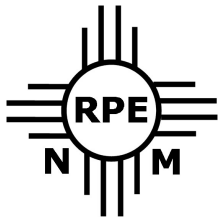


RPENM News



Board of Directors

Officers

Richard Baca
President

James F Robles
1st Vice-President

Doug Crandall
2nd Vice-President

Isabel T Clendenin
Treasurer

LaRue Goodheart
Secretary

Board Members

Eley Bourguet
Betty Boxx
Wesley Brown
Wm Oscar Jordan
Charles (Rick) F Mack
Victor Montoya
Lucio A (Luke) Quinones
Josephine Raczkowski
Jerry Rael
Paul Torres

Executive Director

Ann Crandall

RPENM Office

505-280-8459

E-Mail

RPENewMexico@aol.com

Letter From Your President

I hope you and your families are enjoying a pleasant summer. Meanwhile, RPENM is continuing to work on your behalf to ensure that your health care and PERA pension remain sound and strong.

Although we were successful in stopping Governor Richardson's plan to eliminate the NM Retiree Health Care Authority during the last legislative session, the issue has not gone away. As is reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the Governor vetoed the entire operation budget of NMRHCA, thus requiring the authority to operate on a month-to-month basis. We believe this is wrong and we continue to fight for independent, non-political health care coverage for PERA and ERA retirees.

Stay tuned!

Membership continues to grow and I am pleased that many of you who are not yet retired have elected to join RPENM. Many of us contemplated our retirement years before we actually left government, but we never really understood how fragile our wonderful retirement plan could be. There are over 17,000 PERA retirees and more than 75,000 current employees in the PERA system. The soundness and sanctity of the PERA plan is important to each one of us and RPENM stands vigilant to protect it. If you know someone who is retired, or soon to be retired and is not a member of RPENM, urge them to join. It may be a cliché, but our strength is in our numbers and every member counts.

Continued On Page 2

RPENM & NMAER Move to Protect NMRHCA

Governor Richardson, with his veto pen, chose to eliminate \$1.2 million of the Retiree Health Care Authority's annual budget, leaving only \$1.3 appropriated for employee salaries and benefits. This action was taken after NMRHCA vigorously opposed the governor's health care reform proposals by leading the charge to defeat HB 561 and SB 538 in the February 2004 legislative session. RPENM and the New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER) sent a strong message to the governor opposing this legislation, and it appears that this veto action is in retaliation against the agency for their opposition.

RPENM and NMAER have joined forces to challenge the Governor's action. The executive board of RPENM and NMAER officials have retained attorney Victor Marshall to research our standing in whether to join the NMRHCA in a lawsuit to protect our interest as

retirees. Watch our website, www.rpenm.org for updates.

If you wish to contribute to our fund for accruing legal costs, please contact Executive Director Ann Crandall for further information. ■

Web Sites Of Interest

PERA : www.state.nm.us/pera/

RHCA: www.nmrhca.state.nm.us/

ERB: www.era.state.nm.us/

Soc Sec: www.ssa.gov/

NMAER: www.nmaer.com/

RPENM: www.rpenm.org/

Letter From Your President - Continued

This November, the RPENM Board will hold its Fall meeting in Las Cruces. There are many important issues that must be addressed. The most important of these issues is finding ways to increase revenue. Everything is being considered, from advertising in the newsletter, to sponsorship of our meetings, to an increase in our dues. We are working harder than ever in lobbying, providing quarterly newsletters to all members as well as newsletter updates to Chapters. It is critical that we find the means to fund our efforts. To this end, I have created the Revenue Enhancement Committee to address this issue. Your own input and suggestions to help us increase our income is welcome and appreciated.

I want to welcome Doug Crandall and

Josephine Raczkowski as the newest members of the RPENM Board and I congratulate Betty Boxx, Jim Robles, Lucio Quinones and Wesley Brown on their respective re-election to the Board. I would also like to thank former Board member Manuel Gonzales for his contribution to RPENM during his tenure as a Board member.

As you probably know, Ann Crandall has taken the job as RPENM Executive Director. Ann is an enthusiastic, hard working and extremely knowledgeable manager. She is an asset to this organization.

Lastly, I hope to see many of you in Las Cruces this November. ■



**Richard
Baca,
President**

**Thank
You
For
Your
Support!**

2004 Annual Membership Meeting

The 41st annual RPENM Board of Directors and General Membership Meeting was a great success, and enjoyed by all. Approximately 75 RPENM members and guests attended the meeting held at the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque on May 13th and 14th, 2004. RPENM Chapter 5 from Albuquerque hosted the meeting, and provided an evening reception, continental breakfast, and excellent luncheon at the hotel.

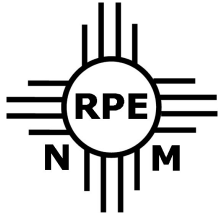
The Annual Meeting Committee for the Retired Public Employees of New Mexico would like to thank each and everyone who donated items for the raffle, door prizes, and welcoming bags. Specifically, we received donations from the Bank of Albuquerque; RPENM Chapter 5; Painting by Jacque Burton; Quarters Wine Shop; JB's Restaurant in Rio Rancho; Papa Felipe Restaurant; Fancy Stitches, Carlsbad; Premier Distributing; NM Dept. of Transportation; Woodman of the World Insurance; NM State Credit Union; Sandia Natl. Lab Credit Union; Electrolux; Southwest Airlines; Painting by Herman Ulibari; Shoney's Restaurant; LaSalita

Restaurant; Hair by Juanita; Sandia Casino; AFSCME; State of NM Tourism; Davis Vision; United Concordia, and Blue Cross-Blue Shield. RPENM members donating were Rubye Gibson; Betty Boxx; Josephine Raczkowski; Clara Mapstone; Jim & Muriel Ludwith; Minnie Ross; Betty & Willie Serna; Emenina & Lucio (Luke) Quinones; Evelyn Carabajal; Robert Romero; and Doug Crandall.

Several door prizes were awarded at the meeting, which included full scholarships for RPENM member Betty Serna from Albuquerque and Edith Gonzales from Gallup for the 2005 RPENM Annual Meeting. ■



Betty Boxx
RPENM Board Member



RPENM Elects New Board of Directors

A new RPENM board of directors was sworn in at the annual meeting. The new board will consist of President Richard Baca of Albuquerque, (who was re-elected by acclamation) 1st Vice President Jim Robles of Las Cruces, 2nd Vice-President Doug Crandall of Albuquerque, Secretary LaRue Goodheart of Rio Rancho, and Treasurer Isabel Clendenin of Albuquerque.

Members at large include Wesley Brown of Raton, Eley Bourguet of Deming, WM (Oscar) Jordan of Santa Fe, Rick Mack of

Albuquerque (NMRHCA Board Member), Lucio A. Quinones of Albuquerque, Betty Boxx of Albuquerque, Josephine Raczkowski of Rio Rancho, and Paul Torres of Hillsboro. Jerry Rael and Victor Montoya, both PERA board members, will remain as ex-officio board members of RPENM. In addition, Ann Crandall was hired as Executive Director. This new board of directors is a very strong group of committed individuals, and you may expect some positive changes for RPENM in the upcoming year! ■

RPENM Membership Is Growing!

Due to the hard working efforts of our RPENM board of directors as well as our membership, RPENM currently has 3,962 members - a 20% increase from the year 2002! Although this is impressive, we must continue to strive to increase our numbers, as our strength is in our membership! We have over 17,000 PERA retirees within the State of New Mexico, which means that we have lots of work to do! To become a member of RPENM you must be an active PERA employee, PERA retiree, or beneficiary. If you wish recruiting information, contact Executive Director Ann Crandall and membership forms will be mailed to you as soon as possible. ***These are important times, and we are the agency that will work to protect our PERA retirement and health care benefits.***

Some of our new dues paying RPENM members include: Karleen Boggio-

Montgomery, Santa Fe; Elaine Watson, Albuquerque; Kathryn Harrison, Albuquerque; Laurel Christensen, Kirtland, NM; Inez Aguilar, Albuquerque; Mildred Pate, Carlsbad (Life/Annual member); Donald Ditmore, Albuquerque; Carrie Williams, Hobbs; Fred Rossiter, Deming; Martha Gage, Alamogordo; Silver Gurule, Santa Fe; Larazo Garcia, Mora; Benita Weikel, Deming; Arnold Brown, Albuquerque; Roland Lough, Albuquerque; Melisendo Archuleta, El Rito; Anna Brown, Des Moines; Angelina Gonzales, Raton; Juanice Meek, Carlsbad; Viola G. Archuleta, Espanola; Richard Guzman, Bosque Farms; Ruben Viramontes, Hatch; Frank Kiro, Casa Blanca; Dan Warren, Albuquerque; Elliott Guttman, Albuquerque; Elaine Romero, Pena Blanca; Tony Chavez; Albuquerque; Barbara Forte, Santa Fe; Lena Forte, Santa Fe; Robert Mader, Rio Rancho; Darlene Fajardo; Albuquerque. ■



Need
Help
Recruiting
?

Recruiting Efforts!

Need RPENM recruiting material or other information regarding RPENM? Please contact me, and I will send the information to you at your request.

Don't forget to visit the RPENM Website at www.rpenm.org. You can now sign up new RPENM members online! ■

PERA News

PERA asset allocation continues to provide for safe and steady growth as assets stand at \$9.3 as of this writing. The impact of the legislation allowing retirees to return to work with no loss of their monthly pension is still being studied by the PERA actuaries. The actuaries are also looking at how a similar program has affected the Educational Retiree Association.

The automation of PERA's records continues on track and is expected to be completed by next Spring. This new computer system will allow members full immediate access to a myriad of retirement

information that now takes months for PERA to compute.

Ballots for the position of PERA municipal, state and retiree members will be in the mail in mid-August. RPENM Board member Jerry Rael, who was appointed to fill the remaining portion of Fabian Chavez's term, is seeking election to a full, four-year term. RPENM Board member Wesley Brown is also vying for the position as is RPENM member John Lucero. Loretta Naranjo-Lopez is the fourth and final candidate for the position. ■



Retiree Health Care Update

During this legislative session, RPENM worked diligently on behalf of its nearly 4,000 members to defeat Governor Bill Richardson's legislative bills HB 561 and Senate Bill 538 that would have abolished the independently run New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority and would have incorporated it as a part of the state Risk Management Division. The transfer of our \$125 M in assets, going into a pool, would cover several different agencies as well as the uninsured in New Mexico after only one year's residency. It is essential that a long-term actuarial study be completed to determine the fiscal soundness of this

proposed plan prior to consideration. We thank all of you that sent the state legislature and governor a strong message through e-mails, letters, and phone calls stating that we, as retirees, will not tolerate this very bad legislation for anyone residing in and paying taxes in New Mexico. **However, our work is not complete.** We are hearing that the Governor is considering a special session to bring his health care agenda to the table again. We urge you, and all New Mexicans, to contact their legislators and tell them to stand up and do what's right: FIGHT TO OPPOSE THIS LEGISLATION! ■



Presentation Made To Retired Fire Fighters/FOP

President Richard Baca, 2nd Vice President Doug Crandall, and Ann Crandall, Executive Director, made presentations to members of the City of Albuquerque Fire Academy and Fraternal Order of Police to get the word out about RPENM. We are working hard to attract

new members, and nearly all in attendance took membership applications and over ten new members joined at the two meetings! All Chapter Chairs and Board Members are again urged to promote RPENM through similar presentations in your areas! ■

RPENM
Thanks
Them
Too!



Jim Robles

RPENM Fall Board Meeting

Jim Robles, 1st Vice President of RPENM and member of Chapter 2, has committed to assisting our board of directors to host our annual Fall board meeting in Las

Cruces in early November. The exact date, time, and place will be determined soon. ■

Local Chapters Activities

Summer Activities

On June 8, Chapter 2 had a wonderful summer picnic at Oscar and Virginia Jordan's home in Santa Fe. The food was fabulous, and the company wonderful! Encourage your RPENM chapter to have a summer picnic!

Hillsboro Chapter 17, Chaired by Board Member Paul Torres, had a significant turn out of 25 members for their July 2004 board meeting. Executive Director Ann Crandall, 2nd Vice President Doug

Crandall, Treasurer Isabel Clendenin and Mike Clendenin all attended the meeting. Issues of interest that were brought up at the meeting included protecting our Retiree Health Care and PERA benefits, electing a new retiree member to the P.E.R.A. board, and increasing monthly monetary benefits for older P.E.R.A. retirees. The meeting was considered a great success, and Paul Torres is to be commended for his strong and enthusiastic leadership of Chapter 17. ■

Message From The Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RPENM Board of Directors for choosing me to be your Executive Director. This is a challenging, but rewarding job. My number one priority is recruiting. Since taking over as Director I have spoken to several different groups in an effort to get out the word and bring in new members. I am pleased to say that this effort is working as our membership continues to grow each month!

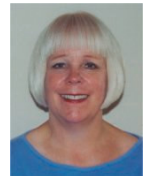
The two biggest challenges facing RPENM today are the fate of the NM Retiree Health Care Authority and finding ways to increase our revenues. These two issues are closely related. We are in the process of working with our sister organization NMAER, the NM Association of Educational Retirees, to fight Governor Richardson's efforts to eliminate the NMRHCA without at least doing a study to determine the effects of this action. To that

end, we have hired Victor Marshall, a respected, but expensive lawyer.

We must be certain we are ready to protect the pensions and health care of our members, but we must have the funds to do so. Membership must continue to grow and we must find new sources of revenue. That is my challenge as Executive Director and I need your help! You can help by recruiting new members and by suggesting ways to increase revenues.

I have been traveling throughout the state, meeting RPENM members and recruiting new ones. I will be looking forward to meeting with many of you over the next several months. ■

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE SUMMER!



Ann Crandall

Spotlight On Northeast New Mexico

Raton - Chapter 18

Raton Chapter 18 is now in its 5th year with 48 members who continue recruiting to increase their membership. In addition to monthly meetings, members enjoy spending time together with an annual August picnic, a Thanksgiving dinner, and an annual Christmas/dinner party. Doug and Ann Crandall attended the picnic in 2002 and will be attending again this August, as will Isabel and Michael Clendenin. Members have been actively opposing legislation regarding NMRHCA and

have joined forces with the local chapter of NMAER (retired educators) to exchange information regarding this matter. Several members attended the town hall meeting in March at which time President Wesley Brown was able to speak to Governor Richardson regarding our opposition to his legislation. In addition to telephone calls, several members traveled to Santa Fe during the last legislative session to oppose the Governor's health care bills. ■

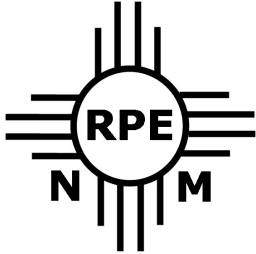
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Public Employees Since 1963*

RPENM Membership Form

(Your membership is paid. Please pass this membership form on to friends or family who might want to join.)



First: Please fill out the Member Information box below.
Second: Select your payment option below and follow the instructions for that option.

MEMBER INFORMATION **PLEASE PRINT**

Name ¹: _____

Address ¹: _____

City ¹: _____ State ¹: _____ Zip ¹: _____

Telephone #: _____

¹ = Required Information

Payment Option #1: Enclose a check or money order for \$12, payable to RPENM to cover your first years dues. Return this form with your payment to the address below. You will be billed once a year thereafter.

-- OR --

Payment Option #2: Please deduct my \$12 dues payment from my July retirement distribution unless and until I notify PERA in writing to cancel this deduction.

Members Signature²

Date ²

* * * _ * * _ _ _ _ _
Last 4 Digits of Your Social Security Number ²

² = Required For This Option

**Mail to: RPENM
PO Box 20607
Albuquerque NM 87154-0607**

Mail this completed form to the address at left.
Note: Signature and SSN (Last 4) required for this