

Association of Retired Phoenix Officers
October 22, 2009 Meeting
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Association of Retired Phoenix Officers (ARPO) President G. Marcus Aurelius at 7:01PM.

ARPO members introduced themselves.

The President's Report was delivered by G. Marcus Aurelius. He reported:

The previous ARPO meeting was conducted on April 1, 2009.

ARPO had written letters to discuss the current rate of return provided to Deferred Retirement Option Program participants. This rate appeared to be excessive when compared to the pension fund performance.

ARPO representatives attended the meeting of the Police and Public Safety Retirement System Fund Manager on May 27 and September 23, 2009.

ARPO President Aurelius then addressed the concerns of the FOP, PLEA, PPSLA and Police Commanders regarding the position on DROP returns.

At the August FOP #2 meeting, President Aurelius explained that ARPO has been acting independently from other organizations in its position on DROP return.

ARPO representatives have been attending site dedications to honor the memories of Phoenix Officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

ARPO President Aurelius met with Public Safety Manager Jack Harris, Executive Assistant Chief Tom Lannon (now retired) and Executive Assistant Chief Joe Yahner (Lannon's replacement) to discuss the organization.

ARPO President Aurelius has coordinated with the Police Employment Services Bureau on articles in the *10-7* newsletter regarding ARPO.

In response to a member question, ARPO Treasurer Dick Bequette explained that including names and addresses of retirees in the *10-7* newsletter involved privacy issues and had been discontinued.

ARPO Treasurer Dick Bequette also asked that ARPO members update their email addresses to facilitate communications.

ARPO President Aurelius described TV and movie solicitations of Officers' experiences. The legitimacy and the integrity of these solicitations was not easily determined and, therefore, ARPO was not going to provide referrals.

An article regarding ARPO and a membership application was included in an issue of the *Phoenix Police Department Operations Digest* and distributed to active Officers.

Julie Erfle (widow of Nick Erfle) contacted ARPO regarding a grief counseling and support network that she is considering. Ms. Erfle is also evaluating a book that she would author discussing the situations that she encountered when her husband was afflicted by cancer and then his subsequent line of duty death. Ms. Erfle was referred to Tom Sherry.

Leonard Zingg inquired if the use of names of persons involved in discussing historic incidents on ARPO group emails could be a problem. ARPO Treasurer Bequette recommended discretion.

ARPO Treasurer Bequette further explained that he is responsible for monitoring the ARPO group emails. He suggested that the elimination of military specific emails be considered. A voice vote was conducted and the result was that military-oriented emails not be eliminated.

Tom Bradley reminded members that the site dedication at 19th Avenue and Roeser Road would be conducted on Friday, April 23, 2009 to commemorate the death of Phoenix Police Officer Figueroa.

ARPO Treasurer Dick Bequette delivered the Treasurer's Report. He reported:

The ARPO treasury included funds of more than \$5300.

Expenditures were \$260 and income was \$80. ARPO continues to operate without dues and charges only a nominal \$10 initiation fee to new members.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was advanced by Jim Humphrey and seconded by Tom Bradley. The motion passed.

ARPO Treasurer reported that the organization was in good standing with the Arizona Corporation Commission. All necessary corporate reports had been presented and accepted.

ARPO Treasurer Bequette reported that a reunion dinner would be held at 6PM on March 10, 2009 at Westbrook Village Lake's Recreation Center. The cost is anticipated to be \$22 per person. ARPO will not seek a liquor license. Persons wishing to enjoy an alcoholic beverage will need to bring their own -- BYOB. Catering will be provided by Dillon's.

The Secretary's Report was presented by ARPO VP John Augustyn in the absence of ARPO Secretary Larry Gray who was unable to attend and excused.

The minutes of the meeting, as posted on the ARPO website and available for further review, were presented.

Leonard Zingg advanced a motion to accept the minutes and Paul Heinsen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mike Nikolin and Ed Reynolds discussed the Retiree Interview Project that is being conducted in conjunction with the Phoenix Police Museum.

Mike Nikolin explained that the PPD Museum currently contains artifacts and documentation regarding the Department. A project to collect oral histories of the Phoenix Police Department was underway. Mike Nikolin introduced Ed Reynolds who was a skilled interviewer during his tenure with PPD and was conducting the Retiree Interview Project.

Ed Reynolds explained that he has been interviewing PPD retirees to obtain their recollections of the history and development of the Department. This will allow glimpses into several decades of the PPD. Ed Reynolds has interviewed Seth Allen, Glenn Martin and Andy Ohms. He is scheduled to interview the oldest living PPD retiree in San Diego soon.

PSPRS Administrator Jim Hacking presented a report of the 2008-2009 results of our pension system. He distributed a multi-page report containing data and statistics regarding PSPRS.

Jim Hacking described the PSPRS actuarial method as a 7 year smoothing cycle. Therefore, 1/7 of the results are for one year and the remainder is spread over the next 6 years.

He reported on the status of the PSPRS Reserve Fund that provides increases in the pension amount. Currently, the fund has a balance of \$285+million which **will fund a July 2010 pension increase of \$141.68**. Without further additions, the fund will be virtually depleted in 2011. The Reserve Fund receives one-half of the earnings of PSPRS that exceed 9%. Therefore, the potential for additional Reserve funds is dependent upon earnings.

Jim Hacking explained that the State of Arizona offers a guarantee of pension benefits, per the Arizona Constitution. All employers of Police and Public Safety personnel must contribute to PSPRS.

Jim Hacking reported that the retirement rate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) has tapered down.

ARPO President Aurelius told that membership that Tom Jonovich solicited and received a recommendation to serve on the PSPRS Fund Manager if/when a vacancy should arise.

A discussion of 2010 officers of ARPO was presented by G. Marcus Aurelius.

He told the membership that all of the 2009 ARPO officers had agreed to serve in 2010. However, he welcomed nominations from the floor.

Jim Humphrey advanced a motion to elect the 2009 officers to serve in 2010. Leonard Zingg seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with no dissenters.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.