



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 09 – April 2010

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

Installation of Officers at April Meeting

President's Message

– Meriam McMullen

The annual election of officers was held during the March meeting and they will be installed at the April 10th meeting. Please come to the meeting to support your new officers!

The following officers were elected for the new term:

President: Meriam McMullen

1st VP of Membership: Sharon Reese

2nd VP of Legislation: Elwood Baas

Treasurer: Tom Banks

Secretary: Larry Downey

I am looking forward to serving the Las Cruces Chapter for the next year with my goals of recruitment and improving the attendance at the meetings. I am excited to work with Elwood again this year and with the new officers Sharon Reese, Larry Downey, and Tom Banks.

I will be attending the AZ Federation Convention in Sierra Vista as well as the NM Federation (*continued pg 3*)

Welcome New Members

Nadine Boor

Welcome to our chapter Barbara Gerace, Ralph MacDonald, Linda Sanchez-Reeder and Richard Shirkey. We would like to see you at our April meeting! Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Chapter
Membership
521

Member "Spotlight"

Jack Dage



Jack Dage is our Chapter's "Can Man". This job is a lot more important to our chapter than the title may indicate. Jack volun-

teers his time, truck, and gasoline to collect and recycle cans to get funds which help pay for printing our chapter newsletter.

Jack was born in 1935 in Kingfisher, OK and attended schools in Kingfisher, Enid, the University of Oklahoma as an Engineering Physics Major, and graduated from NMSU in May 1958 with a BS in Mathematics. Later, he was selected for long-term training at the University of New Mexico and received a Master of Arts in Public Administration in May 1972. His career started when he enrolled in the Cooperative Education Program with New Mexico A&M and the White Sands Proving Ground and started work at WSPG in 1954. At NMSU he changed his major to Mathematics and worked in the Systems Analysis Section of the Technical Staff (*continued page 3*)

53

People Attended
January Meeting

1147

Volunteer Hours
Were Reported

April 10th General Meeting!

Program Chairman

– Franklin McKay

Program: Lori Allen, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument Planner, will be our speaker. She is working on the Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Monument, which is a multi-year task.

The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument was created in March of 2009. It is the 100th National Monument and the 16th under the management of the BLM-National Landscape Conservation System. The Trackways in the Robledo Mountains are considered by the world's paleontological community as the "Rosetta Stone" of the Paleozoic period. This presentation will tour the formal planning process, the heritage resources, the natural resources and the beginnings of this Monument

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 not later than 5:00 P.M. the Tuesday before the Saturday meeting.

Legislative Report – *Elwood Baas*

On March 21, the House finally approved the Senate health care bill. Since the Senate bill has the kickbacks and measures that the House did not approve, they also voted to approve changes to the Senate bill which is currently before the Senate under the reconciliation process. These changes shift the costs of paying for the plan from a tax on expensive insurance plans and puts the burden on those earning more than \$200,000, who would have to pay a higher Medicare payroll tax. The corrections bill also creates a new, 3.8 percent tax on investment income. The reconciliation bill also creates a new federal student loan program that the CBO said would save \$61 billion over the next 10 years. (Government-run student loan program will employ Government employees and will put an estimated 20,000 private employees in financial institutions out of work.) The Corn-husker kickback is out of this bill, but other kickbacks including the Louisiana Purchase are still in the bill. These changes are expected to pass before the Senate adjourns for the Ester holiday. According to the latest NARFE National report, there is nothing in the House changes that affect NARFE issues directly.

From the latest GEMS report: **Bipartisan TSP Legislation Introduced:** On March 17th, Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) introduced bipartisan legislation that will allow federal employees to invest the cash value of unused annual leave in their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account. In a letter of support to Reps. Lynch and Chaffetz, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste said as a matter of equity, NARFE believes that federal workers should have this choice if it is offered to private-sector employees.

(continued on page 4)

National Do Not Call Registry Service Officer Report – *Jim Kielty*

Tired of receiving unsolicited telephone calls from telemarketers trying to sell you various goods or services? All NARFE members should take advantage of the National Do Not Call Registry, which was established in 2003 by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to serve as a vehicle for consumers to insulate themselves from unwanted calls from persistent telemarketers. As of 2007, approximately 72% of American consumers had registered one or more of their personal phone numbers with the National Do Not Call Registry. Business phone numbers are not eligible for inclusion in the Registry.

Consumers may register personal phone numbers either on-line at www.donotcall.gov or by calling a toll-free number (1-888-382-1222) from the phone number you wish to register. You may register only one phone number at a time if you call the toll-free number. If you register on-line, you may register up to three personal phone numbers at a time. If you have more than 3 phone numbers to register (for example, home phone number, cell phone numbers for you, your spouse, and teen-aged son or daughter), you will have to go on-line more than once. Consumers who register on-line will be sent an e-mail for each number registered. You will need to click on the link in the e-mail within 72 hours to confirm the on-line registration. When you have registered a phone number, it will be added to the database of the National Do Not Call Registry within 24 hours. You may confirm that the number has been added to the Registry by going to www.donotcall.gov or by calling the toll-free number and following the prompts. Once placed in the Registry, a phone number will be deleted only if disconnected and re-assigned,

(continued on page 4)

Changing of the Guard *Alzheimer's Report, Allaire Dunn* Goodbye and Hello

“Maintain Your Brain” is still the Alzheimer’s Association’s Creed.

When we think about staying fit, we generally think about from the neck down. But brain health plays a critical role in almost everything we do – thinking, feeling, remembering, working, playing – even sleeping.

In the past four years, I have written about the many things you can do to “Maintain Your Brain”. I would like to take this time to say “thank you” to all NARFE members for their support of the many projects for raising funds for Alzheimer’s Research.

Next month you will see a new face. *Sarah McAdoo* has volunteered to be our new Alzheimer’s Chairperson. She will bring with her new thoughts and ideas. Sarah has served our chapter in many positions, most recently as secretary following a lengthy stint as membership chair. We are all familiar with what an excellent job!

I’ll still be around to support Sarah in any way I can. I know you will continue to give her the same support for the Alzheimer’s program.

Treasurer’s Report	
(November / December 2009)	
Balance (1/29/2010)	\$2,070.91
Receipts	\$446.69
Disbursements	(\$441.54)
Balance (2/26/2010)	\$2,076.06
Obligations*	(\$214.00)
Available Balance	\$1,862.06

*Federation per capita assessment
*Outstanding check

– *Nadine Boor*

**2010 NARFE
New Mexico Federation Convention**
When: April 15-17, 2010
Where: Taos, NM

NARFE-PAC Report
– Sharon Reese

I would like to thank all members that have donated to NARFE-PAC over the last year. If you have a 2009/2010 pin these are good until next year. A reminder from our last Chapter meeting: If you would like to contribute to the letter that was sent by National Headquarters I ask that you bring the letter and your contribution to the meeting on April 10th. This way the Chapter receives credit for the contribution.

The urgent need for your NARFE-PAC contributions has never been greater. Federal workers and retirees may soon see their benefits in the crosshairs of a targeted effort to get the government's "fiscal house in order." For NARFE-PAC to operate it must have the financial support of NARFE members. Your voluntary contributions are the difference between a financially healthy and effective NARFE-PAC and one that is not.

Remember to make your check payable to "NARFE-PAC".

Sunshine Report
– Diane Clark

Get Well cards were sent to Vince and Frances Dovydaitis, and to Nadine Boor.

A *Thinking of You* card was sent to Joe Lopez' wife, Sylvia. Sadly, Sylvia recently passed on and a *Sympathy* card has been sent to Joe.

A *Sympathy* card was sent to Keith Hunter on the loss of his Mother, Inez.

A *Sympathy* card was sent to J. Paul Kemp on the loss of his wife, Barbara.

* * * * *

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

Member Spotlight (continued)

which became Ordnance Mission, for the remainder of his tenure in the CO-OP program. During his last work phase, he was assigned to the Redstone Missile System. He attended Ordnance Guided Missile School at Redstone Arsenal (probably the only CO-OP to be accepted for long-term training).

During his long career at WSMR, Jack was the Project Engineer for many systems and projects, including all Shillelagh testing, and the Cannon Launched Guided Projectile system (later called Copperhead) for which he received a Special Act Award for saving the government millions of dollars.

He was awarded the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara for his support of the US Army Field Artillery. He held the positions of Chief of the Direct Support Projects Branch of ARMTE responsible for test planning, conducting, and reporting for a number of missile systems. He was Chief of the Land Combat Materiel Test Division and later the Chief of the Battle Management Test Division before his retirement in April 1993. He says it wasn't all work and no play since he has great memories of the notorious Aguirre Springs Beer Busts and Campouts that he and his staff instigated. They were very successful parties until they had to be discontinued at the request of the Park personnel. Oh well, they were good while they lasted.

After retiring, Jack returned to college at NMSU and earned enough credits to get another BS degree with a major in anthropology and a minor in astronomy. But, he never did apply for the degree. He was probably too busy working in his pumpkin patch. One of his favorite interests is gardening and he held the record for the largest pumpkin grown in New Mexico up until 2007. Wonder if he'd share his gardening secrets with us?

Jack has been a member of our chapter for about 16 years. He was ↗

President's Message (continued)

Convention in Taos. I am looking forward to both conventions so that I can learn new ideas and tips to better serve the Chapter.

Las Cruces Chapter 182 is hosting the 50th Anniversary NM Federation Convention (April 14-16, 2011). Convention Chairman Sharon Reese has been busy putting her committees together as well as the budget so that we can put on a "Memory filled" 50th Anniversary NM Federation Convention. Please mark it on your calendar and volunteer to be on one of the committees so that we can be the talk of NM NARFE on the "Bang up Job" that our Chapter did on hosting a great convention at the "new" Las Cruces Convention Center. What an opportunity! I know we can accomplish this with the great members we have in our chapter!

Member Spotlight (continued)

active in the Jaycees and the High Noon Soccer League. He has lived in Las Cruces since 1954 and is married to Beth, a Realtor for Steinborn GMAC. They have a combined family of 8 children -- he has four, she has four, and together they have 16 grandchildren.

You can see Jack with his truck out in front of our meeting place every month. He's there bright and early waiting for members to bring in their cans. Please stop by to say hello and thank him for what he is doing. And, remember, he does not like driving away with an empty truck. So, please don't forget to bring your cans. You can help Jack help our chapter! See you at the next meeting, cans and all!

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!

Service Officer Report (continued)

or when the consumer chooses to voluntarily remove the number from the Registry. Telemarketers are required to search the Registry at least once every 31 days and delete from their call lists any numbers found in the Registry.

Consumers need to be aware that adding a personal phone number to the National Do Not Call Registry will not preclude ALL unwanted calls. Calls from political organizations, charities, and telephone surveyors are still authorized, as are calls from any companies with whom you have an existing business relationship.

If your phone number has been listed on the Registry for at least 31 days and you receive a call from a telemarketer, you may file a complaint at www.donotcall.gov using the File a Complaint page or by calling the toll-free number. The complaint will go into the FTC Consumer Sentinel System, a database available to over 1,000 law enforcement agencies. While the FTC does not directly resolve complaints, your complaint will assist in the investigation of the company and could lead to law enforcement action.

NARFE members who have questions about the National Do Not Call Registry may email the FTC at dncconsumerinquiry2@ftc.gov or by mail at

National Do Not Call Registry
ATTN: DNC Program Manager
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20580.

Books! Books! Books!

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

Adopt-a-Median

– *Marlene Mayfield*

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

Legislative Report (continued)

On the State level, Governor Richardson line-item-vetoed the food tax as part of the budget cutting legislation. This is good news for those on fixed incomes. The veto leaves a gap of an estimated \$68 million in the budget, but Richardson said he would use \$20 million in federal stimulus money and, if necessary, the authority the Legislature gave him to impose spending cuts across state government to plug that hole. It is unlikely that the Governor will cut state government, and since stimulus funds are temporary, he seems to be “kicking the can down the road” for the next governor.

**NARFE-FEEA
Aid to Disaster Victims**

The NARFE-FEEA Natural Disaster Fund, which is supported by NARFE members and administered by the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund, can pay out grants up to \$500 per NARFE household to reimburse NARFE members for losses stemming from declared natural disasters. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund by sending a check to FEEA, 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227. To donate by credit card, call 1 800-338-0755, or go to www.feea.org and click on the “Give Now” link at the top of the page. Then select “NARFE-FEEA Relief” from the drop-down menu. To request an application for a grant, call FEEA’s toll-free number, 1 800 338-0755 (or 1-800-323-4140 after hours); or send e-mail to feeahq@aol.com. You may also mail your request for an application to FEEA at the address in the above paragraph.

About NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). NARFE’s mission has remained the same since 1921: to protect and improve the retirement benefits of current (active) federal employees, federal retirees, and their families.

Our current legislative agenda focuses on enacting bills to:

- (1) Extend the Premium Conversion rights that federal and postal employees have to federal annuitants, so that retirees too can pay their Federal Employee Health Benefits premiums with pre-tax dollars and save an average \$400 each year; and
- (2) Repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), two provisions that can substantially reduce the expected retirement income of retired federal workers.

People who join NARFE know the most effective means of change starts from within. Each NARFE member’s voice and support carries twice its strength in making a difference on Capitol Hill.

People who join NARFE know the only way to make change is to pursue what is right and just. People who join NARFE know legitimate legislative change involves time, money, dedication and the constant pursuit of what is right and just. It is with this in mind that NARFE has helped change the future for the federal community.

NARFE is an organization governed by an elected leadership consisting of 1,650 chapters, 50 state federations, plus the District of Columbia, Panama, the Philippines and Puerto Rico federations. NARFE members represent a broad spectrum of government services. Most are covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS).

Visit www.narfe.org for more information or contact one of the local Chapter 182 officers.

NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Program

In 1987, the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) established a scholarship program for children and grandchildren of federal employees. NARFE became a member of FEEA's board of directors in 1997, and the following year NARFE's National Executive Board authorized the creation of a scholarship fund open to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members. The NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program is supported by NARFE members and administered by FEEA. A total of \$616,000 has been awarded to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members (as of Dec. 2009).

In 2009, \$60,000 in scholarships was awarded to 60 students. The deadline for the 2010 NARFE Scholarship Awards Program is April 30.

2010 NARFE Scholarship Program Eligibility and 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 2010.
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 unweighted 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. ↗

2010 NARFE Scholarship Program Eligibility and Procedures (continued)

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?"
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 postmarked 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 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 or download it from the NARFE Web site, www.narfe.org.

Every Thursday Morning Coffee at the Mall

Come join the fun and meet the Chapter 182 members! The fun starts at 10:00 A.M. on Thursdays at the Food Court in the Mesilla Valley Mall. If you have 10 minutes or an hour to spare, it's always fun to get together, visit, drink coffee, partake in lively discussions, etc. Please join us.

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".

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.

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, April 21st**, (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.

