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RPNM

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Dear PERA Retiree

The PERA Board, in the guise of shoring up its individual pension plan shortfalls, is considering a quick fix to propose a suspension, reduction or elimination of our current retiree's cost of living adjustment.



**YOUR COST OF LIVING (COLA) IS ON THE
TABLE!!**

BE INFORMED!

Did You Know?

Retirees are neither equally represented, nor proportionally represented on the PERA Board.

The PERA Board is a 12-member board. It is composed of eight (8) members that are current working state, municipal and/or county employees, two (2) retirees, plus two (2) Ex-Officio positions, the NM Secretary of State and the NM State Treasurer.

The composition of all PERA working and retired membership is: approximately 40,000+ retirees and approximately 50,000+ working members. Retirees represent 44% of the total number of PERA members while current working employees represent 56%.

Within the 12 member PERA Board, WE RETIREES only have a 17% representative body. The current working members have a 66% representative body and the State of NM has a 17% representative Body! This is a lopsided representative body to say the least.

Did You Know?

Throughout the past year, the PERA Board has been discussing pension reform, including modifying your **COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)**.

Although, there are two Retiree Representatives on the PERA Board. Their voice is overshadowed by the overwhelming non retiree majority of the PERA Board. Call your Retiree Representatives and tell them to FIGHT to protect your COLA! Loretta Naranjo-Lopez: 505-270-7716 & Daniel Mayfield: 505-259-0528.

We are entering into the last months of 2018, when agendas are laid out for the upcoming 2019 Legislative session. The PERA Board has failed to conduct sincere communication or outreach to its membership and has strategically limited the time to do so.



In sickness and in health.

(505) Ask-PRES

MPC031711-10

 **PRESBYTERIAN**
Health Plan, Inc.

IPOC - Investment Pension Oversight Committee

Name	District	Email	Capitol ph#	Office / Home phone#
(Chair) Rep. Tomas E. Salazar	70	tomas.salazar@nmlegis.gov	986-4436	(575) 421-2455
(ViceChair) Sen. K. George Munoz	4	munozgeo@gmail.com	986-4371	(505) 722-6570/722-0191
Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria	26	jacob.candelaria@nmlegis.gov	986-4380	(505) 847-5079
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia	14	miguel.garcia@nmlegis.gov	986-4844	(505) 847-8131
Sen. Gay G. Kernan	42	gay.kernan@nmlegis.gov	986-4274	(505) 629-8081
Rep. Larry A. Larranaga	27	larry@larranaga.com	986-4215	(505) 821-4948
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell	41	leavell4@leaco.net	986-4278	(505) 393-2550/395-3154
Sen. Steven P. Neville	2	steven.neville@nmlegis.gov	986-4701	(505)327-5460
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert	44	jpandp@comcast.net	986-4243	(505)721-9021
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm	31	bill.rehm@nmlegis.gov	986-4214	(505) 259-3398
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero	13	pat.roybalcaballero@nmlegis.gov	986-4248	(505) 710-5996
Sen. John M. Sapien	9	john.sapien@nmlegis.gov	986-4301	(505) 765-5662
Sen. Larry R. Scott	62	larry.scott@nmlegis.gov	986-4450	(505)392-5960
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics	39	liz.stefanics@nmlegis.gov	986-4377	(505)699-4808/471-7643
Rep. Jim R. Trujillo	45	jimtrujillo@msn.com	986-4420	(505) 438-8890



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TAKE ACTION!

Please contact your state legislator and elected officials

Tell them to task PERA with restructuring membership plans by increasing member contributions in accordance with individual plan shortfalls. Tell them to re-evaluate the current benefit allowances, such as allowing current members to retire at 90% of their salary. Tell them that the unequal and/or disproportionate seat at the table for Retirees is WRONG!

Finally, tell them to leave current PERA Retirees Cost of Living Adjustment alone!

Remember, YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

We reached out to our two NM Gubernatorial Candidates and asked their thoughts on protecting the Cost of Living (COLA) for PERA retirees.

RPENM cannot endorse any one candidate for political office, however, we can ask questions and inform our members of their answers. Remember NM PERA RETIREES: Be Informed, Take Action, and Vote!

The following is the response that we received from Michelle Lujan Grisham's campaign:

Gubernatorial Candidate - Michelle Lujan Grisham

"Our retired educators and state employees have made their full contributions to their pension plans and deserve their Cost of Living Adjustments. Moreover, it is critical that we continue to retain and recruit quality educators and cutting current and future benefits is NOT the way to do that. Our educators deserve a pay raise, not a pay cut. New Mexico has stagnated economically under eight years of the failed Republican leadership of Susana Martinez and our pension problems are just the latest evidence of that. Moody's specifically cites a New Mexico "economy that has lagged the nation's, below-average wealth levels, and financial reporting practices which, while improving, are weaker than typical for a U.S. state." To punish our PERA retirees

and our current and future educators and employees for the failure of New Mexico's state government during the last eight years is dead wrong."

Howie and I have detailed economic plans that will help put us on a strong financial path, diversify our economy, and create more private sector jobs. The Legislature has been conducting hearings this summer on the status of our pension funds and I look forward to working with them to ensure the long-term sustainability of those funds. However, I do not believe that New Mexico needs to eliminate our defined benefit system for current or future educators and state employees and opposes any reduction in cost of living adjustments."

Michelle Lujan Grisham

RPENM could not obtain a response from Steve Pearce's campaign, however, the following excerpts were taken from the Albuquerque Journal article (Candidates differ on state pensions) written on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. Written by Dan Boyd.

Gubernatorial Candidate - Steve Pearce

Pearce a Republican who will face Lujan Grisham in the November general election, said pension benefits and eligibility guidelines for those nearing retirement should be left alone, but said workers near the start of their careers should expect changes. That could include having to pay more money into their retirement accounts to maintain current benefit levels. He also suggested possible changes that could make the pension function more like the retirement systems used by many private companies.

"Pensions in the private sector transformed significantly over 20 years ago," Pearce told the Journal. "Government pensions have stayed generous and lagged many changes. At a minimum, new employees coming into the government workforce are going to have a very different system. Employees many years away from retirement are going to have to see significant changes."

"All elected officials should exit the pension system immediately, and their elected service should not support or contribute in any way to pension benefits." Pearce said. "This won't solve the crisis, but it is a sign of both sharing the pain and leadership."

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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 RPENM. **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

Billy Zamora
Ellen Sanderson
Robert Baca
Ralph Salas
Orvis Scott
Arthur Sanchez
Orlando Robles
Thomas O'Connell
James Lynch
Trini Gutierrez
Gladys West
Acorcinio Cordova
Raymond Clark
Cornelius McGrory
Joni Barth-Montanez
Theodore Allred

Alamogordo, NM

Ralph Millam
Donna Flaughter

Arroyo Hondo, NM

Armando Jaramillo

Belen, NM

Theresa Cross
Gilbert Ulivarri

Bent, NM

Andy Salazar

Bernalillo, NM

Ruth Griego-Rice

Capitan, NM

Eulogio Otero

Carlsbad, NM

John Neill

Carrizozo, NM

Ramon Aragon

Chimayo, NM

Henry Martinez

Farmington, NM

Shirley Willis

Gallup, NM

Ernest Burrola

Helena, MT

James Shuler

Henderson, NV

James Huber



Hobbs, NM

George Cazee

Las Cruces, NM

Henry Salas
Robert Soto

Logan, NM

Ellis Gorman

Los Lunas, NM

Joe Griego

Joe Sais

Miguel Garcia

Mesa, AZ

Leroy Montano

Montrose, CO

Dorothy Lewis

Mountainair, NM

Luther Bullington

Pinon, NM

David Monson

Port Richey, FL

Glen White

Portales, NM

Quada Berry

Raton, NM

Raymond Evans

Isabel Mangini

Rio Rancho, NM

William Floyd

Beverly Huse

Roswell, NM

Clorinda Chavez

James Sedillo

Santa Clara, NM

Polly Esparza

Santa Fe, NM

Joe Romero

Amy Manning

Diane Balma

Joe Sanchez

Carlotta Ortiz

Leroy Thomson

Silver City, NM

Henry Torres

Surprise, AZ

Juanita Crownover

West Valley City, UT

Loy Mullins

Zuni, NM

John Laate

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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**