



New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees

NEWSLETTER

*Promoting the professional, economic, intellectual, social
and physical well-being of NMAER members*

Volume 46, Number 2

Summer 2023

!!!CELEBRATION!!!

Now... who doesn't like a good 'ole party? A party/celebration that has music, fine dining, door prizes, amazing items to 'silently' bid on, beautiful surroundings, wonderful conversations, and meeting, once again, with friends that we haven't seen in a while. Well... do we have a party for you!!! We are celebrating the eightieth... yes, the 80th anniversary of NMAER. That is a very long time!! If something this positive has been around for 80 years, you **MUST** come be a part of all of the festivities we have planned in order to recognize 80 years of service and advocacy to the many educational retirees that have been represented by NMAER!! The theme of the celebration will be "80 Years and Soaring," and the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn Uptown in Albuquerque will be where we will carry on the tradition and fun. There will be 3 days of glorious revelry - September 21-23. Who could pass up a happening like that?!

If you have never attended an NMAER Convention, you truly owe it to yourself to make this the one you attend. It just cannot be missed. Believe me, it will be the 'talk of the town' for a long time to come. Come join us... put it on your calendar now... and look forward to a convention/celebration to remember!!

SEE YOU THERE!!

Linda Carr, President

OUTSTANDING UNIT MEMBER UPDATE

The NMAER 80th State Convention in Albuquerque, NM "**80 Years and Soaring**" is just around the corner, September 21-23; and the Outstanding Unit Member book is taking shape. The response from the Units has been terrific, and I am excited to share the book with you and honor the truly outstanding members that we have in NMAER! If your Unit still needs to submit their Outstanding Member, please send me the bio and photo ASAP, as the deadline for the printer is fast approaching.

Thank you, Units and nominees, for helping make this a successful project! See you in Albuquerque!

Joelyn Pafford, Second Vice President

MEMBERSHIP NORTH

Congratulations NMAER for the great membership blitz that added 72 new members. Let's not lose the momentum! We need a strong membership to increase our voice at the NM legislature in 2024! Please help us continue the "blitz" and add more members who can enjoy the perks of membership. Reach out to the retirees you know and the ones they know. Let's show the legislature, NMERB and NMRHCA that we are strong advocates for educators now and as they retire.

Cheri Dotson, Membership North



Like us on Facebook!

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2024

Pauline Rindone, President
 Joelyn Pafford, First Vice-President
 Ray Vincent, Second Vice-President
 Cheri Dotson, Third Vice-President
 Jim Conyers, At Large Amendments
 Allen Templeton, At Large Membership North
 Open, At Large Membership South
 Russell Goff, NMERB Representative

OTHERS-NOT UP FOR ELECTION IN 2023

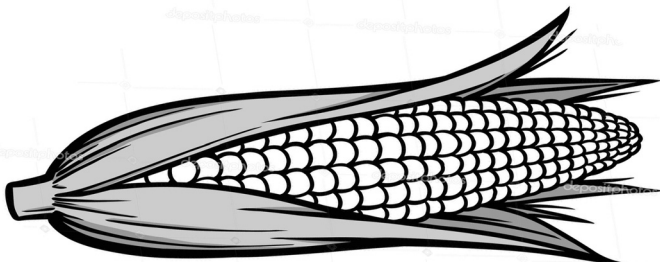
Linda Carr, Past President
 Dr. Tomas Salazar, NMRHCA Representative

With the exception of the NMERB and NMRCHA Representatives, all positions starting in 2024 will be two years. The NMERB and NMRHCA Representative positions are four years.

AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

The Amendment Committee has not received any suggestions or requests for changes to the Constitution or By-laws. That means there will not be any changes to vote on during our 2023 State Convention. Please remember the Constitution and By-Laws were changed at the last State Convention and those that will be elected this year will be elected for a two year term. It also means they are eligible to serve at the position again after they are out of office for two years. It is our hope to have the Constitution and By-Laws posted on our website in the near future.

Raymond Vincent, Amendment Chair



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS FOR 2023

We are at the end of another year, and we need the number of volunteer service hours your Unit has contributed for 2023 for recognition purposes at the NMAER convention.

We will recognize the Unit with the Highest Number of Service Hours and the Top five Members of that unit, as well as the Top Five Individual Members in each unit who earned the most volunteer hours. We are asking you to collect the volunteer hours or community service hours from all the members in your Unit. For this year, the category will be "Care Giving."

In order to have this information calculated, I will need the total number of volunteer service hours contributed by your Unit and individual member(s) for the period of September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. The due date for turning in this information is September 1st. It will be necessary for you to estimate the service hours remaining through August 31 so that your Unit's president will have enough time to get her/his report to me at:

Pauline Rindone
 3232 El Trebol Ct.
 Santa Fe, NM 87507

We appreciate your timely attention and response to this issue. **REMEMBER — THE DUE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 1st.**

Please feel free to contact me anytime by phone (505-603-2256) or email at polarr1964@hotmail.com if you have any questions or comments.

We appreciate all that you do to keep NMAER and our Units alive and working toward a better community. Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of our organization and do stay well and HAPPY.

Pauline Rindone, First Vice President

LATEST HAPPENINGS WITH THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT BOARD

The ERB Investment Report for the First Quarter, and ending on March 31, 2023, showed the following:

- A one-year return of -1.97%, a three-year return of 11.52%, a five-year return of 7.57%, a ten-year return of 7.68%, a twenty-year return of 7.82%, a thirty-year return of 7.93% and an 8.92% since inception.
- The total assets were reported as \$15,657,650,798 billion on March 31, 2023.

The ERB Investment Report ending on May 31, 2023 showed the following:

- A one-year return of 0.0%, a three-year return of 10.9%, a five-year return of 7.4%, a ten-year return of 7.6% and an 8.9% since inception.
- The total assets were reported as \$15,691,196,682 billion on May 31, 2023.

At the April 21, 2023 ERB Board of Trustees meeting, Board Members heard the following agenda items:

- Board of Trustees were introduced to new staff persons including the Chief Financial Officer, Deputy General Counsel, Communications Director, and Portfolio Managers.
- Board of Trustees heard a presentation on the Board Member Travel Process.
- Board of Trustees heard a report on the July 1, 2023 COLA adjustment.
- Board of Trustees heard a report on ERB Investments.
- Board of Trustees heard and approved the June 30, 2022 Audit Report from Moss Adams LLP.
- Board of Trustees heard Retirement Reports.

At the June 21, 2023 ERB Board of Trustees meeting, Board Members heard the following agenda items:

- Board of Trustees heard and approved the FY24 Budget.

- Board of Trustees heard an update on the New Building, a report from the Alternative Retirement Plan, and a report on the Disability and Regular Retirements.
- Board of Trustees heard a report on ERB Investments.
- Board of Trustees heard an update from the Executive Director, including a review of the Return-to-Work Program.

In closing, thank you for continuing to monitor your retirement benefits.

Russell Goff, ERB Representative



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In October 1942, 20 members paying dues of \$1.00 began to promote legislation that enhanced the quality of life of retired educators in New Mexico. The purpose of the organization was "1) to promote and/or defeat legislation which would affect former educators; and 2) to serve as a communication link between retired educators in a sparsely populated state with few good roads."

In 1947, the National Retired Teachers Association (NMREA) and President Ethyl Percy Andrus invited NMREA to send a representative to help form the National Retired Teachers Association. Dr. JR McCollum thus became the first New Mexico State Director and President of NMREA. Today, the association is known as the New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER).

For 80 years NMAER has served to represent Retired Educators in NM. During those years, many educational leaders have served to promote the Association and enhance our Retirement Benefits. Over the last few years, NMAER has stepped up its efforts to advocate for our "retirement benefits." The last three years especially have been very fruitful as we have sought to advocate for increased funding to improve the solvency of our pension system. Unfortunately, our health care has not been as fruitful. It has been twelve years since Retiree Health Care Authority has received an increase in employee and employer contributions. Once again, our focus this year will be to advocate for an increase in funding for our healthcare system. Meetings will begin shortly to see how NMAER can play a role in these efforts. We urge you to join us. We know that there is strength in numbers and unity. We encourage each of you to reach out, recruit a new retiree or current educator and join our efforts in 2024 to advocate for our Retiree Health Care Authority.

We are excited about our upcoming in-person State Convention in Albuquerque. (See enclosed registration form). This year's theme for the 80th State

Convention is "80 Years and Soaring." Many excellent plans are being prepared for this year's Celebration, including our Keynote Speaker, Stan Rounds, Executive Director, New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders. We remind you that every person who registers for the Convention will be eligible for a "weekend for two." We hope you will join us as we celebrate our 80th Anniversary.

Lastly, we mentioned in our spring newsletter that we are considering a hybrid newsletter. Due to the celebration of our 80th State Convention we will move those discussions to our fall newsletter.

Remember, "Don't take your benefits for granted."

Russell Goff, Executive Director

AARP SUMMER UPDATE

The NM AARP Executive Council and volunteers in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Carlsbad, and Las Cruces have been busy this Spring. We closed Spring activities over the Memorial Weekend with a tabling event at the Silver City Blues Festival, helping our new four-member Community Team working the table and answering questions from visitors on several topics. We provided a link for visitors to win a \$100 gift card during the Festival. The team signed up 5 new members interested in finding out more about the team. New Community Teams is one of the three projects the EC is working on. The Las Cruces Chapter helped train the Silver City team on tabling techniques.

The second item is Native American help. Valerie Tsosie of the Navajo Nation in the Four Corners area is planning several health fairs throughout the summer. AARP is providing Caregiving and other

AARP Report *continued on page 5*

NMRHCA UPDATE

On July 20th and 21st, the NMRHCA Board of Directors will hold its 2023 Annual Meeting at the Angel Fire Resort. The Meeting will include presentations on investments, agency solvency, health care trends, relevant 2023 Legislative outcomes, the annual evaluation of the Executive Director and a summary of recent agency operations. The Board will conduct its annual election of officers (President, Vice President and Secretary). There will also be an initial discussion of committee assignments.

Potential NMRHCA medical plan rate changes will be examined. Using a traditional approach, the Board will adopt plans by establishing alignment between incoming revenue and program expenditures.

During the Annual Meeting, our inability to make relevant legislative gains in previous Legislative Sessions, together with recent legislative conversations that will modify how health care is administered in New Mexico, serve as crucial impetus for discussion of future goals and plans for NMRHCA.

The upcoming NMRHCA Newsletter will include detail of actions taken by the Board during the Annual Meeting. Among information, the Newsletter will include: dates and locations of the upcoming switch enrollment period, detail on NMRHCA Wellness Programs and relevant contact information.

A future NMAER Newsletter will include specifics on the items listed above.

*Tomas E. Salazar,
NMAER: NMRHCA Representative*

HAVE YOU MOVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

Please call or email NMAER when you move, so we can ensure that you continue to receive your NMAER Newsletter and other important information. You can call **505 275-6427** or send an email to **nmaer@cybermesa.com** to provide us with your updated address. It will help us keep our database up to date, while keeping you informed.

Thanks for your assistance!

AARP Report *continued from page 4*

brochures, as well as giveaways, for these events.

The third project is Disaster Preparedness. AARP NM staff is laying out a state-wide invite to community first responders for an August 27 conference in Las Vegas to inform first responders on programs offered by FEMA and Red Cross. The plan will be to train local volunteers in how to provide effective programs to enhance Disaster Preparedness in their communities.

The West Region (NM, CO, ID, OR, NV, HI, AK, MT, WY, UT) met in Albuquerque for our Spring conference. This includes all State Directors and Presidents. Events included a live presentation of calling AARP members via a "Hubdialer" and, using a script, suggesting to call recipients how to avoid scams. We had presentations on Fraud, Digital Equity, Volunteer engagement, and state activities.

Texas and New Mexico are working together on AARP nights at four Chihuahuas' Baseball Games at the El Paso ballfield. Discounted tickets can be purchased by phone or online for the games. This project was started in 2019, and was cancelled due to COVID. We hope to get a great turnout for the games this year. Volunteers from Las Cruces and El Paso will be hosting the games.

David Lynch, AARP State President



Like us on Facebook!



AN AMBULANCE COULD TAKE YOUR SAVINGS FOR A WILD RIDE, TOO.

PROTECT YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS WITH A MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION MEMBERSHIP.

Medicare may not cover all of your medical transportation costs. Because a ground ambulance could cost thousands of dollars, and air transport can be \$50,000 or more, it's important to cover the gaps. With a membership from Medical Air Services Association (MASA), emergency transportation from home or anywhere in the world is covered, plus transportation of vehicles, children, grandchildren, and even pets are at no additional cost.

DISCOUNT PRICING FOR MEMBERS OF



Learn More: **1-877-556-4582**

ambamedtransport.com/nmaer

New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees



HOW'S YOUR SUMMER GOING?

If you're in most places in New Mexico you're hot and dry! It's hard to be thinking about fall activities when all you really want to do at the moment is stay under the air conditioner and read a book, watch TV, and cook outside so you don't have to turn the stove or oven on. Better yet, go out to eat or get take-out! We went up to Angel Fire/Eagles Nest over the 4th, and it was wonderful to cool down for a few days.

I'm going to intrude on your peace and quiet for just a minute. Please do think about coming up to Albuquerque for the NMAER State Conference. If you are already one of our Adopt A Legislator, (AAL), members, we will want to visit with you and let you know what the upcoming issues will be this year at the Legislature. If you're not, please think about joining us this year. It's an easy thing to do, not too time consuming, and it is really an important part of what NMAER has been formed to do for the educational retirees in our State.

I hope all of you are doing well and hope to see you at the State Conference in September.

Evalynne Hunemuller, AAL Coordinator

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



RAER Members Jan Schumpert, Secretary, and Brenda Smith, Treasurer.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12, 2023, the Raton AER members created and delivered "Thank You" baskets to the four schools in Raton. Each basket held packets of candy and Thank You cards for every employee in Raton Public Schools. This small acknowledgement of a job well done, was well received by all.

**Remember,
“there is strength in numbers.”**

**We encourage you to reach out to
all educational employees and
current retirees and URGE them
to join NMAER as we focus on
ADVOCATING for our retirement benefits.**

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL RETIREES 80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

HILTON GARDEN INN UPTOWN, ALBUQUERQUE

SEPTEMBER 21-13, 2023

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

“80 YEARS AND SOARING”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

TIME:	ACTIVITY
Uptown 1	
1:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting Hotel Uptown Ballroom
4:00 p.m.	Early Registration Hotel Lobby
5:30 p.m.	CONVENTION WELCOME <i>DINNER (On your own)</i>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Uptown Ballroom	
7:00 a.m.	<i>Breakfast (On your own)</i>
8:00 a.m.	Registration and Exhibits
10:00 a.m.	Delegate Assembly
10:30 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
10:40 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies
11:15 a.m.	Keynote Address Stan Rounds, Executive Director NMCEL
12:00 p.m.	<i>LUNCH (Pre-Paid)</i>
1:00 p.m.	General Session I Retirement Benefit Presentations David Archuleta, NMERB Neil Kueffer, NMRHCA
2:00 p.m.	Presentation
2:30 p.m.	<i>Break</i>



2:40 p.m.	Presentation
3:25 p.m.	TIME OF REMEMBRANCE
5:00 p.m.	Visit to Albuquerque area
6:00 p.m.	<i>Banquet, Awards and Entertainment (Pre-Paid) Celebration of 80 years.</i>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Uptown Ballroom	
7:30 a.m.	<i>Breakfast (Pre-Paid)</i>
8:15 a.m.	General Session II Opening Ceremonies
8:30 a.m.	Presentation
9:15 a.m.	Presentation of Awards
10:15 a.m.	Farewell and Goodbye

NMAER 80TH STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

"80 Years and SOARING"

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2023

Hosted by NMAER & Albuquerque Association of Educational Retirees

Hilton Garden Inn Albuquerque Uptown • 505-944-0300

6510 Americas Parkway NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Room rates for the Hilton Garden Inn Uptown are \$129+tax for single or double occupancy. Call the number above to make reservations and be sure to request the Group rate for New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER). You can also register on-line at www.albuquerqueuptown.hgi.com and enter the Group Code GRPAER in "Special Rates." Cut-off date is **September 1, 2023**.

Completed forms and check must be received NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

Grand Prize Drawing! All registrants will be eligible for a weekend getaway for 2!
(Must be present on Saturday morning to win!)

- CONVENTION REGISTRATION: \$35.00 \$_____

Registration begins **Thursday, September 21**, at Hilton Garden Inn from 4-6 pm.
- Complimentary Welcome Reception on Hilton Garden Inn Patio from 5:30-7:30 pm on **Thursday**. If you plan to attend, please circle **YES** or **NO**. Thank you!
Dinner will be on your own.

(NOTE: all meal prices include tax and gratuity)

- BREAKFAST:
 - **Friday:** Breakfast will be on your own.
 - **Saturday:** Full breakfast buffet \$20.00 \$_____
- LUNCH per person: **Friday** \$30.00 \$_____

Italian Deli Buffet (assorted salads, deli meats, cheeses, condiments)
- BANQUET per person: **Friday** \$37.00 \$_____

New Mexican Buffet (Salad, taquitos, carne adobada, Enchilada casserole, calabacitas, frijoles, churros)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Please print: EACH person attending must submit his/her own registration form.

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Are you a Voting Delegate? Please check: Yes _____ No _____

Please check your status: Member _____ Guest _____

Please make checks payable to NMAER and mail with your completed form to NMAER, 3900 Juan Tabo Blvd NE, Suite 7, Albuquerque, NM 87111. For questions, please contact us at 505-275-6427.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This covers the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023:

Regular Checking Account	\$ 207,962.01
Investments	\$ 100,336.61
Total Assets	\$ 308,298.62
Income to Date	94,466.58
Expenses to Date	74,827.90
Net Income to Date	\$ 19,638.68
Political Development	\$ 5,793.47

Janice Sells, NMAER Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please find below a current count of your membership.

Associate 2022	32
Associate 2023	161
Associate 2024	3
Auto	4,145
Life	170
Paid 2022	267
Paid 2023	1,321
Paid 2024	4
RAMP	45
Total Membership	6,148
Additional Mailings	253
Total Database Entries	6,401
Deceased since 1/1/23	55
Deleted since 1/1/23	2

Debbie Garrison, Database Manager

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Virtual Meeting of the NMAER Executive Board June 19, 2023

The Executive Board met virtually on June 19, 2023, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Nine voting members and five non-voting members were present.

After opening ceremonies, the following actions were taken by the Executive Board: Approved the Agenda; Approved the Minutes from the April 13, 2023, Executive Board Meeting; Approved establishing a new CD; and Approved the Financial Report as of May 31, 2023. The Profit and Loss report for the period of January 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023, showed Total Income of \$86,119.91 and Total Expenses of \$65,059.79 for a Net Income of \$21,060.12.

Also Approved Actions: Approved Budget Committee for 2024; Approved recipients of the Distinguished Service Award and President's Award; Approved State Convention Mileage Plan; and Approved Lobbyist Contracts. Additionally, the Board received reports from officers and committees.

Cynthia Fusco, Secretary

Secretary's Note: Copies of the approved minutes are available upon written request to the NMAER Office at 3900 Juan Tabo Blvd., NE, Suite 7, Albuquerque, NM 87111.



Like us on Facebook!



IN MEMORIAM

The following New Mexico educational employees have passed away and their names have not been previously provided in the Newsletter. Henceforth, if you know of any deceased educational retirees in your area and would like to have their name included in this Memoriam, please send that information to Glenda Dickey, 2327 Camino Pintores, Santa Fe, NM 87505, or email them to dickeyglenda@gmail.com

Albuquerque

Ronald Phillip Archibeck
Kenneth Anthony Betzen
William (Willie) A. Chavez
Melissa Cole
Jerald Cross
Brenda Dabney
Laura Adele Delambre-Melloy
Glen Theodore Effertz
Donna Eldredge
Virginia L. Feather
Marilyn Irene Fifield
Lucille Marie Gonzales
Linda Kay Greene
Chilton Gregory
Robert J. Gusch
Alma Hall
Jerry Hall
James Vincent Harrington
Mary (Lynn) Constance Hicks
Melinda White Itoh
Doris R. Jackson
Kenneth C. Lachmann
Efrain A. Madrid
Dolores Jaramillo Martinez
Wilma Humphrey McBride
Nancy E. McNeil (McKay)
Isabelle Miranda
Joseph G. Montano
Robert Neill
Nell News
Lynn Pedraza
Vivian Powers
Raymond Radosevich
Herbert Bailey Richter
Thomas Marvin Smylie
Judith Starr

James Llewelyn Thorson
James L. Thorson
Betty J. Trice
Marie Rea (Fritzie) Trujillo
Mucio Yslas, Jr.

Aztec

Jesse Chapman
Patsy Hill
Calvin Lynn Woods

Bernalillo

Julia Archibeque

Bloomfield

Lois Fielder
Caroline McDonald
James Morgan Lee

Carrizozo

Winnie Wilmore

Clovis

Margaret Fonteno

Deming

Alfonso Dennis Armijo

Farmington

Carl Efurd
Marlene Goertz
Shirley Voita
Kathleen Walling

Gallup

Don Cole
Lynelle Sensabaugh

Grants

Dustin Jaramillo
Jodie Wallace
Arlene Edwards Westgaard

Kirtland

Coralie Ann Lee

Las Luna

Rita Roberta Garcia

Las Vegas

Jerry Coca

Pecos

Benjamin Cordova, Jr.

Ruidoso

Karen Tillman

Santa Fe

Marilyn Harenberg
Gloria Holliday
Carrel Todd Liles
Marcos Ralph Lucero
Kathy McGunn

Texico

Dewey G. Pierce

Tucson, AZ

Maria Margaret Fonteno

San Diego, CA

Joy B. Glenn

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL RETIREES
3900 Juan Tabo NE, Suite 7
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

Send change of address to:

H. Russell Goff, Executive Director
3900 Juan Tabo NE, Suite #7
Albuquerque, NM 87111
Phone: 505-275-6427
Web site: www.nmaer.com
Email: nmaer@cybermesa.com

Linda Carr, President
515 16th Street
Alamogordo, NM 88310

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
PERMIT NO. 1888

The NMAER Newsletter is published three times a year
(April, August, November) by the New Mexico Association
of Educational Retirees
3900 Juan Tabo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE AND
REGISTRATION FORM INSIDE!

“80 YEARS AND SOARING”

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATIONAL RETIREES
80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

HILTON GARDEN INN UPTOWN, ALBUQUERQUE
SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2023
