



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 9 – May 2015

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

CHAPTER 182 YARD SALE – SATURDAY, MAY 16, 8 A.M. – 3142 McDOWELL RD, MESILLA PARK



President's Message

Roy Willoughby

First a special thank you to Woody Woodard for his excellent leadership as our president for the past three years. It is my pleasure to follow the example he has set.

I am pleased to have inherited a very strong and capable Board of Directors along with new members and some members transitioning to new positions. We truly have a formidable team ensuring a successful future. Keep in mind, if you would like to become a member of this group we still have an opening for a "Member at Large". Also, we invite others to join this group as committee members or simply observers.

It was absolutely terrific to have such a large attendance at our last General Meeting to hear Evan Davies' exceptional presentation on what the "Institute of Historical Survey Foundation" is and his explanation of their restoration and preservation of documents and audio and picture media along with histories of their material deteriorations.

Continued on Pg 2, Col 3



Installation of Officers – April 2015 Meeting

(L-R) Marlene Mayfield (Secretary), Cathy Phillips (Treasurer), Sharon Reese (2nd VP/Legislation), Judy Rosco (1st VP/Membership), Roy Willoughby (President), and Woody Woodard (Outgoing President) giving the Oath of Office.

Franklin McKay - Programs (May 9th)

Guest Speaker will be:
McKinney Briske, Park Ranger
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Outdoor Recreation Planner



McKinney Briske, is a Park Ranger with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). McKinney will talk to us about the animals and natural environment that occurred in New Mexico 280 million years ago. The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument is the 100th national monument in the United States. The monument is located in the Robledo Mountains.

Time & Place:

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 **5 May**.



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton

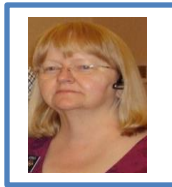
May is a month that should bring lots of sunshine into our lives. Trees and shrubs are blossoming and many of you are enjoying gardening, hiking, and other outdoor activities. Graduations and Mother's Day are highlights during the month of May.

A get well card was sent to **Sharon Wooden** when she was hospitalized. We were happy to see her at the April meeting. A sympathy card was sent to **Jackie Martin** upon the death of her husband, **Wilson Martin**. Jackie is a national life member of NARFE. A sympathy card was sent to **Paula Neher** and family upon the death of **Ray Neher**. Ray was a Chaplain in Chapter 182 and Paula is a member.

Please contact me if you know of a member who has passed away, or could use some sunshine in their life. (**Marcele – 575-521-4954**)



Records Officer Report



Carol Main

Welcome New Member:
John Vigil

Welcome Back:
William Beerman
Jack Wagoner

New Prospective Members:
Gilbert Apodaca
Ernie Enriquez
Thomas Maxwell
Daniel Medina

We would like to see you at the May meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is **336** members strong!

It was good to see the following visitors/guests at our May meeting:

Dee Baas (Elwood's wife), **Angie Carroll** (Dan's wife), **Bob Hays** (Dorothy's son), **Mike Whiteman**, and new prospective member, **Lilly Rael**. It was also great to see long-time member, **Henry Rachele**. We hadn't seen Henry in quite a while and hope he joins us again soon.

President's Message Continued

We can all thank Franklin McKay, our Program Chairman, for arranging this program and all of our programs this year.

Remember to bring the items you have been saving to our home before we start the NARFE yard sale. More details for the yard sale are explained later in this newsletter. If you want to have fun, we encourage you to come and join us make this event special. And also keep in mind the people who help get to see the good stuff first.



Note of Thanks From Past Chapter President

Woody Woodard



I want to give a huge Thank You to all members of NARFE Chapter 182 for your great support for the last three years. It has been a wonderful experience I will not soon forget. I wish you ALL the very best and ask that you give my successor (Roy Willoughby) the great support you have given me! I will continue to support this Chapter for as long as I can.



Sharon Reese represented our chapter and the NM Federation at the **2015 Legislative Conference** held in Washington DC March 14 – March 17. Sharon happily reported at our April General Meeting that this year's Conference was a huge success in terms of attendees and content. The last day of the Conference was their "Day on The Hill", meeting with legislative assistants to Senator Udall and Representative Pearce, and a personal meeting with

Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham. She was able to present the top two NARFE Issues of Chained CPI and Postal Reform. Pictured here: (**Billie Jean Zinter, Nancy Phillips, & Sharon Reese with Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham in DC**)

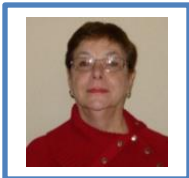


Judy Rosco

*1st VP for
Membership*

Dear Members,

It is my honor to serve as your Vice President for Membership of Chapter 182. As your Chapter Secretary for the past two years, I have seen the membership of the chapter steadily decline and I believe we can change that decline. While it is hard to get new members to join, I believe we can do it. Sometimes all it takes is an invitation, from you, to a friend to join us at a breakfast meeting. We are 336 members strong as of this writing. Nothing is going to get any easier about being an active or federal retiree in this day and age. We need to stick together and get others involved in saving our benefits...don't leave it to someone else...don't leave it to chance...a chance that our lawmakers will do the "right thing" when it comes to Federal employees benefits. We need to get our membership numbers up and in the face of our lawmakers. Invite a friend or relative to our next breakfast program.



Alzheimer's

Sarah McAdoo

Many thanks to all our members who attend our meetings and join in on the Alzheimer's 50/50 Raffle every month. Our chapter continues to do well in contributing money to the Alzheimer's Fund. Even though our attendance rate has been down lately, we contributed a total of **\$1,343** (\$721 from our raffles and \$622 in personal donations) from last September through April 2015. Our members are very generous by donating their cash winnings back to the Alzheimer's Fund.



**Ways 'N Means
Committee**

Craig Singleton

First, I would like to thank Judy Rosco, Ways 'N Means Chair, and all those members who helped in the past year with all of the successful fundraisers. I also want to thank the crafters who made all of the beautiful items that were sold and raffled over the holiday season and the generous members who purchased said items.

*Please help support our
chapter with the
upcoming yard sale!*



The ANNUAL NARFE YARD SALE will be held on Saturday, May 16th. Once again we thank Roy and Sharon Willoughby for allowing us to use their home. Their address is 3142 McDowell Rd, Mesilla Park.

If you have items that you would like to donate but need help getting them to the yard sale, please call Roy Willoughby at (575) 524-9395, Woody Woodard at (575) 635-9569, or Bob Main, at (575) 382-7686. Items will need to be ready for pick up on May 8th or May 9th. Or, items may be delivered to the Willoughby's home by May 14th. Remember, big items are most welcome, but we haven't had much luck with selling clothing.

Thurs 14 May – Delivery of Items and pricing after 9:00 a.m.

Fri 15 May – Delivery of Items and pricing continues after 9:00 a.m.

Sat 16 May – Gather at 7:00 a.m. - Open to the Public at 8:00 a.m.

I would encourage any of you who are available and would like to help with the pricing or on the day of the sale to contact me, Craig Singleton (575) 373-0705, Carol Main (575) 382-7686, or Roy and Sharon Willoughby (575) 524-9395. I have helped with the last three yard sales and I can tell you from past experience it's a lot of fun and a really great time. Thanks for your support!



**Service
Officer
Report**

Jim Kiely

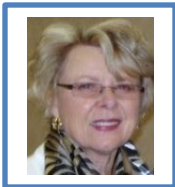
**OPM SOLICITS FEDERAL HEALTH
INSURANCE CARRIER
PROPOSALS FOR NEW SELF-PLUS-ONE
OPTION IN 2016**

In their annual Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Carrier Letter dated 13 March, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has asked the approximately 250 carriers who offer health insurance plans to federal employees, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants to provide proposed premium rates for the new Self-Plus-One FEHBP Option which is scheduled to go into effect on 1 January 2016. Upon receipt of these proposals, OPM and each of the carriers will formally negotiate the final premium rates for the Self-Plus-One Option. OPM believes that the premiums for Self-Plus-One will be lower than the Self and Family Option but higher than the Self Only Option. OPM estimates that thirty percent of the current Self and Family enrollments in FEHBP have only one eligible family member in addition to the individual premium payer, and usually consists of a married couple with no children under the age of 26. The new Self-Plus-One Option will be available for the first time during the 2015 Open Season, which this year runs from 9 November through 14 December. This new option, if chosen, will become effective on 1 January 2016.

CPI-W BEGINS TO REFLECT UPWARD TREND IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W), used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) in 2016, turned upward in February and March 2015 after declining in each of the four months from October 2014 through January 2015. The February CPI-W increased by 0.50 percent to 229.421 and the March CPI-W increased by 0.71 percent to 231.055.

The March CPI-W of 231.055 was 1.36 percent lower than the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2014, which was 234.242. The 234.242 figure is the reference number for determining if there will be a COLA in January 2016. The CPI-W for April will be announced on 22 May.



NARFE-PAC (*Mary Ellen McKay*)

As NARFE-PAC Committee Chairman for our Chapter I am always available to answer your questions and ask you to donate to NARFE-PAC.

There are 6 good reasons to give to NARFE-PAC:

- 1) NARFE-PAC is the third leg of our advocacy strategy stool.
- 2) There is strength in numbers.
- 3) NARFE-PAC makes NARFE politically relevant.
- 4) NARFE-PAC helps build relationships.
- 5) Dues money and general funds cannot be directed to NARFE-PAC.
- 6) NARFE-PAC helps our best supporters become congressional leaders.

Please keep these reasons in mind while you are thinking about making a donation. Thanks.



**Remembering
our Chapter
Chaplain**



Ray Neher, Chaplain of our Chapter 182 for over 25 years, passed away in late March. Ray was very dedicated to our chapter and was generous with his time to those in the area who were in need. We will miss him, his smile and his kind words at our monthly meetings.



VP for Legislation (Sharon Reese) Fellow NARFE Members: This is intended to start you thinking and possibly reacting in a positive manner. It is in no way a threat or insinuating that you are not important in the Organization, Chapter, and Federation.

Do you consider yourself one or more of the following:

- Interested in the well-being of NARFE
- Want to stay involved with the organization
- See the value of belonging in NARFE
- Want to be part of the solution of the organization
- Active in legislative advocacy

The reason I ask is that there are proposed changes in the National office, Regions, and Federations so let's work together to plan and organize to make all chapters/members have a say in what happens.

Below is an excerpt of the email that was sent by Rodney Adelman, Region VII Vice President, on 11 April. Ted Van Hintum, Region VII Strategic Planning Committee Member, prepared the information for distribution.

The Team was asked to focus on eight recommendations from the Future of NARFE Committee Report:

- Rec. 4: Board of Directors (BOD)—What is the most efficient structure of the Board?
- Rec. 12: Establish regionally BOD function as policy makers—Review the authorities provided the Board. Move toward agile governance.
- Rec. 13: BOD set annual dues as part of the budget process (See 12 above).
- Rec. 18: Assess federation operations/state advocacy structure.
- Rec. 19: Study reduced federation funds.
- Rec. 22: Establish Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) in all districts.
- Rec. 27: Local chapter membership will be optional.
- Rec. 28: NARFE members - member of Congressional District Action Team.

An overarching goal and three specific goals were developed as a result of the meeting ([Click here](#) for Strategic Goals attachment):

Ensure/Secure the Future of NARFE

- Transform governance to be more efficient, effective, agile, consistent and accountable.
- Establish a consistent brand to increase awareness, eliminate confusion and convey the value of NARFE.
- Stabilize and grow membership to support effective advocacy and to deliver financial stability.

The Strategic Planning Team and Committee discussed a number of specific, actionable items in support of these goals. As the Strategic Planning process moves forward and action items are vetted by the National Executive Board, I will share them with you.

Please continue to send your comments on the strategic planning process and issues to strat-plan@narfe.org. Thank you for your support of NARFE and helping to “Secure the Future”. Sincerely, Ted Van Hintum, Strategic Planning Committee Representative for Region VII Colorado Federation President (ted.vanhintum@gmail.com)



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

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jkielty70@yahoo.com	(575) 523-6044

Members of Congress

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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, 705 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)**

6 - or email: lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.