### AASRA Convention – Keys to Success
June 5-6, 2018

**MONDAY, JUNE 4th**  
(Tentative Schedule)  
3:30 to 5:105 pm  **Early Registration** (near Ballroom Salon A & B)  
(The hotel check-in time is 3:00 pm)  
5:30 pm -7:30 pm  **SOCIAL MEET UP at Garcia’s**  
3301 West Peoria  Phoenix, AZ 85029

**TUESDAY, JUNE 5TH**  
6:30-8:30 am  **BREAKFAST BUFFET**  
(All meals included in registration fees. You do not need to stay at the hotel.)  
7:00-8:30 am  **Registration** (near Salon A & B)  
9:00 -10: 15 am  **GENERAL MEETING**  
Julie Bacon, ASBA speaker  
10:15-11:30 am  **GENERAL MEETING –Business, election and voting**  
12:00 -1:30 pm  **LUNCHEON BANQUET**  
Legislator of Year, Charlene Fernandez & Speaker, Allegra Fullerton, Save Our Schools  
1:45 – 4:30 pm  **GENERAL MEETING**  
Recognition of Unit Presidents, Breakout Session & ROOK  
4:30-6:00 pm  **FREE TIME**  
5:00-7:00 pm  **Photo Booth** (take a souvenir photo)  
6:00 – 9:00 pm  **DINNER BANQUET** - Awards - Raffles – Entertainment, James Hughes, vocalist

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH**  
6:30 – 8:30 am  **BREAKFAST BUFFET**  
9:00-10:30 am  **GENERAL MEETING**  
John Moody, legislative consultant; ASRS speaker & Installation of officers  
10:45 am  **TIME OF REMEMBERANCE**  
Convention ends after the Time of Remembrance  
Hotel check out is 12:00 noon.

At the  
Four Points by Sheraton  
Phoenix North  
2532 W. Peoria Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85029  
Hotel reservations - ask for All Arizona School Retirees Association Group Rate for Rooms at $79 per night.  
1-602-943-9057

The registration fee is $65 before April 20 (includes 4 meals).  
On or after April 20, fee is $75. Use the form in the newsletter.

Registrations are due Wednesday, May 25.
Proposed 2018 AASRA Constitution Amendments

The Governing and Business Documents Committee presents additions, revisions, wording and editorial changes to the Board for approval and send the constitutional changes to the convention attendees for review and approval.

A per our constitution, any changes to the constitution must be presented to the membership at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting (convention) via the Newsletter. The constitution will be amended when approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting and become effective at the close of the last regular session of that Annual Meeting.

The Committee is presenting to you two revisions and one addition to the constitution. Some of the revisions are reformatted and reworded. To put both the current and the proposed sections of the constitution would take too much space in this newsletter. Copies of the current constitution will be available at the convention.

Bold and regular type will be used to indicate more clearly the changes.

Amendment 1
Purpose: to update our current AASRA purposes and condense the number of purposes. This was based on the Board’s work last fall.

(Capital letters in parentheses refer to current “Purposes” and are included solely for discussion purposes. If this amendment is approved, they WILL NOT appear in the amended document.)

Article II – Purposes

Sec. 1. The purposes of this Association shall be:
A. To monitor and support the Arizona State Retirement System on pensions, particularly the Defined Benefit plans, health programs, long term disabilities programs, and promote passage of legislation beneficial to school employees and retirees. (B,K)
B. To cooperate with other organized groups that support public education and public school employees. To promote continuing education of mature adults, preparation for retirement, including awareness about Social Security and Medicare issues and sources of assistance for retirees in need in our role as an affiliate of NRTA: AARP’s Educator Community. (E,G,H,J)
C. To promote increased awareness of AASRA in order to increase membership, expand influence and present the image of aging with dignity, independence and purpose. (D)
D. To promote group and individual involvement of AASRA members by utilizing their expertise in community service to their fellow members, active colleagues and state and local community issues and affairs. (A,C,F,I)

Rationale: Currently, Article II of the Constitution consists of seventeen (17) statements of purpose. Some are very broad in scope while others are unclear and extremely wordy. This proposed revision reduces the statements to four (4) while retaining all of the key points of the current version. Additionally, the proposed changes are more closely aligned with the goals recently adopted by the Board.

Amendment 2
Purpose: To reformat the text and update some of the wording and for clarification.

Article IV – Membership

Sec. 1. Active membership
These individuals become active members of the association upon payment of annual dues:
  a. Retirees who were employed at an educational institution or performed educational services for the state of Arizona and held administrative, certified, and/or educational support positions.
  b. Retirees living in Arizona, who were employed at an educational institution or performed educational services in for other states.
  c. Current educational institution employees, who are aged 50 years or more.
  d. All active members of the association
have the right to vote and to hold office.

Sec. 3.2. Member-at-large membership
Any active member upon payment of annual dues:
  a. Who lives beyond the areas served by a local unit is a member-at-large
  b. Has the right to vote and to hold office.

Sec. 2–3. Friend of AASRA Associate membership
These individuals become Friend of AASRA members of the association upon payment of annual dues:
  a. Any person interested in education.
  b. Friend of AASRA members will not vote or hold office at the state level.

Sec. 4. Delete wording of the current section except for ideas of “Friend of AASRA” and “not vote or hold office”.

Sec. 5. The annual dues shall be fixed by the Association Bylaws.
When this constitutional amendment passes, dues for Friend of ASSRA members will be determined by a Bylaw’s amendment at a Board meeting.

Rationale:
1. The current language in paragraph format makes it hard to determine who can become a member. The proposed language gives clarity on who can become a member.
2. The term “associate member” at the local unit means something different than what is stated in the state constitution. It is beginning to cause misunderstandings.
3. The AASRA constitution and bylaws guide the state level association. The state does not require local units to have strict compliance with the state constitution and bylaws. Local units’ constitution/bylaws may differ in the types of members and the rights of those members and in other areas.

Amendment 3
Purpose: This addition gives guidance to the nomination and elections committee.

Article V—Officers
Sec. 5 Nominations and elections

Add: F. In the event there is a contested race for District Vice-president, only members of the affected district, registered at the annual meeting, may vote.

Add: G. In all cases when there is a contested race for any statewide office or District Vice-president position, a paper ballot shall be required for voting for that office by members at the Annual Meeting. All uncontested races may be accepted by acclamation and voice vote by those registered at the annual meeting.

Rationale: In both cases above, the constitution is silent on these matters. It is up to each sitting Nominations Committee to determine the rules governing contested elections. The Governing & Business Documents Committee believes it is in the best interest of the association to have a consistent policy regarding these two possibilities.

Convention
Speakers & Entertainment

Julie Bacon, Leadership Development Specialist
Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA)
Julie joined the ASBA staff team in January of 2018 after serving as the 2017 President of the ASBA Board of Directors. In her role of leadership development specialist, Julie works with individual board members to build their leadership capacities and is also responsible for conference planning, full board trainings, and speaking to community groups.

Allegra Fullerton, Statewide Field Director of Save our Schools AZ
Allegra joined the core team after successfully mobilizing thousands of volunteers to help during the referendum efforts. Her success as a community organizer stems from many years as a program director for an educational summer camp in California, and as a high school art teacher. An Arizona native, she returned to her home state to raise her children near their grandparents where they proudly attend a public district school.
James Hughes, is an accomplished vocalist who has traveled much of the US and Canada performing big band, jazz, gospel and soft rock for many different types of venues. James began his performing at a very young age singing with his family on a radio show when he was just 4 years old. James grew up in a very musical family and for the past 40 years, he and his brothers have sung in a quartet named “Fishers of Men. More recently, James started his own Jazz and Swing Band named “Rhythm and Hughes”

Scholarship Raffle Fundraiser

Units are making gift baskets and bringing other higher value items. The 50/50 raffle tickets will still be $1 or 6 for $5. This is the biggest and only fundraiser for the Scholarship Foundation. The scholarships go to education students – one at each of the three state universities. This year the Scholarship amount was reduced to $2,000. Donations were less than expected. If every member in the state donated $10, we would have enough funds for 3 scholarships and be able to raise the amount awarded.

Charlene was recommended by the AASRA Legislative Team and the Board approved the recommendation on April 2, 2018.

Charlene Fernandez has served as a state representative since 2015 for District 4.
- Holds an Elementary Education degree from NAU
- Served 12 years on Yuma Union Governing Board
- Serves on House Appropriations Committee
- Minority Whip since 2017
- Actively supported & worked for the Save Our Schools (Prop305) referendum
- Actively supported Prop. 206 AZ Minimum Wage
- Named Legislator of the Year by the Arizona Parent Teacher Association, 2016
- Prime Sponsor of the following legislation during the current session
  - HB 2374 – appropriation, teacher certification; $200k to ADE to administer
  - HB 2375 – Arizona Teacher Academy; appropriation
  - HB 2452 – corporal punishment; prohibition
  - HB 2453 – mitigation appropriation; school bus fleets

She has co-sponsored many other bills. Charlene and her husband Sergio live in central Yuma, just 2 miles from where she grew up. They have 3 children.

Compiled by Joe Carter, Leg. Team chairman
On February 14th, AASRA and Delta Kappa Gamma held our second joint Legislative Awareness Day at the Arizona State Capitol. At 8:45 we met in front of the Capitol to hear a legislative update and overview of the day given by Joe Carter. Then we moved to the old Senate chambers in the Capitol Museum.

We were greeted by Steve Jennings from AARP Arizona who thanked us for attending and praised our involvement. During the morning we heard from Senator Kate Brophy McGee, Representatives Kelli Butler and Lela Alston, and AEA lobbyist Stephanie Parra. Education is THE issue among legislators in both parties this session, and we heard about the various efforts to improve public school funding from all of our speakers.

The highlight of our morning was Allegra Fullerton from Save Our Schools. She told us how this grassroots organization challenged last year’s Senate Bill 1431 which was passed and signed by the Governor in a flurry of late session activity. It would expand Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA’s) to include every school-age child in Arizona. It is another form of vouchers designed to divert public funds to private schools. Save Our Schools gathered over 110,000 petition signatures and succeeded in forcing this issue to the ballot in November as Proposition 305. It has been and continues to be a remarkable effort on behalf of public schools.

Joe Carter, Leg. Team Chairman

After lunch we attended legislative floor sessions in both the House and Senate. We were introduced from the floor by Rep. Alston and Sen. Brophy McGee, respectively. Our day concluded at approximately 2:00 as the sessions adjourned and some of our members attended afternoon committee hearings.

We’re already looking forward to next year! If you haven’t attended, please put it in your calendar. We had about 35 people this year. Next year we would love to see 50 or more!

REMEMBER TO VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 305 IN NOVEMBER!

The two presidents, Jerry Holmes, AASRA President and Alice Ruele, DKG President and an AASRA member.

Both are standing firm for public education and defined benefit pensions.

Legislative participants
Website: Now Up and Running!

Do you need information about the convention? Need the form to register? Do you want to donate to the scholarship fund? The AASRA website is available for you! Click on [www.aasra.org](http://www.aasra.org) for all the answers!

On the opening page, you’ll find information supporting our defined benefits pension, legislative priorities, and 2017-18 AASRA Goals. Following pages contain information about the history of the organization, where to find a local unit and contact information for that unit, and award information forms.

Current and past issues of the AASRA newsletters (all the way back to 2014) are available on the website. Within a couple of days of publication, the newest issue will be on the website.

If you have friends to invite for membership, you can go to the Membership page and print out a membership form for them. (Your help on increasing membership is always appreciated. Invite them to lunch with you!)

The last page has a great deal of information about benefits offered to members of AASRA. AMBA provides the website & the benefits, which are endorsed by AASRA.

Take a few minutes and go to our website to become familiar with everything that’s there. This is one way to let people know about All Arizona School Retirees’ Association. If there is something that isn’t on the website that you think should be there or any other comments, please contact Terry Bagwell, tbasketcase@cox.net.

We’re on Facebook too! If you are on Facebook, search for All Arizona School Retirees’ Association, and you’ll be on our page.

ASRS Health Insurance News

At the February 23rd meeting the ASRS Board, voted on a new plan to return the Retrospective Rate Adjustment (RRA) to retirees, who are in the ASRS healthcare plans. This is the money returned by the insurance companies to ASRS. It has $112 million in the fund. ASRS would like to return this money to the people who have purchased the medical insurance. They are looking into ways to pay this out over the next several years.

AASRA continues to be a WATCHDOG for ASRS!

It is important that we educate active teachers on the benefits of the Defined Benefit pension plan. When a member retires, the member can count on the pension for the rest of their lives. Many groups give false information about Defined Benefit plans and want to change all pensions to Defined Contributions plans. AASRA keeps watching the ASRS Board’s and the Legislature’s thoughts and actions.

ASRS IS AN EARNED BENEFIT!

Janet Fee, ASRS Liaison

AASRA Member Receives Award

This year the Washington Elementary School District will honor one of AASRA’s own with the Lamp of Learning award. Alice Ruele worked as a teacher and principal in the WESD. She currently volunteers weekly at Desert View Elementary, where she taught before retiring.

The Lamp of Learning Award is presented annually by the WESD to staff, community and business members who have made outstanding contributions to the students of the district. This prestigious award is the highest recognition given in the Washington District. Its objective is to recognize the unique, exemplary contributions of special members of the WESD family who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of education in the district and the state.
Across the State

**East Valley** had a great fundraising time eating at Manuel’s from January – May raising funds for its scholarship fund. In February saw 8 members pack 345 Coop meat bags and 224 produce bags.

**Saguaro** had a presentation from Karen Morales, a children’s book author of “Krayon Kids”, telling how she began to write.

**Northwest**’s speaker in March was Donna Davis of Expect More Arizona, the largest education advocate in the state. It is dedicated to finding solutions to give quality education for every AZ child. Follow “Expect More Arizona” on Facebook.

**San Pedro** voted to give $50 donations to 3 local scholarship funds and to the AASRA Scholarship Fund.

**President Jerry Holmes** has been on the road. He attended Convention, Legislative Team, and Government and Business Documents committee meetings. He visited and spoke at the **Saguaro** and **Copper Center** units. Legislative Day at the capitol was one of his stops, too. Plus much more, he stated, “This is a full time job.”

**Kachina** heard Susan Turner from Accord Hospice about “Five Wishes”, an important document that will help you and your loved ones make sure that your end-of-life wishes are discussed, considered and followed. Susan helps to educate the community about end-of-life care.

**Kingman** recently had a program on the Bird Haven Rescue and Sanctuary of Kingman. It takes birds from just about anywhere. Some of the birds are adopted, some stay for life.

**Phoenix/Scottsdale** continues helping a special needs class in the Madison School District.

Ruth Powell, a 27 year member of **Graham-Greenlee** and AASRA, passed away in February. She had been the secretary-treasurer for 25.5 years. Two former Safford teachers, **Kim and Judy Riddlesworth**, now members of the **Saguaro Unit**, attended the funeral. Kim & Judy had attended Saguaro’s February meeting and heard President Jerry’s remarks and got to visit with him at lunch. Graham-Greenlee is glad Kim & Judy became members of AASRA after moving to the Buckeye area.

Interested members in the **Yavapai County** area are working to establish a unit. Several of our leaders and members have been working with them to make the unit a reality. The group plans to meet in the fall. We wish them success in forming a unit.

**Joe Carter, Leg. Team Com. Chairman**, spoke to the **Westside** members about some of the issues that were facing the Legislature and ASRS.

**Pima County** will honor **Luci Messing** for her service to the Tucson community in April.

**Westside**’s March speaker was Lyndy McKay and her therapy dog, Faith. They are a part of the Alliance for Therapy Dogs. They volunteer at the Boswell Hospital. A lot was learned about therapy dogs.

**Huachuca** has had some very interesting programs. Some were “History of Naco” and a pest exterminator telling about common household pests and their effect on your home and you. Now it is preparing for its “No Bake, Bake Sale” to help finance the summer school program for Sierra Vista students.

**Pima County** has a field trip planned to the Mission Gardens. “The Garden features heirloom Sonoran Desert-adapted fruit orchards and vegetable gardens interpreting 4,000 years of agriculture in Tucson. It is located along the river in west Tucson, the birthplace of Tucson.”
AMBA is proud to partner with AASRA to provide you a number of helpful benefits.

- Long Term Care
- Home Health Care Insurance
- First Diagnosis Cancer Insurance
- Medicare Supplement Insurance.
- Final Expense Whole Life
- Tax-Deferred Annuity
- Hearing Benefits
- Medical Air Transportation Services (MASA)
- Computer Discount Program
- Group Travel Program (Road Scholar)
- Travel and Resort Program
- Hotel & Dining Discounts

Go to [www.aasra.org](http://www.aasra.org) and click on Benefits  
1. then scroll down for more information  
Or 2. Click on Visit my AMBA benefits.info/aasra  
It tells even more. It has an education button to click on – Gives information on LTC, Medicare supplements, Life, and a blog.

Explore the [www.aasra.org](http://www.aasra.org) website hosted by AMBA.

Reasons to Attend the AASRA State Convention

- Connect with members from across the state
- Be part of the conversation about AASRA’s future! Why, the Need for New Members!
- Be inspired by speakers from SOS, ASBA, ASRS, John Moody and Unit Presidents
- New Informational tables
- Celebrate AASRA: Keys to Success
- Gather ideas you can take back to your Unit
- Surprise entertainment after Breakout session! Entertainer James Hughes, vocalist, at banquet
- Outstanding unit raffle baskets to support the Scholarship Foundation
- Fun at the photo booth

Come to the Convention June 5 - 6. 2018!!!