



# 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 5 – Dec 2015

National Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

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

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Wishes to all our Members*



### President's Message *(Roy Willoughby)*

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. The fall season is truly a time to remember and embrace how fortunate we are to be able to celebrate our lives in peace and harmony.

Our November Chapter meeting was highlighted by a heartfelt presentation by Tony Trevizo sharing his daily community service giving comfort to people suffering with Alzheimer's. The program was followed by presentations by Health Plan representatives discussing what is available this year including the new "Self Plus One" option. And, since contacting OPM to make changes in this open season is a struggle, Bob Main gave a presentation and handouts on how to successfully navigate the government internet.

Judy Rosco, our Membership Chairperson, organized a number of teams that represented our NARFE Chapter at all of the local Health Fair events. She created special displays and organized the handout information for very effective presentations to inform Government agencies of the importance of joining NARFE. The teams were very successful in getting interested people to sign address information cards by offering them a chance to win a great gift card to a local restaurant.

Again this year we are very fortunate that the "*New Desert Harmony Singers*" carol group will present their traditional Christmas program at our December Chapter meeting.

### *January Meeting Program.....Franklin McKay*

Our January program is a work in progress. I will put a flyer on the tables at the December meeting giving information about the January program. Also, the callers will have the program information when they call to secure attendance at the meeting. Stay tuned.



*Saturday  
December  
12<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter  
Christmas  
Program*

Please come and enjoy a program of excellent Christmas music by the New Desert Harmony Singers. This is their fifth performance for our Chapter. Please bring a guest to share in the warmth of the Holiday Season.

All current and retired Federal employees are encouraged to attend the meeting and become part of the group. There is a cost of \$13 (cash only) for the breakfast buffet beginning at 8:45, and reservations must be made by December 8th by calling Carol Main at 382-7686 or Carol Smith at 522-3033.

Place: Esparanza Room in the Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Drive  
*(Franklin McKay  
Chapter Programs Chair)*



**Sunshine Report**

**Marcele Skelton**

Sunshine hours are getting fewer every day, but before you know it, we will be celebrating the Winter Solstice. With all the holiday activities--concerts, plays, church and school events and family get togethers, we won't miss the sunshine so much. I hope you all are doing well and that you will have a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

A get well card was sent to **Fil Apodaca** who spent a few days in the hospital recently, and to **Glenda Newcomer** (wife of Norman Newcomer) who is suffering from shingles. We hope both of you are feeling better. A "Thinking of You" card was sent to **Charles Redman** who has had some health issues, and is trying to adjust to a loss of some independence. A sympathy card was sent to **Cynthia Zaklan**, whose aunt passed away from Alzheimer's disease.

Please contact me if you know of a NARFE member or spouse who has passed away, experienced illness or may just need some sunshine in their life.

*(Marcele – 575-521-4954)*



**Records Officer Report  
(Carol Main)**



Welcome New Members:  
**Robert Kinney**  
**Rosarito Rodriguez**

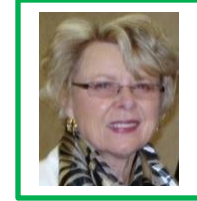
Welcome Back:  
**Floyd Geery**

New Prospective Members:  
**Eric Caviness**  
**Araceli Gonzalez**  
**Anthony Madeja**  
**Anthony McGlone**

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

Our chapter membership is 334 members strong!

**NARFE-PAC  
(Mary Ellen McKay)**



Don't forget to bring a couple extra dollars to donate to NARFE-PAC at our December meeting. I will be giving everyone the opportunity to participate for as little as a one dollar donation. It will make giving a little more fun, and who knows you may go home with a little Christmas treat for yourself or a friend.

Please keep in mind how quickly we are moving toward the elections in November 2016. NARFE-PAC provides support to politicians who share the concerns of Federal Employees and Retirees. Please consider supporting this effort.



**November Chapter Meeting**

We had **63** members attend our November meeting with **495** volunteer hours reported!

Mr. Roy Wolscom attended our meeting and we hope he will transfer his membership to our chapter.

Mr. Jim Brueggen attended our meeting for the first time. It was great to have him and we hope he comes back soon.

**THE REPORTER**

Our next chapter newsletter will be published in February.

If you want an item or picture printed, please send it to [mcadoosr@aol.com](mailto:mcadoosr@aol.com) by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you!



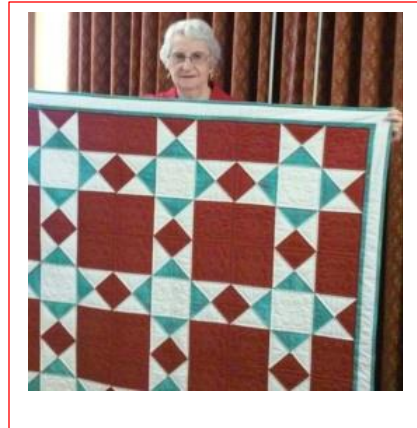
*Ways 'n Means (Craig Singleton)*

*Win a Beautiful Quilt at our December Meeting*

On behalf of the Ways and Means Committee we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to **JoAnn Sherman** who made and donated this beautiful quilt to raise funds for Ways and Means and to all of the members who have already purchased tickets at our October and November meetings.

The last chance to purchase tickets will be at our December meeting at which time we will be drawing the lucky winning ticket.

This would make a great gift either for a loved one or a gift for you. Think about it... if you were a lap would you prefer this beautiful lap quilt to keep you snug in the cold winter months or be a platform for an electronic device? Tickets are \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00. Ways and Means wishes you all a memorable and safe Holiday Season.



*Alzheimer's (Sarah McAdoo)*

We had a wonderful turnout for our November meeting. Our speaker, Mr. Tony Trevizo, is very passionate about the care he and his staff give to the Alzheimer's patients who live at Arbors of Del Rey. It is reassuring to know that we have people such as Tony and his staff who do their best on a daily basis to help our community.

A few lucky members won the following prizes: an afghan made by Terry Bloom, a fruit basket, candy, beanie babies, and a bottle of wine. Thanks to Mary Ellen McKay and Sharon Reese who donated some of the prizes. Thanks to Judy & Charles James, John Reese, and Judy Rosco for donating their cash winnings back to our Alzheimer's fund.

Remember all our prizes are donated, so if you have something you'd like to "re-gift", please pass it on to our Alzheimer's committee.

We sent in an impressive total of **\$406** to NARFE-Alzheimer's from our raffle plus personal donations by Cindy Zaklan and Sharon & John Reese.

Alzheimer's Information: Free online workshops: The Living with Alzheimer's For Caregivers series: [www.alz.org/elearning](http://www.alz.org/elearning) and 24/7 Helpline – Available All Day, Every Day 1-800-272-3900.



## Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)



### 2015 OPEN SEASON CONTINUES

The 2015 Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) began on **November 9** and continues through **December 14**. All Open Season changes for federal retirees and survivor annuitants are effective January 1, 2016, and premium changes are reflected in February 1, 2016 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, 2016.

FEHBP changes may be made online at: <https://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, 66046-0500. When using this option, clearly state in writing your Open Season request. If you are making a change, state the plan you want, the type of coverage (Self Only, Self and Family, or Self Plus One), and the enrollment code. Remember to include your annuity claim number (CSA or CSF number) and your Social Security Number on your request. If you are changing to the new Self Plus One option you must specify who the one dependent will be by stating their name, their Social Security Number, their date of birth, and their relationship to you.

With regard to dental or vision insurance under FEDVIP, any enrollments, changes, or cancellations may be accomplished by computer at [www.benefeds.com](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/FEDVIP 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 2016 plan brochure in which you currently are enrolled, Section 2 of which reflects the plan's changes for 2016. 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.

### MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM RATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2016

Based upon the two-year budget compromise for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 announced by Congress on October 26 and signed by the President on November 2, the uncertainty over the amount of monthly 2017 Medicare Part B premiums to be paid by Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees who do not receive a monthly Social Security benefit has been resolved. On November 12 the Department of Health and Human Services announced that the standard monthly Medicare Part B premium for these CSRS retirees without Social Security would be \$118.80 plus a \$3.00 monthly surcharge, for a total of **\$121.80** per month.

This is an increase from the standard monthly premium for 2015, which was \$104.90. Those individuals with Medicare Part B who receive Social Security are protected by a hold harmless clause from this 2016 premium increase since there will be no Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) in 2016. They therefore will continue to pay the standard 2015 Medicare Part B monthly premium of **\$104.90** in 2016.



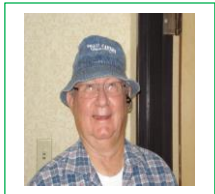
**Chapter VP for Membership (Judy Rosco)**

I would like to introduce our newest chapter members: **Robert Kinney** and **Rosarito Rodriguez**. They joined us for our November meeting and received a warm welcome from members who were in attendance.

The National Membership Contest is ending December 31<sup>st</sup> and our Chapter Membership Contest is ending March 31, 2016 so keep recruiting and win big money in the membership contests.

Thanks to our Contact Committee, we have completed approximately 70 percent of our chapter member contacts.

I would like to thank board members Roy Willoughby, Sharon Reese, Dan Carroll, Jim Kielty, Carol Main, Carol Smith, Craig Singleton, and Emery Woodard for preparing the packets that were handed out at the Health Fairs. We stuffed approximately 300 envelopes. We have completed our visits to the Health Fairs and made 166 new contacts. A gift certificate for \$25 to Red Lobster, Olive Garden or Outback, was drawn from the contact cards at each site we attended. The following winners are announced: BC/BS Luncheon – Guadalupe Hernandez, Lorreto Town Center – Elizabeth Duran, BLM-Lizabeh Ochoa, DEA- Rosalee Telles, USDA- JoAnn Chavirra, Social Security –Landa Maribel, District Court-Monica Holle, Border Patrol Las Cruces-Christopher Herrera, WSMR-Yolanda Esparaza, NASA-Sheryl Reynolds, and La Tuna-Christina Minitrez. Thanks to the following members for volunteering their time to attend the health fairs and talk to prospective members about NARFE: Roy and Sharon Willoughby, Mary Ellen McKay, Sharon Reese, Carol Main, Carol Smith, Marlene Mayfield, Jim Kielty, and Dan Carroll. Your help was greatly appreciated.



**Bob Main**

***Cans, Cans, Cans***

Please remember to bring your aluminum cans to our meetings. The money from the can collection helps pay for our newsletter.

Bob parks his truck in the back corner of the hotel. There is a NARFE-Cans sign on it. It sits there waiting to be filled up! 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](mailto: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.







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Federal Employees Association  
Chapter 182  
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**You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!**

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**Members of Congress**

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<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>

**U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D)**  
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(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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Smith (522-3033)**

6 - or email: [lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com](mailto:lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com).