



RPENM News

Winter 2015-2016

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President

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Charles (Tony) Sayre - Deming

Gerald Grimm - Albuquerque

Wesley Brown - Ratón

James 'Jim' Robles - Las Cruces

Oliver Tapia - Albuquerque

Joel Pafford - Ratón

Carl Baldwin - Santa Fé

Executive Director

Gerald L. Chávez - Mountainair

RPENM

Albuquerque Office

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President's Message

By Dan Mayfield, RPENM
President

**Happy New Year RPENM
members!**

I want to wish you all a happy and healthy 2016 and hope you enjoyed the holidays.

Two exciting changes are coming to PERA in 2016: first, the Santa Fe office and staff of the Retiree Health Care

Authority is relocating to office space in the PERA Building at 33 Plaza La Prensa (in Santa Fe); and second, the Albuquerque PERA office has been remodeled and expanded. Any of you who have visited PERA's Albuquerque Office in the last few years know that the space has become inadequate. The Albuquerque PERA Office receives as many visitors each week as the much larger Santa Fe office. On Monday, December 21st PERA opened a new Albuquerque office that is 50% larger, has a seminar room and will be more comfortable for members to visit. It is in the same building as the previous office in the Delta Dental Building at 2500 Louisiana Blvd. NE.

RPENM held its annual fall Board Meeting at the beautiful Elephant Butte Inn on Saturday, November 14th. Of major importance to our membership was the renewal of the lobbyist contract with Richard Romero and Sue Griffith to continue RPENM's advocacy for retirees, support for PERA and the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority throughout 2016 including the Legislative session.

Again, have a great 2016 and I hope to see you all at RPENM's Spring Membership Meeting.



Is Your Pension Safe?

Look at what is happening around the Country. California pension initiative requires public vote on retirement benefits!

The State Worker Jon Ortiz chronicles civil-service life for California.



In California, advocates for altering public pensions want to require voter approval any time government officials seek to upgrade retirement benefits, and to make "defined-contribution" plans the default retirement program for state and local employees hired Jan. 1, 2019, and later. Article written by Randall Benton - Sacramento Bee file.

New Mexico is not immune to the anti-public pension movement that is plaguing Legislatures around the country. They want to destroy public pensions, and replace them with defined contribution programs; 401K's. RPENM (We) need to

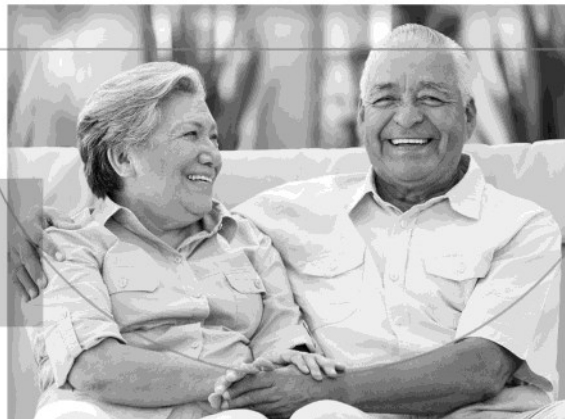
remain diligently proactive to protect PERA's defined benefit plan!

Our Lobbyists, Richard Romero and Sue Griffith will keep a diligent eye to point out any Legislative Bills that may hurt our pension and/or PERA itself. Executive Director, Gerald Chavez, will work hand in hand with our lobbyists to represent RPENM's interests throughout New Mexico's 2016 Legislative session. Look at our website for updates throughout the session.



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ADV-0059-0215

Retiree Health Care Update

By Doug Crandall

RPENM Retiree Health
Care Representative

I am pleased to report that the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority remains strong and well positioned to meet the continuing needs of New Mexico's retired public and educational employees.



RHCA finances remain strong with over \$430 million in the trust fund despite a very volatile stock market. Despite the market gyrations, the Authority's investment portfolio was well positioned to avoid any significant losses. In addition, over \$170 in contributions have been added to the plan since 2010. This strong financial position ensures plan solvency for at least 20 years.



Several new vendors bid for next year's RHCA medical, dental and vision plans. Regardless of which companies may be chosen, this is good news, as competition is good for both competitive rates and services offered.

A request to increase employee and employer rates will likely be introduced again in this year's 2016 legislative session, though once again it is unlikely to pass. These increases are necessary to assure RHCA's long term solvency, but it is also quite clear that the New Mexico economy makes any contribution increase burdensome on both employees and employers. The RHCA Board has made several

changes which have decreased benefits and subsidies over the past five years. These reductions have played a large part in the solvency gains of the plan. However, there comes a point where too many cuts will no longer provide a meaningful health care plan.

One plan design that does remain an option is to require a waiting period for someone who has voluntarily dropped RHCA medical coverage when in good health and then wants to re-enroll after encountering a medical problem. Though few eligible members do this, it can be quite costly to the trust fund and overall financial status of the plan. This option will be discussed by the Board in 2016.

An affordable and comprehensive health insurance plan assures that there will be adequate coverage available when it is needed. Another important part of any health plan is wellness. Sometimes diseases cannot be avoided. You may have been born with a congenital condition which cannot be cured, but only controlled. Some diseases are eminently preventable, such as lung or heart problems as a result of an unhealthy lifestyle. In either case, RHCA and its medical partners offer not only wellness programs, but actual wellness incentives such as a cash gift card for enrolling and completing a wellness program. Whether it is assuring that you take your medication on time and as needed, or adopting a healthier lifestyle by losing weight or quitting smoking, RHCA has a program available. Please become acquainted with the wellness benefits of your health plan.



Highlights!!!! - RPENM Fall Board Meeting

The annual RPENM board meeting was held on November 14th, in Elephant Butte, N.M.

At that meeting, the budget for 2016 and renewal of the contract for the lobbyist services were approved. Additionally, Doug Crandall was reappointed to represent retirees on the Retiree Health Care Authority Board.

Two new board members were appointed to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Isabel & Michael Clendenin. The new board members are James (Jim) Robles of Dona Ana whose term will expire in 2017 and Oliver Tapia of Albuquerque whose term will expire in 2019.

Welcome Jim and Oliver to your Board of Directors!

Jim Robles served the public as a law enforcement officer for the State Police Department, the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department, and retired as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Las Cruces Police Department. Jim has served on numerous Governing Boards at the Local, County, State and Federal Level. Jim's public service gives him a plethora of invaluable experience to share with the RPENM Board of Directors. Also, he previously served on the RPENM Board. His invaluable institutional knowledge, will allow him to hit the ground running.

Oliver Tapia served the citizens of Albuquerque for 26 years. He worked within the City of Albuquerque's Parks and Community Department, the Street Maintenance Department, the Refuse Department, and completed his career with the Water Authority's Customer Services Department. Oliver brings a broad range of experience, and specific expertise to the RPENM Board. He has in depth Customer Relations and Customer Service experience that he can share with the Board.



Swearing in of new Directors from left:
James "Jim" Robles, Oliver Tapia

ANNOUNCEMENT

2016 Annual Membership Meeting

Will be held in Albuquerque on Friday, May 6th, and Saturday, May 7th

Our annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Albuquerque, Uptown. 6510 Americas Pkwy NW, Albuquerque, NM 87110, (505) 944-0300. Our rate is \$89 + tax per night. To make reservations call: 1-800-HILTONS; give them group code RPENM. Or, go to the hotel website www.albuquerqueuptown.hgi.com and type in group code RPENM.

Friday, May 6th (Hotel Facilities)

9:15 am to 1:00 pm - Board of Directors meeting. The Board will conduct its Officer Elections and perform other pertinent RPENM business.

1:00 pm to 5:30 pm - On your own time. Free time to shop, visit, or just rest before the reception.

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Reception and meet and greet. Come enjoy a light dinner and visit with your fellow RPENM members and Board of Directors.

Saturday, May 7th (Hotel Facilities)

9:15 am to 1:00 pm - Membership Meeting! Let's conduct business, fellowship and keep united to protect our great retirement system. We will have great guest speakers (to be announced), raffle items and door prizes.

This is your annual meeting! There is no registration fee, or charge for the reception. However, you will need to pay for your own rooms if you plan on staying overnight at the hotel. We need to adequately plan for the attendance of our reception and/or the membership meeting. Please RSVP with Gerald Chavez; call 505-280-8459, or email rpenm@rpenm.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

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tomorrow,
and through
the years...

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New Mexico's active and retired employees.



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 **PRESBYTERIAN**

Find a Tax Help Site

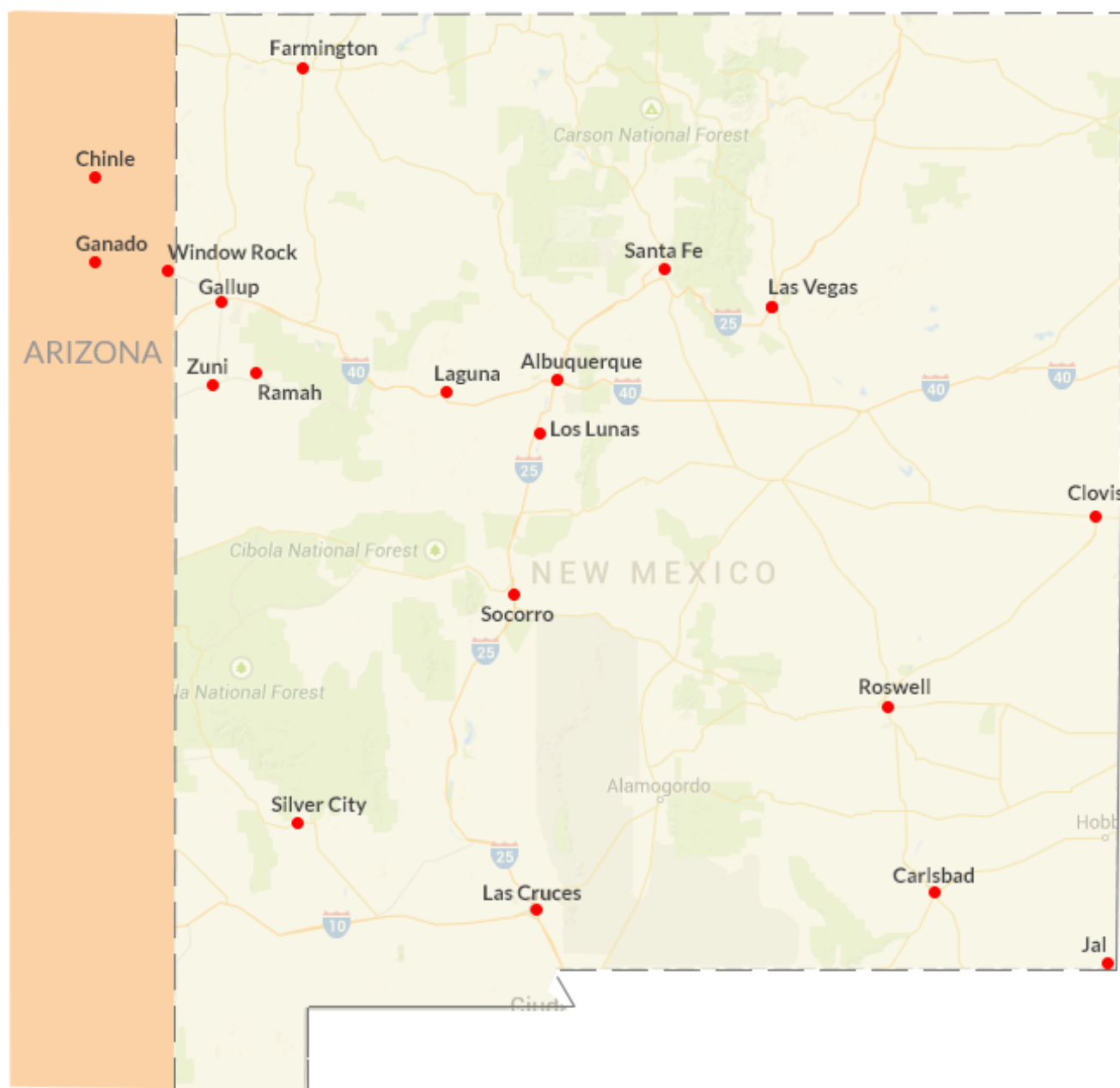
Volunteer tax preparers are available to meet with residents at more than 25 locations across the state

Tax Help New Mexico is a free service for people whose household income is \$53,000 or less or those who are 65 years or older. Select a location to find a CNM Tax Help New Mexico site near you. Contact us at (505) 224-4829 for help. Or visit our website at www.cnm.edu/depts/taxhelp

New Mexico sites

There are multiple locations at many of the following Sites:

Albuquerque	Carlsbad
Clovis	Farmington
Gallup	Jal
Laguna	Las Cruces
Las Lunas	Ramah
Roswell	Santa Fe
Silver City	Socorro
Zuni	



Necrology

The following Retired Public Employees of New Mexico have passed away, from August 2015 up to November 2015. This is the first edition of an ongoing initiative to honor our recently deceased members.

Their commitment to protecting New Mexico's public employees, retirees and PERA itself, was demonstrated by their continued support of RPENM.

Thank you for your dedication to protecting New Mexico's Retirees!

Albuquerque

Naomi Holly

Candelaria Padilla

Joe Sanchez

Ben Stair

Barbara Halsten

Carlos Trujillo

Charles Volz

Las Cruces

Ascension Flores

Lordsburg

Ramon Renteria

Los Lunas

Leatha Fladd

Taos

Eugene Mortimer

Arlington, VA

William King

Canyon Lake, TX

Evelyn Smith

Edgewood

Rudy Gomez

Raton

Kay Grubelnik

Columbia, MD

Marie Harty

Espanola

Rosebella Lineberry

Rio Rancho

Louis Bernabo

Paul Noland

Richmond, VA

Morris Campbell

Grants

Robert Akin

Santa Fe

Susan Ripley

Wichita Falls, TX

Viola Gamewell

Hobbs

Evelyn Gladden

Margaret Hill



Retired Public Employees of New Mexico

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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.

