Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

I hope you found some time to reconnect to what nourishes your heart and soul closing out 2020. It was a difficult holiday, which followed a difficult year. I was able to rest and replenish, though it was the first Christmas I haven't spent with my own children since 1986. I look forward to being able to reconnect with them and all of you in 2021.

As a harbinger of a return to some semblance of normalcy, I learned educators in Hobbs, Lovington, and Alamogordo had access to the COVID-19 vaccine before 2021. In the interest of public safety, I encourage all educators that are able to get the vaccine to do so as soon as possible. The thought of any of you getting sick, risking further health complications is troubling. NM kids need you all, so please take care of yourselves.

With that being said, I think some of our worst days with this virus may still be ahead of us, so it is very important that we continue to exercise caution and strictly adhere to social distancing, face masks, frequent hand washing and limiting our exposure to larger groups. The cavalry is coming but it may take time. Please be careful. We will get there but we need to be patient.

In the interim, we are excited to be able to engage with you in a variety of virtual settings in the months to come. Please join us and NEA's newly elected Secretary/Treasurer, Noel Candelária, for our important Legislative Training. This event will be held virtually on Sunday, January 24th, with our virtual lobbying day the following Monday, January 25th. Read ahead for more information, including registration instructions.

At the national level, we have been working with newly elected Senator Ben Ray Lujan to promote our priorities for the coming year. He committed to amplify our message at a meeting he has scheduled with nominated Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona. A new dawn is upon us at the Department of Education, given Dr. Cardona's background as an educator. We look forward to discussing his responses and are committed to do what we can to strengthen public education in our state and country. I am sure we will not miss the former Secretary: What was her name again?

Many of you responded to our Legislative survey and here is what you told us: Funding and equity and resources for students living with trauma or in poverty were among the most important. The number one concern, however, is not a surprise: getting back to in-person learning in a SAFE environment. A few of you are ready for in-person learning now, many are very concerned about safety for you and your students before reopening schools. Please take a minute to take our re-opening school survey in order for us to continue to accurately represent you. Please read on for much more…

Thank you,

Mary Parr-Sánchez
President, NEA-New Mexico
2021 NEA-NM Legislative Training and Lobby Day

Our 2021 NEA-NM Legislative Training and Lobby Day is days away and while it is disappointing that we can't meet in person, we are very excited to seeing you all virtually. As with our normal in-person conference, we have a few announcements.

Read more

We look forward to seeing you all during the Legislative Training and Lobby Day!

Register for our Legislative/Lobby Day

Engaging NMPED Leadership

NEA-NM was pleased to host a virtual Townhall conversation with NM PED's Dr. Ryan Stewart and Dr. Gwen Perea Warniment to address important issues including School Reopening, Vaccination for Educators, Spring Testing, Evaluation, and Student Grades.

Watch Webinar

Brief Summary

NEA-NM 2021 Elections

The NEA-NM 2021 All-Member Election begins on January 29, 2021. The lists of candidates and declared elected candidates are on the NEA-NM website, www.nea-nm.org, for various state positions. Postcards and emails will be sent with voting details on January 29th. Be on the lookout for these items. Paper ballots may be obtained by contacting NEA-NM at (505) 982-1916. Electronic voting will close on Friday, February 19, 2021.

List of NEA-NM Candidates

This could be your lucky day and you deserve it!

In a hectic world where you never know what tomorrow might bring, let @CaliforniaCasualty help bring some joy with $2,500 cash! Multiple educators will win!

Enter Today
VAULT Surveillance Testing

The current PED Reentry and small group instruction require districts to implement a 10% random surveillance testing program for employees. This percentage may increase as the PED works to increase safeguards regarding health and safety of students and educators.

Learn More

Membership Matters!

As the legislature prepares to open its session, under unprecedented circumstances, NEA-NM member educators and support professionals call for bold and urgent measures to protect and strengthen NM schools. Safe re-openings, funding and resources, including equity in technology and WIFI access, and retirement security that honors the profession, are among the issues we believe legislators must address. Build our Union! Invite a potential member to be a part of this call to move NM schools forward!

Build our Union!

Lawsuit

The National Education Association-New Mexico (NEA-NM) applauds and strongly supports the recent lawsuit filed by Attorney General Hector Balderas against Total Teaching Solutions International, and its CEO Janice Bickert. NEA-NM stands for human and worker rights and opposes any scheme to recruit and exploit teachers from other countries to teach in New Mexico school districts. Our students and communities deserve that all school employees be treated with dignity and respect.

Learn More

Visit us at nea-nm.org 505-982-1916

Putting Kids First • Promoting Professional Excellence • Improving the Well-Being of School Employees