

NAU Retirees FLASH

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

Spring 2024 Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024
Place: NAU DuBois South Union
 Aspen Room
Program: - Nominations/Voting for Officers
 - Installation of New Officers
Social Time: 11:00 - 11:30
Lunch: 11:30 - 1:00
Price: \$20 per person
RSVP: April 26, 2024

Asian Fusion Buffet Menu

Vegetarian Lo Mein
 Cilantro Grilled Chicken Breast
 Grilled teriyaki Salmon
 Asian Slaw
 Garlic Lemon Ginger Broccoli
 Sticky Rice
 Coconut Lemon Almond Bars
 Fortune Cookies
 Assorted Soft Drinks

Please consider who you may want to nominate for a board position for the upcoming year.

Make luncheon reservations by Friday, April 26, 2024. Enclosed with this newsletter is a reservation form for the Spring Luncheon. You can RSVP and pay online at the NAURA website or you can mail your check along with the reservation form to the NAURA Treasurer in time to arrive by April 26th. A prepaid reservation is required.



President's Corner

Greetings Fellow Retirees!

Northern Arizona University has had a dramatic effect on my life. I started as a student in 1975, a graduate student in 1978, and received my doctorate from NAU in 1998. While a student, I met my husband in 1978 and we wed in 1981. In 1987, I began working for NAU and retired in 2020. Our daughter was a traitor (graduating from ASU and the University of Phoenix), but our son attended and graduated from NAU. Our grandsons have received NAU shirts and paraphernalia, to encourage them to someday attend NAU.

My life has revolved around the university and it still does as my husband continues employment at NAU and I still instruct a course for the Department of Sociology each semester. Having loved working at NAU, I have not regretted retiring. My parents owned a hardware store in Phoenix, and I worked there from a very young age. I had many duties from counting and bagging nuts or nails (I know you're jealous), to staffing the post office inside their store, to cashiering. While my professional career lasted 40 years, my pre-professional work included at least 6 years of part-time work, mostly summers, working at my parent's store, but also working as a substitute for a doctor's office and working at a second-hand store. Oh yes, then there was the camp counselor stint I did during one winter break, but let's just say out of all my jobs, those two weeks were the worst.

I was ready for retirement. And just like me, I'll bet many of you are busier in retirement than you were when you were working—or it just seems that way. However, if you want to be more involved in the NAU Retirees Association, we have a few openings. Namely, we are looking for a President-elect, an Activities Chair, and an Athletics Department Liaison. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone for these openings, please contact me at Carolem.naura@gmail.com or Nydia.Nittmann@nau.edu.

Wishing everyone a safe winter and early spring!

Carole Mandino
NAURA President 2023-2024



Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Submitted February 15, 2024

Starting Chase Bank Balance:	December 15, 2023	\$34,294.40
Revenue:		
Dues / Deposits		\$400.00
1 annual membership; 10 lunches; \$170 scholarships)		
Vanco* (1 annual and 1 lifetime membership; 16 lunches)		\$766.77
Expenditures:		
Holiday Lunch Expenses (food)		\$552.95
Carolers		\$75.00
Quarterly CSV Payment		\$3,192.20
Total in Chase Bank Account:	February 15, 2024	\$31,641.02
Edward Jones Account Balance:	December 15, 2023	\$78,959.85
Gain in Account Value:		\$4,042.54
Total in Edward Jones:	December 15, 2023	\$83,002.39
Total in both accounts:	February 15, 2024	\$114,643.41

*I will not show amounts from Vanco until they are actually recorded in a Chase statement. Hence, payments from Vanco (and some debits) will be slightly behind by roughly three weeks.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Greg Larkin
 Treasurer



Announcements

- The NAU scholarship application process is underway for the 2024-2025 academic year. If you have a child or grandchild attending NAU please encourage them to apply for the **Retirees Centennial Scholarship** by going to nau.edu/osfa and submitting an NAU General Application through Scholarship Universe. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2024.
- **Highway Clean-Up**—The next NAURA Highway Cleanup will be Wednesday, May 15th at 9:00 am. We will clean up a one-mile section of Highway 180 just past Schultz Pass Road on the way to the Grand Canyon. We do the cleanup twice a year, in May and October and it is great fun, at least as much fun as you can have picking up trash. If you are interested, please contact Dick Coast (richard.coast@nau.edu). We will send out a SPARK reminder closer to the date.
- On December 8th we had the **NAURA Holiday Luncheon**, which was held at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in their lovely Meeting Hall. John Nauman was able to secure the location and we had the food catered by Olive Garden. A small choir from NAU serenaded us with holiday songs; they were fantastic. It was a small intimate group of about 20-25 people who were able to enjoy great food, good friends, yummy (although still frozen) desserts, and give many diapers and other items to donate to the Northland Family Help Center, which was greatly appreciated.
- **ANNUAL Membership Renewals**—mark June 1st on your calendar as the start date for annual membership renewals. Please do not pay your 2024-2025 \$30 annual dues prior to this date. This allows NAURA to match the NAU parking permit window of July 1st—June 30th.



Welcome New Retirees



Dennis Duane Booher
 Steven Depinet
 Michael Jay Falk
 Christine Farley
 Gillian Anne Ferris
 William Dean Ferris
 June Price

Shelby Reid
 Daniel Roberto Serpas
 Cheryl Schrader
 Benjamin Sheayea
 Paul Stein
 Regina Vance

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). If you know of a retiree or spouse who has died, please contact Nydia Nittmann at Nydia.nittmann@nau.edu.

Robert Crozier (1927-2023) – A longtime member of the NAU and Flagstaff communities, Bob passed away at home on December 8, 2023. He was a native Arizonan, born in the Ft. Huachuca area. He attended Arizona State Teachers College at Flagstaff (now NAU) and was elected Homecoming King in 1952. He graduated in 1953 and served in the Army in Japan. Bob met his wife Joy while working at the Navajo Army Depot and they married in 1957. In 1967 he went to work for NAU as the Assistant Director of Career Placement and Alumni Secretary, eventually becoming the Assistant Director of University Development and the NAU Foundation Manager. He loved working with students, was an ambassador for NAU for more than 40 years, a devoted fan of NAU football and basketball, and was committed to his family, neighborhood, and community. He attracted kind and good people then surrounded them with his own kindness and compassion.

Richard C. Hall (1939-2024) - Passed on February 1, 2024 following a week in the ICU after taking a walk in the freezing rain, slipping on an icy patch, and breaking his neck. He began his NAU career as the first astronomy professor in 1965, teaching a class called Man in Space and holding labs on the roof of the chemistry building. He was always an outdoor guy, viewing the sky, planting his crops and berry bushes and running/bicycling/swimming whenever he could. He built a house for his family — and several boats for rowing on Lake Mary.

Anne Elizabeth McGregor (1937-2023) – Passed August 5, 2023, in Gardnerville, Nevada. Anne and her husband moved to the Navajo Reservation and worked at the Baby Rocks Trading Post for many years. When they moved to Flagstaff, Anne worked at NAU in the history department, registrars' office, and Cline Library. She retired in 2004. She is remembered as someone who always greeted you with a smile and a hug and is survived by many loving family members.

Dr. Patricia Louise Bilby Moore (1948-2023) – Passed August 13, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona. Patty was a native Arizonan, born in Flagstaff. She attended all three state universities at various times and while working at NAU earned both her Master of Education in HR Relations (1992) and her Doctor of Education (2001). She retired in 2011 from her position as Associate Vice President of the NAU Extended Campuses. Patty enjoyed life discussing politics and exchanging ideas, various hobbies and activities, and took great joy from her collection of dolls and restoring antique doll houses. She gave regularly to a variety of charities and was a blessing and joy to all who knew her.

Dr. Craig William Sidles (1934-2023) – Passed November 27, 2023 of congestive heart failure. He and his family moved to Flagstaff in 1968. He was chair of the NAU Department of Psychology and Educational Psychology. Craig was NAU homecoming dedicatee in 1978 and received an NAU President's Award in 1997. He was preceded in death by Mary Jane Sidles, his wife of 61 years.

Susan Jay Thomas (1954-2023) – After a two year trial with transverse myelitis, Susan passed July 3, 2023. She came to NAU in 1972 as a student from New Jersey. She ended her career as the first female Construction Management professor at NAU after many other firsts in her life. She is survived by her daughter Jenna and numerous family members.

Dr. Bennett Zinnecker (1933-2023) – Passed July 9, 2023, peacefully at his home in Peoria, Arizona. Ben began his NAU career in 1977 as the commander of the USAF ROTC program at NAU. After retiring from the Air Force, he was employed at the Center for Vocational Education and as an assistant to the president of NAU. He continued to advance his learning by earning a PhD in education from NAU in 1986. He provided volunteer service to his church and many civic service groups including NAURA. He was preceded in death by Jacy, his wife of 66 years. He is remembered as a person of great character and honesty.

Travel Notes — Ireland

By Carole Mandino

My husband and I got the opportunity to visit Ireland this past summer. Through our travel agent, we booked with CIE Tours and flew into Dublin to be whisked off past the American Embassy and tent city (yes, they have their own immigration problems) to Dun Laoghaire at the Royal Marine Hotel near the harbor, which was the original harbor for Dublin. There are wonderful restaurants in Dun Laoghaire, and we were able to have two nice dinners there, an Irish breakfast, and, of course, shopping. Once the tour really started, we headed to St. Patrick's Cathedral and took in the beauty of the park surrounding the Cathedral, as well as the cathedral itself. That evening, we had a meet and greet dinner at the hotel.



The following day we headed out to Galway. One of the wonderful things of the CIE tour, was that they stopped every 90 minutes or so to allow for us to stretch our legs, use the restrooms, and shop. We stopped at Sean's Bar, located in Athlone, Co, which is the oldest pub in Ireland, dating back to the 1500's. We were treated to a pint of Guinness and some history of the pub. Once we reached Galway, we stopped at the center of town to head for lunch on our own and we stopped to have fish and chips on Guay Street, because you can't go wrong with fish and chips in Ireland. The most fantastic humorous tour guide gave a tour of old Galway, which went through a mall in Eyre Square Center, as the mall was built upon a former castle. At the end of the tour was a memorial to President John F. Kennedy. That night led to a group dinner at the hotel which include scrumptious desserts.



From around Galway, we took a river tour out to the sea and headed to Kylemore Abbey and Connemara National Park. What a beautiful Abbey, which included a Victorian Walled Garden that was fabulous. We were able to have dinner at Murty Rabbit's Bar & Kitchen—established in 1872—for more pub food.

The next day was my highlight of the trip, where we got to watch sheep dogs herd the sheep and we had a lesson on sheep herding. I'm never going to be a sheep herder, but what amazing dogs! Now here's the real reason it was the highlight of the trip...we then headed to the Cliffs of Mohr, but it was so foggy, we only had 5 minutes when the cliffs were really visible. We did get much exercise climbing the steps.

Travel Notes — Ireland

By Carole Mandino — continued

Onto Killarney and a horse and buggy ride through the park and to the Ross Island Castle. We headed around the Ring of Kerry and saw the beautiful sights. We had dinner at Kate Kearney's Restaurant and were delighted to Irish music and dancing. It reminded of us of visitors in Flagstaff going to Black Bart's Steakhouse. We visited Kenmare and the Hawthorn Fairy Tree and again had a great pub lunch.

Of course, if you go to Ireland, you have to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the Blarney Stone. After climbing up to the top and waiting in line, I couldn't personally kiss the Blarney Stone, due to having to hang upside-down, which would have sent my vertigo into hyper-drive, but my husband kissed the stone. They do wash it off between kisses. Onto another pub, learning an Irish song, and having more Guinness.

Then it was off to Waterford and a tour of the Waterford Crystal Museum where they were working on the trophy for the Aer Lingus College Football Classic. When we got back home, we watched the presentation of the trophy on TV. What a tour! The following day we had a walking tour of Waterford, then headed to a tour of Kilkenny Castle and back to Dublin. It was an amazing 8-day tour that was jam packed with fun and adventure. I recommend this tour to anyone. We were blessed with a fantastic tour guide and bus driver. Since it was a small group tour, there was plenty of room on the bus to move around and it was truly wonderful to see the landscape. One of the interesting aspects of the CIE Tour was that you could do a self-driving tour and not have to ride on the bus, but be able to visit and have meals with all the bus folk.



Community Engagement

Community Engagement can be defined as the process of working with groups of people or organizations with the goal of creating a relationship and providing a service that is beneficial for the health, strength and well-being of the community. NAURA has ~700 members, many who are actively engaged in activities that improve the lives of their community's residents.

We would like you to share your community engagement story in the FLASH newsletter. Send an email to naura@nau.edu with a short description of your activity and how it supports your community. To share your story over the phone, send an email with a contact number and NAURA will call you.

Below are our first two Community Engagement stories.

Kathi Zahl – Volunteering with AARP Taxaide

When I retired, I didn't think about volunteering much. I was busy doing some traveling, exercising, and just having fun.

Three years ago, I started volunteering with AARP Taxaide. This program focuses on doing taxes for seniors for free, but we do taxes for anyone who makes an appointment. We are all certified by the IRS and the AARP Foundation and held to a very strict standard of conduct. Here in the Las Vegas/Henderson valley we have 15 sites that file close to 7000 tax returns each year.

I started as a greeter, just meeting people and making sure they have their documentation with them. I then learned to be an intake person who goes through all the documentation with the taxpayer and organizes the information for the counselor who will do the actual tax return.

I am now the Scheduling Coordinator and I supervise the online/telephone scheduling process and 12 other schedulers. The team schedules appointments for our 15 sites from over 8000 phone messages. I work from home on my computer using Google Voice. I have also used my skills to create documents that schedulers use to help the taxpayer through the process of making, and being prepared for, their appointment. I find this volunteer work rewarding and most of the taxpayers are very grateful for this free service.

Carole Mandino – Various

As the former director of the Institute for Civic Engagement (now the Center for Service and Volunteerism), volunteering has always been an important part of my life. In 1970, to celebrate the upcoming Earth Day, I used my 12th birthday to have a party to pick up trash at a local park where I was raised. During my youth, I worked on political campaigns with my mother and volunteered to help fold and stuff envelopes for the organization in which she was involved. I found it fun, exciting, and a way of learning new information. I was very lucky to work with volunteers throughout my professional career.

As a retiree, there are days when I spend time at home, cleaning the house, or just watching the good ole boob tube. However, I didn't retire from civic life, and I believe we all have a civic duty to serve our community. Most days you can find me working on activities for Soroptimist International of the Arizona Peaks, a women's civic organization that empowers women and girls through education and assistance with education, or on the regional level as a district director, where I help other local clubs in our district working on things such as this article for the NAU Retirees Association, or reading materials for the City of Flagstaff Planning and Zoning Commission.

Community Engagement—continued

Carole Mandino—continued

For Soroptimist, I am working on our fall fundraiser (September 8th), Sip-n-Stroll (a sophisticated pub crawl), and will be meeting with restaurants in the downtown area next week to get them to participate in our event. I am planning a luncheon in which we will be awarding almost \$7,000 divided between two women working on their educational goals to improve their lives. In April, I will be traveling to visit local Soroptimist clubs in Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Parker, and Blythe. For NAURA, it's a bit of a quiet time, so that's been nice, but we will be moving into our elections and our Spring luncheon in May--which I hope most of you will attend. For Planning and Zoning, after a busy summer and fall last year, it's also been a bit quiet as our last two meetings have been canceled.

On top of those activities, I do volunteer at the Flagstaff Family Food Center on the first Friday of each month and I also serve on the Coordinated Mobility Council for Northern Arizona that reviews information regarding transportation for older adults and those with disabilities.

Since NAURA is now located within the offices of the Center for Service and Volunteerism, our members can call and be helped to find an activity of volunteer interest. I suggest if you'd like to volunteer, here's a link to their website: <https://in.nau.edu/center-for-service-and-volunteerism/rsvp/>.

All of these activities keep me busy, give me meaningful things to do in the community, and keep my brain active. I hope you'll think about getting involved in your community, no matter where you live. If you have any questions or would like more information contact me at CaroleM.naura@gmail.com.

Legislative Update

The State Legislature began its 2nd Regular Session on January 8, 2023 and is scheduled to go at least for 100 days. Below are some highlights of bills being considered:

Budget: Current projected budget shortfall is \$1.7 billion over the next two years with two major causes being the 2.5% flat tax rate and the universal ESA voucher program. Governor Hobbs has proposed a 'balanced' budget by curbing eligibility for ESA programs, eliminating the School Tuition Organization tax credit program and cutting many one-time transportation programs.

Elections/Voting Rights: several bills are being considered related to early ballots, ballot processing, voting centers, political signs, cast vote records

Health: bills related to licensed health aides, hearing aids for children; random drug screening for group foster home employees

Miscellaneous: bills related to illegal border crossings; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); utilities

You can contact Governor Katie Hobbs via email at:
<https://azgovernor.gov/contact/form/contact-governor-hobbs>

Contact information for members of the Arizona State Legislature can be found at:
[Azleg.gov/MemberRoster/](https://azleg.gov/MemberRoster/)

Executive Committee Directory—2023-2024

ELECTED:

President	Carole Mandino	carolem.naura@gmail.com
President-Elect	VACANT	
Past President	Kathleen Zahl	koz1946@hotmail.com
Secretary	Gae Johnson	gae.johnson@nau.edu
Treasurer	Greg Larkin	greg.larkin@nau.edu

APPOINTED:

Activities Chair	VACANT	
Archivist	Harlan Johnson	harlan.johnson@nau.edu
Athletics Dept. Liaison	VACANT	
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	Nydia Nittmann	nydia.nittmann@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 PRESIDENT LIST—last 20 years

2004-2005	Don Riggs	2014-2015	David McKell
2005-2006	Harlan Johnson	2015-2016	Warren Johnson
2006-2007	Ben Zinnecker	2016-2017	Toni Fox
2007-2008	Charles Barnes	2017-2018	Norman Bertram
2008-2009	William Nietmann	2018-2019	Kathe Shinham
2009-2010	Zinnecker, Barnes, Nietmann	2019-2020	John Nauman
2010-2011	Walter "Hoppy" Hopkins	2020-2021	Rich Bowen
2011-2012	Don McCallum	2021-2022	Betsy Kerr
2012-2013	David Best	2022-2023	Kathleen Zahl
2013-2014	David Best	2023-2024	Carole Mandino

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