

NEA-NM *Retired*

Report on the 10/26/18 NEA-NM Board Meeting ...

The following is a synopsis of meetings and events held 10/25-27, 2018:
The NEA-NM Board met on Friday, 10/26/18 at the Isleta Hotel near ABQ.

MEMBERSHIP

So far, 900 new members have been added to the rolls and after accounting for resignations and retirements, our numbers show us about 400 in the positive. Recruitment is an every day task in keeping our union strong and responsive; and that includes increasing our Retired membership to make sure our issues such as Medicare Medicaid, Social Security, and retirement benefits continue to be addressed as **we** want them to be addressed. To that end, a concerted effort was made over the 3 days of meetings and at least 10 active members chose to join NEA Pre-Retired Life, which assures them of not having to pay any retired dues when they do retire, or having to worry about any retired dues increases during their retirement. This program is slated to go up by at least \$50 in the 2019-2020 membership year so don't dilly dally. For more information on this, please contact Retired President **Sabina**

Aguilar at sabilov@hotmail.com or NEA-NM.

FINANCIALS/BUDGET

We finished the fiscal year in good financial shape and our budget is in good stead, especially if our membership numbers continue to grow and locals continue to update their rosters at least monthly, so we have a good handle of where we are on actual dues paying members.

RECOGNITION

The Committee hosted a spectacular evening for our 7 Hall of Fame participants and special honoree, **J Paul Taylor**, who was feted for the Golden Anniversary of his term as our State President and for his lifetime of public service and accomplishments. Now is the time to start thinking of who might be honored by your locals and regions for next year's Hall of Fame Contact your local president or NEA-NM for forms and deadlines.

ELECTIONS

The Elections ballot was completed at Delegate Council with the final nominations for Representative Assembly delegates. Electronic voting will begin in late January with each member receiving a post card and email with voting instructions and personalized access codes
The Board also approved initiation of an alternative to run-off elections beginning with the 2020 NEA-NM elections. **This will have NO effect on this year's elections.**

OTHER ITEMS

The Board approved Region budgets for SW and NE/NC. It discussed our recommended candidates, reviewed GOTV plans, assessed two potential bills for the legislative session, along with a draft of possible changes to ERB rules and procedures that may also be presented to the Legislature. The Board also decided to expand their search for conflict resolution policies and procedures that may best serve our organization.

...DELEGATE COUNCIL

156 delegates packed the room for this year's Delegate Council. The day started with recognition of NEA-NM's special awards, including one to TV personality, **Steve Stucker**, for his unwavering support of our Read Across America program over the last 15 years and for his unselfish community service; which includes donating new beds and bedding to over 1000 children over the last 3 years.

Delegates also approved the Legislative Goals, passed a By-Law amendment assuring our open nominations elections process in case the federal government decides to move union elections back to paper and pencil elections:

elected 2 ESP At-Large members to the NEA-NM Board; heard from the candidates running for NEA-NM President and Vice-President; listened intently to NEA President **Lily Eskelsen Garcia** deliver the

keynote address;roared loudly during the lunchtime speeches of **Michelle Lujan Grisham, Stephanie Garcia Richard, and Senator Martin Heinrich.**

The delegates also raised \$2000 for the NEA Fund and \$4700 for NEA-NM EdPAC before giving a rousing ovation to President **Betty Patterson**, who presided over her 6th and last Delegate Council as her term of office ends in July. That leaves her plenty of opportunities for exciting and successful times, which she richly deserves after battling the recalcitrance of the present administration and the damages of tight budget years.

NEXT STOP

Legislative Training and Reception in Santa Fe on January 23,2019. NEA-NM usually takes a contingent to this so if you are interested, contact President**Sabina Aguilar** at sabilov@hotmail.com

Please send any questions or concerns to eholguin749@gmail.com and forward this to any NEA-NM retired member you know.

Submitted by
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NEA-NM Board representing Retired