

**Email Newsletter** At this time we are not able to print our newsletters. When the Stay-At-Home orders are lifted we will be able to send our newsletter by USPS. If you would like to continue to receive an email edition, let us know at: Email: [AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com](mailto:AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com)



## May 2020 Newsletter

### April meeting

*Cancelled due to corona virus.*

The Retiree Executive Committee met several times through Zoom meetings to decide how to best go forward during the quarantine. It was decided that the AFT Retiree newsletter would be sent out via email. Currently the quarantine restrictions make it impossible for us to print and mail this newsletter.

### May Meeting

Our next meeting will be a virtual one. We will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at 1 o'clock. Join us. It will be fun to see friends and catch-up.

The primary and general election are just around the corner. Learn how the AFT candidate endorsement process is done and what the next steps will be. John Dyrzcz, AFT NM staff member, will be the speaker. He will be happy to answer any questions.

*(The last page of this newsletter includes the list of national and state candidates that have been endorsed by AFT.)*

### Learn to ZOOM

Member **Marcia Demento** will be guiding us through our very first Retirees' virtual meeting. She will be our tech guru. Marcia will be holding a practice session. You can make sure your computer or phone is able to sign on to our Zoom meeting. She will be available to answer questions and provide assistance. The practice session will be this coming Thursday, May 7 at 2:00pm. To set up a practice session, call Anne Pierce-Jones at 505-453-8812.

### Quarantine

According to Wikipedia, "A quarantine is a restriction on the movement of people and goods which is intended to prevent the spread of disease or pests." This idea has been around for a long time. In the Bible, the book of Leviticus mentions using isolation for certain illnesses. The Islamic prophet Muhammad advised, "Those with contagious diseases should be kept away from those who are healthy." And a Persian physician around the year 1000 recommended quarantine for patients with infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis.

The word *quarantine* come from the Italian word for forty- *quaranta*. During the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries Venice required all ships to isolate for 40 days before passengers and crew could go ashore during the Black Plague. Between 1348 and 1359, the Black Death epidemic killed an estimated 30% of Europe's population and a significant percentage of Asia's population.

### Anti-Stress Suggestions

It can be hard to combat stress, depression and loneliness during these Stay-At-Home times. Here are two suggestions that brought smiles to our faces. (1) "**Some Good News**" is a weekly YouTube series by the actor, John Krasinski who starred in the TV show *The Office*. It's about 20 minutes long and each episode has uplifting stories from around the world and special guests via Zoom. And (2) **Wicked Tulips Flower Farm** posts beautiful photos on Facebook. For a \$10 donation (that will help keep this family farm in business) they will send you daily videos to your FaceBook page. Or just go to their FaceBook page and enjoy some loveliness for free. If you have a favorite way to spread some happiness, please share with us. Email: [AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com](mailto:AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com)

### Thought for the Day

"Flowers always make people better, happier and more hopeful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul."

- Luther Burbank



### NM Retiree Health Care Authority

On March 11, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham vetoed House Bill 45 which would have increased employee and employer contributions rates to the Retiree Health Care Fund. It was one of only two bills that she vetoed. HB 45 passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support. At the time of the veto the Governor vowed future support for Retiree Health Care. Given the state's current economic outlook due to the COVID 19 pandemic future financial support to the RHCA seems dim. But the agency is solvent and will continue. NMRHCA has been building a trust fund to cover its solvency for many years, however, it may soon have to dip into that trust fund. (This means deficient spending and *possible*, future higher costs (premiums or co-pays) to retirees.

Like everyone else, the NMRHCA is looking into ways to negotiate the quarantine. Stay tuned to see how they will handle the fall switch enrollment. Large groups of older retirees may not be the best way to get new information out!

## 2020 Census

Have you completed the 2020 Census? Good for you. If not, DO IT NOW. It's fast, it's easy and it's very important. Funding for New Mexico's classrooms depend on an accurate count.

AFT National is looking for retired members to volunteer to participate in Census 2020 phone-banking. They will provide training. The Census Outreach Volunteer sign up is at:

<https://forms.gle/SEYyBGuDr61aHLg7A>

## Political Endorsements by AFT

**Your union does not tell you how to vote. However, you can be sure that we have carefully vetted each candidate to ensure that our recommendations reflect individuals who most closely align with our goals of preserving and promoting public education and labor rights.**

The endorsed incumbent candidates were recommended by the ATF Unified COPE committee based on their previous voting record. All new candidates have completed the ATF Unified COPE Questionnaire and have submitted to an interview with the ATF Unified COPE Interview Team. The endorsements were ratified by the ATF Fed Rep Council on April 20, 2020. All statewide endorsements and endorsements for candidates outside of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County were vetted by the AFT-NM COPE Committee. National endorsements are made by the American Federation of Teachers.

The AFT NM Retirees had a member at both the state level and at the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County level. Candidates were asked about their support for educational retirees' pension and health care. Our thanks go out to **Ellen Mills** and **Therese Saunders**. If you have questions or would like to learn more, join the Retirees Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at 1:00. Retirees are welcomed and needed at all COPE meetings.

## **Important Dates**

May 5th: Last Day to Register or Change Registration for the Primary/ County Clerks Begin Mailing Out Absentee Ballot Applications  
May 16th- May 30th: Early Voting  
May 28th: Last Day to Request An Absentee Ballot

**June 2nd: Primary Election Day**

**Stay tuned for early voting information. Meanwhile... [Sign Up for an Absentee Ballot here.](#)**

The New Mexico Supreme Court has denied a request for an all-mail election for our state primary on June 2. There is no way to know what our quarantine status will be in early June. Protect yourself and your vote, [sign up for an absentee ballot today.](#)

## Next Meeting – a Virtual Meeting

Our next meeting will be **May 13, 2020** at 1 pm. We will **NOT** meet at the AFT Union office at 530 Jefferson St. NE.



Contact information:

Email: [AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com](mailto:AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com)

Facebook: AFT New Mexico Retirees – Chapter 8029

Web: <http://aftnmretirees.nm.aft.org/contact-us>

530 Jefferson NE Albuquerque NM 87108



**AFT New Mexico** AFL • CIO  
*A Union of Professionals*

**AFT New Mexico Retirees Chapter**  
Local 8029-R/AFT/AFT NM

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE AND ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

### **ANNUAL DUES**

**\$25 Per Person - Certified**

**\$20 Per Person - Classified**

Please make checks payable to AFT NM Retirees Chapter and mail to: 530 Jefferson St NE, Albuquerque NM 87108

### **VOLUNTARY AFT RETIREES CHAPTER** **COPE DONATION**

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***The following national candidates are endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers:***

**U.S. President**

Joe Biden

**U.S. Senate:**

Ben Ray Lujan, U.S. Senate

**U.S. Congress:**

Debra Haaland, U.S. House of Representatives, District 1

Xochitl Torres Small, U.S. House of Representatives, District 2

*No Endorsement Until After the Primary*, U.S. House of Representatives, District 3

***The following candidates are endorsed by the AFT-NewMexico***

**NM Judicial Races:**

Supreme Court, Position 1: Shannon Bacon

Supreme Court, Position 2: David Thomson

Court of Appeals, Position 1: Zach Ives

Court of Appeals, Position 2: Shammara Henderson

**New Mexico State Senate (SD= Senate District):**

SD3 Shannon Pinto

SD4 George Muñoz

SD5 Pete Campos

SD9 Benjamin Rodefer

SD10 Katy Duhigg

SD14 Michael Padilla

SD15 Daniel Ivey-Soto\*

SD16 Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

SD17 Mimi Stewart\*

SD18 William "Bill" Tallman

SD19 Claudia Risner

SD20 Martin Hickey / *Rebecca Stair dual endorse*

SD23 Harold Pope

SD24 Nancy Rodriguez

SD25 Peter Wirth

SD28 Gabriel Ramos

SD29 Paul Baca

SD30 Clemente Sanchez

SD31 Joseph Cervantes

SD33 Denise Lang-Browne

SD36 Jeff Steinborn

SD38 Mary Kay Papen

SD39 Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

**New Mexico State House of Representatives (HD= House District):**

HD4 Anthony Allison

HD6 Eliseo "Lee" Alcon

HD7 Santos Griego

HD9 Patricia Lundstrom

HD10 Andres Romero \*

HD13 Patricia Roybal Caballero

HD14 Miguel Garcia\*

HD15 Dayan "Day" Hochman

HD17 Deborah Armstrong

HD18 Gail Chasey

HD19 Sheryl Williams Stapleton\*

HD20 Meredith Dixon

HD21 Debbie Sariñana\*

HD22 Jessica Velasquez

HD23 Daymon Ely

HD24 Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson \*

HD25 Christine Trujillo\*

HD26 Georgene Louis

HD27 Marian Matthews

HD28 Melanie Stansbury

HD29 Joy Garratt\*

HD30 Natalie Figueroa\*

HD31 Julie Ford Brenning

HD34 Raymundo Lara

HD35 Angelica Rubio

HD36 Nathan Small^

HD37 Joanne Ferrary

HD38 Karen Whitlock

HD39 Rudy Martinez

HD40 Roger Montoya

HD42 Kristina Ortez

HD43 Christine Chandler

HD44 Gary Tripp

HD45 Linda Serrato

HD46 Andrea Romero

HD47 Brian Egolf

HD48 Linda Trujillo

HD50 Matthew McQueen

HD51 Jeff Swanson

HD52 Doreen Gallegos

HD53 Willie Madrid^

HD56 Laura Childress

HD57 Billie Helean^

HD59 Kimble Kearns

HD68 Karen Bash

HD 69: Harry Garcia

HD 70: Anita Gonzales^

*\* Denotes a current, retired or former member of the Albuquerque Teachers Federation*

*^ Denotes a current, retired or former member of the AFT-NM*