



AFT New Mexico

Retirees Chapter 8029

September 2021 Newsletter

August Meeting

Our recently elected state AFT President, **Whitney Holland**, was our guest speaker. She had been the local President at Los Alamos for 5 years. Whitney shared with us her priorities: supporting autonomy for educators, creating a tier system for classified employees, demanding a living wage for our members who aren't currently paid enough, and (*importantly*) getting out the vote.

As for getting out the vote – school board elections are at the top of the list! All over the state are individuals are running in school board elections who have their personal agendas with little or no understanding of the reality of schools, students or educators.

September 23rd there will be a virtual legislative platform meeting and Nov 10th there will be a legislative reception. More details will be available at our September 8th meeting.

***** Changes To Our Next Meeting *****

Start time is now at 1:30. We will end promptly at 3:30. AFTNM Retiree **President Anne Pierce-Jones** does an excellent job of conducting meetings. She honors our start and end times. It was felt that a slightly later start time would accommodate our members better.

Just Retired? Worked at APS Last Year?

SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION FOR RETIREES & OTHERS WHO HAVE LEFT APS

If you worked for Albuquerque Public Schools during the '20-'21 school year, you are entitled to Supplemental Compensation. The APS Human Resources will be sending you an email about a Zoom session to be held on September 8 that you are required to attend in order to receive the compensation. After attending that Zoom session, a check will be sent on September 24. If you have not received an invitation to this Zoom meeting contact APS Human Resources at 505-880-3700.

Commemorating Constitution Day/Citizenship Day

Our Constitution is 234 years old. On September 17, 1787 the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they created.



“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”.

CRT – Critical Race Theory

AFT President, **Randi Weingarten** recently stated at a national conference:

“Let’s be clear: critical race theory is not taught in elementary schools or high schools. It’s a method of examination taught in law school and college that helps analyze whether systemic racism exists – and, in particular, whether it has an effect on law and public policy. But culture warriors are labeling any discussion of race, racism or discrimination as CRT to try to make it toxic. They are bullying teachers and trying to stop us from teaching students accurate history... But you, the professionals in the classroom, the people who use your expertise to help our students succeed – you know better. We teacher history, not hate.”

Dues – Are They Due?

Our treasurer, **Diana Shea**, will send you a notice (email or postcard) a month or so before your renewal date. You can use the form at the end of this newsletter for U.S. mail OR go to PayPal (see the box at the end of the newsletter). Our dues are paid yearly. Please consider a **COPE** (Committee On Political Education) donation. This is strictly a donation and is not required but it helps us elect pro-education and pro-labor candidates. And that helps everybody – educators, students, families and retirees.

Thought for the Day

“The most wasted of days is one without laughter.”
e e cummings



AFT President Randi Weingarten Visits NM

AFT national president Randi Weingarten visited New Mexico in August. She met with the Rio Rancho School Employees Union (a part of AFT) and said, "...we're reopening our schools full-time because we know our kids need it. But we also know they need to be safe."

APS New Educator Orientation



Eight of our Retiree members volunteered to help with the new employee orientation on Saturday, July 31st: **Lois Goldfarb, Ann Goldenberg, Rod Kirchmeyer, John Comstock, Franklin Schargel, Elynn Cowden, Laurie Harris, and Anne Pierce-Jones.** They encouraged to new hires to join our Union, assisted the newbies with selecting free, donated materials for classrooms, and then helped transport and load those goodies into cars.

In addition: Elynn Cowden helped with set-up the day before the event. Franklin Schargel donated 200 bookmarks with the "starfish story"--to be given as gifts to the newly hired educators.



The Berna Facio Professional Development Center was filled with donated materials for new APS educators.

New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority

This year's Fall Switch Enrollment will run from Oct. 1 – Nov. 12. Like last year, the presentations by Presbyterian, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Humana, United Healthcare, Delta Dental, Davis Vision, Standard Life Insurance will be posted on the NMRHCA website and you can look at all or any of them at your convenience. IN ADDITION, there will be 10 Question and Answer sessions between Oct. 4 – Nov. 4 where representatives from each health care provider will be available to talk with you.

Wise & Well Virtual Health Fair – September 29, 2021

Interesting topics include: Mental Health is Retirement Wealth, Small Changes Reap Big Health Rewards, Music and Movement, Overcoming the Top 5 Financial Risks in Retirement, as well as a “cook-a-long” activity. Look for more details in the NMRHCA newsletter or on their website: nmrhca.org

Volunteers Needed To Make Phone Calls

Under the NM state 3-tier licensure system (that was spearheaded by AFT), educators moving from a level I to a level II, or level II to a level III receive a significant pay increase. This is an especially good time and reason to increase *voluntary* COPE donations.

Albuquerque Teacher Federation (ATF) is asking Retirees to help make phone calls to Union members who have recently advanced a level. We will be congratulating members on their hard work and asking them to increase their Committee On Political Education (COPE) donation. Calls will be made in the month of September.

This is a great way for us as Retirees to actively support COPE beyond what we are able to contribute personally. If you're able to help, please reach out to Anne Pierce-Jones at 505-453-8812 (call or text) or by email at aftnewmexicoretirees@gmail.com

Remembering Long-time Member, Rose Shaw

Rose Shaw passed away on August 11, 2021. She has been an active AFT NM Retiree since its founding. She served as our treasurer along with her husband Emil (deceased) who was president of the AFT NM Retirees. She was a passionate advocate for workers' rights and was also a member of the ARA (Alliance for Retired Americans). She leaves these comforting words:

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

-Helen Keller

ERB – Educational Retirement Board

For the 2021 fiscal year ending June 30th, ERB fund, posted investment gains of \$3.6 billion, net of fees, to finish the year with total assets of \$15.8 billion, a new high. The return was by far the highest ever dollar amount generated by the fund for a fiscal year.

The educational retirement pension plan provides retirement benefit services to over 160,000 members ranging from public school teachers, administrators and staff to college faculty and staff who work for 216 educational employers in the state of New Mexico.

Next Meeting – Discussion on School Board Elections

Our next meeting will be **September 8, 2021 at 1:30 pm.** We will continue to have a virtual meeting (Zoom).

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 September 6. 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
