



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Volume 12, Issue 7 – February 2012

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

We need candidates for Chapter Officer & Executive Board positions. Please volunteer.



***Chapter
President's
Message***

***Meriam
McMullen***

I hope everyone survived the holidays and is 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 will be nominating for the officers positions at the March 10, 2012 meeting.

We are having the NM Federation Convention in Santa Fe this year and it will be held April 19-21, 2012. We can make hotel reservations right away. Those of you who are attending need to know that the delegates will be selected on first-come first-served basis.

Information on the National Convention in Sparks, NV is in the February *NARFE Magazine* and at NARFE.org. The convention will be Aug 26-30, 2012. If you want to be on The National Convention committee, I have the information so please contact me by February 3rd

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Member "Spotlight"



Marcele Skelton

Marcele has been a member of our Las Cruces chapter for six years. Before that, she was a member of the Sno-Isle Chapter 1966 in Lynnwood, Washington for seven years. She is currently a member of the Alzheimer's Committee Book Sales and the Telephone Calling Committee.

She was born in Bancroft, Nebraska. She attended Wayne, Nebraska High School, received her BS from the University of Nebraska, an MED from the University of Maryland; and an EdD, from the New Mexico State University.

She taught first grade in Omaha, Nebraska and special education in Torrington, Wyoming. She served as an Extension Home Economist and Associate State 4-H Leader in Nebraska and an

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***Franklin
McKay***

***Program
Chair***

***General Meeting – Feb 11th
Richard Williams, the Chief of
the Las Cruces Police De-
partment, will be our guest
speaker.*** Chief Williams was appointed in June 2010 and commands a department that is staffed with 183 commissioned officers and 89 civilian support staff. He oversees the administrative and operational functions of the police department which includes the Patrol Section, Criminal Investigations, Traffic, and the Environmental Enforcement Section. He is also a board member of the Metro Narcotics Task Force, Juvenile Assessment and Reporting Center, Weed & Seed Program, and the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority.

Time: 8:45 a.m. (breakfast)
Where: Columbus Conference Center, Days Inn Suites (\$12/person) CASH ONLY.

Reservations: Contact **Carol Main (382-7686)**, or **Carol Decker (522-3033)** not later than 5:00 p.m. on **Feb 8th**. (or) lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com



**2nd VP &
Legislative
Chair**
*Elwood
Baas*

Congress is back in session for the New Year. As per last year's budget agreement, the President requested an increase of \$1.2 trillion borrowing authority that Congress would not be able to stop unless the House and Senate voted against it and then could override the President's request by a majority (overcoming veto power). As a token rejection, the House voted against it. Since the Senate will not vote for it, it will die and the increase will happen.

With the debt now at \$15 trillion, increasing it by \$1 trillion a year is a serious matter. If we think that increasing our debt by \$1 trillion per year will not affect our benefits, as well as Government workers' future, we are delusional. The piper will have to be paid eventually. The longer we wait the higher the price. This is the "sleeper" that not even NARFE National will talk about.

A House-Senate Conference Committee, facing a February 29 deadline, will soon begin negotiations on extending the payroll tax holiday. The House-passed position asks current and future federal employees to bear a third of the cost of the extension through further pay freeze and increased retirement contribution totaling \$64.5 billion over ten years. There will be much "dodging and weaving" by Congress before this issue is settled. To put Congress on notice once more, NARFE National is conducting a "national call Congress day" on February 15. The GEMS reports and the February Magazine (page 20-21) have all the details for you on conducting this campaign.

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Carol Main



Carol Decker

**Telephone Calling Committee
Co-Chairs**

These smiling faces are our friendly Co-Chairs of the Telephone Calling Committee. We want to thank them and all the callers listed below for doing such a great job of getting in touch with our members and taking the reservations for our monthly breakfast meetings.

- Martha Beerman**
- Joy Davenport**
- Allaire Dunn**
- Dorothy Figgins**
- Mary Ellen McKay**
- Marcele Skelton**
- Cynthia Zaklan**

We really appreciate everything they do for our chapter!



**Candidates for Chapter Officers
and
Committee Chairs Needed**

This is the month we need candidates for chapter officer positions. We then vote in March and the installation of officers takes place in April. We are looking for volunteers for the positions of President, 1st VP for Membership, and 2nd VP for Legislation. Our Secretary and Treasurer have agreed to continue in their positions. We also need volunteers for the Executive Board positions of Alzheimer's Committee Chair, Sunshine Committee, and Records Officer. If you are interested, please contact **Sharon Reese**, Nominating Committee, at **532-9422**.

Chapter President's Message
Continued

because I have to sign the forms no later than February 11th at the chapter meeting and 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 first-come first-served basis.

Many members are not renewing their membership. We ask that you please renew because numbers count when we make our voice heard on Capitol Hill in D.C. Remember folks, if we don't have the numbers in NARFE, we are not strong!

At the January meeting, the speaker was Sharon Reese, Southwest District Vice President. She briefed us on the District Workshop on 1/13/2012, as well as the upcoming Santa Fe Convention and the National Convention.

I will see you at the February 11th meeting! Bring a friend; enjoy breakfast and the program that Franklin McKay, our Program Chair, has provided for us. Wear something red since Valentine's Day will be right around the corner.



**STAY CONNECTED
TO NARFE!**

To hear the NARFE Legislative Hotline, call (toll-free):
877-217-8234.

To talk to a retirement benefits specialist, call **703-838-7760.**

For any other NARFE matter, call NARFE HQ
At **703-838-7760**

Or e-mail: hq@narfe.org.

Legislative Report

Continued

The fiscal year 2013 budget process begins on February 5 when the President submits his budget to Congress. This process will no doubt also affect federal employees. Nevertheless, Congress has to pass the budget no matter what the President recommends. The House has passed a budget proposal already, but the Senate has not passed a budget for three years. Is it possible that we go through an entire administration without a budget? Congress (Senate) has been holding our budget process hostage so that continuing resolution keeps the outrageous spending going.



Member "Spotlight"

We would like to continue the Member "Spotlight" column in our newsletter. We have featured many interesting people from our membership over the last four years. Would you like to participate or do you know someone you'd like to recommend? If so, please e-mail Sarah at mcadoosr@aol.com.



Sunshine Report

Marie Galos

Thinking if you cards were sent to

*William Childers
Roberta "Bobby" Logan
Mike Miyagashima
Julie Smith*

If you would like *Marie* to send a card to one of our members, please call her at **522-1752**.



Service Officer Report

Jim Kiely

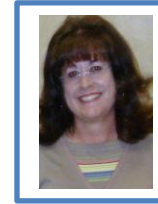
MODEST 2013 PAY INCREASE BEING PROPOSED FOR CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

After having their pay frozen in 2011 and 2012, federal employees recently received a bit of good news when it was announced that the Obama administration intends to propose a 0.5 percent pay increase for federal employees as part of its 2013 budget proposal. This minimal increase, if enacted, would move federal pay forward for the first time since 2010. However, during a contentious 2012 election year, it is anyone's guess at this point whether such a 2013 pay increase for federal employees will actually be enacted into law.

PREPARATION FOR INCOME TAX SEASON

With the arrival of the new year, tax preparation season for the 2011 tax year is upon us. One of the key elements for efficient and timely income tax preparation and submission is collecting all necessary instructions, forms, and income source documents (for example, Form W-2, Form 1099R, dividend and interest forms from payers) and storing them in a central location. One of the main tax documents for most NARFE members is the Form 1099R (Statement of Annuity Paid), which is issued by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). According to the OPM website (www.opm.gov), OPM will mail over 1.9 million Forms 1099R to annuitants and survivor annuitants during the last week of January 2012. Your Form 1099R will be mailed to your address of record

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Membership Report

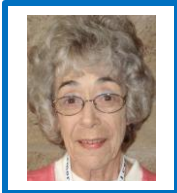
Liz Childers

"In an effort to reach active federal employees and recent retirees who choose not to participate in more traditional forms of membership, such as chapters and clubs, NARFE established eNARFE membership. eNARFE offers members an online, paperless (except for the magazine) form of membership and is designed to parallel the traditional NARFE membership. In another nod toward social networking, NARFE now has a presence on Facebook. NARFE implements several initiatives to increase membership during the year. One was the Lapsed Member Tele-marketing Campaign. Some 1,050 members renewed – an 18.3 percent conversion rate. We will need to continue to find better ways to recruit and maintain members. I am certain that many former and current employees are feeling the economic crunch, and are looking for ways to pinch pennies. Paying dues to join an organization is not a necessity and many will choose to opt out and use that money for something tangible. Those just joining the workforce are looking for the "what's in it for me". It's important that we educate both of these groups on what NARFE can do for them now and well into their retirement. Everyone who is a NARFE member helps sustain the Heartbeat of America."



Benefits Calculator

NARFE offers an online retirement calculator and other financial planning tools for members only. Find out more about this membership benefit at www.narfe.org.



Historian's Report

Blanche Goldsmith

Thank You Nadine and Russ Boor for the Chapter Newsletters covering 1990 through 2011. They are now in the Documents Center.

If anyone has knowledge of any Minutes (either Executive Board and/or Regular Meetings) from 1964 through 1985, I would like to retire them.

Minutes from 1952 through 1963, and minutes from 1986 through 1997 have been retired.



**Treasurer's Report
Dec 2011
Tom Banks**

(12/01/11)	
Balance	\$4419.10
Receipts	\$ 368.38
Disbursements	- \$405.11
(12/31/2011)	
Balance	\$4382.37
Balance on Hand	\$4382.37
Obligations	\$ 796.31
* Federation	(-\$775.25)
**Outstanding Checks	(-\$21.06)
Available Balance	\$3586.06



**Member "Spotlight"
Continued**

Extension Family Living Program Leader in Colorado. She developed and directed the Learning Resource Center at the Tanana Valley College, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

She retired in 1996 from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Marcele is married to Dr. Irvin W. "Irv" Skelton, who is also a member of our chapter. Irv has held several positions on our Chapter's Executive Board.

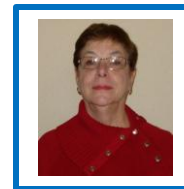
They lived in Las Cruces from 1976-1980 and then moved back here in April 2005. They have three sons: Rhett who lives in Albuquerque; Mark lives in Firestone, Colorado; and Scott lives in Kirkland, Washington.

Marcele is active in volunteering with the Mission Lutheran Church Women, P.E.O. education scholarship committees, election worker, and book group/reading activities. Her hobbies include reading, western history, needle work, Nebraska Cornhusker football, and she just recently learned to play bridge. Her favorite things include traveling, being with family and friends, movies, and popcorn.

Marcele appreciates having lived in different states and her variety of interesting jobs. In short, she has had a happy and interesting life.

We're happy to have Marcele as a member of our chapter and we appreciate the work she has done on our Alzheimer's Committee and the Telephone Calling Committee.

Thanks, Marcele!



Alzheimer's Report

Sarah McAdoo

We had great Alzheimer's raffles at our December and January meetings. In December, Mildred Jones Marshall won the large Christmas fruit basket. Congratulations, Millie! It seemed that the name Dorothy was the luckiest name for winners. Dorothy Figgins, Dorothy Rachele, and Dorothy Hays won most of the prizes. At the end of the day, we had a total of **\$76.00** to contribute to Alzheimer's. Thanks to all of you who bought tickets. A special thank you to Marie Galos who generously donates prizes for our raffles. Last month we sent in a total of **\$671.00**. This was from the raffle, previous book sales, and a very generous contribution from member, Linda Roberts. Many thanks, Linda! Besides \$\$ cash, some of the prizes last month were a basket with coffee and mugs, wine, a glass pitcher, T-shirt & bag, and beanie babies. We always have beanie babies donated by a friend of ours. Come to our February meeting and join in on the raffle fun -- you too could be a winner! Since it is Valentine's month, you can bet there will be flowers and candy to be won!



Alzheimer's Las Cruces Office
New Location

The Las Cruces Alzheimer's Office has relocated its office to:
1121 Mall Drive, Suite C
(this is across the street from JC Penney & next to Wings Bar & Café)
Phone: **624-1552**

The office provides a variety of educational, safety and support programs for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and their caretakers.

Service Officer Report
Continued
-JimKielty

as of December 9, 2011. If you have recently changed residence and did not notify OPM of your move, you should do so immediately. This can be accomplished by calling OPM at 1-888-767-6738; by signing on to www.serviceline.opm.gov; or by sending OPM an email at retire@opm.gov. If you have not moved, but have not received your Form 1099R by the end of the first week of February 2012, you may request a duplicate from OPM by calling the 1-888-767-6738 number, which is staffed from 5:15 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. Mountain Time Monday-Friday. You may also go to the OPM website at www.serviceline.opm.gov and use your OPM-provided Personal Identification Number (PIN) to view, print, and request a duplicate Form 1099R.



Members, Linda Venable, (top) & Dick Johnson & Ray Neher (bottom) check in with Nancy Banks at our November meeting.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
Make Everyday a Celebration of the Heart!



Jack Dage Wants Your Cans

Please save your cans and bring them to the monthly meetings. Jack drives his truck to the meetings to collect the cans to help pay for our chapter newsletter. If you can't bring them to the meeting, we'll be glad to pick them up. Call Jack (522-8885) or Richard (571-6364) for pick up. Thanks!

Attendance & Volunteer Hours

48 attended the Dec 10th meeting
 557 volunteer hours were reported

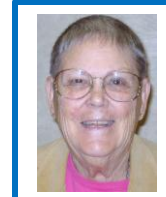
48 attended the Jan 14th meeting
 555 volunteer hours were reported

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.



NARFE-PAC 2012

Now is the time to donate to NARFE-PAC and support the candidates that support our interests. It's easy. You can make a donation through Anitta Montijo, our chapter's NARFE-PAC Chair, at any monthly meeting. Remember, if you make a donation of at least \$20, you'll receive the NARFE-PAC pin.



Welcome New Members
-Nadine Boor
Records Officer

Welcome to:

Marcia F. Christmann
Frederico Diaz
Donna L. Harris
Gerald E. Mayhew

Welcome back:
Sandra Class
Nancy J. Thurston
Dennis Page

Our chapter membership is currently 438 members strong!

Phone Number Change or E-mail address Change?

Please don't forget to notify Nadine Boor at jnboor@aol.com or phone: **382-7478**.

The REPORTER

The **REPORTER** is published monthly, except in January and July. Comments about the newsletter should be directed to Sarah McAdoo. Items for the next issue are due **February 20th** to mcadoosr@aol.com.

E-Newsletter. Members who have e-mail addresses on file are now receiving this newsletter by e-mail. 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 e-mail.



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

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jnboor@aol.com (575) 382-7478

Service Officer: **Jim Kielty**
jkielty70@yahoo.com (575) 523-6044

Members of Congress

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman

148 Loretto Towne Center
505 S. Main St., Suite 148, Las Cruces, NM 88001
(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 Steve Pearce

570 N Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88011
(855) 473-2723 (855-4-PEARCE)
<http://pearce.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

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 Carol Main (382-7686) or Carol Decker (522-3033) or email lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.