

NEA-NM *RETIRED*

Report of the NEA-NM Board Meeting

URGENT! : The Legislative session is just 2 weeks away from ending and as this is written the final actions on the budget are being taken. PLEASE call the Legislative switchboard(1-505-986-4300) as soon as you read this and ask for your state senator's office. Leave a message saying that "the Senate needs to pass the tax increase package approved by the House and send it to the Governor".

If the Senate decides to cave in to her "Veto" threats, our public schools, students, and colleagues will see at least another 5-7% cut in their budgets for next year. We, as Retired educators, are not immune as this will also mean the same budget cuts to our programs and services like Retiree Health Care. Remember: we already lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to Retiree Health Care in the October Special Session.

The Senate must hold fast and put the ball in her court. It is better for us that this session ends with no budget than for it to end with a bad budget. Call your Senators and if you are still steamed, call Sen. John Arthur Smith and Rep. Patty Lundstrom (respective chairs of the Finance and Appropriation Committees) leaving messages urging them to hold firm and use their majorities in both chambers to do the right thing by passing the entire tax package Do it TODAY!

The Following is a synopsis of the discussions and actions taken during the NEA-NM Board of Directors meeting in Santa Fe on Friday, March 3, 2017:

MEMBERSHIP- The Board reviewed plans for the upcoming "Join Now-Pay Later spring campaign and will tie it to local efforts to increase membership as most locals head into bargaining after the end of the legislative session.

The Board also discussed the sobering reality that New Employee Orientations may be few and far between as many districts will be facing hiring freezes and possible lay-offs. That means our potential members are current employees who have yet to join us. We as Retired can help by actively joining our local's colleagues in doing school visits to speak with and recruit friends and colleagues or at the very least speak with friends and family members who have yet to join.

RECOGNITION- The Board approved the committee's recommendations for Hall of Fame and Special Awards, giving us almost of full slate of honorees from across the state who will be feted at our October Delegate Council.

BUDGET- The Budget Committee continues to work on next year's budget with the less than optimum conditions that exist across the state in our school districts. It also presented the January financial reports for approval and submission to audit.

ELECTIONS- The Board accepted the report from the Elections Committee for the state elections held last month. Run-offs will begin for NEA Director (Rosa Linda Ramirez/ Diana Jackson) and Alternate NEA Director (Rosemary Carrasco/Ashley Ramirez) on March 13 and run through March 31. THESE RUN-OFFS ARE FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS ONLY.

Retired members will not have any run-off elections. These are the results for the two retired elections:

Two positions representing Retired on the NEA-NM Board of Directors

90 votes cast which means 46 votes needed to be elected.

Eduardo Holguin - 81	90%	ELECTED
Sabina Aguilar - 47	52%	ELECTED
Geraldine Franco- 17	19%	

Two Retired Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly

Top 2 vote getters elected-other candidates are alternates in descending order according to vote count.

Eduardo Holguin -	66
Carol Teweleit -	42
Sabina Aguilar -	32
Geraldine Franco -	10
Debbie Schoonover -	7

Jon Mullen - 7

James Conyers - 1

DISCUSSION- Legislative updates were provided. NEA-NM Lobby Team has been successful in defeating/delaying bad bills and moving good bills forward(although most, if not all, will be vetoed). This session is about money. **Please see URGENT message above.**

National issues were also reviewed, including the announcement from DC that DeVoss has already moved on legislation creating vouchers for K-12

The Board participated in an excellent conference on Saturday dealing with Social Justice issues that was presented by 2 members of our National's Executive Committee.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at: eholguin749@gmail.com

ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

Thank you for electing me to represent YOU on the Board and the RA. I will continue to do my best on our behalf and continue to keep you apprised of what occurs.

Submitted by

Eduardo Holguin

NEA-NM Board of Directors representing Retired