



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association
Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Chapter 182 Reporter

Las Cruces, New Mexico Volume 18, Issue 2 – Sep 2017

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

September 9th (Important Legislative Meeting) October 14th (Meeting dedicated to Alzheimer's Disease)



Chapter President (Sharon Reese)

Summer is coming to an end, with autumn in the air. Vacations and trips were filled with happy memories with friends and family.

Our younger generation is now back in school with mixed emotions of what the year will bring. We were among millions in the United States to view the eclipse from coast to coast thanks to our television coverage.

What do we want to look forward to? Well, if you want to annotate some dates on your calendars here is information for NARFE activities: the second Saturday of each month (September through May) is our monthly meetings at 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn; New Mexico Federation Convention, 19-21 April in Tucumcari; and the NARFE National Conference, 26-29 August, Jacksonville FL.

New Mexico will be hosting the Region VII Conference in April 2019, date and place to be announced.

Your Bylaws Committee, Marlene Mayfield (Chair), Sharon Willoughby, and Mary Ellen McKay have finalized the draft Chapter 182 Bylaws. Your Chapter Executive Board has reviewed the proposed Bylaws and they will be presented at our General Membership Meeting on Saturday, 9 September, for approval by a vote of all members present at the meeting. The Bylaws were required to be rewritten, in its entirety, to incorporate changes in the NARFE National Bylaws, that were approved at the 2016 National Convention. After approval of the membership, the Chapter 182 Bylaws will be sent to Jon Dowie, National Secretary/Treasurer, for approval.

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Franklin
McKay

Program
Chair



IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Sat, Sep 9th, 8:30 a.m.
Esparanza Room
Hilton Garden Inn

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.

Breakfast Buffet: \$13 cash only

Reservations: NLT Sep 5th

**Call Carol Main (382-7686) or
Carol Smith (522-3033)**

JOIN US



President's Message Continued

New Mexico lost two more Chapters in August -- Farmington and Espanola. We are also looking at possibly losing Silver City and Deming. Our small member chapters are closing due to lack of officers and the aging member base. The Federation needs to look at the structure (District Vice Presidents). Your Chapter 182 Executive Board will be looking at proposing a Bylaws Amendment for consideration at the April Convention in Tukumcari. If anyone has a view that you would like to share on the structure of the Federation, do not hesitate to let one of the Board members know your thoughts.

Chapter member, William Beerman, has published a book on nursing homes and the government oversight systems for nursing homes. The title is "Mary Regina's Nursing Home". It presents a human-interest story and the results of 5 years of research that William began after the death of his mother. A description of the book is at <https://www.wbeerman.com>.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on 9 September! *Sharon*



*Records
Officer*

Carol Main



We don't have any new members to announce this month, but we still have a strong chapter membership of **295** members! We would like to see you at the September 9 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

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 (575) 382-8786. We don't want you to miss any copies of the *NARFE* magazine, our chapter newsletter, or any notices we send out.

May 2017 Meeting -- Prospective members Mariette Mealor and JoAnn Rodriguez Haught attended our May meeting as well as guests Etta Kaufman and Tom Chaney, and long-time member Joe Herman. It was good to see them and we hope they attend one of our upcoming meetings.

459 Volunteer Hours were reported.

Reminder: When you are contacted about attending our September meeting, please report volunteer hours for May, June, July and August. Thank you!



Sunshine Report



A sympathy card was sent to the family of Lawrence Losleben who passed away on June 29th. Lawrence was a chapter member since 1982. A sympathy card was also sent to Maggie Ingram, wife of James Ingram. James was a long time president of Chapter 1299, Deming, New Mexico.

As promised, the answer to last month's riddle: *WHAT DO YOU CALL A CANINE THAT LIVES AT THE BEACH?*
(A *HOT DOG*)

Have some sunshine fun by answering this month's riddle: *WHERE DOES A BASEBALL CATCHER SIT DOWN FOR DINNER?* You can email me with your guess for a surprise. (The answer will be in the next newsletter.)

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 marcele@skelton.net

ALZHEIMER'S Sarah McAdoo

Terry Bloom has made another pretty afghan for our Alzheimer's raffle. Please join us at our meeting and get a ticket to win this prize and many others. All the money earned from our raffles goes directly to Alzheimer's research. Thank you!





*Service
Officer
(Jim Kielty)*



**CPI-W TAKES SLIGHT DIP IN JULY,
BUT LIKELIHOOD OF 2018 COLA
REMAINS STRONG**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (COLA), 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 decrease during the month of July after experiencing seven straight months of increases. The July CPI-W was 238.617, a decrease of 0.08 percent from the June 2017 CPI-W. The 238.617 figure is 1.52 percent above the 2016 reference point of 235.495. 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 the months of July, August, and 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 CPI-W for August will be released on September 14 and the CPI-W for September will be released on October 13.



*Judy Rosco
VP for Legislation*

We are keeping a close eye on the President's budget for 2018 and getting ready to fight off any reductions to our earned benefits.

I hope you have taken action on the NARFE Legislative Action website. We must be diligent in letting our legislators know we are opposed to ANY reductions in our COLA and Health Plan and want a full repeal of the Windfall Eliminations Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). Current Federal employees are being attacked with proposals to increase their contributions by 6% to their retirement plans, basing annuities off their high 5 instead of high 3, and eliminating FERS annuity entirely for new hires.

NARFE members need to band together to stop these attacks. Contact your legislator today.



NARFE-PAC

Mary Ellen McKay

If you have provided the National Headquarters with your e-mail address, you recently received a letter from NARFE President Richard Thissen. I hope you read his letter and took it to heart and then to action. For those of you who do not get e-mail I would like to give you the gist of his letter.

“You may have received our annual appeal for NARFE-PAC support earlier this summer. While many of you responded with generous gifts, we remain a bit short of our goal. It's not too late to help.” He goes on to explain that our support, of any amount, goes directly to support leaders in Congress who support us and will protect the federal community and our earned pay and benefits. The goals are to raise \$1.5 million and disburse \$1 million in political contributions. We are short of the fund raising goal. I also know that many of you have personal or political biases about PACs and contributing to politicians. I fully respect your feelings and positions.

I realize you know and understand NARFE-PAC. We talk about it at Chapter meetings and I try to keep you informed via articles in this newsletter. But this is a special appeal to reach the fund raising goal and then being able to distribute funds to those who can affect legislation that impacts the federal family.

This is an unabashed ask to consider giving to NARFE-PAC with a one-time contribution or more importantly become a sustainer. A sustainer is a member who agrees to give monthly a fixed amount from your credit card. The minimum amount for a sustainer is \$10.00 a month. Please go to page 9 of your most recent monthly magazine to see a contribution form for either type of donation.

As far as the Chapters in New Mexico go, we are in second place in total contributions for the quarterly report prepared on July 11, 2017. We are tied with the number 1 chapter for sustainers. So this is my challenge; let's give and sign up as sustainers. I want to be number 1 when the next report comes out.

Thanks for your support of NARFE-PAC.

2017/2018 Chapter 182 Executive Board & Committee Chair Roster

Officers (Elected)	(Voting)	Email	Phone #
President	Sharon Reese	nmreeses@msn.com	(575) 532-9422
1st VP Membership	Dan Carroll	cardan116@comcast.net	(575) 932-9491
2nd VP Legislation	Judy Rosco	rosco631@gmail.com	(575) 635-7127
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield	mayfield195@msn.com	(575) 524-3927
Treasurer	Craig Singleton	scsingleton575@gmail.com	(575)-373-0705
Past President	Roy Willoughby	rswillowbee@comcast.net	(575) 524-9395
Committee Chairs	(Voting)		
Member at Large	Chuck James	Charles.James@Q.com	(575) 524-1235
Member at Large	Emory Woodard	emerywoodard2@gmail.com	(575) 635-9569
Alzheimer's/Newsletter	Sarah McAdoo	mcadoosr@aol.com	(575) 571-6364
Legislation	Judy Rosco	rosco631@gmail.com	(575) 635-7127
Membership	Dan Carroll	cardan116@comcast.net	(575) 932-9491
Sep Program	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
Sunshine	Marcele Skelton	marcele@skelton.net	(575) 521-4954
Telephone	Carol Smith	Mail only to 2600 Poco Lomas Ct, Las Cruces NM 88011-1700	(575) 522-3033
Ways & Means	Craig Singleton	scsingleton575@gmail.com	(575) 373-0705
Special Committee Chairs	(Non-Voting)		
Audit	Sharon Willoughby	swillowbee@comcast.net	(575) 524-9395
Budget	Craig Singleton	scsingleton575@gmail.com	(575) 373-0705
Historian	Dan Carroll	cardan116@comcast.net	(575) 932-9491
Logistics - Electronics	Bob Main	grmain@gmail.com	(575) 382-7686
Logistics - Room Control	John Reese	jcreese022@yahoo.com	(575) 532-9422
NARFE-PAC	Mary Ellen McKay	memckay1@comcast.net	(575) 527-4750
Officer Nominating			
Parliamentarian	Irv Skelton	iwskelton@alaska.edu	(575) 521-4954
Webmaster	Jeffrey Smith	postmaster@narfe-nm.net	(575) 525-8271
FEEA	Sharon Reese	nmreeses@msn.com	(575) 532-9422

(M.Mayfield Sep 2017)



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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Records Officer: csmain7@gmail.com	Carol Main (575) 382-7686
Service Officer: jkielty70@yahoo.com	Jim Kielty (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.