

Legislative Update, Thursday, January 18, 2018

NEA-NM Members Come to Santa Fe to Meet with Legislators

Just over 100 members participated in our all-member Legislative Training and Lobby Day, yesterday. Then, on to our evening Legislative Reception honoring the hard work of legislators on behalf of our students and public education was one of our best ever! Our hall was packed full of members mixing it up with legislators and other public officials.

Formal invitations had been issued to all legislators and many other public officials, but with nine different events scheduled for legislators on the second night of the session we worried attendance might be low. Our worrying was for nought as not less than 14 legislators came and shared brief comments with the crowd. Especially notable among the attendees: all three members of the Senate leadership (Senate President Pro Tempore Mary Kay Papen, Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth and Senate Whip Mimi Stewart); the Chairs of both the Education Committees (Senator Bill Soules and Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard). Among the other legislators present were Republican Representatives Jim Smith, Alfonso Baldonado, and Rick Little. Other Democratic legislators present included Senators Nancy Rodriguez, Howie Morales, Jose Cervantes, George Munoz, Jeff Steinborn. Other Representatives presented included: Bill McCamley, Bealquin "Bill" Gomez, Liz Thomson, Linda Trujillo, Christine Trujillo, and Daymon Ely.

"TEACHERS SPEAK TO LEGISLATORS!" is our next (and final) lobby day for this session. This is on a Saturday so no one need be penalized on their teacher evaluation for participating! It's scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2018

A Joint Hearing of the Senate and House Education Committees, this is a unique opportunity for educators to directly share your stories of the opportunities your students lose when our state fails them with insufficient spending (even this year's miniscule increases won't make up the

cumulative effects of underfunding). The Hearing is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Room t.b.a. (but come early to sign-in). We are pleased to announce our special guest from the NEA Executive Committee Member-George Sheridan will join our NEA-NM President Patterson for a press conference at 9 a.m. NEA-NM members are invited to attend (and receive a breakfast burrito and a sack-lunch), room t.b.a. Stay tuned for details.