

Your All Retirees Newsletter



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 2025

When I was requesting reports for the YARN, I asked Jim about writing the President's Letter for May. He was quick to inform me that new officers begin their term in May. It doesn't quite make sense to me as school is not out yet and our 2024-2025 meeting year is not over! I think Jim is just trying to get out of writing one last letter!! Seriously, I have been to the president's workshop and am ready to take the leadership role for which I was elected.

I do want to say a big "Thank You" to Jim, Kathy, and Sandy for serving our organization for so long. I'm sure they will continue to support the board and the new officers who took their places. I also want to welcome Diane Cook as our new secretary. She was willing to take my former position so I could serve as president. I also want to welcome again, Susan Kannard our treasurer who willingly stepped up to fill Kathy Martin's position upon her resignation and then was elected treasurer for the coming year. All members of SJAER are important, however, I really appreciate those who fill the necessary leadership roles in the organization. I don't want to leave out those who are continuing to serve on the board, Marilyn, Phyllis, Karen, Chuck, Nancy, and Trish. (Hope I didn't leave anyone out!) Thank you for staying on as board members to help lead this great organization!

I have some thoughts and plans for the coming year that I hope will help the club grow and serve our community. I hope to see all of you at Kiwanis Park on May 13 for our end of year picnic. The board is taking care of the food so all you need to do is come hungry and bring a friend!

Debbie Klein,
SJAER President





Cheers to us (food service workers, bus drivers, nurses, counselors, IT, librarians, educational assistants, office personnel, administrators, and YES: teachers – anybody who **retired from public schools in San Juan County**)! We had a successful 2024-2025 **SJAER** year!

SJAER BOARD

PRESIDENT

Debbie Klein

VICE PRESIDENT

Marilyn Montoya

PAST PRESIDENT

Jim Conyers

TREASURER

Susan Kannard

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Kathy Martin

SECRETARY

Diane Cook

MEMBERSHIP

Phyllis Meier

PROGRAMS

Karen Morrison

Marilyn Montoya

PUBLICITY: NEWSLETTER

Debbie Klein & Trish Murphy

PUBLICITY: WEBSITE

Chuck Culpepper

SUNSHINE

Nancy Tyson

SCHOLARSHIP

Marilyn Montoya

SJRM C REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Morrison

Jim Conyers



2025-2026 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 associate member

Signature of Retiree

Date: _____

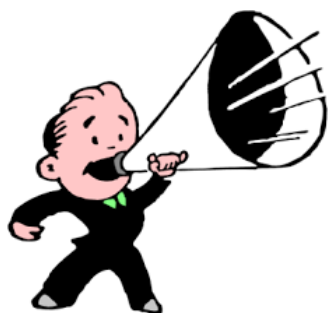
Make checks payable to SJAER.

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

May Program

Traditionally, our May meeting has been an end of year picnic. Our new president, Debbie Klein will provide some fun activities for our gathering at 11:30 at Kiwanis Park on May 13. Hope to see you there! Bring a friend or new retiree!

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	1	0	1
APRIL	0	0	0
MAY	0	0	0
TOTAL	15	10	27



MAY BIRTHDAYS	
BUSCH, LAURA	1-May
HAMBLIN, LAVON	11-May
STANLEY, JANIS NAOMI	14-May
MURPHY, PATRICIA	19-May
CONYERS, JAMES F	24-May
HUNTER, REBECCA ATENCIO	24-May
BULLER, BETTYE	28-May

JUNE BIRTHDAYS	
MEIER KERRY	11-Jun
SCRIVER, BILL	17-Jun
VAZQUEZ, MARQUITA	19-Jun
HOWEY, NORMAN G.	20-Jun
HOWEY, MARY SUE	23-Jun
STAVELY, JEANNE	26-Jun



THANK YOU Volunteers

Volunteer Reminder

“Even if it’s a little thing, do something for those who have need ... something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.
For, remember, you don’t live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here, too.”

(Albert Schweitzer)

Thank you, volunteers, for what you DO.
You truly change the world.

Please continue to report your **summer** volunteer hours at: trishshsh@live.com
You will get a final reminder in August.

Treasurer’s Report

Our treasurer reports a balance of \$2180.23 in our account and \$537.00 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	171
March	285
April	270
May	
Summer	
Total	1928



More Birthdays of the Month



JULY BIRTHDAYS	
PETERSON, PATRICIA	1-Jul
GONZALES, HELENA	5-Jul
MONTOYA, MARILYN	9-Jul
ALLEY, CONNIE	11-Jul
KOCHEVAR, NANCY	11-Jul
CHAVEZ, MARIE	17-Jul
KANNARD, SUSAN	17-Jul
KLEIN, DEBORAH	29-Jul

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	
GOLOMBOWSKI, JACQUINE	5-Aug
FELKNER, DORIS E HAINES	5-Aug
RIGGIE, CONSTANCE	7-Aug
CULPEPPER, JOANN	8-Aug
BEASLEY, SHIRLEY	9-Aug
MONTANO, ROSE	10-Aug
MURPHY, KATHLEEN	14-Aug
KNIGHT, LORINDA (LORI)	15-Aug

SJAER Executive Board Meeting 4-8-25

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, Treasurer in training-Susan Kannard, Programs & SJRMC Rep-Karen Morrison, Membership-Phyllis Meier, Sunshine-Nancy Tyson,

Absent: Webmaster-Chuck Culpepper

Meeting was called to order by James Conyers. Agenda was approved. Minutes were approved.

Old Business – End of Year Picnic – Karen went to Smiths, Safeway, and Albertsons. Albertsons offered the best service. She is ordering fried chicken, potato salad, fruit, and maybe macaroni salad. We are not asking members to bring items. Board members are supplying desserts, drinks, paper goods, and plasticware. Marilyn will bring Ziplock bags in case we have leftovers to sell.

Dates – Annual Convention – Monday – Wednesday, September 22-24 in Santa Fe – Courtyard Marriot We usually have 4 voting delegates besides Jim as he is on the board. More information will be forthcoming.

Community Service Hours are due September 1 – Trish will take care of getting our report in on time

State Board Officer Nominations are due July 1 – Anyone interested can contact state office to file

Membership Blitz – Trying to recruit new members as organization membership is aging

New Business – 501(c)(3) status – Discussion was held on whether or not we should apply for 501(c)(3) status. Karen will contact Tom Stamper about completing the application to determine the cost. Kerry Meier added that once we get the designation, we can provide a monthly thank you letter to No Worries for the room donation. House Bill 251 was signed by the Governor that allows you to change your beneficiary one time.

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer report:** Approved as printed in the YARN. \$2099.73 in checking and \$495.50
- **Membership:** We have 27 paid members.
- **Sunshine:** Nancy thanked those who have given her names of people to send cards to.
- **Programs:** Barry Digman will present today. Picnic for May meeting was taken care of earlier.
- **YARN:** Debbie reports that she will be taking pictures for member spotlights in the YARN or you can email one to her. On another note, she clarified that the bylaws do say we are to present a slate of officers which we did.
Trish added that the teacher anecdotes were fun and that all members should submit one. Send them to Debbie.
- **Website:** Chuck is not present, so no report
- **Hospital Representative:** Meeting end of April so reports will be in the May YARN.
- **In Memoriam & Volunteer Hours:** Nothing new to report.
- **Scholarship** – We should have our \$500 after this meeting to be distributed in the fall. Marilyn will get the applications to fall student teachers. The state will be awarding five \$1000 scholarships. They will be getting the information to the school districts.

Meeting adjourned. **Next Board Meeting** – 10:45 am on May 13, 2025 at Kiwanis Park Pavilion #1

General Meeting 4-8-25

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

18 members and 1 presenter

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

Business: Welcome members and guests.

➤ **Business:**

- State Annual Convention – Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 22-25 in Santa Fe at the Courtyard Marriot – Typically we can send 4 delegates – More information will be forthcoming. If interested in going, let Debbie Klein know.
- We should reach our \$500 goal for the scholarship fund today so we will be awarding a scholarship to a deserving student teacher this fall. The raffle will continue to replenish the fund. Please buy raffle tickets!
- House Bill 251 was signed by the Governor that allows you to change your beneficiary one time.
- State Board Officer Nominations are due July 1–Anyone interested can contact state office to file

➤ **Announcements**

- Marilyn encouraged everyone to check out the progress on the All-Ability Park. Phase one should be finished in July and phase two will begin.
- Debbie thanked everyone for allowing her to take pictures for the Member Spotlights in the YARN.
- Jim and Debbie attended state meeting/training – State is concerned that our group is aging and are encouraging units to try to recruit younger members.

Presenter: Barry Digman

- Grew up in Farmington – held multiple jobs including delivering milk for Creamland Dairy
- Shared information and a handout about real estate in San Juan County
- Usually realtors like a 6 month inventory balanced between buyers' market and sellers' market.
- Currently at 2 and 3 months which is good for sellers but rough on buyers
- Average days on market – 49 currently with a medium of 27 – Houses priced right move quickly
- Dozen homes priced at over \$1 million – throws statistics off
- Durango prices are sky high so many are moving to Aztec and surrounding areas
- Realtor in Durango can sell 2 houses and has \$5 million in sales
- Shared information on downsizing and lifestyle changes – Be careful, you house paid off or low mortgage – buy a house in today's market?? Rental is an option.
- There are not enough houses for sale here to meet the demand so prices are higher.
- Building cost are so high right now.
- Many people are retiring and moving here.
- Barry and his wife buy older houses, remodel, and rent them. They may begin to sell them.

Community Announcements –

- 50/50 drawing winner – Diane Cook

Next General Meeting – 11:30 am on May 13, 2025 at Kiwanis Park Pavilion #1

RSVP NEEDED for the May Picnic!!

Our last meeting before summer will be at Kiwanis Park on 30th Street across from Si Señors at 11:30am. The board is providing the food but we are asking you to RSVP to Karen Morrison at karemor3@gmail.com. by Monday so she can order the food. Thanks!



In Memoriam May 2025

Dr. Robert Michael Henderson. 10/30/37 – 3/20/25. Farmington. Professor at UNM School of Medicine; many positions in local medical facilities here, including Chief of Staff at SJRMC, and inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Louise Benedicto Gallegos. 5/24/37 – 3/22/25. Farmington. “One of the favorite custodians at Farmington High School.”

Kathryn Eleanor Robinson. 3/2/59 – 3/28/25. Aztec. Drove a school bus for Aztec schools in her retirement, after having worked for San Juan County for 28 years.

Albert Bruce Waite. 3/4/36 – 4/5/25. Farmington. Professor of Animal Sciences at Central Missouri State University; moved to Farmington to join the family business of M & R Plumbing.

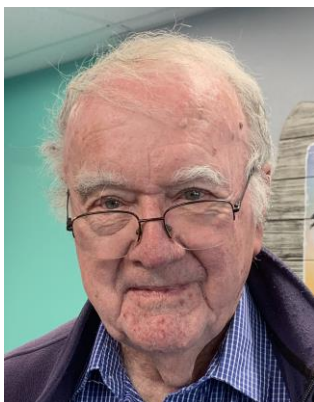
Kathryn Eleanor Robbins. 5/20/42 – 4/10/25. Aztec. Taught in San Diego, Pagosa Springs and Ignacio; then taught at McCoy Elementary in Aztec for 25 years. SJAER member.

Linda Bernice Crabtree. 12/10/51 – 4/15/25. Farmington. Employed in several positions in various FMS schools for 15 years; then became secretary of the Athletic Department at Piedra Vista HS for 20 years. She was well loved and respected throughout the district.



Member Spotlights

Board Member - This cowgirl was born in Powell Wyoming. She taught for 30 years at Ladera del Norte Elementary School...read that again...THIRTY YEARS!! Must be some kind of record! She received degrees from Montana State University and San Juan College. Travel dreams take her to New Zealand, but until that trip happens she'll be happy knitting and scrapbooking. Say hello to our co-treasurer Kathy Martin!



Board Member - A baby boy was born May 24 in Mattoon, Illinois, a small community most famous as the home of Bimbo Bakeries, makers of Orowheat Bread, Sara Lee and Thomas English Muffins. He got his B.A. degree in Education at Eastern Illinois University a M.S. in Education Western Illinois and Ed.S. degree as a Specialist in Education at Eastern, IL. Navajo Methodist Mission hired him as a Counselor and Teacher and later he worked as a Principal, Counselor, Transition Specialist and Executive Director at Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Le Community Grant School. (You can just call it DZ!) He taught as an Adjunct Instructor at San Juan College, New Mexico State and NM Highlands U. His hobbies include judging rabbits at the County Fair, and Reading. Say Hello to Past President James/Jim/Jimmy Conyers.

Tales of a Teacher - anecdotes by Susan Kannard

I remember one time when...

Two sisters brought their sons into the office to register them for Kindergarten. Since both boys had the first name of Bingo, the secretary placed them in different classes. The boys' birthdays were very close and they shared the same last name. Bewildered, the teachers finally met the father and what do you suppose his name was? BINGO

Help Debbie create the YARN!

Do you have a touching, amusing, unforgettable story of your teaching days? Want to share them with us? Just deliver your anecdote to Debbie and she will put it in the YARN for all of us to enjoy! You can write it and give it to her at a meeting, you can email it to her at aztecnana@gmail.com, or you can call her up and tell her your story at 505-330-4631. I'm sure each one of you have at least one story you can share.



Two very active seniors (Jake, age 92, and Mary, age 89), living in Senior Condos in Miami, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way, they pass a drugstore. Jake suggests they go in. Jake addresses the man behind the counter, "Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jake says, "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

The Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jake: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jake: "Medicine for rheumatism?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jake: "How about suppositories and medicine for impotence?"

Pharmacist: "You bet!"

Jake: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, and Alzheimer's?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jake: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jake: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"

Pharmacist: "We sure do."

Jake: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jake: "Adult diapers?"

Pharmacist: "Sure, how can I help you?"

Jake: "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry".

EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Through Dec. 31	Ongoing	Wed-Sat 10:00-4:00	Visions of Shiprock - forty pieces of artwork featuring Shiprock Peak	Navajo Art Museum	Free
Through Dec. 31	Ongoing	Wed-Sat 10:00-4:00	Diné weavings of a variety of styles from the Bob and Mary Culpepper Collection.	Navajo Art Museum	Free
Jan 15 - Sept 17	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
May 15	Thursday	6:00 pm – 10:00pm	Enjoy a night of movie magic from young local filmmakers at the Student Film Showcase hosted by Film Four Corners.	Total Theatre	\$5
May 16 May 17 May 18	Friday Saturday Sunday	12:00pm – 5:00pm	Live horse racing every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with post time at 1:15pm special activities and themes weekly.	SunRay Park and Casino	Admission Free
May 17	Saturday	7:30pm	ARRIVAL from Sweden: Music of ABBA Hear all your favorite ABBA hits on stage.	Farmington Civic Center	\$16-\$28
May 23 May 24 May 25	Friday Saturday Sunday	Various Times	Area rivers are celebrated with a festival of music, food, activities and entertainment. https://farmingtonnm.org/events/riverfest	Animas River Trails	Free
April 18 – May 25	Friday - Sunday	12:00pm – 5:00pm	Live horse racing - special activities and themes are featured weekly-Post time 1:15	SunRay Park	Free
May 31	Saturday	11:00am – 1:00pm	If These Walls Could Talk: A Picnic Fundraiser at Historic Tully House Homestead in Flora Vista -	Meet at Aztec Museum to carpool to site	Members \$25 Gen. Public \$35 Lunch included
June 4	Wednesday	9:00am – 3:00pm	Special Pop Up Trivia: Disney! friendly competition at a Disney-Trivia Night!	Farmington Library	Free
June 5 – Sept. 25	Every Thursday	3:00pm – 7:00pm	Downtown Makers Market - locally made and grown treasures	Orchard Plaza	Free Entry
June 6	Friday-	5:00pm – 8:00pm	Downtown Art Walk - Meet and chat with some of the best local artists	Main Street	Free Entry
June 7 – Aug. 30	Saturday	6:00pm	Summer Terrace Music Series - local live entertainment. Don't forget your folding chair and dancing shoes!	Farmington Museum Terrace	Free
June 12 – July 13	Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	8:00pm	Hairspray-The Musical With catchy songs, dynamic dance numbers, and a heartwarming message of acceptance, <i>Hairspray</i> is one you won't want to miss!	Sandstone Amphitheatre	Adult \$20 Sr/Military \$18 Student \$16
June 13	Friday	7:00pm	Music at the Museum – Black Velvet and Zia Chicks	Aztec Museum	Free
June 14	Saturday	7:30am – 10:30am	Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast - treat the favorite man to a delicious Father's Day Weekend Breakfast for Clothes for Kids	Outback	\$10
June 21- Nov 1	Every Saturday	8:00am-12:00pm	Farmington Growers Market - locally grown food, hand-made crafts	Farmington Museum	Free Entry
July 1- Sept. 30	Every Tuesday	4:30pm – 6:00pm	Growers Market - fresh produce and other locally made food products	Farmington Museum	Free Entry

For more summer activities and events go to <https://farmingtonnm.org/events>