



New Mexico First Financial Holds Annual Meeting *Newly Elected Directors Announced*

Las Cruces, NM (May 17, 2017) – Today, New Mexico First Financial, Inc., during its annual meeting of the stockholders, elected six Directors to the Board. They are Alan Abbott, Christopher L. Carameros, Greg Lee Cory, John D. Perini, David Volk and F. James Volk. Mr. Carameros will serve as Vice Chairman and Mr. Jim Volk will serve as CEO and Chairman.

“We are pleased to announce this experienced group of Directors on the Board,” said Jim Volk, CEO and Chairman. “Each of us looks forward to continued leadership for New Mexico First Financial and its holdings.”

Alan Abbott

Since 2009, Mr. Abbott has served as a special limited partner at Cottonwood Technology Fund, a venture capital firm investing in early stage technology companies in the Southwest U.S. and Europe. Mr. Abbott also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of El Paso Children’s Hospital and a member of the Board of Directors (and past Chairman of Investment, Audit and Finance Committees) for Paso del Norte Health Foundation, a private non-profit health foundation providing leadership and funding for preventative health programs. He is the President and Founder of Lynwood Garden Investments, a multi-family housing management and ownership organization, in which position he has served for more than 43 years. Mr. Abbott previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of Paso del Norte Foundation, a public charity focused on improving the quality of life in the region through healthy living. He is the past Chairman at Sunland Optical Company, a national wholesale and retail optical company, in which position he served for more than 44 years. Mr. Abbott also served as an advisory Director for State National Bank (now known as BBVA Compass) from 1999-2010. He was a Director and shareholder at Montwood National Bank and Valley Bank of El Paso from 1982 to 1999, including serving on the executive board and the loan, audit, and investments committees. Mr. Abbott has served on various other boards and in leadership positions for community and non-profit organizations during his career. He is a CPA and an American Board Certified Optician. Mr. Abbott is a graduate of Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts and the University of Texas at El Paso with a Master’s Degree in Business Administration.

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Christopher L. Carameros

Mr. Carameros is an owner and Director of L&M Asset Management Inc., a private investment firm located in El Paso, Texas, in which he has served since 1990. His previous experience includes the following: Executive Vice President and Board of Directors (1993-2006) at Helen of Troy, Ltd., El Paso, Texas, from 2001-2006; Chief Financial Officer and Board of Directors (1987-1998) at Farah Inc., El Paso, Texas, from 1987-1990; CPA Partner at PWC (formerly Coopers & Lybrand which purchased Utterback, Duncan, Carameros and Curling in 1983), El Paso and Austin, Texas, from 1980-1987; Accountant at KPMG (formerly PMM & Co), from 1975-1980; Limited Partner and Board of Directors for Verde Realty MLP, from 2005-2006; Advisory Director for BBVA Compass (formerly State National Bank), El Paso (West Texas) and Southern New Mexico, from 1999-April 2017.

Greg Lee Cory

In February 2017, Mr. Cory was elected to the Boards of Directors of New Mexico First Financial and Western Heritage Bank and appointed to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of both entities. From 2008 to 2015, he served as a Senior Vice President and Regional President for Southwest Securities, FSB's New Mexico and West Texas markets. Prior to that time, Mr. Cory served with State National Bank (now known as BBVA Compass) for nearly 30 years, serving in such roles as Community President, Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer. He serves or has served in leadership positions for various other organizations, including the following: Board President, Ruidoso Municipal School District; Board Member, Finance Chair, Help End Abuse for Life (HEAL); Board Member, Past-President, Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Club of Ruidoso; Board Member, Table of Plenty; Board Member, Village of Ruidoso Cemetery Board; Member, Insurance Committee, Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces; Former Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member, Village of Ruidoso, New Mexico; Past President, Board Member, Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce; Past Chairman, Ruidoso Art Festival; Founding Board Member, Community Foundation of Lincoln County; Past Board Member, Ruidoso Valley Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Cory is a graduate of the BBVA USA School of Economic Management at the University of Texas at Austin.

John D. Perini

Mr. Perini serves as a Director and the President and Chief Executive Officer of John A. and Charlotte G. Yates Legacy, LLC, a private organization for the management of investments, estate planning and non-operated oil and gas operations. From 1994-2016, he was employed by Yates Petroleum Corporation, a private exploration and production company based in the Permian and Powder River basins, serving in various roles during his tenure including as Chief Financial Officer (2008-2016), Executive Vice President (2012-2016) and Director of Treasury and Investments (1994-2008). Mr. Perini currently serves on the Board of Directors of Community National Bank, Midland, Texas, and on the Asset and Liability Committee (and its chairman from 2007-2010), the Operations Committee (and as its chairman from 2010-2013), and the Credit Oversight Committee.

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He also serves as a Director of Valley Bank of Commerce, Roswell, New Mexico, in which he has served on the following committees: Loan Policy, Loan & Discount, Assets & Liability, Audit & Examination; and Goals, Budget & Compensation. Mr. Perini holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, and a Master's of Business Administration, Management, from the Robert O. Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

David Volk

Mr. Volk is a Principal with Castle Creek Capital, an alternative asset management firm focused on the community banking industry. In his role at Castle Creek, Mr. Volk is responsible for the evaluation of investment opportunities and monitoring of portfolio performance while working closely with executive management teams on strategic planning and transactions. Prior to joining Castle Creek in 2005, he worked at Ernst & Young Corporate Finance providing transaction and corporate financing advisory services to small and middle market companies located primarily in the western U.S. Mr. Volk holds a Bachelor of Science from Santa Clara University and a Master of Science in Accounting from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia.

F. James Volk

Mr. Volk serves as the Chairman of the Board. He has over 45 years of banking industry experience, which includes the following: District Executive, BBVA Compass Bank (El Paso and Southern New Mexico markets), 2008-2011; Regional President and Director, State National Bank, El Paso, West Texas, and Southern New Mexico, 1999-2008; Chairman, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Sierra Bank (prior to its merger with State National Bank), Las Cruces, New Mexico, 1995-1999; President, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Norwest Bank (formerly United New Mexico Bank of Las Cruces, N.M., Las Cruces, New Mexico, 1983-1984; President, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Montana Bank of Bozeman, Bozeman, Montana, 1980-1983; Agricultural Loan Officer, various banks in Montana and South Dakota, 1969-1980. In addition, Mr. Volk currently serves as the Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Ace Specialties, Inc., Odessa, Texas, (an entity providing industrial supplies and tools to energy and construction companies in the Permian Basin), a position which he has held since 2013. Mr. Volk also serves in other Director and trustee positions, including the following: Vice Chairman, University Medical Center of El Paso; Director, Medical Center of the Americas; Past Directorships and trustee positions; Director, El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Trustee, Las Palmas/Del Sol Medical Center; Director, Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority; El Paso YWCA Foundation; Western States School of Banking; NMSU Foundation; Memorial Medical Center Foundation; Salvation Army of Las Cruces; New Mexico Bankers Association; Las Cruces Rio Grande Rotary Club; Rio Grande Natural Gas Board Member; New Mexico State University Presidents Association; and Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

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About New Mexico First Financial, Inc.

Established in 2000, New Mexico First Financial, Inc. is a locally owned and operated holding company that provides a variety of financial services to individuals and corporate customers in the Las Cruces and Deming, New Mexico areas. The company is driven to help communities succeed through full service banking at Western Heritage Bank. Expansion is currently underway for a location in El Paso, Texas.

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