



# NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

*Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees*

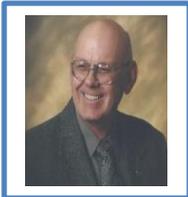
## Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 17, Issue 3 – October 2016

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

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

*Presentation on Alzheimer's Awareness – Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting*



### Chapter President's Message

(Roy Willoughby)



Wow! What a summer! It is so good to be home and making plans for the fall season. Between family, friends and NARFE it will be a very busy fall for us all.

We have returned to the Land of Enchantment from this year's National NARFE Convention held in Reno, NV. It was truly a historic adventure! Major Bylaws changes were passed that will impact the future of our entire NARFE organizational structure. The two main changes were: "One Member One Vote" and "Optional Chapter Membership". For more details please see Sharon Reese's comprehensive Convention Report in this Newsletter.

Mary Ellen McKay, our Vice President for Legislation presented a very interesting and timely program for our September Chapter meeting in anticipation of the upcoming National elections. First Mary Ellen introduced Cynthia Hull who read a letter from Senator Heinrich. Then Mary Ellen introduced Merrie Lee Soules, the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives (District 2). There was an active and informative exchange of ideas during the discussions following the legislative presentations.

Our October Chapter meeting will be dedicated to the latest achievements in Alzheimer's research. By the way, at the National Convention it was stated that NARFE is one of the leading, if not the leading nonprofit organizational contributor of funds for Alzheimer's research.

Our goal in future programming is to feature outstanding presentations and to share important information vital to

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### Chapter Program Chair

Franklin McKay



*Saturday, Oct 8th, 8:30 a.m.,  
Esperanza Room, Hilton Garden Inn,  
2550 Don Roser*

### Chapter 182 Alzheimer's Awareness Month Speaker: Bonnie Zeiler



Bonnie Zeiler, LPN, joined the Village of Northrise in 2010 as the Director of the Alzheimer's Program. Since then, Bonnie has been voted "Best of the Best Nurse Manager" in 2012 by the NM Health Care Association, was selected as the Nurse of the Year by the National Centers for Assisted Living in 2015, and led her team to the top producing fundraising team for Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's in 2012 and 2014. When asked about her success she credits her dedicated coworkers and wonderfully supportive resident families in giving her the motivation, the reason to make a difference, and the wiggle room to think outside of the box.

**Reservations:** Missed the telephone committee call: Contact Carol Main (382-7686) or Carol Smith (522-3033) by October 4<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$13.

*President's Message Continued from Page 1*

your needs and to have fun in the process.

Once again, we very much want to encourage all Chapter members to participate in every aspect of our organization. Please consider visiting our board meetings and becoming part of a committee or a member at large. Our successful future depends on continuing to have as many members as possible be part of this year's exciting adventures.

**Remember NARFE, the "E" is silent  
but we are not.**



**Carol Main  
Records Officer**

Welcome New Members:  
***Kathleen Mayer and Sharon Mann***

We would like to see you at the October 8 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

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



**Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)**

**FEHBP OPEN SEASON HEALTH FAIRS TO BEGIN SOON**

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Open Season for the 2017 benefits year will begin on Monday, November 14 and will conclude on Monday, December 12. In advance of the Open Season, a series of health fairs will be held by federal agencies in the Las Cruces area. At these health fairs, federal employees, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of many of the federal health plans to obtain information about plan benefits, premiums, and changes for 2017, and to ask questions of the plan representatives.

Traditionally, the most well attended health fair is held at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). The WSMR health fair this year will be held on Wednesday, 2 November from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in Building 124, Room 215. Other federal agencies (e.g., Border Patrol, BLM, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, NASA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Social Security Administration, U.S. District Court, and USDA Agricultural Research Service) also will be conducting health fairs. NARFE members who are current federal employees should check with their respective agencies for more information about these health fairs. The FEHBP Open Season health fair held in previous years at the Loretto Towne Center HAS BEEN DELETED from this year's health fair schedule. However, representatives from several of the health plan providers will be in attendance at the NARFE Chapter 182 monthly meeting on Saturday, November 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2551 Don Roser Drive, Las Cruces.

NARFE members are reminded that the various health benefits plan providers no longer automatically mail paper copies of plan brochures to those currently enrolled in these plans. To obtain a paper copy of your plan's 2017 brochure you must follow any instructions your health insurance provider gives you. If you have any questions, call the customer service number on your health insurance ID card. In addition, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website will contain on-line versions of each plan's brochures when they are released as well as other valuable information relative to the Open Season.

OPM has not yet announced the overall average increase for all FEHBP premiums or the 2016 premiums for each individual health insurance plan. This information should be available in early October. The October 2016 edition of the *narfe* magazine will contain a preview of the Open Season. More detailed Open Season information also will be presented in the November and December 2016 editions of the *narfe* magazine and the NARFE Chapter 182 **REPORTER**.



**Judy Rosco**  
**VP for Membership**

As a result of the recent National Convention, new NARFE members are not required to join a local chapter or an e-chapter. For those who prefer to join without local chapter affiliation, there will be a new category called National Members, coded NA. When making contact with a new prospective member, we must stress the importance of joining NARFE either way -- so NARFE can continue to work to protect our benefits. We would like all potential members to join a local chapter; however, now each new member does have a choice.

All new members whether associated with a chapter or not, will be entitled to all the benefits of NARFE including the **narfe** magazine, access to federal benefits specialists, online resources and webinars, legislative alerts on issues impacting the federal community, disaster relief grants, member-only discounts, and college scholarships for family members.

The National office is running a new 2016 Membership Drive, from Sep 1- Dec 31, 2016 and will pay each member, who recruits a member, \$10. Recruiters will be entered into a drawing and eligible to win an Apple iPod Air 2 which will be awarded in mid-January 2017. Monthly prizes will be awarded for a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Gift card winners will be selected on Oct 1, Nov 2, and Dec 1. Last year, NARFE members recruited 1,317 new members. I was one of the lucky winners of the \$25 Amazon Gift Card and that was for recruiting just one member at that time. It only takes one member recruited to be a **WINNER** for our chapter.



**Sunshine Report**  
**(Marcele Skelton)**

Fall is just around the corner, but it doesn't seem like it with our warm weather and sunshiny days. Enjoy it while it lasts!

A Get Well card was sent to Frances Williams after her surgery. We hope she has a speedy recovery.

Sympathy cards were sent to the following:

- Sharon Willoughby after the death of her sister,
- Emery Woodard on the death of his mother in law, and
- the family of Adna Assel who passed away August 23rd

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](mailto:marcele@skelton.net)

***Alzheimer's (Sarah McAdoo)***



Be sure and come to our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and join in on our Alzheimer's Raffle.

We will be giving away a *Gift Certificate for \$55 at Maxx Designs for VIP's* (a haircut and style with Ramone) and a *beautiful afghan made by member, Terry Bloom.*



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Alzheimer's Association 5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
SW Regional Family  
Caregiver Conference

"Caregiving:  
The Heart of the Journey"  
Saturday, November 12  
Alma d'arte Charter High School  
401 W Court

Free: Family Caregivers  
Register Now – Seating is Limited  
575-647-3868

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***NARFE National Convention (Aug 26 – Sep 1, 2016) Reno NV***



***Back Row: Carol Smith, Norm Smith, Carol Main, Bob Main, Roy Willoughby  
Front Row: John Reese, Sharon Willoughby, Marcelle Skelton, Sharon Reese  
Not Pictured: (Taking the Photo) Irv Skelton***

Thanks to Sharon Reese for this recap of all the important happenings at the National Convention which was held 26 Aug through 1 Sep at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno. A full report by Sharon Reese on the Convention has been posted on our NARFE NM Web Page: <http://www.narfe-nm.net> . Also posted are Marcelle Skelton's Sergeant at Arms Report and Sharon Reese's Legislative Report.

Marcele Skelton was a member of the Sergeant at Arms Committee for the fourth straight convention. A big THANK YOU goes to Marcelle for representing our chapter and our Federation.

Sharon Reese was a member of the Legislative Committee for the second straight convention. The 26 page Legislative Program was presented to the members and was approved. After the National Office staff put the program in the correct format it will be made available to all members.

President Thissen reported that we lost 11,000 members in 2015 which equated to \$440K in National dues. Headquarters is in the process of finalizing an infinity partnership with Dell, which will offer discounts to NARFE members. Our Legislative actions by Jessie Klements and her staff saved Federal employees and retirees \$318B in cuts. There were zero cuts this past year. The PAC breakfast was Wednesday and we exceeded our \$1M goal as we are at 1.2M. Our magazine received a National Award! We have received 900K in advertising revenues. Marketing has been a success with 2.5M in fundraising. This convention is the first with a surplus.

Jon Dowie reported on the upgrade to the National office. There is a backlog of closing 20 chapters.

History was made! Delegates passed the "One Member One Vote" passed by 68.78% and "Optional Chapter Membership" passed by 74.9% . Also, the proposal to change to 5 Regions was not adopted. The proposal to stay at 10 Regions was not adopted, by one vote. Therefore, the number of Regions remains in the hands of the NEB, in accordance with our Bylaws.

Both Dick Thissen and Jon Dowie were re-elected by acclamation for two-year terms.

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**Information from the National Convention Continued:**

Region VII Caucus was held. Region VII had 101 attendees. This shows we are a Forward Thinking Region! The Regional Conference will be hosted by Colorado. Frank Impinna asked for suggested topics and time of year as we will be meeting in Denver. Delegates had to vote on Wednesday morning as there were two candidates: Rodney Adelman, Arizona and John Sweat, Wyoming. Rodney Adelman was re-elected as Region VII Vice President.

Alzheimer's collected \$6,177.25 at the convention of which \$4,389.65 will go directly to Alzheimer's.

The Service Officer of the Year is Geneva Howell from Texas.

Under New Business, a resolution was presented and adopted to rename the NARFE Scholarship to NARFE Steve Bauer Scholarship. Also, a resolution to make our Official Slogan "**NARFE – the E is silent but we are not**" was presented and adopted.

This was a very exciting convention with changes in the way we will do business! Thank you to the members who experienced this historic convention: Roy and Sharon Willoughby, Bob and Carol Main, Irv and Marcele Skelton, Carol and Norm Smith (guest), and John and Sharon Reese.



Rodney Adleman, Region VII VP, presenting Marcele Skelton with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Sharon and Roy Willoughby



Carol and Bob Main



John and Sharon Reese



Norm and Carol Smith



Irv and Marcele Skelton

Note to our chapter members who receive their newsletters by regular mail: If you are interested in reading the full convention report and do not have access to our Web Page, please contact Sarah McAdoo, at 571-6364. However, there will be a full report on the Convention in the next issue of your **narfe** magazine.

Thank you to **Bob Main** and **Roy Willoughby** for sharing their photos from the National Convention with us.

Thank you to **Sharon Reese** for her comprehensive reporting on the Convention and to **Marcele Skelton** for her report on the Sergeant at Arms Committee.



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

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**You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!**

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**Chapter 182 Officers**

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**Members of Congress**

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

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201 N Church St Suite 201B  
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**U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (R) (Dist 2)**  
570 N Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88011  
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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 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)** or email: [lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com](mailto:lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com).