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PERA Board Representative

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RPENM

Albuquerque Office

10501 Montgomery NE, Ste 320

(505) 280-8459

PO Box 20607

Albuquerque, NM 87154

rpenm@rpenm.org

ALERT!

The PERA Board has proposed pension reform

Our members are in shock and outraged by the lack of communication, transparency and cooperation by the PERA staff and board. In fact, it was not until December that there was a plan that was identified and discussed publicly for the first time. The PERA Board was extremely divided and the proposal to raid the COLA benefits narrowly passed 7-5. Within their proposal, it calls to suspend the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 3 years, then it further suspends it for everyone until they are 65 years old (general) and 60 years old (public safety). This can be a very long suspension for some current retirees. Then it ties the Cost of living to PERA's funding status and a percentage of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Clearly, the PERA Board and staff have not thoroughly vetted all options and have not considered the voices of the over 40,000 retirees from throughout New Mexico.

**Let the Legislature know:
YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

**Call the Governor and your
Legislators and request that
they DO NOT support PERA's
plan!**

**Call Governor, Michelle Lujan
Grisham at: 505-476-2200 and
let her know your opinion on
this issue that affects YOU! Call Legislative Council Services at:
505-986-4600 or the Main Legislative Switchboard at: 505-986-
4300 and ask to be transferred to YOUR Representative
Legislator. Let them know your opinion on this issue that affects
YOU!**

Don't forget.....February 20th has been designated "Retired Public Employees" day at the Legislature. Please join your fellow Retired Public Employees at 11:00 am, at the Round House in Santa Fe. We plan on giving out t-shirts to show our unity as NM Retirees! Come voice your opinion.

**We're just taking away
your Cost of living,
This won't hurt!**



Big raises at PERA, nothing for public retirees!

January 3, 2019 by Dennis Domrzalski

“A New Mexico public employee retirement plan that is facing long-term insolvency and that says it can't give retirees a 2 percent cost-of-living increase gave 30 of its employee's salary increases ranging from 6 to 59 percent last year.”

“Those salary increases at the Public Employees Retirement Association, which came in the way of promotions, job reclassifications and raises totaled \$633,158 in 2018, according to the state's Sunshine Portal. Those raises were in addition to the 2 percent across-the-board raise that all state workers got last year, and the money for them comes from the PERA's investments funds, not from the state's general fund. In other words, those salary increases have come out of retirees pockets.”

The above excerpt is from an article recently reported by long time reporter Dennis Domrzalski. For full details on his reports visit his webpage at www.abqreport.com. **These reports are not only**

concerning, but more so alarming considering the recent PERA Board's proposed benefit cuts. It just does not make sense!

President's Report

By Joel W. Pafford, President

Happy New Year,

I hope all of our RPENM members had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a productive 2019.

We, as retired public employees, are once again gearing up for another 60-day legislative session. Our lobbyist, Miguel Gomez, Executive Director, Gerald Chavez, and your Board of Directors will be working hard during this session to keep you informed, but they cannot do all the work. I am asking that everyone stay alert to any proposed bills or action that would affect our pension or retiree health care benefits, and be prepared to take action! And I hope you will plan to participate in the RPENM Day at the Legislature this February.

Again, thank you for your support. I look forward to working with you and on your behalf in 2019.



In sickness and in health.

(505) Ask-PRES

MPC031711-10

 **PRESBYTERIAN**
Health Plan, Inc.

It affects your COLA, what is your opinion?

In our Summer Newsletter we informed you that the PERA Board was working on proposed Legislative changes to PERA plans, which included adjusting or possibly suspending the cost of living adjustment (COLA).

The overwhelming feedback that we have received from our membership is that New Mexico Public Employee Retirees do not want their 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) suspended or altered in any way! It is RPE's job to stand in support of our membership and advocate on your behalf.

Well, this past December 2018, the PERA Board voted in support of a Legislative proposal which not only suspends the COLA, it defers eligibility according to age and also ties it to funding status in conjunction with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For a complete review of all changes within PERA's proposal, please visit their website at <http://www.nmpera.org/>, or contact PERA in Santa Fe at 505-476-9300.

Please join us in Santa Fe and let your Legislators know:



February 20th has been designated "Retired Public Employees" day at the Legislature. Please join your fellow Retired Public Employees at 11:00 am, at the Round House in Santa Fe. We plan on giving out t-shirts to show our unity as NM Retirees! Come voice your opinions.....

In the meantime, call the Governor and your Legislators and let them know what you think! Call Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham at: 505-476-2200 and let her know your opinion on this issue that affects YOU! Call Legislative Council Services at: 505-986-4600 or the Main Legislative Switchboard at: 505-986-4300 and ask to be transferred to YOUR Representative Legislator. Let him/her know your opinion on this issue that affects YOU!



BCBSNM is here and committed to New Mexico's active and retired employees.



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Please Join us at our 2019 Spring Membership Meeting!

Meet your Board of Directors. Learn more about our mission of protecting our retirement system and retiree health care programs. Your input counts!

Our 2019 Spring Board and Membership meeting will take place in Albuquerque on Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th. Meetings will be held at the Nativo Lodge Hotel at 6000 Pan American Freeway NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109. For hotel reservations, please call the hotel at: (505) 798-4300.

To assist us in our preparation, if you plan to attend the reception (buffet style dinner) please rsvp by email and or phone and let us know if you and/or a guest plan on attending. Please leave us your name and phone number. You can email us at: rpenm@rpenm.org, call us at: (505) 280-8459; or mail us at: RPENM, PO Box 20607, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0607.

Planned Schedule of Events at Hotel

Friday, May 3rd:

- Board of Directors business meeting, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.
- Dinner Buffet Reception from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Saturday, May 4th:

- Membership Meeting, from 9:15am to 1:00pm. Many great door prizes for members in attendance and raffle at the end of our meeting!

Official Notice

This is official notice that at our 2019 Spring Membership meeting the Board of Directors will be proposing Bylaw changes. These changes will have to be approved by majority vote of the membership in attendance. The changes will be detailed at the meeting. However, proposed changes can be viewed on line by visiting our website at www.rpenm.org

Join our Board of Directors We will be having our 2019 Board of Directors Elections

Every two years RPENM elects half of its board of directors (6 positions) in odd numbered years. For this election, each successful candidate shall serve a four (4) year term (Spring Board Meeting 2019 through Spring Board Meeting 2023).

For timelines and details on how to run for the Board, please visit our website at www.rpenm.org. You can download a packet online. Or contact our Executive Director and request an election packet. Email us at: rpenm@rpenm.org, call us at: (505) 280-8459; or mail us at: RPENM, PO Box 20607, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0607.

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- Lupus
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ADV-0059-0817



The focus of this RPE Newsletter is a call to action in hopes of preserving our COLA!

The Retired Public Employees of NM is focused on doing what it can to preserve our retirement system and our COLA for Retirees. At this juncture, we are in serious disagreement on how the PERA Board is going about looking at pension reform and are calling upon all Retirees to assist us!

If you are currently not an RPENM Member, please consider joining! Our strength lies within our numbers and you will keep being informed by receiving future Newsletters! Remember, the best way to assist us in fighting for the protection of our COLA is to **BE INFORMED & TAKE ACTION!**

To Join RPENM

Just completely fill out the form below and mail it to: RPE, PO Box 20607, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0607. It only amounts to \$2.50 per month, which is taken out of your pension check with a \$30 lump sum, once per year, each July. **You pay nothing (zero\$) dues for this year, your dues will not start until July 2019!**

RPENM Membership Form—Retired Public Employees of New Mexico

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

2018-03

\$30.00 Automatic Deduction (**once per year**)– Please deduct my dues payment from my July retirement distribution beginning July 2019 unless and until I notify PERA in writing to cancel this deduction.

SSN Last 4: |__|__|__|__| Signature: _____

PERA requires your last 4 social security numbers

My signature also authorizes PERA to release name and address changes to RPENM.

Necrology

The following Retired Public Employees of New Mexico were reported to us as deceased since our last Newsletter.

Their commitment to protecting New Mexico's public employees, retirees and PERA itself, was demonstrated by their continued support of RPEM. **We offer our sincerest condolences to their families, and we honor them for their public service to the citizens of New Mexico.**

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

Albuquerque, NM

Kathryn Jones
Stephen Higgins
Joaquin Baca
Elizario Garcia
Victor Escarcida
Justin Candelaria
Kileen Scott
Raymond Duran
Rosemarie Graves
Gillie Castillo
Joseph Mateju
Joann Hammond
Karen Crespin
Hyman Eisenberg
Eddie Chavez
Frances Ray

Alamogordo, NM

Patricia France

Algodones, NM

Richard Rivera

Artesia, NM

Clarence Connor

Bosque, NM

Orlando Carrejo

Capitan, NM

Earnestine Seay

Carlsbad, NM

Pedro Sarabia
Lorenzo Martinez
Gloria Rosprim

Cedar Crest, NM

James Gill

Cuba, NM

Acasio Salazar

Dexter, NM

Charles Essary

Gallup, NM

Bobby Merrill

Jal, NM

Manuel Arzate

Las Cruces, NM

Ted Lautner



Jose Padilla

Las Vegas, NM

Manuel Otero

Adelina Ledoux

Lipan, TX

James Hurford

Livingston, MT

Donald MacCarter

Lordsburg, NM

Charles Bradford

Los Alamos, NM

Julia Gauthier
Rita Carpenter

Las Lunas, NM

Tommy Reese

Mesilla, NM

Larry Lytle

Naples, FL

Rodney Boteilho

Navajo Dam, NM

John Hill

Quemado, NM

Robert Wellborn

Questa, NM

Fred Ortega

Roswell, NM

Rudy Garcia

Helen Witt

Santa Fe, NM

Alex Salazar

Edward Moore

Fredrick Lopez

Santa Rosa, NM

John Baca

Santa Ynez, CA

Rachel Kotike

Silver City, NM

Mariana Sanchez

Tucumcari, NM

Rose Mirabal

Ronald Miller

Tyler, TX

Harold Adams

Retired Public Employees of New Mexico

PO Box 20607

Albuquerque, NM 87154-0607

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Albuquerque, NM
Permit 798

Phone: 505-280-8459

E-mail: rpenm@rpenm.org

www: www.rpenm.org



Have You Scheduled Your Benefits Checkup Yet?

Many members are glad they've taken the opportunity to meet with their local benefits representative to learn about their endorsed member benefits. The Retired Public Employees of New Mexico (RPEM) has partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to make benefits available to members. Benefit representatives are available as a courtesy to answer all of your questions.

Your Member Benefits Include:

- > Dental & Vision Coverage
- > Medicare Supplement Plans
- > Life Insurance
- > Rental Car Discounts
- > Travel Discounts
- > Cancer Insurance
- > Long-Term Care
- > Emergency Transportation Plan
- > Computer Discounts
- > Restaurant Discounts

This is one checkup you don't have to worry about.
Call today to see what you might be missing out on!



1-800-258-7041

www.myAMBAbenefits.info/rpenm

Benefits Made Available through



RPEM Members WANTED!

Due to the overwhelming requests for information about benefit programs, Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) is seeking RPEM members to work as benefit representatives. Benefit representatives conduct seminars on long term care and hold informational meetings with other members in their area. If you have an interest in this position, please call Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations, at: **1-800-258-7041, ext. 332**