

February is Love of Reading

PCSRA's published authors will be honored at the February 9th Luncheon by bringing their books for purchase and autographing. We may have newly published authors that we don't know about. The following is a list of our authors from last year: Peg Aughenbaugh, Bill Black, Peter Bourret, Roni Capin Rivera Ashford, Dr. Nicholas Clement, David Grasse, Gerry Hernbrode, Gayle Jandrey, Lorna Kraemer, Bill Peltier, Paris Rebl, and Antonia "Kita" Scrivner.

If you are a published author and your name is not listed above, please contact Ann Reaban at 229-8590 or areaban@gmail.com to receive an invitation for this awesome event. In addition to displaying your published books, there will be an author panel discussion moderated by Bill Black. If you are interested in participating in this discussion as well as displaying your books, please contact Ann Reaban.

Our organization is very fortunate to have so many published authors that are willing to participate in this special event for "Love of Reading."

Send in Those Volunteer Hours!

PCSRA members received volunteer hours tally sheets this fall. Please review your 2016 calendars and record the hours spent helping individuals or organizations since New Year's Day. On the back of the sheet, please describe how you spent those volunteer hours. Volunteer hours are due Jan. 31.

Mail your completed form to Gail Schuessler at 2025 E. 3rd St., Tucson, AZ 85719-5104

AASRA

60 Years Going Strong

ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

June 6-7, 2017

**Four Points Sheraton Phoenix
2532 W. Peoria**

Raffles, Entertainment, Outstanding Speakers

Give this gift to yourself and to your Unit.

ATTEND!



Terry Bagwell, Tom Arthur, Stewart Bagwell, Steve Poe, Ann Reaban, Walter and Gerry Grassie, and Sandra Rush attend the Rosson House tour.

Rosson House Tour a Success

By Sandra Rush

Eight members of PCSRA, with Steve Poe driving, braved I-10 on a chilly November 29th morning to reach Heritage Square in downtown Phoenix. There two knowledgeable docents took us on a tour of the beautifully restored Rosson House.

The house was built in six months in 1895-96 by Dr. and Mrs. Roland Rosson. It was constructed in the highly ornamental Queen Anne architectural style with other elements thrown in. It was a modern marvel for its time with electric lights throughout, hot and cold running water and a flush toilet.

Over the years it was occupied by two families and also had rooms rented to boarders. Much of the original beauty was covered with layers of paint, linoleum and structural changes. It fell into disrepair until the mid-1970s when restoration began by the city of Phoenix and devoted private organizations.

Today the Rosson House is a Victorian marvel with the original gorgeous parquet floors, spectacular wooden staircase and moldings, authentic wallpaper, five fireplaces each done in different patterns of Italian tile, many windows in the original glass, and furnishings true to the period.

The tour was fascinating and had us oohing and aahing over the beauty of bygone living. We ended our time at Heritage Square by splitting into two groups to have lunch at nearby restaurants also housed in old homes. It was an educational and totally fun trip.

The Rosson House tour was the third adult field trip sponsored by PCSRA. If you have an idea for or would like to lead an excursion, contact Ann Reaban.



**PCSRA January
Luncheon Will
Feature Poet
Storyteller
Bill Black**

Bill Black is a North Carolinian who left the state when he entered the Army. He has written and edited scripts, newsletters, educational programs and technical articles for both limited circulation use and general audiences. He has lectured on aspects of public presentations for performers and fundraisers.

Bill has performed as a magician, poet, storyteller and emcee for shows throughout this country and over a dozen around the world.

Due to his dedication to the sound of poetry, he recorded three CDs of the poems he used in his shows. While his current writings echo the West, he is writing more about other parts of North America. Since 2011, his works have appeared in two anthologies and three prior collections of his own work.

For the insatiably curious, Bill graduated from N. Carolina State University. He was commissioned as a 2nd LT in the U.S. Army and received an honorable discharge. He was employed continuously enough to pay his bar bills and related research costs.

Bill credits the internet and current social media for his ability to move from a locally ignored poet to one who is internationally ignored. He is under consideration for assuming the role of William Topaz McGonagall in the world of poetry.

Books By Bill Black

Old Eyes, Grey Souls
Cattlemen At The Cantina And Other Tales
A Cowboy Walked Into a Bar - The Monologue Show
Sea Song

Anthologies Appearances In:

Brushstrokes and Balladeers
Under Sonoran Skies

TREE SONG

The wind in trees sings songs to me
As branches, leaves and needles sway
To melodies set in my memory.

Soft wind in pines are love songs
Of balmy nights, quiet walks,
Kisses and caresses
Along dirt roads and remote places.
Shadowed faces and patches of moonlight
Which shifted as branches swayed
Helped set the mood
For the songs the trees played.

When the wind blows in short, shifting gusts,
It lets the trees sing in jazz.
They sing of younger, playful days
Spent with friends and families
Walking and camping as trees swayed.
Campfires lit our stories
To the background song of the trees.
Ghosts, cowboys and knights marched
To the sound they made.

The troubled moan in heavy wind,
When limbs are tortured
By a merciless wind,
Sing of a soul's loneliness and loss of friends.
Death dances through this song.
While I listen to the song,
I hear the names of those who have gone
To join his dance on stormy nights
Of creaks and cracks and little light.

I will not, cannot, avoid the trees.
I seek them always, waiting to see
What song tonight they play for me.

From Cattlemen At the Cantina
... Bill Black



Association News

~ Jerry Holmes

PCSRA (Region 6) Report

October 5 The Board planned for that month's general membership meeting. There was much discussion of the AASRA report filed by Jerry Holmes. At issue were the amount of money in the Lois Snyder Fund that are going unused and the amount of money in the AASRA scholarship fund that is not being invested in teacher candidates at a time of severe teacher shortage in Arizona.

Terry Bagwell made a motion that was passed to encourage AASRA to transfer funds from the Lois Snyder fund to the AASRA Scholarship fund, leaving only the seed money for potential loan at this time. There was also a motion to encourage AASRA to raise the upper limit of the Lois Snyder fund loan to \$1000 that passed unanimously. The group expressed the desire that the AASRA scholarship fund distribute substantially more funds to education students at the three state universities.

The group voted to raise the annual PCSRA scholarship amount for a UA Education student from \$1,000 to \$1500. The board also talked about other methods of raising funds for the scholarship account. Plans were discussed for a field trip to the Rossen House in Phoenix and a Gaslight Theater excursion for the group in February. Results of a survey regarding a proposed book club were also talked about.

The October general membership meeting featured Terry Alexon from the Arizona Securities Division speaking on Fraud specifically aimed at an older population.

November 2 The board finalized plans for the field trip to the Rossen House and the November general membership meeting. There was lengthy discussion about how we can encourage greater membership in AASRA. Plans were made for articles in upcoming newsletters to highlight the benefits of and encourage AASRA membership.

The November general membership meeting honored the service to our country offered by our members and our armed forces in general. The guest speaker was a PCSRA member and Vietnam veteran, the poet and author Peter Bourret.

11/14/16 AASRA Board Meeting

The meeting was held at the AARP Board Room in Peoria, AZ. President Duane Nelson presided.

AASRA's newsletter editor and parliamentarian, Anji Craig-Wooten, will soon assume the position of state president of Delta Kappa Gamma, a society for female educators. She will attempt to continue her duties with AASRA at the same time.

The scholarship foundation currently awards three \$2,000 scholarships annually, one to a student at each state university. The chairperson of the scholarship foundation, Alice Reule, will soon resign from that position. There is currently \$42,000 invested in CDs that the scholarship foundation oversees. On the basis of discussions by the PCSRA board, I made a motion that AASRA encourage the scholarship foundation to disburse funds to more candidates that qualify. Much discussion surrounded the idea of reducing the significant amount of funds accumulated in the scholarship foundation by helping undergraduate educators-to-be. The motion died as result of lack of a second. The scholarship foundation will discuss various options and report back to the AASRA board.

Similarly, I made a motion that the majority of the Lois Snyder Fund, which has accumulated more than \$32,400, be dispersed to the Scholarship Foundation so that more scholarships could be awarded to future educators. Much discussion regarding the Snyder Fund ensued, although the motion failed for a lack of a second. One person said that it would be impossible to move the monies because of the fund's parameters. A motion was made and passed to establish a committee to study the Snyder Fund and make recommendations to the AASRA Board about how to better use the monies. I volunteered to serve on that committee. Based on wishes of the PCSRA Board, I made a motion to raise the distribution amount of the Lois Snyder Fund to \$1000. The motion passed unanimously.

Due to serious health issues, Bonnie Ford resigned as chairperson of the Membership Committee.

The historian, Shirley Griffiths, gave kudos to PCSRA for submitting materials in a timely manner.

Awards chairperson, Katie Elgar, talked of the lack of nominees for AASRA's various awards and how the group had discussed disbanding awards as a result. She encouraged all units statewide to submit nominations for the various honors.

PCSRA Field Trip to Arizona State Legislature Slated for January

By Michael Gordy

The first day of the Legislature is traditionally the second Monday of January (1/9/17). For many years activists have gathered on the lawn between the two buildings and in front of the Capitol to express their solidarity on women's issues, education, labor and other progressive causes. We make appointments and have discussions with our legislators in addition to watching committees and legislators in action.

The new session of the Legislature begins on Monday, January 9. It is also when the Governor gives his State of the State speech. As a reminder to our legislators that there are issues that we, the citizens of Arizona, don't think are being appropriately addressed, many social justice groups come up and have a day to get their message out. Planned Parenthood is always there. Other women's issues, child welfare, healthcare, education and economic groups will also be there.

We should be able to meet with our Legislators and attend the Governor's speech. I have gone up for a number of years and have always found it to be a worthwhile use of my time. I intend to go again this year.

If you would like to join me, I am more than happy to take the first seven people in my van. I will leave the Stone & Prince area around 7:30. That means we will be at Cortaro and 1-10 at 7:45. It is a park and ride area so there's plenty of parking. I would like you to get there by 7:45 so that we can get into the car and go but if you have told me you're going, I will wait for you until 8 o'clock and then we will head up to the Capitol. I won't leave anyone behind. If you are interested in going, please call me at (520) 392-5736 to let me know.

You can bring a sack lunch or we can eat lunch at the DES cafeteria across from the Capitol or one of several nearby restaurants. We will be leaving Phoenix no later than about 3 o'clock. Their traffic is terrible and I'd like to miss most of it. We should be back at Cortaro before 5pm and to Stone & Prince about 5:15.

For those who think, "I can't make a difference," this is a great opportunity to prove yourself wrong. They may be our elected officials, but they're just people, too. I hope to hear from enough of you to need several additional drivers.

Join AASRA -- It's Symbiotic! By Terry Bagwell

PCSRA is stressing the importance of everyone joining our state organization (All Arizona School Retirees Association) because the two groups have a symbiotic relationship. Symbiosis is a situation that exists when two living things mutually benefit each other. Perhaps the most well-known example of symbiosis is that of bees and plants: when the bees fly from flower to flower the plants get pollinated and the bees get to eat.

In the case of PCSRA and AASRA, locally we provide a social and community connection for members and share our activities and our people with AASRA. The state organization provides a connection with other local units, disseminates information about retiree and education issues in the state and nationally, interacts with members of the legislature, and functions on the state insurance committee.

At the same time, the local unit is autonomous in its own governance. Simply put, we get to make our own decisions. The board of Pima County School Retirees Association is **STRONGLY** urging you to join the state organization at the first of the year when you renew your membership.

Any group is only as strong as its membership. PCSRA total membership is 216. Of those, only 74 are currently members of AASRA. Only 34% of our members have also joined the state organization.

It's possible that everyone cannot afford the \$36 per year for membership in both organizations. However, we certainly should be able to get our membership percentage in AASRA over 50%.

You will be receiving personalized letters at the end of the year about your own membership. Some of you have already renewed, which we appreciate. Your letter will reflect your current status. If you have not included membership in AASRA as a part of your membership renewal, that will be noted, and we hope you will choose to change that status.

Our state organization needs to be as strong as possible to represent us in the future. We need to do our part to provide the support they need. **Please join AASRA!**



College Costs Have Soared

By Judy Hokett

PCSRA members have supported a Scholarship for a student enrolled in the UA College of Education for quite a long time; however, I wonder how much we know about the current costs of a student enrolled full time at the university. I have done some research to support the increase our scholarship fund from \$1,000 to at least \$1,500 each year.

This is what I've learned: a student enrolled in seven or more credits, must pay \$5,376 per semester, plus \$518.47 for fees, which totals \$5,894.47 per semester and \$11,788.94 per year. Books cost on the average \$1,200 per year. These costs assume the student is living at home. Dorm costs range from \$5,980 to \$12,450 per year for double occupancy. When many of us attended the University of Arizona, it cost us approximately \$2,000 per year for tuition and fees and books cost another \$200 to \$300.

Can we do more to support future teachers by increasing our personal contributions to the PCSRA Scholarship Fund?

PCSRA Scholarship Fundraiser a Real Gas



PCSRA has reserved 52 seats, including seats for the handicapped, at the GASLIGHT THEATRE on Sunday, February 19, 2017 for the 3:00 PM show.

The show is "THE TWO AMIGOS". Please make your reservations early and consider buying tickets for Christmas presents. The price of a ticket is \$25. Net funds will go the PCSRA scholarship fund.

Please call Judy Hokett at 749-4464 or Terry Bagwell at 748-1720 to reserve and buy your tickets. We will accept checks (made out to PCSRA) or cash. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon.

PCSRA Board to Match January Scholarship Donations & More

It's time to raid your piggy bank! The PCSRA Board Members have pledged to match every dollar donated to the PCSRA Scholarship Fund during the January Luncheon.

These personal pledges will provide the opportunity for us to reach our \$1,500 goal and get a head start on collecting money to fund next year's scholarship

Secret Ticket Event to Benefit a Future Teacher Studying at UA

If you like to win things while also making a difference in someone's life, you'll like how we're planning to raise money for our University of Arizona scholarship! In March and April we are going to have a Secret Ticket Event!

If you have any item that you no longer want or need, but you think someone else might enjoy, then we invite you to donate that item to be redistributed in the Secret Ticket Event.

If you or someone you know creates crafts or art, such as jewelry, sewn items, knitted or crochet gifts, other handcrafts, or paintings, we'd love to have some of them donated. Ask your friends who create things to help support our cause.

Consider sharing your skill with others. One board member has pledged to donate a day of his carpentry skills to building the recipient's project.

All items will be displayed at the March luncheon and you will have the opportunity to purchase tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. A labeled paper bag will be displayed with each item. If you desire to own an item, you place one or more of your tickets in the corresponding bag.

At our April luncheon, the items will again be displayed for an additional opportunity for luncheon guests to participate in selecting items they'd like to win with their tickets. Names will be drawn and the winners may take their items home that day.

If you have items to contribute, you may bring them to any meeting prior to March, and give them to Terry Bagwell, Judy Hokett or Paris Rebl.

10 Things a Retired Teacher Wants You to Know

By Jessica McFadden on February 4, 2016

Standardized tests. Parent conferences. Grade reports. There are oodles of items that current teachers may look forward to having amnesty from after retirement.

But once the “umbrella drinks on the beach” daydreams fade, we are all a little hazy on just how we will truly feel once retired. What will we really miss, and what will we happily leave behind?

I interviewed my mom, Sharon Slovak, who two years ago retired after 30 years in the classroom. After teaching grades from kindergarten through 12th grade English, she found her niche in upper elementary and spent 24 years teaching 4th – 6th grades. Read on for 10 surprising and enlightening items about teacher retirement.

1. August/September will always feel like the beginning of the year.

Even if you do not have a classroom to ready or a seating chart to prepare, Labor Day weekend will always be your time for personal resolutions and a fresh start.

2. You will love having the entire Calendar year to make plans.

After years of traveling only during winter, spring and summer breaks, you will love the freedom of fifty two whole weeks in which to visit new places and old friends.

3. You will still find yourself obsessed with school supply sales.

You will not be able to help yourself from pawing through the racks and bins of supplies on sale. However, you will be able to skip the worries of not locating 35 identical copies of your favorite finds.

4. You will miss creating new learning units.

My mother says that she was surprised to realize how much she misses mapping new themes for a class. She did not foresee how much nostalgia she would feel for research, choosing books and artwork, and locating artifacts.

5. You will miss introducing new authors to students.

There are few things as wonderful as watching a student fall in love with reading, become a “groupie” of a new author or excitedly discuss books with you. (My mom says that she now gets her young book lover fix via the grandkids.)

6. You will not miss bells.

With retirement brings the relief of no more ringing running your life, or parceling your time into forty seven-minute increments.

7. Looking back, the years you had to switch grades ended up being awesome.

Although there is a comfortable groove in teaching the same grade for years at a time, sometimes the school’s need for a teacher to switch grade levels can bring great things. Those years you will stretch your skills and grow professionally, & those benefits will always outweigh the loss of complacency in the end.

8. Being part of a school team was the best community you will ever encounter.

The collaboration and bonds with your fellow teachers are unlike any other professional relationships or friendships you will ever make. Treasure your colleagues “in the trenches” and make every effort to keep in touch with them.

9. You will not be bored!

It is amazing how easily you will be able to fill your time with interesting things after retirement. Whether you move on to a second career, do a little subbing, volunteer, focus on your family or simply take some time to (at long last) relax, you will find that continuing your education in the world outside of K-12 is much easier than you expect.

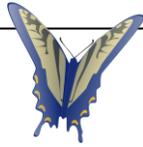
10. You will always, always miss the students.

My mother said that there was nothing she misses more than the joy of seeing her students every day. She teared up a little as she explained the memories of 30 years of opening a classroom door and finding those smiling faces lined up outside. There’s nothing like that feeling.

<http://www.weareteachers.com/10-things-a-retired-teacher-wants-you-to-know/>

Farewell

- Barber, Mary** (100) ~ 10/20;
TUSD Teacher
- Callison, Lavaun** (90) ~ 11/14;
TUSD Teacher
- Cannon, Lee** (92) ~ 11/11; Teacher
- DeCiancia, Mary Katherine "Katy"**
(83) ~ 10/22; Flowing Wells Teacher
- Dulgov, Gerald** (85) ~ 11/28; Teacher
- Fasel, Rosemary** (88) ~ 11/26;
School Librarian
- Garrigan, Steve** (63) ~ 11/18; Teacher
- Hatch, Marguerite** (74) ~ 10/31; Teacher
- Hicks, Diane** (82) ~ 10/20; Teacher
- Jackson, Ronald** (73) ~ 11/15; Teacher
- Jarrold, Elizabeth** (74) ~ 10/31; Teacher
- Kelly, Rose** (102) ~ 11/11; Teacher
- Kennedy, Betty** (87) ~ 9/20; Teacher
- Laguna, Mary** (96) ~ 12/2;
TUSD Food Service
- Lauria, Sam** (88) ~ 11/26;
Marana USD Maintenance Supervisor
- McCormick, Colleen** (84) ~ 11/16;
Flowing Wells Health Aid
- Paulin, Mary** (91) ~ 10/6; Teacher
- Phillips, Jean** (96) ~ 11/11; Teacher
- Pratt, Eleanor** (89) ~ 11/6; Teacher
- Rokey, Karlyn** (67) ~ 11/28; Teacher
- Ryan, Patricia** (85) ~ 11/8; Teacher
- Slocum, Gary** (82) ~ 10/20; Teacher
- Smith, Patricia** (80) ~ 11/14; TUSD
- Vrabel, Dolores** (90) ~ 11/5; Teacher
- Yandell, William** (58) ~ 11/10; Teacher



Poetry Corner



a poem is born

*the road map of a poem
begins in the universal womb
its journey flows freely
strolling through the heart, hungry for
healing
meandering through the mind meant for
more than madness
and when the time is right
the poem is born on a field of white
now no longer barren
but ready to be harvested
by those who know
that poetry is more than metaphors
which are only ornaments hanging on a tree
poetry is the wind whistling through that tree*

By Peter M. Bourret

