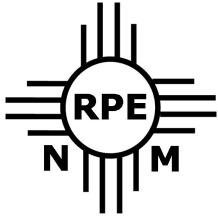


# RPENM News



## Board of Directors

### Officers

Richard Baca  
President

Doug Crandall  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Josephine Raczkowski  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

Isabel T Clendenin  
Treasurer

LaRue Goodheart  
Secretary

### Board Members

Eley Bourguet  
Betty Boxx  
Wesley Brown  
Carmen Chavez  
Wm Oscar Jordan  
Charles (Rick) F Mack  
Victor Montoya  
Jerry Rael  
Paul Torres

## Executive Director

Ann Crandall

## RPENM Office

505-280-8459

RPENewMexico@aol.com

## LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This issue of the RPENM News deals mostly with our annual meeting in Deming on May 5 and 6. Chapter 1 is hosting the meeting and they are promising lots of fun and important information for RPENM members who attend. Please be sure and make your hotel reservations early, as the rooms will sell out quickly.

The biggest news, though, is that the lawsuit filed against Governor Richardson on behalf of the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority has been settled! The lawsuit, which was filed jointly by RPENM, the Association of Educational Retirees and the RHCA, was settled amicably by all parties when Governor Richardson promised to restore the budget money he had vetoed in the 2004 Legislative session.

RPENM and all parties are grateful to Governor Richardson for his willingness to work with us to end the lawsuit and restore RHCA's budget and independence. This was a joint effort and special thanks are in order to Russell Goff and the NMAER membership, as well as to our own Executive Director Ann Crandall. We all also owe a great debt of gratitude to our attorney Victor Marshall and the magnificent job he did framing and filing the lawsuit, as well as in working out the settlement details. I would also like to thank the dozens of RPENM members who contributed to our legal fund. This

was an expensive proposition, but well worth it in the long run.

Several other important bills involving PERA were also introduced during the 2005 Legislative session. As I am writing this letter, the session has just ended and so the final outcome of the legislation is not yet known. Watch for the summer edition of the RPENM Newsletter for a full recap of the bills indicating whether they were signed or vetoed by the Governor.

I am extremely pleased to report that our membership continues to climb. A growing membership and increased revenues as a result of our long overdue dues increase will allow RPENM to continue its vigilance in protecting PERA and the NMRHCA. We are proud of our past accomplishments, but with over \$10 billion in the PERA fund and \$150 million in the health care fund, it is critical that we remain on guard against any future attempts to raid these funds, or that threaten the independence of PERA or NMRHCA.

I hope to see you in Deming in May! ■

**Richard Baca**  
President



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

RPENM Bylaws state "In the event the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies, it shall not be necessary to hold an election". So, with only 5 qualifying nominations returned, an election will not be held.

The following persons will be sworn in at the

2005 Annual Membership Meeting, May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. These positions terms will run through May 2009.

The newly elected Board Members will be Richard Baca, Eley Bourguet, Isabel Clendenin, LaRue Goodheart, and Paul Torres. ■

## **MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** (CONTINUED)

***We Have Been Heard!*** I am very pleased to announce that Governor Richardson has signed HB 2, which contains a supplemental appropriation of \$950,000 for Retiree Health Care Authority funding for the current fiscal year, and the FY06 budget approves a RHCA satellite office for the Santa Fe area.

In return, we have agreed to dismiss our lawsuit against the Governor and the State Department of Finance and Management. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit were the N.M. Retiree Health Care Authority, Retired Public Employees' of NM, the New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees, and several individuals retired from public service. Our dismissal of the lawsuit is for actions and claims that have occurred up to March 17, 2005, but reserves us the right to re-file in the future if necessary.

In addition to those persons mentioned by our President, we wish to thank our state legislators who provided excellent support in our efforts, as well as RPENM and NMAER members across the state. RPENM board members Rick Mack and Josephine Raczkowski did a great job representing our retirees' interest. President Richard Baca

deserves special commendation for his efforts, as does Rubye Gibson, named as a plaintiff in the lawsuit. RPENM board member Oscar Jordan deserves a special thanks for his unflagging commitment to RPENM and all state retirees; Oscar literally "camped out at the legislature" during the 2004 and 2005 sessions, speaking at many committee meetings and acting as a great lobbyist for our cause!

Most important are the individuals that had the courage to contact their legislators and elected representatives and stand up for what was right! We must maintain the communication we have built up this year, so that we will continue to be heard in Santa Fe. I believe the RPENM membership has great resolve to protect our Health Care and PERA benefits in the future. Please get active with RPENM, as our strength is in our membership! ■



**Ann  
Crandall**  
Executive  
Director

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please be aware of the following important announcements that affect all RPENM members:

► An annual dues increase was approved unanimously by the RPENM board of directors at the 2004 Fall Meeting in Las Cruces. Effective January 1, 2005, individual membership dues increased from \$1 to \$2 per month, or \$24 per year. Over 180 annually billed members (out of 287) have already signed up at \$24 this year, and our automatic deduction members (approximately 1950 members) will see a \$24 dues deduction from their July 2005 benefit check. To date, less than 10 members of our organization have expressed concerns or dropped out of RPENM due to our dues increase.

► To remain a chapter in good standing, all chapter members must be paid up members of RPENM at the state level. If you know a chapter member that is not a RPENM member please let

our Executive Director, Ann Crandall, know at 505-280-8459 or [RPENewmexico@aol.com](mailto:RPENewmexico@aol.com) or you can give them the Membership Form on the last page of this newsletter. Remember that chapters are subsidiaries of RPENM.

► The Dual Membership Incentive for chapters has been dropped.

► Over \$2,400 has been donated to RPENM's legal fund by individual members and RPENM chapters. This fund has helped pay for our legal costs for our lawsuit against Governor Richardson and the State of New Mexico to protect the Retiree Health Care Authority. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please send your check or money order to RPENM at our mailing address.

To those of you that have already contributed to this worthwhile cause, "**Thank You**" from all our membership. ■

# RPENM'S 2005 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## KEEPING RETIREE HEALTH CARE ALIVE IN 2005

RPENM Chapter One, Deming, will be your host for this year's annual meeting. Many important issues will be discussed by the Board of Directors and the membership including but not limited to keeping our retiree health care and the lawsuit with Governor Richardson. Attend this important meeting, meet and visit with those retirees who are working hard to maintain our current health care and protect our retirement funds. Find out how you can help!

This year's Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Deming Holiday Inn. Hotel rooms are \$49.95 plus Tax, which comes to \$55.92 per night per room. When making your reservations please mention that you are with RPE. The hotels Front Desk Clerks will assist you in making your reservation. *Reservations must be made before April 29, 2005.*



I-10 Exit 85  
Deming NM  
Phone: 505-546-2661  
Fax: 505-546-6308

### This Year's Schedule:

<b>MAY 5th</b>	9 AM – Noon	Registration at the Holiday Inn
	<b>8:30 AM – ?</b>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting (With Lunch Break If Necessary)</b>
	Noon – ?	Lasagna Lunch at Palma's Italian Restaurant, \$9.00, followed by a tour the Luna Mimbres Museum and Custom House and the St Clair Winery. <b>Please indicate if you will be attending on the registration form below.</b>
	6 PM – 8 PM	Hospitality and visitation by the pool (weather permitting). Refreshments in the hospitality room near the pool will include beer, wine, sodas, chips & dips, finger foods, etc.
<b>May 6th</b>	8 AM – 10 AM	Registration at the Holiday Inn
	<b>8:30 AM – Noon</b>	<b>Annual Membership Meeting</b>
	12:30 PM – ?	Luncheon (Buffet), Raffle drawing, door prizes. Silent Auction winners.

**NEW THIS YEAR** - Chapter One will hold a silent auction for some very nice prizes. Items will be displayed for your bids from 9 AM Thursday through the drawing on Friday after the luncheon. Items include an Indian Chief and Princess doll set, Southwest Afghan, 1950's Antique Laguna crystal 6-strand necklace and earring set, and more.

**GUARANTEED - YOU'LL LOVE THESE ITEMS!**

**All questions should be directed to Marlene Bourguet at 505-546-8162 or Shirley Sayre at 505-546-3020**

Please complete this RPENM Registration form and mail with your check to the address below no later than Friday, April 29, 2005. Registration fee is \$30.00 per person. **Please print clearly.** These will be used for door prizes.

### Attendee 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON (\$9.00) AND/OR TOUR ON THURSDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>?

LUNCHEON [ ] TOUR [ ] BOTH [ ]

### Attendee 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

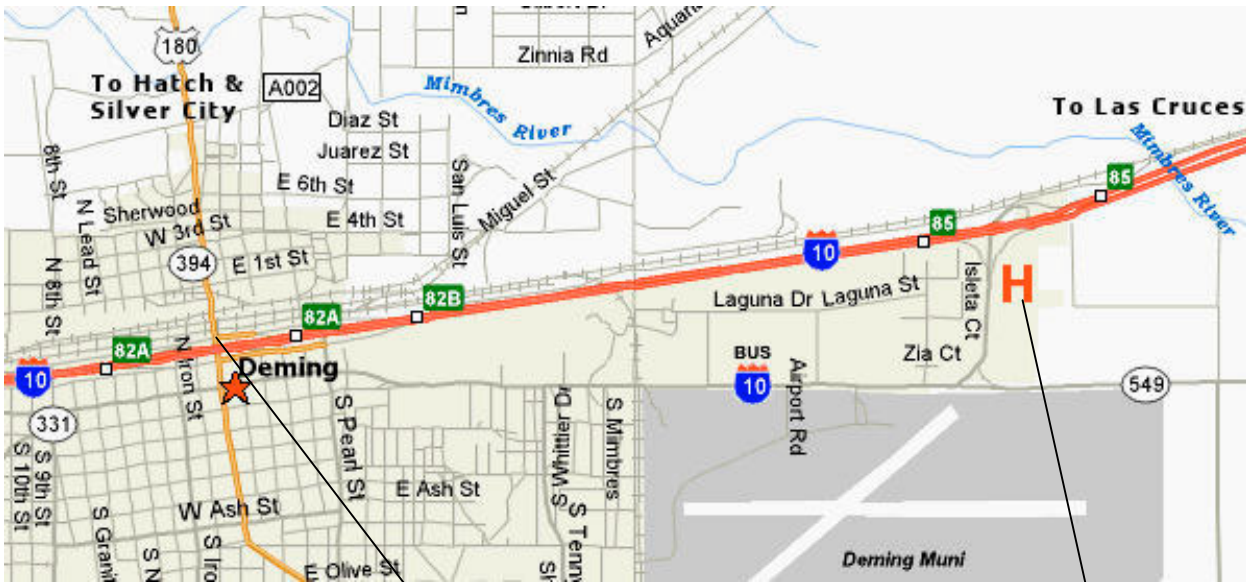
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Luncheon [ ] Tour [ ] Both [ ]

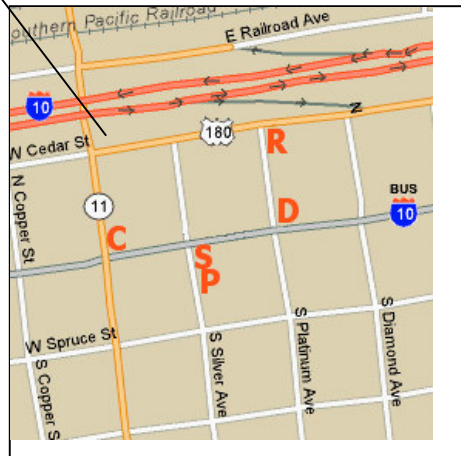
**Make check payable to:** RPENM 2005 Annual Meeting, Chapter One, 570 Arrowhead Dr NW, Deming NM 88030

**RPENM's 2005 Annual Membership Meeting – May 5 & 6, 2005 – Deming NM**



**Restaurants:**

- C** – China Restaurant  
110 E Pine Stt
- S** – Si Señor  
200 E Pine St
- P** – Palma's Italian  
110 S Silver Ave
- R** – Ranchers Grill  
316 E Cedar St
- D** – Dennys  
120 N Platinum Ave



4600 E Pine St  
Deming NM 88031

Phone: 505-546-2661  
Fax: 505-546-6308

**Did You Know?**

Snowmen Fall From The Sky  
Unassembled!

RPENM Chapter 1 Raffle Tickets will not be sold at the event due to NM gaming & Alcohol laws.  
Drawing to be held on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, in Deming at the Annual Membership Meeting lunch.

**RPENM Chapter 1  
Raffle**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets are \$1.00 each **or 6 for \$5.00**

-----  
Return ticket stub with payment no  
later than April 30, 2005 to:

RPENM Chapter 1  
570 Arrowhead Dr NW  
Deming NM 88030-8762

**1<sup>st</sup> - \$100**  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Murano Glass Bowl  
3<sup>rd</sup> - JVC DVD Player

More prizes including Afghans,  
Wine Decanter & Glasses, Ceiling  
Fan with Light, and more!

**You Need not be present to  
win**

**RPENM Chapter 1  
Raffle**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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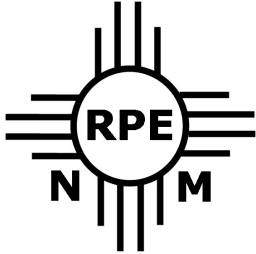
**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES OF NEW MEXICO**  
PO Box 20607  
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87154-0607

Phone: 505-280-8459  
E-mail: [RPENewMexico@aol.com](mailto:RPENewMexico@aol.com)  
WWW: [www.rpenm.org/](http://www.rpenm.org/)

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

**THANKS FOR DELIVERING PROMPTLY**



*Serving New Mexico's Retired  
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\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City\*: \_\_\_\_\_ State\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\* = Required Information

**Payment Option #1:** Enclose a check or money order for \$24, 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 \$24 dues payment from my July retirement distribution unless and until I notify PERA in writing to cancel this deduction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Members Signature\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \*

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

Mail this completed form to the address at left.

**\* Signature and SSN (Last 4) required for this option.**

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