



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 04 – October 2009

National Web Site: 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

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

At our September 19, 2009 Chapter Meeting, Russell (Russ) Boor, Federation 2nd V.P. of Legislation talked about the ballot that would be in the October Newsletter and encouraged every dues paying member to vote.

The official voting ballot for the "Single Dues Referendum" is on **page 4** of this newsletter.

For our September legislative meeting, we had distinguished guests Andy Nunez, NM State Representative District 36; Nathan Cote, NM State Representative 53; and Xochitl (Sosha) Torres, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Tom Udall.

Representatives Nunez and Cote responded to the following questions:

1. Your position and concerns relative to exempting active and retired Federal Employees and military annuitants' health insurance programs from or in any enactment of a State single-payer medical insurance program for all N.M. residents.
 2. Enactment of state income tax exemptions on retired federal employees and military annuities such as is done in neighboring states.
 3. Other pending legislative actions that would affect our membership.
- Ms. Torres read letters from Senators Tom Udall and Jeff Bingaman.

The Las Cruces Chapter 182 is hosting the Southwest District Area Workshop at the *(continued on page 2)*

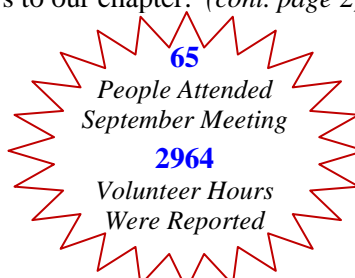
Member "Spotlight"

Dr. Irvin W. Skelton
"Irv"



Irv is an active member of our chapter. It's rare when he and his wife, Marcele, miss a meeting.

Irv came to our Chapter with lots of NARFE experience. He served as Secretary, Vice President, and President of Chapter 1966 in Lynnwood, Washington. He also served as a member of the Membership, NARFE-PAC, Legislative, Program, and Nominating committees. Additionally, he was a Member at Large, and most recently was our Logistics Committee Chairman. Irv and Marcele proudly represented our Chapter at the NARFE National Convention, Region VII Conference, as well as at multiple Federation Conventions and several District meetings. We're happy to hear that he will be a member of our Membership Committee this year. He'll work closely with John Smith, our new 1st Vice President for Membership, recruiting new members to our chapter. *(cont. page 2)*



October 10th General Meeting!

Program Chairman

– Franklin McKay

Program: 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

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 call Joy Davenport (522-1160), Diane Clark (532-1334), or email lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com.

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

Welcome New Members

Ernest Balizan

&

Chandler Thompson

We would like to see you at our October meeting! Come meet your fellow chapter members.

– Nadine Boor

Member Spotlight (continued)

Irv was born in Riverton, Wyoming. He says that after high school, his folks and some of his teachers believed that he still had a “lot to learn” and that if he “applied” himself and made academics a higher priority than his social life, he just might become employable.

He took their advice and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1960 with a BS in Agri-Business and was employed as County Agricultural Agent, a joint employee of the University of Wyoming, USDA, and Goshen County, Wyoming. His educational responsibilities included agriculture, 4-H, community development, and support for Home Economics in the county, state and federal relationship associated with land grant universities. His work in Extension allowed him, through various sabbatical educational leaves and continuing education programs, to earn a Masters degree in Extension from Colorado State University in 1970 followed by a PhD in Agronomy from the University of Wyoming in 1974.

After 15 years in Goshen County, WY, Irv assumed a similar position in Natrona County (Casper) for approximately two years before accepting a position as State Leader, Agricultural Programs with the Cooperative Extension Service at NMSU. He held that position from 1976-80. In 1980 he was recruited back to the University of Wyoming as Associate Dean and Director of the Wyoming Extension Service until the fall of 1984. In 1984, he accepted a position as Land Resources Chairman, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska, and became the Director in the fall of 1987. He retired as Professor Emeritus from the University of Alaska in the fall of 1997 with 37 years of service. He says that it was rumored that he was back to where he started after high school – still “with a lot to learn”.

After retiring, they moved to ➔

Member Spotlight (cont. from column 1)

Seattle to accommodate their youngest son, who expressed the desire to live at home while attending university. Their son’s desire to live at home lasted about a week, so Irv and Marcele continued to live as empty nesters in the Seattle area until the spring of 2003, when they moved to Laramie to occupy and fix up a rental they had owned for over 20 years. After completing the renovation, they sold the house, left Laramie in a severe snowstorm and arrived in Las Cruces on a day that was 84 degrees.

Irv and Marcele have been married for 40 years and have three children and three grandchildren. Marcele is a native of northeast Nebraska and a rabid Nebraska Cornhusker football fan. Her vocation was Home Economics Education, Adult and Continuing Education, and 4-H Youth Development. Marcele is also an active member of our chapter serving on our Telephone Committee, greeting members, taking money at the monthly meetings, and working at the Alzheimer’s Book Sales Table.

Irv has lots of interests and hobbies such as spectator sports (HS, college and pro football, basketball, baseball and hockey), fishing, hunting, Western History, Genealogy, and watching politicians spin and public policy. He and Marcele love to travel and participate in a wide variety of other activities at the local, state, and national level.

We’re glad Irv took his parents and teachers advice way back when. He has had an interesting life full of great experiences. And, he’s still looking for new experiences. Anyone who knows Irv well, knows he’s full of it -- full of life that is! We’re glad he and Marcele’s path led them to spending their retirement years here with all of us in the Land of Enchantment. Thanks for being a fun-loving, warm-hearted couple. Our chapter is very fortunate to have you, Irv and Marcele, as members.

Telephone Committee Workshop

– *Meriam McMullen*

Linda Roberts held a workshop for our new telephone committee coordinators, Joy Davenport and Diane Clark, at my house on 9/12/09. The workshop went very well. We brainstormed ideas and made some decisions.

One of our callers, Marcele Skelton, suggested contacting some of our members by email instead of calling. She suggested that we remind members about the meeting via email and have them RSVP by email instead of by phone for the persons that wished to do so.

Since I am one of the younger persons in our Chapter, I thought this was a great idea, and we now have an email address for our members to email if they wish to be contacted by email, and it is lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com. When we have the final Brainstorm session at my house with the callers and co coordinators (October 17, 9:00 A.M.), we hope to do more brainstorming and have more ideas and decisions made with the input from everyone. Callers and Coordinators: please R.S.V.P. Meriam McMullen 647-3909. If I am not home, please leave a message.

President’s Message (continued)

Mesilla Park Community Center on October 14, 2009. For more information or if you wish to attend, please contact Roy Willoughby, SW District VP, at 524-9395.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to the 65 members and guests that came to our Saturday meeting on September 19th. We hope to see all of you and more for the October 10th meeting when we have the fun program with Jim Carlile aka Dr. J. Albert Carlile, a master of Mirth Music Magic and Medicine.

**Chapter
Membership
535**

Pending "NARFE Dues" Referendum

– Russ Boor

NARFE's National Executive Board (NEB) has approved issuing a referendum to the chapters proposing modification of the national bylaws. This referendum proposes changing the present NARFE national dues plus chapter dues system to a single "NARFE dues" system. The official referendum ballot authorizing our chapter to cast 11 votes has been received by our chapter secretary and must be returned no later than December 8.

Chapters had several options as to how they could determine the method of casting their authorized votes. Our chapter, at the May meeting, voted to allow each member to vote by ballot, and depending on that vote count, the Chapter will cast all 11 of its authorized number of votes **for** or **against** adoption of the referendum. Since it takes a two-thirds vote of "Approved" for a national bylaw change referendum to pass, the chapter will vote "**Approved**" if at least two-thirds of the chapter members voting, vote "**YES**".

What does this change in National Bylaws and Rules do? Instead of having separate dues for national and the chapter, a single "NARFE Dues" of \$40.00 per year would be collected from all members, with several exceptions. Of that \$40.00, \$9.00 would be rebated back to the chapter and \$4.00 would be rebated to the federation. Chapters would no longer be able to establish a separate chapter dues. More information on this subject including a copy of the proposed referendum can be found on the NARFE web site (narfe.org).

How would "NARFE Dues" change the dues I pay?

If you:

- Pay dues every year: annual dues will increase from \$39 to \$40 (+\$1)
- Pay dues every two years - annual dues will increase from \$36 to \$40 (+\$4)
- Pay dues every three years - annual dues will increase from \$34.67 to \$40 (+\$5.33)
- Pay dues thru dues withholding: annual dues will incr. from \$34.67 to \$36 (+\$1.33)
- If you are a national "life" member, annual chapter fee (dues) will decrease from \$10 to \$9 (-\$1) ➤

Dues Referendum (continued)

Notes: Dues will remain the same for national honorary members and active federal employees and their spouses who joined prior to January 1, 2008. Change in dues is not equally applied to all chapters and categories of members as some will see an increase, others will see a decrease while still others will see no change.

Thoughts for consideration should the Referendum pass.

- Makes it easier to recruit-for national, federations, chapters and members. A single dues amount for all new members except for those recruited by National under the 1 and 2 year OPM recruiting incentive whose dues amount is set as approved by the NEB.
- There is a net transfer of power to the NEB. Chapters will be giving up an important part of their grass root independence (sovereignty) as they will now share in the single "NARFE Dues", the amount which could be changed by a simple majority vote of delegates attending a national convention or by a national referendum. Since chapters will be dependent on receiving a portion of the "NARFE Dues", national can mandate chapters must submit annual audit, budget and/or financial reports concerning chapter finances and how that money is spent.
- National will be able to withhold monthly dues payments to chapters if they believe chapters are either incorrectly using "NARFE Dues" or not properly accounting for their use or not properly submitting mandated financial reports.
- The referendum is quite complex in that it deletes and changes several paragraphs of our bylaws and rules and being a referendum it is not amendable. Chapters can only vote to accept or reject the changes
- This same issue was defeated by the delegates at the last two national conventions.
- There is no real overriding rationale as to why this proposed change to bylaws and rules must be decided at this particular time. It could be considered at the 2010 nat'l convention where it would be reviewed by a bylaw convention committee, debated on the convention floor, be open to amendments, and decided by vote of delegates. ➤

NARFE Southwest District Workshop to be Held in Las Cruces Chapter 182

– Meriam McMullen

Wednesday October 14, 2009 at Mesilla Park Community Center, 304 Bell Ave., Las Cruces, NM.

Registration: 9:45 A.M.

Meeting: 10:00A.M. – 2:00P.M.

Lunch: Center Dining Room

Cost of Workshop: \$8.00

Please RSVP Roy Willoughby (575) 524-9395, rswillowbee@comcast.net

Dues Referendum (continued)

- The timing of this dues increase referendum is not the best. Most members will be asked to pay more in dues and at the same time NARFE is asking Congress not to reduce our entitlements and/or benefits due to the economic downturn and increase in health care costs.
- Our Chapter with an annual dues of \$10 will see a decrease in annual income of almost \$1 per member for a total decrease in annual income of just over \$400.
- Most members in the Las Cruces Chapter with its \$10 dues will see about a \$1 increase in their annual dues. The present discounted 2 and 3 year option now available for regular members would be eliminated.
- The bylaws establishes a new maximum dues amount at \$40.00 which requires a two-thirds approval vote to change. All other categories of dues such as the amount charged for dues withholding, chapter and federation rebates will only require a simple majority vote to change.
- The NEB can establish a lower dues requirement lasting no more than two years subject to a maximum of amount of \$40.00.
- Federations will gain about 30 percent (about \$1.10 per member) in its 10 percent rebate from National.
- National will gain a little over 91 cents per member in annual dues income - present membership stands around 314,000
- The \$2.00 member recruitment fee to chapters is eliminated.

**2009 NARFE DUES REFERENDUM
LAS CRUCES CHAPTER 182 MEMBER VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Only a chapter member in good standing as of September 1, 2009 may vote
 2. Only one member may vote per ballot
 3. Each ballot must be completely and correctly filled out
 4. Only one ballot per member will be counted
 5. Mail the completed ballot to: Ballot Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
Las Cruces NM 88004-6424
 6. Or bring your completed ballot to the October or November chapter meeting and drop it in the ballot box
 7. To be counted, the completed ballot must be received by the chapter no later than November 14, 2009
-

ONLY ONE MEMBER PER BALLOT

**LAS CRUCES CHAPTER 182
OFFICIAL BALLOT 2009 NARFE DUES REFERENDUM**

I vote **YES** on the NARFE Dues Referendum

I vote **NO** on the NARFE Dues Referendum

Copy or cut-out this ballot and mail it to: Ballot Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424

OR bring your completed ballot to the October or November chapter meeting

.....
Print Name

.....
Signature

Note: Chapter must receive your completed ballot no later than November 14, 2009

Membership Report – *John Smith*

In addition to the normal efforts to bring retirees into the local NARFE Las Cruces Chapter 182, I will be making runs on various health fairs as well as to federal agencies (USPS for one) over the next couple of months. The intent is to acquire ‘close to retiring’ as well as active federal employees.

If you know someone who is about to retire or has just retired, please ask them to contact me at 521-3201, or American1776@msn.com

Alzheimer’s Report – *Allaire Dunn*

Summer is over and where has the time gone! In September, the Alzheimer’s Association is having their “Memory Walk” to raise funds to support the many services they provide to the New Mexican families. NARFE designates **November** as “Alzheimer’s Awareness Month”.

At our Nov. 14th general meeting, the Alzheimer’s Southwest Regional Director, Nicky Phillips, will be our guest speaker. She will be addressing many different aspects of the Alzheimer’s disease including the status of current research and tests.

I would like to thank Mildred Marshall Jones for her donation to Alzheimer’s disease from her efforts in collecting and selling cans for AD.

See you for breakfast!

Sunshine Report

Diane Clark

A sympathy card was sent to Marilyn Stenmark, who lost her youngest son, Brian.

If you know a member who is ill or going through a rough time, please contact **Diane**, 532-1334 or www.redorgreenchile@zianet.com.

Books! Books! Books!

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

November Preview!

Looking ahead to November's program; we will have a representative from the Alzheimer's Association to talk about developments in the fight to conquer this awful disease. As you all know, NARFE is the organization, as a whole, that gives more to Alzheimer's research than any other organization. We all owe it to ourselves to be a part of the November program and learn how to possibly protect ourselves from developing this disease.

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!

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.

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!

Treasurer’s Report

(August 2009)

Balance (7/31/2009)	\$2,090.74
Receipts	\$780.94
Disbursements	(\$85.27)
Balance (8/31/2009)	\$2,786.41
Obligations*	(\$628.83)
Available Balance	\$2,175.58

*Federation per capita assessment

BAKELESS CAKE SALE: **\$566.32**

– *Nadine Boor*

Adopt-a-Median

– *Marlene Mayfield*

We have a sign! Check it out on Picacho by the handball courts.

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".

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).

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 **Wed, October 28th**, (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

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 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 email.



National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
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You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!

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(575) 523-6561 In New Mexico, (800) 443-8658
senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov
<http://bingaman.senate.gov/contact/types/email-issue.cfm>

U.S. Senator Tom Udall
Loretto Towne Center
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

NARFE Monthly Meetings

The Las Cruces Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association holds a breakfast meeting on the 2nd 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, contact Joy Davenport (522-1160), Diane Clark(532-1334), or email lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.