



New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees

NEWSLETTER

Promoting the professional, economic, intellectual, social and physical well-being of NMAER members

Volume 45, Number 1

Spring 2022

MOVING NMAER FORWARD

Welcome, Spring!! All the signs that spring is near is a feeling in the air, flowers and trees are blooming, and the temperature outside is rising (at least down here in the south!!). Along with the coming of spring are the winds and spring cleaning — unfortunately — but we must remember that spring is a renewal of spirit, appreciation for nature, and a recommitment and reconnection to things that are important to us.

Your NMAER has set two priorities for our association and units that follow along with the coming of spring. 1) We are focused on moving NMAER, and its units, forward as we finally, slowly, emerge from the pandemic. 2) We are also focused on reconnecting with our membership after COVID. Moving forward and reconnecting... this will be our mantra as well as our motivation to bring our association and units full circle before COVID was in the picture!! From talking with different units over the past several months, all have said that their numbers have dwindled, and it has been very difficult to bring them back. This is happening not just to our association, but all over the USA. We are going to have to be creative and earnest in our efforts, but I know the tenacity and diligence of our units, and WE CAN DO IT!! Here are a few suggestions that have helped our local unit:

1. Assemble a calling "tree" to get in touch with all unit members and welcome them back to a meeting.

2. Have a pot-luck luncheon at a nearby park, church fellowship hall, or other meeting place (most restaurants do not have enough servers yet to accommodate a unit).
3. Call a member who has been absent and pick them up for a meeting.

These are just a few suggestions that might be able to get your unit "kick-started" again. We will have more proven suggestions after the Unit Presidents Workshop on April 26 (this will be an "in-person" meeting with a lot of brainstorming), and we will certainly share them with you. If any of you have suggestions to bring back our members, please share them with me at lindacarr69@gmail.com.

In closing, I hope all of you are in good health and safe. Continue to care for those who are close to you... and be good to yourself!

Linda Carr, President

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

DID YOU KNOW? The State Convention is scheduled for September 22-24, 2022, in Clovis, New Mexico. And after two years of not meeting, we are beginning to prepare for an "IN-Person Affair" — isn't that exciting?

For 2022, we will recognize the Unit with the Highest Number of Service Hours and the Top Five

Community Volunteer continued on page 2

MEMBERSHIP NORTH

Here in the North, we seem to be holding steady with our membership numbers despite the pandemic that has hit us so hard. Some of our units are meeting on Zoom and others are connecting with members in various ways. I reached out to unit presidents to encourage them to (1) reconnect with their members and (2) to focus on recruiting associate members by contacting their school districts and getting in touch with new retirees to join our great organization. I am happy to help with these projects.

Cheri Dotson, Membership North

Community Volunteer *continued from page 1*

Individual Members in each unit who earned the most volunteer hours. I have asked all the Unit presidents to collect the Volunteer Hours or Community Service Hours where you, the members, work so hard to keep your Units viable and successful.

The timelines for gathering the volunteer service hours for both your Unit and individual members' volunteer hours runs from September 1, 2021, thru August 31, 2022. The due date for turning in this information is the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 6. It will be necessary for you to estimate the service hours remaining for August 24 thru August 31 so that we may have a complete picture of all your volunteer service hours.

I greatly appreciate your timely attention and response to this matter so that your Unit's president will have time to send all the information by the due date of September 6, 2022. Please feel free to contact me anytime by phone (505 603-2256) or email polarr1964@hotmail.com if you have any questions or comments.

I appreciate all that you do to keep NMAER and your Units alive and working during this time. Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of our organization and do stay well and HAPPY.

Pauline Rindone, First Vice President

OUTSTANDING UNIT MEMBER

As we look forward to the spring season and warmer weather, I hope each of you and your unit members are in good health and eager to meet again in person and/or with a hybrid meeting format. All the new skills we have learned lately continue to come in handy. I know that the past two years have been a strange and unsettling time for all of us. So, as we navigate 2022 and our units come back together, it is time to nominate an Outstanding Unit Member.

Since many units do not meet during the summer months, I am requesting that you provide me with the following information by JUNE 15, 2022:

- 1) The name of your selected Outstanding Unit member.
- 2) A short BIO of no more than one page or approximately 350 words.
- 3) A picture of the member selected.

Please email this information to jpafford@bacav-alley.com or send by mail to Joelyn Pafford, 116 Caviness East Road, Raton, NM 87740. If you have any questions, you may email or call 505-980-3297.

I am eager to hear from each unit and learn about your Outstanding Unit Member.

Joelyn Pafford, Second Vice President



REFLECTIONS

Congratulations and thanks to everyone on your hard work and dedication to NMAER during this last legislative session. A big thank you to our State Representatives and State Senators for helping NMAER with all the requests for our organization. This will benefit all retirees. Thank you to Governor Michele Lujan Grisham for her help and for signing these bills into law. As the new administration begins, NMAER is looking forward to in-person meetings with hopes of being able to meet in Clovis for our annual convention this fall. We are all hoping to be able to get back to normal as soon as possible.

Recruitment is also very important as we encourage retired educators to join NMAER. This is very helpful and beneficial for all of us. It is most urgent that retirees become aware of the benefits that NMAER provides. We also need to remember that there is strength in numbers, and the more members that join the better for NMAER. Stay safe and healthy, and hoping to see everyone in person soon.

Michael Torrez, Past President

AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Please be aware the NMAER Bylaws state that any recommended changes to the Constitution or Bylaws must be submitted prior to May 1 in order to be considered at the next State Convention. Please submit any recommendations to Ray Vincent, 2rayvincent@gmail.com or Russell Goff, nmaer@cybermesa.com. It is my intention to provide each local unit with a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws in the near future and will notify all units of any proposed changes that will be voted on at the next convention.

Ray Vincent, Amendments Chair

APPLY FOR 2023 STATE OFFICES

We are looking forward to our State Convention in Clovis in late September this year and hope to see many of our members there. It is never too early to start thinking and planning to run for one of our state office positions.

We invite and encourage all members to consider running for the office that they feel best fits them. The current officers are also required to send in a Nomination Form if they are interested and eligible to run for the current position they hold or if they are interested in another position. The offices that we will be electing this year are:

President - NMAER Direction
 First Vice-President - Community Service
 Second Vice President - Educational
 Services/Outstanding Member
 Third Vice President - Legislative Committee
 At Large Rep. for Membership - North
 At Large Rep. for Membership - South
 At Large Rep. for Amendments

The deadline date is July 1st for the Nomination Form and Bio and should be to be submitted to:

NMAER OFFICE
 Nomination & Elections Committee
 3900 Juan Tabo NE, Suite #7
 Albuquerque, NM 87711
 505-275-6427
 nmaer@cybermesa.com

Summer will be here before we know it, and there are some Units that do not meet for June, July and August. We will be sending the Nomination Form to Unit Presidents in April so that members will have the opportunity to consider running before summer arrives.

To request a Nomination Form, please contact me at the address above.

Barbara Alba, Nominations & Elections

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's Legislative Session was very successful for educators and retirees. There were many important bills passed that impact education unlike any we have seen in recent years. Some of the key bills we were following included:

- 1) SB 36, Contributions for the Educational Retirement Fund, provides the ERB Fund an additional 2% over the next two years. This increase and the additional 1% increase in Employer Contributions from last year provides a significant boost to the ERB Fund.
- 2) HB 163, Tax Changes, exempts Social Security Income from Income Tax for certain individuals. Those individuals making \$100,000 or less and married couples making \$150,000 or less will qualify.
- 3) HB 73a, Educational Retirees Returning to Work, creates another class of educational retirees who are allowed to return to work following a 90-day layout, but are limited to 36 months of additional service.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone that took time to call or write legislators during this legislative session. It truly made a difference. I want to especially thank our President, Linda Carr, the Executive Board, the Unit Presidents and other retirees for their assistance during the session, as well as Evelynne Hunemuller and the AALs for their unwavering effort to communicate with our legislators regarding our legislative priorities.

It is also very important that we acknowledge Senator Mimi Stewart for carrying SB 42 and SB 36 in the last two legislative sessions. Her efforts to support your retirements benefits are to be applauded. I also want to acknowledge Representative Natalie Figueroa for sponsoring SB 36 this year.

As we move forward, our plans are to return to in-person meetings starting with our Unit Presidents

Workshop on April 26, 2022. This event will be held at the Holiday Inn Suites, Albuquerque North, and is of particular importance as we work with our Units to "reconnect with our membership." We have a lot of work to do, and it will take all of us to get it done.

One goal this year that will be very important to every retiree will be to work with the Retiree Health Care Authority (RHCA) and legislators to see how we can assist them with their funding issue. Over the past few years RHCA has arrived at the door of increased funding, so to speak, only to be turned away. Let's make this the year we're heard.

In closing, I want to applaud Patricia Veltri and Barbara Bonahoom (NMAER Past President) on their new book, "The Adventures of Kenny," that was published and went on the market late last year. Special recognition also goes to Joe Montano, former RHCA Representative, who wrote the foreword. What an outstanding accomplishment! We're very proud of you.

Remember, "Don't take your benefits for granted."

Russell Goff, Executive Director

HAVE YOU MOVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

Please call or email NMAER when you move, so we can ensure that you continue to receive your NMAER Newsletter and other important information. Please call **505 275-6427** or send an email to **nmaer@cybermesa.com** to provide us with your updated address. It will help us keep our database up to date, while keeping you informed. Thanks for your assistance!

CITY DIFFERENT RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CONNECTING WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND THEIR CHRISTMAS COOKIE PROJECT





BENEFITS STILL FIT?

TIME TO EXPAND YOUR COVERAGE.

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from **NMAER & AMBA**:

- Long-Term Care
- Home Health Care
- MASA (Air and Ground Ambulance Plan)
- Cancer, Heart & Stroke Policy
- Medicare Supplement Policy
- Easy Issue Life Policy
- Tax Deferred Annuity
- Hearing Benefits
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

Learn more: **1-877-556-4582**

myambabenefits.info/nmaer

**NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATIONAL RETIREES**



NEW MEXICO RETIREE HEALTH CARE UPDATE

NMRHCA Solvency Data: 2018 - 2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Trust Fund Balance @ June 30	632.2 million	717.7 million	778.3 million	1056.2 million	TBD
Projected Solvency (Years)	19	25	30	30+	TBD
Projected Solvency (Period)	2037	2044	2050	2052+	TBD
Projected Deficit Spending	2022	2023	2025	2027	TBD

The solvency data conveys two, diametrically opposed pictures:

1. NMRHCA has made significant, positive solvency progress (years, period and deficit spending) in the last four years; and
2. Without the infusion of "new" money, the Trust Fund is not large enough to sustain the future financial demands of NMRHCA.

NMRHCA Premium Increases: 2019 - 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-Medicare Plan Rate Increases	8.0%	7.0%	5.0%	6.0%	TBD
Medicare Supplement Rate Increases	6.0%	5.0%	2.0%	4.0%	TBD

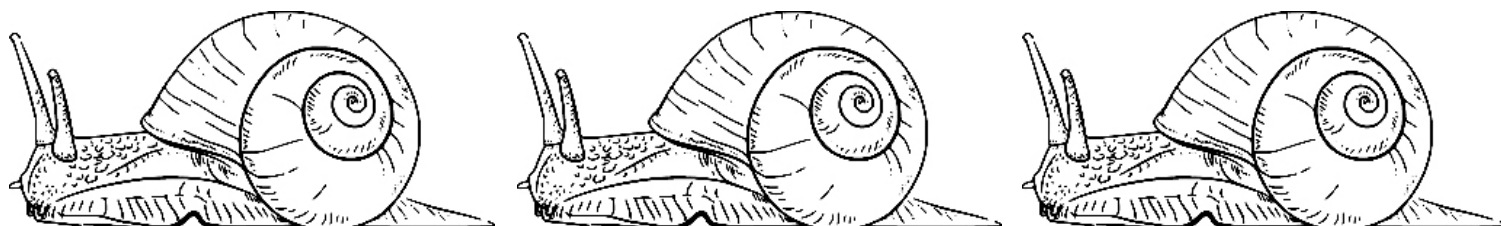
Without increased legislative financial assistance, NMRHCA will be in a position of having to continue increasing Pre-Medicare and Medicare Plan Rates. NMRHCA considerations for 2023:

The NMRHCA Board will be formalizing plans which will be adopted during the 2022 Annual Meeting. These plans will include:

1. Formulating legislative plans for the 2023 Legislative Session;
2. Mapping out Pre-Medicare and Medicare Plan Design changes;
3. Conducting a post-mortem review of the impact of the most recent Legislative Session on the effectiveness of NMRHCA; and
4. Drawing up the NMRHCA Strategic Five-Year Plan.

The NMRHCA Board looks forward to the support of NMAER in addressing the challenges the Board has in meeting and improving the health needs of all NMRHCA members.

Tomas E. Salazar, NMRHCA Board Member



AARP UPDATE

First of all, I am honored to be on the NMAER Board!!

The Advocacy Team of NM AARP had a successful short session. Our team is divided into three groups — Health, Consumer and Utilities. 63 Bills were continuously monitored, and AARP NM testified in committees (24 in health, 36 in Consumer, and 3 in Utilities). Of the 63, 10 were passed in both houses and were signed by the Governor (4 in Health, 6 in Consumer, and 0 in Utilities). Big wins were: SM 1 — Paid Family Leave; HB 163 Social Security Taxation; SB 35 Guardianship Protection; and HB 132 Payday Lending.

The AARP NM state office is working on a plan to reengage volunteers for in-person activities. Direction from the AARP National Office is being used to devise the strategy and plan. In-person activities will depend on county COVID performance as listed on the CDC County website — a county must be green or yellow to hold in-person activities. AARP Smart Driver courses are now being scheduled in green or yellow counties. This reboot of Driver Safety also includes an update to the course materials that were used prior to COVID and was actually scheduled for a 2021 implementation.

Our Executive Council is happy to have NMAER State President Linda Carr joining us on our council. Many thanks to Michael Torrez for his service on our council. As state AARP president, I hope that we can work with NMAER units to help us implement Community Teams in some of our smaller communities. This will greatly help us have a presence in communities outside of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Cruces, and will help advocacy efforts in New Mexico.

David Lynch, AARP State President

JIM MULLINGS HONORED ON 94TH BIRTHDAY BY RAER



Raton Association of Educational Retirees met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at the Raton Center for Community Innovation Meeting Room. We honored member Jim Mullings on his 94th Birthday by singing "Happy Birthday." The room was decorated with a Happy Birthday Banner and a large birthday card was signed by all present. Punch and cookies were served to 16 members and guests. Jim said he "was honored, and a little embarrassed."

Jim had a long teaching career and is fondly remembered by students and fellow educators as he has had a lasting influence on many. As a favorite local artist, his paintings are popular with numerous collectors. Jim has been an active member in Raton AER for many years, having served as President and Recording Secretary. He was also honored as Raton's Outstanding Unit Member at the 2019 NMAER State Convention held in Raton.



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SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Virtual Meeting of the NMAER Executive Board January 7, 2022

The Executive Board met virtually on January 7, 2022, between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Nine voting members, seven non-voting members and one guest were present.

After opening ceremonies, the following actions were taken by the Executive Board: Approved the Agenda; Approved the Minutes from the September 23, 2021, Executive Board Meeting; Approved the Membership Report as of December 31, 2021; and Approved the Financial Report as of December 31, 2021. The Profit and Loss report for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, showed Total Income of \$170,476.92 and Total Expenses of 131,744.29 for a Net Income of \$38,744.29.

Also Approved Actions: NMAER Goals for 2022; NMAER Legislative Priorities for 2022; NMAER 2022 Calendar of Events; Committee Chairs; and Board Non-Voting positions and staff/service contracts.

Status reports were provided on the "We Care" Grant, proposed legislation for 2022, and status of AAL registration. Additionally, the Board received reports from officers and committees.

Cynthia Fusco, Secretary

Secretary's Note: Copies of the approved minutes are available upon written request to the NMAER Office at 3900 Juan Tabo Blvd., NE, Suite 7, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- NMAER Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)
APRIL 20, 2022
- NMAER Unit Presidents Workshop
In-person at the Holiday Inn Suites,
Albuquerque North, 5050 Jefferson NE,
Albuquerque NM
APRIL 26, 2022
- NMAER Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)
JUNE 17, 2022

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please find below a current count of your membership.

Associate 2021.....	42
Associate 2022.....	74
Auto.....	4,127
Life	171
Paid 2021.....	339
Paid 2022.....	1,361
Paid 2023.....	16
RAMP	27
Total Membership	6,046
Additional Mailings	253
Total Database Entries	6,299
Deceased since 1/1/21	11
Deleted since 1/1/21	3

Debbie Garrison, Database Manager

Happy Spring!

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS WITH THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT BOARD

The ERB Investment Report for January 31, 2022, showed the following:

- A one-year return of 18.1%, a three-year return of 12.2%, a five-year return of 10.5%, a ten-year return of 9.2%, and a 9.2% since inception.
- The total assets were reported as \$16,386,125,296 on January 31, 2022.

As we prepared for this article, the ERB Investment Report for February 2022 was not available. We will provide that information in the summer newsletter. At the December 10, 2021, ERB Board of Trustees meeting, David Archuleta was unanimously approved as the new Executive Director. He began his duties with NMERB on January 10, 2022. David was born and raised in NM. He received his bachelor's degree at UNM and his Master's at the College of Santa Fe. He started in NM government as a student intern in 1998; served as a Budget Analyst and Finance Bureau Chief with the General Services Dept.; served as Senior Fiscal Analyst for the Legislative Finance Committee; served as Budget Director for the NM Department of Transportation; and served as Deputy Director and Executive Director with the Retiree Health Care Authority. We hope you will join us in welcoming David Archuleta as our new NMERB Executive Director. On February 18, 2022, the NMERB held its regularly scheduled meeting. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting:

- The NMERB Board of Trustees heard and approved the Audit Report from Moss Adams, LLP.
- The NMERB Board of Trustees heard an update on the new ERB building project.
- The NMERB Board of Trustees heard the Investment Reports and approved an Investment Policy revision.
- The NMERB Board of Trustees heard and approved the Disability and Age and Service Retirements.

- The NMERB heard the report that the July 1, 2022 COLA Adjustment will be 1.84%.

This year's Legislative Session was very productive. The key bill for NMERB was SB 36, Contributions for the Educational Retirement Fund, sponsored by Senator Mimi Stewart and Rep. Natalie Figueroa. SB 36 provides the ERB Fund with an additional 2% in Employer contributions over the next two years. This increase, as well as the additional 1% increase from last year, provides a significant boost to the ERB Fund.

In closing, the NMERB Board of Trustees will be returning to in-person meetings on Friday, April 22, 2022. This meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Public Schools Central Office. For more information check the NMERB Web Site at nmerb.org.

Russell Goff, ERB Representative

TREASURER'S REPORT

This covers the period of January 1, 2022 through February 28, 2022:

Regular Checking Account	\$ 205,737.79
Income to Date	\$ 61,709.16
Expenses to Date	\$ 23,147.96
Net Income to Date	\$ 38,561.20
Current Assets	\$ 297,440.64
Fixed Assets	\$ 10,184.28
Total Assets	\$ 307,624.92
Political Development	\$ 5,951.96

Janice Sells, NMAER Treasurer



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IN MEMORIAM

The following New Mexico educational employees have passed away and their names have not been previously provided in the Newsletter. Henceforth, if you know of any deceased educational retirees in your area and would like to have their name included in this Memoriam, please send that information to Glenda Dickey, 2327 Camino Pintores, Santa Fe, NM 87505, or email them to dickeyglenda@gmail.com

Albuquerque

Yvonne Ambrose
 Angela Ana Anaya
 Dolores Anaya
 Robert Bailey
 Russell Barker
 Scott Berry
 James "Jimmy" Butler
 Andrew Casados
 Mary Chavez
 Viola Chavez
 Janice Elane (Sutton) Cheves
 Howard Clark
 Gary Chilcoat
 Margaret Scott "Peggy" Clemmons
 Carol Condie
 Patricia Dahlgren
 Loren Dils
 Michael Joseph Dougher
 Tom Drangmeister
 Patricia Evans
 Sally Evans
 David Flores
 Encarna Fords
 Carolyn Gaston
 Alicia Garcia
 Julianne Gay
 Carl O. Bill Gentry
 Mary Severns Gentry
 Karolyn Goldenberg
 Johnnie Girl
 Martin Goodson
 Fred Jerome Gregg
 Julie Groneman
 Marco Linda Harrington
 Jeffrey Hartzell
 Eric Rombach Kendall
 Lucerne Knight
 Marjorie Laflin
 Agatha Lopez

Evelyn Maguire
 Melissa Martinez
 Gary Mayhew
 Shannon McCarthy-Logan
 Elaine McGivern
 Stuart McIntosh
 Leverette Miller
 Catherine Miners
 Mack Mitchell
 Ruth Monteverdi
 Barbara Muniz
 Marilyn Murphy
 Dennis Peckinpugh
 Gwenlynne Pike
 Rita Rael
 Peggi Randolph
 Deborah Rifenbary
 Richard Roark
 Alfred Rodriguez
 Janice Rosett
 Christine Regina Romero
 Jerre Singer
 Jerold Snider
 Elizabeth Sparks
 Dolores Sundt
 Lucille Taylor
 Trisha M. Ten
 Jeremias Torres
 Dorothy (Curtis) Trafton
 AV Wall
 Donald Dean Weeke
 Louise Woodley

Artesia
 Vera Lois "Becky" Johnson

Aztec
 Ora Slusser

Bloomfield
 Alan Begay

Bosque Farms

Hugh Dickson

Carlsbad

Elizabeth Higgins

Curry County

Claudia Coon

Deming

Carolyn Gross
 Enrique "Henry" Sandoval

Espanola

Chon La Brier

Farmington

Robert Beckenridge
 Ethel Beyhan
 Brenda Sue Birchfield
 Jessie Charleston
 Norma Gauge
 Gordon (Albert) Glass
 Roberta (Bobbie) Graham
 Billy M. Hackney
 Max Maestas
 Rosalia Tharp
 Beverly Wilson
 Lee Wooderson

Gallup

Joann Caeriggs

Grants

Barbara Hartman
 Thomas A. Jackson
 Kathy Martinez
 Anthony "Tony" Vigil
 James Williamson

Las Cruces

Alice Ceraolo
 Jackie Douglas Jenkins
 Narcisa Zarate

Las Vegas

Patrick Rucker

Los Alamos

David Buckland

Lubbock

Jackie Vaughn

Mesilla Park

Billie Sullivan

Placitas

Fonda Kirchmeyer

Portales

William Joy

Rancho de Taos

Candido Valerio

Rio Rancho

Fayma Hawkins

Roswell

Jean Rogers

Shiprock

Winona Chase

Taos

Tommy V. Gomez
 John Gonzales
 Ray Quintana
 Fidel Torres
 Eloy O. Valerio

Tucson

Richard Chapman, Jr.

Waterflow

Freda Fay Thomas

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL RETIREES
3900 Juan Tabo NE, Suite 7
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

Send change of address to:

H. Russell Goff, Executive Director

3900 Juan Tabo NE, Suite #7

Albuquerque, NM 87111

Phone: 505-275-6427

Web site: www.nmaer.com

Email: nmaer@cybermesa.com

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Current Resident or

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Remember,
“there is strength in numbers.”

We encourage each of you
to reach out to current educational
employees as well as new and
current retirees and urge them
to join NMAER as we focus
on our retirement benefits.
