



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Chapter 182 Reporter

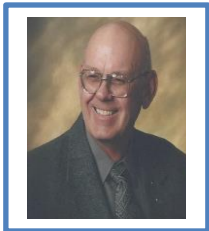
Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 16, Issue 8 – April 2016

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

April 9th Meeting (New Officers Sworn In)

Saturday, April 16th (Yard Sale)



**Chapter
President**

**Roy
Willoughby**

I hope everyone is enjoying their renewed spring gardens. Like all good things, a lot of work, but worth every minute of it.

Our Saint Patrick's Day March meeting was a fine and enjoyable event with a very informative presentation by James Mitchell on the City of Las Cruces Senior Programs available in our area. Adrian Holguin, Senior Long Term Care Services Specialist will present another program in this series of Senior Programs at our April meeting. A special thanks to Franklin McKay for introducing us to these senior activities that we all can enjoy.

We are off to a good start for the New Year with a strong and capable slate of officers voted in at the last Chapter meeting. We will continue this adventure in April by installing our new officers and expanding our standing committees.

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**Ways &
Means
Craig
Singleton**

The next opportunity available for you to support our Chapter's Ways and Means fund is:

The NARFE Chapter 182 YARD SALE which will be held on Saturday, April 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, we will be happy to pick them up. You can let us know when you see us at this month's meeting on April 9th. If you miss us at the meeting, please call Roy & Sharon Willoughby at (575) 524-9395, Carol Main (575) 382-7686, or me at (575) 373-0705. Items need to be ready for pick up on April 9th so that we can arrange a convenient time. Items may be delivered to the Willoughby's home on April 14th and 15th.



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Programs

**Franklin
McKay**

April 9th Meeting

Please come join us for another interesting program dealing with the City of Las Cruces Senior Programs. **Adrian Holguin**, Senior Long Term Care Specialist, will be our speaker.

All current and retired Federal employees are encouraged to attend our meetings.

Hilton Garden Inn
\$13 (cash only) for the breakfast buffet at 8:45 a.m.

Reservations must be made by April 5th by calling:
Carol Main at 382-7686 or
Carol Smith at 522-3033.

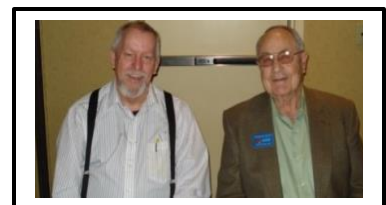


Photo: James Mitchell (Human Services Case Manager for Senior Programs) and **Franklin McKay** at our March meeting.

*President's Message
Continued*

Also a special thanks to our Membership Chair, Judy Rosco, for creating a contest that resulted in increasing our membership.

Remember that the NARFE New Mexico Convention will be on the 21st to the 23rd of April in Albuquerque at the Isleta Resort and Casino. And, we still need three more official Voting Delegates from our Chapter. Please sign up to attend as a Delegate by contacting any Chapter Executive Board member. Also, attending Delegates will receive payment for the convention registration. This will be a very important convention because of the many National NARFE structural changes being considered.

And last but not least is our big April event. Remember to clean out your garage, attic, cupboards, etc. and have your unwanted items ready for the "NARFE Yard Sale". Be sure to read Craig Singleton's Ways and Means article to know all the details.



*Ways and Means
Continued from Page 1*

Big items are most welcome. Any items that you can price in advance are especially welcome and would save us time, but all are welcome to join us on the days we price. If you are donating any "Treasures" please let us know. We haven't had much luck with selling clothing but accessories do well.

The schedule is as follows:
Thursday 14 April – Delivery of items and pricing after 9:00 a.m.
Friday 15 April – Delivery of items and pricing continues after 9:00 a.m.
Saturday 16 April – Gather at 7:00 a.m. - Open to the Public at 8:00 a.m.

Any of you who are available and would like to help with the pricing or on the day of the sale even for an hour or two please contact me, Carol Main, or Roy and Sharon Willoughby. We will have a volunteer sign-up sheet available at the meeting. Or, you can just show up.

I would also encourage any of our members who are fortunate enough to be bilingual to come and help on the day of the sale. I can tell you from past experience our yard sale is a lot of fun.

Thanks for your support!



*Records
Report*

*Carol
Main*

Welcome New Members:
Foster (Sonny) Mayer
Rosemary Windham

Welcome back:

Dan Flores

Antonio Nunez

New Prospective Member:

Paula Pagan

We would like to see you at our April meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.



*Judy
Rosco*

Our **Membership Contest** ended on March 31st but our newsletter went to press before the "final winners" could be announced.

Look for the winners to be announced in our May issue and remember, even though the Membership Contest has ended, members will still earn \$10 for every member they recruit.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton) I have been out of town so I missed the last two chapter meetings. I am looking forward to seeing you at our April meeting. Right now it is time for me to spread some sunshine.



(Applies as I write this article) "It is one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." --Charles Dickens

(Thought provoking) "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." --Ann Bradstreet

(Humorous) "I think trees should bloom earlier in the spring. They act like they are on a schedule. It's not like they have anywhere to go." --Jared Kinte

A get well card was sent to **Marlene Mayfield** who underwent surgery recently. We hope for a continuing speedy recovery. A sympathy card was sent to the family of **Thomas Reader**, who passed away in February. Please let me know if you hear of a member who is ill, has passed away or could use a little sunshine in their life.
Marcele: PH 575-521-4954 or email: marcele@skelton.net



Service Officer Report (Jim Kiely)

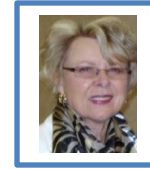
**NARFE SUPPORTS BILL TO
REFORM WINDFALL
ELIMINATION PROVISION**

NARFE headquarters has thrown its support behind a bill introduced by Representative Kevin Brady of Texas, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which if enacted into law, would substantially reduce, but would NOT eliminate the Social Security penalty applicable to many federal retirees known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The WEP was enacted into law in 1983 as part of a series of amendments to the Social Security law.

WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of federal, state, and local government retirees who earned a pension from government work that was not covered by Social Security (for example, CSRS retirement) but who also qualify for Social Security benefits from other employment in the private sector. H.R. 711 (The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015) would not totally repeal WEP, but would substantially reduce the current penalty. For individuals who turned 62 prior to 2017, H. R. 711 would reduce the current WEP penalty by some percentage, not to exceed 50 percent, as calculated by actuaries at the Social Security Administration (SSA). This penalty reduction would begin in 2017, but would not be retroactive. For individuals turning 62 in or after 2017, the current formula for developing the amount of the WEP penalty would be replaced by a new and presumably fairer formula also developed by SSA actuaries. NARFE estimates this reduction would be approximately 32 percent of the current penalty.

NARFE has long advocated total repeal of both the WEP and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which reduces or eliminates the spousal Social Security benefits of some federal employees. Members of Congress periodically have introduced bills to repeal both the WEP and the GPO, but these initiatives eventually have died in various legislative committees. However, NARFE has determined to support H.R. 711 for several reasons. First, if the bill becomes law, some reduction in the WEP is better than none at all. Second, with the selection of Representative Paul Ryan as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Representative Brady has become the chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over the bill. Third, Representative Brady has attracted bipartisan support for his bill, with approximately 60 co-sponsors from both parties. Fourth, the bill is expected to be cost neutral, since it also requires the SSA to develop stricter enforcement procedures to identify those individuals who have under-reported their non-Social Security earnings to SSA.

On February 19 NARFE President Richard Thissen sent a letter to Representative Brady reflecting the organization's support for H.R. 711. On March 22 the House Ways and Means Social Security subcommittee was scheduled to hold a hearing on H.R. 711 and NARFE has submitted written testimony in support of the bill which is to be incorporated into the hearing record. More information about this important bill can be found on pages 6 and 7 of the April 2016 edition of the *narfe* magazine.



NARFE-PAC

*Mary Ellen
McKay*

March was NARFE-PAC month for our organization. We're not at the end of March quite yet, but we have already held the Chapter meeting for March. In an effort to bring NARFE-PAC to the attention of all members I stated just a few important facts about NARFE-PAC and asked people to enter a giveaway by donating. The winner of the wine basket was Carol Main. We raised \$100.00. I hear from more and more members that they are contributing to NARFE-PAC on a monthly or one-time basis. That is a good thing. Two things I want to remind you about:

1. There is strength in numbers. Contributing to NARFE-PAC helps you get more out of your political contributions. The PAC pools individual contributions into larger amounts that are given to campaigns. This "strength in numbers" approach also helps ensure that the PAC reaches as many elected officials as possible.
2. NARFE-PAC makes NARFE politically relevant. With NARFE-PAC contributions, our supporters in Congress are more likely to stay in Congress and, therefore, more likely to continue to lend their support to our issues.

Alzheimer's April Raffle

Sarah McAdoo

Come to our April meeting and join in on the Alzheimer's raffle. You could win this beautiful afghan made and donated by member Terry Bloom.





National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
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Return Service Requested

You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!

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jkielty70@yahoo.com	(575) 523-6044
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marcele@skelton.net	(575) 521-4954

Members of Congress

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Loretto Town Center
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(575) 523-6561
<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D)
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Las Cruces, NM 88001
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U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (R) (Dist 2)
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<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 **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)** or email: lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.