I. Call to Order

President Denise Welsh called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Review and approval of September 13, 2016 Minutes

Debbie Widger moved to accept the minutes, and Emmit Brooks seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. Treasurer’s Report and Pioneer Book Scholarship Update

Terra Winter gave the Treasurer’s Report on behalf of Conrad Keyes, Jr. The Pioneers General Account has $3,229.92 as of January 13, 2017, and the Book Scholarship has $3,117.25. For calendar year 2016, there were 27 members who donated to the Pioneer Book Scholarship with 67 other members who donated to other organizations for a total of 94. Three gifts were received on Giving Tuesday. The Spring Newsletter will include information about the scholarship honorees plus information about the scholarship. Membership numbers will be tracked to determine the results of the new donation model. George Abernathy moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, and Helen Molina seconded the motion.

IV. Discussion of President-Elect

The President Elect position is vacant, however Gregg Throneberry has expressed interest so Terra will contact him. Debbie Widger moved to accept the rest of the officers as listed with the exception of Gregg Throneberry. Emmit Brooks seconded the motion.

V. NMSU Pioneers Spring Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon will be held on March 15, 2017 at the NMSU Golf Course. Martha Andrews will give a presentation on General Milton with the possible assistance of Walter Hines and Richard Rundell. Angela Throneberry will be arranging for the waiver of the fees for the use of the Golf Course facility. Dickerson Catering will provide the food.

VI. Pioneer Business Card

Denise Welsh discussed the advantages of preparing a Pioneers business card that the Board could carry to give to people interested in the Pioneers. It will be a low-cost generic card.

VII. Other Fun NMSU Events

A. The HRTM Events List will be included in the newsletter. Board members are encouraged to attend as many as possible in order to publicize the Pioneers organization.

B. Founders Day will be combined with the Alumni Campaign Launch. The tentative date is April 26 and will be in the newsletter.
VIII. Benefits Update

Rene Yoder gave the benefits update on behalf of Jacki Griffin. She reviewed the insurance renewal process and the factors that go into making decisions regarding the cost and the plan design. The notice must be out to retirees by October 15 for the following calendar year. All the information is on the website. The biggest changes this year were in the PPO plan for retirees under age 65. The Insurance Committee is an advisory body that is involved in the process but all the information is confidential until the documents are signed, therefore, it is possible that the members may not be able to answer questions before then.

IX. Save the Date

A. The Summer BBQ will be held on June 14, 2017, at the University Residence at 11:30 a.m. It was decided to ask for a person to direct traffic to the parking area plus a golf cart for anyone who has trouble walking into the building. The board agreed on hot dogs and hamburgers for the menu.

   The Pioneers Board will meet at on June 14 at 10:00 a.m. prior to the luncheon.

B. The Fall Luncheon will be on November 15, 2017 at the NMSU Golf Course. Ideas for the speaker were discussed.

X. Staff additions

Terra Winters introduced April Anaya who will be helping with the Pioneers administrative work. Danielle Gibbs, the administrative assistant, will be a contact person.

XI. The meeting was adjourned by Denise Welsh at 11:00 a.m.