

Your All Retirees Newsletter



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

March 2024

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb according to an old weather proverb. So far, our weather has been relatively mild in our area. At least the weather is becoming more Spring-like but winter may still have some surprises in store for us.

I recently reread **Julius Caesar** by Shakespeare (Don't ask me why?.) I had read it in 9th grade English but never since then. The play recounts concerns by some prominent Romans, the concern that Caesar was moving toward becoming a dictator. There was a plot to assassinate him by his "friend" Brutus and Cassius as well as a host of others. The seer named Sporicina warned him to beware the Ides of March. While Caesar's wife Calpurnia took it seriously, Caesar did not and went to the Senate anyway. During his trip to the Senate, he was stabbed 23 times. (Ouch!!) This occurred in 44 BC. The Ides of March are coming on March 15.

March is also a time when we are getting to the end of our official year. It is the month that we elect our officers for next year. New officers take office in May. So, be thinking if you would like to hold office in our organization. It can be personally rewarding.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on March 12.



Jim Conyers,
President SJAER



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.

SJAER BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jim Conyers

VICE PRESIDENT

Marilyn Montoya

PAST PRESIDENT

Marilyn Montoya

TREASURER

Kathy Martin

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Sandy Allred

SECRETARY

Connie Alley

MEMBERSHIP

Phyllis Meier

PROGRAMS

Karen Morrison

Marilyn Montoya

PUBLICITY: NEWSLETTER

Debbie Klein

PUBLICITY: WEBSITE

Chuck Culpepper

SUNSHINE

Nancy Tyson

SCHOLARSHIP

Marilyn Montoya

SJRM C REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Morrison

Jim Conyers



2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP 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.

_____ \$5.00 enclosed for **associate** (non retiree) dues.

Signature of Retiree

Date: _____

Make checks payable to SJAER.

Mail to: SJAER Membership Chair, Phyllis Meier, 3305 N. Cochiti, Farmington, NM 87401 i

(Dues are Not tax deductible)

Sponsored by Phyllis Meier

Unit Sponsored by San Juan AER

Wuzzle Answer: outlook or Look outside.

March Program

Our program for March 12 will be Jan Brashear who will be telling us about Shadow of His Wings school in Kenya Africa.



2022/2023 Membership Report

	AUTO	NMAER	SJAER
SEPTEMBER	10	4	16
OCTOBER	6	4	10
NOVEMBER	0	2	3
DECEMBER	0	0	0
JANUARY	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	2	0	2
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	18	10	31

SJAER Meetings

SJAER meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. All meetings except for May, will be at No Worries Bar and Grill located at Farmington Airport. A couple of \$8 or \$10 specials may be available or members can order off the menu when they arrive. The May meeting will be a picnic at a local park.



New Message about Volunteering

Do you know that you can still submit all your volunteer hours that you've worked this year, ever since September 2023 to now? (Just be sure not to duplicate any already recorded.). We report these to NMAER, who sends them to the State legislature. When the hours are converted to money, it shows millions of dollars that we generous retirees contribute to our State. It's amazing! For questions, or to submit your hours, simply email:

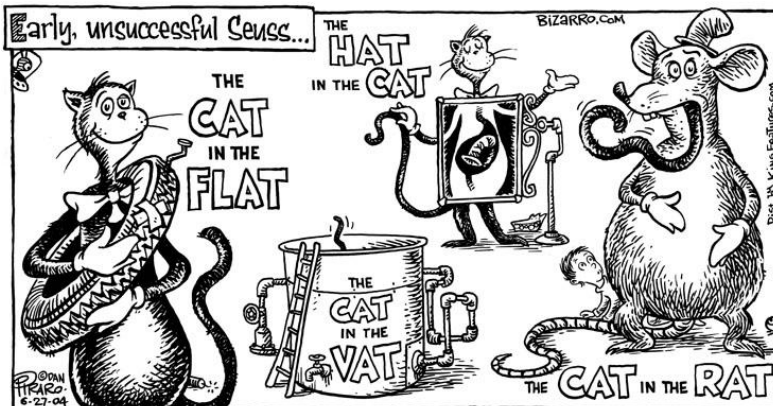
trishshsh@live.com

Thanks, SJAER, for making our communities a far better place by volunteering your valuable time and skills.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

SHAW, SHEILA D	3/2
MENAPACE, SARAH	3/4
McDONALD, CATHY	3/7
ROWELL, VERNA	3/9
CHAVEZ, ROBERT L	3/10
ESTRADA, AIDA S	3/11
MILLER, SYLVIA A	3/20
BARFOOT, GAYLE	3/29
WOODERSON, JUDITH D	3/29
CORCORAN, DENISE	3/31
CULPEPPER, CHUCK	3/31

2023-2024 Month	Volunteer Hours
September	315
October	191
November	431
December	298
January	276
February	761
March	
April	
May	
Summer	
Total	2272





In Memoriam March 2024



Corinne “Dolly” Wormdahl. 9/19/49 – 2/2/24. Bloomfield. Worked in the cafeteria at Central Primary School.

Jeanetta Kay Christensen. 1/6/37 – 2/8/24. Farmington. SJAER member.

Victoria Townsend. 1938 or 1939. Aztec. Taught at Mesa Verde National Park and also in Aztec, for 15 years.

Lawrence Burt Biddah. 1/19/64 – 2/15/24. Shiprock. Teacher at Central Consolidated Schools (Shiprock High?) and youth basketball coach.

Karen Clements. 10/5/44 – 2/24/24. Raised in Aztec. Middle school math and science teacher for over 40 years in Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada.

2023 – 2024 Meeting Dates and Programs

March 12	Jan Brashear who will be telling us about Shadow of His Wings school in Kenya Africa.	May 14	Picnic – Kiwanis Park Pavilion – details to follow
April 9	Aztec Museum’s 60 th Anniversary – Joan Hamblin Monninger, Executive Director	June - August	Off for the summer – No meetings

General Meeting 2-13-24 11:30 am at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill

15 members and 1 guest

Welcome/Opening – Sandy Allred, **Pledge** – Kathy Martin, **Salute** – Marilyn Montoya, **Prayer Business:**

- **Welcome members and guests.**
- **Continued Projects:**
 - **Scholarship Share the Bucket:** This is a 50/50 effort to build our scholarship fund and members were thanked for their participation/donations. We currently have \$260 in the fund, about half of what is needed to award another \$500 scholarship in the fall.
 - **Counselors’ Student Food Pantry:** We are continuing to donate nonperishable food again this year. Bring it to the meeting with you, and Kathy will make sure it gets to the right place.
 - **May Meeting and Picnic** – Plans are being made for our Picnic in May.

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Morgan from the Gordon Glass Sponsor Circle

- Rebecca shared the story of the Gordon Glass Sponsor Circle assisting Ukrainian refugees in Farmington
- They thought it would be one family for a short amount of time, but it turned out to be several families for a much longer period of time.
- She described the families and how they have adjusted to living in the U.S.
- She encouraged us to attend the Village Band Concert Saturday, Feb. 24 in support of the Gordon Glass Sponsor Circle and the Ukrainian families. Some of the Ukrainian children will be dancing, too! For more information or to donate, visit their website: sjcukraine.org To buy tickets visit: <https://sjcboxoffice.universitytickets.com/>

Community Announcements

- **Caliente Broadway for Brunch:** It is this Saturday and close to being sold out. Debbie has 4 tickets.
- **Share the Bucket Winner:** This is a 50/50 effort to build our scholarship fund. Members were thanked for their participation and donations.
- **Valentine Candy drawings:** Thanks to Marilyn Montoya for the Valentine Candy Hearts for the additional drawings.

Next General Meeting – 11:30 am on March 12, 2024 at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill.

SJAER PROJECTS

If you know of community people, projects, or news that would make an interesting SJAER meeting program, please contact 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.

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

Threads

Threads (the High School Pantry partner) collects clothes, toiletries, and laundry soap, etc. for students living on their own or homeless. It is located in the old Farmington Administration Building at 20th and Dustin. Donations may be dropped off during operating hours: Mon 11:45-1:30 and Thurs 3:00-4:30. They also need volunteers.

Pantry

There are a surprising number of high school students living on their own or even homeless. A pantry has been set up to provide food, toiletries, and other basic needs for these students. Members are asked to support this project by bringing items to our meetings which will be given to the counselors running the pantry. Nonperishable, easy fix, microwavable food items, hygiene items, feminine products, etc. are needed to support these students and keep them in school.

Little Free Libraries

Donate books at Little Free Libraries located in Jaycee Park on the corner of Zuni and Mesa Verde Avenue and Mossman Gladden Park 1100 block of N. Buena Vista Ave and in Karen Morrison’s front yard at 805 E. 25th Street. In Aztec, libraries are located at 107 N. Mesa Verde and between City Hall and the Splashpad. Take a Book or Leave a Book – that’s the LFL motto!



PANTRY

Don't forget to bring donations for our student support programs.

See descriptions above for items needed.



THREADS



Dr. Seuss (Ted Geisel) -- Mar. 2
Barbie (48) -- Mar. 9
Harriet Tubman -- Mar. 10
Albert Einstein -- Mar. 14
James Madison -- Mar. 16
Queen Latifah (37) -- Mar. 18

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Martin reports a balance of \$2678.80 in our checking account. The scholarship fund balance is currently \$300.00.

Wuzzle Answer on Page 2

Wuzzle – A Word Puzzle

Find a common word or phrase by the word and its position in the box.



L
O
O
K

SJAER Executive Board Meeting 2-13-24

10:45 am at No Worries, Sports Bar & Grill

Board Members Working for You

Present: President-Jim Conyers, Vice President-Marilyn Montoya, Treasurer-Kathy Martin, Assistant Treasurer-Sandy Allred, Programs-Karen Morrison, Membership-Phyllis Meier, YARN-Debbie Klein, Volunteer Hours/In Memoriam -Trish Murphy, Scholarship-Marilyn Montoya, SJRMC Rep.-Jim Conyers and Karen Morison, Sunshine-Nancy Tyson

Absent: Secretary-Connie Alley, Webmaster/Legislative Rep.-Chuck Culpepper

Meeting was called to order by Jim Conyers.

Agenda and previous meetings minutes were approved.

New Business

- **Scam reported by Jim Conyers:** Jim asked the state to post our email information on the state website and then Kathy received a request for gift cards. The state office confirmed it was a scam that has been around for several years. Jim asked that the email addresses be removed from both state and local websites.
- **Schedule May Picnic Location:** The Board decided that Civitan and Kiwanis Parks are good locations because they are centrally located and easy to find. Debbie volunteered to contact the City to see which parks might be available and schedule one for the picnic.
- **President's meeting in March:** Jim Conyers will be attending. He believes the state organization will pay for everything so at this time, Jim will not be requesting any money.

Old Business

- **Officers for 2024-2025:** Connie Alley has requested that a new secretary be elected. Marilyn Montoya will work on getting a slate of officers.
- **IRS Issues:** Kathy Martin presented the letter with our EIN number and our Constitution and Bylaws which were revised in January of 2021. Debbie Klein reported that she spoke with Russell Goff at the state agency to see if our unit is under the state IRS umbrella. Russell stated that each unit is on its own and need to file with the IRS each year, It was discovered that we may or may not have applied for 501c3. It was thought that either Harold Clark, CPA, or Tom Stampler of Alpha and Omega Accounting filed the paperwork. Debbie volunteered to continue investigating the IRS issue.
 - **A break was taken to order lunch.** Karen ordered the sampler plate, Sandy ordered nachos, Kathy ordered taquitos, Debbie ordered ½ Alburquerque Turkey, etc. Discussion occurred concerting the buffalo wings. Jim brought us back to the meeting. 😊
- **Audits:** Discussion ensued on how to do our audits. Debbie Klein suggested a simple process of having someone on the board review the statements and checkbook at each meeting to confirm their accuracy. It was decided that we would do that and see if there is a need for a more formal audit once a year.

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer report:** Kathy Martin reported a balance of \$2653.80. She hasn't deducted the payments for the YARN for the past two months: Scholarship fund is \$260.00.
- **Membership:** No new members.
- **Sunshine:** Nancy apologized for not sending Phyllis a card for her eye surgery, but she telephoned her.
- **Programs:** Debbie, Karen, Marilyn, and Phyllis have secured speakers for the rest of the year and probably have September and October scheduled as well. Today's speaker will be Rebecca Morgan speaking about the Ukrainian Families being sponsored by the Gordon Glass Sponsorship Circle. Programs are listed in the YARN.
- **Legislation/Website:** The latest Legislation update from Russell Goff is in the YARN.
- **YARN:** Debbie reported that she included both hospital corporation reports.
- **SJRH:** Jim and Karen attended their meeting. Their reports are printed in the YARN.
- **In Memoriam & Volunteer Hours:** Ruben Gonzales passed away. Both he and his wife were members. Trish Murphy had nothing extra to report.
- **Scholarship:** We have ½ of what we need for another scholarship. Split the pot continues.

Next Board Meeting – 10:45 am on March 12 at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill.

NEW MEXICO AER - FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As the second session of the 58th Legislative Session came to a close at noon on Thursday, February 15th, we saw an accumulation of 658 bills that were introduced over the session. Of those 658 pieces of legislation introduced, 45 bills, memorials, resolutions, and joint resolutions passed in the Senate and 62 passed in the House. Three bills currently have been signed by the Governor:

1) **HB 1, Feed Bill** for the legislative session.

2) **HB 141, Supreme Court Salary Increases Judges'** salaries to \$232,600.

3) **HB 171, School Graduation Requirements** will provide for more student choices including a class in financial literacy. These changes go into effect in the 2025-26 school year. The remaining bills have been sent to the Governor for her signature.

HERE IS SOME OF THE KEY LEGISLATION THAT PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS DURING THIS SESSION AND AWAIT THE GOVERNORS SIGNATURE. THE GOVERNOR HAS UNTIL MARCH 6TH TO SIGN OR THE LEGISLATION BECOMES "POCKET VETOED":

> **HB 129, Firearm Sales Waiting Period** would require a seven-day waiting period prior to purchasing a gun.

> **HB 207, Public School Outlay Grant** would provide assistance to charter schools from public school capital outlay funds.

> **HB 252, Adjust Income Tax Brackets.** This new tax package includes clean energy credits and reduces the income tax brackets.

> **HB 2 & 3, General Appropriations Act of 2024** provides a \$10.1 million budget for the year 2025. It also provides a 3% increase for public school employees.

> **SB 14, New Health Care Authority** provides the framework for the new Health Care Authority including the Retiree Health Care Authority.

> **SB 15, Health Care Consolidation Oversight Act.** This bill enacts the Health Care Consolidation Oversight Act and it reviews the proposed Health Care mergers.

> **SB 117, School Board Training** provides for a requirement of 10 hours of training for School Board Members in ethics, school personnel, finance, governance, and others.

> **SB 153, Early Childhood Transfers** increases the distribution of early childhood education funding by \$15 million.

> **SB 159, Higher Education Trust Fund** creates a trust fund to provide tuition and financial aid for every NM higher education institution.

> **SB 165, Legislative Retirement Changes** provide an increased pension for future legislative retirees.

RETIREMENT:

> **HM 1, Study Pension Benefit Structure**, sponsored by Rep. Joy Garratt. This House Memorial proposes a study on equalizing the Pension Benefit structures of the Educational Retirement Board and the Public Employees Retirement Association. HM 1 died on the House floor.

> **SM 4, PERA & ERB Pension Benefit Structure**, sponsored by Sen. Mimi Stewart. This Senate Memorial requests the LFC to study equalizing the Pension Benefit structures of the ERB and the PERA. SM 4 died on the Senate floor.

> **HB 222, Educational Retirement Returning to Work**, sponsored by Rep. Jason Harper & Rep. Raymundo Lara. This bill raises the salary cap on earnings for some retired workers who return to work. HB 222 died in the House Education Committee.

HEALTH CARE:

> **SJR 5, Public Employees Retiree Health Care Fund**, sponsored by Sen. Roberto Gonzales. This Senate Joint Resolution would amend Article 20 of the Constitution of NM to prohibit the expenditure of the trust fund except for the benefit of the Trust beneficiaries. RHCA currently has a \$1.3 billion trust fund to assist retirees with the cost of their health care. This Joint Resolution failed on the Senate floor on a 25-14 vote. During the debate many issues surfaced; however, it was apparent there was strong opposition.

EDUCATION:

> **HB 74, School Board Determine Instructional Day**, sponsored by Rep. Gail Armstrong, Rep. Brian Baca, & Rep. Harlan Vincent. The Governor has recommended 180 School days. This bill proposes to allow the School Boards to make the decision on how many School Days. HB 74 was not heard and died in the House Rules Committee.

BILLS OF INTEREST:

> **HJR 1, Session, Length, Subjects, & Overrides**, sponsored by Rep. Matthew McQueen, Rep. Greg Nibert, & Rep. Jason Harper. This House Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to Article 4, Section 5 of the Constitution of NM to provide that each regular session of the Legislature does not exceed forty-five days. HJR 1 died on the House floor.

> **HJR 2, Eliminate Pocket Veto**, sponsored by Rep. Matthew McQueen. This House Joint Resolution proposes that an amendment to Article 4, Section 22 of the Constitution of NM provide that all bills passed by the legislature and not signed by the Governor will become law. HJR 2 died on the House floor.

EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
March 13 June 26	Every Wednesday	4:00pm	Untangled Threads - Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross stitch, or more and join to chat with others who enjoy crafts.	Farmington Library	Free Bring your own crafts
March 12	Tuesday	7:30pm	Dinosaur World Live - experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaurs in this roarsome interactive show for everyone!.	Farmington Civic Center	\$14 - \$28
March 14	Thursday	6:00pm	Deborah Jackson Taffa shares memoirs from early reservation childhood to her move to New Mexico in <u>Whiskey Tender</u> .	Farmington Library	Free
Mar. 14 May 30	Every Thursday	3:00pm	Drop in Tech Help – get help with smartphones, tablets, laptops and more! Bring your device and your questions.	Farmington Library Rotunda	Free
Mar. 15	Friday	9:00am-10:30am	Focus on Farmington Coffee – connect new people & highlight events/activities	NM Workforce Connection Center	Free
Mar. 15	Friday	7:30pm & 8:30pm	San Juan College Planetarium AstroFriday presentation of “The Astronomy of Harry Potter,” Star Gaze afterwards.	SJC Planetarium	Free
Mar. 20	Wednesday	7:30am to afternoon	Bisti Walk with Bonnie Dallas Seniors - Van departs 7:30am & starts home at 1:00pm – Van seating is limited.	Bonnie Dallas Senior Center	Free
Mar21-23 Mar28-30 Mar24	Thurs/Sat Thurs/Sat Sunday	7:00pm 7:00pm 2:00pm	Baby, the Musical - three couples' lives intertwine in the journey to parenthood and challenges and joys of expecting a baby.	Farmington Civic Center	\$12 & \$28
Mar. 22	Friday	6:30pm to 8:30pm	Family Bingo & Pizza Night - play bingo, eat pizza, and win exciting prizes! Sign up early as space is limited.	Farmington Recreation Center	\$6 - \$8
Mar. 23	Saturday	Noon to 4:00pm	Native American Herb & Medicine - informative demonstration on identifying, gathering and cooking foraged plants.	Farmington Museum	Free
Beginning Jan. 13	2 nd and 4 th Friday	6:00 to 9:00pm	Date night dance with live music. Doors open at 5:00pm.	Bonnie Dallas Sr. Center	\$3.00
Beginning Jan. 15	Every other Monday	10:00am	Tai Chi for All Abilities – with teacher Gram Davis – No fees or registration.	Bonnie Dallas Center	Free
April. 15	Monday	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Back to Nature! – hands on, family friendly program for all ages and abilities.	Riverside Nature Center	Free
April 5	Friday	4:00pm to 6:00pm	Youth Art Fair – during Downtown Art Walk – Youth vendors, early childhood resources – STEM and Art activities.	Sidewalk between Artifacts & Orchard Park	Free
April 5	Friday	5:00pm to 8:00pm	Downtown Stroll and Art Walk - Galleries, restaurants and retail businesses all host some of the best local artists in the area.	Farmington Downtown	Free
Apr. 6	Saturday	Noon to 7:00pm	Intertribal Pow Wow open to the public. Bring lawn chairs/blankets nac@sanjuancollege.edu	SJC Soccer Field	Free

Visit <https://farmingtonnm.org/events> for more!