NEA-NM RETIRED

Report on June 2017 Board Meeting

The NEA-NM Board met June 8-9, 2017 in Santa Fe. The following is a synopsis of discussions and actions taken:

MEMBERSHIP
NEA-NM will, once again, invest in this fall's membership organizing efforts by offering new member rebates. The Board also charged the Committee with developing a membership organizing plan for 2018-19 by the end of January, so as to better involve staff, local leaders, and members in its implementation. Numbers of new hires may be limited by district budget constraints, so every new member will be greatly important in allowing us to advocate.

RECOGNITION
The Committee and Board finalized Hall of Fame and award recipients for presentation over Delegate Council weekend, October 27-28 in Albuquerque. More information will be forthcoming as recipients are notified.

ELECTIONS
The Committee proposed and the Board approved the 2018-19 Call for Nominations for state, region and RA Delegate elections next January. More information will be sent to all members in the hard copy "Advocates' Voice" later this summer. Written nominations for ALL positions are due in Santa Fe by October 20.

BUDGET
The Committee proposed and the Board approved the 2017-18 budget with little, if any, growth over the present budget and with the current staffing levels. Continued state budget woes make this a responsible, yet tight budget in times when fewer education employees are being hired.

Other Actions
The Board approved the 2017-18 NE/NC Region Budget and accepted the Region's 2017-18 Region Guidelines. All Region budgets/guidelines are due in Santa Fe by the end of September. The Board also took positions on proposed amendments to NEA's Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules in order to provide guidance to our RA delegates. They will be deliberated at this year's RA in Boston in early July. NEA-NM will have about 32 delegates attending.

POST SCRIPTS
- The Hanna Skandera era ends 6/20/17. Don't expect a change to the same tired rhetoric and hyperbole from the PED, but do start working for a change to a more educationally attuned and responsive Governor.
- News reports(6/15) have our educational retirement system in financial distress again in meeting long-term funding commitments. Stay informed on this issue through news media, ERB website, and NEA-NM website. Be ready to voice your opinions as to how the ERB and Legislature address this situation. There is already talk of decreasing benefits and doing away with the already elusive and decreasing cost-of-living increase.
- A heartfelt THANK YOU to Carol Teweleit who ends her 6 one-year terms on the NEA-NM Board very well and continues to do so in her local as a school board members July 14. She has served Retired members and all NEA-NM members.

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Submitted by
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