



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 08 – March 2010

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

March Meeting – Election of Officers

President's Message

– Meriam McMullen

Be sure and come to our March 13, 2010 meeting so that you can vote on the new officers that will be serving your chapter for the next fiscal year. Remember we will be taking nominations from the floor.

Mary Ellen McKay, NM Federation President, gave a very good speech at the February 13, 2010 Meeting. We had 54 members in attendance and we had 2 new members join. Nancy Banks had been coming as a visitor and joined. It was Rick Colwell's 1st meeting, and he joined as well. Please help me welcome Nancy and Rick.

LAST CALL for going to the NM Federation Convention in Taos, April 15-17, 2010. If you are interested, please contact Sarah McAdoo, Secretary. She has the information on the Convention, and needs to record the members as delegates so they can vote.

Sharon Reese has been busy looking for a location for our chapter to host the NM Federation Convention for 2011. I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting the Convention at the Las Cruces Convention Center. I am excited that we were able to find this new facility to help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

Member "Spotlight"

Emroy Shannon



Emroy has been a member of our chapter for at least 8 years and at one time served on our Executive Board as Program Chairman. During that time, one of our very

best programs was the one he did on his trip to Armenia to study the way they grow grapes. He presented beautiful slides of the country, the people, the farmland, and the vineyards.

Emroy has been very active in the Kiwanis and also volunteered as a Plant Pathologist traveling to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Egypt, Macedonia, Kosovo, and Armenia.

Emroy was born in Piggott, Arkansas, received his BS & MS Degrees at the University of Wyoming, and his PhD in Plant Pathology at the University of Arizona. He has lived in Las Cruces and worked in Plant Pathology with the Cooperative Extension Service at NMSU since 1965. He retired in 1990. (cont. pg. 3)

March 13th General Meeting!

Program Chairman

– Franklin McKay

Program: Virginia Baeza, Judicial District Attorney's Office, C.A.S.E. Coordinator.

The Communities Against Senior Exploitation (C.A.S.E.) program helps educate seniors on ways to protect themselves against fraud and exploitation.

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 lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members

Nadine Boor

Welcome to our chapter Nancy Banks, Rick Colwell, Bobby Logan, Vasquez Magdaleno, and Alfred Perez. We would like to see you at our March meeting! Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Reinstatements: Margaret & Eduardo Flores, Nora Montes, Harry Palmer, Emery Woodard. Hope to see you at our March chapter meeting as well!

**Chapter
Membership
528**



Service Officer Report

– Jim Kieilty

New Commission to Recommend Ways to Reduce Budget Deficits and National Debt:

On February 18 President Obama issued an executive order establishing the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The 18 member bipartisan commission is charged with proposing "...recommendations designed to balance the budget, excluding interest payments on the debt, by 2015..." and proposing "...recommendations that meaningfully improve the long-term fiscal outlook, including changes to address the growth of entitlement spending and the gap between the projected revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government." The Commission is required by December 1, 2010 to submit its final report to the President, who will then send the recommendations to Congress. Congressional action is expected before the end of the current 111th Congress in January 2011.

President Obama named as co-chairs of the Commission former Wyoming Republican Senator Alan Simpson and Democrat Erskine Bowles, who formerly was President Clinton's chief of staff. Echoing the comments of President Obama, Messrs. Simpson and Bowles have stated that all federal programs will be reviewed by the Commission as it carries out its work, and nothing is "off the table". Therefore such programs as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and federal employee and retiree benefits likely will be placed under the Commission's microscope at some point.

While praising Messrs. Simpson and Bowles as "...respected and even-handed Washington professionals...", NARFE legislative director Dan Adcock indicated that NARFE would be closely monitoring the work of the Commission and would push for changes to any recommendations deemed harmful to federal employees and (continued on page 3)

Legislative Report

– Elwood Baas

In my last newsletter, I referred to the House and Senate health care bills as the "sausage bills" . . . all kinds of "products" were put into the mix. In the latest move, on February 22, the Administration came up with its own proposal (not a bill yet). This is not a bold new approach. It has been referred to as a "regurgitation of the Senate bill" with some changes. Recall that NARFE had made changes to the Senate bill to put off taxing FEHB plans until 2018. The President's proposal does the same for all insurance plans. It also covers more of the uninsured, and puts price controls on health insurance companies along with \$60 billion in new taxes on health insurance companies. To pay for the extra benefits, it also levies \$629 billion in consumer taxes and keeps the Medicare cuts. The "Louisiana Purchase" is still in the proposal while the "Nebraska Cornhusker Kickback" has been divvied to all states. Congress will have to formulate this proposal into a revised Senate bill before it is voted on.

The President has appointed a Budget Commission with 18 members headed up by Erskine Bowles and former Sen. Alan Simpson as co-chairmen. They will come up with ways of reducing our national debt and deficit. This commission does not have Congressional sanction (like BRAC did), so any recommendations will have to be voted on by Congress. Since this is an election year, nothing is going to happen on this until the next Congress. NARFE action on this will have to wait until the commission reports to the President and Congress.

I have received questions from members concerning the rise in cost of health care plans. The NARFE magazine, March issue, addresses that with the article, "Health Care Spending Growth Slows." It points out that private health insurance premiums grew (cont. on page 3)

25th Anniversary!

Alzheimer's Report, Allaire Dunn

NARFE members are celebrating their partnership with the Alzheimer's Association in support of Alzheimer's Research. At the NARFE 31st Biennial Convention, NARFE and the Alzheimer's Association will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of working together.

There is still more to be done. Today, someone faces Alzheimer's disease every 71 seconds, and the experts predict that 10 million U.S. baby boomers will develop Alzheimer's disease in their lifetime. Our efforts to raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association are now more important than ever to advance research into viable treatments and possible cure of this disease.

NARFE Chapter 182 can be very proud of their contribution and support to Alzheimer's Research. At our February breakfast meeting, everyone was very supportive of all our Alzheimer's projects. Our Chapter sent a check for \$133.00 to Alzheimer's Research. The amount was a combination of \$73.00 from the 50/50 raffle and the members who donated their winnings back to Alzheimer's, \$20.00 from the sale of books, \$30.00 from the raffle of a Valentine afghan, and \$10.00 from Charles Redman's collection and sale of aluminum cans.

Treasurer's Report

(November / December 2009)

Balance (12/31/2009)	\$2,743.13
Receipts	\$384.89
Disbursements	(\$1,057.11)
Balance (12/31/2009)	\$2,070.91
Obligations*	(\$76.27)
Available Balance	\$1,994.64

*Federation per capita assessment

– Nadine Boor

2010 NARFE

New Mexico Federation Convention

When: April 15-17, 2010

Where: Taos, NM

Legislative Report (continued)

3.1% in 2008, a decrease of 1.3% from the previous year. Total health care spending by public programs grew 6.5% in 2008, the same rate as in 2007. Sometimes rates go far above the average because of the high medical costs in the pool of insured. One such example is in California where Anthem Blue Cross proposed an increase of 39%. It is being used by the media and politicians to demonize insurance companies. However, the regulators have recently approved this increase citing a reasonable profit for Blue Cross of 2.5–5% for this insurance pool. As far as our FEHB is concerned, we have several plans offered each year, so we can choose a plan which best suits our insurance and financial needs.

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, March 24th**, (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: email jnboor@aol.com or phone 382-7478.

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.

Service Officer (continued from pg. 2)
annuitants. All NARFE members should stay tuned for future developments.

Beware of 2010 Census Scams

The Census Bureau will be mailing the 2010 census questionnaires to every residence in the country during the second week of March. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, a census of the population is required every 10 years. Data obtained from the census is used to allocate federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments and to reapportion the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. Participation in the census is required by federal law (Section 221, Title 13, U.S. Code). The 2010 census questionnaire contains 10 questions. Accompanying the questionnaire will be a postage-paid return envelope in which you should send back your completed questionnaire to the Census Bureau. Completed questionnaires should be returned not later than April 1, 2010. Residences which fail to return completed questionnaires will be visited by census takers beginning in late April in order to obtain answers to the 10 census questions.

NARFE members need to be aware that scam artists will attempt to use the 2010 census as a vehicle for pursuing identity theft and other fraudulent activities. To avoid these dangers, here are some things to keep in mind: (a) the Census Bureau WILL NOT contact you by email, and you cannot complete the census questionnaire online; (b) the Census Bureau and its official census takers will never ask you for personal information such as Social Security Number, bank account number, credit card number, PIN number, or computer password; (c) a census taker who visits your residence is not permitted to ask to come inside, nor should you voluntarily allow this; (d) upon your request, a census taker must present a photo ID with his/her name, an expiration date, and the Census Bureau's official seal. ➔

Member Spotlight (continued)

Emroy is single and has three children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. He loves to travel, and his hobbies include photography and gardening. His favorite interests are his grandchildren, of course, but he loves gardening.

Thanks, Emroy, for being an active member of our Chapter and for the great work you did for us as Program Chair. We hope that one day you'll find time again to volunteer to be one of our officers or to chair one of our committees.

Service Officer (continued from col. 2)

All official census takers have been fingerprinted and have been the subject of an FBI background check. However, if you still have doubts about the individual claiming to be a census taker, you can call the Denver Regional Office of the Census Bureau at 1-800-852-6159 to verify that person's employment status. Finally, no official census taker will either ask for a donation or demand that a fee be paid to cover the cost of conducting the census.

NARFE members seeking more information about the 2010 census may go online to the Census Bureau web site at www.2010.census.gov or call the Las Cruces office of the Census Bureau at (575) 680-3420.

Sunshine Report – Diane Clark

Cards were sent to Ralph and Rosalie Dunlap to celebrate their **63rd** anniversary and to Gabriel Galos to commemorate his **95th** birthday. Congratulations!

Get well cards were sent to Ruth French.

Our sympathies are extended to long time NARFE member Rolf Mitchel on the passing of his wife Edith on February 25, 2010; and to the family of Willis Koepnick, who passed January 26, 2010.

* * * * *

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



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Federal Employees Association
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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 lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com.