

Your All Retirees Newsletter



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 2024

Can you believe it is almost the end of 2024? This year seems to have gone by so fast. I am not sure how much I accomplished this past year but I guess there are new opportunities with the coming New Year.

One of the great things about our December meeting is the singing of Christmas Carols. I remember in school we would sing Carols this time of year. In high school Latin class, we sang a Christmas song in Latin. I wonder if anyone does that anymore?

Don't forget to bring a new member to our meeting. We need to continue to build our membership.

At any rate, bring a new member and your singing voice to our meeting on December 10 at

No Worries. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Jim Conyers,
SJAER President





SJAER always hosts fascinating/informative/ fun guest speakers at each luncheon meeting. Why not join us, and see for yourself? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SJAER BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jim Conyers

VICE PRESIDENT

Marilyn Montoya

PAST PRESIDENT

Marilyn Montoya

TREASURER

Kathy Martin

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Sandy Allred

SECRETARY

Debbie Klein

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



2024-2025 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



PROGRAMS

November Program

Join in with voices and song as Robyn Woodard tickles the ivories and leads us in singing songs of the holiday season. There may be a game or two, too! The fun begins at 11:30, at No Worries Bar & Grill.

2024/2025 Membership Report

	AUTO	NMAER	SJAER
SEPTEMBER	9	2	11
OCTOBER	4	4	9
NOVEMBER	0	1	1
DECEMBER	1	1	2
JANUARY			
FEBRUARY			
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	14	8	23

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.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Overlin, Zelith M	12/20
Johnston, Joyce K.	12/23

THANK YOU
Volunteers

Volunteer Reminder

“It’s easy to make a buck. It’s a lot tougher to make a difference.” (Tom Brokaw)

Please continue to make a difference in our community by volunteering. Why not send some Christmas cards to a nursing home!

Report your monthly hours by simply signing in during our monthly meeting, or by emailing Trish at:

trishshsh@live.com



Treasurer’s Report

Our treasurer, Kathy Martin, reports a balance of \$2447.23 in our account and \$317 in our scholarship fund. Funds from monthly drawing go into the scholarship fund.

2024-2025 Month	Volunteer Hours
September	270
October	166
November	260
December	
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
Summer	
Total	696

SJAER Executive Board Meeting 11-12-24

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

Board Members Working for You

Present: President/James Conyers, Vice President/Scholarship-Marilyn Montoya, Secretary & YARN-Debbie Klein, Treasurer-Kathy Martin, Assistant Treasurer-Sandy Allred, Programs & SJRMC Rep-Karen Morrison, Membership-Phyllis Meier, Volunteer Hours/In Memoriam -Trish Murphy

Absent:, Sunshine-Nancy Tyson, , Webmaster/Legislative Rep.-Chuck Culpepper

Meeting was called to order by James Conyers.

Agenda was approved.

Previous meetings minutes approved.

Old Business: Budget – The president’s first thought was to spend the money until it is gone then we stop! That idea was not approved. In reviewing previous budget we actually don’t have many items and most are reoccurring such as YARN printing, website hosting, May picnic, etc. Debbie stated that money should be set aside for our programs if there is a need to pay them. Kathy agreed but said that each payment would need to be approved by the board. Marilyn suggested James and Kathy get together and develop a budget to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

State Conference Review – James gave a report he received from Carol Cloer and presented a certificate for community service that our unit received. The Unit Member of the Year booklet was passed around. Next year, the conference will be in Santa Fe and we may have several attending. Our unit pays for registration and two nights of lodging. It will certainly need to be included in the budget. Karen suggested we look into an Airbnb to cut costs of lodging. The booklet will be given to Chuck, our member of the year.

New Business: Paying Robyn for performing next month – Marilyn moved that we pay Robyn \$50 to Robyn. It was seconded. Discussion ensued concerning why we pay her and not other presenters. Various reasons were cited and it was mentioned we could pay others for the same reasons if board approved. Question called, vote taken, motion carried.

Copy of Bio for reference: Trish suggested before we give Chuck the booklet, that we should make a copy of several bios so our unit members of the year can have some samples with ideas of what to include in their bio. James assigned Trish that job!

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer report:** Approved as printed in the YARN.
 - **Membership:** We have 21 paid members.
 - **Sunshine:** No report.
 - **Programs:** Today’s presenter is Robyn Woodard leading us in a holiday caroling sing along.
 - **Legislation/Website:** There is nothing to report.
 - **YARN:** Both hospital reports are in the YARN. James asked how much the YARN printing is for a year to be included in the budget. Should we start printing YARNs in color? Board wanted to know how much it would cost. Debbie will find out and report next month.
 - **Website:** Trish presented 6 items on the website that are inaccurate or out of date. She will discuss with Chuck.
 - **Hospital Representative:** Reports are in the YARN.
 - **In Memoriam & Volunteer Hours:** Trish sent the latest “In Memoriam” to the NMAER for their newsletter.
 - **Scholarship: Balance is in the YARN \$255.** Not enough money to give \$500. May want to drop to \$250. James is surprised that we don’t have more applicants. We need to promote it more.
- Meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting – 10:45 am on December 10, 2024 at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill.



11:30 am at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill

12 members, 1 guest, and 1 presenter

Welcome/Opening – James Conyers, **Pledge** – Kathy Martin, **Prayer** - Marilyn Montoya

Business:

- **Welcome members and guests.**
 - Rosa Montano – guest of James Conyers
- **Business:**
 - Next State Conference will be in Santa Fe. Unit Outstanding Member booklet is available to look at. Received a certificate for our service hours.
- **Continued Projects:**
 - **Scholarship Share the Bucket:** This is a 50/50 effort to build our scholarship fund. Thank you, members, for your donations.
 - **Councilor's Student Food Pantry and Threads:** Thank you for your donations. New times for Threads: Mondays and Thursdays 3:15 to 4:30/5:00

Guest Speakers: Margaret Cheasbro

- A retired elementary educator who writes books
- Begins with her story about her English teacher who recognized her writing skills and wrote a letter to allow her to take typing in ninth grade which was usually not allowed. Thank you to all teachers.
- Every child has unique ways of acting based on their personalities and talents. Teachers have recognized their skills and nurtured them. Kids who like to write sometimes act in slightly different ways.
- Has written ten books, four were published more than twenty years ago. They were about puppet plays or dramas that could be used in church or home school settings. The next three were about trees and our interactions with them, and the final three were about Reiki, a Japanese form of stress relief. Recently wrote a romance, suspense novel, Murder near Maryland. Her editor helped strengthen her book with suggestions and she is hoping he will offer her a contract to publish the book. It is set in Aztec, New Mexico and the ancient town of Meroe in the Sudan.
- Chose Aztec, New Mexico because she lives there and Sudan because she grew up there.
- Didn't start out to be a writer because she was so shy not wanting to interview people.
- First job was at a boarding school in charge of a dormitory of kindergarten through 3rd grade.
- Next year, she started teaching at an elementary school on a waiver until she took the classes. Eventually, she became an elementary school counselor.
- Later, she worked as a newspaper reporter and finally, an editor.
- She described her various books, especially If I Were a Tree, What Would I Be? The answer is "I would be your friend!"
- Writing is not for everyone. Most have to work at another job unless they are world famous and their books are best sellers.

Community Announcements

- Caliente Concert Tues. Nov. 19 at 7:00pm \$15 at the door
- Caliente Children's Choir Inaugural Concert Mon. Nov. 18 at 5:30pm Free
- 50/50 drawing winner – Sarah Menapace

Next General Meeting – 11:30 am on December 10, 2024 at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill.



In Memoriam December 2024



Dr. Rebecca Benedict. 2/5/24 – 6/30/24. Kirtland. CCSD: Principal of Kirtland High School, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Prior to that, teacher in Mexico and Texas.

Dr. William Claypool Lyons. 11/26/37 – 7/29/24. Kansas City and Socorro. Geology and petroleum engineering professor at New Mexico Tech.

Helen Lorraine Behr. 8/26/26 – 11/7/24. Farmington. Food service manager for Gridley School District (Live Oak, CA.) for 17 years.

Karen Christensen. 7/8/45 – 11/8/24. Farmington. Played piano for local school choirs, including for Mrs. Surh at Tibbetts and for Virginia Hircock-Nichols at FHS.

Ruth W. Lee. 9/6/35 – 11/12/24. Red Valley, AZ. Employed as a cook at Red Rock Day School.

Earl E. Johnson. 9/20/55 – 11/13/24. Shiprock. Junior high school football coach at Tsebitia in the 1970's.

Hazel Mary Martin. 12/21/34 – 11/26/24. Kirtland. Taught elementary school in Cuba NM, Tsale AZ, and Cibecue AZ.



2024 – 2025 Meeting Dates and Programs

Dec. 10	Christmas Carol Sing-a-long with Robyn Woodard and a holiday game!	Jan. 14	Lauralee Harper with her movie, RAMBO of the Carracas Mesa, about wild mustangs.
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Speaker's Bio – Robyn Ferre Woodard

Robyn Ferre Woodard is co-founder and accompanist of Caliente Community Chorus.

Ms. Woodard has been an active accompanist for Farmington Municipal Schools and multiple churches for nearly fifty years in Farmington and the surrounding area.

As mother of six children, Robyn taught her family the joys of sharing and performing music.

Ms. Woodard maintains a very active private piano studio and continues to play for many civic and community events in the area. In 2023 Robyn was honored to play in New York City's Carnegie Hall at the request of Dr. Bradley Ellingboe for the world premier of his newest work, "A Place Called Home." Ms. Woodard has worked with many talented directors but has found her niche working with Virginia Nickels. Together, Robyn and Virginia have created many memorable performances with school ensembles, Caliente Community Chorus and most recently, Caliente Children and Youth Choirs



CHRISTMAS

THINK FAST!!

SET A TIMER FOR 30 SECONDS. EACH ANSWER IS 1 POINT.
THE PERSON WITH THE MOST POINTS WINS!

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. Christmas characters | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Christmas colors | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Santa's reindeer | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Stocking stuffers | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Hot cocoa toppings | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Words to describe Santa | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Things to do with snow | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Christmas songs | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9. Names for Santa | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 10. Something red | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 11. Something green | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 12. Christmas traditions | _____ | _____ | _____ |

EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Nov. 13 - Dec. 18	Every Wednesday	4:00pm	Untangled Threads - Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross stitch, or more & join to chat with others who also enjoy crafts.	Farmington Library	Free Bring your own crafts
Dec. 10	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Bloomfield Christmas Parade – A Disney Christmas	Bloomfield	Free
Dec. 17	Tuesday	6:00pm	Fraud and Scam Awareness with the Farmington Police Department	Farmington Library	Free
Dec. 12	Thursday	6:30pm-9:30pm	Martinis & Mistletoe Christmas Mingle fundraiser for Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico – Zia Chicks	Artifacts 302 Main	\$25 includes 1 free drink
Dec 12- Dec 14	Thursday Friday Saturday	7:30pm 7:30pm 2 & 7:30	The Heather McGaughey Youth Theatre program is excited to present A Charlie Brown Christmas	Farmington Civic Center	\$7 - \$10
Dec. 13	Friday	11:00am – 1:00pm	Christmas Lunch at Bonnie Dallas Senior Center	Senior Center	Varies
Dec. 13	Friday	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Evening of Lights - celebrate New Mexico traditions with hundreds of luminarias while illuminating the Aztec West great house	Aztec Ruins	Free
Dec. 13	Friday	7:00pm	San Juan College Symphonic Band presents a delightful and action-packed program.	Henderson Fine Arts	\$9 Gen. Adm. \$7 Sr/Mil/Encore
Dec.14	Saturday	Noon – 7:00pm	Aztec Sparkles Holiday Celebration – Schedule on aztecchamber.com	All Around Aztec	Free
Dec.17	Tuesday	7:30pm	3 Redneck Tenors - SPEC-TAC-YULE-AR featuring classic, pop and deep-fried fest of musical delights and holiday favorites!	Totah Theatre	Student/Mil \$16 Senior \$18 Adult \$20
Dec. 19	Thursday	7:00pm	SJC Orchestra Concert featuring Mira Quackenbush - An evening of beautiful music	Henderson Fine Arts	\$8 Adults \$6 Sr/Mil/Encore
Dec. 20	Friday	7:00pm	Christmas with Chevel - Christmas classics and some good old country music – Supports Pinon Hills Academy	Hills Church	\$50
Dec. 21	Saturday	All day	Winter Solstice Observation – Sunrise at Chaco, two additional tours, Sunset at Aztec	Chaco & Aztec Ruins	Free
Dec. 21	Saturday	11:00am-12:30pm	Watch the sun frame the Winter Solstice marker at exactly 12 noon!	Farmington Library	Free
Dec. 24 Dec. 26	Tuesday Thursday	10am/1pm Noon-3pm	Holiday Heroes Blood Drive – Holidays tend to have a greater need for blood. Be a Hero!	Vitalant Center	Free
Jan. 1	Wednesday	11:30pm	Polar Bear Plunge - Join in the chilly fun and plunge at noon! Donations to support 4 Corners K-9 Search & Rescue! :	Farmington Lake Beach	\$20 donation
Beginning Jan 13	Monday through Friday	10:00am to 5:00pm	Four Corners Photographic Society – exhibition of new work from all skill levels. Opening reception Friday, Jan. 10, 4-6pm	Henderson Art Gallery	Free

Lots going on right now! Way too many events to list! Visit <https://farmingtonnm.org/events> for more!