



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 16, Issue 2 – Sep 2015

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

Join us at our General Meeting at our New Location – September 12th – Important Legislative Program !



**Chapter 182
President**

Roy Willoughby

Welcome to our NARFE Chapter 182 start of the new year. Our first Chapter Meeting will be in our new location at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Drive just east of Interstate-25 and just north of University Avenue. You can come in through the front main entrance; turn right and the Esperanza meeting room will be at the end of that hall. Please note, however, that most of the available parking will be at the back of the building. In that case, it would be best to park near the north end of the back lot and walk around the north end of the building to the front side. There will be a special northeast open entrance door which will be adjacent to the inside door to the Esperanza meeting room.

Our first chapter meeting will be dedicated to Legislation and will have at least Senatorial and Congressional representatives to discuss this year's legislation and their views on political issues. This has always been an exciting event when held close to the election season.

Our Board of Directors met in August to discuss and plan for new and exciting programs and events of interest to our

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**September 12 - General Meeting
Legislation Program - 8:45 a.m.
Hilton Garden Inn- Esperanza Room
Breakfast Buffet: \$13
(Sharon Reese, VP for Legislation)**



The September 12th General Membership meeting will be dedicated to Legislation. US Senator Tom Udall, US Senator Martin Heinrich and US Representative Steve Pearce have been invited to attend. To date I have not heard if they, or a staffer, will attend. Congress is only in session a total of 12 days in September so hopefully one or more will attend.

Cyber Security: The Obama administration is to reveal the contractor that will provide services to affected individuals sometime this week. If you have received a letter please watch for this information. The first breach affected 4.2 M federal workers and retirees. The second breach affected 21.5 M federal workers, retirees, contractors and job applicants. Both included anyone updating security clearances. There is more concern over altered/destroyed data than stolen data.

When Congress returns from its August recess, it faces a tangle of fiscal deadlines that could serve as a replay of some of the most contentious battles of the past five years. Those include keeping the government open amid fierce disagreement over spending caps put in place by the so called 2011 sequester, finding a long-term way to fund highway and transit projects (remember they tried to attach an amendment targeting our TSP G Fund) and lifting the debt ceiling before default. With all of the hustle and bustle of passing bills, I ask that you be VIGILANT and when you receive a notification to call your Congressman please do so immediately as we may only have a 24 hour period to respond.

The only good news I have is that for active members the per diem rate is going up. You will have an additional \$6.00 per night for lodging and food increases to \$54-\$76 per day. Hope to see you on September 12th!



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton

September is here and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our NARFE meeting on September 12th. Fall is a busy time when many activities and events resume after a summer hiatus. Hours of sunshine are decreasing, but we can still get out and about and enjoy!

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Billy Boone, who passed away May 31, 2015. Billy was a member of our chapter for many years. A sympathy card was also sent to the family of Laverne Abma, who passed away June 26, 2015. Laverne was a member of our chapter since 1998.

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to Chuck Redman who lost hearing in his right ear. Chuck has moved to Golden Mesa. He said he is doing pretty well, having passed his 96th birthday on July 30th.

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

**President's Message
Continued from Page 1**

Chapter and to continue informing the membership of all the important Congressional happenings that could affect us in the near future. Also discussed was the initiation of a nationwide "NARFE Strategic Planning" committee started by NARFE headquarters to cooperatively determine the future of our entire NARFE organization.

The Board of Directors will call all chapter members starting in September as part of a "Chapter Membership Contact Event". The goal is to personally call all chapter members to not only say we hope all is well with you, but to make sure our records are up to date so we can contact you about important issues and to ask if you have any concerns that you want to share with us.

In addition, we will be starting an exciting Membership Drive Contest that will be fully explained by our Membership Chair at our September meeting.

Remember that on the 25th & 26th of September the New Mexico Federation of Chapters and the Sierra County Chapter 1341 will be hosting and are inviting all NM chapter members to a **NARFE "Gathering"** in Truth or Consequences (T or C). See Page 4 for details.



Records Report

Carol Main

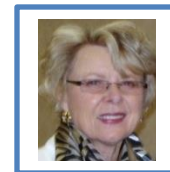
New Prospective Members:

**Frank Chavez
Loretta Perea
Teresa Ray**

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

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

NARFE - PAC



Mary Ellen McKay

As always, I want to remind you about the opportunity we have as NARFE members to contribute to a Political Action Committee (PAC) that is part of our national legislative effort to have a voice with those who represent us in the US Congress. A PAC is one way to have "our foot in the door" with our Representatives and Senators.

We are starting our local NARFE year with our September meeting and we are always mindful that the 2016 election cycle is already underway. This would be a good time to make a contribution to NARFE-PAC. There are several levels of contributions, and you can go to your monthly magazine for details.

A very simple way to contribute is to give me \$25.00 for the "basic" level at our September meeting and receive the basic lapel pin. I will have those pins with me at that meeting.

Thank you for being supportive.



**VP for Membership (Judy Rosco)
Member Recruitment Contest**

Recruit a new member and receive a bonus!

We are so excited at the possibilities for our chapter growth this coming year. We want to show our appreciation to everyone who recruits a member by giving you a BONUS! In addition to our Membership Recruitment Contest, where the top three recruiters will win big bucks, we are giving \$10 to every member who recruits a member. If you recruit one member, you receive \$10 and another \$10 for every member thereafter. You have two ways to win: the contest and the \$10 BONUS per member. We will go over the contest in more detail at our September meeting.



Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)

DUAL CYBERATTACKS PUT PERSONAL INFORMATION OF MILLIONS IN FEDERAL FAMILY AT POTENTIAL RISK

Two separate attacks on Office of Personnel Management (OPM) computer systems by individuals believed to be foreign hackers have resulted in a massive breach of personal information related to present and former federal employees, those seeking security clearances, and some family members. These disclosures have led to Congressional hearings and the resignation of former OPM Director Katherine Archuleta.

The first cyberattack, which was announced on 4 June, potentially compromised the employment data of 4.2 million active, former, and retired federal employees which was contained in their personnel records. This data included personal information such as names, Social Security Numbers, date and place of birth, and current or former home addresses. Those potentially affected by this data breach received written notices in late June from the OPM-approved contractor, CSID, which specializes in identity theft protection. These individuals were offered 18 months of free credit monitoring.

The much larger second cyberattack, announced on 12 June, involves a breach of background investigation information on 21.5 million people. This includes 19.7 million individuals who applied for background investigations beginning in 2000 to obtain or retain a security clearance, and 1.8 million non-applicants for such clearances, such as spouses or other family members whose personal information was contained on security clearance forms required to be filled out by the individual applying for such a clearance. A contractor is expected to be approved shortly by OPM who will send out notices to this larger group informing them of this data breach and offering free credit monitoring service for a 3 year period.

Bills have been introduced in both the Senate and the House to provide 10 years of credit monitoring to all affected individuals in both groups. However, no action was taken on this legislation prior to the adjournment of Congress for its August/Labor Day recess.

NARFE headquarters is closely monitoring events related to these cyberattacks, and there are monthly updates in the *NARFE* magazine. NARFE is also posting updates on its website as they become available. To view all of the updates, go to www.narfe.org and click on the "OPM Security Breach Updates" banner.

CPI-W CONTINUES TO LAG BEHIND 2014 CPI-W REFERENCE POINT

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, continued to lag behind the 2014 CPI-W reference point despite slight month-to-month increases in April-July. The April CPI-W increased by 0.20 percent, May by 0.60 percent, June by 0.38 percent, and July by less than 0.01 percent, and now stands at 233.806.

Despite these monthly increases, the July 2015 CPI-W figure of 233.806 is still 0.19 percent lower than the average CPI-W for 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 August will be released on 16 September and the CPI-W for September will be released on 15 October.



National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424

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You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!

Chapter 182 Officers

President	Roy Willoughby
rswillowbee@comcast.net	(575) 524-9395
1 st Vice Pres. (Membership):	Judy Rosco
rosco631@gmail.com	(575) 635-7127
2 nd Vice Pres. (Legislation):	Sharon Reese
nmreeses@msn.com	(575) 532-9422
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield
mayfield195msn.com	(575) 524-3927
Treasurer:	Cathy Phillips
clp_lascruces@comcast.net	(575) 644-5263

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>

Upcoming Statewide Gathering

- Join us for a [Statewide Gathering](#) in Elephant Butte from noon Friday September 25 to noon Saturday September 26.
- *New* information is available on the [Gathering 2015](#) page.
 - SITE & RESERVATION INFORMATION: Elephant Butte Inn and Spa; Elephant Butte RV Resort
 - 402 Highway 195, Elephant Butte NM 87935, 575-744-5431, rv@ebresort.com.

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 **Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Dr, Las Cruces**. Doors open at 8:30am (breakfast at 8:45am), and the cost is \$13. 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.