



AFT New Mexico

Retirees Chapter 8029

August 2021 Newsletter

New State President for AFT NM

At the bi-annual convention of American Federation of Teachers New Mexico, delegates elected a new President. **Whitney Holland** was elected President and Kathy Chavez continues as Executive Vice President. Whitney, an educator in Los Alamos Public Schools, has also served as the president of the Los Alamos Federation of School employees for five years and is a member of the union's statewide Paraprofessional School Related Personnel Organizing Task Force. Whitney's service also includes terms as AFT NM Treasurer and Secretary.

Holland issued the following statement, "Even though our union has new leadership, we will remain rooted in our values of a strong, vibrant, and equitable public education for all students, fairness in our communities and places of work, and progressive public policy for our State."

Come meet Whitney and learn more at our August 11 meeting. She will be our guest presenter.

ARA

In June the Alliance of Retired Americans (made up of *all* retired union members – including AFT) invited NM State Senator Martin Heinrich to receive the "Hero Award". Senator Heinrich has a 100% record of voting in support of pro senior citizen legislation. Thank you, Senator Heinrich!

CRT – What it IS and what it ISN'T

CRT or Critical Race Theory is a legal and scholarly study used to examine the impact of systemic racism on society. It is used in colleges and universities. It is **not** taught in K-12 schools; it is **not** a curriculum. One of the developers of Critical Race Theory was civil rights activist Derrick Bell (1930-2011). In 1971 Bell was the first tenured African-American professor of law at Harvard Law School. He is often credited as one of the originators of CRT.

The discussions concerning CRT began in law schools but the debate is currently waged in grades schools and school boards. Critics are using CRT to mean anything related to diversity, inclusion, empathy or equity issues. Critics claim that CRT poisons children's minds and teaches racism (i.e. Black Lives Matter), that educators are teaching students to hate America and children are being made to feel bad about themselves.

APS Bonus Pay For Educators That Taught Last Year

For employees who are not returning for the 2021-2022 school year, the supplemental compensation will be available only if they attend a debriefing session with APS and the labor unions to describe their experiences working during the pandemic. In exchange for this valuable information, non-returning employees will receive the supplemental compensation prorated on their FTE status, as described above.

To participate in the debriefing session with APS and the unions, non-returning employees must complete the [Memoranda of Understanding: Supplemental Compensation Debriefing form](#) provided by APS and the unions **on or before August 31, 2021**. The debriefing form will ask non-returning

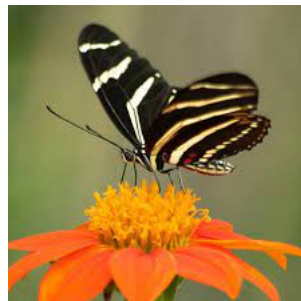
employees to describe their experiences working during the pandemic, explain how they coped with the pandemic, and discuss strategies the district should consider implementing in future years. The non-returning employee must complete the form in its entirety. Non-returning employees who do not submit the debriefing form on or before August 31, 2021, will not receive any supplemental income. In addition to completing the debriefing form, non-returning employees must participate in a debriefing session to be scheduled soon.

Thought for the Day

“Just living is not enough, said the butterfly “one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”

- Hans Christian Andersen

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New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority

If you are a member of the NMRHCA you probably received a one page mailing this summer. It had a lot of government/legal gobbledegook that left many of us wondering what it was about. Executive Director, David Archuleta explained that it is basically a notice informing us that nothing has changed in our health insurance! There is a chance that this may be an annual mailing. If you got this letter, don't worry about it. If you didn't get this letter, worry less.

A Sign You Might Be Getting Older...

...your son receives a card and “notification of member benefits” from AARP!

ERB – Educational Retirement Board

Who's running this show? Our pension fund has an employed staff led by an Executive Director, Deputy Director and Chief Investment Officer as well as a Board of Trustees.

A recent timeline of changes in leadership:

August 14, 2020 Steven Gluckstern becomes Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

March 20, 2021 Jan Goodwin, Executive Director leaves the ERB

March, 20, 2021 The Board of Trustees selects Rick Scroggins as Interim Executive Director

May 1, 2021 Lawrence Esquibel becomes the new Deputy Director

July 22, 2021 The Santa Fe New Mexican in an article by Daniel J. Chacón concerning “*NM pension fund managers underperforming compared to peers' funds*” said the ERB lost “Chairman Steven Gluckstern when the governor dismissed him in June”.

Currently there is no one serving as Chairman of the ERB Board of Trustees. Russell Goff is the Vice- Chairperson

In June the ERB posted the following important notice: Recently we received reports from NMERB-associated employers (Local Administrative Units) stating that their employees are being approached by individuals posing as third-party vendors offering to provide a retirement review that includes information regarding their pension benefits from NMERB, along with other topics.

Please do not respond to these illegitimate requests designed to obtain your personal information. **NMERB is not affiliated with any third party or outside investment advisors offering you financial advice regarding your NMERB benefits.**

Never give out any personal information to anyone who contacts you "out of the blue" to discuss your NMERB benefit.

If you have questions regarding your NMERB benefit or member account, please contact NMERB Member Services at Member.Help@state.nm.us or [1-866-691-2345](tel:1-866-691-2345)

Another thought for the day:

Comedian Argus Hamilton says, "I'm old enough to remember when water was free and porn cost money."



Social Security – happy 86th

The New Mexico Alliance for Retired Americans celebrates the 86th birthday of Social Security...This will be held Friday, 8/13/2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm, at the North Valley Senior Center.



The address for that Center is 3825 4t Street NW. There will be cake and entertainment. (This is during the time that the center will be serving lunch.)



Central Labor Council – Labor Day Picnic

This year's event is now being known as the "12th Annual Mike and Peggy Swisher Central Labor Council Labor Day Picnic" in honor of all the work the Swishers have put into it over the years. It will be held on **Monday, 9/6/2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Balloon Fiesta Park.** The event is free. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers served, and games/activities for children. Bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on and (if possible) wear your Union shirts. If you don't have an AFT RETIREE POWER t-shirt and want one, contact us at: : AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com

Next Meeting – guest speaker Whitney Holland

This summer **Whitney Holland** was elected the new state president for AFT NM. She will be joining us on August 11 for our first meeting of the 2021-2022 school year.

Our next meeting will be **August 11, 2021** at 1 pm. We will continue to have a virtual meeting (Zoom) and hopefully soon we will be able to hold hybrid meetings where some can meet in-person at the AFT Union office and others can join via Zoom. Our Retiree Executive Committee is testing out the possibilities.

Don't forget you can join on your computer, laptop, smart phone and even your old-fashioned landline. There will be a phone number for call-in as well as an internet link.

We don't *publish* the link/number for our Zoom meeting. **We send the link out a few days before the meeting through email.** The link will be emailed to you by August 9. Be sure to check you spam/junk folder for our email.

We will also send out the Minutes from last month's meeting as well as a current Treasurer's Report. As part of our regular business-meeting we ask members of review these documents and ask any questions about them before we vote to accept them into our permanent record. Please take the time to look these over and note any corrections or questions you may have.

Contact information:

Email: AFTNewMexicoRetirees@gmail.com

Facebook: AFT New Mexico Retirees – Chapter 8029

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

530 Jefferson NE Albuquerque NM 87108



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION /RENEWAL

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**

Payments/donations can be made with PayPal. Go to:

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

VOLUNTARY AFT RETIREES CHAPTER

COPE DONATION

(write a separate check for this made out to AFT NM COPE)

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR

AMOUNT

DATE

CHECK#

OR CHECK HERE FOR CASH

KEEP THIS AS A RECEIPT FOR COPE DONATION

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR

AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED

DATE