

ARSA REPORTS

Summer 2018 Vol. 2

Official Publication of the **Arizona Rural Schools Association**

Message From The Director

By **Wes Brownfield, Executive Director**

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Greetings to everyone, and I hope you all had a relaxing and productive summer. We will convene the 24th annual Arizona Rural Schools Association's Conference this September 13, 14, and 15 again at the Flagstaff Little America.

The Arizona Schools Impact Aid Association (ASIAA), and the Arizona Association of County School Superintendents (AACSS) will join us this year. These two fine associations do a great deal to support rural educators and give voice to your needs and concerns. Thanks to Larry Wallen, ASIAA, and Jill Broussard, AACSS.

Our conference theme this year is: "Rural Schools: Strong Schools=Strong Communities". Our keynote speakers, Mr. Brian Stroman, Texas Rural Education Association and Mr. Allen Pratt, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association, will discuss the importance of rural schools to their communities. One of our special guests will be Mr. Don Rogers, Executive Director of the Texas Rural Education Association.

The notion that strong rural schools are key to strong rural communities is nothing new to our members and ARSA is fully committed, as are our business partners, to supporting you all in building and maintaining strong rural Arizona Schools.

We have a outstanding group of county nominees again this year for the ARSA state teacher of the year. I am always astounded at the quality of our nominees. The state winner will be announced at the conference on Friday evening.

I want to thank the ARSA Executive Board for their hard work on behalf of rural schools. These professionals somehow find the time to work with ARSA, while working as superintendents, professors, and district level leaders. I have never worked with a brighter, more committed, nor selfless group. We are indeed fortunate to have them.

Thank you to our former executive directors, Don German and Bill Blong. They have helped this association in ways too numerous to measure.

I also want to thank our exhibitors and sponsors; it is these fine people who make this conference possible, and who offer so much support in the way of goods and services to our rural members. We are also inaugurating a scholarship imitative this year which you will hear more about Friday evening at the conference. The ARSA Executive Board and I agree this could be one of the most important and long-lasting things we will ever do as an association.

So enjoy this issue of the ARSA newsletter and please join us at the conference and take advantage of a great opportunity to network with peers, visit with our exhibitors, and celebrate the 24 years of our conference.

Wes

ARSA Annual Membership Meeting
8:30 AM • Flagstaff Room
Saturday, September 15th
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Featured Member County



Our Mission

The Pima County School Superintendent's Office promotes educational excellence through leadership, service, and collaboration.

Our Office

Originally, the role of the County School Superintendent was to serve as a caretaker in each county. Today, we have grown to provide service programs, support and assistance to educators, parents, other agencies and the community at-large.

Our Superintendent

Dustin Williams is a native Tucsonan, graduating from Amphitheater High School in 1992. He earned a degree in education from the University of Arizona and a Master's Degree in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University. Williams started his career as an elementary teacher. He also served as Assistant Director at Ha:san Preparatory & Leadership School and most recently taught 6th grade math.



His passion for education has energized him to take the next step in his life. Williams was elected the Pima County Superintendent of Schools in November 2016.

"I am committed to improving education throughout Pima County!"
- Dustin J. Williams

Our Students

17 Districts

223 District Schools

128,837 District Students

93 Charter Schools

27,063 Charter Students

61 Private Schools

3,701 Private Students

3,144 Homeschool Students

Our Services

- Constituent Services
- Community Partnerships
- Fiscal Support
- Leadership Development
- Pima Accommodation School District
- Professional Development
- School Elections
- Summer Institutes

Our Programs

- Business & Education Partnership
- Frameworks & Foundations
- Healthy & Safe Schools
- LEADNow!
- Southern Arizona Regional Education Center
- Special Education
- The STEMAZing Project
- Waters Foundation



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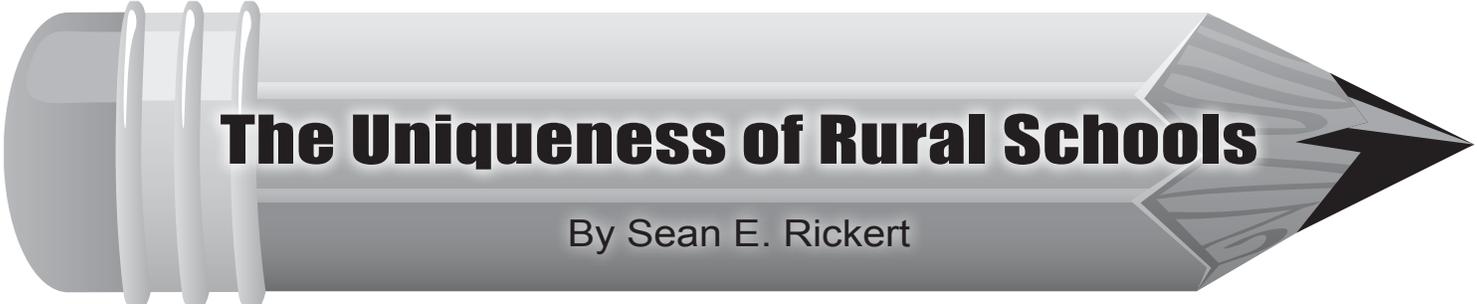
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The Uniqueness of Rural Schools

By Sean E. Rickert

“Are you ready for school to start?” Dr. Lewis asked his middle school principal. “Two weeks from now we’ll have students in classrooms.”

“Almost,” was the response from Lisa Johnson. Starting her sixth year as a principal with the district and her third at the middle school; she knew what was needed. “We’ve got a problem”. She explained that the seventh grade social studies teacher they hired was not sure he would accept the position. There weren’t any other applicants, and with the first day of school around the corner, options looked pretty bleak.

“Your enrollment is still down isn’t it?” asked the superintendent.

“We seem to be holding steady, but we’ll see.”

“If your enrollment drops any further we’ll probably have to cut the seventh grade social studies position next year. Just like we cut the sixth grade position a few years back. Having the other teachers cover the standards in a ‘home room’ period isn’t ideal, but it’s the best we can do.” They faced the challenge created by strong growth of two decades earlier. It had brought families with children to communities. The schools grew, but the employees stayed in their positions long after their kids graduated. Without continued economic growth they lack new families and student populations are dwindling.

“The problem,” the superintendent continued, “is that we need a seventh grade social studies teacher this year, but not next year.”

“Where are we going to find somebody to take this on the last week before school starts?” asked the principal.

“Good question”.

As rural schools have wrestled with these questions they’ve resorted to hiring under-qualified faculty or transferring people into positions where they lack qualifications. Neither of these solutions is good for students. Add to the puzzle twenty years with reduced applicant pools and you have a unique set of challenges. Looking at the overall achievement of rural schools we find many more with C and D labels indicating pervasive challenges. These are challenges that are beyond our control and the result of earlier policy decisions.

Rural schools tend to experience the vagaries of misconceived education policies more acutely than schools in metropolitan areas. They are akin to the canary that miners would bring into the depths of the mines to detect harmful gases. The canary would stop singing and drop to the bottom of the cage before harmful gases would reach levels fatal for miners. Mining history is rife with stories of miners who ignored the demise of the harbinger to their own peril. Unfortunately it appears that the negative unintended consequences of many education policies experienced by rural districts in Arizona are not being heeded and so goes the rest of Arizona and other parts of the nation.

Such a dire prognosis demands some evidence. We know there is a teacher shortage and no other challenge faced by our schools has a greater effect on student achievement. Why is there a shortage? Many point to recent phenomena. How much of the problem can be attributed to recent cuts to education spending? Or, should more attention be given to the reduced capacity to provide material, systemic and professional support to teachers? If we are looking only at the situation described in the 2015 report by the Arizona Department of Education, Educator Retention and Recruitment Task Force, those seem plausible suggestions. Looking further back, we find that schools in rural communities were having discussions like the vignette above long before the Great Recession. Are the roots to be found in the contentious debate over school choice? Or, is the larger societal diminution of the esteem in which teachers are held to blame? The point of this article is not to settle that debate. There are numerous factors at play. What is clear is that the negative effects of these factors were felt first and foremost among the rural schools, and if we only look at the experience of the larger metropolitan schools that dominate the education landscape, we can lose sight of important indicators. Rural schools need to engage with each other and with policy makers to mollify this tendency.

This is accomplished through three steps. First, we need to work together to ensure that the unique needs of rural schools are presented to policymakers. Too often the rural superintendent finds himself or herself too busy dealing with the myriad of duties heaped upon them to recognize the development of threats or to speak up. Second, we need to be constantly vigilant for the policy changes that will adversely affect rural districts. There are times when questions come up that will have minor surmountable negative consequences for larger metropolitan districts, so they don’t bother with them. Rural schools are susceptible to harm in ways they are not, and we have to point out how potential unintended consequences can devastate our ability to meet the needs of our students and our capacity to maintain our communities. Third, we need to be engaged through our association with the national discussion on education policy reform. Arizona has been in the vanguard on the educational choice front, but there are other education policy areas where we must develop a sense of the threats before they take hold. The bottom line is rural education practitioners will see the threats to our ability to meet the needs of rural public school students first, and we need to work together to ensure that those threats are understood and addressed by policy makers.



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For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at gcu.edu/disclosures. Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Grand Canyon University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission 800-621-7440; <http://hlcommission.org/>. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at <https://www.gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php>. GCU, while reserving its lawful rights in light of its Christian mission, is committed to maintaining an academic environment that is free from unlawful discrimination. Further detail on GCU's Non-Discrimination policies can be found at gcu.edu/titleIX. The information printed in this material is accurate as of NOVEMBER 2017. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit gcu.edu ©2017 Grand Canyon University 17SEA0298

Vanir Construction Management - Bringing Quality Learning Environments to Life for our Future Leaders



By Gigi Moran, Marketing and Business Development, Vanir Construction Management

As populations grow in rural districts, the need to design new facilities and expand and renovate existing spaces becomes a focus. And, while the condition of rural school facilities varies across the state, most rural school districts face similar issues as they consider new facility construction, renovations, or additions. These issues are how to gain public support for funding, how to make the best use of local resources, how to design buildings that meet a variety of community needs, and how to design facilities that optimize instruction and use of technology. This creates challenges for district administrators and that's where we come in.

Vanir Construction Management is an award-winning program, project, and construction management firm celebrating 20 years in Arizona. As a minority and woman-owned company, we pride ourselves in making sure the schools of today meet tomorrow's needs. We have been instrumental in accomplishing the goals and protecting the interests of rural districts on a wide range of construction projects – with a combined value of over \$9 billion in school programs. This experience gives us significant insight into the special requirements of K-12 students, teachers, administrators, and communities allowing us to fully recognize your need to create cost-effective facilities that are conducive to teaching, learning and community engagement.

We are committed to the understanding that rural school districts deserve the same quality of school as larger metropolitan communities. To that end, we offer local experts in program, project and construction management; architecture; engineering; safety and security; and environmental regulatory programming. In addition, our team can work with you on your plans to repair, upgrade, and modernize your facilities. These leaders will collaborate with you and your design and construction teams to create spaces that engage the students in the learning process, propelling them to become 21st century leaders.

Our team members can be available on an as-needed basis. This allows for school districts to utilize us at the appropriate time for a cost-effective, targeted purpose. You will find Vanir extremely flexible and a great value.

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2018 ARSA Conference Breakout Sessions

- 1. Timberland Consulting-Ruth Unks, Ted LeSueur “How to Mitigate Third Party Cybersecurity Threats”** An overview of the security risks of giving vendors access to district's network data.
- 2. International Center for Leadership in Education-Norma Godina-Silva “Creating Rigorous, Relevant, and Engaging Learning Environments for English Learners”** Learn activities to bring instruction to higher levels of rigor and relevance to engage EL's in their learning.
- 3. Arizona K12 Center Danielle Brown, Kathleen Eichhorst “Effective math strategies for grades K-6”** Learn instructional and engagement strategies for students kindergarten through 6th grade.
- 4. Futures Health-Lisa Holland Paul McDonald “ Designing and Delivering Co-Teaching Strategic Plans for Teachers”** This session will enable teachers to design and deliver evocative co-teaching models that include all stakeholders.
- 5. NWEA-Kelli Shipp, Andy Smith “We Got Data, Yes We Do.”** This session will investigate how using assessment results efficiently is key to a successful RTI/MTSS.
- 6. Arizona K12 Center Tania Gray, Angelia Ebner “Strategies for Parent Engagement”** This session will provide strategies for effective and sustainable parental engagement.
- 7. American Fidelity-Maggie Bolt, Jessica Frier “Compliance Challenges”** This session will address Section 125 and 403(b) compliance and ACA employer mandates.
- 8. Arizona K12 Center-Mary Field, Rae Massey “Strategies for Classroom Management”** This session will present classroom strategies for effective classroom management.
- 9. Chino Valley High School-James Isenberg “Modifying Math Assessments for Struggling Students”** This session explores the value and rationale for giving modified math assessments to students who have not yet mastered a concept.
- 10. Yavapai County Educational Technology Consortium-Frank Vander Horst “The Power of Many”** This Sessions will discuss how the YCETC can leverage the power of districts, charters, and libraries for technology related projects.
- 11. EVERFI-Nichole Holladay “Critical Skills for our Students-Supplemental Resources and Lesson Plans”** Industry experts research and create EVERFI's 17 critical skills and resources at no cost to teachers or districts.
- 12. Arizona K12 Center-Hannah Jones, Anthony Perez “Differentiation for Diverse Learners”** This session will present classroom differentiation strategies to address the needs of diverse learners.
- 13. Heinfeld-Meech-Melanie Askew, Joyce McNelly Williams USD “What Does the USFR Mean to You?”** This session will provide an overview of the USFR and how it impacts districts.
- 14. Globe USD LIFT Team-Christa Dalmolin “Increasing Teacher Retention Through Mentoring”** This session will describe how one rural district increased teacher retention by establishing a mentoring program.
- 15. ASA Decision Center for Educational Excellence-Joseph O'Reilly “How can ASU's Decision Center for Educational Excellence Be of Assistance to You?”** This session will describe how ASU's Helios powered Decision Center for Educational Excellence on Pre-k to Employment provides support for rural districts.
- 16. Northern Arizona University-Pamela Powell, Kathy Bohan, Chuck Neuzil, Ramona Mellot “Growing Your Own: The Mohave Story”** One answer to the teacher shortage is for districts to “grow your own teachers”. This presentation examines this program in Mohave County.
- 17. Arizona Rural Schools Association-Melissa Sadorf, Sean Rickert “Superintendent Round Table”** This session will inaugurate regular webinar presentations of topics of interest and importance to rural districts.
- 18. Arizona School Impact Aid Association-Larry Wallen “Impact Aid for 2018: What's going on?”** This session will focus on NAFIS, IPP's, and cooperation with ARSA.



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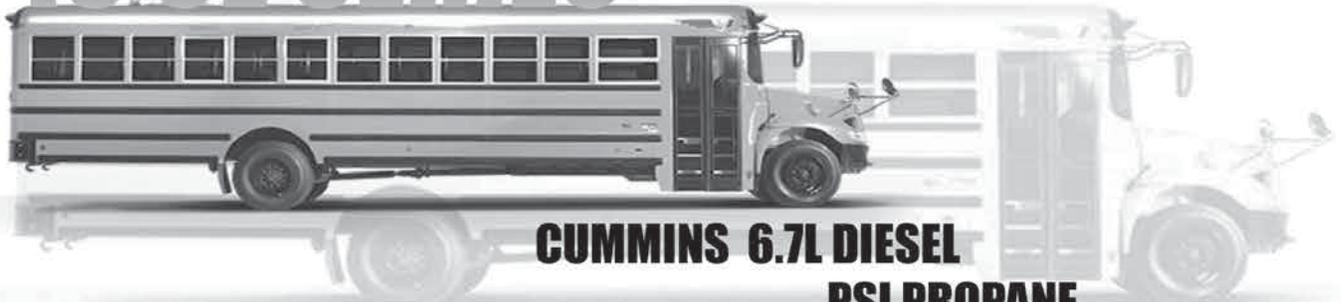
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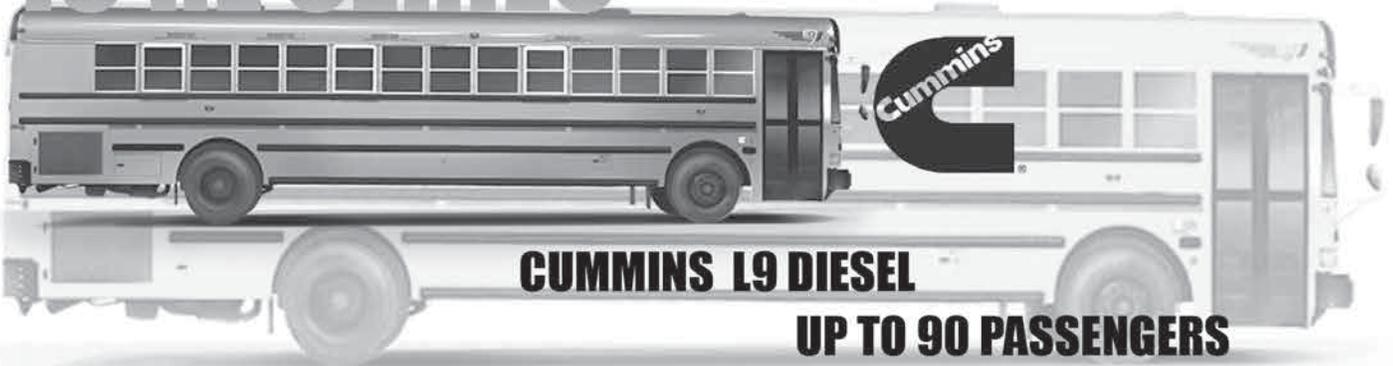
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Conference Keynote Speakers

Teacher Retention-Retain the Best, Lose the Rest

Dr. Allen Pratt



Dr. Allen Pratt currently serves as the executive director of the National Rural Education Association.

He has served as a high school science teacher and coach, a high school principal, assistant superintendent/curriculum director, executive director of the Tennessee Rural Education Association, executive director of the East Tennessee Center of Regional Excellence for the Tennessee Department of Education, and rural outreach liaison for Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. His primary interests are those issues which impact rural schools and the role of instructional leaders at the district and building levels.

He is also involved at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Education and Educational Leadership.

Brian Stroman



Brian Stroman has spent his entire 18 year career at Bloomburg ISD, a rural district in North East Texas with 280 students. He knows the the struggles facing rural schools and offers entertaining solutions to help districts attract talent and keep them in the district.

Stroman has recently been named the 2018 TREA Superintendent of the Year and serves as an officer on the board.

Stroman also works as a mentor and field service agent with TREA to help develop rural superintendents throughout the state of Texas.

Stroman has presented in all areas of the state and has been referred to by Don Rogers, Executive Director of TREA, as “the poster child for rural education”.



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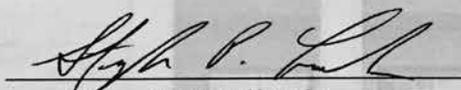
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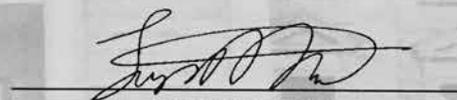
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2018 ARSA/ASIAA Conference Schedule



Thursday, September 13, 2018

- 8:00-9:15 Golf Registration & Breakfast
Sponsor: 1GPA
- 9:30 Golf at Flagstaff Ranch
Sponsors: CLIMATEC, Dave Bang and Associates
- 2:30 to 4:00 Exhibitor Setup, Conference Registration
- 5:00-7:30 Reception with Our Exhibitors
Sponsors: Am Tab Manufacturing, Concord General Contracting, Futures

Friday September 14, 2018

- 7:30-8:00 Continental Breakfast with our Exhibitors, Conference Registration
Sponsor: The Professional Group, FCI Constructors
- 8:00-9:00 First General Session John Warren Presiding
Introduction of County Teachers of the Year
Morning Keynote: Mr. Brian Stroman, Texas Rural Education Association
- 9:00-9:30 Time with our Exhibitors
- 9:30-10:30 Breakout Sessions
- 10:30-11:00 Time with our Exhibitors
- 11:00-12:00 Breakout Sessions
- 12:00-1:30 Luncheon Buffett with our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Allen Pratt, National Rural Education Association
John Warren Presiding
Sponsors: The Arizona Risk Retention Trust, 1GPA
Luncheon Keynote
Sponsors: Concord General Contracting, FCI Constructors
- 1:30-2:30 Dessert with our Exhibitors
Sponsors: NWEA, Wholesale Floors
- 2:30-3:30 Breakout Sessions
- 3:30-4:45 Break and Final Breakout Sessions, See breakout schedule
- 5:30-6:00 Social
Sponsor: Midstate Energy
- 6:00-8:00 Awards Banquet
Sponsors: Am Tab Manufacturing, KAIROS, WRECOP
- Magnolia Award Presented by Tim Carter
- Rosy Rubio Scholarship Award Presented by Robert Young
- Hall of Fame Induction Presented Sean Rickert
- Grand Canyon University Arizona County Teacher of the Year Introduction Presented by John Warren
Sponsor: Grand Canyon University
- Address by 2017 Teacher of the Year Rudy Basaldua
- Northern Arizona University Arizona Teacher of the Year Presented by Rudy Basaldua
Sponsor: Northern Arizona University
- 8:00-11:00 Karaoke/Dance
Sponsor: Concord General Contractors

Saturday September 15, 2018

- 8:30-10:00 Breakfast
Sponsor: ASIAA
- ARSA/ASIAA Membership Meeting
- Conference Adjournment

Hall Of Fame



Tim O'Malley



With God's blessings, Timothy John O'Malley is a Certified Facility Manager validated by the International Facilities Management Association lending his practical facility knowledge to rural school districts. Using his background, he helped them with everything from hiring architects, general contractors and well-drillers to consulting on bus barns, maintenance and facility assessments for the remodel and new construction of schools. He helped numerous rural schools wind their way through the requirements of the Arizona School Facilities Board to refurbish school damage or obtain a new school.

District projects were managed by him through warranty and beyond, representing them as their agent and making sure the final product would be functional. He had many favorite times over the years: opening a new school and watching the students' expression on their faces; membership on the ARSA teacher-of-the-year committee, always WOW; attending and meeting all the teachers and staff at the annual ARSA conference; and playing Santa at Christmas. Rural school board meetings were always a treat as homemade food filled the room and he deemed it a privilege to be with the staff, parents and students

He also had some interesting experiences: preventing a fight between a board president and an architect; keeping county planners from overstepping their authority; driving the state and watching the sun rise in the morning and set at night. Ask Tim where to eat and he can tell you.

Tim is a native Arizonan. He graduated from ASU with a double degree in secondary education and business and has a Masters in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. He worked for the family business for twenty-eight years, starting with cleaning latrines at age 15 to president and general manager of the O'Malley Contract and Manufacturing Division of the O'Malley Affiliated Lumber Companies. After working at Karsten Manufacturing PING as their facilities manager, he and his wife Sharon started The O'Malley Group. In addition to schools, he did project management for numerous Arizona churches, the NASA Power lab for the space station and grounding research installation at Moffat Field in California.

In retirement, Canon Tim is finally working on Harvey his 48 Chevy pickup which has sat in the garage for twenty plus years, writing a maintenance manual for churches, and maybe for schools and photographing old barns.

**Arizona Rural Schools Association
Annual Conference Registration
September 13 -15, 2018
Flagstaff, Arizona**

Name _____ Position _____

District/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Website _____

Fees/Meals included in Registration Fee

ARSA Member \$230.00 _____ Non-Member \$500.00 _____

Thursday Social (5:00 pm – 7:30 pm) Friday Buffet Breakfast

Friday Buffet Luncheon Friday Dinner Saturday Breakfast

Guest: All Meals \$100.00 Friday Dinner Only \$50.00

The Teacher of The Year Awards Ceremony and the Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held during the Friday Dinner.

Please return the registration form with your P.O. or check to: ARSA
1551 Bainbridge LN.
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Or email the registration form and P.O. to arsaschools@gmail.com

For reservations call 800-865-1401. Reservation deadline: August 14, 2018

Conference Location: Little America
2515 East Butler Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

No refunds after September 1, 2018.

ARIZONA RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

2018 - 2019

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

MEMBERSHIP: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Please Indicate Type of Membership:

Business Partner	\$350.00	
School District	\$250.00	
Ed Service Agency	\$250.00	
Retired Member	\$75.00	Total \$ _____

Organization name: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Administrator: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Contact Person: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Website: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Please Make Checks Payable To and Mail To:

Arizona Rural Schools Association
1551 Bainbridge Ln.
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Arizona Rural Schools Association
1551 Bainbridge Lane
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

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ARSA Annual Membership Meeting
8:30 AM • Flagstaff Room
Saturday, September 15th
Little America • Flagstaff, Arizona

