



# CHAPTER 80 MONITOR

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

VOLUME XXXIII

FEBRUARY 2012

NUMBER 17

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

\*\*\*\*FEBRUARY MEETING\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, February 4, 2012, 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 February 4th meeting,** the speaker will be Dr. Michael Nutkiewicz, Executive Director of Oasis, Albuquerque. This company presents classes to those over 50 on various subjects. Some of the classes would be finances, nutrition, history, music, travel, etc.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Mae Gardner**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope your New Year has started out with a bang. Mine literally did! My neighbors had a party and were shooting off rockets that lit up my front yard.

Our first meeting of the new year was very well attended. Speaker Liz Perea from the IRS listed the changes to the tax laws and also urged us to join their VITA program, which will train us to prepare income tax returns for those requesting help. Call her at 505-837-5539 if you are interested.

The Primaries are well underway. Along with them, we keep hearing about "Super PACs". The PBS News Hour that aired January 5<sup>th</sup> was entitled, "Are Super PACs Living up to the Supreme Court's Intentions?" Also, the League of Women Voters is pointing out the need for real campaign reform. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Senator John McCain appeared on the David Letterman show. His comments on Super PACs were that he had sat in on the Supreme Court's hearings. The Court had no idea how campaigns work, and their decision to allow Super PACs was not a good one. He further stated that only until there is a huge scandal will their decision be reversed.

Our future benefits hinge upon whom we support for Congress and the Presidency and our advocacy through NARFE.

The Nominating Committee has been working hard to find members willing to run for office. So far, **David Tapia** has agreed to be secretary, and **Sally Spier** has agreed to be treasurer for the next fiscal year. Thank you both for agreeing to serve.

**We still need to fill the slots for President, First Vice President for Membership and Second Vice President for Legislation. Please consider volunteering for one of these important offices.** You will be installed at our March meeting and your term will run from April 2012 to March 2013. I can tell you that being president for two years has all in all been a gratifying experience. I learned a lot more about NARFE, and have met and worked with some great people, here at the Chapter and at the Federation, Regional and National Conventions. **Please call Simone Brown, 881-4406, or Ardyce Kirk, 268-8568, and let them know you'd like to serve.**

**Come to the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and help to celebrate our Chapter's sixtieth birthday!**



“Chapter 80 Monitor”  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
Association Official Monthly Publication

NARFE, CHAPTER 80  
PO Box 21984  
Albuquerque, NM 87154-1984

**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 ..... | Ilene 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 |          |



**MEMBERSHIP**

**Nancy Brunson**

Great way to start the New Year – 6 New Members!! Hooray! We hope to see several more new members as a result of all your work representing NARFE at the Open Season Health Fairs in the fall. There is always a benefit when you do just a little volunteer work.

When you attend our meetings, please help welcome these new faces. Try sitting at a different table at each meeting – strike up a conversation - make a new friend. Perhaps you will find someone from your home state or from the agency where you worked - you never know. Either way, I am sure you will have an enjoyable time.

We will celebrate Chapter 80's anniversary in February. Please come and join in the birthday cake and celebration. We hope to see you on February 4, 11:00am, Palo Duro Senior Center. Happy Valentine's Day!



**It's not too early to start making plans to attend the 32nd National Convention in Reno-Sparks, Nevada in August . It will be at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort on August 26-30, 2012.**



*"Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end."*

*-Author Unknown*



*"Loving is not just looking at each other, it's looking in the same direction."*

*-Antoine de Saint*

**PROTECT AMERICA'S  
HEARTBEAT**



**An announcement was made at the last meeting that nominations for President, First Vice President for Membership and Second Vice President for Legislation are still needed. Can you volunteer for one of these offices? Make your wishes known to serve.**



## LEGISLATION

### David Tapia

Congress will return to Washington mid-January so not much has transpired in the way of legislation. The State of the Union should be later this month and the President must submit a fiscal 2013 budget sometime in February. The White House is proposing a 0.5 percent pay increase for federal workers in its 2013 budget proposal, according to an official from the Office of Management and Budget. Any proposed increase will require approval of the Congress. This tiny increase is not much, but shifts the thinking that the pay freeze might be over. For a federal worker making \$75,000 a year, a 0.5 percent increase would result in a pay raise of about \$375, or \$7.00 a week.

Another \$1.2 trillion increase in the national debt limit is scheduled to be announced. About \$4 billion is added to the national debt every day. The debt ceiling stands at \$15.2 trillion and the \$1.2 trillion will raise it to \$16.4 trillion. And in the event that does not cover the spending, suspending certain payments to civil service pensions would then enable the government to be funded through the elections.

If the U.S. is ever to substantially reduce its mounting national budget deficit, the current costs of Medicare and Social Security, which make up a huge proportion of the budget, must be curbed. Tough changes to Medicare, Social Security and entitlement reform can only be made with genuine bipartisan consensus of both Republicans and Democrats, but unfortunately such changes may well be disadvantageous to many older Americans. Federal and military retirees want protection for their retirement benefits, health care, and COLA's, but the ever-growing budget crisis poses a big threat towards that protection. NARFE will continue to ensure that federal retirees and workers will not be unfairly targeted when reducing the federal deficit. To offset disproportionate benefit reductions to Social Security would mean disproportionate tax increases for future generations. Actions to restore the program's long-term financial viability must fairly balance the interests of both current and future beneficiaries and no group should be forced to bear disproportionate sacrifice. We are in tough times and many low-income seniors will have to resort to private service organizations for a helping hand.

We must continue to support NARFE at all costs. One member was recently complaining about the membership fee increase, but later when the conversation turned to curbing individual spending on vacations, eating out, etc., that individual blurted out that we need to enjoy life and spend the money; after all, you cannot take it with you. At that point, I said, "You are right; you cannot take it with you; therefore, pay your NARFE dues and you will be able to avoid your benefits being trimmed, so you can enjoy those vacations and meals out." To make you feel better when it's time to send in your dues, just think that if you and your spouse forgo one trip to Olive Garden (or the casino, movies, etc.), you will have the money to pay your annual dues. Many of us think nothing of giving \$50 to a charitable organization, but are reluctant to give to NARFE, which is the only organization looking out for our earned benefits.

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The State of New Mexico will no longer automatically mail personal income tax packages to taxpayers. The Taxation and Revenue Office at Central and San Mateo as well as most libraries will have tax packages, or they can be ordered on line. Don't forget the price of a stamp will go up to 45 cents on January 22, 2012.

## NARFE—PASS IT ON!

Many moons ago President Mae Gardner nominated me as Service Officer of the Year for Region VII. Much to my surprise, her nomination was successful! The announcement appeared in a number of publications which prompted telephone calls from a number of folks congratulating me on the high honor. I thanked Mae for her fine work in preparing the nomination, but neglected thanking you Chapter members for approving the nomination.

Thus, on Saturday November 5th, the presentation of not one, but two, plaques--one from the club, and the other from Region VII were presented to me by Lee Tomlin! He read nearly the entire nomination, much to my embarrassment. My face turned several shades of red over the kind words for something I simply enjoy doing for our Chapter. So, thank you Chapter 80 for nominating me as Service Officer of the Year for Region VII. I am grateful for the honor that you all bestowed on me. I'll try to live up to this honor in the future.

Ilene Harrison



### DONATIONS TO ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

A check may be made out to:  
**ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH/NARFE**  
 and sent to  
 Albuquerque Chapter 80, NARFE,  
 P. O. Box 21984,  
 Albuquerque NM 87154-1984.

NON PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 ALBUQUERQUE NM  
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 Albuquerque NM 87154-1984

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### 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.

THANK YOU!

### Legislative Contacts

CLIP & SAVE

#### Phone

Toll-free (NARFE dues pay cost)  
 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](http://www.narfe.org)  
 NARFE Legislative Action Center: [www.capwiz.com/narfe](http://www.capwiz.com/narfe)

U.S. House of Representatives: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

U.S. Senate: [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

White House: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Senate Web forms/e-mail address: [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators)

[www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators.cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators.cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC)

[cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators.cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC)

House Write Your Rep:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Library of Congress Legislative Database: [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov)

#### USPS ZIP Codes in Washington, DC

U.S. House of Representatives: 20515

U.S. Senate: 20510

Room/Suite Numbers are NOT needed



### VOLUNTEER HOURS December 2011/January 2012 By Zeke Garcia, Chairperson

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Community Service | 872.0          |
| Church            | 488.0          |
| Youth Groups      | 145.0          |
| Other             | 372.0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>1,877.0</b> |

**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.

### December 2011/January 2012 Report

Get Well Cards to:

None

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

Dennis D. Cloyd

Marjorie B. Dralle

Margaret Blackmon