

NAU Retirees FLASH

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

Winter 2025 Holiday Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 10th
Place: NAU University Union
Grand Canyon Room
Program: Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera
NAU Carolers
Social: 11:00 - 11:30
Lunch: 11:30 - 1:00
Price: \$25 per person
RSVP: Friday, December 5th



Traditions Buffet Menu

- Braised Pot Roast with Carrots and Onions
 - Garlic Roasted Green Beans
 - Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
 - BLT Green Goddess Salad
 - Classic Carolina Coleslaw
- Maple, Cinnamon and Chocolate Bread Pudding and Brownies
 - Brewed Iced Tea and Iced Water

Make luncheon reservations by Friday, December 5th. Enclosed with this newsletter is a reservation form for the Winter Holiday Luncheon. You can RSVP and pay on-line at [nau.edu/naura](https://in.nau.edu/naura) or you can mail your check along with the reservation form to the NAURA Treasurer in time to arrive by December 5th. A prepaid reservation is required.

Donations this year will be to NAU's food pantry—Louie's Cupboard. The types of items needed are hygiene items, vegetarian foods, gluten free food, soups, healthy cereals and spices. Donations will be taken to Louie's Cupboard located in the University Union following the luncheon.

President's Corner

Fond Greetings, NAURA Members and Friends:

Mother Nature has a very magical way of reminding us that not every tree is an Evergreen. Autumn has arrived. Those of us in the Valley may find some solace in the changing of the temperature, teasing us with somewhat cooler weather. Yet, those of us that live in the "high country" are truly blessed to witness the changes from summer to fall through the process of green leaf phenology where the beauty of summer-kissed leaves of green becomes the magnificent shades of orange, gold, and brown before making their soft landing on the ground. I am blessed to have a home in both locations, and each is a treasure at this time of year.

I am also blessed to serve as your current NAURA President and welcome you to the fall and winter activities that lie before us. Please mark your calendars with these upcoming dates:

- November 12th at 10am at Flagstaff Library — Senior Coffee Hour
- December 10th at 10am at Flagstaff Library — Senior Coffee Hour
- December 10th at 11am—NAURA Winter Holiday Luncheon

We share who we are by being present at the many activities that showcase our commitment to NAU Students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Many of us also contribute to the larger community. We bring a willingness to serve in many ways. My opportunities to

take food to the shut-ins living in Glendale brings much joy. Reading books to young students to support their interests is highly satisfying. The children enjoy it when I dress up as Mother Goose and read to them. Their pleasure is contagious! My costume is a bit worn after all these years and my hair is getting as white as my wig!

Perhaps there is something **you do** that provides a little extra by way of giving. Please share your adventures of service. Community Engagement is an important part of our NAURA contributions. By doing so, you might give us an idea of something we can all do together.

Fall is a time of weather changes, a time of giving thanks, and a time of recognizing how important every day is. We can always make that little difference to someone through our commitment and service.

Fondly yours,

Claire



Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT:	Submitted September 30, 2025	
Starting Chase Bank Balance:	August 12, 2025	\$ 26,169.61
Revenue:		\$ 2,425.77
Dues / Deposits - \$7,478.59		
(24 memberships-19 Annual and 5 Lifetime; \$360 lunches)		
Expenditures:		(\$ 588.07)
Fall Picnic - \$558.07		
Member Fees Reimbursement - \$30		
Total in Chase Bank Account:	September 30, 2025	\$ 28,007.31
Edward Jones Account Balance:	August 12, 2025	\$ 93,435.73
Gain in Account Value		\$ 1,068.58
Total in Edward Jones:	September 30, 2025	\$ 95,504.31
Total in both accounts:	September 30, 2025	\$123,511.62
Scholarship Donations Fiscal Year 2026		\$ 0.00

*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

- **Retiree Health Benefits Open Enrollment**—Runs Monday, October 20th through Friday, November 7th. The **NAU BCBS PPO Retiree Plan will be discontinued** for retirees starting January 1st. If you are enrolled in this plan you must take action in order to maintain medical coverage for 2026. Otherwise, you do not need to take any action **UNLESS** you want to change your current election. For more information visit <https://in.nau.edu/human-resources/benefits-retiree-open-enrollment-central>. You can also reach out to the NAU Benefits Team at nauhrbenefits@nau.edu or call 928-523-2223.
- **Nestle Purina Tour**—The tour of the local Nestle Purina facility was informative and enjoyable. Attendees heard a brief discussion on the history of Purina and an overview of the process for making pet food. The Flagstaff Purina facility has been in production for 50 years, employs about 340 associates and produces approximately 280,000 tons of dry pet food annually.



- **BBQ at the Schonaerts**—The weather was perfect, the food was plentiful and delicious, and the company was delightful at Claire and Phil's BBQ in August in Munds Park south of Flagstaff. Thank you Claire and Phil for hosting and making this a memorable event.



- **Volunteering with NAU Athletics**—Women's Soccer has wrapped up their season but there are still opportunities to volunteer at a Women's Volleyball game. To volunteer, contact Adam Baker at adam.baker@nau.edu. Watch for a SPARK announcing volunteer opportunities during Women's and Men's Basketball Games. GO JACKS!
- **This Fall's Highway Cleanup** was a success. There were only three participants this time but there were only three bags of trash picked up. So it looks like our efforts from previous cleanups are paying off. We will be having another highway cleanup next May, so please keep your eyes open for an invitation in March or early April.
- **The Social Security Administration's Public Affairs Specialist for Arizona**—Jack Burns—is encouraging NAURA members to sign up for or use their personal [my Social Security](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/) accounts to easily access and manage their benefits online during and after the shutdown. To access or create an account, go to <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>.
- **The NAURA Service Board** is still short members. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact NAURA at naura.nau.edu.

On the Road—York, Whitby, and Yorkshire

By Greg Larkin

Last month, my wife and I wanted to have a short getaway, while the weather remains good world-wide. We also wanted to go someplace we'd never been before, with a good mixture of countryside and city attractions. In other words, new (to us), but easy. (Sadly, we aren't getting any younger.)



So, we selected York, UK. And we were very pleased with our choice. The countryside was indeed beautiful.

The town of York was small enough to walk easily, with many interesting shops, and many excellent places to eat, from street food, to formal dining, and everything in between. In the evenings, we enjoyed beautiful evensong presentations at the York Minster Cathedral. Plus, on every corner we stopped to hear local performers, from singers, to jugglers, to full brass bands. The tour of York's Chocolate Story was especially memorable. The level of detail was amazing, from the history of chocolate, ancient and modern, from the plant through the factory, all the way in to your mouth. For the final half hour of the tour, you actually made your own chocolate--from scratch. The city of York is full of life.

Then it was off to the coast, specifically the lovely town of Whitby, very near the birthplace of the famous explorer, James Cook. This town too provided a mixture of small town charm and interesting and even spectacular architecture. Good food and good fun were easy to find in Whitby, as well as plenty of local beauty, such as the famous Whitby Abbey.



The weather is beautiful right now—but the winter is coming. Near or far, get away now. You don't have to go far, or spend lots of time or money. Somewhere near you right now is a place you haven't been, be it a drive to a new road, a new restaurant, or a whole new country--or just a new county! A change of scenery is all that matters. There's a nook waiting for you--somewhere, anywhere.



Plan to cuddle up in your own home when the snow flies, but enjoy the world near or far away right now, while the weather is fine.

Community Engagement

The goal of the Community Engagement section is to share stories of your fellow retirees and their activities in their communities. If you would like to share your story, send an email to naura@nau.edu with a short description of your activity and how it supports your community. Thank you to all who provide a service that is beneficial for the health, strength and well-being of the community.

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### **John Nauman—Flagstaff's Water Challenges and the Flagstaff Water Group**

About 10 years ago on my way to work I stopped at Macy's for my weekly triple Moca con Panna and was asked to join a table where the Flagstaff Water Group (FWG) was discussing water issues in Flagstaff. I had assumed that the treated wastewater (WW) released into the Rio de Flag at the Rio and Wildcat Wastewater Treatment Plants was naturally filtered taking decades to reach the Coconino Aquifer, the key source of Flagstaff's water especially in times of drought. But solution channels and fractures in rock layers allow treated wastewater to reach Coconino Aquifer in hours and even minutes causing localized low-level contamination from synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) posing a possible risk to human health. WW treatment doesn't remove many SOC's.

So that day I was invited or arm twisted into joining the FWG since I was a chemist familiar with analysis, water purification, and chemical risk assessment as part of my job managing the Instructional Laboratory Program for the NAU Chemistry Department. The FWG's key objective was to find and encourage less expensive advanced water treatment methods for purification of treated wastewater including reclaimed water (RW) used in the purple pipe system that supplies water for irrigation, making snow, and other uses.

Flagstaff's Water Department is responsible for providing potable water (from wells, Upper Lake Mary, and the Inner Basin), treating WW, and distributing RW and planning for future needs. With the fire/flood cycles of recent years, stormwater is now a key division also. You have seen their work creating retention basins and channels to deal with flooding.

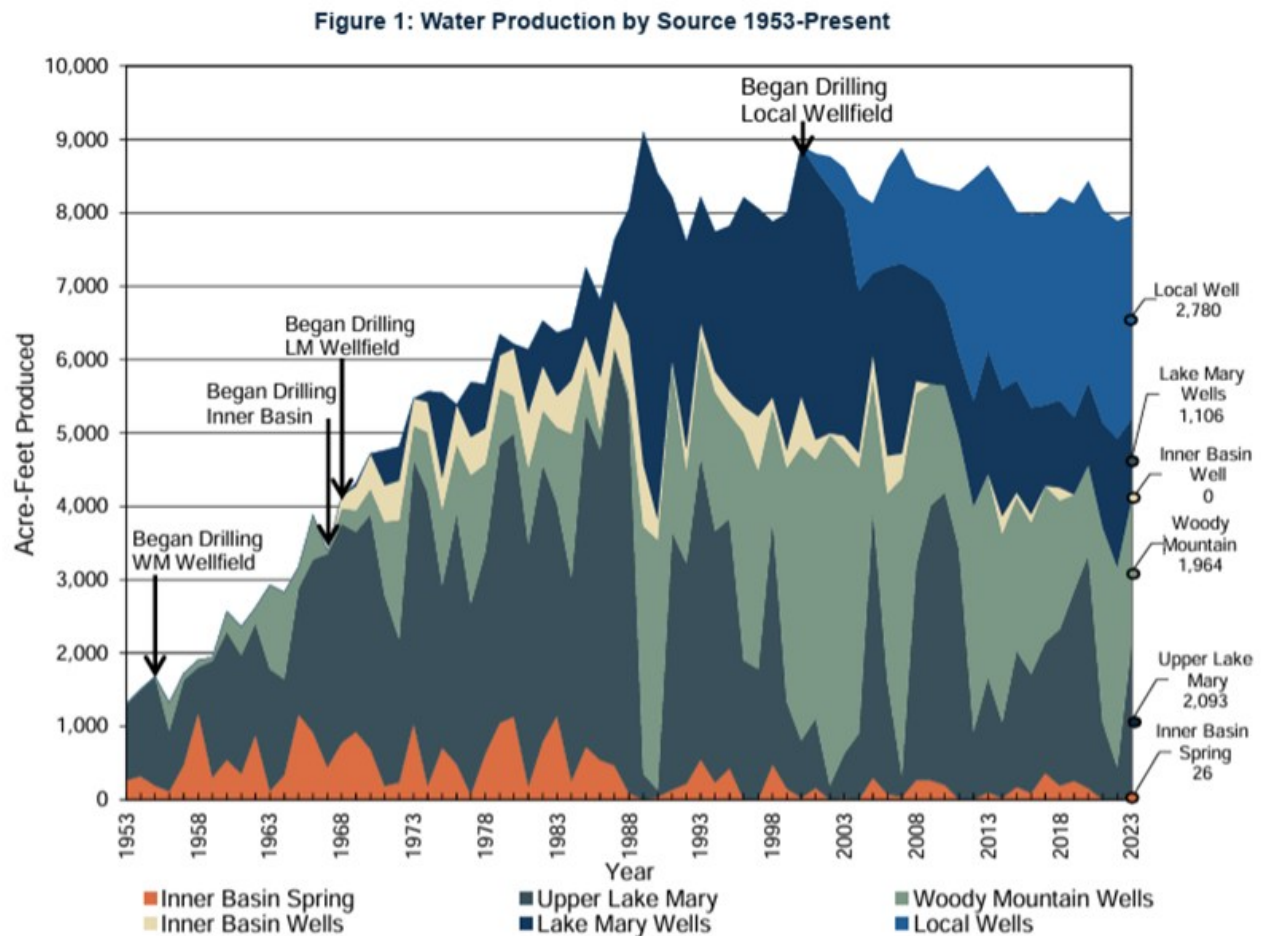
Flagstaff's water conservation programs are exceptional and have put off the need for more potable water production and WW treatment capacity for years. Flagstaff is challenged by aging infrastructure for WW treatment and the increasing concentration of solids in WW resulting from water conservation. The city is now at a key juncture in WW treatment, updating old infrastructure to higher capacity costing \$100M+, taking years to build, or shifting to modular systems phased in at much lower cost.

Recently the FWG has been advocating rotating microscreens to remove cellulose (toilet paper) early in the treatment process, reducing the solids load by over 30% providing the city time for long term decisions. The FWG is investigating biochar for final treatment of WW to remove SOC's using PFAS ("forever chemicals") testing to monitor removal effectiveness.

(continued on following page)

## Community Engagement—continued

Used biochar can be regenerated in a biochar plant with the removed cellulose at high temperature to destroy SOC's and provide more biochar in a cyclic process. Treated WW with additional advanced purification could lead to direct potable reuse to delay the need for Red Gap Ranch but both are future sources of Flagstaff's water.



Quiz based on the graph above from 2024 Report to the Water Commission p.10.

What year did city water conservation program start?

In what years were major droughts?

What water source type are we becoming more dependent on? Is this a problem?

What is causing the shift in water sources used?

## In Memory of our Beloved Members

**Our condolences to the families of these NAU retirees who have recently passed away.** If you know of a retiree or spouse who has died, please contact Nydia Nittmann at [nydia.nittmann@nau.edu](mailto:nydia.nittmann@nau.edu).

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Wayne Hildebrandt (1947—2025) - Wayne A. Hildebrandt passed away from cancer on June 3, 2025 at the age of 78. He is survived by his long-time partner Michele Allen, his brother, Ronald Hildebrandt, sister, Lori Jones and many beloved relatives. Wayne was born in Tacoma, WA, to Dean and Louise Hildebrandt. After high school, he obtained his Bachelor of Science from the University of Washington in 1969, followed by a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from Washington State University in 1974. Wayne completed post-doctoral teaching at the University of Michigan-Flint before being hired at Northern Arizona University in 1975 to begin his 35-year teaching career in Analytical Chemistry. He was a lifelong member of the prestigious American Chemical Society. Wayne served in many roles at NAU including Interim Department Chair twice, Coordinator of the General Studies Degree program, and statewide chair of the Chemistry Articulation Task force. He mentored dozens of students and colleagues. Students repeatedly ranked Dr. Hildebrandt with high regard for his teaching and nominated him for 2005 Homecoming Dedicatee and Teacher of the Year 2004 and 2005. He retired from NAU with Emeritus status in 2010.

Wayne was a skilled amateur photographer beginning his work as a television cameraman in KTVW Seattle. Later one of his photos was selected as the cover print in Weatherwise Magazine. He spent many years on his motorcycle and later enjoyed exploring the Northwest coast with Michele in their RV.

Wayne will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by friends and family. Donations in his name to the NAU General Chemistry Fund would honor him.

Reed Douglas Riner (1941—2025) - Dr. Reed Douglas Riner passed away peacefully on March 19, 2025 at the age of 83, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Born in Warsaw, Indiana, to Kenneth and Yolanda Riner, he grew up in Mentone, Indiana, and attended Culver Military Academy during the summers. Reed earned a bachelor's degree in art history and contemporary literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder. From 1963 to 1967, Reed served in the U.S. Navy, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. During this time, he met Beatrice vonRotz.

Reed pursued graduate studies in ethnographic and socio-cultural anthropology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 1975, he joined the faculty of Northern Arizona University's Anthropology Department, where he taught for 35 years. A leader in applied socio-cultural anthropology and cultural futures research, Reed collaborated with NASA on the Contact initiative and was instrumental in pioneering simulations of future societies and space travel.

After retiring in 2011, Reed spent time gardening and traveling with Beatrice. He is survived by his spouse, Beatrice vonRotz Riner; children Andrea Pelous (Riner), Nicole Harris (Riner), and Urs Riner; and six grandchildren.

Welcome New Retirees - 6/25/2025—10/13/2025

Michael E Ahkeah

Gerard Joseph Allan

Craig Edgar Bain

Brian P Beaudrie

James E Biddle

Bertrand Francis Cambou

Carol L Chambers

Robert Bruce Church

Galen Robert Collins

Adria Curtin

Harold L Dowd

Guy John Giglio

Peter Lindsay Gomersall

Tracey G Hall

John Brett Hammond

Mary Ellen Hansen

Mark T Hemsath

Erika E Hess

Valerie McElroy Lombardi

Margaret May Moore

Judi Paxton

Marcela Perez De Olvera

Lea Elizabeth Pochyla

James Clifford Sample

Julie A Schutten

Singne LouAnn Slayton

Sandra Lynn Smith

Todd J Steen

Heather Ann Stehl-Tate

Gina Linette Stephens

Larry Charles Stevens

Sandra Lee Stewart

Denise Marie Stippick

Kathleen Evelyn Tanner

Laura Rose Taylor

Bruce Steven Urdang

Amy Elizabeth Martin Walz

David R Williams

Kathrine H Yeager



Executive Committee Directory—2025-2026

ELECTED:

President	Claire Schonaerts	claireschonaerts@gmail.com
President-Elect	VACANT	
Past President	Carole Mandino	carolem.naura@gmail.com
Secretary	VACANT	
Treasurer	Greg Larkin	greg.larkin@nau.edu

APPOINTED:

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Activities Chair	VACANT	
Athletics Dept. Liaison	VACANT	
Health Benefits Cmte Liaison	VACANT	
Highway Cleanup	Richard Coast	richard.coast@nau.edu
ASRS/ADOA Liaison	VACANT	
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

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
2014-2015	David McKell	2024-2025	Carole Mandino
2015-2016	Warren Johnson	2025-2026	Claire E Schonaerts

NAU Retirees FLASH Newsletter

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