



# Retiree Association

NEWSLETTER FALL 2016

## **UNMRA loses Administrative Officer due to budget cuts**

I wanted to inform you of a significant change that is happening to the Retiree Association. The Provost's Office has traditionally provided a ½ time administrative and clerical support person for the Retiree Association. For the past 4 years, Bernadette Jaramillo-Peck has held that support position. Those of you who know Bernadette can attest to Bernadette's outgoing personality, to her excellent communication skills, and to her fierce dedication to the Retiree Association. During her tenure, Bernadette has successfully navigated and acclimated to the annual changes in Board Members and in elected Board Officers.

However, the ever-increasing fiscal reductions have now touched Bernadette and the Retiree Association. About a month ago, the Retiree Association was notified that Bernadette would be laid off, effective on September 30, 2016. Since being notified, members of the Board of Directors have met with various members of the Provost's staff as we begin the transition to a different support model. Transitions are often unpredictable and may, on occasion, require changes to existing methods. During this upcoming transition, I ask for your patience and for your support as we work through different protocols. Above all, I ask you to join me in thanking Bernadette for all that she has done for us over the past few years and wish her the very best as she embarks on a new venture. Thank you.

*Kathy Guimond*, President

Retiree Association

## **Annual Board of Directors Fall Retreat**

On October 14th and 15th, 2016, the Board of Directors of UNMRA held a retreat to figure out what is working and what needs to be improved. The goal of the retreat was to review our 2015 Action Plan, discuss problems and challenges facing the Board, and build an action plan for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

The Board agreed to continue with our social activities which include: Monthly programs, First Thursday Coffee and making plans for an Art Exhibit of work from our UNMRA members. We will also continue presenting Open Enrollment programs for pre and post 65 retirees along with a Healthcare Workshop.

The upcoming 2017 New Mexico Legislative session will see us attending UNM Day and talking to our legislators. Give us a call if you want to attend any of the sessions as we will be carpooling on several different days. We will also be attending ERB stakeholder meetings to make sure our concerns are being heard. UNMRA will continue to create a Center for Retirees that will integrate into the University structure, working with the Provosts office, Human Resources, Emeriti Faculty, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Several other topics such as how to increase membership, improve communications, and how to make our monthly Board meetings more efficient by using Executive committees were discussed.

### **UNMRA Board member appointed to ERB Board of Trustees.**

Donald Duszynski is the new representative for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and currently holds the position of Emeritus Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico. Don has been on the UNMRA Board of Directors for five years and is a past president of the Board.

### **Benefits Committee Report**

The Benefits Committee said goodbye to Bernadette with cupcakes and earrings. We are all sad to see her leave. Bernadette has booked our usual meeting room for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month for the coming year, 2017.

Medical and Dental Open Enrollment for post 65 UNM retirees will be for 3 full weeks from October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>. Guides were mailed out to post-65 retirees on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our Spring Health and Wellness Workshop will be held in the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center Auditorium on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from noon until 4:00pm.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

The Legislative Committee (LC) continues to coordinate the legislative business of the Association, including monitoring and reporting Education Retirement Board

(ERB) and the New Mexico State Government Investment and Pension Operational Committee (IPOC) activities. Representatives from the LC, Fred Rose and Melanie Baise, are attending these meetings to represent the pension benefit interests of UNM retirees and make our presence known. We are also attending other educator retiree association meetings to create alliances around our mutual concerns.

Handout materials are being created to educate our legislators and the community about the importance of making the ERB sustainable and honoring the benefit promises made to current and future retirees working in higher education and K-12. As the state flagship university with four branch campuses, everyone knows someone employed by UNM.

The committee meets every other month on a Wednesday. We met August 31 and October 19. Future meetings dates for 2016 and 2017 are December 7, February 15, April 19, June 21, July 19, and August 16 at 2:30 PM. We currently meet at the UNM Student Success Center, South Campus, 1155 University Blvd., SE. This meeting location may be subject to change as we transition into the future role of the UNM Retiree Association.

We ask you to join our efforts to protect your ERB pension benefits.

### **Events for members**

Programs are going on each month and are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday or Thursday of the month. During the past year we have met for the following events: ABQ Botanical Gardens, Veterans' Memorial Park, Atomic Museum, and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. On November 17 we will visit UNM's Maxwell Museum. On December 14 we will be holding our annual Holiday Party at the South Golf Course. Looking ahead to 2017 we are planning a luncheon in January. More details will be sent out as the time approaches.

If you have not attended one of our events, you have missed out on a terrific opportunity to meet fellow retirees and learn something about your community. Check the UNMRA website for the next event.

### **New Webpage design <http://retiree.unm.edu/index.html>**

If you have not recently looked at our webpage, please take a few minutes to do so. The University has redesigned the look of its webpage and we have followed that theme.

**Facebook**

If you are on Facebook please check us out, **UNM Retiree Association**, and give it a “like”. We hope to be using this as a means of keeping you informed about current activities.

**Software for UNM Emeriti Faculty**

As a result of Provost Abdallah’s intervention, the new interim CIO, Duane Aruti, has arranged for retired faculty to be able to buy UNM-licensed software directly from the software distribution center at the same price as that offered regular faculty. Check with IT for this offer.