



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 7 – March 2018

Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/NARFE.LasCrucesChapter.182/>

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

JOIN US AT OUR SAT, MARCH 10TH MEETING, 8:30 A.M., HILTON GARDEN INN



*Chapter
President's Message*

(Sharon Reese)



Thank you to all members who participated in our voting, electronically, mail in ballot, or hand in ballot, for Chapter 182 officers. Each time we do the all member voting we learn a lesson or two. This is very good practice for the NARFE National voting that will take place in June. Watch your magazine closely as the turnaround time will be short.

There were about 250 annuitants who were on the HBO Blue Preferred plan that went away 12/31/17 and during open season switched to either BCBS Basic or Standard Plans. There are many questions/concerns of policyholders. Karla Candelaria has contacted me and requested to be available to members at our March 10th and April 14th meetings to assist you. BCBS will be sending out invitations to policyholders advising that Karla will be more than happy to handle issues/questions/concerns that you may have. If you are one of these policyholders please take some time and write down questions or problems that you are experiencing. Bring your questions to our meeting in March or April.

Today I received information from the New Mexico Federation Nominating Committee on the candidates for Federation Officer Positions to be voted on at the convention in Tucumcari. Currently there are only three nominations. Sharon Reese (Las Cruces Chapter) is running for Federation President. Mark Mickelsen (Rio Rancho Chapter) is running for Vice President for Legislation. Marlene Mayfield (Las Cruces Chapter) is running for Secretary. We do not have nominations for VP for Membership or Treasurer. Hopefully, we will have nominations for those positions from the floor at the state convention.

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*Program
Chair
Franklin
McKay*



Program for March 10th:

A representative from the *US Border Patrol, El Paso Sector*, will tell us about how they manage their 125,500 square miles area of responsibility covering 268 linear border miles. The Border Patrol is the largest uniformed federal agency in the nation, with more than 21,000 agents operating in 22 states. Agents facilitate the flow of legal immigration and goods while preventing illegal traffic of people and contraband. The US Border Patrol is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Karla Candelaria from *Blue Cross/Blue Shield* will be at this meeting to offer advice and assistance to annuitants who were on the HBO Blue Preferred Plan and switched to Blue Cross/Blue Shield Basic or Standard Plan.

Breakfast Buffet: \$13 cash only
Reservations: NLT Mar 6th
Call Carol Main (382-7686) or
Carol Smith (522-3033)

**Chapter President's Message
Continued**

Just a reminder that we are looking for two delegates to attend the NM Federation Convention April 19-21. The registration fee is \$50.00 and the Banquet is \$50.00 per person. If you decide to attend and be a delegate, you will be reimbursed \$50.00 from your Chapter.

The March issue of your *narfe* magazine contains the National Officer Candidate Statements. Be sure and read the statements. Keep your issue for reference when you receive notification of voting to help you make a good selection.

There is also an update on the **FEDcon 18** to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, August 26-28. I have registered to attend and will provide you a report in September.

Hope to see you March 10th at our meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, at 0830.



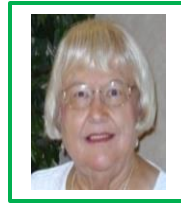
Ways & Means

Craig Singleton

A quick reminder to let you know this year's NARFE YARD SALE is planned for **Saturday, May 5th**. 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. The Executive Board members can give more information at the Chapter Meeting on March 10th.

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



**Sunshine
Report**

**Marcele
Skelton**



We hope March will bring a bunch of sunny days. We have had several cloudy/rainy days that provided needed moisture, but it is time for more sunshine.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Lois Hamilton who passed away January 21st. Lois was a chapter member for several years. A sympathy card was also sent to Nancy Banks, whose husband, Tom, passed away February 2nd. Tom was a former Treasurer for our chapter. A belated sympathy card was sent to Jack Dage whose wife, Beth, passed away several weeks ago. We were late because we were unaware of the situation.

The answer to February's Valentine riddle: WHICH ONE OF SANTA'S REINDEER CAN BE SEEN ON VALENTINE'S DAY? (*Cupid*)

Have some sunshine fun by answering this month's St. Patrick's Day riddle: WHY DO PEOPLE WEAR SHAMROCKS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY? You can email or phone 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.

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY!



Green beer does count

as a green vegetable,

right?



*VP for Membership
& Chapter Historian*

Dan Carroll

I'm looking forward to our next general meeting on March 10th. We're still seeing a decline in membership of our chapter. Last time I checked we had 290 members. Be careful when renewing your membership and make sure you check the correct box for local and national membership. Remember you can be a national only member for \$40 per year. Local and national cost \$50.

Support the chapter raffle after the business portion of general meeting ends. It's a worthy cause (Alzheimer's Research) and hopefully scientists can come up with medication to alleviate symptoms or maybe even a cure.

See you at the movies!



*Welcome New Member
Margarita Trujillo*

Margarita joined our chapter in January and we're happy that she has been attending our meetings.



VP for Legislation

Judy Rosco



President Trump's proposed 2019 budget is calling for \$152.5 billion in cuts to Federal pay and benefits.

In the 2018 budget, NARFE members, and other supporters, were successful in eliminating cuts to the cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current retirees and eliminating COLA altogether for future FERS retirees; reducing the annuity payments based on high five years of service rather than the current high three years of service; making federal employees contribute 1 percent each year for the next 6 years to their retirement fund, ultimately causing a 6% pay cut; and limiting the rate of return for contributing to the Thrift Savings Plan Government Securities Investment (G) Fund just to name a few issues.

The proposed 2019 budget has included all of the same issues listed above PLUS decreasing total paid leave by combining sick and annual leave into one pool to include reducing retirement-age benefits for disabled feds who were disabled during their federal service.

All these proposals break promises made to us who proudly serve/served our nation during our federal careers.

Now is the time for action. Write a letter to your Senators and Congressman. Letters hold more meaning but if you cannot write a letter, please contact your representatives through the NARFE Advocacy Site at:

<http://www.narfe.org/legislation/index.cfm?fa=voteVoice>.





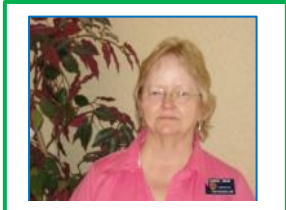
Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)

**PAYMENT OF MONTHLY RETIREMENT ANNUITY
TO PERSON WITH DIMINISHED CAPACITY**

This article originated with a question to your Service Officer from a NARFE member who was doing her estate planning and said it was her recollection that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) was not bound by a traditional Power of Attorney (POA) in the event of a federal retiree's diminished capacity to conduct his/her financial affairs, which many federal retirees have established as part of prudent financial planning.

Investigation disclosed that the NARFE member's recollection was correct. If a federal retiree entitled to a monthly retirement annuity under CSRS or FERS suffers from diminished capacity and becomes unable to successfully manage their financial affairs, OPM requires that the monthly annuity payments be made either to a court-appointed fiduciary (either a person or institution designated by a state court) or a Representative Payee (RP) designated by OPM. If there is no court-appointed fiduciary, an individual seeking to become a RP must complete an OPM Form RI-20-7 (Representative Payee Application) and also follow the instructions contained in OPM Form RI-30-3 (Information Necessary for a Competency Determination). These forms may be obtained from the Forms section of the OPM website, by calling OPM at 1-888-767-6738, or by writing to the OPM Operations Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045. After being formally appointed by OPM, the RP is held responsible for acting in the best interest of the retiree by using the monthly annuity payments for the benefit of that individual, authorizing the correct withholding of federal income tax from the annuity, and, when applicable, selecting the appropriate federal health benefit plan for the annuitant. The RP, when requested by OPM, will need to provide written reports documenting that the monthly annuity payments are being properly used for the benefit of the annuitant. The RP also is required to notify OPM immediately if he/she no longer can serve in that capacity or in the event of the annuitant's death. Any annuity payments received by the RP after the date of the annuitant's death must be promptly returned to the U.S. Treasury.

On the general topic of estate planning, all members are strongly encouraged to read and retain for reference the article titled "Ebb Tide" found on pages 34-40 of the February 2018 edition of the *narfe* magazine. This article contains the procedures to be followed for insuring that an individual with diminished capacity may continue to receive all the federal benefits (retirement, group life insurance, Thrift Savings Plan, Social Security, Medicare, and VA) to which he/she may be entitled.



Records Officer (Carol Main)

*Welcome New Prospective Members
David Bromley
Dennis Fresquez*



We would like to see you at the March 10 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.
Our chapter membership is **290** members strong!
We had **48** members and guests at our January meeting with **467** volunteer hours.

Reminder: Have you changed your home address, telephone number, or email address? If you have dropped your landline and are using your cell phone only, let me know. Please notify me at csmain7@gmail.com or phone (575)382-7686. We don't want you to miss any copies of the *narfe* magazine, our chapter newsletter, or any notices we send out.



NARFE-PAC

**Mary Ellen
McKay**

I trust most of you have already received and read the March 2018 *narfe* magazine. The magazine has an outer cover (wrapper) dedicated to NARFE-PAC. Our organization has made it so easy to donate to NARFE-PAC, and backs up the “ask” for donations with the 5 top reasons to give to NARFE-PAC.

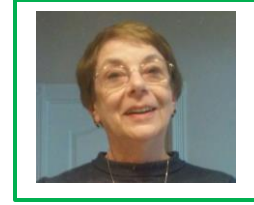
Also, I have used this material many, many times to solicit donations at Chapter meetings and in this newsletter. Please go to page 35 and read the excellent article. I cannot say it any better.

A summary of donations for 2017 shows that our Chapter donated \$1,955.00 to NARFE-PAC. We have 4 sustainers and 48 contributors. I think a worthwhile goal for 2018 would be to have 6 sustainers and pass the \$2,000.00 amount by at least \$200.00.

At our March Chapter meeting I will be asking for contributions. There will be a drawing for a nice gift for those who contribute. I would like for those interested to donate at least \$5.00. Please know your membership number when you come to the meeting. We can solicit money only from members.

NARFE-PAC is the political action committee that is set up to collect and distribute funds to candidates for office.

Thank you.



**Alzheimer’s
Report**

Sarah McAdoo

RAISE, the Family Caregivers Act, was signed into law on Jan 22, 2018. Raise stands for: Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage. This Act will provide much needed support to family caregivers. The new law directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a national strategy to provide education and training, long-term services and supports, and financial stability and security for caregivers. Hopefully this Act will help the more than 15 million Americans who provide unpaid care for people living with Alzheimer’s and dementia. Nearly one in every five medicine dollars is spent on people with Alzheimer’s or another dementia.

If you are a caregiver to someone suffering from Alzheimer’s and you need help, please contact the Alzheimer’s Association’s **24/7 Helpline** at 1-800-272-3900 or www.alz.org/newmexico. The Las Cruces office is located at 1155 S Telshor, Ste 202, PH 575-647-3868.

Chapter Alzheimer’s Raffles

Thanks to all our members who join in on the Alzheimer’s raffles at our general meetings. We made \$116 at our January meeting and \$102 at our February meeting and our members had some fun and won some prizes! A big thank you is given to those of you who donate your cash winnings back to the Alzheimer’s fund. It is much needed and appreciated. Last month prizes were donated by Terry Bloom, Dan Carroll, Sarah McAdoo, Mary Ellen and Franklin McKay, Sharon and John Reese, and Mary Beth Reinhart.



National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
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Return Service Requested

You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

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Service Officer: jkielty70@yahoo.com	Jim Kielty (575) 523-6044		
		<p>NARFE Monthly Meetings</p> <p>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.</p>	