

Your All Retirees Newsletter



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

January 2025

Do Retirees still make New Years Resolutions? I am guessing that some of us do. The media tells us that most resolutions are broken by the end of January. That is not very encouraging. To be enduring it is said a resolution should be specific and measurable. Statements like “lose weight” or “eat healthier food.”

I don’t really do resolutions but I do have a “to do” list of things I want to accomplish during 2025. It does include some daily tasks such as “eat at least two servings of fruits and vegetables every day.” The items on my list are easy to measure and I know when I complete each one. I’ll see how it works.

A new year brings new opportunities and new challenges. We continue to seek to build our membership both at the local and state levels. We also have our projects that we support for the New Year. These include the High School food pantry, Threads, Scholarship and high quality programs.

The state association will again sponsor a membership contest for units. Plans are ongoing for our state convention which will be sponsored by the Santa Fe unit. They are still looking for a venue that can accommodate the state association at a reasonable cost.

Don’t forget to bring a new member to our meeting on January 14, 2025 at No Worries. See you there!

Sincerely,

Jim Conyers,
SJAER President





January is the month when NMAER lobbyists urge the State legislature to increase pension and health benefits for educational retirees. This is a good time to join us (the local unit of NMAER) to increase their power on our behalf.

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.

Signature of Retiree

Date: _____

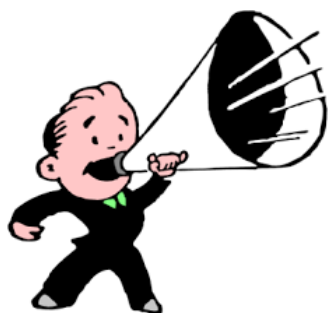
Make checks payable to SJAER.

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

January Program

Our presenter this month will be Laura Harper sharing a history of the Jicarilla Mustangs and information about the upcoming showing of her documentary. Meeting is 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	0	1	2
FEBRUARY			
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	14	9	25

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. The May meeting will be a picnic at a local park.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

DOERFERT, KIT	1/3
ALLRED, SANDRA	1/7
PEARSON, VENEDA F.	1/10
WAGONER, CYNTHIS	1/13

THANK YOU Volunteers

Volunteer Reminder

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” (Dr. Seuss)

Thank you for caring. Thank you for making our community better and better with your multitude of volunteering activities.

Please continue to report your monthly hours by simply signing in at our monthly meeting, or by emailing Trish at: trishshsh@live.com



Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer, Kathy Martin, reports a balance of \$2389.23 in our account and \$372 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	320
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
Summer	
Total	1016

SJAER Executive Board Meeting 12-12-24

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, Sunshine-Nancy Tyson

Absent: Webmaster/Legislative Rep.-Chuck Culpepper

Meeting was called to order by James Conyers.

Agenda was approved.

Previous meetings minutes approved.

Old Business – Budget: Board members received budget handouts to review. Karen questioned the May Picnic line item thinking it was too much. Kathy clarified that the actual amount was a little more after purchasing food and all items needed for the picnic. Karen suggested we take RSVPs so we won't over purchase food and possibly bring baggies to sell remaining food if any is leftover. Next item discussed was presenters' lunches. Kathy reported that prices range from \$12 to \$25 and that several speakers had ordered for more than one person and even to take food home. In the future, speakers will be told that we will pay for their lunch and any other meals will be their responsibility. State Convention line item was changed to \$0 since no one went. It will be increased to cover registration and room for four delegates for next year's budget. Scholarship funds are kept separate. Recruiting expenses were discussed. It was decided to create a \$200 line item for recruitment. Marilyn suggested we try to attend staff meetings to recruit new members providing cookies, flyers, etc. Debbie proposed we have the YARN printed in color. It was moved, seconded and passed. The increase for the remainder of the year was reflected in the budget. Karen moved we approve the budget with adjustments. It was seconded and passed. The budget for next year will be created and addressed at a future meeting.

Bank Change: The bank we use has changed its name again and is requiring us to make a new account, print checks, etc. It was decided to change to a local bank. Kathy will inquire at Citizens Bank.

New Business – New Project: Trish and Karen proposed we start a project donating magazines and books to the hospital. Motion was moved, seconded and passed. Books and Magazines (no smoky ones) can be brought to the meeting and Karen will deliver them or they can be dropped off at the entrance desk of the hospital.

Updated Meeting Information: Karen mentioned that No Worries does not offer the \$8 to \$10 specials but instead gives 25% off of any Mexican food dish on Tuesdays. (Tuesday Special) Debbie will update the YARN.

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer report:** Approved as printed in the YARN. Bank Change – see narrative above
- **Membership:** We have 23 paid members.
- **Sunshine:** Reported that we are good until next year. will buy stamps in January.
- **Programs:** Today's presenter is Robyn Woodard leading us in a holiday caroling sing along.
- **Legislation/Website:** There is nothing to report.
- **YARN:** Game to be used during the meeting.
- **Website:** No report
- **Hospital Representative:** No hospital meeting so no report.
- **In Memoriam & Volunteer Hours:** Nothing to report.
- **Scholarship:** Balance is in the YARN \$372 Not enough money to give \$500. After the fundraising at the next five meetings, Debbie offered to donate enough money to bring the balance up to \$500 so we can give a scholarship in the fall of 2025.

Meeting adjourned. **Next Board Meeting** – 10:45 am on Feb. 11, 2025 at No Worries, Sports Bar & Grill.



General Meeting 11-12-24

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

21 members and 1 presenter

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

Business:

- **Welcome members and guests.**
- **Business:**
 - Board approved the budget for this year and will work on next year's budget next month.
 - Debbie led holiday game in the YARN. There were three winners.
- **New Project:**
 - Donating magazines and books to the hospital. Bring them to meetings or drop off at the hospital front desk.

Presenter: Robyn Woodard

- Taught members how and when to ring hand bells using song books
- Group sang carols while ringing the bells
- Karen asked trivia questions about Christmas carols
- Debbie sang “Rusty Chevrolet” to the tune of Jingle Bells
- Played Silent Night without singing to hear how beautiful it was and then sang the carol

Community Announcements

- 50/50 drawing winner – Kerry Meier
- \$25 Starbucks Gift Card – Nancy Tyson

Next General Meeting – 11:30 am on February 11, 2025 at No Worries, Sports Bar and Grill.



In Memoriam January 2025



Ernestine Carol Littletree. 6/1/45 – 11/21/24. Kirtland. Lunch clerk and cook for Central Consolidated Schools.

Daphne Sharon Hobaugh. 8/2/40 – 11/24/24. Farmington. School bus driver for Farmington Municipal Schools for over 20 years. SJAER member.

Barbara Anne Scribner. 6/6/40 – 11/28/24. Odessa (FHS graduate). El Paso: reading teacher; Odessa: Program Director of Zavala Magnet School and Principal of Reagan Magnet School for 13 years; After retirement, she was a reading consultant, and on the Board of the Education Foundation of Odessa.

Wilda Janet Kittell. 12/6/35 – 12/8/24. Bloomfield. Talented master educator, teaching numerous levels and subjects in Bloomfield for 34 years, retiring in 1998. SJAER member.

Norma Kay Herrera. 12/5/42 – 12/8/24. Farmington. Taught for Farmington Municipal Schools for 30+ years, mostly 5th grade.

Verdell Kartchner. 9/9/48 – 12/23/24. Farmington. Taught in Lordsburg, Naschitti and Bloomfield before teaching at FMS (Animas and McCormick) for 22 years. After retirement, she was the In-Suspension Supervisor at Dulce High School, and later taught over 5 years at Sacred Heart. She developed a reading program called “Phonics in Progress” (PIP) used in FMS schools. SJAER member.

Joann Marie Farley. 10/20/38 – 12/27/24. Farmington. Prepared lunches at Heights Middle School for over 30 years. SJAER member.

Judith Diane Rino. 5/19/37 – 11/2/25. Bloomfield. A teacher who embraced her role “with love, grace and dedication, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.”

2024 – 2025 Meeting Dates and Programs			
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Jan. 14	Lauralee Harper with her movie, RAMBO of the Carracas Mesa, about wild mustangs.	Feb. 11	Terri Fortner, RN, MSN, CNP serving on the San Juan County Commission or Jack Fortner, Attorney or both – The State of the County
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Speaker's Bio – Laura Harper

Laura Harper lives in the Four Corners area with her husband Greg and her Quarter Horses Dusty Dandy, Wendy and her Mustang of the Carracas Mesa, RAMBO. She is a retired educator and currently serves as President of the San Juan County Historical Society, Editor of the Four Corners Equine Rescue newsletter publication and serves on the Board of Directors of the Jicarilla Mustang Heritage Alliance.

Memories of a red Quarter Horse named Rusty, sandstone rocks that mirrored Spanish castles and the Mustangs that roamed the Carracas Mesa-Carson National Forest that surrounded the Fred Bixler ranch created a deep connection with horses and especially a love of the Quarter Horse and the Mustang breeds. Laura's experiences at the ranch between 1965 and 1970 would forever influence her.

The San Juan County Historical Society is pleased to announce EQUUS Mustang Matinee April 19, 2025! The venue is funded by San Juan County Commissioner, John Beckstead, District V. Here is our direct link to Farmington events to purchase tickets! <https://our.show/mustang25>

True history is revealed in the stories of the past and the science of today through the DNA of Mustangs! Enjoy learning the local color of San Juan County's history via our mustangs over a cup of coffee, tea or a glass of wine from Wines of the San Juan cash bar. Enjoy the artist Wild Mare Series showing and sales and author book signing and sales. Featuring Award Winning Non-fiction and fiction history author, Randi Samuelson-Brown, artist, Jodi Brenner and historian, Sara Annon with wildlife management researcher-innovator Roch Hart and local historians, Dusty Pierce and Mike Leonard.

Film Blocks include EQUUS Film and Arts showcasing the mustang working with prisoners, mental health, horsemanship and performance entertainment with San Juan County Historical Society film block film short Carrizo The Inspiration and Mustang of the Carracas Mesa Documentary. And! screening the winner of the student filmmaker competition, "I am a Horse of the San Juan Basin."

VIP tickets include the up-close personal presentation and talks with the authors, artists and historians 1pm to closing over beverages and fruit, cheese and crackers; General admission - film blocks and lobby exhibit, art sales and book signing only 2:30pm to closing. Join us for a matinee afternoon to recognize the Treasure we have in our local Mustangs! Ticket proceeds go toward a future San Juan Basin Mustang haven, preservation and tourism center.

Early VIP Tickets on sale - \$28 December 20 - February 14; VIP Tickets on sale \$40 February 15 to April 19; General Admission Tickets on sale - \$16.00 Tickets – **Limited Seating**





Behind the Scenes Spotlight – Erin McGinley

Our organization thrives because so many people are actively involved in its many parts. This month we will highlight someone special who is instrumental in our success.

Erin McGinley is not even a member of the organization (because she isn't a retired educator - she's still working in the school system!). However, every month, she works behind the scenes on a very important job. she prints our YARN!

No matter how late we submit the completed issue, she always gets it to us by the deadline. Her knowledge and expertise go well beyond what one might think is involved in the job. However, the primary reason we want to honor her is because it is such a joy working with her. Her enthusiasm and cheerful personality are a delight to behold. She has been printing the YARN for approximately ten years, and has worked with three different YARN editors over the years: Marie Chavez, Trish Murphy and Debbie Klein.

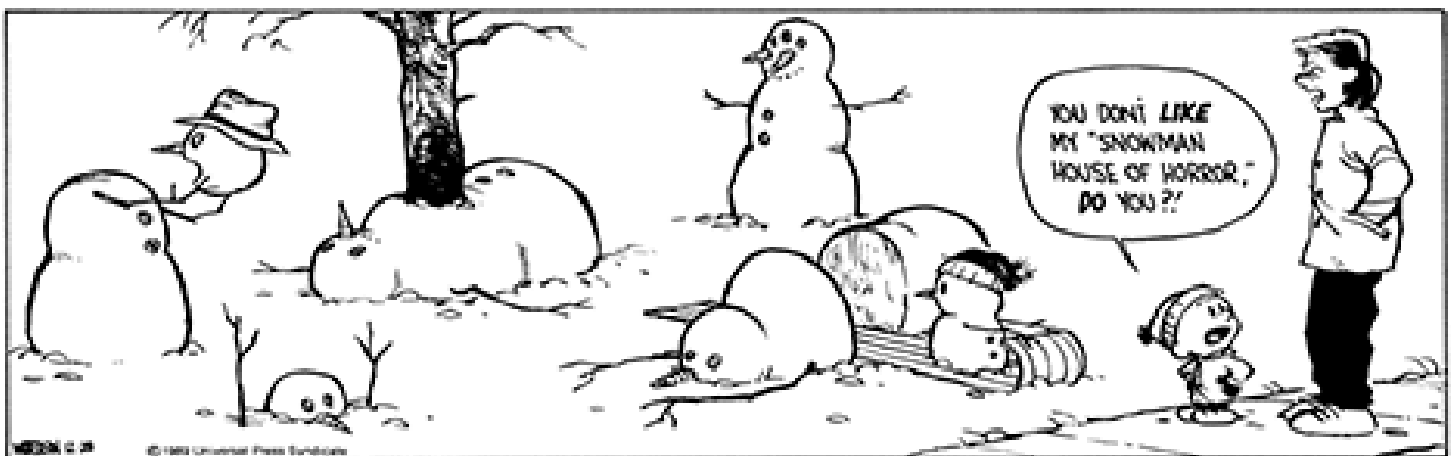
Erin works at Farmington High School, teaching Child Development and Teacher Academy. She is the Educators Rising Advisor and Head Swim Coach. Looking at social media and the local newspaper, it's obvious that, under her direction, the FHS swim team is competitive at the State level, winning many honors, places, and best times. She said that she has a squad of 56 swimmers (boys and girls) and that they are "a very kind and smart team - they cheer each other on and support each other." Erin has a long list of other accomplishments in her 32+ years teaching career, including teaching at a middle school and Navajo Prep. Some of her areas of expertise have been yearbook advisor, PE/Health teacher, media arts, digital photography, graphic design, 3D animation/design, introduction to film making, and digital imagery with San Juan College.

It's a pleasure to be able to honor one of our best behind-the-scenes supporters. Thank you, Erin. And may we all strive to live by one of her favorite mottos: "Live~Laugh~Love Everyday!"



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Jan. 10 – Jan. 31	Monday - Friday	10:00am - 5:00pm	Four Corners Photographic Society – exhibition of new work from all skill levels. Opening reception Friday, Jan. 10, 4-6pm	Henderson Gallery	Free
Jan 15 - April 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
Jan. 15	Wednesday	6:00 pm	"I Love Lucy" Trivia Night - covers the show's iconic moments, characters, episodes, and behind-the-scenes fun.	Farmington Library	Free
Jan. 16	Thursday	3 talks 5:00pm to 6:30pm	Harrenson Gorman: Bears Ears National Monument - captivating insights about this breathtaking area, activities and delicious treats inspired by its rich heritage	Farmington Library	Free
Jan. 17	Friday	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Family Bingo and Pizza Night	Farmington Rec. Center	\$6 - \$8
Jan. 17	Friday	6:30pm - 8:30pm	AstroFriday presentation of Navajo Skies (Navajo constellations) followed by stargaze.	SJC Planetarium	Free
Jan. 20	Monday	8:30am to Noon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service-indoor & outdoor projects, projects for those that like to move, and for those that like to sit down.	LDS Church Apache Chapel	Free
Jan. 21	Tuesday	6:00pm	Tuesday Club Mysteries will be meeting to discuss their most recent book!	Farmington Library	Free
Jan. 25	Saturday	6:00pm	Join the RPG Book Club for a fun, friendly discussion about tabletop roleplaying games!	Quill & Quest Bookstore	Free
Feb. 4	Tuesday	1:00pm	Friends Book Club will be meeting to discuss their most recent book!	Farmington Library	Free
Feb. 4	Tuesday	6:00pm	Carlene O'Connor, bestselling author of The Irish Village Mysteries, Home to Ireland Mysteries, and County Kerry Mystery series.	Farmington Library	Free
Feb. 5	Wednesday	6:00pm	James Anaquad Kleinert - discussing his new documentary, "Native Horse" which looks at the evolution of horses in North America	Farmington Library	Free
Feb. 6	Thursday	9:00am - 6:00pm	Native Valentine's Arts & Crafts Market hosted by the San Juan College Native American Center	Student Sun Lounge	Free Entrance
Feb. 6 Feb. 7	Thursday Friday	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Karen and Noggin - Iditarod Musher and Dog Meet & Greet with sledding talk	Farmington Library	Free
Feb. 7	Friday	6:30pm-9:30pm	AstroFriday presentation of "The Astronomy of Harry Potter," tour the heavens, identifying astronomical objects whose names appear in the popular Harry Potter series	SJC Planetarium	Free

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