

NAU Retirees FLASH



NAU Retirees Association (NAURA)
<https://in.nau.edu/naura/>

Winter 2023 Luncheon

Date: Friday, Dec. 8, 2023

**Place: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
 1601 N. San Francisco St**

Social Time: 11:00 —11:30

Lunch: 11:30—1:00

Price: \$25 per person

RSVP by December 4, 2023



*The holiday luncheon is in no way affiliated with any religious affiliation. We have been looking for a venue that was inexpensive, and this one became available. It is our hope that no one takes offense to having this event in a church community room.

MENU

Olive Garden Pasta Station

- Spaghetti and Fettuccine
- Alfredo, Meat Sauce and Marinara
- Grilled Chicken, Meatballs and Italian Sausage
 - Breadsticks
 - Salad
 - Dessert
- Coffee, Tea, Water

*Donations this year to the Women’s Shelter: diapers, baby wipes, baby lotion/powder/shampoo & soaps, items for babies and new mothers. Donations will be taken to the Northland Family Help Center.

Make luncheon reservations by Monday, December 4, 2023. Enclosed with this newsletter is a reservation form for the Winter Luncheon. You can RSVP and pay on-line at the NAURA web site or mail your check along with the reservation form to the Treasurer. Your paper **reservation form** and **check must** be mailed in advance and received **no later than Monday, December 4, 2023.**

Mail to: Treasurer, NAURA
 NAU Box 5601
 Flagstaff AZ 86011-5601

A pre-paid reservation is required

President's Corner

Dear Retirees:

Autumn has peaked in Flagstaff, and it seems to me, a bit early this year. But how beautiful is autumn? It has the mix of warm colors of oranges, reds and yellows against a brilliant blue sky! The colors and crispness make being out in nature even more pleasant. While I love summer, I have learned to enjoy fall, a season that formerly left me sad and depressed. However, when I breathe in the beauty, I appreciate the season much more.

How prouder can we, as former employees, be of NAU? NAU has the largest class of freshmen ever, and over the weekend, announced they plan to start a medical school! We've come a long way since my first association as a student in 1975 when the student body was less than 8,000 students. There are now about 20,000 students who attend NAU on campus in Flagstaff, and another 10,000 students who attend extended campuses or online.

If you live in Flagstaff, or actually anywhere that there is a November election, I urge you to use the greatest civic ability we have, and vote. In one class I instructed on Civic Engagement, I urged students to vote and many in the class said they were planning on voting, some said they were not voting because they didn't know the issues or the candidates well enough. I also had a couple of foreign students in the course; one from China and another from Jordan. They could not believe that some of the students were not voting when they don't have the freedom to vote. It is our duty to know our issues and candidates and vote. While there are no candidates on the ballot this fall, at least in Flagstaff, there are many issues on the ballot. Read all the issues beforehand, and please vote.

Thanks to Sara Aleman, our events coordinator for NAURA, we had a wonderful fall picnic. We had fun catching up with former colleagues and the weather could not have been better. More information of our next get-together will be out soon in a Spark. Stay tuned!

Carole Mandino
NAURA President 2023-2024
Carole.Mandino@nau.edu



In Memory of our Beloved Members

Our condolences to the families of these NAU retirees, spouses, and faculty members who have recently passed away. (Information is from published obituaries except where noted.) If you know of a retiree or spouse who has died, please contact Sherry Markel: Sherry.Markel@nau.edu.

Gerald (Jerry)V. Bacon—(1940-2022) passed on November 11, 2022 at his home in Munds Park, AZ. He began teaching for NAU in the College of Environment, Forestry & Natural Science-Environmental Health & Safety in 1991 and is remembered as an inspiring professor.

Judith A. Cloud—(1954-2023) passed on August 4, 2023. Judith was an NAU voice professor, choral conductor, and composer. She was known for her beautiful Mezzo-Soprano voice. She began her formal music education at the School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, NC. And earned her Master and Doctor degrees in Music from Florida State University. Judith came to NAU in 1989 as a voice teacher where she excelled as a performer and a pedagogue.

Rosemary L. Gray—(1936—2023) passed on August 19, 2023. Rosemary was born in New Mexico and developed her leadership skills early as President of Future Homemakers of America at the local, district and state levels. She was president of her senior class and elected Most Likely to Succeed. Rosemary first earned a BA in Business Administration. She came to Flagstaff with her husband Allan Gray, who was hired as a mathematics professor. Rosemary was very active in many organizations, including the Faculty Wives Club where she served as president in 1979-1980. She completed a master's degree in Spanish and was hired to teach Spanish. She was active in the NAU Retirees Association when she retired (1991) as the Benefits Liaison from NAURA and then the President 2003-2004.

ASRS/ADOA STATE RETIREE HEALTHCARE PLANS

ASRS/ADOA State Retiree Healthcare Plans for 2024

The enrollment periods for Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) 2024 healthcare plans are November 1 – 30 for ASRS and October 30 - November 17 for ADOA. Enrollment Guides should now appear online at <https://www.azasrs.gov/content/health-care> (ASRS) and <https://benefitoptions.az.gov/OE2024> (ADOA). The ASRS site will indicate whether re-enrollment is required for those making no changes. ADOA has already announced that for participating retirees, “[t]here are NO CHANGES to coverage, carriers, or rates for 2024,” so that re-enrollment is only needed for those making changes. **This statement does not apply to the NAU BCBSAZ PPO plan.** Information about changes in this plan and re-enrollment will be available elsewhere.

Adding coverage, changing coverage, and switching between ASRS and ADOA plans can be done by eligible retirees during open enrollment with the proviso that ADOA coverage can only be added by those with existing ADOA coverage in a medical or dental plan, and a switch from an ADOA plan to an ASRS plan would require declining the ADOA coverage at the ADOA site. The NAU Human Resources site <https://in.nau.edu/human-resources/benefits/nau-retirees/> has information about both ASRS and ADOA, a comparison of offerings, and helpful links. We invite your comments about ASRS and/or ADOA that pertain to retirees.

Send your comments to john.hagood@nau.edu. John Hagood, NAURA—ASRS Liaison.

Legislative Report

Stan Lindstedt

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Here is the contact information for our Legislators:

AZ SENATE:

LD 1 - **Ken Bennett** 602-926-5874
KBENNETT@AZLEG.GOV
LD 7 – **Wendy Rogers** 602-926-3042
WROGERS@AZLEG.GOV
LD 6 – **Theresa Hatathlie** 602-926-5160
THATATHLIE@AZLEG.GOV
President Warren Petersen 602-926-4136
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Majority Ldr Sonny Borrelli 602-926-5031
SBORRELLI@AZLEG.GOV
Minority Ldr Denise Epstein 602-926-4870
MEPSTEIN@ASLEG.GOV

AZ HOUSE:

LD 1 – **Selina Bliss** 602-926-4018
SBLIS@AZLEG.GOV
LD 1 – **Quang Nguyen** 602-926-3258
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LD 7 – **David Cook** 602-926-5162
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LD 7 – **David Marshall** 602-926-3579
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LD 6 – **Mae Peshlakai** 602-926-3708
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LD 6 – **Myron Tsosie** 602-926-3157
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Speaker Ben Toma 602-926-3298
BTOMA@AZLEG.GOV
Majority Ldr Leo Biasiucci 602-926-3018
LBIASIUCI@AZLEG.GOV
Minority Ldr Andres Cano 602-926-3027
ACANO@AZLEG.GOV

E-Mail Contact for **Governor Katie Hobbs**:
<https://azgovernor.gov/contact/form/contact-governor-hobbs>

STATUS UPDATE

In May, the Legislature passed a budget that appropriated \$624 Million for the nation's most expansive private school voucher program. Now,

in the first months of the school year the expense for this program has exceeded its budget! As of this week, the voucher program is \$16 Million over budget. A total of 67,294 enrollees have taken advantage of this program – each receiving an average of \$9,523. Based on this rate of growth it is expected that an additional 748 students will be added EACH WEEK at a cost of \$7 Million a WEEK!!

It should be noted that a majority of these students are currently in private school or home-schooled already so could easily afford that expense – so now, you and I are paying them for their private schools and home schooling!! By the end of the school year it is projected the voucher program will be over budget by \$290 Million or 47% overbudget – and where will this money come from?

Stan Lindstedt



Arizona Legislature

Cruising the British Isles

My husband and I were blessed to join some dear friends on a 12-day British Isles cruise with Celebrity in early September. The cruise set sail from Amsterdam, so we flew in a couple of days early to explore. Besides walking around the museum district and dodging bikes (there are twice as many bikes as people), we enjoyed a canal river cruise, touring the Van Gogh Museum, and a windmill/cheese/clog tour just outside the city.



The cruise was on the Celebrity Apex, which is one of their newer ships and it's beautiful. The food included with the cruise was very good and we splurged on a couple of meals in the specialty restaurants as well. The entertainment was outstanding with a variety of musical performances, dance shows as well as an entertaining comedian and amazing female illusionist/magician. We enjoyed the spa for massages and just relaxing at sea at the solarium/pool areas too.

Here's our itinerary/ports of call and how we spent our time at each:

Portland Dorset, UK – enjoyed an amazing e-bike tour (my favorite excursion)

Cork, Ireland – Blarney castle and Jameson Distillery tour

Waterford (Dunmore East), Ireland – explored beautiful Dunmore East on our own

Liverpool, UK – super fun private Beatles tour

Belfast, Ireland – awesome tour of the scenic Antrim Coast and Giants Causeway

Glasgow, Scotland – full day tour: Stirling castle, countryside scenic drive to Loch Lomond, & lunch at local pub

Lerwick, Shetland Islands), Scotland – super cute, quaint little town

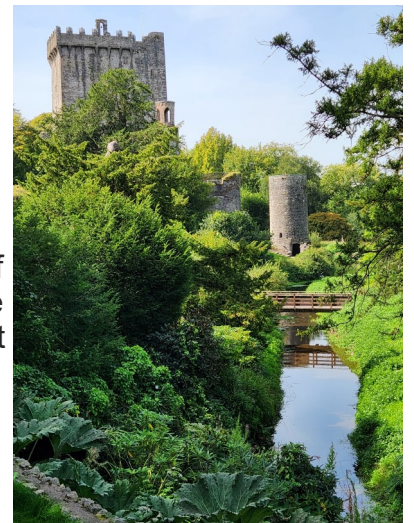


we explored on our own
Inverness/Lochness, Scotland – private Lochness tour, pub lunch, country-side scenic drive
Rotterdam – where we ended; hired a private driver for a tour of the city and toured the Delft Blue factory/museum & the Escher art museum in the Hague

All in all, the cruise was a fantastic way to get a taste of the UK, Ireland, and Scotland! I don't know if we'll opt for a big

ship cruise like this (close to 3,000 passengers) in the future. We think we'd like to explore some smaller ship cruises. And...we'd also would like to go back to the UK, Ireland, and Scotland to spend more time exploring.

Leslie Mathews



Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Submitted July 31, 2023

Starting Chase Bank Balance: June 30, 2023 **\$26,491.85**

Revenue:

Dues / Deposits	\$190.00 (6 memberships and \$10 scholarships)
Vanco*	\$2,736.87 (\$165 scholarships and 54 memberships)

Expenditures:

AROHE Membership	\$120.00
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*I will not show amounts from Vanco until they are actually recorded in a Chase statement. Hence, payments from Vanco will be slightly behind by roughly three weeks.

Total in Chase Bank Account, July 31, 2023 **\$29,298.72**

Edward Jones Account Balance: June 30, 2023 **\$78,512.43**

Deposit (1 lifetime membership)	\$300.00
Gain in Account Value	\$1,569.70

Total in Edward Jones, July 31, 2023 **\$80,382.13**

Total in both accounts, July 31, 2023 **\$109,680.85**

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Larkin
Treasurer

Scholarship Donations since April 1, 2022 **\$1,305.00**

NAU Retirees FLASH Newsletter

Published by NAU Retirees Association
Northern Arizona University
P. O. Box 5601 Flagstaff AZ 86011-5601

Editor: Sherry Markel and Thomas Carpenter

The FLASH is published as determined by the Executive Committee. Special editions are published as needed. The newsletters are mailed ONLY to **paid** NAURA members who do not have email and request a paper copy.

Material for publication is welcome, subject to Executive Committee approval.
Send articles to the editor at the above address or e-mail: sherry.markel@nau.edu

WELCOME NEW RETIREES



Louis Arminia

Denise Ayers

Andy Bessler

Vicki Broyles

David Camacho

Vickie Campbell

Paradeep Dass

Mark Delancy

Paul Dutton

Brian Eekhoff

Paul Flikkema

Marietta Fule

Kevin Hayes

Angela Helmer

Marc Lord

Norman Medoff

Linda Osthreim

Wallace Rande

Marilyn Reese

Phillip Rojas

Barbara Rudy

Karen Schairer

Antoinette Scherer-Reutimann

Matthew Sells

Douglas Small

Frederic Solop

Andrea Strange

Kimberly Vercanteren-Griffin

Nancy Wonders

NAURA SCHOLARSHIP

The recipients of the NAU Retirees' Association Centennial Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year - Jessica Marshall and Jeshua Scott - have started the fall semester in better financial circumstances thanks to the generous donations by NAU retirees to the scholarship fund. At \$6,000 for the year, the scholarship can have a substantial impact on a student's ability to cover their educational costs. We encourage retirees to continue their donations to the scholarship fund by going to the Join/Renew function on the nau.edu/naura website. You can also mail your donation to NAURA Treasurer, P. O. Box 5601, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. Your donations will enable NAURA to continue awarding a high impact scholarship to NAU students. Your donations are greatly appreciated! Nydia Nittmann

NAURA Executive Committee Directory 2023- 2024

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL
<u>ELECTED:</u>		
President	Carole Mandino	Carolem.naura@gmail.com
President-Elect	Rich Bowen	Rb@genterranenterprises.com
Past President	Kathleen Zahl	koz1946@hotmail.com
Secretary	Gae Johnson	gae.johnson@nau.edu
Treasurer	Greg Larkin	greg.larkin@nau.edu
<u>APPOINTED:</u>		
Activities Chair	Sara Aleman	Sara.aleman@nau.edu
Archivist	Harlan Johnson	harlan.johnson@nau.edu
Athletics Dept. Liaison	Bruce Fox	goldenbear196921976@gmail.com
Benefits Rep	Betsy Kerr	betsy.kerr@nau.edu
Highway Cleanup	Richard Coast	richard.coast@nau.edu
Legislative Concerns	Stan Lindstedt	stan.lindstedt@gmail.com
ASRS/ADOA Liaison	John Hagood	john.hagood@nau.edu
Membership Chair	John Nauman	johnknauman@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Sherry Markel	sherry.markel@nau.edu
Scholarship Chair	Nydia Nittmann	nydia.nittmann@nau.edu
Web Master	Leslie Mathews	leslie_mathews@hotmail.com
Admin. Support	Nydia Nittmann	Nydia.nittmann@nau.edu

NAURA Adopt a Highway

On October 11, eleven members of the NAU Retirees Association gathered at the Peak View Market on Fort Valley Road for our semi-annual highway cleanup. We got lucky again with beautiful weather. Within just over an hour, we gathered twelve bags of trash and some odds and ends, including one suitcase full of clothes. Thanks to all those who participated, many of whom have been out for all four of the events we have had since adopting this section of highway.

Please keep your eyes open for another cleanup adventure sometime next May. In the mean time, enjoy a clean section of highway, courtesy of the NAU Retirees Association.

Dick Coast

