

SUMMER 2010 UPDATE

Dear RPENM Member:

There is certainly no lack of issues facing retirees! RPENM's main focus is to protect our benefits as much as possible by being a voice for retirees. Outlined below are our most recent activities.

- **New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority (NMRHCA)** – You were represented by our NMRHCA representative, Jeff Varela, at their annual meeting in Taos. Jeff voted against the 8% increase that will take effect January 1, 2011. He was the only dissenting vote. The increase affects Retirees, Spouses, Non Medicare and Medicare recipients. The rate for non-Medicare dependents will increase by 10%. While we understand the need to keep the NMRHCA solvent, we will continue to speak for you to minimize the impact to the extent that we can. Medco is our new prescription provider. Also, switch enrollment is scheduled to begin mid September.
- **Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA)** – The PERA fund closed June 7 at 10.2 billion. There was some volatility in the market during the last part of April that continued into May. Interestingly, the Gulf situation does not have an immediate or direct impact on PERA's partnerships. In fact, "some of PERA's private investments are benefiting from the disaster because they are involved in the cleanup work."
- **Governor's Retirement Systems Solvency Task Force (RSSTF)** - PERA submitted their "Ideal Plan" to the RSSTF on July 12. Task force member Jeff Varela and RPENM Executive Director Patrice Clifford represented you at this meeting. Part of the plan is to link the 3% COLA to the CPI. PERA Executive Director, Terry Slattery, explained that this does not apply to current retirees although the legislature during the 2011 session could extend it to include current retirees. Keep an eye on this, folks! The next task force meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 9, 10:00 AM Capitol Building Room 322. Agenda items of interest include: ERB Sustainability; NMRHCA - Recent Measures Addressing Solvency; and, NMRHCA Solvency Recommendations. I urge you to stay informed and, if possible, attend the meetings. Website: nmlegis.gov/lcs/committees (Interim – Retirement Systems Solvency Task Force).

In May, RPENM held their annual meeting in Gallup, NM. Your new officers are: Sherry Kearns, President (Carlsbad); Charles Miller, 1st Vice President (Raton); Diana Best, 2nd Vice President (Raton); Josephine Raczkowski, Treasurer (Rio Rancho); and, LaRue Goodheart, Secretary (Albuquerque). The Fall Board Meeting will be held in Carlsbad October 13-14 at the Stevens Inn - 575.887.2851. Be sure to mention that you're with RPENM. Room rates are \$78.75, including tax. The actual meeting will be from 9:00 AM – 12:00 on the 14th. For questions, please call RPENM at 505.280.8459.

Be sure to visit our new website - rpenm@rpenm.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

Patrice Clifford, Executive Director

