



# 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 9 – May 2016

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

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

***Please mark your calendar to attend our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.***

***For reservations call Carol Main at 382-7686 or Carol Smith at 522-3033 by Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.***



### Chapter President's Message Roy Willoughby

This month the new Executive Officers will take our Chapter into the new 2016-2017 year of adventure!

We will face a possible realignment of the NARFE operational structure which will be revealed and voted on during the National Convention this August in Reno, Nevada. This may be a great time to attend a National convention and be a part of the decision process.

We just returned from our New Mexico Federation of Chapters Convention that was held at the Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque. We had a large delegation from our Chapter that enjoyed not only the event, but the spectacular architecture of the buildings. Sharon Reese was reelected as the Federation Legislative 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Sharon Willoughby was elected as the Federation Southwest District Vice President. We welcome them as our Chapter's strong Leadership in the Federation. The President and the Membership 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President were elected from the Albuquerque Chapters.

We were treated to two very interesting seminars from the NARFE National Headquarters by Jessica Klement, the Legislative Director and by David Snell, the Federal Benefits Services Director. Both seminars gave us insight into the Headquarters' operations. For example; Jessica is responsible for taking NARFE member's concerns to Congress and David works directly on issues involving retirement processing, the Retirement claims backlog at OPM, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Programs, the Thrift Savings Plan, Medicare and Social Security.

Five Resolutions were passed and two were defeated. One By-law/Standing Rule Amendment was passed and one was defeated.

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***Saturday  
May 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.  
Esperanza Room  
Hilton Garden Inn  
2550 Don Roser***

The program will be presented by **Mr. Bill Cavaliere**, president of the Cochise County Historical Society. A retired sheriff from Hidalgo County, Mr. Cavaliere specializes in the Chiricahua Apaches and frequently lectures at colleges, historical societies and museums, and also guides history tours. He has written articles for numerous journals and magazines and is currently working on a book. His research has taken him all over the Southwest, as well as deep into Mexico.

This will be a fascinating program, so please attend and bring a guest to this meeting.



(Programs Chair, Franklin McKay)



### **Chapter 182 Officers for 2016-2017**

(L-R) Craig Singleton (Treasurer), Marlene Mayfield (Secretary), Mary Ellen McKay (2<sup>nd</sup> VP/ Legislation), Judy Rosco (1<sup>st</sup> VP for Membership), and Roy Willoughby (President)



### **Sunshine Report**

**Marcele Skelton**



Today is another day of sunshine for us here in Las Cruces. I hope you are able to get out and about to enjoy it.

There were sunny days also for the recent NARFE Convention at Isleta Resort near Albuquerque. I served as Chair of the Sergeant at Arms committee. It provided me with an opportunity to meet NARFE members from throughout New Mexico. I felt the program and speakers were excellent. The "In Memorium" ceremony was a somber time, recognizing members who have been deceased since the last convention (2014). There were 20 deceased members from Chapter 182.

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of **Timothy Evans**, **Charles Matthews**, and **Gisela Adams** who have passed away since the first of the year.

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@skelton.net](mailto:marcele@skelton.net)

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

A detailed description of these results will be available later on the NARFE-NM website when the post-convention minutes are published.

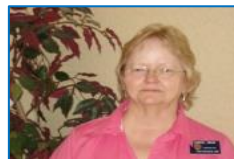
Our April meeting was an outstanding presentation by Adrian Holguin. He was the last in a three-part series on Seniors Programs available in this area sponsored by the city of Las Cruces. The presentation generated a full discussion on what is available and important feedback on the needs of senior citizens.

This month will be a fascinating program on the historical Southwest 1800's by Mr. Bill Cavaliere. He specializes in Chiricahua Apaches and lectures at historical societies and museums.

A tremendous thank you to all of our Chapter members who made this year's Chapter Yard Sale a resounding success. We all had a lot of fun.

This month is the last program before the summer break, but for our membership and our new Executive Leadership just the beginning of our new and exciting adventures starting in the fall. Please consider joining our Executive Board's committees to help make next year as successful as this year.

Remember the NARFE National Convention will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2016 in the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, NV. We will discuss delegates at this month's Chapter meeting.



### **Records Officer Carol Main**

Welcome New Members:

**Anthony Madeja**  
**David Pagan**

We would like to see you at the May 14th meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is  
336 members strong!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for Legislation (Mary Ellen McKay)

When our new year begins at our May meeting I will be changing hats in the Chapter. It isn't a big switch, but everyone knows what a great job Sharon Reese has been doing as the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for Legislation. I will try to fill her shoes.

My previous position as NARFE-PAC chairman has come to an end, but I am so grateful to each and every member who has supported NARFE-PAC in the past. On the national level we are almost to the goal set by National of 1 million dollars. In fact as this newsletter reaches you, we may have passed the goal. That doesn't mean we can slack off on our contribution. We have people running for office who are supporters of the bills favorable to Federal employees and retirees. We still need to help those candidates to help us.

This is the "political season". If you have your TV or radio on, or read a newspaper or magazine, you know how inundated we are with information and misinformation. It's a tough year. But, NARFE goes on looking out for our interests. If you want to get involved on a grassroots level, you can go to the NARFE web-site and through the Legislative Department look at "Protect America's Heartbeat Toolkit" for how-to suggestions for getting involved.

\*The House and Senate will be in recess May 2 – May 6, and again May 30 – June 3 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

\*As the weather warms up and the November elections inch closer, members of Congress are scheduled to be in their districts/states more frequently. This summer is the prime time to meet with members of Congress and candidates. You should talk to them in formal meetings, but also in informal settings like community events. Tell them that NARFE's issues are important to their constituents.

## Results of our Chapter Membership Contest

The winners of our Membership Contest which ran from 1 September 2015 – 31 March 2016 were Judy Rosco who recruited 5 new members, Marlene Mayfield recruited 2, and Carol Main and Dan Carroll recruited 1 new member each. They are pictured below receiving their cash awards at our April meeting.



(L-R) Roy Willoughby presented checks to the winners: Judy Rosco, Marlene Mayfield, Carol Main and Dan Carroll. April 2016



President Roy Willoughby presented a certificate and a \$50 award to Sarah McAdoo at our April meeting in recognition of her work as the Chapter's Newsletter Editor and Alzheimer's Chair.

## Happy Mother's Day Wishes!



Beautiful flowers bloom in the Willoughby's yard.



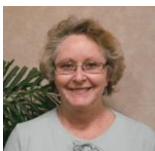


### **Service Officer Report (Jim Kiely)**

#### **PREMIUM INCREASE ON THE HORIZON FOR FEDERAL LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM**

On 5 April 2016 the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced the awarding of a new seven (7) year contract to the John Hancock Life and Health Insurance Company to administer the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). The FLTCIP assists with health care costs for enrolled current federal employees, federal retirees, and qualified family members who require ongoing care (lengthy or even lifelong assistance) with activities of daily living due to serious illness, injury, or severe cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease. This ongoing care may be provided at home by a nurse, home health aide, therapist, or other authorized provider. The FLTCIP also may be used to help offset the cost of care in all levels of specialized facilities, such as assisted living facilities; skilled, intermediate, or custodial care facilities; and hospice care. These expenses can prove to be quite costly and are normally not covered by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Medicare covers some expenses, but only for a limited period of time and with very specific restrictions.

The FLTCIP was first offered in 2002 and currently approximately 274,000 federal employees and retirees are enrolled in this program. However, it must be noted that FLTCIP enrollees pay the full cost of the premiums, and there is no OPM contribution toward the premium cost. Both OPM and NARFE expect that the new FLTCIP contract with John Hancock will result in significantly higher premiums for enrollees beginning in the fall of 2016. The exact amount of these increases is still being calculated, but estimates have ranged from 5 percent-30 percent above current rates. Adjustment of premium rates is affected by such factors as longer average life spans and lower rates of return on the investments used to fund the payouts to long term care providers. OPM has indicated they plan to work with John Hancock in offering different types of long term care insurance options to enrollees which may serve to mitigate the extent of projected premium increases. Long Term Care (LTC) Partners, a division of John Hancock, will send all enrollees a letter in early fall 2016 explaining the premium increase and describing other plan options which if selected by the enrollee would serve to limit the size of the premium increases. NARFE members enrolled in the FLTCIP need to stay tuned for further developments in order to make an informed decision when the premium increases are officially announced.



### **TREASURER REPORT (Cathy Phillips)**

How did the Chapter spend its funds this past year? The 2015-16 approved Budget was \$4,050 based on expected funds received from National for dues, \$3,150, and the

projected membership of 315. Actuals collected were \$3,221 for membership and \$900 on yard sale; \$71 more than projected. The Chapter expenses were: Administrative & Operating \$921, Chapter Initiatives \$835, Committees \$49, Newsletter \$1,032 (before Alum Cans offset), Other Expenses: District Workshop \$180, Federation half-page ad \$ 65. Total Expenses were \$3,082. The Budget expenses were \$1,039 less than projected. Part of this was the cancelling of the mailing permit, due in March, of \$225. There were no Federation, Region VII, nor National Conventions during the past budget year; however, the NM Federation Convention, 21-23 April had one expense, the half-page ad submitted by our Chapter in March. The new budget year will have both a NM Federation Convention and a National Convention (August in Reno, NV). Craig Singleton is the Treasurer and Budget Officer for the new budget year so he will be entertaining you with those updates.

I will be out of state during the May meeting, but I wanted to let everyone know that I have enjoyed being your Treasurer for the past two years and will continue to support the Chapter in the future!

## ***Chapter 182 Yard Sale Ways 'n Means (Craig Singleton)***

**This year's Yard Sale was a great success. From donation pick-up, delivery, pricing, displaying, selling, and loading the truck from Goodwill, a good time was had by all.**

The profit after expenses for advertising, new signs, and refreshments was just over **\$1,330.00** which is almost fifty percent more than the budget plan. Thanks to all of the generous members of our chapter, along with their friends, relatives, and neighbors, who donated the items to be sold. We give a special thank you to Sharon and Roy Willoughby for letting us use their home to hold the sale. Along with Sharon and Roy, the following members deserve special thanks for all of their tireless efforts in donation pick-up, unpacking, pricing, set-up, cashiering, sales, repacking, and loading the truck: Nancy & Tom Banks, Angie & Dan Carroll, Jim Kielty, Carol & Bob Main, Marlene Mayfield, Mary Ellen & Franklin McKay, Cathy Phillips, Tom Pickering, Sharon & John Reese, Judy Rosco, Irv & Marcelle Skelton, and Carol & Norman Smith. I would also like to give special thanks our new prospective member Ms. Sharon Mann who assisted with the pricing and was a customer at the sale as well.



***Judy Rosco & Craig Singleton proudly displayed the NARFE Banner!***



***Carol Main had to count all that CASH!***

***Mary Ellen McKay helped feed all those hungry workers!***



***Marcele & Irv Skelton, Roy Willoughby, Cathy Phillips and others hard at work! Their hard work paid off.***



**ALZHEIMER'S  
RAFFLE  
MAY MEETING**

Terry Bloom has made another beautiful afghan for our Alzheimer's raffle. Please join us at our meeting and get a ticket to win this prize and many others.

Marcele Skelton was the lucky winner of the afghan that was given away last month!

(Sarah McAdoo)



**Legislative Report**  
**Sharon Reese**  
**NM Federation VP for Legislation**



Thank you for having me as your Chapter Vice President for Legislation the last 6 years. I was re-elected as the NM Federation Vice President (Legislation). After long and hard thoughts, I think I am better off as the VP as this duty has real emphasis by the National Headquarters.

**Results from the New Mexico Federation of Chapters Convention:**  
**Bylaws considered were:**

- #1, District Boundaries - PASSED
- #2, District Vice Presidents Duties - WITHDRAWN

**Resolutions considered were:**

Added: Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for Federal Retirees - PASSED

- #1, New Mexico Federation Reorganization - DISAPPROVED
- #2, Health Care Insurance Premium Fairness - mended as follows and PASSED

Be it resolved: That the Legislative staff at National Headquarters work with a congressman to draft and put forward a bill that will correct the inequity between current federal employees and retired federal employees in their medical insurance premium

- #3, National Strategic Plan Adoption - PASSED
- #4, Senatorial Leaders (SL) and Congressional District Leaders (CDL) - PASSED
- #5. Realignment of District Boundaries - DISAPPROVED

#6, Extension of the New Mexico Federation current SLL/CDL program for a period not to exceed 12 months. Amended as follows and PASSED

Be it resolved: That the new Mexico Federation of Chapters extends its current advocacy program using Senate Legislative Leaders and Congressional District Leaders as a permanent part of our organization.

**I congratulate our newly elected officers as they will provide us expert guidance through the next year.**



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

*Return Service Requested*

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### You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!

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#### Chapter 182 Officers

President	<b>Roy Willoughby</b>
<a href="mailto:rswillowbee@comcast.net">rswillowbee@comcast.net</a>	(575) 524-9395
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. (Membership):	<b>Judy Rosco</b>
<a href="mailto:rosco631@gmail.com">rosco631@gmail.com</a>	(575) 635-7127
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. (Legislation):	<b>Mary Ellen McKay</b>
<a href="mailto:memckay1@comcast.net">memckay1@comcast.net</a>	(575) 527-4750
Secretary	<b>Marlene Mayfield</b>
<a href="mailto:mayfield195@msn.com">mayfield195@msn.com</a>	(575) 524-3927
Treasurer:	<b>Craig Singleton</b>
<a href="mailto:scsingleton575@gmail.com">scsingleton575@gmail.com</a>	(575) 373-0705
Alzheimer's/Newsletter Editor	<b>Sarah McAdoo</b>
<a href="mailto:mcadoosr@aol.com">mcadoosr@aol.com</a>	(575) 571-6364
Program Chair:	<b>Franklin McKay</b>
<a href="mailto:memckay1@comcast.net">memckay1@comcast.net</a>	(575) 527-4750
Public Relations:	<b>Marlene Mayfield</b>
<a href="mailto:mayfield195@msn.com">mayfield195@msn.com</a>	(575) 524-3927
Records Officer:	<b>Carol Main</b>
<a href="mailto:cmain@zianet.com">cmain@zianet.com</a>	(575) 382-7686
Service Officer:	<b>Jim Kielty</b>
<a href="mailto:jkielty70@yahoo.com">jkielty70@yahoo.com</a>	(575) 523-6044
Sunshine:	<b>Marcele Skelton</b>
<a href="mailto:marcele@skelton.net">marcele@skelton.net</a>	(575) 521-4954

#### 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 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)**

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