



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 7 – March 2017

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

TIME TO VOTE FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS. SEE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS.



President's Message

Roy Willoughby



I hope that everyone had an unforgettable and enjoyable Valentine's Day celebration.

In response to the sweeping changes made at last year's NARFE August 2016 National Convention regarding the new method of voting using the One-Member-One-Vote process, our Chapter has devised a "Grand Voting Experiment" to be used this month for our election of Executive Officers.

The voting process will be a combination of Ballots distributed to our Chapter membership by sending out the Newsletter followed by a Ballot email.

The Newsletter will also be mailed out, as usual, for those who do not have email capability. You should mark your choices to complete your Newsletter enclosed Ballot and mail it back to NARFE Chapter 182 - PO Box 16424 - Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424. Your Ballot must be postmarked no later than the 3rd of March 2017.

For those who want to **email your ballot** back to (lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com), please follow the instructions on the Ballot email.

The Ballots will be collected by the two member "Ballot & Teller" committee and the results will be presented to the membership at the March Chapter meeting on the 11th of March 2017.

We are trying this voting Grand Experiment to not only accomplish our next election of Executive Officers, but to also help in creating our new Chapter bylaws for future voting based on the On-Member-One-Vote process.

Continued on Page 2, Col 1



Programs

Franklin McKay

Saturday, March 11th
8:30 a.m. – Esperanza Room
Hilton Garden Inn

The speaker for our March 11th meeting will be Justin McHorse, MS, Assistant Dean, Multicultural Affairs, Marketing and Communications of the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine at New Mexico State University. For the people and the future, the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine is dedicated to improving the health of the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico through culturally competent undergraduate, graduate, and continuing osteopathic medical education, research, and clinical service to the community.

Please bring a friend and join us for this interesting program!

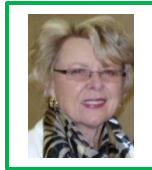
Breakfast Buffet: \$13 cash only
Reservations: NLT Mar 7th
Call Carol Main (382-7686) or
Carol Smith (522-3033)

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

At our February Chapter meeting Dr. Deborah Dennis, Vice President of the Amador Hotel Foundation presented an outstanding and informative historic program on the downtown Amador Hotel entitled "Breathing New Life into the Pioneer Hotel of the Southwest". Please come to our March Chapter meeting for another exciting and informative program.

Remember to plan on going to the Southern New Mexico NARFE Workshop scheduled for the 28th & 29th of April at Truth or Consequences (T or C). Please come for a very comprehensive workshop and an enjoyable time by the lake.

Along with the newly elected Executive Board we welcome all members to consider joining a standing committee on this very energetic and effective Board.



NARFE-PAC (Mary Ellen McKay)

March is NARFE-PAC Month!

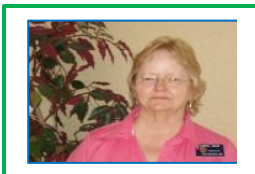
Our Chapter will be doing a push to convince members they will want to contribute to NARFE-PAC. This is the beginning of the 2017-2018 donating cycle. If you make a one-time donation you will be eligible to win a drawing for a very nice gift. Also we will have information for members on how they can and why they should contribute to NARFE-PAC.

NARFE-PAC fights for you by:

1. Helping elect members of Congress who support the federal community
2. Building strong relationships with lawmakers, a key component to winning legislative fights
3. Ensuring the federal community is a powerful political force across the country
4. Pooling individual contributions to maximize impact nationwide
5. Empowering our strongest supporters to become leaders in our fight

NARFE-PAC defends your earned pay and benefits!

Regardless of which side of the political divide you are on, I believe this is one way to safeguard our annuities, healthcare and pay. Please bring along an extra dollar or two for next meeting. Thank you.



Records Officer

Carol Main

Welcome back: James Brueggen

New Prospective members:

***Alton Luper
Christopher Mickendrow***

We would like to see you at the March 11 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members. Our chapter membership is **322** members strong!

Reminder: Have you changed your home address, telephone number, or email address? Please don't forget to notify me at csmain7@gmail.com or phone 382-8786. We don't want you to miss any copies of the **NARFE** magazine, our chapter newsletter, or any notices we send out.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



CPI-W SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE FOR PERIOD OF OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016

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 2018, showed a slight, if uneven, increase during the months of October, November, and December 2016. In order to determine if there will be a COLA in 2018, the monthly CPI-W figures for July, August, and September 2017 will be averaged and compared with the CPI-W average for July-September 2016, which was 235.495. The CPI-W average for July-September 2017 must exceed the 235.495 reference point to trigger a 2018 COLA. The October 2016 CPI-W was 235.732, dropped to 235.215 in November 2016, and rebounded to 235.390 in December 2016, which is 0.14 percent above the 2016 reference point of 235.495.

NARFE MEMBERS ANXIOUSLY AWAIT POSSIBLY ADVERSE PAY OR BENEFITS INITIATIVES PUT FORTH BY 115TH CONGRESS OR NEW ADMINISTRATION

With the new 115th Congress now in session and a new President in the Oval Office, NARFE members will need to be alert in the coming weeks and months for any new legislative proposals or Executive Orders which could possibly erode the pay or benefits of current federal employees, retirees, or survivor annuitants. Representative Jason Chaffetz, Chairperson of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has expressed the view that government reform should be a high priority with the new Congress, and he was scheduled to discuss this subject with President Trump in February. Although no significant bills which could adversely affect federal pay and benefits are now on the table, NARFE headquarters is concerned about the near future and is urging members to educate themselves and remain vigilant. An excellent summary of the NARFE concerns is found on pages 24-31 of the February 2017 **NARFE** magazine in the article titled "Federal Forecast".

MEMBERSHIP

Grand Prize Winner Announced for 2016 Fall Membership Campaign

We are very happy to report that **Craig Singleton**, our Chapter Treasurer, was selected at National Headquarters as the winner of the Grand Prize in the NARFE 2016 Membership Campaign. His name was entered along with many others who recruited new members during the campaign. Craig asked that the money that NARFE would have spent on the announced grand prize – an Apple iPad Air 2 – be donated equally to the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund and the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund with credit for the donations given to our chapter. That just proves what many of us already know -- Craig is an outstanding NARFE member and very generous. Congratulations, Craig, and many thanks from our Chapter!

ALZHEIMER'S

Our chapter has gotten off to a good start this year earning money for Alzheimer's research. In the first two months we collected \$223.

Thanks to all our members who donate money and participate in our monthly raffles. We had a great turnout at our February meeting with lots of prizes to celebrate Valentine's Day! Thanks to the following members for donating such nice prizes: Terry Bloom, Marie Galos, Sharon Reese, Mary Beth Rinehart, Judy Rosco, and Cindy Zaklan.

Be sure to join us at our March meeting and don't forget to wear "a bit of green" for some Irish luck!

(Sarah McAdoo)



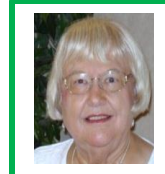


Ways 'n Means
(Craig Singleton)

Just a reminder this year's NARFE YARD SALE is planned for Saturday, May 6th. Once again we thank Roy and Sharon Willoughby for allowing us to use their home.

Details on the yard sale, information about help transporting your donations, and points of contact will also follow in our April newsletter and the Executive Board members can give more information at the Chapter Meeting on March 11th.

Thanks for your support and I hope to see you soon.



Sunshine
Marcele
Skelton



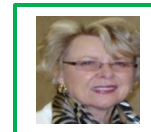
This past month, we continued to have warm weather and lots of sunshine, with a few rainy days sprinkled in between. The news from our Chapter membership is mostly sunny too, with one exception. My husband, Irv, spent time in the hospital with a medication incompatibility issue so I hand delivered a get well card.

Please notify me if you know of a member who is ill, has passed away, or could use some sunshine in their life. (Marcele: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net).



Legislative Report (Mary Ellen McKay)

115th Congress



If you have some time on your hands and want a little education on the political process in the United States, google "115th Congress". You will be impressed with all of the information that is available. Sometimes I forget who the major players are in both the House and the Senate. It is handy to be able with the click of the mouse to look that up.

NARFE has outlined the Legislative Priorities for the 115th Congress. These 7 items are the ones that we as an organization will support. Of course a lot can happen at any time and our national organization will keep us abreast of threats and opportunities as they arise.

The 7 priorities in one sentence bulletins are as follows. For a full, detailed message you can go to the NARFE website and click on Legislation. If you do not have access to a computer and want the full text of the priorities just call me and I will get that to you.

115th Legislative Priorities

1. Oppose any cuts to the earned retirement and health benefits of federal retirees.
2. Oppose across-the-board federal employee compensation cuts.
3. Support reform of the windfall elimination provision (WEP) that would provide relief to current retirees.
4. Oppose requiring postal retirees to either purchase additional health insurance coverage (through Medicare) or forfeit their earned retiree health benefits.
5. Oppose unwise civil service "reform" policies that would undermine the effectiveness of the federal workforce.
6. Support reforms to calculating Medicare Part B Premiums when there is zero or low COLA to Social Security benefits.
7. Support reforms to the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) that would ensure price stability and affordability.

I know each of us has a "hot button" topic or area that is most important. But this is for the federal family as a whole and we need to be concerned for all of us.

Ballot for NARFE Chapter 182 Executive Officer's 2017 Election

See President's message on Page 1 of this newsletter for instructions or in email from
lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.

NARFE Member Name and/or ID Number	----- >	[]	[]
Officer Position	Nominees	Voter - 1	Voter - 2
President	Sharon Reese	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
1st Vice President Membership	Dan Carroll	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
2nd Vice President Legislation	Judy Rosco	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
Treasurer	Craig Singleton	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		

Please complete this ballot and mail to:

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

(Postmark must not be later than 3 March.)

or (if you have email):

**Complete and submit your ballot following the directions
in the separate email message you will receive from our chapter at
lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.**



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

Return Service Requested

You Need NARFE – And NARFE Needs You!

Chapter 182 Officers

President	Roy Willoughby
rswillowbee@comcast.net	(575) 524-9395
1st Vice Pres. (Membership):	Judy Rosco
rosco631@gmail.com	(575) 635-7127
2nd Vice Pres. (Legislation):	Mary Ellen McKay
memckay1@comcast.net	(575) 527-4750
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield
mayfield195@msn.com	(575) 524-3927
Treasurer:	Craig Singleton
scsingleton575@gmail.com	(575) 373-0705
Alzheimer's/Newsletter Editor	Sarah McAdoo
mcadoosr@aol.com	(575) 571-6364
NARFE-PAC:	Mary Ellen McKay
memckay1@comcast.net	(575) 527-4750
Program Chair:	Franklin McKay
memckay1@comcast.net	(575) 527-4750
Public Relations:	Marlene Mayfield
mayfield195@msn.com	(575) 524-3927
Records Officer:	Carol Main
csmain7@gmail.com	(575) 382-7686
Service Officer:	Jim Kielty
jkielty70@yahoo.com	(575) 523-6044

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 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.