Save-the-Date:
Oct. 26, 2017 Deadline for NEA-NM Nominations for State Association positions
Oct. 27, 2017 Half of Fame Reception, Crowne Plaza Albuquerque
Oct. 28, 2017 Annual Delegate Council, Crowne Plaza Albuquerque
Nov. 13-17, 2017 National Education Association Week
Dec. 2, 2017 Winter Conference - Communications
Jan. 15, 2018 First Day of NM Legislature
Jan. 17, 2018 Legislative Training, Lobby Day and Legislative Reception
Feb. 3, 2018 NEA-NM Educator Day at the Legislature
Feb. 15, 2018 Last Day of NM Legislature
Jan. 5, 2018 NM Primary Elections

RAA Announcement
2017-18 NEA-NM Read Across America: Sharing Books to Read Across New Mexico
Chair: Sofi Carreon
NEA-New Mexico has a full-size (smaller adult) Cat in the Hat costume, available for members only, to use in their schools. Not just for RAA, the Cat is ready to rev up reading year-round. Interested? Visit the NEA-NM website, www.nea-nm.org, hover over the “About Us” menu and click the “Read Across America” button (requires member login if not already logged in) to reserve your time with the Cat today!

How Do I Get a Membership Card?
To request your membership card, hover over the “Member Login” tab, select “Print Membership Card,” and complete the request form. Your card will be emailed to you within a couple of days in a printable format.

President’s Message
Betty Patterson, NEA-NM President
Welcome to the School Year 2017-2018!

NEA-New Mexico is the Union for Professional Educators in NM! We advocate for all public education employees: together, we are the voice for public education in NM. Our students are the reason we do this job. We need to be vigilant! Be aware, watch behavior, stop bullies quickly, watch for students having difficulty, step in to help.

Membership is how we show our Power! Ask nonmember colleagues to join! It is only through the power of collective action that we protect ourselves and others. Stand up for each other.

Make sure all your colleagues are getting information about the work of NEA-NM. Have a membership form available at every meeting and daily on your desk! Attend meetings when asked by building or local leaders. Volunteer to host ten-minute building meetings at your work site; get to know your fellow members and other colleagues.

In addition to our advocacy efforts, NEA-NM makes professional resources available to members, please check the NEA-NM website, www.nea-nm.org. Contact me or the appropriate NEA-NM staff if you would like to invite us to any local association meetings! Let us know how to help! Be creative and enjoy being an Educator!

Mensaje del Presidente
Betty Patterson, NEA-NM President
Bienvenidos al año escolar 2017-2018

¡NEA-New Mexico es la unión de los educadores profesionales en NM! Abogamos por los empleados que trabajan por nuestras escuelas públicas; juntos somos la voz de la educación pública en NM. Nuestros estudiantes son la razón por la cual trabajamos. ¡Tenemos que ser vigilantes! Estar al pendiente, observar comportamientos, detener actos de bully inmediatamente, estar al pendiente de estudiantes que están teniendo dificultades e involucrarnos para ayudar.

¡Siendo un miembro de la NEA-NM es como demostramos nuestro poder! Pregúntale a tus compañeros que no son miembros a que se unan con nosotros. Es solo por medio del poder de la acción colectiva que podemos protegernos y proteger a otros. Ponte de pie por ti y por cada uno de tus colegas.

Asegúrate que todos tus colegas estén recibiendo información del trabajo de NEA-NM. Ten una forma de membresía disponible en cada junta de trabajo y en tu escritorio. Asiste a juntas de la unión cuando se te invite por un representante de tu trabajo o local. Toma la iniciativa y da te como voluntario para organizar una junta de 10 minutos en tu lugar de trabajo; conoce a tus compañeros miembros de la unión y otros colegas.

Además de los esfuerzos de abogacía; NEA-NM ofrece recursos profesionales a todos sus miembros, por favor visite nuestra página de internet, www.nea-nm.org. Me puede contactar o contactar a uno de nuestros representantes de NEA-NM si le gustaría invitarnos a una de las juntas de su local. ¡Sea creativo y sigue disfrutando de ser un educador!

WEB SITE ANNOUNCEMENT
NEA-NM has replaced our old website with a brand new one! We encourage you to view the new site and to register for the members only section. Our old website no longer exists, so your previous registration is no longer valid. To register and create a username and password for access to the “MEMBER SECTION,” hover over the “Home” tab and select “NEA-Registration.” Enter your full name, enter your email address, and click Submit. Upon verification of your membership, you will receive an email with your user name and a link for setting up your password. You can then either go to the Login page located under the Home menu or select a menu item that requires a login to have access to the “MEMBER SECTION” of the website.

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An Optimist Who Has Not Yet Arrived!
Charles Bowyer, Executive Director

In his performances as Mark Twain actor Hal Holbrook paraphrases the great writer by noting “I have been called a pessimist, I’m not. I am an optimist who did not arrive.” Our natural tendency as educators is to be optimistic. After all, we see the most valuable and hopeful assets that any community possesses in our classrooms every day of the school year. Watching a young mind develop and flower breeds optimism. However, when other members of the community, including our current US President and state and federal Secretaries of Education don’t share that same feeling of commitment to our children’s future and don’t share our goals of providing a quality education for every child, we sometimes let our optimism shift in Mark’s direction; we just don’t quite arrive!

In the early years of the New Mexico Territory, we literally helped create the idea of public education. In the mid-twentieth century, we forged the concept of due process rights for teachers and forced the state to create a retirement system for education employees. In the 1980’s, NEA-New Mexico was the lone voice against stripping teachers of the due process rights won decades before. We kept hope alive through slow steady progress to not only regain the lost rights of teachers but to achieve them for classified employees as well. In the late twentieth century, we advanced the idea of creating a stable statewide health insurance system for school employees and crafted a health care system for public employee retirees.

It wasn’t some unorganized group of employees that won those struggles; it was a strong unified NEA-New Mexico. The same is true today. If we are to overcome the ignorance and patronizing behavior rampant in some policy circles regarding the devastating effects of continued under funding of our public schools, NEA New Mexico members must believe that after 131 years, NEA-New Mexico is here for the long-haul. We’ve made up lost ground circles regarding the devastating effects of continued under funding of our public schools, NEA-New Mexico.

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We don’t want to move into an extreme pessimistic view of hope like the cynical observation of early twentieth century journalist Edgar Howe, who said, “There is nothing so well known that we should not expect something for nothing; but we all do and call it Hope.” We use a more pragmatic vision of hope—one more like that of novelist, political activist, and writing teacher Anne Lamott. “Hope begins in the dark; the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come.” NEA-New Mexico members and school employees will show up this school year and do the right thing and the dawn will surely come.

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2017 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:
These amendments will be considered by the 2017 Delegate Council on October 28, 2017.

STANDING RULES AMENDMENT 2, STANDING RULE 9.C
TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

RULE 9. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE AND PROCEDURES

C. Candidates
1. Declaration of candidacies. The declaration of candidacy for the offices of NEA-New Mexico President, Vice President, Region Members of the NEA-New Mexico Board of Directors, Region EdPAC Members, EdPAC member representing NEA-NM retired members, Retired Member(s) of the NEA-New Mexico Board of Directors, Student Member of the NEA-New Mexico Board of Directors, NEA Director, Alternate NEA Director, and EdPAC and/or NEA Representative Assembly Delegates must be received in the NEA-New Mexico office no later than the close of business on October 20 of the calendar year preceding the calendar year of the election; and for the NEA-New Mexico Educational Retirement Board member no later than the close of such nominations at the Delegate Council. Nominations for State NEA Representative Delegate, Cluster NEA Representative Assembly Delegates, Student NEA Representative Assembly Delegates, and Retired NEA Representative Delegates must be received no later no later than the close of such nominations at the Annual Delegate Council of the calendar year preceding the calendar year of the election.

A member may declare candidacy for at-large Board of Directors members as necessary before the close of nominations at the Delegate Council.

RATIONALE: This amendment increases the opportunity for members to be nominated to run for the office of NEA Representative Assembly Delegate.

BYLAW AMENDMENT 1, BYLAW 4.1
TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
4.1 Powers and Duties of the President
The President shall be the executive officer of the Association and its policy leader and shall be accountable to the Board of Directors; The President shall serve full-time as president of the NEA-New Mexico. The President will not serve as an officer of a local association or as an officer of any other Union. The President may serve as is necessary, but not as an officer of any other organization. The President shall:

a. represent the Association as spokesperson on matters of policy or assign, at the President’s discretion, responsibility for such representation;

b. provide for the agenda for the governing bodies of the Association and the program for the Delegate Council meetings;

c. appoint, except as provided in these Bylaws, all chairpersons and members of committees, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors; such chairpersons and members to serve at the discretion of the President, except where a term is fixed by these Bylaws;

d. serve as member ex-officio on all committees authorized by the governing bodies;

e. prepare, with management staff and the Budget Committee, a budget for submission to the appropriate policy-making bodies;

f. review Association policies and recommend priorities to be considered by the Board of Directors;

g. chair the Board of Directors meetings and assist and advise the Board of Directors;

h. meet with the Vice President of the Association and/or appropriate staff as necessary to make decisions between meetings of the Board of Directors;

i. delegate duties to the officers and through the Executive Director to the staff of the Association;

j. perform the duties as stipulated in the Articles of Incorporation, in the Constitution, and in these Bylaws and such other duties as are customarily assumed by the chief executive officer of an association;

k. serve as a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly and as chair of the delegation.

RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies in plain language that the President’s full-time work is as President of the Association, without divided loyalties to any other entity.