

National:  
American Hearth Month  
Black History Month  
Love of Reading Month

# Pima County School Retirees' Association

February, 2017

*We welcome all retired school employees*



## Volunteers for Tucson Little Acts of Kindness



## President's Desk

~ Ann Reaban



**As a member of PCSRA, one of the most valuable services that we undertake for the Tucson community is the "Volunteer Times" that are so generously given in many different ways.**

"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you." ~ Princess Diana

**For Schools: We tutor, read to students, volunteer at schools, judge events, help in the library, and contact our legislators to better fund education for our students.**

"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end." ~ Scott Adams

**For Church: We sing in the choir, usher, help with fund raising, teach Sunday School, and do office work, bake cookies, visit members who are ill, attend celebrations of life.**

"Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution." ~ Kahlil Gibran

**For Neighbors, Friends, & Family: We deliver meals, house sit, do yard work, shop, take care of pets, medical driving for appointments, make telephone calls, and just listen.**

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to vanish." ~ Albert Schweitzer

**For Hospitals: We visit patients, work in the gift shop and at the information desk, do office work, greet new patients, bring flowers, cheer, and love.**

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." ~ R.W. Emerson

**For Community Organizations: We work at the Food Bank, participate in drives to raise money for Cancer, March of Dimes, Easter Seals, the Heart Association, Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels, Mobile Meals, Hospice, TIHAN, Youth on Their Own, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson, Boy & Girl Scouts, and the Veterans Association.**

"If we don't like the way the world is, we can change it with Acts of Kindness. The choice is ours." ~ Peter M. Bourret

See **Volunteers** on Page 7



## January Report

PCSRA Membership: 170 (renewed for 2017)

AASRA Membership: 72

Scholarship Fund: \$1135.28

### March 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

#### How to Catch a Swamp Frog; Irish Dance

\$11.00 each Postmark by March 3 to:  
PCSRA Reservations, 4315 E. Seneca St., 85712.

**Menu:** Corned Beef & Cabbage, Green Salad,  
and Dessert (Cheese Cake Selections)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest** \_\_\_\_\_

## March 9: Nic Clement shares “How to Catch a Swamp Frog”

Please come to welcome Dr. Nicholas Clement, a great teacher, administrator and author to our Distinguished Speaker Series on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, as he shares his book *How to Catch a Swap Frog*, a tribute he wrote about the legendary teachers who impacted him both as a student and later as an educator.

Ethan Kaczynski, an award-winning 9-year-old Irish dancer and at least two other young Irish dancers will entertain us!

See the first showing of Secret Ticket Drawing items. Bring friends. It will be a wonderful, enjoyable program.

Make your reservations soon ---so you don't forget!

## PCSRA Fielding Ideas for Trips

PCSRA has sponsored three wonderful field trips. We have visited the Arizona Desert Art Museum, the H. F. Coors Pottery Factory, and the Rosson House in Phoenix.

We are looking for our next excursion location. Here are a few possible locations in the Tucson area that may interest some.

- \* Jewish History Museum/Holocaust History Center
- \* Tucson Botanical Gardens: Frida Kahlo Theme
- \* Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson
- \* The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures
- \* The Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix
- \* A potluck picnic in a park
- \* **Other ideas from you???**

**Please let Terry Bagwell know if any of these ideas interest you.** In addition, please tell her of other Tucson or Phoenix locations that you think would make good field trip destinations. Other locations for day trips could also be considered.

Call or email Terry Bagwell or any other board member if you are interested in any field trips --- and which ones! [tbasketcase@cox.net](mailto:tbasketcase@cox.net), 520-748-1720

## TSB Wants to Rope You In!

Tucson Society of the Blind, TSB, is having two Rodeo Concerts Thursday, Feb 16 and Friday, Feb 17, 6:00-8:30, at Fellowship Square, 8111 E. Broadway, Villa 2 Great Room. On Thursday, Feb 16, Tom Chambers, the outstanding Singing Cowboy, will perform. On Friday, Feb 17, fantastic Rusty Dutton & Band will perform many Western Favorites including Tumbling Tumbleweed.



There will be a silent auction of great items to bid on each night. A raffle drawing will be held on Friday night for a handmade queen size quilt and other prizes. Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5 or 12 for \$10. Concerts tickets are \$10 each and must be purchased ahead of the concerts because of limited seating. To purchase tickets, call Barbara 298-2427 or Tom 721-1029.

TSB, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, provides educational, social, and recreational programs for the visually impaired and blind. TSB meets every Tuesday from 10:00-1:00 at 6565 E. Broadway at Christ Presbyterian Church, a little east of Wilmot. TSB has programs with informative guest speakers, luncheons, field trips, and provides resources and emotional support for the blind. For more information call Erma Seal 326-3757 or visit [www.tucsonsocietyoftheblind.org](http://www.tucsonsocietyoftheblind.org).

## You Can Raise Scholarship Fun(d)

The Secret Ticket Drawing is Fast Approaching!!! Have you cleaned out your closet and found something that someone else might like? Do you enjoy creating things? Know other people who do? Ask them to donate to our fundraiser in March and April!

Decorative items, days of work, jewelry, hand-crocheted scarves, hours of genealogical research, specially baked items, quilts, blown glass, restaurant gift cards, and art work can all bring in funds!

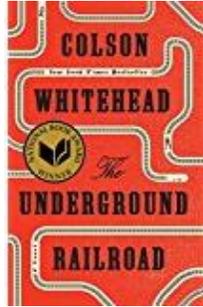
Call Terry Bagwell (748-1720) or Judy Hokett (749-4464) to arrange to drop off your items or to arrange for pick up.

Remember to invite friends to these luncheons. They don't have to be members!

## PCSRA Book Club's First Meeting Feb. 16

By Jim Marr

We are looking forward to our first book club meeting Thursday, Feb 16 at 1:00. Steve Poe will host us at his home at 3331 E. Waverly. (See map below.)

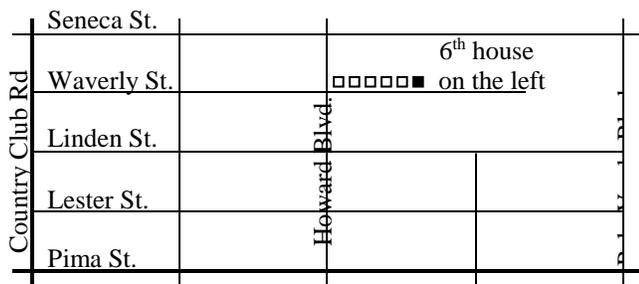


We are meeting about THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD by Colson Whitehead. The first section, AJARRY, contains Cora's memories of her grandmother, Ajarry, the family matriarch. Cora's mother, Mabel is also mentioned, but only in passing. The second section, GEORGIA, takes place on the plantation where Cora tends the plot of earth that her grandmother used to work. The third part, entitled RIDGEWAY, tells about the 'patrollers' who retrieve runaway slaves. The last part, SOUTH CAROLINA, takes us back to Cora, who is now going by the name of Bessie in her new life away from the plantation.

I hope this information is enough to get you off to a good start. No need to finish the book for the first meeting. It's most important just to have you there. This meeting is to meet, greet, and participate in some enlightening conversations. We can also share ideas and decide on how this group should proceed in the future.

At our meeting, bring your book, or if you don't have a book, come anyway. All are welcome to listen and respond to the discussion topics. I am sure the conversation will be lively and provide a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and renew past friendships. I'm looking forward to meeting each of you. Feel free to bring a friend too.

Jim Marr      jbm500@cox.net      520-977-9438



## Poetry Corner



*“To Sue, With Love.”*

*While not a poetry fan,  
She sat through many draft readings,  
Rehearsals and very bad readings  
As these poems were developed.*

*While not a publishing process fan,  
She endured days and nights spent  
reviewing  
Versions and copies over the smallest  
changes.*

*And yet, she did not  
Do serious bodily harm,  
Commit murder or divorce me!*

*You have to love a girl like that!  
Or, at least, dedicate a book to her.*

*Bill Black*



Sue and Bill Black

## Governor Ducey Talks about Education in Arizona

Governor Ducey's January 9<sup>th</sup> State of the State address created hope about education funding among a number of different factions in Arizona. Pundits of various forms quipped that Ducey sounded like a Democrat with his remarks. He pledged pay raises for teachers, new funding for K-12 schools beyond what is legally required, and full day kindergarten in Arizona's lowest income schools. Also, he spoke of an Arizona Teacher Academy where people could attend for free in order to become teachers.

Ducey said he will ask ASU, UA and NAU to collaborate on developing a plan for the Teacher's Academy of Arizona with the goal of sending its graduates to public schools. He promoted the idea to prospective teachers with, "If you make that commitment, we'll make this commitment: your education will be paid for, a job will be waiting and you will be free of debt." He also proposed that those teachers who commit to teaching in low income schools be rewarded with a \$1000 signing bonus. Another proposal would forgive student debt for those who sign up as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teachers.

To deal with the current teacher shortage, he plans to make changes in the teacher certification process, making it easier to become a teacher.

Other proposals including a per pupil spending boost for excelling schools and those schools that are low income, high quality schools "beating the odds".

Many wondered where the funds will come from to pay for Ducey's ambitious agenda. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) anticipates revenues will be about \$24 million higher for 2018. The Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting projects even higher revenues.



## Education and Retirement News

~ Jerry Holmes

When Gov. Ducey unveiled his budget proposal on January 13, it clarified where all this money was going to come from to support his proposals. He proposed that, once again, the \$86.5 million set aside for road repair this year be transferred to the general fund for use elsewhere next year. That idea was immediately met with bi-partisan objections because of the sorry state of roads around Arizona.

Sen. Karen Fann (R) said, "This is what's happening to our roads. We're actually destroying our infrastructure by not keeping it up and maintaining it."

### Quotes from Gov. Ducey's Address

- \* **I want the teachers of our state to know: You make a difference. I value your work and it's time we return the favor.**
- \* **One of the first things we need to do, as a state, and as citizens is to focus on what really works in our public schools.**
- \* **I have a commitment our educators can take to the bank: starting with the budget I release Friday I will call for an increased investment in our public schools – above and beyond inflation – every single year I am governor.**
- \* **Let's take these new dollars and put them where they will have the greatest impact on students. The place where we know we will get the greatest return on investment. It's time for a raise for Arizona's teachers; my budget will outline a permanent, lasting salary increase to all of Arizona's teachers.**

State Sen. Rebecca Rios (D) responded to Ducey's proposals by saying, "It (the governor's State of the State Address) was full of great ideas, but there's no funding to back it up."

Rep. Mark Cardenas (D) tweeted, "He promised raises for teachers and gave them pennies."

The governor would also reduce funding in some areas in order to move that money to other places.

Ducey's budget reflects reductions for the Dept. of Financial Institutions, Dept. of Public Safety, the UA's Main Fund and the Judiciary Branch.

His promises to fund teacher raises amounted to 0.4% for each of the next five years for total of 2%. That amounts to less than \$1.00 a day, maybe \$2.00 per week, for virtually all teachers.

No one knows what will happen to the Affordable Care Act. If the U.S. Congress shifts the burden of paying for the program to the states, Arizona would be on the hook for more than \$100 million in additional costs.

See **Education** next page.

## Education continued

The governor's office anticipates that revenues will be about \$120 million higher than what the JLBC projects. With the sweep of highway funds and a higher projection of income, Ducey expects about \$200 million more in revenue than anyone else. His rosy projections are based on Arizona's economy growing faster than others think might be the case.

State Senator Steve Farley (D) said, "The revenue projections in the governor's plan are based on unicorns and rainbows, not reality."

Another complicating factor is that corporate tax cuts, passed by the legislature in 2011, are still being implemented. Those decreases to corporate income, commercial property and other business related tax breaks will slow revenues.

Dana Naimark of the Children's Action Alliance said, "...but in the big picture, if we cut taxes with no replacement revenue, we are shrinking the funding available for K-12 education"

Another issue affecting revenue is the growth of corporate tax credits for private schools, with the cap expanding at 20% each year. The cap now stands at \$51.6 million, but will balloon to \$128 million in the next four years.

Dick Foreman of the Arizona Business and Education Coalition noted, "Every tax credit claimed is a reduction in tax revenue for public schools."

One final impact is created by the passage of Proposition 206 last November raising the minimum wage in Arizona. The state will have to pay more to its lowest wage employees and the employees of contractors who work with the state and could not have anticipated this pay raise in their bid proposals.

## Increasing Recess Time

Rep. Ruben Rubalcava (D), also a Gila Bend S.D. board member, has introduced HB 2082 which would require that all K-5 students receive at least 50 mins. of recess each day. The bill would prevent a teacher from revoking recess for a student as a punishment unless the teacher notifies the student's parent first. Rubalcava claims that he proposed the legislation, in part, to support teachers who complain that they get little time to transition from one subject to another. The bill does not require the 50 minutes be contiguous, but could be broken up throughout the day.

## Lesko Wants Vouchers for All

State Senator Debbie Lesko (R) has attempted to expand vouchers in Arizona virtually every year she has been in office. This year's proposal would expand voucher availability to all AZ students by 2020, the year that current caps on voucher availability, now set at 0.5%, would expire. Lesko's proposal would make the voucher redeemable at any school – public, private or parochial.

Objections to Lesko's plan are numerous and characterized by Chris Kotterman, a lobbyist for the Arizona School Board Association, who said, "But the state has an obligation to fully and adequately fund its primary mission which is the free public schooling of all the students. And we're not doing that right now."

## Arizona Teachers Jumping Ship

The Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association recently released some figures from the beginning of this school year. The number of those teachers who abandoned their job within the first four weeks of the school year = 421. The number of teachers that formally resigned within the first four weeks of this school year = 667. That amounts to 1,088 teachers gone in the first month from positions that schools thought they had filled.

## ASRS Website's Bill Tracker Details Legislative Goings-On that Can Affect Our Pensions

The ASRS website offers more good information than can be reported on. One of the areas that is most appreciated is their Legislation section located at <https://www.azasrs.gov/content/legislation>.

Contained therein is a link, **Bill Tracker**, to various areas of proposed legislation. Legislation proposed by ASRS and others that would affect ASRS are all summarized and explained. Details of upcoming committee hearings and the bills progress through the legislative process are tracked. Some of these bills are minor and meant to correct inequities or unforeseen circumstance. Some are major and would change the way that ASRS does business. I encourage you to go to the website today and see what is going on that affects your pension.



The 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature is now in session. Governor Ducey has proposed the Arizona Budget. The bills have been assigned and are already being heard. Your action could be required as legislative changes concerning the Arizona State Retirement are being considered.

Are you willing to contact your legislators and/or Governor to pass or defeat specific legislation when a vote is called? Send me your email, and I'll contact you with information. I will then ask you to contact your legislators or Governor with appropriate action. Are you with me? Can I count on your help?

Marion Pickens, Chair  
 PCSRA Legislative Contact  
 marionpeterpickens@gmail.com  
 Phone: 296-5908S

## Contact Info at Your Fingertips

By Terry Bagwell

This is pure genius. For those who heed the call to be vigilant citizens and speak up, I learned a cool thing to put you in touch with your Reps via phone. Anyone can text their zip code to (520) 200 2223. It will shoot back your Federal and State Senators' and Representatives' names and phone numbers.

I just did it and received my reps and their numbers. Then I added them to my contacts. Calling legislators' offices is an extremely effective way to make your voice heard.

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We may be adding photos to our website. If you do not want any photograph including you to be visible on the PCSRA.com web-site, please email [webmaster@pcsra.com](mailto:webmaster@pcsra.com) with that message. If we do not hear from you with this content, we will assume that you are willing to be included in photos on the PCSRA website.

## New PCSRA Leaders Sought

It's time for us to assemble our slate of officers for the next two years, and frankly we need some of our members to step up. The jobs aren't difficult and there are people to help as each of us completes our duties. No one needs to fill the office exactly like someone else has. You should be yourself with whatever gifts you have. Will you please consider?

**PRESIDENT:** Ann Reaban has completed her two-year term.

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:** Gloria Barnett will be moving from Tucson.

**SECRETARY:** This position has remained open for nearly two years.

If you might consider serving, please email or call Arlene Sturm ([arlenesturm@gmail.com](mailto:arlenesturm@gmail.com), 887-8663) or Terry Bagwell ([tbasketcase@cox.net](mailto:tbasketcase@cox.net), 748-1720).

## Duties According to PCSRA Bylaws

The **president** shall:

- \* Preside at all General and Executive Board meetings.
- \* As needed, call a Special General Meeting and/or a Special Meeting of the Executive Board.
- \* Appoint a three-member Auditing Committee, a three-member Nominating Committee, and all non-elective officers and committee chairmen.
- \* Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- \* At the May meeting make an annual report of the association's activities.
- \* Prepare and present to AASRA an annual report for "The Unit of Distinction" and an annual Association Unit report.

The **first vice-president** shall:

- \* Preside in the absence of the president.
- \* Serve as Program Chairman and work in coordination with the Second Vice-President.

The **secretary** shall:

- \* Attend General and Executive Board meetings.
- \* Keep a record of official General Meeting voting proceedings.
- \* Keep a record of the official proceedings of the Executive Board.

## We're Movin' on Up!

By Terry Bagwell

Thank you so much to all members who have returned their renewals for 2017! Our membership is what sustains us as an organization.

The good news with the renewals that have been returned is that 75% of them included membership in our state organization, All Arizona School Retirees Association. The reason that is good news is that we are all really one organization of two different parts. Previously only 34% of our members were also AASRA members. We are team players if we're all in it together. Thank you!

On the other side, there are several members who have not yet sent in their renewals. I know it's not the most pressing item on your To-Do list, but we'd love to have our records up-to-date by the end of the month. It's a dream!

**Volunteers** continued from Page 1

**Each of these thoughtful caring Volunteer tasks by our PCSRA Members given to people in need represent "A Little Act of Kindness."**

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver." ~ Barbara De Angelis

**In this February month of "Love," each PCSRA member deserves heartfelt thanks for the compassion and generosity of time that has been given in volunteer hours to make life a little better through these gentle "Acts of Kindness!"**

"A great deal of how we see the world depends on our outlook. President Obama gave the American people the example of his careful consideration, compassion, rigorous intelligence, and wonder of wonders, LOVE... He saw the good in us, he saw the love, and he told us so. Now all we have to do is live up to it." ~ Ann Patchett

**I'm grateful for all the Love & Kindness given by our members to make this world a better place.**

**Ann Reaban**

## The PCSRA/AASRA Connection

By Steve Poe, PCSRA member & Past AASRA President

Many of our members may be asking about the request for AASRA membership with your PCSRA dues renewal. AASRA, the All Arizona School Retirees Association, is the state arm of our local PCSRA. We, in Pima County, are just one part of a statewide organization whose primary goal is to keep retirees in connection with their communities, through service, socialization, and economic cooperation.

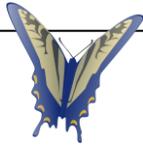
With the numerous, ongoing threats to the continuance of defined benefits retirement plans through the ASRS (Arizona State Retirement System) that we all rely on for a major portion of our retirement livelihood, our organization is one of the few groups that have the luxury of concentrating on retirees' needs. While others fight for public education (Children's Action Alliance, AEA, AZ School Boards Assn...), AASRA and AARP are fighting to protect seniors.

To this end, AASRA keeps tabs on the Arizona Legislature and the ASRS to make sure the constitutional protection of our state retirement system is upheld. With the vast majority of the population in other areas of the state, it is vital for us to communicate and cooperate with other cities and counties to protect our investment. Your membership dollars help to keep up the monitoring activities, especially during the yearly legislative session. We in Pima County are blessed to have our own Jerry Holmes as part of this effort on the AASRA Legislative team.

Lastly, the pressures on our state budget and those of other parts of the country often make government officials look for a scapegoat or a way to transfer retirement costs to individuals or other entities. We must be "on top" of all these threats for the future of our investment and for the future school retirees. AASRA and its support and affiliation with AARP and NRTA (National Retired Teachers' Assn.) help all of us to keep the promise we received to provide retirement income for life.



## Farewell



**Beehler**, Elwood (87) 1/11; Teacher

**Broad**, Merrill (89) 1/23; TUSD  
Crossing Guard at Sewell Elem.

**Bruno**, Beth (48) 12/20; Teacher

**Buckmaster**, Gloria (95) 1/18; Teacher

**Crary**, Misty (46) 1/26; Cartwright Elem.

**Croll**, Ellen, (78) 1/20; Teacher

**Dull**, Paul D. (68) 1/22; Teacher

**Enlow**, Sally (73) 1/7; Playground Monitor

**Fowler**, Ivan (89) 1/14; Teacher

**Gilbert**, Margery (73) 12/2; Teacher

**Gilkerson**, Barbara (87) 12/21; Teacher

**Hanks**, Charlotte (74) 10/18; Teacher

**Hasselbring**, Sharon (73) 12/27; Teacher

**Hauge**, Dr. Lawrence (89) Teacher & Principal

**Hutcherson**, Irene (98) 12/30; Teacher

**Kahl**, Aurelia (91) 1/15; Teacher

**Kuhn**, Edward (92) 1/14; Teacher

**Littman**, Sol (96) 1/2; Teacher

**Lynch**, Catherine (70) 1/3; Teacher

**Mai**, Donald (80) 1/18; High School Math Teacher

**Middleton**, Melvin C. (87) 1/25; Teacher

**McCord**, Glenda (??) 1/2; Teacher

**Natividad**, Antonio (78) 1/20; TUSD

**Patterson**, Kelly (76) 12/29; ESL Teacher

**Pittelli**, Mary Ann (67) 1/25; Teacher's Aide

**Reinhart**, Donald (84) 1/3; Teacher

**Smith**, Betty (78) 1/19; Teacher

**Stoller**, Elaine (71) 1/14; L.A. Teacher

**Swaim**, Lisa (42) 1/24; Educator



## Colleagues

## Friends



## Poetry Corner



### “Love IS” (Second Stanza)

*Yes, Love is the water and the  
sunshine  
that nurtures the vulnerable  
seedlings  
that dare so boldly to take the  
chance to grow.*

*And for those who choose to love,  
the desert offers special rainbows*

*—  
if we are patient enough to wait,  
to have faith that the summer  
showers will also bring rainbows,  
But remember,  
don't expect love to come back  
right away.*

*It doesn't steer too well.  
But love has a memory.  
It will return someday –  
welcome to someday.  
Yes, love is a celebration of life  
and all of its possibilities.  
Let us celebrate love.*

Peter M. Bourret, 1988