



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 15, Issue 5 – December 2014

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !



**Chapter
President
Woody
Woodard**

I wish all NARFE Members of Chapter 182 the best safe, happy, healthy and wonderful holiday season!

The Health Fairs were a success again this year thanks to all the participants! Hopefully we can see an increase in Membership as a result.

We have not had ANY Members step up to fill our Board vacancies for Membership and Nominating Chair. REMINDER: Chapters (although NOT eliminated in the last National Convention in Florida) are on unstable ground as member numbers in Chapters are declining all across the country! It is imperative that more members take an active role in keeping a full Board to carry out our work in support of our ACTIVE and RETIRED Federal employees.

We will once again have the wonderful New Desert Harmony Singers we have enjoyed for the last few years as our guest performers at our December meeting.

Please join us!



**Health
Fairs**

**Sharon
Reese**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who staffed the tables at the 11 health fairs that NARFE Chapter 182 participated in.

We collected a total of 186 recruitment cards which have been mailed to National Headquarters. This year we held a raffle at each health fair for a \$25.00 Olive Garden Gift Card.

The winners are:

Victor Montoya (LaTuna), Marcelo Cisneros (ICE), Nairober Meran (Border Patrol PM), William Chitwood (Border Patrol AM), Patricia Villarreral (Social Security), Sylvia Saucedo (US District Court), Melissa Ortiz (IRS/Loretto), Julia Olivarrez (USDA), Carlos Villalva (WSMR), and NOE Gonzalez (BLM). We had no winner from NASA as no one stopped by our table. The extra gift card will be utilized at a later date. Hopefully we will gain a few new members!



December 13th Program



**Franklin
McKay**

We are spreading Christmas cheer at our December 13 Chapter meeting. The program of Christmas music will begin at 9:30 a.m. Our music will be presented by the New Desert Harmony Singers. The New Desert Harmony Singers are a community group of men and women who perform for the sheer joy of music and bringing joy to others.

Please bring a guest to share in the warmth of the Holiday Season.

Mark your calendars now and place your reservation!

San Rafael Room, Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S Telshor.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast at 8:45. Cost: \$12

Reservations: Missed the telephone committee call? Contact **Carol Main (382-7686)** or **Carol Decker (522-3033)** by Dec 9th.



**Sunshine
Report
Marcele
Skelton
575-521-4954**

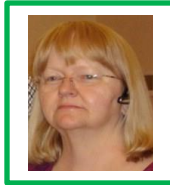
Here we are in the month of December, and the hours of sunshine are getting shorter. We don't notice it so much because we are busy getting ready for the holidays--decorating, shopping, baking/cooking, etc. We are busy socially too--with holiday concerts, plays, school programs, special church services and events, etc. For most of us, it is a happy and festive time of the year, but for some, it is a lonely or melancholy time. If you know of someone who needs a little cheer, you might want to give them a call, write a note, give them a small gift or meal, share a recipe or a thought for the day. You will feel a special satisfaction from helping or sharing with others.

A Thinking of You card was sent to **JoAnn Sherman** who has experienced illness and stress over illness in her family. A Get Well card was sent to **Tom Banks** who had a light stroke recently. We were happy that both JoAnn and Tom were able to attend the November NARFE meeting. Sympathy cards were sent to **Eunice Santmyer**, whose husband, **Carl**, passed away October 24, and to **Harry Palmer** on the death of a family member. A get well card was sent to **Marlene Mayfield** who recently had surgery.

Please let me know if you, or a fellow NARFE member has experienced illness, a death in the family or who may just need some sunshine.

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and in the New Year.

Records Officer Report



**Carol
Main**

New Prospective Member:

Katherine Stapp

We would like to see you at the December meeting.

Come meet your fellow chapter members.

**Our chapter membership is
349 members strong!**



**November 2014
General Meeting**

**53 members attended
&
574 volunteer
hours were reported**

**Thank You
Jeffrey Smith**

Jeffrey Smith isn't seen or heard from very often but he does so much behind the scenes (or we should say in front of his computer) for our chapter. Jeffrey is our "web-master". He keeps our NARFE webpage up to date and posts our newsletters and other important notices for viewing.

We really appreciate all of his work to help our chapter!

THE REPORTER

Our next newsletter will be published in February.

If you want an item or picture published, please send to mcadoosr@aol.com by January 19th.

Thank you!



**Bob
Main**

Please remember to bring all your aluminum cans to our meetings.

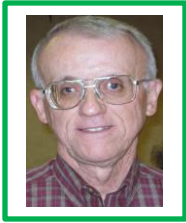
The money from our can collection helps pay for the printing and mailing of our newsletter.

Thanks for your help!

**Phone number change,
home address or e-mail
address change?**

Please don't forget to notify our Records Officer, Carol Main, at:
cmain@zianet.net
or phone 382-7686.

We don't want you to miss any copies of the **narfe** magazine, newsletters, or notices we send out.



*Jim
Kielty*

Service Officer Report

2014 OPEN SEASON CONTINUES

The 2014 Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) began on November 10 and continues through December 8. All Open Season changes for federal retirees and survivor annuitants are effective January 1, 2015, and premium changes are reflected in February 1, 2015 annuity payments. Open Season changes for current federal employees are effective at the beginning of the first full pay period on or after January 1, 2015.

FEHBP changes may be made online at: <https://www.retireefehb.opm.gov> by selecting "Open Season Online". FEHBP changes may also be made by calling Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798. During Open Season, federal retirees and survivor annuitants may also request changes and information by regular mail by writing to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at: FEHB Open Season Processing Center, P.O. Box 5000, Lawrence, KS, 66046-5000. When using this option, clearly state in writing your Open Season request. If you are making an enrollment change, state the plan you want, the type of coverage (Self Only or Self and Family), and the enrollment code. Remember to include your annuity claim number (CSA or CSF number), and your social security number on your request.

With regard to dental or vision insurance under FEDVIP enrollments, changes, or cancellations may be accomplished by computer at: <http://www.benefeds.com> or by calling 1-877-888-3337.

There are numerous reference sources available to assist you in determining if you should make any changes during the FEHBP/FEDVIPS Open Season. These include the OPM website, <http://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information>; the October, November, and December issues of the *narfe* magazine; and the 2015 plan brochure in which you are currently enrolled, Section 2 of which reflects the plan's changes for 2015. Remember, there is no one health, dental, or vision plan which is best for all. However, by doing your homework you will find the plan that best meets your needs.

2015 COLA INCREASE OF 1.7 PERCENT TRIGGERED BY CPI-W RISE

On October 22 the government announced that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W) was 234.170 in September 2014. This means that the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2014 (July-September) was 234.242, which is above the 2013 CPI-W third quarter average of 230.327, the base level for determining if a 2015 Cost-Of-Living-Allowance (COLA) would be authorized.

This CPI-W increase means that there will be a COLA for federal retirees and survivor annuitants in 2015. Retirees covered by either the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 1.7 percent increase. Military retirees and Social Security recipients also will receive the 1.7 percent COLA in January 2015.





NARFE-PAC
(Mary Ellen McKay)



A PAC is a Political Action Committee. It is one of the ways that funding is provided to members in Congress.

NARFE-PAC is one of the opportunities made available to NARFE members through the National Legislative Department.

NARFE-PAC screens requests from politicians for funds. The Legislative Office evaluates how that particular Congressman or Senator has voted on issues important to federal employees and retirees. Also taken into consideration are the committees the congressman or senator serves on in Congress. Below is a NARFE-PAC contribution form. Please feel free to use it and contribute.

I will be bringing materials to Chapter meetings and asking for funds for NARFE-PAC.

NARFE-PAC CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name: _____

NARFE Member Number: _____

I would like to make a one-time contribution of:

- ☐ **\$100 Gold** (qualifies for Gold 2013-14 NARFE-PAC lapel pin and a blue NARFE-PAC LEADER hat)
- ☐ **\$50 Silver** (qualifies for Silver 2013-2014 NARFE-PAC lapel pin)
- ☐ **\$20 Basic** (qualifies for Basic 2013-2014 NARFE-PAC lapel pin)
- ☐ **Other:** _____

-OR-

I would like to be a Sustainer and make a monthly credit card contribution to NARFE-PAC of:

- ☐ **\$25/month**
- ☐ **\$10/month**
- ☐ **Other:** _____/month (minimum of \$10)

Monthly contributions qualify you to receive a NARFE-PAC Sustainer lapel pin along with a blue NARFE-PAC LEADER hat.

☐ **I do not want to receive any gifts for my contribution marked above.**

☐ Please find my check or money order enclosed payable to NARFE-PAC

☐ Please charge to my credit card (required for monthly contribution)

Credit Card Information

Type: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Attn: NARFE-PAC
606 North Washington St. | Alexandria, VA 22314

Only members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association may contribute to NARFE-PAC. NARFE will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of a contribution or the failure to make a voluntary contribution to this political action fund. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.



Alzheimer's Report (Sarah McAdoo)

We had a great turnout at our November meeting. Maia Sideris-Dorame, the SW Regional Manager for the NM Alzheimer's Association, gave a well-received presentation on Alzheimer's and other Dimentias.

In addition to our regular 50/50 raffle, we raffled off the beautiful afghan donated by Cindy Zaklan. The lucky winner was Judy James!

I'm happy to report that our chapter donated a total of **\$761** from our November meeting (\$600 in personal donations and \$161 from our two raffles).

As you know, NARFE has been contributing to Alzheimer's research since 1985 and we're working on reaching the new goal of \$12 million in donations. Thanks to all of you who participated in our Alzheimer's Awareness Month raffles. Please come to our December meeting. I will be selling chances for a big beautiful holiday wreath made by Judy Rosco (pictured below).



Ways and Means Committee



Carol Decker



Carol Decker & Judy Rosco

Be sure to come to our December meeting and check out all the wonderful items that Carol Decker and Judy Rosco have made. They have scarves, shawls, hats, Christmas ornaments, wreaths, bracelets, and more.

You can enjoy the Christmas music program and do some Christmas shopping, too!



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

Chapter 182 Officers

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Secretary/Ways & Means rosco631@gmail.com	Judy Rosco (575) 635-7127
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Service Officer: jkielty70@yahoo.com	Jim Kielty (575) 523-6044

Members of Congress

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D)
Loretto Town Center
505 S. Main St., Suite 148, Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 523-6561
<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D)
201 N Church St Suite 201B
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 526-5475
<http://tomudall.senate.gov>

U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (R) (Dist 2)
570 N Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88011
(855)473-2723
<http://www.pearce.house.gov>

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 **Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 704 S Telshor Blvd.** 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.