



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 17, Issue 2 – Sep 2016

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

Important Meeting with our Legislators Scheduled for Saturday, September 10th

NARFE National Convention
28 Aug – 1 Sep 2016
Reno, NV



*Records Officer
Carol Main*



*Programs
Franklin
McKay*

Our Executive Board, along with the Chapter's delegates, thoroughly reviewed the proposed national by-laws and standing rule amendments and proposed resolutions at the August Board meeting to prepare themselves for the Convention.

We appreciate the time, money, and effort that the following individuals spent to represent our chapter at the National Convention in Reno.

**Carol and Bob Main
Sharon and John Reese
Marcele and Irv Skelton
Carol and Norm Smith
Sharon and Roy Willoughby**

As you can see, we were well represented!

We look forward to their Report on the Convention at our September 10th meeting.

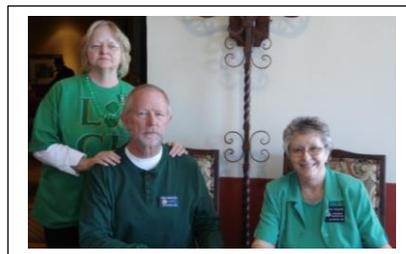
*Welcome back:
Robert Bradshaw*

*New Prospective Member:
Debra Clark*

We would like to see you at the September 10 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is **330**
members strong!

**THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE
TO OUR CHAPTER!**



(L-R) Carol Main (Records Officer), Craig Singleton (Treasurer), and Cathy Phillips (Former Treasurer)

**Saturday, September 10th
8:30 a.m., Esperanza Room,
Hilton Garden Inn**



LEGISLATION

Our September meeting is an important one! We have invited our New Mexico Legislators to join us and have asked each one to provide a short briefing with a question and answer session at the end of the presentations.

Please don't miss this meeting. Also, bring your important questions with you. We need a packed house so ask your friends, members or not, to join us.

Reservations: Missed the telephone committee call: Contact Carol Main (382-7686) or Carol Smith (522-3033) by September 6th.



**Marcele Skelton
Sunshine Report**

Sunny summer days are winding down. Schools are starting. Labor Day is almost here. Fall activities are resuming, including our NARFE Chapter meetings. I hope to see many of you at our September meeting.

A sympathy card was sent to Sarah McAdoo, whose husband, Richard, passed away July 24th. We all know Sarah as the Editor of our Chapter Newsletter and Alzheimer's Chair. Our sympathy goes out to you, Sarah. One of our former long-time members, Donald Moen, passed away but I was unable to send a card to his family because I have no information or address.

A Get Well card was sent to Franklin McKay who has had two surgeries at Mayo Clinic during August. A Get Well card was also sent to Judy Rosco who recently had knee surgery and to Terry Bloom who had foot surgery. We hear that both Franklin and Judy are progressing well in their recovery and hope that Terry is also.

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: 575-521-4954 or at

marcele@skelton.net.

**Telephone Committee
(Carol Smith & Carol Main)**

Carol Smith and I will remain the co-chairs for the telephone committee when our meetings resume in September.

We would like to thank all our callers, Nancy Banks, Martha Beerman, Joy Davenport, Allaire Dunn, Craig Singleton, and Cynthia Zaklan for all their hard work and perseverance this past year.

We are currently updating our caller lists for the upcoming meetings which start in September. If you are receiving phone calls about the meetings or volunteer hours and have been unable to attend or report any volunteer hours for the past year, please let us know if you would like to continue receiving telephone reminders. If you have not been receiving calls and would like to be added to the call list, please call Carol Smith at 522-3033 or Carol Main at 382-7686. When you are contacted in September, please report volunteer hours for May, June, July, and August.

Hope to see all of you at the September 10th meeting.



**Judy
Rosco**

Hello members!

Are you ready to get back to NARFE business and those great breakfasts at the Hilton Garden Inn? I am.

I had total knee replacement surgery on my left knee the first week of August but I am ready to get back to our regular NARFE meetings.

I hope to see you at our next meeting September 10th, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8:30 am.

Bring a friend along to hear our Legislative program.



Alzheimer's (Sarah McAdoo)

An estimated 47 million people globally have Alzheimer's disease and that number is projected to triple by 2050. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are some things you can do to keep memory loss at bay such as exercise, education, not smoking, getting adequate sleep, staying socially engaged, learning new things, taking care of your mental health and eating a healthy diet.

One way you can stay socially engaged is to attend our monthly NARFE meetings. It's good to see our NARFE friends, enjoy a nice breakfast, and hear interesting programs from our speakers.

We will have our special program on Alzheimer's at our October 8th meeting. We will provide more information on this in our October newsletter.



Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)

JUNE AND JULY CPI-W FIGURES ARE INCONCLUSIVE FOR PREDICTING POSSIBLE COLA INCREASE FOR 2017

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 2017, showed mixed results for the months of June and July 2016. While the June CPI-W reflected an increase for the fourth straight month, the July CPI-W declined, but is still slightly above the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2014, the reference point for determining if a 2017 COLA will be authorized.

The June CPI-W was 235.308, a one month increase of 0.37 percent and 0.46 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2014 (234.242). Conversely, the July CPI-W of 234.789 was 0.22 percent lower than the June CPI-W, but still 0.23 percent higher than the 2014 reference point of 234.242. The CPI-W for August 2016 will be released on September 16.

NARFE PROTESTS HUGE PROJECTED PREMIUM INCREASES FOR FEDERAL LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM

On 18 July the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that most of the approximately 274,000 current federal employees and federal retirees who participate in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) would see huge increases in their current premiums beginning on 1 November 2016. OPM indicated that the average premium increase would be 83 percent, with some individuals seeing as much as a 126 percent increase. Later in July, Federal Long Term Care Partners, which administers the FLTCIP for the John Hancock Life and Health Insurance Company, the company awarded the long term care program contract by OPM, mailed out individual packets to most of the participants. As an example, your Chapter 182 Service Officer was advised that to retain the current level of coverage, the monthly premium would rise from \$288 dollars to \$517 dollars beginning 1 November. For federal retirees, the premium increase will be reflected in the 1 December annuity payment. Long Term Care Partners did offer the option to reduce or eliminate the premium increase by accepting one of several reduced coverage choices. The deadline for employees and retirees to make a decision is 30 September 2016.

NARFE President Richard Thissen issued a statement of objection which read in part "... I am stunned at the extent of the increase and angry that this type of financial pressure is being placed on federal employees and retirees." Congress has been urged to look into this drastic increase, but there are no guarantees this will occur. Individual NARFE members who will be hit by the jump in premiums may wish to contact their Congressional representatives to voice their concerns.

RARE LIFE INSURANCE OPEN SEASON FOR CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BEGINS 1 SEPTEMBER

NARFE members who are current federal employees will be able to take advantage of a rare Open Season for the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) program which will run from 1-30 September. The last FEGLI Open Season occurred in 2004. The FEGLI Open Season is NOT available for federal retirees and survivor annuitants.

During this Open Season, federal employees will be able to sign up for FEGLI or increase their life insurance coverage. In this Open Season federal employees can make these changes without undergoing a physical exam or filling out a medical questionnaire. Any election made during the Open Season will have a one-year delayed effective date. Coverage changes made during the September Open Season will be effective on the first day of the first full pay period on or after 1 October 2017. NARFE members who are current federal employees should contact their respective agencies for more specific details about the upcoming Open Season.



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Federal Employees Association
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Return Service Requested

You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!

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Members of Congress

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U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (R) (Dist 2)
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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: lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com.