

NEA-NM *RETIRED*

Report on the October 21, 2016 NEA-NM Board Meeting...

Submitted by Eduardo Holguin

NEA-NM Board Member representing Retired

The following is a synopsis of discussions and actions at meetings held October 21 and 22 in Albuquerque.

MEMBERSHIP - September 30th reports show over 750 new members with many more being processed in the weeks leading up to the meeting. This growth is tempered by the very small number of new hires and increased retirements brought on by the state's budget crisis. Retired members continue to work with locals in membership organizing activities.

RECOGNITION - The Committee recommended and the Board approved moving the nominations of Rosemary Carrasco(Carlsbad), Sherry Bromley(LC) and Veronica Garcia(first Secretary of Public Education) forward for the appropriate NEA Human/Civil Rights Awards.

Know a retired colleague deserving of recognition for their career-long work for NEA? Well, then NOW is the time to nominate them for your Region's Hall of Fame. Forms are available at www.nea-nm.org or contact your local president or region chair.

BUDGET - The Committee recommended and the Board approved a motion allowing the Executive Director to make the necessary budget adjustments to keep us fiscally responsible.

ELECTIONS - The Committee received the lists of candidates meeting the 10/20/16 deadline for state and Region offices. Due to lack of nominations for EdPAC and RA delegates those categories were reopened for nominations from the floor at Delegate Council on 10/22. See the full list of candidates on www.nea-nm.org after 11/1/16.

SPECIAL SESSION - The Legislature stemmed the heavy financial bleeding by passing 9 bills. Senate Bill 7 targets Retirees by significantly reducing the state appropriation made monthly to Retiree Health Care. This will affect RHCA's long-term stability and cut down on it's ability to be fully funded for 20 years. RHCA is still investigating what the true effects will be.

Keep this in mind as you go vote on or before November 8. Check www.nea-nm.org for a list of our recommended candidates .

EdPAC - Retirees once again, stepped up and sent over \$3000 for EdPAC from our direct mail solicitation. Still have the envelope? Send it in with your check TODAY!

...and DELEGATE COUNCIL

Over 130 delegates and guests attended the Annual Delegate Council on 10/22/16 in Albuquerque. The day started with the presentation of NEA-NM awards and the introduction of our 2017 NEA-NM Read Across America Honorary Chairperson. Noted and award-winning author, Denise Chavez, from Las Cruces will serve as our literary luminary for the upcoming NEA-NM RAA events.

ELECTIONS - The Council re-elected Henry Armendariz and Michael Moss to their seats on the NEA-NM Board representing ESPs. The Council also resoundingly approved 5 By-Law amendments. Three of them dealt with Retired members: the first increases the number of Retired members on EdPAC from one to two beginning in 2017-18. The other two allow for Retired members to elect their alternates for their representatives on the NEA-NM Board and

EdPAC - That means more opportunities for our members to nominate themselves and be elected to serve our organization. NEA-NM on-line elections for Retired members on the NEA-NM Board and RA Delegates will begin on 1/27/17 when the postcards with our personal voter ID# will be mailed. On-line voting ends 2/17/17 and you can also request a paper ballot by calling [1-800-432-2017](tel:1-800-432-2017).

REPORTS - Delegates also heard reports from the ERB and PSIA. NEA-NM member and ERB Chair, Mary Lou Cameron, spoke of the work the ERB continues to do in keeping the fund stable and viable. PSIA staff reported on their attempts to keep providing a viable service in very lean state budget times and rising healthcare costs.

Don't forget to VOTE and VOTE for our recommended candidates!

Please send any comments/questions to eholguin749@gmail.com.