



# NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

*Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees*

## Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 10, Issue 03 – September 2009

National Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

Local Web Site: <http://www.narfe-nm.net/ch0182/ch0182.html>

### Current HOT Topic: NARFE Dues Referendum Vote

#### President's Message

– Meriam McMullen

#### Chapter Members Face Daunting Task On Narfe Dues Referendum.

National Headquarters and the National Executive Board have approved a referendum proposing modification of the national bylaws to change the present NARFE “national dues plus chapter dues” system to a SINGLE “NARFE DUES” system. The referendum ballot is to be distributed to each dues paying Chapter 182 member in the October newsletter. Watch for our local ballot and please cast your vote! More details about this issue are found on pages 4-5. The issue will be discussed at the upcoming Sept, Oct, and Nov general meetings. Note: during the August 5, 2009, local Chapter 182 Executive Board Meeting, the board approved a motion to recommend to our members that we vote against the referendum.

It's not too late to join us at the Region VII Conference in Cheyenne, WY October 1-3, 2009. Sarah McAadoo has the information for registration. The registration for the conference needs to be in to Ed Chase by September 10, 2009 and the block of rooms are available at the special National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association price at Holiday Inn until September 15, 2009.

#### Major AD Genetics Research Efforts Underway

*Alzheimer's Report*

– Allaire Dunn

As AD genetics research has intensified, it has become clear that scientists need many genetic samples to make further progress. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has launched two major programs: the Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Study and the Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Consortium. NIA also funds the National Cell Repository for Alzheimer's Disease (NCRAD), a national resource where clinical information and DNA can be stored and accessed by qualified researchers. Through these programs, AD researchers are working together to develop new technologies and methods and to share data.

The AD Genetics Study is gathering genetic and other information from 1,000 families *(continued on page 2)*

#### Welcome New Members

*Nadine Boor*

Welcome to our chapter: Joe Barda, John Fleming, Juan Guadiana, Thomas Phillips, and Clifford Tyree. We would like to see you at our September meeting! Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Reinstatements: Welcome back Larry Bleimeyer - hope to see you at the September meeting..

#### September 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting!

*Program Chairman*

– Franklin McKay

**Program:** Roy Willoughby will introduce the Legislators and/or their representatives. This is our traditional, annual legislative program. Roy will have questions prepared for policy makers that affect legislation at both the State and Federal levels for our guests as appropriate for their positions.

**Time:** 8:45 am (breakfast)  
(doors open at 8:30 am)

**Where:** Columbus Conference Center, Days Inn Suites & Mesilla Valley Conference Center

**Reservations:** If you missed the telephone committee call, please contact Julie Smith, **521-3583** or Linda Roberts, **382-0174**.

Make checks payable to “Days Inn & Suites” (\$12/person)

#### October Preview!

In October we are going to have some fun!! We have invited Jim Carlile, aka Dr J. Albert Carlile, a master of Mirth Music Magic and Medicine. He is a soft shoe dancer, Texas gambler, lover of beautiful women and known to take an occasional sip of scotch. He will perform a variety show that will bring laughter into your life. You won't want to miss this opportunity to stock up on his “snake oil” medicines to help you through the coming cold winter.

## President McMullen's Special Callers Meeting Was a Success.

I had a special meeting for all callers, coordinators, and the main Executive Board Members on September 1, 2009 at the Munson Center. We had good attendance, and I felt, excellent results. My goal was to have four coordinators for the callers. I have three, and they are: Joy Davenport, Diane Clark, and Carol Main. I would like to have one more person volunteer, and if they don't, we will work with just three.

Linda Roberts and I will be conducting a training session for the new coordinators. In addition, after we have the coordinators trained, there will be a meeting with the coordinators and all of the callers.

I want to give a special thank you to the persons who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting and helped me brain-storm. They are: Sarah McAdoo, John Smith, Nadine Boor, Diane Clark, Sabra Jean Block, Allaire Dunn, Dorothy Figgens, Chuck Redman, Jo Ann Sherman, Marcele Skelton, Susan Vantress, and Linda Roberts.

I am really looking forward to the next meeting with the trained coordinators and callers.

### "Bakeless" Bake Sale - Nadine Boor, Treasurer

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

We want to thank those who generously gave.

We have 36 people (9 couples) out of our 543 members who now have baked their cake or pie.

They donated a total of \$511.32 for an average of only \$.94 cents per member.

### Service Officer Report - Jim Kielty

Look for the upcoming article in the October newsletter on Long Term Care Insurance.

### Membership Report - John Smith

Expect a full rundown on recruiting efforts in next month's news letter.

## Congratulations, Mary Beth Reinhart!

Local NARFE Chapter 182 member, Mary Beth Reinhart, is to be honored on September 29 when she will be inducted into the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established in 1980 to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to the missile range during their careers.

Mary Beth arrived at the missile range in 1982 where she served as chief of the Community Recreation Division and was responsible for the development and implementation of new recreational activities and programs on the range. Among her many accomplishments was the establishment and support of an annual event to honor those that suffered during the infamous Bataan Death March. The first memorial march was held on the range in 1992 with only 120 participants. Under continuous efforts by Mary Beth, this event has grown, and in 2009 the memorial march had 5,000 participants. Mary Beth retired in 2005 and joined our chapter in November of that same year.

Mary Beth joins four other members of our chapter who had previously been inducted into the WSMR Hall of Fame: Gabriel (Gubby) Galos inducted in 1985, Alice Lucile Graham (deceased) inducted in 1986, Frances Williams inducted in 1995, and Joaquin (Jake) Provencio inducted in 2007. Our chapter is very proud of these members.

### Treasurer's Report (July 2009)

Balance (6/30/2009)	\$1,798.95
Receipts	\$496.00
Disbursements	(\$204.21)
Balance (7/31/2009)	\$2,090.74
Obligations*	(\$554.31)
Available Balance	\$1,536.43

\*Federation per capita assessment

- Nadine Boor

### Alzheimer's Report (continued)

in the United States that include a pair of living siblings (brothers or sisters) who have late-onset AD. Families who meet this criteria are urged to participate. For more information, contact NCRAD ([www.ncrad.org](http://www.ncrad.org)).

The AD Genetics Consortium is collecting and analyzing blood samples and other biological information from thousands of families around the world. Comparisons will be made between those who do and do not have late-onset AD within the same families. This is a collaborative effort of AD geneticists to collect more than 10,000 samples to do GWAS (the DNA analysis studies needed to identify risk-factor genes).

The participation of volunteer families is a critical part of AD genetics research. The more genetic information researchers can gather and analyze from a wide range of families, the more clues they will have for finding additional risk-factor genes.

### Sunshine Report

Diane Clark

Sympathy cards were sent to: Kelley Thornton in Ringgold, GA, upon the passing of her mother, Myrdel F. Wilson, who was residing with her; Joy and Don Davenport upon the passing of a family member.

An online sympathy message was sent to the friends and family of Ruth B. Lorenz upon her passing.

A "Thinking About You" card was sent to Franklin and Mary Ellen McKay when their grandson was hospitalized.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you know a member who is ill or going through a rough time, please contact Diane, 532-1334 or [www:redorgreenchile@zianet.com](mailto:www:redorgreenchile@zianet.com).

Chapter  
Membership  
540

## Legislative Report

*Elwood Baas*

Our September breakfast meeting will include the annual political candidates' presentations. Since this is an off year for elections, we will have a State and National legislator's presentation. Since their positions are not up for election this year, their attendance may be low this time around. Our senators and representatives, both State and Federal, have been invited.

NARFE National Office has not taken a position on the House and Senate health plan bills being presented by Congress, but has asked us to notify our representatives urging them to include Premium Conversion to the House 3200 and Senate Bill 491:

"NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste continues her request to each NARFE member to contact his or her Congressional representatives. Congressional consideration of massive health care reform is likely to be delayed until September. This development allows NARFE members more opportunity to urge lawmakers to include our Premium Conversion legislation (H.R. 1203/S. 491) in any health care overhaul." (NARFE Legislative Update 7/24/2009)

This should keep the issue "front and center" with our Representatives. However, the House Health Care Bill is a structural organizational framework; it does not contain rules and specific Federal Code that could yield appropriation like H.R. 1203/S. 491 requires.

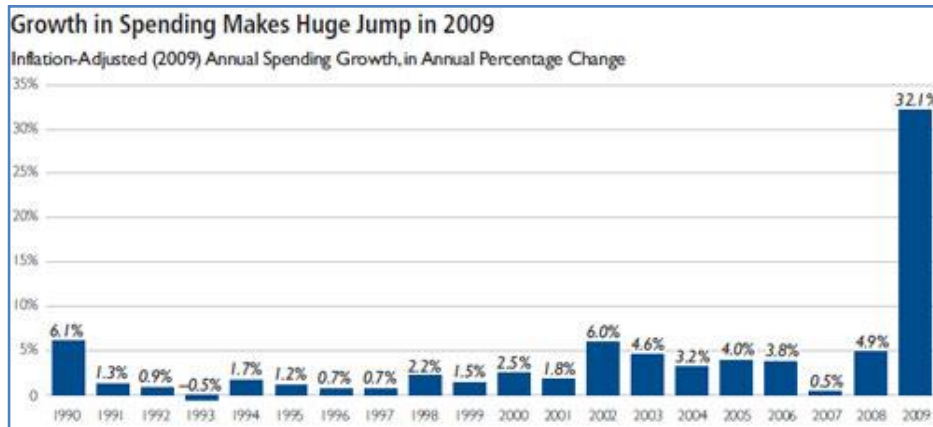
National debate on health care is taking place during the congressional recess. Polls show that a majority of seniors do not support the plan, and AARP has "walked back" on its original support. Seniors are apprehensive because:

1. Medicare money for doctors will be reduced (\$500 billion over 10 years) to fund the plan's "cost savings" which will impact doctor's willingness to take Medicare patients and provide adequate care. 2. The plan talks about "end-of-life counseling" which could lead to rationing. 3. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has stated that the plan, as it now stands, is not fully funded which leads to more deficit and potential rationing.

Rationing health care for seniors would seem somewhat far-fetched, except that the Medical Advisor to the Office of Management, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, has openly talked about not being able to treat certain patients "in case of emergency" and produced this rationing chart (January 2009). The chart shows that both the young and the old are subject to reduced care in case of emergency (reduced funding or medical resources). Notice that when you reach 55, you are truly "over the hill" in terms of treatment priority. Of course, H.B. 3200 does not have this chart in it, but it uses words like "effectiveness treatment".



The numbers are so large they are difficult to comprehend. This year's huge deficit comes from increased Government spending. The following chart shows how 2009 spending in percentage compared to previous year.



At the same time, tax receipts have dropped drastically which will catapult our deficit four times what it was last fiscal year. The Government will have to borrow and print billions of more dollars. Every dollar the Government borrows is a dollar that is not available for private investment, and every dollar the Government prints, shrinks the dollar you have.

### Make Your Voice Heard!

Lobbying for the retention of our earned benefits and addressing some of the injustices of denied benefits, is not a difficult task. We can all write a letter or post card, go on the NARFE web site and send messages to our lawmakers, make a phone call, or send an e-mail. It only takes a few minutes of your time.

When you recruit a current federal employee (CFE), you will not only receive a "recruiter's pin", but you will receive an \$8 "finder's fee".

## NARFE Dues Referendum

by *Russ Boor*, Referendum Committee Chair

**Question:** What is a bylaw change referendum?

**Answer:** With a two-thirds “Approved” vote by the members of the National Executive Board (NEB), NARFE’s National Bylaws may be amended at times other than at a National Convention, subject to ratification by referendum to the chapters. Approval of the change in National Bylaws by ratification requires that at least two-thirds of the total votes by chapters be cast as “Approved”.

**Question:** What procedures are being directed by National to ratify the referendum?

**Answer:**

1. The NEB approved the “NARFE dues” referendum by consensus at their March 2009 board meeting.
2. A draft copy of the referendum was published in the September issue of the NARFE magazine.
3. The official NARFE national ballot will be received by chapter secretaries the first week in September.
4. Each chapter will be authorized 1 vote for every 50 members or fraction thereof. The Las Cruces Chapter with 500 plus members will be authorized a total of eleven (11) votes.
5. The official NARFE national ballot must be completed, certified correct by the chapter secretary and returned by mail to the Election Services Corporation no later than December 8 to be counted.
6. All ballots will be tabulated and the count certified. If two-thirds of the votes tabulated are cast as “approved”, the referendum will be determined to be ratified and the national bylaws and rules changed as stated in the referendum. If a super majority of two-thirds is not counted, the referendum will be determined to be defeated and no changes made to bylaws or rules.

**Question:** How do I cast my vote on this referendum?

**Answer:** At the May chapter meeting, a motion was adopted stating that all chapter members be given the opportunity to cast their vote on the “NARFE dues” referendum. At the August chapter executive board meeting, a motion was approved directing that the official chapter 182 members’ ballot be distributed to all members during the first part of October. Chapter President McMullen has appointed a Ballot and Tellers Committee to oversee the balloting process with Sarah McAdoo as chair. The chapter’s balloting process is as follows:

1. An official member’s ballot will be printed in the October issue of the chapter newsletter. The standard procedure for mailing the newsletter will be used including emailing to those with email. Husband and wife members without email will be postal-mailed two copies of the newsletter. Those with email can print copies of the ballot.
2. Each member wishing to cast their vote on this issue should complete the ballot and return it to the chapter. The chapter must receive the completed ballot no later than November 14.
3. Ballots can be returned to the chapter in several ways. By postal mail to Ballot Chapter 182, PO Box 16424, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424; or by bringing your ballot to either the October 7 or November 11 regular breakfast chapter meeting held at the Columbus Conference Center of the Days Inn & Suites, Mesilla Valley Conference Center and placing it in the provided ballot box; or you can bring your ballot to either the October 10 or November 11 executive board meeting held at 9:00 AM in the Memorial Healthplex conference room and place them in the provided ballot box.

**Question:** What will the Chapter do with my vote?

**Answer:**

1. After balloting is closed on November 14, the Ballot and Tellers Committee will take charge of the ballot box, count the ballots, and under the oversight of the Chapter President, determine how the Chapter should cast all of its eleven votes. (At the May chapter meeting, the members in attendance approved the following motion: *Based on the tabulated results of the member vote in the upcoming “NARFE Dues Referendum,” the chapter shall cast its entire number of authorized votes either **for** or **against** the issue. To cast all chapter votes **for** the issue shall require at least two-thirds vote of members casting votes to be **for**. Anything less than two-thirds vote **for** shall require casting all authorized chapter votes as being **against** the issue in question.*) Note: it takes a two-thirds super majority vote to approve changes in national bylaws.
2. Upon completion of determining the vote, the Chapter Secretary, prior to December 1, will mark, sign, and date the official national ballot, and mail it to the Election Services Corporation.

*(continued on page 5)*

## NARFE Dues Referendum (continued from page 4)

**Question:** *Where can I learn more about the dues referendum?* **Answer:**

1. Past issues of the 2009 NARFE magazine
  - a. National President's column - Feb, May and June
  - b. National Secretaries column - Aug
  - c. Letters section - Jul and Aug
  - d. NARFE News section - Aug
  - e. Report from Regions - Sep
2. NARFE national web site [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Sign on as a member then under News from NARFE HQ click "Read More" on Referendum on NARFE Dues line
3. Chapter 182 meetings. Attending the September, October and November → → → → →

### Working Together

*Mary Ellen McKay, President  
NM Federation of Chapters*

Joseph A Beaudoin, the NARFE National Vice President, sent an interesting article recently entitled "Working Together". I would like to quote from that paper.

Let's all work together to:

- Actively support our legislative agenda by;
  - (1) Contacting your congressmen on a regular basis and
  - (2) Joining the Rapid Response Team by sending NARFE Headquarters your e-mail address (only about 15% of our members have shared their e-mail address with national).
- Recruit your spouse, friends, neighbors, AFE's, etc. so that our membership will grow in order for us to have more 'clout' on Capitol Hill, and
- Persuade members who are contemplating not to renew their membership, to renew their membership so that, collectively, from a position of strength, we can continue to protect our earned benefits.

This may sound like things you have heard many times before, but a reminder never hurts. If we get just one more member to send their e-mail to National Headquarters or one member to recruit another member, then the reminder is important.

Thanks for working together to make NARFE stronger.

## NARFE Dues Referendum (continued)

**Question:** *Where can I learn more about the dues referendum?* **Answer (continued):**

4. 182 Chapter newsletters - copies available online at <http://www.narfe-nm.net/ch0182/ch0182.html>
  - a. Jun - page 5
  - b. Aug - page 2
  - c. Oct - Ballot and discussion on impact if adopted
  - d. Nov - Update on referendum
  - e. Dec - How the chapter voted
5. NM Federation of Chapters newsletters - copies available online at [www.narfe-nm.net](http://www.narfe-nm.net)  
Late Spring 2009 issue - pages 1, 4 and 5

**NARFE  
Region VII Conference  
October 1-3, 2009  
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

**Cans! Cans! Cans!** Reminder: Bring your aluminum cans to our monthly meetings. Jack Dage, very graciously, volunteers to collect the cans for recycling. Monies generated are applied to newsletter expenses. Thanks to everyone for their continued donations and to Jack for his services!

**Adopt-a-Median  
- Marlene Mayfield**  
We have a sign! Check it out on Picacho by the handball courts.

**Every Thursday Morning  
Coffee at the Mall**  
Hey, don't forget the Thursday **10:00a.m.** coffee at the Food Court in the Mall. Russ and Nadine Boor have been coming to these for years, and many others have stopped by for a visit. It doesn't matter if you have 10 minutes or an hour to spare - it's fun to get together for even a little while. At times we have had ten or more members stop by for coffee and a chat. Please join us - there's always something to talk about, and the company is great!

**Books! Books! Books!**  
The Alzheimer's committee runs the used book sale at our monthly meetings. Donations and purchases are both appreciated!

**MOVED?** We need your current address and email address if you want to receive your newsletter and NARFE magazine. Please notify our Records Officer, Nadine Boor (phone 382-7478, or email [jnboor@aol.com](mailto:jnboor@aol.com)).

**The Reporter**  
The "Chapter 182 Reporter" is published monthly, except in January and July. Comments about the newsletter should be directed to Ruth E. French.

**Items for the next issue** of the Reporter are due **Mon, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**, ([ziaref@comcast.net](mailto:ziaref@comcast.net)), 382-0480, PO Box 70, Organ, NM 88052-0070

To update your address, phone, and/or email records, please contact Nadine Boor: 382-7478, [jnboor@aol.com](mailto:jnboor@aol.com)

**E-Newsletter.** Members who have email addresses on file are now receiving this newsletter by email. If you would like to change back to USPS mail, please contact Nadine Boor, [jnboor@aol.com](mailto:jnboor@aol.com) or 382-7478). You should also contact Nadine if you would like to help the chapter save printing and postage money by receiving your newsletter by e-mail.



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Federal Employees Association  
Chapter 182  
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Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424

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**You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. & Legislative Chair: **Elwood Baas**  
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**Members of Congress**

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148 Loretto Towne Center  
505 S. Main St., Suite 148, Las Cruces, NM 88001  
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[senator\\_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov](mailto:senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov)  
<http://bingaman.senate.gov/contact/types/email-issue.cfm>

**U.S. Senator Tom Udall**  
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505 S. Main St., Suite 118, Las Cruces, NM 88001  
(575) 526-5475 Fax: (575) 523-6589  
<http://tomudall.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

**U.S. Representative Harry Teague**  
135 Griggs Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001  
(575) 522-3908  
[http://forms.house.gov/teague/webforms/issue\\_subscribe.htm](http://forms.house.gov/teague/webforms/issue_subscribe.htm)

**NARFE Monthly Meetings**

The Las Cruces Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association holds a breakfast meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except in June, July, & August. The meeting is held at the *Columbus Conference Center of the Days Inn Suites & Mesilla Valley Conference Center*; doors open at 8:30am (breakfast at 8:45am), and the cost is \$12. All members, those that might be interested in joining, and guests are most welcome. Membership is open to all federal civilian employees, retirees, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

For reservations, please call Linda Roberts at 382-0174 or Julie Smith at 521-3583.