Your All Retirees Newsletter

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT March 2022

My heart has been heavy these past days when I think about and watch the news stories about the people of Ukraine. This horrific event of warfare, invasion, injury and death has me thinking about the effects of grief and grieving. A heavy topic for sure, but one conversation/discussion we need to have.

Grief doesn't have to be the loss of a loved one…it can be the loss of anything held dear. It is incredibly complex and non-linear, according to Rabbi Steve Leder in his book, "The Beauty of What Remains: How Our Greatest Fear Becomes Our Greatest Gift."

Every individual experiences and expresses death and grief differently and it isn't limited exclusively to feelings of sadness. Leder allows there can be beauty, joy, and big, big love that can sit alongside those feelings of loss. We just need to learn how to hold all of those feelings at the same time. It's in talking about death and dying, bringing the conversation into the light, that we actually ease the suffering of those grieving, because silence isolates. You would think with death being universally inevitable, we'd be more comfortable talking about the topic. But sadly, we still avoid it.

In the first two months of 2022, we have lost 12 educator colleagues. (Thanks Trish Murphy for continuing to provide the information for the YARN "In Memoriam" notice.) So often people apologize (in hindsight) for the avoidance of conversation because they didn't know what to say. So for starters, reach out and say something, anything, without expectation. Just let them know you are thinking about them. It can be as simple as "I'm so sorry. I have no words. I just want you to know I'm here and thinking of you often."

Rabbi Leder also advises to avoid asking "How can I help?" and just telling what you are going to do to help…drop off meals, mow their lawn, shovel snow, take their dog for a walk, etc. The grieving person is not likely in a place to make decisions and you don't want to burden them. Then make a note on your calendar to check back regularly, because after the initial barrage of support, life gets quiet, and grievers can feel forgotten.

Continued prayers for the people of Ukraine and our own members who have suffered the death of a loved one this year. We see you. Support you. Hold you fast in our hearts.

Karen Morrison
President

SAN JUAN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL RETIREES

AZTEC • BLOOMFIELD • CENTRAL • FARMINGTON • SJC

Send in your dues now, or ask a friend to join. Enjoy monthly programs, and support activities that enhance the lives of San Juan County retirees who receive a pension check from the ERB.

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2021-2022 MEMIBERSHIP FORM

Name_____

Social Security #_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____

County_____

Zip Code_____

Phone #_____

E-Mail Address_____

Birthday_____

Would you like to receive a reminder call before each meeting? NO YES

____ I hereby authorize the Educational Retirement Board to deduct NMAER **state** dues from my retirement check in the amount of $2.50 a month. I understand this authorization makes me a continuing member of the association and can be canceled only by a written notice from me.

____ Already on **automatic** **state** dues.
____ $30.00 enclosed for annual **state** dues.
____ $10.00 enclosed for annual **local** dues.

_____
Signature of Retiree

_____
Date

Make checks payable to SJAER

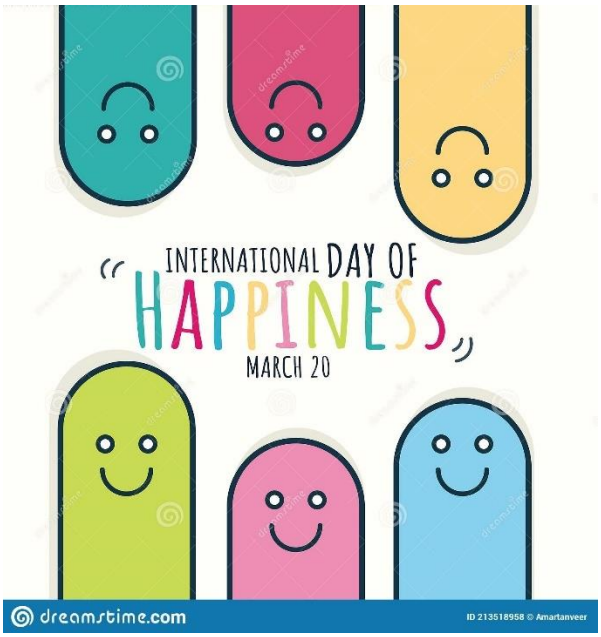
Mail to: SJAER Membership Chair
Phyllis Meier
3305 N. Cochiti
Farmington, NM 87401
(505)-320-7536

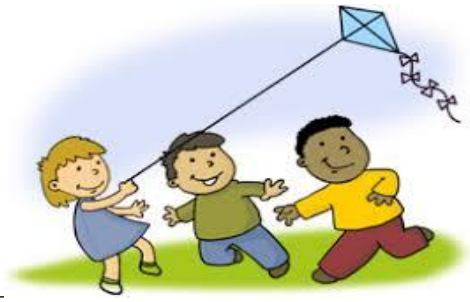
(Dues are NOT tax deductible)

Sponsored by _____Phyllis Meier_____
Unit Sponsored by __San Juan AER_____

March Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for Tuesday, March 8 will be Nate Duckett, Mayor for the City of Farmington.
The meeting will be at No Worries Sports Bar & Grill at the Farmington Airport.





SJAER Meetings

SJAER meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Currently, we are meeting in-person! Hooray! The meetings will be 11:30 a.m. at No Worries Bar and Grill located at Farmington Airport. A couple of $8 or $10 specials will be available or members can order off the menu.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
SHAW, SHEILA D	3/2
MENAPACE, SARAH	3/4
FAULKNER, BETTY SUE	3/6
FLYNN, NORMA J.	3/8
ROWELL, VERNA	3/9
CHAVEZ, ROBERT L	3/10
ESTRADA, AIDA S	3/11
MILLER, SYLVIA A	3/20
McDONALD, CAROLINE R	3/23
BARFOOT, GAYLE	3/29
WOODERSON, JUDITH D	3/29
CORCORAN, DENISE	3/31
CULPEPPER, CHUCK	3/31

2021/2022 Membership Report			
	AUTO	NMAER	SJAER
SEPTEMBER	7	17	25
OCTOBER	9	9	18
NOVEMBER	1	2	5
DECEMBER	0	0	0
JANUARY	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	1	1
MARCH	0	0	0
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	17	29	49

See page 2 for 2021-2022 Membership form.

Our two treasurers report that we have a current balance of $3095.41.

SJAER Executive Board Meeting 2-8-22
11:00 AM at No Worries

Executive Members Present: President-Karen Morrison, Secretary-Connie Alley, Membership-Phyllis Meier, Programs-Marilyn Montoya, YARN-Debbie Klein, Sunshine-Nancy Tyson, Treasurer-Kathy Martin, and Asst. Treasurer-Sandy Allred. **Absent:** Vice President-Jackie Golombowski, Legislative Rep./Webmaster Chuck Culpepper, and Scholarship-Joan Lewis

Meeting was called to order by Karen Morrison.

- **President:** Karen gave a box of candy and thanked each of the board members for their friendship, dedication, and service.
- **Lunches:** We order lunch off the regular menu.
- **Secretary report:** The minutes for 1-11-22 are printed in the YARN.
- **Business:** The Nomination Committee members have backed out. May will be our last meeting this year. If we don't have SJAER officers for 2022-2023 we will have to be disbanded.
- **Project:** We signed valentines for the clients in our local assisted living facilities.
- **YARN:** Thank you Debbie Klein for the YARN publication.
- **Programs:** Patti Thrarp, author of The Lost Communities of Navajo Dam.

Next Executive meeting: 11:00 AM on March 8th at No Worries

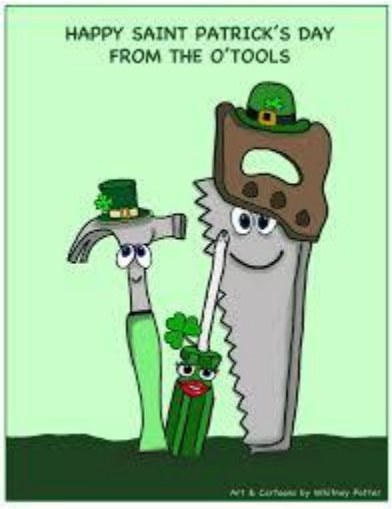
SJAER-GENERAL MEETING 2-8-22
11:30 AM at No Worries

16 people attended the today's meeting.

Meeting was called to order by President Karen Morrison.

- **The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Sandy Allred.
- **Lunch:** Members ordered off the menu as they arrived.
- **Executive Board Officers:** Our officers have worked hard to keep **S**JAER going through the COVID pandemic for the past two years. Now it's time to vote for a new board of officers. Our volunteers on the Nomination Committee for 2022-2023 have backed out. May will be our last meeting this year. If we don't have officers for next year SJAER will be disbanded.
- **Program:** Patti Thrarp is an active member of the Historical Society. She is the author of The Lost Communities of Navajo Dam. Some of her information was found in the San Juan County Seat documents in Aztec. Four communities were obliterated to build Navajo Dam. They were given 1-3 years to vacate. The government paid them far less than the market price for their homes and no reimbursement for their moving expenses. Patti shared a slide show with maps of the project and pictures of the people. Read her two books to learn more about these communities and their people. You can buy her books at the museum.
- **Up-Coming Programs:** Mayor Nate Duckett will be here in March.
- **Valentine Trivia:** We were excited to play the Valentine Trivia game that was printed in the YARN. After completing the questions, Debbie revealed the answers and added interest facts that supported them. We had a great time learning more about the history of Valentine's Day. Winners were rewarded with a box of candy.
- **Door Prize:** A box of Dove candy was won by Kathy Martin.

Next General Meeting: 11:30 AM on March 8th at No Worries



SJAER PROJECTS

If you have ideas for possible meeting programs, please contact Marilyn Montoya (Marilyn_montoya@yahoo.com) or Karen Morrison (klm3@earthlink.net).

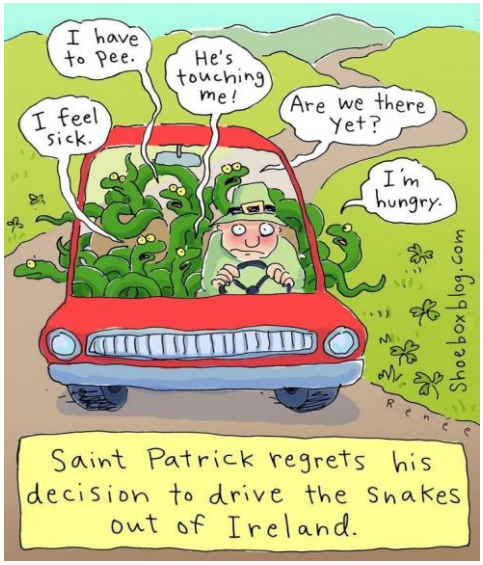
If you know of members who have been ill or have experienced the loss of a loved one, please contact Courtesy/Sunshine Chair Nancy Tyson (ntyson@dives-2-little.com). SJAER will send a card.

Take a copy of the YARN and use it to invite a friend to join SJAER.

Greeting Cards - Please take time out to send a cheerful greeting card to a resident at Namaste House, a local assisted living facility which we have "adopted" for the time being. You may address your card as follows: Namaste House, Resident 800 W. 30th Street. Farmington, NM. 87401

2021-2022 Meeting Dates and Programs

Mar. 8, 2022	Nate Duckett Mayor of Farmington
Apr. 12, 2022	Heather Holmes 100 Women Who Care
May 10, 2022	Year End Barbeque



Volunteer Hours

Month	Volunteer Hours
September	105
October	132
November	57
December	278
January	596
February	297
March	
April	
May	
Total	1465

You may submit your volunteer hours at each meeting when you sign in or by emailing them to Trish: trishshsh@live.com

In Memoriam, December 2021--February 2022

Name	Date	Name	Date
Cheryl Walker	Dec 6	Linda Hogue	Jan 9
Betty Tingey	Dec 8	Marlene McGee	Jan 19
Roberta "Bobbie" Graham	Dec 13	Gordon Glass	Jan 22
Norman Chavez	Dec 15	Max Maestas	Jan 23
Randy Manning	Dec 19	Winona Chase	Jan 26
Donald Wayne Abbott	Dec 24	Mamie Jim	Feb 1
Vanessa Atencio	Jan 1	Kevin Budai	Feb 4
Brenda Sue Birchfield	Jan 3	Henry Todacheeney	Feb 6
Vera Jack	Jan 3	Lynn Hurst	Feb 7

Legislative Report

A. HB 1 General Appropriations Act
1. This is the feed bill for the legislative session
2. Heard in Senate Education Committee
3. Recommend DO PASS
4. **Signed by Governor on 1/21/2022**

B. SB 36 Increased Employer Contributions to ERB
1. Heard in Senate Education Committee
2. Recommend DO PASS
3. Passed Senate 2/9/2022, Passed House 2/15/2022
4. **Signed by Governor on 3/1/2022**

C. SB 1 Increasing Salary for Licensed Teachers
1. Heard in Senate Education Committee
2. Recommend DO PASS
3. **Passed Senate 2/5/2022, Passed House 2/15/2022**

D. SB 112 Retiree Health Care Contributions
1. Heard in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee
2. TABLED

E. HB 48 Exempt Social Security from Taxation
1. Heard in House Labor, and Beterans' and Military Afffairs Committees
2. Tabled

F. HB 49 Phase in Exemption for Social Security Income Tax
1. Scheduled for House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee
2. Support

G. HB 68 Criminal Code Changes
1. **Passed House 2/12/2022, Passed Senate (with amendments) 2/17/22**
2. **House Concurs with Senate Amendments 2/17/2022**

H. **HB 163 Tax Changes (**includes Gross Reciepts reduction and Social Security exemption on individuals makeing less than $75,000/$150,000 for married/head of household/surviving spouses)
1. **Passed House 2/15/2022, Passed Senate (with amendments) 2/17/2022.**

2. **House concurred with Senate Amendments 2/17/2022**

I. HJR 11 Expanding Options for Educational Choice
   1. Scheduled for House Education Committee
   2. SUPPORT

J. SB 49 Exempt Social Security from Income Tax (with certain income limits)
   1. Scheduled for Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committees

K. SB 108 Exempt Social Security from Income Tax
   1. Governor's preferred bill
   2. Scheduled for Senate tax, Business and Transportation Committees
   3. Support

L. SB 121 Exempt Social Security from Income Tax
   1. Offset by raising tobacco tax
   2. Scheduled for Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committees

M. SB 36 Increse ER Contributions for ERB
   1. Received DO PAss in Senate Ecuations Commitee
   2. Scheduled for Senate Finance Committee
   3. SUPPORT
   4. **Passed Senate 2/9/2022, Passed House 2/15/2022**

N. SB 93 Community Educators Act
   1. Provides for a new section of the Public School Code and would exempt Community Educators from the ERA (defined as a person who has a current license from PED as a community educator and is not a current teachers or other school employee under PED code.
   2. Scheduled for Senate Education Committee
   3. WATCH

O. HB 73a Educational Retirees Return to Work
   1. Would provide for a 90 day layout with a limit of 36 months of additional service allowed
   2. Scheduled for House LAbor, Veternas' and Military AFfairs Committees. SB 172 is the companion bill in the Senate.
   3. Watch
   4. **Passed House 2/12/2022, Passed Senate 2/17/2022**

P. HB 74 Retiree Health Care Fund Contributions
   1. Would increase Employer and Employee contribution rates for Retiree Health Care Fund. At this time, this bill has not been ruled germane
   2. SB 112 is the companion bill in the Senate

Q. SB 80 Health Security Act Adoption Study
   1. Calls for an appropriation of $1.5million to the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance to study and report finding to the possible adoption of the health Security Act.
   2. Heard in Senate Helath and Public Affairs with DO PASS
   3. Scheduled for Senate Finance Committee
   4. WATCH

EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Mar. 8	Tuesday	11:00am - 7:00pm	Take and Make Craft - Macrame Key Chain - Supplies are limited	Farmington Library	Free Limited Supplies
Feb. 1 - Mar. 31	Ongoing	On-line & in person	Photo submissions are being accepted for use in the official 2023 Farmington Vacation Guide and additional promotional materials.	Farmington FCVB - Attn: Ingrid Gilbert, 3041 E Main St.	Free
Mar. 2 - April 11	Tuesday - Saturday Sunday	9:00am- 5:00pm 1:00 - 4:00	Riverside Nature Center Photo Show - view pictures of scenery, people, wildlife and activities taken in the river parks	Riverside Nature Center	Free
Mar. 7 - Mar. 25	Ongoing	10:00am- 5:00pm	Nature inside and Out - features combined oil, studio works, and plien air pieces of Teresa Johnson and Debbie Clay	Henderson Fine Arts Center	Free
Mar. 8 - Apr. 22	Every Tuesday	9:00am - 11:00am	Tuesday Morning Birders - Join a group of beginning and experienced birders for a walk	Riverside Nature Center	Free
Mar. 16	Wednesday	7:00pm- 9:00pm	The Classics Combo, Rich & Sara Canfield and Salleyanne Bachman, presents a special St. Patrick's Irish Music Celebration	Farmington Civic Center	Free or $15 Buffet
Mar. 17	Thursday	5:00pm- 7:00pm	St. Patrick's Day Madness - fun, games & snacks. "Most Creative Green Worn" contest.	Sycamore Park Center	Free
Mar. 17	Thursday	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Reel Readers: Read the Book! See the Movie! "The Martian". Bring a brown bag dinner.	Farmington Library	Free
3/17-20 3/24-27	Thurs - Sat Sunday	7:30pm Sun 2:00	Gene Kelly's Lost Musical - Four Corners Musical Theatre Company premier-true story.	Farmington Civic Center	$14 - $18
Mar. 22	Tuesday	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Craft Night: Macrame' Garland. Learn how to create something beautiful!	Farmington Library	Free Limited supplies/seats
Mar. 26	Saturday	7:00pm	BYU Vocal Point Concert - nine-man a Capella group - rock, pop, country, jazz, hymns, & R&B.	Henderson Fine Arts Center	$20 - $25
Mar. 31	Thursday	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Sylvia Ramos Cruz will discuss the history of Women's Suffrage in New Mexico.	Farmington Library	Free
Apr. 1	Friday	5:00pm - 9:00pm	Downtown Stroll & Art Walk - Galleries, restaurants and retail businesses all host some of the best local artists in the area.	Historic Downtown Farmington	Free
Apr. 2	Saturday	9:00am - 1:00pm	Garden Volunteers Day - learn about herbs, native plants, & xeriscape landscaping, by preparing Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens.	Riverside Nature Center	Free
Apr. 6	Wednesday	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Ballet Folklorico de Mexico - brings together music, dance & costume of Mexican folklore.	Farmington Civic Center	$24 - $28
Apr. 8 - Apr. 9	Friday Saturday	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Spirit Coalescent combines instrumentals, eight giant multi-media visual art pieces & dynamic choreography & ties it together through poetry.	Farmington Civic Center	$14 - $18
Apr. 9	Saturday	7:30pm - 9:00pm	San Juan Symphony - "Fanfare for Democracy" passionate displays of virtuosity alongside three composers - Lecture at 6:30	Henderson Fine Arts Center	$8 - $90
Apr. 12	Tuesday	7:30pm	The British Invasion - showcases songs from The Rolling Stones, Dave Clark 5, The Animals, The Kinks, and Dusty Springfield.	Farmington Civic Center	$24 - $28