



# 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 07 – February 2010

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

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

### Current HOT Topic: Looking for volunteers for NARFE Officers in Chapter

#### President's Message

– Meriam McMullen

I hope everyone survived the holidays and are ready to start a new year. There are a lot of exciting things that will be happening this year. The first thing I want to talk about is that we are looking for members who want to be an officer or know someone who wants to run for any of the positions. We have some members interested and welcome more. We will be nominating for the officers positions at the March 13, 2010 meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

We have received the "CALL TO CONVENTION" for the NM Federation Convention in Taos, which will be held April 15-17, 2010. Those of you that are attending need to know that the delegates will be selected on 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis. Las Cruces will be hosting the NM Federation Convention for 2011. Sharon Reese will be the Chair for that. She will be getting a committee together and will be letting me know who will be helping her. 2011 will be here before we know it. Information on the National Convention is in the January NARFE Magazine and at [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org). The convention will be Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 2010. If you want to be on The National Convention committee, please let me know by February 15<sup>th</sup> with the papers in your hand so that I can sign them and (Cont. Page 2)

#### Member "Spotlight"

##### Mildred Jones-Marshall

Mildred joined NARFE as the widow of Franklin D. Pierce who was the General Foreman of the Navy Machine Shop at WSMR. She says her friend, Chuck Redman, convinced her that becoming a member was the right thing to do. She was born on Oct 11, 1920, the oldest of six children to Fred and Ruth Jacobs of Putnam County, MO. She was a depression girl and enrolled in a Roosevelt Program, the National Youth Assn. She worked in the program all through high school, doing everything from grading papers to dusting or watering flowers, to earn \$15 a month which helped out her family. After high school, she became a stenographer for the local draft board. She has lived in Missouri, Canada, Washington, Illinois, and New Mexico. She is the mother of two sons and three step-children. She only has one grandchild of her own, Megan, but she has a lot of children who call her Grandma Mildred. During her marriages, she and her family always enjoyed RV traveling, camping, fishing, (cont Page 2)



#### February 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting!

Program Chairman

– Franklin McKay

**Program:** Mary Ellen McKay, President of the New Mexico Federation of NARFE Chapters will present the program. She will share her observations of the Chapters state-wide, a sense of humor about the job as President and offer encouragement to members to be more active in the organization. Mrs. McKay is completing her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as President of the Federation. She has served in several offices at the local and state level.

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

**Where:** Columbus Conference Center, Days Inn Suites & Mesilla Valley Conference Center  
Make checks payable to "Days Inn & Suites" (\$12/person)

**Reservations:** If you missed the telephone committee call, please call Joy Davenport (522-1160), Diane Clark (532-1334), or email [lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com](mailto:lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com)

#### Welcome New Members

Nadine Boor

Welcome to our chapter *Martha and William Beerman, Stanley Gray, Pauline Kelley, and Joe Madrid*. We would like to see you at our February meeting! Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Reinstatements: Robert Bradshaw, Mary McCalmont & Phyllis Simoine. Hope to see you at the February Chapter Meeting.



### President's Message Cont. Page 1

forward them on. Members selected to serve on the National Convention Committee must be delegated as a chapter delegate. The rest of the delegates will be handled on 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis. Please help me welcome William "Bill" and Martha Beerman to our chapter. They were guests at our December meeting and were new members at our January meeting. We also need to welcome John Smith. He joined us at his first meeting in December. He is retired from BIA. I needed to add where he retired from so that we don't get him mixed up with long time member John Smith that retired from WSMR. At our December meeting, we welcomed new member John Fleming and his wife (guest). I was there to inform John his wife could be a member also. What an easy way to get another member! We had 1 reinstatement and a lot of members who have been sent out their 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notices. Please renew your membership as the numbers count and so does your voice! At our January 9, 2010 meeting, our speaker was David Hicks. He gave us a very informative talk on the Las Cruces Convention Center. Mary Ellen McKay, NM Federation President, will be our speaker at our February 13, 2010 meeting.

**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)).

### Service Officer continued from page 3.

credit. You can take this credit if you received a pension or annuity in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. government or any state or local government AND the service was NOT covered by Social Security. The credit is \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both you and (continued in next column)

### Member Spotlight Cont. Page 1

hunting, and all types of family outings. She attended New Mexico A&M, worked for Rexall Drugs, and was a member of the charitable organization, The Miriam Rebekah Lodge, holding local, district and state offices.

Mildred has faced a lot of adversity and heartaches during her life losing three husbands, two sons, and one step-son to illnesses but she has always had the tenacity to overcome the hardships and continue to look at the bright side of life.

Mildred attends almost every NARFE meeting and you will see her sitting with her old friend, Bill Boone. She and Bill have known each other for more than 50 years. Their children played together and he and his wife were good to her when she lost her first husband, Hobart Jones, who worked as a Radio Tech under Bill's supervision at WSMR. She enjoys life and has hobbies such as dancing, cards, history, reading, and people. We're so glad Chuck Redman convinced Mildred to join NARFE and we thank her for being an active member in our chapter for all these years.

Looking forward to seeing your smiling face at our next meeting, Mildred!

### Service Officer's Report Cont.

your spouse receive a qualified government pension or annuity). However, you cannot take the credit if you received a \$250 economic recovery payment during 2009. If (a) you file a joint return; (b) both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity; and (c) both of you received an economic recovery payment, NO government retiree credit is allowed. However, if only one of you received an economic recovery payment, the allowable credit is \$250. If you are filing your 2009 federal tax return on either Form 1040 or 1040A you must use the new Schedule M (making work pay and Government Retiree Credits) to Continued page 3.

### Caregivers

#### Alzheimers Report, Allaire Dunn

The Alzheimer's Association Research program is just one area the organization is dedicated to support. They also provide support to those who care for the person who has been afflicted by this devastating disease. The caregivers have many adjustments to make in their lives. They can become so overwhelmed by taking care of their loved one that they neglect their own physical, mental, and emotional well-being. There is help available for the caregivers at our local Alzheimer's Chapter Office located at 101 N. Alameda, Suites 6 and 7. A call to Nicky Phillips at (575) 647-3868 can help you with the many services the Alzheimer's Association provides. Family and friends are also a great help to care givers.

Thanks to all the members who had breakfast at our January meeting. Our chapter sent a check for \$112.04 to Alzheimer's Research. The amount was a combination of \$60.00 from the 50/50 raffle, \$22.04 from the sale of books, and \$30.00 from Charles Redman's collection and sale of cans.

Las Cruces has four Support Groups to help a caregiver and family:

Every Thursday – 11:00 am  
NMSU campus

Stan Fulton Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Jan W. (575) 522-7133

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – 12:00 pm  
Mira Vista Apts Community Room  
2141 N. Solano (Pot luck lunch)

Nicky P. (575) 647-3868  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – 6:00 pm

Village at Northrise  
Desert Willow Bldg  
2884 N. Roadrunner PKWY  
Donna R. (575) 556-6117

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – 11:00 am  
Casa de Oro (Pot luck lunch)

1005 Lujan Hill Rd  
Tim D. (575) 650-0241

## Service Officer's Report

**Jim Kiely**

### 2010 FEDERAL TAX WITHHOLDING CHANGES

Most NARFE members who are annuitants or survivor annuitants noticed that the amount of their federal tax withholding was reduced in their January 2010 annuity payments. According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), this was the result of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) action to change the tax brackets for 2010. The number of tax brackets was increased from 6 to 8, and the dollar amounts of income for various tax bracket thresholds also were adjusted. For example, for a married couple filing a joint return the taxable income threshold separating the 15 percent bracket from the 25 percent bracket is now \$68,000, up from \$67,900 in 2009. The amount of federal tax withheld from retirees' January 2010 annuities was correct based on the new withholding tables provided to OPM by the IRS. NARFE members who, after evaluating their particular income and tax situation in consultation with their tax advisor, if any, conclude that it would be prudent to change the amount of federal tax withheld should complete a new Form W4-P (Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments) and submit it to OPM. The Form W4-P can be obtained at the IRS web site ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) or by contacting the local IRS office at 505 South Main Street, Suite 149, Las Cruces, NM, 88001. Their phone number is (575) 527-6903.

### GOVERNMENT RETIREE TAX CREDIT ON 2009 TAX RETURNS

A government retiree tax credit is available to retirees under specific conditions when they complete federal tax returns for the year 2009. The IRS has provided the following information about the conditions for receiving this tax credit

Continued on page 2

## Legislative Report

**Elwood Baas**

Now we are into the New Year, and health care is still on the table as I write this. At our last Breakfast report, I compared the House and Senate bills as the "sausage bills". All kinds of "products" have been put into the mix. From the start, the political right did not like the democrat bills; now the political left feels betrayed by the mixture it contains. All the while, the backroom deals have turned more people against the bills. My prediction was that the House would accept the Senate bill so that it would not have to go back to the Senate for a vote. However, now the election in Massachusetts has put the whole process on hold. In the meanwhile, NARFE has managed to make changes in the Senate bill that would hold our health plans harmless. (The February NARFE magazine has a good summary of the changes, which have been realized.) We don't know if a final compromise bill would hold those changes intact.

Another looming issue of NARFE interest is the proposal in Congress to set up a Budget-cutting Commission. Separate legislation (H.R. 1557 and S. 2853) are in the mill to create a commission which could force changes to entitlement and other program spending and tax policy through the use of a Congressional fast-track procedure (added to the debt limit legislation). NARFE is concerned that such a commission could single out the earned federal civil service retirement and health benefits for reductions. The House bill has passed, but on January 26 the Senate voted it down. Now President Obama may create a weaker version of a commission by a presidential order, but unlike the plan rejected by the Senate, there's no way to force a Senate vote on the Commission's findings.

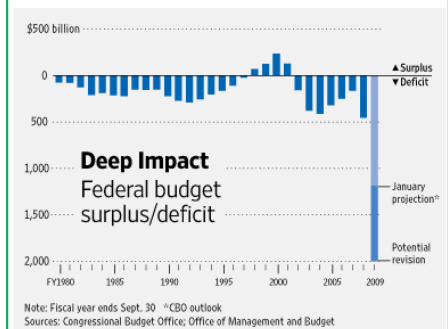
Even though NARFE National has not said much about our national (Continued next column)

## Service Officer's Report Cont.

figure the government retiree credit. If you are filing a form 1040EZ you can take the credit directly on that form without using a Schedule M.

## Legislative Report Cont.

debt's affect on its members, I keep maintaining that it is the greatest threat to NARFE members. The CBO prediction for 2010 is roughly equal to last year's record \$1.4 trillion ocean of red ink. That means the government is borrowing to cover 40 percent of the cost of its programs. Congress will have to increase the debt level by \$1.9 trillion to accommodate such spending which will bring the current debt from \$12,245,872,000,000 to \$14.3 trillion. The following chart puts the annual increase in relative scale to past years. We are not only subject to huge future benefit cuts, but the resulting inflation and printing of money will make every dollar worth less.



## **2010 NARFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

1. Children, grandchildren, stepchildren and great-grandchildren of ALL current (living) NARFE members are eligible to apply. Applicants must be a high school senior planning to attend college full-time by fall/winter of 2010. A total of 60 scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded.
2. All applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2010.
3. All Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on an un-weighted 4.0 scale. Provide full transcript, including fall/winter 2009 grades. Photocopies are acceptable. If mailed by school-still must be postmarked by April 30, 2010.
4. Provide copies of American College Testing (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Testing (SAT), or other entrance examination scores as applicable.
5. All applicants must provide a written recommendation/character reference from a teacher or counselor. Recommendation on school letterhead must be submitted with application package.
6. All applicants must list and briefly describe awards and/or community service activities on a separate page. Provide enough information so the selection committee will know what you did, but do not exceed two pages.
7. All applicants will need to provide two stamped self-addressed #10 business-size envelopes. First one will be used to acknowledge receipt of your completed application. Second one will be used to provide results of competition. All qualified applicants will be notified by August 31, 2010. Incomplete applications will not be acknowledged.
8. All applicants must submit a typed, double-spaced essay on the topic: "Americans get their news from a variety of sources-television, print media, Web Sites, blogs and more. How would you correct the derogatory publicity about federal employees as provided by the news media in order to provide accurate information regarding their (federal employees') dedicated service?" Essay must not exceed two pages.
9. Please do not bind any pages with staples or paper clips. Please mail all materials (except transcript, if necessary) in one package, unfolded, in a 9" x 12" (or larger) envelope post-marked by April 30, 2010.
10. The NARFE Scholarship program is administered by the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) and is made possible by your tax-deductible contributions to the NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Fund, 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227.
11. For more information obtain a copy of NARFE publication F-105, a guide to NARFE'S Annual Scholarship Awards Program. To get your copy, send an e-mail to [natvp@narfe.org](mailto:natvp@narfe.org); download it from the NARFE Web site, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org); or call headquarters and ask for the Office of the National Vice President. You can also be order by using the F-18.

### Adopt-a-Median

– *Marlene Mayfield*

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

### Books! Books! Books!

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

**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!

### Sunshine Report

*Diane Clark*

A sympathy card was sent to *the family of Thelma I. Graham and Willis Koepnick on their loss.*

Get well cards were sent to Mary Lou Koren.

A *Thinking of You* card was sent to Mildred Marshall .

A thank you card was sent to Perry Busby for the donation he made to NARFE .

\* \* \* \* \*

If you know a member who is ill or going through a rough time, please contact **Diane**, 532-1334 or [redorgreenchile@zianet.com](mailto:redorgreenchile@zianet.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, February 24<sup>th</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 email

### Treasurer’s Report

(November December 2009)

Balance (103109	\$2,094.11
Receipts	\$1,001.61
Disbursement	(352.59)
Balance (12/31/09)	\$2,743.13
*Obligations	(911.75)
Available Balance	\$1,831.38
*Federation Per Capita Assessment	

– *Nadine Boor*

### 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.

**Chapter  
Membership  
523**



National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees Association  
Chapter 182  
PO Box 16424  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Las Cruces, NM  
Permit No. 643

*Return Service Requested*

---

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

---

<b>Chapter 182 Officers</b>	<b>Members of Congress</b>
<p><b>President:</b> <b>Meriam McMullen</b> <a href="mailto:memlmcmullen@yahoo.com">memlmcmullen@yahoo.com</a> (575) 647-3909</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. &amp; Membership Chair:</b> <b>John Smith</b> <a href="mailto:american1776@msn.com">american1776@msn.com</a> (575) 521-3201</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. &amp; Legislative Chair:</b> <b>Elwood Baas</b> <a href="mailto:edbaas@comcast.net">edbaas@comcast.net</a> (575) 644-8165</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> <b>Sarah McAdoo</b> <a href="mailto:mcadoosr@aol.com">mcadoosr@aol.com</a> (575) 571-6364</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> <b>Nadine Boor</b> <a href="mailto:jnboor@aol.com">jnboor@aol.com</a> (575) 382-7478</p>	<p><b>U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman</b> 148 Loretto Towne Center 505 S. Main St., Suite 148, Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 523-6561 In New Mexico, (800) 443-8658 <a href="mailto:senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov">senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov</a> <a href="http://bingaman.senate.gov/contact/typesemail-issue.cfm">http://bingaman.senate.gov/contact/typesemail-issue.cfm</a></p> <p><b>U.S. Senator Tom Udall</b> Loretto Towne Center 505 S. Main St., Suite 118, Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 526-5475 Fax: (575) 523-6589 <a href="http://tomudall.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm">http://tomudall.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm</a></p> <p><b>U.S. Representative Harry Teague</b> 135 Griggs Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 522-3908 <a href="http://forms.house.gov/teague/webforms/issue_subscribe.htm">http://forms.house.gov/teague/webforms/issue_subscribe.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Assistant's Chair:</b> <b>Allaire Dunn</b> (575) 522-3105</p> <p><b>Chaplain:</b> <b>Ray Neher</b> <a href="mailto:rpneher@zianet.com">rpneher@zianet.com</a> (575) 523-1727</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> <b>Ruth E. French</b> <a href="mailto:ziaref@comcast.net">ziaref@comcast.net</a> (575) 382-0480</p> <p><b>Program Chair:</b> <b>Franklin McKay</b> <a href="mailto:memckay1@comcast.net">memckay1@comcast.net</a> (575) 527-4750</p> <p><b>Public Relations:</b> <b>Marlene Mayfield</b> <a href="mailto:mayfield195@msn.com">mayfield195@msn.com</a> (575) 524-3927</p> <p><b>Records Officer:</b> <b>Nadine Boor</b> <a href="mailto:jnboor@aol.com">jnboor@aol.com</a> (575) 382-7478</p> <p><b>Service Officer:</b> <b>Jim Kiely</b> <a href="mailto:jkiely70@yahoo.com">jkiely70@yahoo.com</a> (575) 523-6044</p>	<p><b>NARFE Monthly Meetings</b> 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, &amp; August. The meeting is held at the <i>Columbus Conference Center of the Days Inn Suites &amp; Mesilla Valley Conference Center</i>; 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 <a href="mailto:lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com">lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com</a>.</p>