of entertainment, which is as follows:

“In the news lately you read about the high cost of eggs and individuals raising chickens in their backyard. Having experience of raising chickens, the local library asked me to offer some classes. The first class I had my notes ready and as I started, dropped them so they were scrambled and I then had to wing it. I told them there were 154 breeds of chickens for show. I also told them how to get their chick certified as a “Service Animal”. I provided the class with a dozen tips on raising chickens and told them how to candle an egg and then tell if a yolk is good or bad. After class, the library staff got their feathers ruffled a bit and told me they were going to cancel classes. They said class was not family oriented because there was too much FOWL language!”