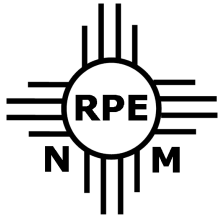


RPENM News



Board of Directors

Officers

Richard Baca
President

Sherry F Kearns
1st Vice-President

Josephine Raczkowski
2nd Vice-President

Isabel T Clendenin
Treasurer

LaRue Goodheart
Secretary

Board Members

Eley Bourguet
Betty Boxx
Wesley Brown
Carmen Chavez
Doug Crandall
Charles (Rick) F Mack
Charles Miller
Victor A Montoya
Loretta Naranjo-Lopez
Paul Torres

Executive Director

Ann Crandall

RPENM Office

505-280-8459

RPENewMexico@aol.com

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to our Spring 2006 Annual Membership Meeting in Las Cruces in May, and I hope you are, too. There are many positive changes to our by-laws and it is important to have input from you, the owners of our organization. Please read and review the changes carefully. If you can't make it to the meeting, pass your concerns on to a fellow member who will be there to vote. I look forward to seeing you there, so please make plans to attend!

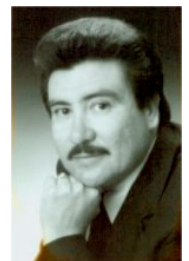
Sadly, since our last annual meeting, RPENM has lost two former board members, Luke Quinoñes and Betty Boxx. Those of us who knew Luke and Betty know they were quite a team together and they worked hard for RPENM. Luke and Betty's enthusiasm for this organization will be greatly missed by all of us in RPENM.

Ms. Marie Thames was appointed in January to replace Milton Sanchez as new Executive Director of the NM Retiree Health Care Authority, and we are

pleased that she will be at our annual meeting to discuss the changes and challenges ahead for the authority.

I am pleased to report that PERA remains sound and secure with assets of over \$11 billion as of March. In fact, over the past 8 years, PERA's investments have ranked in the top 5% of all public employee pension funds in the country! We are thankful for the stewardship of Executive Director Terry Slattery, Chief Investment Officer Bob Gish and the entire PERA Board!

I hope that you and your family are well and I hope to see you in Las Cruces in May! ■



Richard
Baca

IMPORTANT BILLING CHANGES

At the 2005 Fall Board Meeting, the RPENM board of directors agreed that beginning in 2006, all annual and auto-deduction membership dues will be effective in July of each year. This simplifies our record keeping, as we will be updating our memberships for both

annual and auto-deduction at the end of each fiscal year. Annual dues statements for this year will be sent in June. If you have already paid this year, your membership will be good until July 2007. ■

MEMBERSHIP NEWS!

As of this date, we have approximately 3,130 dues paying members in RPENM. In 2006, we will be conducting a statewide mail-out for recruiting new RPENM members. Raton Chapter 18 and Roswell

Chapter 7 have been leading the way in recruiting new state members. Congratulations! We appreciate your hard work and support! ■

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – MAY 19TH IN LAS CRUCES

The 2006 Annual Membership Meeting has been scheduled in Las Cruces for Friday May 19, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Ramada Palms Hotel, 201 E. University, Las Cruces, New Mexico. The membership meeting will be preceded on Thursday, May 18 by a meeting of the RPENM Board of Directors. Members are invited to attend both meetings.

The Ramada Palms is a beautiful hotel with an indoor pool and on-site restaurant. Room rates for RPENM members are \$61 per night which includes a free breakfast. **To reserve your room at the \$61 rate, please make your reservation by Monday, May 1, 2006. Call the reservation**

desk at 1-505-526-4411 and identify yourself as an RPENM member.

Because there are no elections this year, this will be primarily a business meeting and no registration will be required by RPENM for those in attendance. A buffet breakfast will be hosted by RPENM for those who attend the annual meeting on Friday.

A small reception for those who arrive early will be held at the hotel on Thursday evening May 18th. Las Cruces Chapter 2 will assist with this reception, and as usual, will do a wonderful job!

Please mark your calendars to attend—let's have a great turnout! ■

RHCA DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING


Marie Thames was selected to the NM Retiree Health Care Authority to the position of Executive Director in January. She will address the membership at the general membership

meeting on May 19th to discuss the ongoing challenges and commitments of the authority. Please help us welcome Ms. Thames and wish her luck in her challenging position as the new director of RHCA! ■



Marie Thames

BY LAWS CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT MEETING



Important updated RPENM by-laws and chapter guidelines will be open to the membership for discussion and the proposed by laws changes will be put to a vote. These by-laws and chapter guidelines were approved by the board of directors at the 2005 Fall Board

Meeting, and have been reviewed by an attorney. The by-law changes are included, in their entirety, in this newsletter for your review. Review their content carefully. **Please make plans to attend and vote on this important by-laws proposal at the general membership meeting. ■**

REP. LARRANAGA INTRODUCES "DOUBLE DIPPING" BILL



Albuquerque state representative Larry Larranaga introduced a bill during the last legislative session that would have restricted "double dipping" from retired PERA employees. Although this bill had great support, and the support of RPENM, it was not passed due to the short session. Although the original intent of the so called "return to work" bill was to retain employees

in the public safety area, the vast majority of the over 1300 retirees who have gone back to work are not in public safety related positions. We feel that the double dipping will eventually erode the soundness of the PERA fund and we strongly support Representative Larranaga and hope that he will introduce a similar bill in the 2007 legislative session. ■

BETTY BOXX PASSES AWAY

On a sad note, long time RPENM Board member Betty Boxx passed away on February 21, 2006. She had been an active RPENM member and board member for many years. In addition to serving on the RPENM Board, she was also a member of the Chapter 5 board. She had recently submitted her resignation from the board due to health reasons, but her passing was

unexpected. Betty worked hard for RPENM in many capacities over the years. She will be missed by all of her friends. ■



Betty Boxx

TREASURER'S REPORT



I want to start by thanking all of the RPENM members that supported last year's increase in dues. That support, for the first time in two years, will allow us to complete 2006 without having to draw from our investment account in order to pay the bills.

In fact, we ended 2005 with a balance of \$30,594.63 in our checking account and an increase in our investment account of \$622.88 (interest earned between 6/30/05 and 12/31/05) for a balance of \$51,970.01.

The increase in income will allow us to acquire an office and to conduct a state wide membership drive, both goals that we would not have been able to attempt without the increase.

I'd also like to extend RPENM's thanks to the firm of Schlenker, Cantwell and Hrcir

and their representative, Michelle Linehan Pierce for all the work they do for us in the areas of payroll, tax form preparation and general support for our group.

I'd also like to thank attorney Thomas F. Hooker Jr. for reviewing our proposed By Laws changes and Chapter Guidelines. His work in this area will ensure that the changes we are proposing to the membership meet all legal criteria.

In ending, again, thanks to all of you that understood the need for the dues increase and showed your support by retaining your membership. Without this support, RPENM would have ceased to function sooner rather than later. ■

