

2011 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY and ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

While there were many bills of interest to current and retired public employees introduced, the bills listed below were the most significant to RPENM. Your RPENM legislative team (Oscar Jordan, Jeff Varela, Loretta Naranjo-Lopez, Tony Sayre and Patrice Clifford) worked diligently on your behalf. Our Board members and Chapters really stepped up to the plate making phone calls and sending emails. Our website was updated regularly thanks to Michael Clendenin. A most heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to make a difference!

HB 251 (Stewart/Ingle) Amend Certain Retirement Acts – Would have reduced the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and increased age and service requirements. Died.

HB 644 (Stewart) PERA and ERA Adjustments and Requirements (non vested members) – Would have lowered COLA to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and imposed a minimum retirement age of 55. Died.

HB 131 (Varela) Public Employee Retirement Information Disclosure – Would have given RPENM access to names and addresses of retirees only for recruitment purposes. Failed.

HB 628 Contribution Swap/Rate Change to Retirement Contribution (Bratton) – rate applies to State employees only. Passed.

SB 119 (Sapien/Trujillo) Allows for a one-time irrevocable option if the spousal pension beneficiary dies to select another beneficiary upon remarrying. Passed.

SB 204 (Smith) Reduce PERA COLA – would have lowered COLA to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the CPI. Died.

SB 248 (Ingle) Change Public Retiree Contributions (applies only to those making more than \$20,000/year) – Would have increased contributions made by working members. Died.

RPENM Annual Meeting Information:

When: **Board Meeting** - Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Reception for Membership - Wednesday April 27, 2011 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Music and food will be provided! Meet your Board of Directors.

Membership Meeting – Thursday, April 28 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Where: Hilton Garden Inn 1771 Rio Rancho Blvd SE Rio Rancho, NM (19th St and Rio Rancho Blvd – across from Intel)

Room Reservations: Hilton Garden Inn – 505.896.1111 – please do so on or by April 13, 2011. Room rate is \$89.00/night. State that you are with RPENM.

***PERA Board Retiree candidates will be invited to the Reception for a “meet and greet.”

***We have invited several legislators to attend the Membership Meeting to participate on a panel that will focus on retiree issues. Representatives from PERA and the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority have also been invited to provide updates about your pension and health care benefits.

Hope to see you there! For more information, please call Patrice Clifford at 505.280.8459.