



# Your All Retirees Newsletter



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

March 2026

Greetings, all!

What wonderful weather we are having! Spring is here, or at least very close. I have just begun to walk a little. It used to be routine, but I have been very inconsistent the past few years. I need to get back to routine and this weather is really helping. What kinds of activities do you do in the beautiful spring weather? Maybe I will have a sharing time at our meeting on Tuesday.

The legislative session is over and the final report from Russell Goff, NMAER executive director, is inserted in this YARN. Phyllis has also shared Russell's reports through member emails. It is interesting what bills passed or didn't pass that affects retired educators. I'm sure our lobbyists did all they could to protect our retirement benefits.

Spring Break will be mid-March and you know what that means. The end of the school year is just around the corner. When I was teaching, it seemed to me that after Spring Break, the days just flew by and graduation was here before I knew it. By the way, the Aztec Museum will be open the week of Spring Break, Tuesday, March 17 through Saturday, March 21 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. That could be a nice, educational outing for kids off from school.

Our SJAER year is winding down, too. Just one more meeting at No Worries in April, and then our May picnic. Now, would be a great time to bring a guest or two (maybe a new retiree) to get a taste of our organization and perhaps join next year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our meeting on Tuesday.

Happy Spring!

Debbie Klein,

SJAER President





It's rather late in the year to pay your membership dues because our SJAER year ends in May. However, if you are reading this as a non-member, you are still welcome to join our monthly lunches as a guest. Guests are always welcome, and there is no pressure to join. (But maybe next year you will? Hint. Hint.)

**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 non-retired member dues

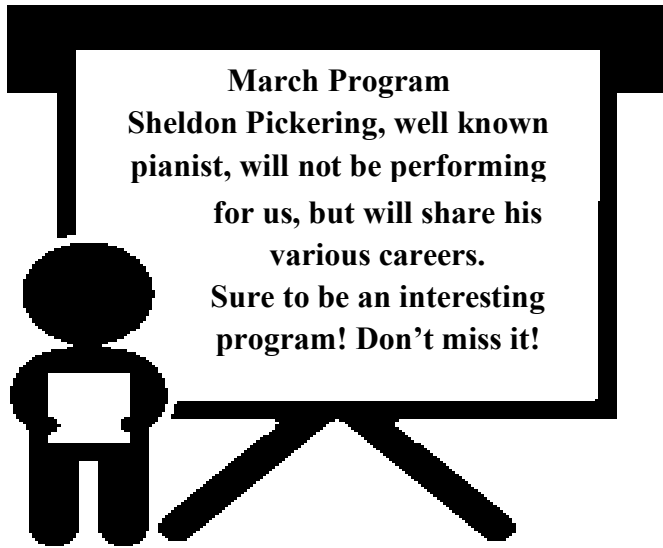
Signature of Retiree

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





2025/2026 Membership Report			
	AUTO	NMAER	SJAER
SEPTEMBER	11	7	18
OCTOBER	0	3	3
NOVEMBER	1	3	4
DECEMBER	0	1	1
JANUARY	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0
MARCH	0	0	0
APRIL			
MAY			
TOTAL	12	14	26

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

### Volunteer Reminder

Our little San Juan County unit is making a positive impact in the community by volunteering in so many ways. If you have questions about what qualifies as “volunteering,” ask any member or email: [trishshsh@live.com](mailto:trishshsh@live.com)

Please continue to report these much appreciated volunteer hours at our meetings. If you are unable to attend monthly meetings, you can report your hours at: [trishshsh@live.com](mailto:trishshsh@live.com)

2025-2026 Volunteer Year	Volunteer Hours
September	320
October	233
November	303
December	386
January, 2026	832
February	258
March	
April	
May	
Summer, and some annual reports	
<b>Total for 2025-26</b>	<b>2332</b>

### 2025 - 2026 Meeting Dates

General Membership meetings are held at 11:30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at No Worries Sports Bar and Grill. Please mark your calendars.  
 March 10, 2026  
 April 14, 2026  
 May 12, 2026 - Picnic

### Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer reports a balance of \$1616.33 in our account and \$810.70 in our scholarship/grant fund. Funds from the monthly drawing go into the scholarship/grant fund. We are currently considering another grant through Donors Choose.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
SHAW, SHEILA	2-Mar
MENAPACE, SARAH	4-Mar
Mc DONALD, CATHY	7-Mar
ROWELL, VERNA	9-Mar
CHAVEZ, ROBERT	10-Mar
ESTRADA, AIDA	11-Mar
CULPEPPER, CHUCK	31-Mar



**San Juan Association of Educational Retirees Board Meeting**  
**10:30 A.M., February 10, 2026, No Worries Sports Bar & Grill**

- I. Call to Order: Debbie Klein, president, called meeting to order at 10:56 a.m. Board members present included the following: Debbie Klein, Trish Murphy, Karen Morrison, Phyllis Meier, Susan Kannard, Diane Cook, Kathy Martin, James Conyers, Marilyn Montoya
- II. Approval of Agenda: Marilyn made motion to approve the agenda, Phyllis seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Kathy made motion to approve the minutes, Susan seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Susan reported \$1583.31 in General Fund, which includes \$778.50 in the Scholarship grant.
- V. Unfinished Business
  - A. Facebook: Karen and Susan will meet in near future to discuss SJAER Facebook page. Progress report will be provided at March meeting.
  - B. 501(c)(3): Paperwork has been given to Tom Stamper. However since no information has been received recently, Debbie will follow up on status of the project.
  - C. Spring Picnic: Susan has reserved Kiwanis Park, May 12, (second Tuesday of month) for SJAER annual picnic for the last meeting of 25-26 school year.
- VI. New Business
  - A. Spring Recruiting: Board members discussed various strategies to recruit members for SJAER including:
    - 1. Karen announced that Advertising Ideas will design a fabric banner for recruiting purposes, and she hopes to present additional information at next meeting.
    - 2. Susan pointed out the value of a Facebook page in publicizing the organization.
    - 3. Trish brought up that Farmington Public Schools have an end-of-year retirement party and perhaps SJAER could display literature at the event. Marilyn will check with Farmington and CCSD officials; Debbie will contact Aztec officials and Jim will get in touch with Bloomfield officials.
  - B. Other Items from Floor: Debbie reported that Chuck Culpepper has resigned from overseeing SJAER website and will transfer pertinent and necessary information to her. Much appreciation to Chuck for his service over the years.
- VII. Reports
  - A. Membership: Phyllis Meier, none
  - B. Sunshine: Nancy Tyson, absent
  - C. Programs: Marilyn Montoya and Karen Morrison announced that programs are a work in progress.
  - D. YARN: Debbie Klein requested that members read the legislative report, which is of particular interest to retirees.
  - E. In Memoriam/Volunteer Hours: Trish Murphy, none
- VIII. Adjournment: Marilyn moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:18 a.m., Susan seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane S. Cook, secretary





## In Memoriam March 2026



**Jimmy Varnadore.** 12/9/48 – 1/28/26. Farmington. Taught school in Ruidoso, Carrizozo and Shiprock.

**Goldie Jane Westgaard.** 9/20/36 – 2/7/26. Marvel, Colorado. Lifelong educator.

**Kristen Simo.** 12/7/70 – 2/9/26. Newcomb. Taught Special Education and English Language Arts for over 30 years in Colorado and Newcomb, at elementary, middle and high school levels. She faithfully served her students and their families, helping them to succeed.

**Anna Mae Harvey.** 6/8/44 – 2/11/26. Farmington. Taught preschool through fifth grade in Shiprock and Red Valley, Arizona for over 30 years. She loved the rewards of educating the next generation. SJAER member.

**Mary Evalyn Dwyer.** 9/2/57 – 2/13/26. Flora Vista. Worked as a kitchen manager for Aztec schools where she cared for students and staff with dedication and pride.

**Amanda Louise Garcia.** 9/22/71 – 2/14/26. Farmington. Taught in the Farmington Municipal Schools where she poured her heart into her students. She truly loved the classroom.

**Mabel Eleanor Shaw.** 1/21/32 – 2/20/26. Aztec. Worked as a school bus driver.

**Reverend Priscilla Montoya.** 3/24/42 – 3/1/26. Farmington. Taught at both private and public schools in Farmington.

## Member Spotlights



Rebecca Atencio Hunter was born in Farmington, May 24. She attended Eastern New Mexico University and New Mexico State achieving AA, BS, MS and PhD degrees. She has worked as a Speech Language Pathologist in Aztec, Farmington and Central Consolidated school districts. Rebecca enjoys traveling and thinks Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal are beautiful countries to visit. Her hobbies include reading, genealogy, research and being a member of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Rebecca Atencio Hunter



Lori Knight is a relatively new member and might not even be retired, but she joined for lunch a couple times this year. Lori was born in Amarillo on August 15. She attended Bob Jones University and received a BA in Business Education. She has worked for several years at Fort Lewis College as a Student Services Specialist in the Registrar's Office. She enjoys cross-stitching and thinks of Sedona AZ as the perfect place to vacation.

Lori Knight

**San Juan Association of Educational Retirees General Meeting  
February 10, 2026, 11:30 A.M., No Worries Sports Bar & Grill**

I. Call to Order: Debbie Klein, president, called the meeting to order at 11:56 a.m. Eighteen people signed the sign-in sheet. Two guests were introduced, Benet Duncan and Janet Hunter. Congratulations to Marie Chavez, who won the door prize.

A. Welcome: Debbie welcomed members and guests.

1. Debbie recognized and honored Marilyn Montoya, SJAER vice president, for being selected Citizen of the Year. The award was given to Marilyn for her leadership in developing the All Abilities Park, located at the site of old Tibbets School on Apache St.

2. Debbie briefly mentioned the NM legislative session that includes a number of bills pertaining to educational retirees.

B. Pledges: Sandy Allred led the pledges.

C. Prayer: Marilyn led in prayer.

II. Unfinished Business

A. First Grant Awarded: Recipient is Ms. Virginia Batucan, special education teacher at Mesa Alta Jr. High in Bloomfield. She requested assistance to purchase five reading pens for her students with reading disabilities. SJAER donated \$170 to complete the amount needed to make the purchase. Susan presented Ms. Batucan with the award letter.

B. Facebook Progress: Karen reported that she and Susan are continuing to work on the project and will have a report in the near future.

III. New Business

A. Spring Recruiting: Debbie discussed the need to recruit new members. Plans are being made to contact the four area school systems toward the end of the school year to promote membership in SJAER. She requested suggestions and ideas for projects to publicize the Educational Retirees organization.

B. Items from Floor: none

IV. Announcements

A. Pantry Reminders: Kathy requested donations for the food pantry at FHS. Items needed include food that is nonperishable, microwaveable, individual portions. They are **NOT** accepting hygiene items at this time. Please bring donations to monthly meetings and Kathy will deliver to FHS.

B. Caliente Game Night: Debbie announced that tickets for Caliente Game Night are \$50. Please contact Debbie for more information.

C. Announcements from Floor: none

V. Program Mike Maddox, historian, and author of one book, began researching and writing about local historical people and events after retiring from New Mexico State Parks. He spent much of his working career at Navajo Lake. His wife, Pam, is a retired educator from Aztec school system. Raised in Farmington until the 8th grade, Mike's family moved to Santa Fe where he graduated from high school. A graduate of Colorado State University, Mike is a member of the San Juan Historical Society and writes a weekly article for the Facebook page. His first article was submitted on February 27 2016. Mike's presentation included a number of interesting stories and events, both published and unpublished, of local northwest New Mexico/San Juan County residents. During his research on the Stockton Brothers, Mike went to Stephenville, Texas where the notorious brothers had their beginnings. Mike spent much time at the library of Tarleton State University gathering historical information. In addition to using library facilities for research, Mike studies newspapers published before 1900, checks court records, and spends time talking with descendants of early pioneer residents, in order to gather material for his historical writings.

VI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane S. Cook, secretary



**Don't forget to bring your items for the Food Pantry to the meeting!!**

### **SJRMC Corporation Meeting by Jim Conyers** January 28, 2026

The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM by chairperson, Sara Kaynor. There was a presentation showing how technology is being used to help doctors and health care professionals devote more time to patients and spend less time in record keeping. They can use their phone to record comments and chart notes. It was informative.

Former Board chair Shana Reeves and former Board member Debbie Joslin were recognized for their service.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Anna Buffington new Board Chair presided.

The BEE award which recognizes Patient Care Services Staff was awarded to Kathy Coleman and Evette Crain. Kathy is a patient educator in the Childbirth Unit and a retired science teacher from Bloomfield Schools and former teacher/librarian/administrator at Dzilh-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School. Evette is a critical care tech in the Intensive Care Unit.

Nurses Sara Barry and Laurel Martin are the newest recipients of the Daisy Award. Sara is a nurse in the Childbirth Unit and Laurel is a nurse with the Wound Care Team.

As a way of supporting the community, the Hospital provided free drive thru Flu shot clinics in October and November. It also supported Festival of Trees and Sexual Assault Services of Northwest NM.

New Member Kristina Carlson Werito was welcomed to the Board and Esther Greyeyes was approved for her second term.

Several new staff were mentioned. They include Kettia Guillite, MD, My Kidney Care; Aaron Lessen, MD, Emergency Physician; Kristin Purcell, DO, Emergency Department; Victor Rivera-Santiago, MD, Hospitalist; Amy Williams, MD, Pediatric Hospitalist; Miki Moffitt, CNP, Health Partners Family Medicine; Megan Foutz, CNP, Certified Nurse Anesthetist.

The financial report was given. The finances of the Hospital remain strong. The Hospital is involved in collective bargaining in some departments.

Jan Smith, president of the Auxiliary reported on activities. In 2025, the Auxiliary purchased \$85,513 in equipment for the Hospital. There are 20 teen volunteers who are graduating this year and are eligible to apply for the Volunteer Scholarships. Riley Men's Health Fund helped 221 men with \$196,621 in medical expenses. The Cathy Lincoln Memorial Cancer Fund assisted 151 women with \$73,649 in cancer related medical expenses. The Hospital is always seeking more volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

### **SJRMC Corporation Meeting by Karen Morrison** January 28, 2026

The Education presentation highlighted an Information Technology Update from CIO John Gaede and Dr Carlo Hallak from Physician Informatics. Discussion centered around modernizing the hospital's infrastructure and aligning the IT Mission and Vision to that of SJRMC. The IT Mission says, "We save lives, and we innovate." The Hospital's Mission to improve lives through personalized health and care. To "modernize" the IT department the program ITWorks was transitioned to the program, "perfectserve." This new program provides a major security and safety update for our servers. In September 2025 SJRMC (along with many other hospitals across the US) was the target of a massive Cyber Attack! The threat origin was bad people in Russia, China and other countries in Europe and Asia. The threat of shutting down our computer systems depended on paying a ransom to the hackers which usually averages \$2.9 Million! Fortunately, our new system upgrades prevented any entry into our servers and the crisis was averted.

A new advertising campaign has begun. The ad focuses on being "here" for everyone. "No matter what happens, San Juan Regional Medical Center will be here for you, when and where you need us." The ad has been showing on Facebook and is filled with humor and health information.

The hospital's website has been blowing up with users checking in. Page views have risen from 2024 with 702,926 views to 787,643 page views in 2025. Social media has also increased hospital visibility with Facebook logging 6,410,004 total views. Instagram and YouTube also showed an upswing in total views.

Former FMS School Nurse Miki Moffitt has joined San Juan Health Partners Family Medicine in Aztec. Big news...SJRMC is in negotiations to purchase the practice of Orthopedic Associates, and also the Ambulatory Surgery Center off of 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

# EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Cost
Ongoing	Wednesdays	Noon to 1:00	Brown Bag Birding – Eat and observe birds and wildlife with Nature Center Volunteers	Riverside Nature Center	Free
Ongoing	Wednesdays	4 pm – 5 pm	Untangled Threads - Bring your knitting, crochet, etc. & chat while working.	Farmington Library	Free
Mar. 10	Tuesday	6 pm - 7 pm	Irish Trivia Night – Watch Riverdance, listen to U2, eat <a href="#">colcannon</a> as you compete.	Farmington Library	Free
Mar. 13	Friday	1 pm – 3pm	Bingo is the name of the game! Join for the fun!	Bonnie Dallas Senior Center	\$1 for 2 cards
Mar. 13	Friday	4 pm – 6pm	Building a Better Backyard Garden - Learn to plan your garden, boost soil health, manage water wisely, and choose the right plants for long-term success.	SJC Extension Office 400 Gossett Dr. Aztec	\$10 Per class
Mar. 14	Saturday	12 – 1:30pm	Gallopig Goose Historical Society presents history of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad & "Gallopig Goose" motor rail vehicles.	Farmington Museum	Free
Mar. 14	Saturday	6 pm – 9 pm	Dance Night - Move your feet to the beat and dance with live music.	Bonnie Dallas Senior Center	\$3 per person
Mar. 15	Sunday	2 pm – 3 pm	Walk with a Doc - a brief health discussion and enjoy a healthy walk.	Kiwanis Park/ Animas Mall	Free
Mar 19/26 Mar 20/27 Mar 21/28 Mar 22/29	Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	7:30pm 7:30pm 2 & 7:30pm 2:00pm	Sister Act The Musical presented by Four Corners Musical Theatre Company - a heartwarming comedy about finding purpose in unexpected places.	Farmington Civic Center	Adults \$28 Sr & Mil \$26 Students \$16
Mar. 20	Friday	6 pm - 8 pm	Stitch & Story Night - A cozy evening of yarn, friendship, and fiction	Quill & Quest Bookstore	Free
Mar. 21	Saturday	6 pm - 8 pm	Silent Book Club - Bring any book you love, relax, and read. No assignments, no discussions, just good vibes.	Quill & Quest Bookstore	Free
Mar. 24	Tuesday	2 pm – 3 pm 6 pm – 7 pm	Estate Planning 101: Understanding the Power of a Trust with Karina Guerrero.	Farmington Library	Free
Mar. 27 Mar. 28 Mar. 29 April 2 April 4	Friday Saturday Sunday Thursday Saturday	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 2:00 pm 7:00 pm 2:00 pm	Piedra Vista High School Theater presents Frozen: The Broadway Musical! The magical story of two princesses growing up in the beautiful mountainous kingdom of Arendelle.	Piedra Vista High School	Adult \$15 Senior \$10 Child \$10
Mar. 27	Friday	6:30 pm & 7:30 pm	AstroFriday presents "The Astronomy of Harry Potter," Stargaze following 2 <sup>nd</sup> show.	SJC Planetarium	Free
Mar. 28	Saturday	11 am–2 pm	Veterans and the Arts - Veterans come paint with Darlene Lee and Karen Ellsbury to celebrate you! All supplies provided.	Heart Gallery 307 W. Main Farmington	Free
March 31	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Caliente Community Chorus invites you to step into a story of our American Heritage and enjoy an unforgettable evening of heritage, harmony, and heart celebrating America's 250 <sup>th</sup> birthday.	First Presbyterian Church 865 N. Dustin	\$15 \$16 w/card

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