

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**NMSU Pioneers**  
**Fall Board Meeting**

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at NMSU Ed Services Center, Room #2, 10:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bill Conroy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Board members introduced themselves.

II. Review and approval of Summer 2015 Minutes (Bill Conroy)

Charles Pfeifer moved to accept the minutes, and Helen Molina seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report (Conrad Keyes, Jr.)

Conrad Keyes reported the balance in the NMSU Pioneers General Fund at \$5,681.92. The balance in the scholarship fund is \$1,774. A transfer of approximately \$2,226 from the General Fund to the scholarship fund will cover four \$1,000 scholarship awards next year. He asked that members be urged to pay dues and donate to the scholarship. Emmit Brooks moved to accept the report with Charles Pfeiffer seconding. The motion passed.

IV. Elections (Bill Conroy)

A. The recommended 2016 Board Officers are as follows:

President: Debbie Widger

President-Elect: Vacant

Secretary: Dianna Gibson

Treasurer: Conrad Keyes, Jr.

Past President: Bill Conroy

Paul Hay moved to accept the recommendations with Denise Welsh seconding. The motion was approved.

B. Continuing Board Member elections (term 1/1/2016 – 12/31/2018) include:

1. Helen Molina

2. Charles Pfeifer

3. Irvin Skelton

Paul Hay moved to accept the list with Debbie Widger seconding. The motion was approved.

V. Membership Update (Darlene Nelson and Denise Welsh)

Darlene Nelson reported that there are 50 single members and 47 joint memberships whose dues will expire on December 2015. There are 182 complimentary members (those who are given a free year when first becoming eligible for Pioneers) for a total of 279 members. Darlene noted that there are 1,749 potential Pioneers in the Las Cruces area. Even with 418 still working, the remaining 1,331 represent a large pool of dues-paying members. A discussion ensued regarding the best way to notify members and elicit payment. Irvin Skelton suggested a membership card. An

announcement will be made at the Fall luncheon as well as notices in the newsletter and via email. Those who donate to the scholarship fund by December will get the deduction for 2015.

VI. Benefits Update (Rene Yoder)

Rene Yoder from the NMSU Human Resources Department discussed the changes to the retiree health plan effective January 1, 2016. The premium for the Preferred Provider Organization plan (for those under 65) will increase 2.9 percent. The cost for the Medicare Carve-Out Plan (for those over 65 and covered by Medicare) will decrease by 3 to 4 percent. There will now be a \$147 deductible for Part B expenses. Also there will be no out-of-network coverage. Letters outlining these changes will be sent from NMSU in the next couple of weeks. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield packets are due by the first week of December. All information will be on the NMSU website. Valerie Rivas and Jackie Griffin who handle retiree health plan issues were introduced.

VII. Special Projects (Rosemarie Sanchez )

In Rosemarie's absence, Dr. Conroy reported on the gelato event stating that it went very well. He wanted to remind Rosemarie and Darlene that students with similar successes from other colleges will be invited to future luncheons and special events.

VIII. Fall Luncheon (Wednesday, November 18) Update and Planning (Bill Conroy )

Mario Moccia, Athletic Director, will be the speaker with Bernadette Montoya providing a musical presentation.

IX. Fall Newsletter update (Darlene Nelson)

Darlene listed some items that will be in the newsletter including information on the Crimson Colleagues (a program encouraging employee donations) events, photos from the gelato event, a photo of the new board members, and information on dues payments and scholarship donations.

X. Other Business : NMSU Giving Day on December 1 (Darlene Nelson)

Darlene described the new initiative to increase donations by participating in the global day dedicated to giving back. Current employees, alumni, and retirees are challenged to give on December 1. Each dollar donated to scholarship funds will be matched. Darlene encouraged retirees to increase awareness of the day via social media and other avenues. She described the NMSU Facebook pages including NMSU News, NMSU Alumni and Friends, and NMSU Insider. The Pioneers book scholarship fund is also included in the match.

XI. Save the Dates:

The future dates for Pioneers meetings are Wednesday, March 23, 2016, and Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at the Columbus Center. The speakers and guest musicians are undetermined.

XII. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Conroy. The Board Members thanked him for his service as President.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Dianna Gibson and Darlene Nelson October 14, 2015.**