



CHAPTER 80 MONITOR

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

VOLUME XXXIII

SEPTEMBER 2011

NUMBER 14

Palo Duro Senior Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110-1201

****SEPTEMBER MEETING****

SATURDAY, September 3, 2011 Refreshments at 11:00 am, Business Meeting 11:30 a.m.
"Bring your favorite Potluck dish for sharing, but if not, please contribute \$3.00 per person."

****PROGRAMS****

At our September 3rd meeting, Mo Palmer, a regional historian and a native of New Mexico will be sharing the history of the Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque.



FROM THE PRESIDENT Mae Gardner

Hello Everyone,

Well, we survived the Congressional debt debacle! And, so far we have escaped cuts to our salaries, retirement benefits, and Social Security benefits. The Members of the so-called "Super Committee" by state are: Arizona, Senator John Kyl; California, Rep. Xavier Becerra; Maryland, Rep. Chris Van Hollen; Massachusetts, Sen. John Kerry; Michigan, Rep. David Camp and Rep. Fred Upton; Montana, Sen. Max Baucus; Ohio, Sen. Rob Portman; Pennsylvania, Sen. Pat Toomey; South Carolina, Rep. Jim Clyburn, Texas, Rep. Jeb Hensarling; and Washington, Sen. Patty Murray.

If one of the Super Committee members above is your legislator, NARFE members nationwide are counting on you to speak out -- loudly! Even if none of your legislators are on the committee, it's still crucial for you to speak up now. The Super Committee will be taking cues from their colleagues as they begin to make critical decisions about the direction of our country.

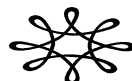
Headquarters has updated www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org with a new Super Committee letter. Tell Washington: Don't single us out for debt-deal cuts!

USPS Proposes Benefit Cuts and Layoffs: The U.S. Postal Service has proposed major layoffs and called on Congress to change the law covering health care (FEHBP) and retirement benefits. More details are available on the USPS web site (www.usps.com) and in the front page article in the Washington Post (http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/usps-proposes-cutting-120000-jobs-pulling-out-of-health-care-plan/2011/08/11/gIQAZxIM9I_story.html).

You have only until September 14th to register for the 2-4 October NARFE Region VII Conference. Chapter 80 will reimburse its members for the registration fee. It promises to be a great conference! It is an honor for us that the conference is being held here in Albuquerque. The conference committee is comprised of members from the three local chapters, and is chaired by our own Gloria Delgado. Plan to attend to learn more about NARFE, enjoy great food, entertainment and door prizes and meet members from the five states within our region. Registration information is again being published in this month's newsletter. If you can't pick up a registration form at the September meeting, give me a call and I'll mail one to you.

It's time to think about whether you can serve as a Chapter officer. New officers will be installed at the March meeting. Contact any current officer and tell them you'd like to serve!

In September, we will be voting on the proposed changes to Chapter Bylaws presented by Harry Mattox at our last meeting, and published in this newsletter.



“Chapter 80 Monitor”
 National Active and Retired Federal Employees
 Association Official Monthly Publication
 (Except for combined issues August-September and
 November-December)

NARFE, CHAPTER 80
 PO Box 21984
 Albuquerque, NM 87154-1201

CHAPTER MEETINGS
 1st Saturday of the month, 11 am
 Palo Duro Senior Center
 5221 Palo Duro Ave. NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87110-1201

CHAPTER OFFICERS 2011-12

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| President..... | Mae E. Gardner | 296-3142 |
| 1st VP (Membership)..... | Nancy Brunson | 349-4129 |
| 2nd VP (Legislation)..... | David Tapia | 797-8064 |
| Secretary | Elizabeth Moorhead | 242-2239 |
| Treasurer | John Vale | 296-5284 |

NARFE SERVICE OFFICERS

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Service Officer | Illene Harrison | 897-1766 |
| Service Officer | Lou Stephens | 881-0767 |

COMMITTEES

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Sunshine Committee..... | Felice Silva | 344-5936 |
| Programs | Elizabeth Moorhead | 242-2239 |
| Volunteer Hours | Zeke Garcia | 344-0143 |

MONITOR STAFF

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Editor | Pearl Schuyler | 899-7090 |
| | pearl.schuyler@prodigy.net | |

REGION VII CONFERENCE
 (NM, CO, WY, AZ, UT)

Albuquerque Chapter 80, Duke City Chapter 1411, and Rio Rancho Chapter 1381 (Hosts) cordially invite all of our members to the 2011 Region VII Conference.

WHERE: ABQ Uptown
 Sheraton Hotel

WHEN: October 2-4, 2011

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| COST: Registration | \$70.00 |
| (Includes Lunch) | |
| Banquet | 50.00 |
| Mixer | 15.00 |

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. Registration Forms are available at Chapter Meetings or the NM Website (narfe-nm.net).



MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Brunson

Thanks to all who attended our last meeting – the food was fantastic and the program was very educational. Laurie Dennison from the Lovelace Health Program Series spoke on Nutrition and Food Labels. It was useful to everyone, since we all try to get in two or three healthy meals a day.

I would like to say a big thank you to all volunteers who worked at the National League of Postmasters Convention here in Albuquerque on July 30-August 3. It was a fun job and hopefully we recruited new NARFE members! We will have opportunities for you to volunteer for the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) Health Fairs in the fall. Last year we worked ten Health Fairs with about 2,800 federal employees in attendance. We will need your help during October and early November.

Some people have expressed a desire to attend our meetings; however, they do not drive any more, or prefer not to drive. If you need a ride to the meeting, please call me at 349-4129 and let me know. If you can offer a ride to someone who lives nearby your home, also call me and let me know. We will try to arrange some carpools to accommodate everyone. We would like to see all of you more often!!

We need you to market NARFE for us! Many of us don't usually think of NARFE in terms of selling a product, but we should! We have customers, existing members and prospective members, and it is important we sell NARFE effectively to both groups. To help us understand what our membership expects, please come to a meeting and let us know your expectations. Our goal is to provide greater value and exceptional service to our membership, i.e., offering rides to meetings, and planning mid-week coffees for those who cannot attend on Saturdays. NARFE is working on a Membership Growth Plan to make more voices heard in our nation's capitol. Recruiting is one of NARFE's top priorities as each new member brings fresh ideas and differing perspectives on how to realize our organization's objectives.

NARFE's mission statement reads: "To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests. To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations. To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives." We have a common purpose for belonging here. We offer the NARFE magazine, website, and lobbying efforts to benefit each member. Let's be supportive and increase our numbers to keep NARFE strong! See you at our September 3rd meeting!





LEGISLATION

David Tapia

All through our government working years we would see our pay stubs with deductions for Medicare, and for social security if we worked in the private sector. We contributed our fair share asked of us toward our pension plan. We assumed we would be entitled to received what we bargained for. Now we have the country going broke because our leaders made some bad decisions along the way. And so we are prone to sacrifices with possible cuts to our entitlements and benefits. It said that our tax money we contributed to social security is/has been tapped into to support other programs such as ongoing wars. And then we hear a lot of our money is given to almost two thirds of the world, and big corporations don't pay their fair share of taxes. This makes some of us very frustrated and depressed. We have just averted a threat to our benefits due to the debt ceiling crisis. Our pensions are safe for now as well as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, veterans benefits, nutrition assistance programs and civil and military pay. However, the legislation just enacted is merely a first step that prevented default on the debt. The White House agreed to \$900 billion in budget cuts over 10 years without tax revenues. The spending cuts will come from hundreds of other federal programs such as payments to Medicare providers. The complex debt-ceiling and deficit-reduction bill created a 12-member bipartisan committee of Congress that is suppose to identify future deficit reductions. This next round of cuts are bound to affect current employees pay and benefits and possibly our entitlements. The debt deal calls for \$2.1 trillion in reductions in federal spending over the next decade. Snowballing effects caused world markets to react to the debt ceiling crisis. The credit rating of the U.S. economy was down graded and in Europe some small countries are experiencing troubles with their debt and are facing a crisis that is financial, economic, political and social. Our legislators are in August recess and NARFE has proclaimed the month as Grass-Roots Advocacy month. This is an effort to meet with our Washington representatives face to face to let them know not to single us out for future cuts to our benefits. We can not help feeling doubtful that that our grandchildren will have a better economy. With such changes in consideration as raising the eligibility for Medicare to age 67 and reform of social security, more belt tightening will be required of them than of us. I recently heard someone say that if we improve in three areas, a turnaround in the world crisis could happen so that our grandchildren will be better off. He said that if we adhere more to our constitution, instill more traditional values in our institutions of higher learning, and learn to compromise to improve our economy the world would be on the road to normalcy. That individual might have used different words and expanded on the details, but the reality is that we must all work together and help each other out instituting moral principals in our decisions and actions (my personal opinion).

Airborne Laser Laboratory (ALL) is to be Scrapped

DEPS Explores Opportunities to Save ALL

The ALL flew from Kirtland AFB in the early '90s to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. OH. This historic aircraft was the first to demonstrate lethal irradiance on airborne targets (AIM-9B missiles and BQM-34 drone aircraft) from an aircraft in 1983. Our expectation was that the plane and the laser weapon system would be prepared for display, and displayed proudly as a historic landmark on the path to the future when lasers would be an integral part of our nation's defense. This has not happened. The ALL sits outside at the AF museum. It has not been prepared for display, and continues to deteriorate. Now the AF Museum leadership has decided to turn the aircraft in for scrap. It appears that we have until the fall to find alternatives to save the ALL from destruction and the loss of a valuable historical artifact.

The DEPS Board of Directors has formed an ad hoc committee to explore options to save the ALL and insure that it is displayed with honor for the future. It appears that several museums may be willing to take the aircraft and display it. We anticipate that to do this it will be necessary to raise private funds to prepare and move the aircraft to a new location, and to prepare the aircraft for display. As we develop options, and cost estimates, we will keep you informed. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please forward them to office@deps.org

Proposed Changes to Chapter 80 Bylaws

Chapter 80 Bylaws have not been updated since January 2002. Because of the many changes over the past ten years, President Gardner appointed a Bylaws Review Committee composed of members of the Executive Board, and chaired by Board Member, Harry Mattox. The Committee recommends the following changes to Chapter Bylaws to bring them into compliance. Most of the changes have already been implemented by actions of the National Office, or by Chapter action/vote. The Board recommends that Chapter 80 Bylaws be amended to reflect the following changes:

1. Change all references to National Association of Retired Federal Employees to National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.
2. Remove procedures regarding Social Membership (Article 1, Section 2). The Chapter did away with Social Memberships years ago.
3. Eliminate section referring to Honorary Membership. National eliminated this category in 2008.
4. Show new Chapter dues, approved at the June 2011 meeting.
5. Eliminate Pre-Retirement Seminar references from the First Vice President's job description. Chapter 80 no longer offers them. Pre-Retirement seminars are now offered by OPM.
6. Change required Chapter meeting time from 12:30 on the first Saturday to show only that we will meet on the first Saturday of the month.
7. Change the wording to show that if a deceased member's death notice doesn't specify a memorial, the Chapter will make a donation to Alzheimer's in their name. Current Bylaws state that the Sunshine Committee shall contact the family to determine the memorial.
8. Under Article III, Section 4, Meetings. Twenty members of the Chapter shall constitute a quorum.

Next is the only really new proposal the Committee is presenting: Currently, our officers are elected for one-year terms and are limited to serving two consecutive terms in the same office. The exception is that the Secretary and the Treasurer, who are each elected to a one-year term, may serve unlimited terms as long as they continue to be elected to their positions. The Executive Board recommends that the Secretary and Treasurer be limited to not to exceed five years (five terms) in office.

(Chapter 80 approval is subject to subsequent approval by NARFE National Headquarters.)

Prepared by Harry Mattox





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FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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Albuquerque NM 87154-1984

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MOVING?

Be sure to let Nancy Brunson, at

505-349-4129 or
nkbrunson@yahoo.com

Know your new address for Chapter records. Remember, your "Chapter 80 Monitor" will not be forwarded. We'll also notify the "NARFE" magazine for you.

Legislative Contacts

Clip & Save

Phone

Toll-free (NARFE pays toll)
NARFE Legislative Hotline (24/7): **877-217-8234**
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: **866-220-0044**
White House Comment Line: **888-225-8418**

Web

NARFE Site: www.narfe.org
NARFE Legislative Action Center:
www.capwiz.com/narfe
U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov
U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov
White House: www.whitehouse.gov
Senate Web forms/e-mail address: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC
House Write Your Rep:



VOLUNTEER HOURS July 2011 By Zeke Garcia, Chairperson

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Community Service | 994.0 |
| Church | 478.0 |
| Youth Groups | 186.0 |
| Other | 464.0 |
| TOTAL | 2,122.0 |

NOTE: Please report your hours to your caller. If you don't get contacted, please call Zeke Garcia at 344-0143. Thanks!

Volunteer Hours Committee Members: Eleanor Otero, and Nancy Brooks

REACHING OUT

**Felice Silva
Sunshine Committee**

Please call 344-5936 or tell any officer or the editor to report a member's illness or death.

July 2011 Report

Get Well Cards to:

Virginia Pool
Alice Sharp

Sympathy Card & Memorial to Alzheimer's went to family of:

Beulah Kenney
Emily Sefick

