President’s Message:
Betty Patterson

Is the school year really coming to a close? I’m sure it doesn’t feel that way to you as you are in the midst of all of the end-of-year activities.

But after the testing is over, the classrooms and school facilities having been prepared for the summer break, and graduation services concluded, I would ask that you take a moment to reflect on the past eighteen to twenty-four months and consider the following:

• Do New Mexico students have more time for learning instead of testing?
• Are our children less hungry and less stressed?
• Is public education funded to provide an adequate learning environment for students?

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Why is it important to consider these questions, besides the obvious? This year we will be electing a new U.S. President and new state legislators; as we go to cast our votes, we need to think about how the past election has affected our students and us. We continue to say that elections have consequences, and I believe that we in New Mexico have been living with those consequences for some time now. This year is our opportunity to be part of a positive change for our students.

I know we are all happy that Medicaid was expanded in our state to allow those without healthcare coverage to get the help they need, but what about the health of public education? What has been done to provide the “Medicaid” we need for New Mexico’s students?

So as we end our school year and begin our summer break, I invite you to consider the decision that each of us will be making in June and again in November at our voting precincts. I ask that if you are not registered to vote that you take a few minutes and do so. This can now be accomplished online (see the link on the back of this issue), and if you have friends and relatives who are not registered please help them get there. There is much at stake for our children, the reason each of us choose this life changing moment. Please cast a vote for public education.

If you wish for each of you is a well-deserved, relaxing and reinvigorating summer break, I appreciate your everyday sacrifices in the classroom and for New Mexico. Remember, you are in good company with NEA-New Mexico...students, parents and educators standing together and standing strong for public education.
Collective Bargaining Gains Ground in New Mexico
Charles Bowyer

Although nationwide, collective bargaining rights for public employees are under attack, in New Mexico we have maintained a strong public employee collective bargaining statute and are advancing bargaining rights across the state. Over the last year, NEA Loving and NEA-Quinta have gained bargaining rights in their respective school districts. Our joint NEA-AFT local the Highlands Faculty and Staff Association gained bargaining rights for classified employees. As this is written, NEA-Clayton and NEA-Raton are in the midst of campaigns to gain bargaining rights in their respective school districts.

What is Collective Bargaining?
Collective bargaining is a process for obtaining economic security and for helping employers and employees resolve disputes that may arise between them. It means:
• Effective shared decision making on working conditions
• The practices agreed to cannot be arbitrarily changed by either party
• Due process for employees whose rights have been violated

Why Do We Propose Collective Bargaining?
• We want to enhance employee dignity.
• We want autonomous input into our profession.
• We want to ensure staff development and payment for extra work.
• We must restore strong due process through professional and legal means.
• We want to promote the interests of this profession.
• We want community control, not political control, of our schools.

How Can We Succeed?
• We must be united.
• We must resist attempts to co-opt, threaten or separate us.
• We must be committed and agree not to give up at the first, or second, or TENTH setback.
• We must meet the myths and fears with truth.
• We must educate colleagues, the community, and ourselves.

Welcome New UniServ Staff!

Steve Sainez is the new UniServ Director for the Southwest Region, covering NEA-Las Cruces and the Classified School Employees Union-Las Cruces. Steve has already been a resident of NM for five years. After graduating from the University of California, Davis, he worked as a news reporter for El Diario de Chihuahua, Mexico’s second largest newspaper. He taught in the El Paso ISD, and worked for the Texas State Teachers Association from 2008 until he came to work for NEA-New Mexico.

Lori Ortega is the new UniServ Director for Santa Fe and Organizer for the northern part of the state. Lori worked with NEA-NM for the 2014 elections under a grant from NEA and was employed by NEA as legislative organizer assigned to New Mexico for two years and then as the NM-AFSCME Director assigned to New Mexico for the last year. Lori brings a wealth of union experience to our organization. She served for several years as regional director for the AFL-CIO in the west. Before that, she worked with AFSCME International as a political action representative.

We are pleased to have two qualified and experienced additions to our staff. Please make them feel at home in NEA-New Mexico.

Conquer the PED Domains… Attend NEA-New Mexico’s Domain Training
Greg Maxie

“For the first time in three years, I feel that I have the knowledge and resource to demonstrate my professionalism.” This reflection from a Farmington member is just one of many from members across the state who have taken advantage of NEA-NM’s Domain trainings. The training and materials are structured to assist in demonstrating an educator’s competency, based on the 4 Domains. The training is purposely designed to not place “one more thing on my plate.” In fact, the development of the training is to provide ease in demonstrating and collecting all that teachers do each day, yet is seldom observed.

Certified members who attend receive two notebooks. Domain 1, Planning and Preparation, is emphasized, as it defines what is observed in Domains 2 and 3 and are part of the Domain 1 notebook. Domain 4 notebook provides a structure to gather artifacts and coherently present them to the observer to demonstrate professionalism. “The notebooks have allowed me to score higher than in past years, because I have a system for all my artifacts,” states a Farmington member. The training provides you resources developed by peers, administrators, and from PED that has consistently resulted in higher scoring in Domains 1 and 4. While the training is not an endorsement of the Effectiveness Evaluation Plan, it is NEA-NM’s proactive response to assist educators on how to demonstrate and maximize scoring opportunities based on the Domain rubrics. Contact your local President or Regional UniServ Director to schedule a training.

STANDING TOGETHER! STANDING STRONG!
May 4th Walk-in!

We are joining AROS and AFT by having a Walk-in and wearing black on May 4th. The walk-in is a positive action that shows we’re ready to fight for our schools and our communities. Parents and community members gather at the flag pole and visit the school. Walk-ins build solidarity among our members; they will feel the power of collective action without risking retaliation, and they’ll feel the support of the community standing beside them.

Walk-ins build relationships. Walk-ins build power. Walk-ins build hope.

Show your solidarity. Join us for the May 4 walk-ins.