

Your All Retirees Newsletter



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

February 2025

Is Spring here yet? February is the month when we begin to think about the end of winter and the coming warmer weather. So far, we are seeing some warmer weather and I appreciate that.

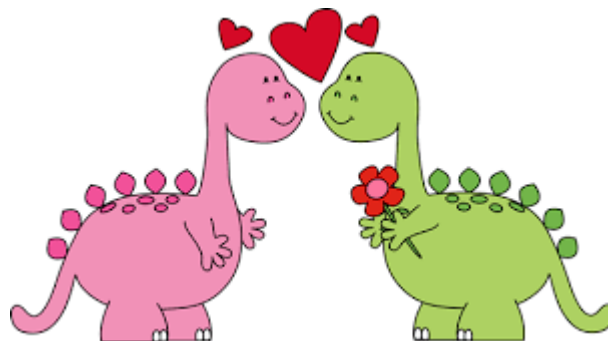
For our organization, it is a time to pay attention to the legislature and what they are doing that impacts our retirement and benefits, as well as education policy in general. I hope you are receiving information from NMAER about relevant pending legislation. Our representatives like to hear from us so let them know your wants and needs toward legislation.

Our local unit also must be thinking about officers for next year. President and Vice president are the offices we usually think about. So, think about getting involved in the organization. It will make your experience more meaningful. We need to have our elections in March.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting at **No Worries** on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

Sincerely,

Jim Conyers,
SJAER President





Our Unit of educational retirees, SJAER, belongs to a larger organization: NMAER. The State organization lobbies the State legislature for better retiree benefits on our behalf. Help us help them, by joining at the local level.

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 presenters this month will be Terri Fortner, RN, MSN, CNP serving on the San Juan County Commission and Jack Fortner, Attorney discussing "The State of the County." 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	0	1	1
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	14	10	26

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.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

JAQUEZ, NICKY G	2/3
TYSON, NANCY K.	2/8
ALEXANDER, LYNN K	2/19
KEITH, MARY	2/23

THANK YOU Volunteers

Volunteer Reminder

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Thank you for making a lasting difference in the lives of people in our community (and the world) by giving of yourself.

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



"I put a lot of effort into Valentine's Day. I've been planning and scheming and coming up with great ideas since 5:30 this afternoon!"

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer reports a balance of \$2554.23 in our account and \$412 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	186
February	
March	
April	
May	
Summer	
Total	1202

SJAER Executive Board Meeting 1-14-25

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

Board Members Working for You

Present: President/James Conyers, 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, Vice President/Scholarship-Marilyn Montoya

Meeting was called to order by James Conyers.

Agenda was approved.

Previous meetings minutes approved.

Resignation of the two treasurers: Kathy Martin and Sandy Alred have resigned as treasurers. It was decided that the open position would be announced at the general meeting. Several members were suggested as possible replacements.

Old Business – Bank Change – Discussion was held about finding a new bank. Debbie reported on Four Corners Community Bank and Kathy reported on Citizens Bank. Last month it was decided to use a local bank. James suggested we get a new treasurer before proceeding with the bank change.

New Business –

Speaker's Lunch – Many speakers have been ordering extra meals for spouses, family members, etc. and having us pay for them. Debbie moved we buy one meal for each presenter with a \$20 cap. Trish seconded. Motion carried.

Things to Think about – James encouraged everyone to be thinking about officers for next year and Unit Member of the Year.

Convention – Will be hosted by Santa Fe but they may be holding it in Albuquerque due to high room and meal prices. We may have to adjust the budget when we get closer to registration. Karen mentioned that board members who work for the organization should be asked if they want to attend first before asking the general membership. All agreed.

New Member Introduction – Karen led a discussion about put information about our new members in the YARN so people who get the YARN might recognize the new member and be encouraged to come to meetings. It was also mentioned we could put not only new members, but renewing members in the YARN.

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer report:** Approved as printed in the YARN. \$2464.23 in checking and \$372.00 in Scholarship
- **Membership:** We have 25 paid members.
- **Sunshine:** Nothing to report.
- **Programs:** February's presenters are Jack and Terri Fortner. They will speak on the State of the County.
- **Legislation/Website:** Board decided to remove Legislation due to the reports we receive from NMAER.
- **YARN:** Debbie asked if she could list old business first before new business in the minutes. That was approved. She also asked if she needed to list names of members who made motions and seconded. It was decided that the actual names were not necessary.
- **Website:** Chuck is not present, but has been making some of the changes suggested.
- **Hospital Representative:** No hospital meeting so no report. Should be reports next month.
- **In Memoriam & Volunteer Hours:** Nothing to report.
- **Scholarship: Balance is in the YARN \$372** At the end of the year, Debbie will 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 1-14-25

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

18 members and 1 presenter

Welcome/Opening – James Conyers, **Pledge** – Kathy Martin, **Prayer** – Debbie Klein

Business:

- **Welcome members and guests.**
- **Business:**
 - Board accepted resignation of our treasurers, Kathy Martin and Sandy Allred. We are in need of a treasurer. If interested, let us know.
 - Elections are in March. Be thinking of possible nominations and let us know.
 - Be thinking of a deserving member to be nominated for Unit Member of the year.

Presenter: 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.
- Memories of Fred Bixler ranch between 1965 and 1970, created a deep connection with horses and especially a love of the Quarter Horse and the Mustang breeds
- Produced film, RAMBO of the Carracas Mesa, History of the Jicarilla Mustangs and Mustangers
- Announced upcoming event at the Totah - **EQUUS Mustang Matinee April 19, 2025** Art and Film Fest and screening of the winner of the student filmmaker competition, “I am a Horse of the San Juan Basin.”

Community Announcements

- 50/50 drawing winner –

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



In Memoriam February 2025



Christine Ilene Chavez. 1/1/63 – 12/11/24. Denver and Las Cruces. Provided after school care as well as being a cook and server in a Christian school in Denver; Later became a kindergarten educator in Denver and Las Cruces;

Deborah Sue Harrison. 12/9/50 – 1/4/25. Farmington. Worked most of her 36-year teaching career at Bluffview Elementary; won the Golden Apple Award. SJAER member.

Gary Hansel Luther. 3/7/53 – 1/5/25. Farmington and Bloomfield. Taught history and government on the Navajo Reservation.

Viola Flores Tighe. 7/30/47 – 1/21/25. Bloomfield and Albuquerque. Worked 15 years as a professor, interim dean and acting vice president at Texas A&M; Dean of Education at UNM; Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Higher Education in Santa Fe.

Patricia Ann Lyle. 1/21/50 – 1/21/25. Farmington. Art teacher in Texas. She once said, “Color is another language, expressing feeling better than words.”

Greg M. Gallegos. 1972? – January 2025? Farmington. Financial Aid Coordinator at Yavapai College in Arizona; Financial Aid Assistant Director at San Juan College “helping students unlock their higher education journey.”

2024 – 2025 Meeting Dates and Programs			
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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	Mar. 11	Megan Cullip will share with us her life's purpose: to alleviate suffering wherever she may find it.
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Speaker's Bio - Jack Fortner

Jack Fortner grew up in Farmington and graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1978 and obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree. While at UNM he was a student senator and a member of the NMPIRG Board. He was also a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Fortner then obtained his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Michigan in 1981.

Km Jack Fortner was appointed to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents by Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham for the term of January 2021 through December 2026. Jack Fortner was first appointed to the Board in 1998 by Governor Gary Johnson to a six-year term of 1998 to 2004. In 2004, Governor Bill Richardson re-appointed Jack to the Board of Regents for a term from 2004 to 2010. Governor Susanna Martinez re-appointed him from 2010 to 2016. Jack Fortner is the only person in New Mexico to ever be appointed to four terms, on the Board of Regents for UNM. During his 4 terms, Jack served as president for 5 years and vice-president for 7 years. Fortner also chaired the Search Committee for the UNM President, Athletic Director, and served on the search committee for UNM Athletic Director and Football Coach.

Regent Fortner was awarded the Lobo Award by the UNM Alumni Association; the Community Leadership Award by the Hispanic Round table of New Mexico; and an Honorary Letterman by the UNM Letterman's Association.

Jack Fortner served on the San Juan County Commissioner for four terms, with his most recent term ending in December of 2020. Fortner previously served on the San Juan County Commission from 1996 to 2000 and from 2000 to 2004. He then served from 2012 to 2020. He served as Chairman of the Commission for 7 years and Chairman Pro Tem for 5 years. Fortner served as Chairman of the Labor Management Relations Board for the City of Farmington from 1995 to 1998, which decided disputes between employees and management. Fortner also served on the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board from 1994 to 1996. Fortner has also served as the Domestic Relations Hearing Officer for the Eleventh Judicial District Court, San Juan County, New Mexico and served as the Alternate Domestic Violence Commissioner from February 2003 through 2010. He also served as the Alternate Farmington Municipal Judge from 1994 to 2009.

Jack was elected to be the San Juan County District Attorney in Nov 2024, and his term began on January 1, 2025 through Dec of 2028. Fortner is married to Terri Fortner, a current San Juan County Commissioner. They have 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

Speaker's Bio – Terri Fortner

Terri Fortner grew up in Texas and El Salvador. She has lived in Farmington since 1978. Terri is a graduate of Farmington High School. She graduated from San Juan College with an Associate Degree in Nursing. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of New Mexico a year after her first daughter was born. After years of practice as an RN, she returned to college and earned a Masters of Science in Nursing with a specialty in psychiatry from NMSU. She worked 15 years as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Her experience of living in El Salvador, a third world country, during a civil war which was riddled with poverty and disease along with her years of experience as a school nurse lead her to work toward solutions for addressing mental health. She continues to do so as a county commissioner.

In 2021, she took office as San Juan County Commission. She was re-elected in 2024 and is serving a second term. She served on San Juan Regional Medical Center board and was on the New Mexico Board of Nursing for 8 years, serving as chair for 4 years.

Terri was given awards by the New Mexico Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, the University of New Mexico 60th Anniversary Outstanding Alumni award, and the UNM College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni award.

Terri has been married to Jack for 37 years. They have 2 daughters, 2 sons in law and 2 grandchildren.

San Juan Regional Medical Center Corporation Meeting Report – Jan. 29, 2025 – by Jim Conyers

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM at the Farmington Civic Center by new Board Chairperson Sara Kaynor. The first presentation was Air Care Services by Robbie Donald. The staff of 50 includes pilots, nurses, para medics, mechanics (Airplane and Helicopter), pediatrics, psychiatric and trauma supervisors and manager. They frequently transport patients to Albuquerque and also fly to isolated areas to pick up patients. They deal with heart attacks, strokes, high risk OB, Critical Care/ICU, pediatrics, psychiatric, and trauma.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved. Reports from the Finance & Investment Committee and the Quality Assurance & Performance Improvement committee were presented. It was pointed out that the Malpractice Insurance was renewed.

Some statistics for 2024 were presented:

Births 798 Heart Interventions 798 ER Visits 61,501 Hospital Visits 7,621

Rehab Admissions 337 Clinical Visits 160,335 Surgical cases 6,865

New Board members elected were Dr. Joseph Pope and Leslie Thompson. Incumbents reelected were Hyla Calcote and Rick Quevado.

New staff members include Asif Husain, MD, Gastroenterology; Marshall Smith, MD, Behavioral Health (Psychiatry); Candace Flores, CNP, PA-C; Briana Ward, PA-C; Monica Nagahiro, CNP and appointment of Rachel Skoog as Chief Operating Officer.

The *Strategic Plan* was presented. Priorities include Access to Care, Diabetes and Oncology. The financial report indicated Inpatient admissions were 466 under projection. The total budget for the year is about \$400 million. The finances remain strong.

The SJRMC Auxiliary reports of 12 applications for Educational Assistance for Spring Semester for up to \$1,000 each for books and tuition. They are searching for volunteers of dogs for their pet therapy program. A total of 45 volunteers were recruited in 2024—11 adults and 34 teens. The Connolly Hospitality House welcomed 51 families in 2024. On February 14, it will celebrate 25 years of service.

The Riley Men's Health Fund assisted 197 men with \$173,838 in medical expenses in 2024. The Cathy Lincoln Memorial Cancer Center Fund assisted 130 women with \$50,301 in cancer related expenses. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00PM.

San Juan Regional Medical Center Corporation Meeting Report – Jan. 29, 2025 – by Karen Morrison

The Education segment was presented by Air Care Services Manager Robbie Donald. He spoke of the aircraft used to transport patients to and from the hospital. Because I was still trying to manage the mother-of-all-head colds which had settled in my ears, I could only hear every 8 or 10 words, so his report sounded to me like...aircare...service...critical...expanding...mid-shift...misses. What that translated to when I read the notes provided in a handout was the refurbished AirCare3 was put into service with 5 clinical staff members added to the flight crew. The underserved community is being targeted and peak hours of service have been implemented to avoid minimizing pilot duty time. During any 24/7 time period a crew is prepared to fly either helicopter or airplane: pilot, nurse, paramedic. A mechanic is always on-call and there is a staff of 50 total persons involved in AirCare services: Clinical staff, 15 nurses, 10 medics, 4 supervisors, 1 manager and 5 PRN. Aviation staff, 11 pilots, 4 mechanics. All these folks are required to maintain appropriate certifications for a multitude of medical responses. In addition to the First Responder Helicopter, there are three fixed wing airplanes available as needed. A couple things I found interesting are that the flight team helmets now have noise cancelling ability and the flight suits are made of Nomex which provides fire resistance. We are fortunate to have this highly trained response team available to us and based right here in Farmington.

Two Board members have "retired" and two new Board member were installed. Leaving after 9 years of service is Dr James Spence and after 3 years Danny Beyhan

In other reports, the hospital Auxiliary will be hosting a fund raiser in March on the 27th and 28th. The always popular Masquerade Jewelry and Accessories will be offering a variety of items for \$5 and several other items for a bit more. The last time they were here they had some bamboo sheet sets that were pretty popular and even some Dansko shoes, popular with the nursing staff. There were 12 applications for Educational Assistance from hospital employees wishing to gain additional certifications or more advanced training. Each approved applicant was awarded \$1000 toward their tuition. This year the Auxiliary decided to change the First Baby of the Year gifting by presenting baskets to fit the first boy and the first girl to the delight of both sets of parents!

The Pet Therapy program is seeking new dogs and their owners to apply and be trained in a national certification program to allow the dogs to visit patients in their rooms if requested and to serve in the community as needed in emergency or traumatic situations. Contact Teresa Becker in Volunteer Services if you are interested.

The San Juan Medical Foundation Connelly Hospitality House was part of a Martin Luther King Day of Service project. Volunteers painted several guest rooms and common areas brightening up those facilities. On February 14, the Connelly House will celebrate 25 years of hope and healing in the community

EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Feb.11	Tuesday	6:00pm	Hungrytown, a true artistic hybrid of music presented by Rebecca Hall & Ken Anderson,	Farmington Library	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
Feb. 13	Thursday	6:00 pm	All That Jazz – FHS Band fundraiser – An evening of Jazz, dancing, and dessert.	Elks Lodge	Students \$10 Adults \$20
Feb14/15 Feb21/22 Feb. 23	Fri./Sat. Fri./Sat. Sunday	7:30pm 7:30pm 2:30pm	Theater Ensemble Arts presents Arsenic and Old Lace, a classic black comedy about the only thing more deadly than poison: family.	SJC Connie Gotsch Theater	Srs./ Stud. \$12 Adults \$14
Feb. 15	Saturday	9:00am or 10:30am	Caliente Choir presents Broadway for Brunch Enjoy a nice brunch and variety show. Support the choir buying at our silent auction!	Piedra Vista High School Commons	\$20 See Debbie Both sell out!
Feb. 15	Saturday	7:00pm-10:30pm	Parnall Law Xtreme Arenacross and Freestyle Show presented by Fun Center Farmington	McGee Park	\$10 - \$25
Feb. 22	Saturday	10:00am-3:00pm	Healthy Living Expo - activities, booths, services, and products to help you take charge of your health.	McGee Park	Free
Feb. 23	Sunday	3:00pm	San Juan Symphony presents What Music Is Brings classical music and science together with full orchestra, projections, and narrator.	Henderson Fine Arts Center	Students \$10 Seniors \$25 Adults \$32
Feb. 25	Tuesday	6:00pm	Chadd Drott, of Chadd's Walking with Wildlife will present California Condors.	Farmington Library	Free
Feb. 28	Friday	7:00pm	HadesTown: Teen Edition - The Turano Chrisman Performing Arts Theater group presents this intriguing & beautiful folk opera	Piedra Vista High School Theatre	\$5.00 to \$18.00
Feb. 28	Friday	7:30pm	Dirty Dancing In Concert - hit film on a full-size cinema screen, with a live band and singers performing the film's iconic songs.	Farmington Civic Center	\$16-\$28
Mar. 2	Sunday	2:00pm	The Chautauqua Series at San Juan College presents Deborah Blanche as Laura Gilpin, photographer in the 50's and 60's.	SJC Connie Gotsch Theater	Free
Mar. 4	Tuesday	7:30pm	Dragons and Mythical Beasts Live! - come face to face with some of the most magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts ever to walk the earth.	Farmington Civic Center	\$16-\$28

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