



Your All Retirees Newsletter



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

November 2025

Ahh, the colors of the season! I just love the stages of the leaves changing colors in the fall. Just this morning, outside of Safeway in Aztec, there were a row of trees in the median on Main Ave. with various shades of green, orange, and red and in close proximity to them a huge Cottonwood tree in the parking lot with shades of dark greens to light greens, mixed with yellows and golds. If my daughter was here, I would be saying “Oooo, Purdy!” as that was a family tradition when admiring the colors of one of God’s creations!

November also reminds me of upcoming giving and being thankful season. There are opportunities all around where we can give and volunteer to help the less fortunate. A Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner is offered at the Aztec Senior Center. My husband and I will be enjoying the meal after we volunteer to deliver dinners to the home bound. A Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner is on tap at Sycamore Park Community Center in Farmington with turkey, mashed potatoes, and drinks are being provided. Just bring a side dish or dessert and enjoy a wonderful lunch with fellowship with others. Sit with someone you don’t know and brighten their day. Both these locations and the Bonnie Dallas Center are seeking volunteers for their Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 21.

Although we often connect giving thanks with November, we should always be thankful for all the blessings we receive each and every day of the year! God Bless you all!

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Debbie Klein,
SJAER President





SJAER members are school employees (mostly retired). We enjoy interesting activities at the local level. Some of our dues help at the State level to lobby for health and pension benefits for us. Why not join SJAER today!

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

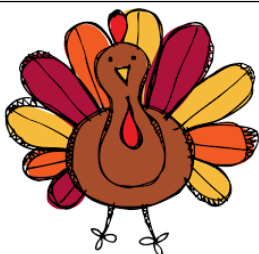
SCHOLARSHIP

Marilyn Montoya

SJRCM 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 non-retired member 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



November Program
 Our program will be Megan Cullip. She will talk about and explain the ins and outs of the new Medicare and SNAP benefits.
Don't miss it!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

2025/2026 Membership Report			
	AUTO	NMAER	SJAER
SEPTEMBER	11	7	18
OCTOBER	0	3	3
NOVEMBER	1	3	4
DECEMBER			
JANUARY			
FEBRUARY			
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	12	13	25

2025 - 2026 Meeting Dates

General Membership meetings are held at 11:30am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at No Worries Sports Bar and Grill. Please mark your calendars.
 November 11, 2025
 December 9, 2025
 January 14, 2026
 February 10, 2026
 March 10, 2026
 April 14, 2026
 May 12, 2026 - Picnic

Volunteer Reminder

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." (Edward Everett Hale)

Every little percentage of your effort toward a goal to help others, when added to all the other people doing the same, increases the total outcome immeasurably. We are changing the world. Please continue to report your volunteer hours.

If you are unable to attend monthly meetings, you can report your volunteer hours at: trishshsh@live.com

2025-2026 Volunteer Year	Volunteer Hours
September	320
October	233
November	
December	
January, 2026	
February	
March	
April	
May	
Summer, and some annual reports	
Total for 2025-26	553

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer reports a balance of \$2430.31 in our account and \$711.50 in our scholarship fund. Funds from the monthly drawing go into the scholarship fund. There are no outstanding bills at this time.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Cook, Diana	11/3
Lewis, Joan T	11/4
Morrison, Karen	11/6
Park, Dana M.	11/8
Sona, Ruth	11/13
Meier, Phyllis	11/22



SJ Association of Educational Retirees Board Meeting Agenda
10:30 A.M., October 14, 2025 No Worries Sports Bar & Grill

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:46 a.m. by Debbie Klein, president. Other board members present: Karen Morrison, Phyllis Meier, Susan Kannard, Trish Murphy, Nancy Tyson, Kathy Martin, James Conyers, Diane Cook
 - II. Approval of Agenda: Kathy made motion to approve agenda, Trish seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - III. Approval of Minutes: Kathy made motion to approve minutes, Trish seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - IV. Treasurer's Report: see Yarn for details
 - A. Approval for Expenditures, Trish \$32.00: Karen made motion to reimburse Trish for September/October expenditures, Kathy seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Purchase new stamp for checks: Karen made motion to approve purchase of new stamp, Trish seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - C. State conference expenditures: Expenditures will be submitted in November for approval.
 - V. Unfinished Business:
 - A. 501(c)(3) process update, Debbie: After discussion with IRS staff, Debbie needs to check issue date of EIN number. If older than 4 years, need to file application for 501(c)(3); if less only need to file returns.
 - B. Constitution/Bylaws, Debbie: Copies are ready for membership distribution.
 - C. Membership Directory, Phyllis: Membership list is being finalized and Phyllis will forward to Russell Goff at state office. The list will be given to members at November meeting.
 - D. SJAER Website, Debbie: An email was sent to Chuck Culpepper requesting design requirements needed to update website and he replied with necessary requirements. Karen has yet to receive feedback from school officials regarding the use of local High School students to design/update our website. Debbie discussed different options, including WordPress Program. All options are still being researched.
 - VI. New Business:
 - A. Report from State Conference, Debbie and Karen: see Yarn
 - B. Other Items from Floor: none
 - VII. Reports:
 - A. Treasurer: Susan Kannard; Kathy Martin, assistant treasurer. See Yarn
 - B. Membership: Phyllis Meier: none
 - C. Sunshine: Nancy Tyson: she provided numerous cards to be signed to send to members who are ill and/or recovering from surgery.
 - D. Programs: Marilyn Montoya/Karen Morrison: none
 - E. Webmaster: Chuck Culpepper: absent
 - F. YARN: Debbie Klein: none
 - G. Hospital Representatives: Karen Morrison/Jim Conyers: report in November.
 - H. In Memoriam/Volunteer Hours: Trish Murphy: none
 - I. Scholarship: Marilyn Montoya: At this time Marilyn is requesting to step aside from duties as chair of scholarship committee. Committee members Karen, Susan and Jim will meet and possibly have a report in November.
 - VIII. Adjournment: Phyllis made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:15 a.m., Trish seconded, motion passed unanimously
- Respectfully Submitted,
Diane S. Cook, secretary



In Memoriam November 2025



Wanda Krause. 12/29/33 – 10/4/25. Shiprock. Taught in various schools in the Shiprock area.

Maureen Sharon Holderman. 7/2/47 – 10/8/25. Farmington. Worked at Ganado Schools for over 30 years, sharing her warm smiles and kind heart.

Nita Raymond. 2/5/51 – 10/10/25. Bloomfield. Worked at Navajo Prep, Little Feet School and Aztec Dorm.

Nancy Lee Cobb. 6/25/36 – (early to mid-October, 2025). Bloomfield. An inspiring and dedicatee educator in Bloomfield schools for 25 years. SJAER member.

Dezmer Jackson Harris. 4/24/38 – 10/15/25. Farmington. Vocational agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

Barbara Scoggins Harper. 12/31/36 – 11/1/25. Farmington. Worked in Gadsden School District in Anthony, NM, giving struggling students the gift of reading.

Member Spotlights



Marilyn Montoya
Vice President

If you are going to attend Eastern New Mexico University, you might as well be born in Portales...and that's exactly what Marilyn Morgan Montoya did.

Marilyn arrived on July 9th and joined her sisters Claudia and Rebecca. She lives in LaPlata and considers Farmington her hometown. She graduated from Farmington High School and then not only received a degree from ENMU, but also from Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas. She married Patrick and enjoyed the life of a dentist's wife. They will celebrate their 33rd Anniversary Nov. 27!

Marilyn was instrumental in bringing to life the Tibbetts All Abilities Park Foundation, raising funds for the Boundless Adventure Park designed to provide a safe, accessible and adaptable playground for children of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs. Phase One of the park was dedicated earlier this month.

Marilyn has served on the SJAER Board of Directors several years and in her "free" time, enjoys hobbies including crochet, reading and other general crafts.



Phyllis Meyer
Membership Chair

If you love melons of all kinds, then you'll also love anyone from Rocky Ford, Colorado the Sweet Melon Capital of the World. And then there are the sugar beets, but that's another story. This story is about Phyllis Meier born there on November 22nd.

Phyllis graduated from Rocky Ford High School, then attended the University of Southern Colorado where she got her degree in Business Education and later New Mexico State University for a Master's degree.

Phyllis taught at Kirtland Central High School all the business classes: Keyboarding; Microsoft Office; Accounting; and Personal Finance. She also sponsored the Business Professionals of America. She is active in her Methodist Church and occasionally volunteers in the Overflow Free Store and helps guide folks around the displays at her church's Old Fashioned Holiday Bazaar...which took place just last Saturday.

Phyllis lists her favorite travel destination as Churchill, Canada where she watched the Polar Bears frolic on the ice and in the snow.

Phyllis has served on the SJAER Board of Directors for several years and lists cardmaking, photography and "creating" with the Crafty Ladies as her hobbies.



Tales of a Teacher - anecdotes by Susan Kannard

I tried to call two families each week with the goal of sharing something positive regarding their child. Many times the parents were shocked or surprised or relieved. One call went a step past the typical response with a parent of a middle schooler. I stated the purpose of my call and shared the positive input. After a long silence, the Mom asked, "Are you sure you're talking about my boy, (named ___)?" I assured her that I was, indeed. The silence from her end seemed to go on forever but I could hear sobbing in the background. Finally, she gathered herself enough to say, "Thank you. We have never had a positive call from any teacher or staff member in all the years he's been going to school. I can't begin to tell you how much this means to us." Those parents became strong supporters of my program, volunteered, and attended every PT conference. The student's work and attitude improved significantly because his parents communicated their support and confidence in him. That's a win/win!



Happy Fall y'all!



**San Juan Association of Educational Retirees General Meeting
October 14, 2025, 11:30 a.m., No Worries Sports Bar and Grill**

- I. Call to Order: Debbie Klein, president, called meeting to order at 11:43 a.m. Fifteen members/guests were present.
- A. Welcome, Debbie
 - B. Pledges, Sandy Allred
 - C. Prayer, Jim Conyers
- II. Unfinished Business:
- A. Member Directory: Phyllis discussed compiling and updating the new directory. She expects to have draft list for members to check information at November meeting.
 - B. Constitution/Bylaws: Debbie discussed the updated revisions to be approved. Nancy made motion to accept revised bylaws, Karen seconded: Jim Conyers amended the motion to edit Item 6.3 as follows, “add vice president to act as president if position is vacant.” Revised bylaws as amended were approved unanimously.
- III. New Business:
- A. State Conference Report: See Yarn for report. Debbie said the annual conference was educational, entertaining and enjoyable. She read the NMER mission statement and discussed. Debbie invited the new state officers to visit SJAER in the future. Karen provided a table full of conference handouts for members.
 - B. NMAER Survey: Debbie passed out a survey for members to complete and return to her.
 - C. Tales of an Educator, Debbie: See Yarn
- IV. Announcements: Kathy announced that Farmington High School is again taking donations for the student food pantry. Please consider donating nonperishable food items for FHS student use.
- V. Program: Terra Amber Rinderle, an Association Member Benefits Advisor who lives in Grand Junction, Colorado, gave a virtual power point presentation to the group. She discussed her work, which involves advising all employed in the field of education as to the benefits available to them. Amber suggested that if retirees have questions, to please contact Debbie or Karen, who will forward the questions to her. She gave away an Amazon gift certificate. Diane Cook was the fortunate winner.
- VI. Adjournment: Kathy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m., Susan seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Respectfully submitted, Diane S. Cook, secretary



San Juan Regional Medical Center Corporation Report

October 29, 2025 6:00PM Karen Morrison

The meeting began with an educational presentation by Dr Jason Lucas. Billed as New Mexico Healthcare Crisis 2025, what began as a look at the negative results of Medical Malpractice issues, turned into a diatribe against the current Governor and State Legislature. Between 2021 and 2024, New Mexico lost 248 physicians, many due to medical malpractice issues which were 2 times more frequent in our State than any other in the Four Corners and others nearby. Comparing New Mexico (bad) with Texas and Arizona (good) was a marked political jab and Lucas admitted it during the question /answer portion at the end of his presentation.

On a more positive note, a beautiful video documenting the history of our local hospital from it's beginning in 1910 as a single story, 5 room San Juan Hospital, to its current 5 story, 198 bed, Level 3 Trauma Center designation. We hope to share this video at an upcoming meeting.

What is the SJRMC “Corporation?” It is the governing body of our Community owned, non-profit hospital. It consists of 123 individuals representing 90 local groups including civic clubs, churches, and other organizations. This structure ensures the hospital remains accountable to the local community rather than shareholders, with a mission to personalize healthcare and improve community well-being. The group meets quarterly to receive updates on hospital operations, including quality and finance, and provides feedback on community health issues.

Two delegates represent San Juan Association of Educational Retirees, James Conyers and Karen Morrison.

San Juan Regional Medical Center Meeting

October 29, 2025 6:00PM Jim Conyers

Prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Jason Lucas made a presentation concerning the Healthcare crisis in New Mexico. Many doctors and health care professionals are choosing not to locate in New Mexico or are leaving because of the high cost of Malpractice insurance in the state.

Jason Rounds, CEO, made a presentation on the history of the hospital.

Anna Buffington, Board Vice-chair called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Various reports were given. The results of the recent financial audit resulted in an Unmodified Report which is the highest level of report form an auditor. It was reported that 96 cents of every dollar go to services at the hospital.

There were a number of new staff mentioned. They include Jacob Alexander, DO, Urgent Care; Joseph Beier, MD, Pulmonologist; Hannah Courtney, DO, Hospitalist; Graeme Fisher, MD, Radiation Oncologist; Michelle Stone, DO, Emergency Department; Jacob Sypher, DO, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Clarissa Golvert, FND, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner; Michaela Smith, FNP, Family Nurse Practitioner; Shawn Bunnell, CNP, GI Nurse Practitioner; Jordan Miller, CRNA, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist; and Michael Lucas, CRNA, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

In other news, SJRMC is the 2025 NM Hospital Association Quest for Excellence top overall hospital winner in the General Acute Care Category. Also, the new Childbirth Center was unveiled with a ribbon cutting and is now open. The Cancer Center also has some new radiation equipment.

Good news for the Robert Posey family who won the side x side raffle benefitting the Riley Men's Health Fund. The Internal Medicine Residency Program received accreditation. DAISY Awards for nurses include Jaecee Acosta for the Medical Unit and Wendy Joe in Nephrology Department.

The Riley Men's Health Fund received 179 applications and paid \$141,071 for medical expenses as of September 30, 2025. The Cathy Lincoln Memorial Cancer Fund received 136 applications and paid \$47,877 in medical expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.



"On Thanksgiving the Four Basic Food Groups are 'more', 'a little more', 'a lot more' and 'too much'."



"The good news is, you'll be spending Thanksgiving with a large group of happy people."



Food 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.

EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Nov. 12	Wednesday	6 pm – 7 pm	Once Upon a Crime – University of Idaho Case - deep-diving into specific true crime cases through a variety of mediums.	Farmington Library	Free
Nov. 12 Dec. 31	Wednesday - Saturday	10am – 4pm	Visions of Shiprock - artwork featuring Shiprock Peak and Diné weavings	Navajo Art & Culture Museum	Free
Nov. 12	Wednesday	4pm -6pm	Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening for the new Citizens Bank located in Historic Downtown Farmington!	Citizens Bank	Free
Nov. 14	Friday	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Thanksgiving Potluck - Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and drinks provided – bring side dish or dessert to share.	Sycamore Park Community Center	Bring dish to share
Nov. 14	Friday	2pm – 5m	Beginner crochet sessions - exploring the textured waffle stitch Bring yarn scraps - tools are provided.	San Juan College Makerspace	Free
Nov. 15	Saturday	10am – 3pm	Stuff the Bus for Families in Need! Bring your non-perishable food - ECHO food bank	Albertson's	Free – Donations
Nov. 20 Nov. 21	Thursday Friday	9am-5pm 9am-3pm	Charity Bowl Sale – ceramic bowls w/ soup for \$15 Other items for sale – benefits Tres Rios Habitat for Humanity	Henderson Fine Arts – Rm 9000	Free entry Items for sale
Nov. 21	Friday	2pm – 5m	Beginner crochet sessions - exploring the textured waffle stitch Bring yarn scraps - tools are provided.	San Juan College Makerspace	Free
Nov. 21	Friday	11:30am - 1pm	Thanksgiving Lunch - Turkey with all the fixins – No reserved seating – come early!	Bonnie Dallas Senior Center	under 60 \$6 60 over - \$3
Nov. 21	Friday	7:00pm	Holiday Spectacular - a dazzling celebration of San Juan County dancers – benefitting Kids Kollege Scholarships.	Henderson Fine Arts Center	\$10 - \$15 5 & under - free
Nov. 24	Monday	6:00pm	Smart Money – Be Red Cross Ready Learn about Emergency preparedness	Farmington Library	Free
Nov. 26	Wednesday	10:00am – 3:00pm	Ageing & Disability Resource Center – Medicare - free, unbiased, expert information and assistance about Medicare.	Farmington Library	\$5 to \$20
Nov. 27	Thursday	11:00am – 1:00pm	Aztec Community Thanksgiving Dinner – Turkey with all the fixins! Volunteers needed	Aztec Senior Center	Free
Nov. 28 Nov. 29	Friday Saturday	7:30pm 7:30pm	Casper Baca's Bullriding Extraordinaire- one of the biggest open bullriding competitions in the country	McGee Park	At the gate Adults \$30 Stu/Srs \$15
Dec. 2 Through Dec. 6	Tuesday through Saturday	Various times & Activities	Festival of Trees – benefiting Presbyterian Medical Services – Check out event on website listed below.	Farmington Civic Center	Free Entry Fees for events
Dec. 4	Thursday	5:30pm	Bundle up for A Very Chile Christmas Parade	Downtown Farmington	Free
Dec. 5	Friday	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Riverglo - Discover Farmington's holiday spirit along the Animas River!	Berg Park	Free
Dec. 6	Saturday	6:00pm – 10:30pm	San Juan College Luminarias - phenomenal display of luminarias on the campus grounds and buildings. Walk 5pm Drive 6pm	San Juan College	Free

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