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Executive Director

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RPENM
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Albuquerque, NM 87154
rpenm@rpenm.org

RPENM 2015 Annual Membership Meeting

Santa Fe, New Mexico

May 1 and 2nd, 2015

Don't Miss This One - Make Your Reservations NOW!

Senator Michael Padilla, Featured Speaker

The 2015 RPENM Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, May 1 (Reception) and Saturday May 2nd (Board Meeting) at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, 4048 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe. Due to the centralized statewide location and a great place to visit, the RPENM board of directors enthusiastically supports the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe for our upcoming Annual Membership Meeting. Santa Fe – our state capitol and the “City Different” - will be a great meeting location for RPENM members and guests! The meeting events will include a Friday evening reception at the hotel for members and a guest, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and a silent auction for those in attendance at the meeting.

Your attendance will give you a chance to win a drawing for a DoubleTree Hilton one night stay in Santa Fe! You must be present to win, so mark your calendar now!

Friday afternoon after the board meeting, RPENM will provide a hotel shuttle at 2:00pm for those that are interested in visiting a nearby popular discount mall or wish to participate on a tour of the new PERA building. On Friday evening, RPENM will host a reception at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00pm for members and a guest. Drinks and light snacks will be served.

Our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday will provide meeting participants the opportunity to learn the latest on RPENM, PERA and Retiree Health Care as well as listen to several important speakers of interest to all retirees. Senator Michael Padilla, District 14, will be our featured speaker at the Annual Membership Meeting. Senator Padilla is a great supporter of RPENM and our membership, so let's give him a warm welcome and let him know we appreciate him!

Room rates at the DoubleTree are \$89.00 (inc. tax) per night, which includes a home style breakfast for two. If you wish to attend, contact the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel at 505-473-4646 and let them know you are an RPENM member. To obtain the special \$89 per night room rate, the Hotel has graciously extended the deadline for reservations to Wednesday April 15, 2015. RPENM will not be charging a registration fee to the meeting, but would appreciate voluntary donations at the door to assist with meeting and hotel costs.

RPENM would appreciate your notifying our Executive Director, Gerald Chavez,

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if you plan to attend our meeting. (RSVP) This will assist us in determining the planning for the reception as well as other meeting details. Please call Gerald at 505-280-8459 with this information. If he is not available, please leave a phone message. Thank you! See You There!

Susan Biernacki Appointed to RPENM Board of Directors

Susan Biernacki, long time RPENM member and current Chapter 5 Board member, was recently appointed to the RPENM Board of Directors after the resignation of Loretta Naranjo-Lopez from RPENM. Susan brings excellent qualifications to the position as she is a prior Investment Chair on the PERA Board, Assistant City Attorney, and Deputy Treasurer for the City of



Susan Biernacki

Albuquerque. Susan served as an elected PERA Board Member for 17 years, so we appreciate the expertise she brings to our organization. Welcome, Susan!

RPENM Annual Dues Reminder

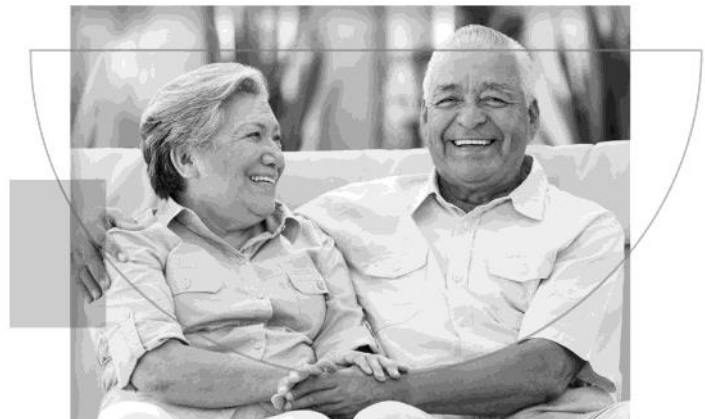
Effective January 1, 2015, the RPENM Annual Dues increased from \$24 to \$30 per year. This change was voted in unanimously at the May 1, 2014 RPENM board meeting and was also approved by the voting membership. This is the first increase in dues for RPENM members in over ten years, and is necessary due to increases in printing and mailing costs, meeting expenses, increases in costs for meetings and office space, paying our lobbyists, and other operating expenses that are passed on to the organization. This dues increase is only 50 cents per month - we appreciate your continued support of RPENM - a non-profit organization!

RPENM Chapter Outreach

The RPENM Board of Directors and Executive Director Gerald Chavez are working hard to reach out to our statewide chapters and assist them with recruiting new

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membership. Santa Fe Chapter 8 has a new Board of Directors with Ms. Marcy Pompei assuming the position of President! Chapter 8 recently had a great recruiting effort and increased their membership over 100 members. Executive Director Gerald Chavez is also working with RPENM Chapter 5 Albuquerque, Las Cruces Chapter 2 and T or C Chapter 17. If you would like to assist in this effort, please contact Executive Director Chavez at 505-280-8459.

President's Message

It is almost Spring and I am looking forward to RPENM's annual meeting - this year in enchanting Santa Fe. Board candidates are busy getting signatures for the upcoming annual election. You will have the opportunity to vote on specific Board positions at the annual meeting. At this writing the fate of Legislative Bills pertaining to PERA and Retiree Health Care are still in the hands of the legislature. RPENM's lobbyists, Richard Romero and Sue Griffith will provide a full legislative report at our annual meeting. The PERA Board proposed legislation requesting a 5-year moratorium on changes to PERA in order to allow pension reforms enacted in SB27. This moratorium has not been approved by the Legislature.

I want to personally thank the entire RPENM membership, and especially the Membership Committee, for all of the hard work recruiting new members this year. We are now more than 4,000 strong.

Thank you very much for your support for RPENM and its goals for Retired Public Employees.

Hope to see you in Santa Fe!

Dan Mayfield, President, RPENM

New Mexico Retiree Health Care Remains Strong

Happy 25th Birthday to the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority! The RHCA was officially established on February 16, 1990. There have been many changes to the plan during the past 25 years, but the Authority has grown and prospered to the benefit of all retirees on the plan.

Even though the cost of health care continues to rise with no end in sight, the RHCA Board and staff work diligently year round to assure the best possible rates available for its members. Moreover, RPENM members who obtain

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their insurance coverage through the plans offered by the NM Retiree Health Care Authority may be assured that the Authority is sound and solvent.

Based upon the latest available information, the plan is projected to remain solvent until at least 2033. Moreover, the NMRHCA has been rated as the 11th best funded public employee retiree health care plan in the country. As of the end of February, fund assets exceeded \$400 million.

Although the plan remains sound, changes are needed to assure that the plan maintains a solvent position past 2033. Legislation has been introduced for the past three legislative sessions that would moderately increase the employee and employer contributions. These increases, if adopted, will assure solvency for over thirty years. Unfortunately, the legislation has not yet passed. While there is still time before passage becomes critical, it is important that these increases are implemented to assure that affordable health care remains available for future retirees.

The RHCA will review its five year strategic plan at their

annual retreat to be held in Taos in July. The strategic plan addresses issues and outcomes to ensure the long term viability of the plan, including not only legislation, but rate changes, subsidy levels for participants and other factors that affect the plan's success.

Comments from RHCA members are always welcome and all RHCA meetings (usually the second Tuesday of each month) are open to the public.

Doug Crandall, RHCA Representative

Experience the World with Your Grandchildren and Road Scholar

Intergenerational travel - grandparents and grandchildren travelling together - is a growing trend. Whether learning about the history of our nation's capital or viewing Renaissance masterpieces in Florence, grandparents have discovered that it is incredibly rewarding to share these experiences with younger generations. With so many grandparents living far away from their families, Road Scholar offers an excellent opportunity for them to bond with their grandchildren through educational travel adventures.

Founded in 1975, not-for-profit Road Scholar is the world leader in lifelong learning. Since inception, over 5 million people have experienced the joys of educational travel on a Road Scholar program; and each year, nearly 100,000 individuals just like you explore the world with us on one of our 5,500 programs in 150 countries and 50 states.

"Grandparents who enroll in our Intergenerational programs tell us that they really treasure the opportunity to bond with their grandchildren on our programs," said JoAnn Bell, senior vice president, Road Scholar programs. "We have designed these adventures to appeal to both grandparents and their grandchildren, and continue to add additional programs to meet the growing demand for this type of learning."

To learn more about Road Scholar's Intergenerational programs, discounts, and sign up to receive our free catalog, please visit the AMBA Travel Benefits page at www.myAMBAbenefits.info/rpenm

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RPENM Extends a Special Thank You to the Thomas Grover Law Firm

In December of 2014, the City of Albuquerque filed an injunction against PERA. They were attempting to have the courts force PERA to administer their rules regarding longevity as the City interpreted them. Mr. Tom Grover filed a motion to intervene on behalf of RPENM. The purpose for this was to petition the judge with a brief stating that we (the retirees, our membership) have standing on this issue because the interpretation of PERA's rules affects our retirement system and ultimately our pensions. As a result, this action motivated the City to work with PERA and they immediately settled their dispute. Thanks to Mr. Grover's exceptional representation, RPENM had a direct and positive impact on the result of this case.

Message from the Executive Director

The only way that the RPENM Administration and Board of Directors can communicate with its entire membership as a whole is through newsletter publications. Many members do not have e-mail, or utilize the internet; therefore, many members do not have access to our website. Because of this, we truly depend on our newsletters to keep our membership informed and updated regarding RPENM business.

One of my initiatives as Executive Director is not only to make sure that our members are informed, but also, that our membership has the opportunity to give their input to our Board of Directors. With this, I am requesting that you take the time fill in this brief questionnaire and mail

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it back to me. Or, if you choose, you can go onto our website at www.rpenm.org, click on the link that says "Membership Input" and fill it out online.

Please mail your completed questionnaire to: RPENM, PO Box 20607, Albuquerque, NM 87154. The sole purpose for this questionnaire is to give you the opportunity to let your Board of Directors know how effective our newsletter communications are. From the responses, we will gauge the need to make (or not make) any adjustments. I look forward to receiving your input.

Thank you,

Gerald L. Chavez, Executive Director

RPENM WORKING FOR YOU!

"DOUBLE DIPPING" SB466 Tabled By Senate Judiciary Committee

New Mexico State Legislature, March, 2015

If you have not heard, RPENM is glad to present the good news! Senate Bill 466 was tabled by the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 7-3. Gerald Chavez, RPENM

Executive Director and many RPENM members strongly voiced their opposition to this bill at the Committee Hearing which allowed Police officers statewide to return to work, known as "Double Dipping." The provisions of SB466 clearly violate the New Mexico State Constitution and negatively affects the funding of New Mexico PERA. The state constitution states, in part:

Article XX, Section 22, NM State Constitution: C. A retirement board shall have the sole and exclusive power and authority to adopt actuarial assumptions for its system based upon the recommendations made by an independent actuary with whom it contracts. The legislature shall not enact any law that increases the benefits paid by the system in any manner or changes the funding formula for a retirement plan unless adequate funding is provided.

Thanks to the many RPENM members throughout the state that took the time to get involved and let the Legislature know that we opposed SB466. At the end of the day, RPENM let their voice be heard, and we were successful!



Advertisement

Membership Has Benefits! AMBA

Your membership with RPENM gives you access to many member only benefits. Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) helps to make the following benefits available to RPENM members:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long Term Care
- Medicare Supplement
- Tax Deferred Annuity
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- American Hearing Benefit (AHB)
- Government Employee Travel Opportunities
- La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount
- Rental Car Discounts (Budget, Avis, & Hertz)
- Dell Computer Discounts
- Apple Computer Discounts
- 1-800-FLOWERS Discounts
- AMBA TravelPERX Travel Deals

For additional information, contact our benefits provider, AMBA, at 1.800.258.7041. You can also request a speaker for your local meetings by calling Susan Lowry, AMBA National Director of Association Relations, at 800.258.7041 ext. 110.



RPENM Membership Newsletter Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions by checking the box and/or making comments:

Three newsletters a year is: adequate ____ too much ____ not enough ____

The articles within the newsletter are: informative ____ not informative ____ irrelevant ____

The newsletter is easy to read regarding its set up and print size: yes ____ no ____

I look forward to receiving the newsletter: yes ____ no ____ doesn't matter ____

I would like to see different articles/topics such as: _____

Comments: _____

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors for their Continued Support to RPENM!

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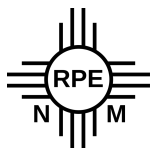
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(Please pass this membership form on to friends or family who might want to join)



Please fill out the Member information box below.

Member Information Please Print

Name*: _____

Address*: _____

City*: _____ State*: _____ Zip*: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email: _____

* Required information

[] Please deduct my \$30 dues payment from my July retirement distribution unless and until I notify PERA in writing to cancel this deduction.

Members Signature

Date

|_|_|_|_|
PERA requires your last 4 digits
Mail completed form to the address at left

Mail to: RPENM
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