



NARFE

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

“Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees”



CHAPTER 182 REPORTER
Volume 19, Issue 3 – October 2018

Las Cruces, NM

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Chapter President (Sharon Reese)

Hopefully by the first week in October we will know who our next National President will be. That individual will take office effective 1 November 2018.

All National Standing Committees time will expire 31 October 2018. The new National President will be seeking volunteers for the committees. It is unknown if the committees will be the same ones or if there will be fewer or more committees. Stay tuned for information. If you are interested in any of the committees that are announced please do not hesitate to volunteer.

Mark Mickelsen, NM Federation VP for Legislation is looking for a Senatorial Leader for Senator Udall. If you are interested please contact Mark at: mmickelsen@aol.com or cell 720-205-0251.

The New Mexico Federation/RegionVII Conference will be held 4, 5 & 6 April 2019. The Federation Conference

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Alzheimer's Awareness Program

Speaker:

Bonnie Zeiler, LPN, CDP
Director of Alzheimer's Services
The Village of Northrise
Morningside

General Meeting
Saturday, Oct 13th, 8:30 a.m.
Esparanza Room, Hilton Garden Inn

We are very happy to announce that Bonnie Zeiler will be our speaker for our Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Bonnie has years of experience in the Alzheimer's field. She has received numerous awards including "Best of the Best Nurse Manager" by the NM Health Care Association, "Nurse of the Year" by the National Centers for Assisted Living, and received the first Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce "Compassion Award" in Health Care in 2017.

Breakfast Buffet: \$13 cash only
Reservations: NLT Oct 9th

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

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

will take place on April 4th in the afternoon and the Region VII Conference will begin at 8 am on 5 April. The location is Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces. Committee chairs are in place and we are working to provide you with a great conference. We are asking for your help in a theme for the conference. Send your suggested theme(s) to nmrees-es@msn.com by the 15th of October. The committee will be holding a meeting on 23 October and will select a theme.

The USPS now has the ability for those receiving mail at their homes to see what will be arriving in their mailbox for that day. It is easy to sign up for and very handy to have when we are expecting a package or packages, but it doesn't show up. The USPS Informed Delivery has an option within the website to click on if that piece was not received. Here is the link: <https://informedelivery.usps.com/>.

See you at our October 13th General Meeting!



***Dan Carroll
2nd VP for
Membership &
Chapter Historian***

Fall is here! Temperatures are finally cooling off -- especially at night. Monsoon season is just about over. Our next general meeting is Saturday, October 13th at Hilton Garden Inn and we hope to see you there. We now have **266** members including recent transferee, Louisa "Lou" Huyge from Galveston. We were glad to see her attend our September meeting. Health Fairs are coming up at the end of the month and early November at area federal agencies. We'll be out recruiting for new NARFE members among our active federal workers. So long for now.

Join Us!

If your future security is tied to federal retirement benefits – federal retirees, current employees, spouses and individual survivors – you should join NARFE.



Judy Rosco, 1st VP for Legislation

The Legislative Program at our September general meeting was a hit! We had 52 members and guests in attendance. Our distinguished guests were Laura Salgado, Staff Assistant to Senator Udall; Mariana Chew, PhD, Field Representative from Congressman Pearce's office, and Nathan Small representing Candidate Xochitl Torres Small who is running for the soon to be vacated seat of Congressman Steve Pearce. Each representative read a statement from their respective office and I read a letter from Senator Heinrich who could not join us. Isabella Solis, Dona Ana County Commissioner, was also in attendance.



***(L-R) Laura Salgado, Judy Rosco,
Nathan Small, and Mariana Chew***

We have approximately 53,559 active and retired federal and postal employees in New Mexico and of those, 9,301 are living in the 2nd Congressional District which encompasses Las Cruces and Southern New Mexico. I am very proud to say that our NARFE members have sent 1,877 letters to our Legislature this year and that's not counting any telephone calls or personal letters. I think our Representatives and Senators have listened to our message...NO MORE CUTS TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS! Let's try our best to keep writing those letters!

A reminder for those of you who have not voted in the NARFE National elections...you have until 30 September to get your votes in to the National office.



*Mary Ellen
McKay*
NARFE- PAC



It is only weeks away from the mid-term elections. I know that NARFE members are curious and vigilant about finding out about the candidates who are running and their voting records if they are an incumbent.

Before you head to the polls you might want to check out the October edition of *narfe* Magazine. In the article “NARFE Voting Scoreboard of the 115th Congress” you can see how members of Congress voted on NARFE-related legislation.

Of course this information does not tell you how candidates running for Congress as newcomers will vote.

It is incumbent on us to seek out those candidates and ask them questions about their positions. I don't want to sound dramatic, but as Federal employees and retirees our future can be shaped by the actions they take.

As we head to the mid-term I am going to take a deep breath, do my homework, vote and pray we get the best Congress as determined by the voters.

Records Report

Carol Main



Welcome New Member:
Louisa Huyge

Welcome New Prospective Members:
Michael Harris
Marsha Smith

We would like to see you at the October 13 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is **266** members strong!

We had **52** members and guests at our September meeting with **768** 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.



Cathy Phillips

Chapter President Sharon Reese presented Cathy Phillips with a Citation for Distinguished Service to NARFE at our September 22nd meeting.



We say farewell to our good friend, former chapter officer and Board member, Cathy Phillips. Our chapter appreciates all the work Cathy has done over the past eleven years to make our chapter great. Cathy served on several committees and was our Chapter Treasurer. She retired from White Sands Missile Range as a Supervisory Budget Analyst and retired after 27 years. Cathy and her husband, Allen, who retired as a First Sergeant, USA at WSMR and worked for NMSU, are moving to Idaho. We wish them all the success and happiness they deserve in their new home. We also hope they stay in touch and come back for visits!



Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)

FEHBP OPEN SEASON HEALTH FAIRS TO BEGIN IN EARLY NOVEMBER



The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Open Season for the 2019 benefits year will begin on Monday, November 12 and will conclude on Monday, December 10. 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 2019, 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, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Other Federal agencies (e.g., Border Patrol, BLM, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 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 for many years at the Loretto Town Center **HAS BEEN DELETED**. However, representatives from several of the health plan providers will be in attendance at the NARFE Chapter 182 monthly meeting on Saturday, November 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2551 Don Roser Drive, Las Cruces.

NARFE members are reminded that the various health 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 2019 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 Open Season.

OPM has not yet announced the overall average increase for all FEHBP premiums or the 2019 premiums for each individual health insurance plan. This information should be available in early October. The October 2018 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 2018 editions of the *NARFE* magazine and the November and December 2018 editions of the Chapter 182 **Reporter**.



NEW MEDICARE CARDS BEING MAILED TO NEW MEXICO RECIPIENTS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that beginning in September 2018 new Medicare cards were in the process of being mailed to the approximately 403,000 New Mexicans who are enrolled in Medicare. CMS indicated that the complete mailing process may take up to one month.

The new Medicare cards no longer contain your Social Security Number (SSN). In place of the SSN, each new Medicare card will have an eleven-character Medicare Beneficiary Number unique to each person which contains randomly generated numbers and upper-case letters not derived from a person's SSN. All current Medicare benefits remain the same with the new card, and you may begin using the new card upon receipt. When seeking medical services following receipt of the new card, you should be prepared to show your medical service provider the new card.



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton



Sunshine! Sunshine! Sunshine! We have had plenty of sunshine during September. We could have used some of the rain from Hurricane Florence as we are lacking moisture. Irv and I had some special sunshine, celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on September 21st.

A sympathy card was sent to Marlene Mayfield.

The answer to last month's riddle: **WHAT WORD BECOMES SHORTER WHEN YOU ADD TWO LETTERS? (SHORT)**

Have some sunshine fun by answering this month's riddle: **A MAN LEAVES HOME AND TURNS LEFT THREE TIMES, ONLY TO RETURN HOME FACING TWO MEN WEARING MASKS. WHO ARE THESE TWO MEN?**

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



Congratulations to Marcele & Irv Skelton on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

They were married in Lincoln, Nebraska on September 21st, 1968. They have made many moves and lived in five different states, making many friends along the way and settling down in Las Cruces. We are proud to have them as active members of NARFE Chapter 182.

FEDcon18 Conference August 2018, Jacksonville

Our chapter was well represented at the **FED-con18** Conference and we thank Sharon Reese, Judy Rosco, and Nadine Boor for attending. Below is a summary from Nadine Boor about her time there. If you want more information, go to www.narfe.org and look at the *Fedcon18 Recap* website to see presentations, photos and future event dates.

Nadine Boor, Member at Large

Fedcon18 held in Jacksonville in August was my first Conference. It was OK but my question was where were the delegates and the voting that we had in a Convention? Conferences don't have them! There were some good speakers. On Sunday we had football player Joe Theismann. He talked about changes and how some are good. On Monday morning we had Mara Liasson (journalist and political pundit) and Dr. Jeff Pon (Director of OPM). We also had Astronaut Mike Massimino and I thought he was good. On Tuesday we had Tammy Flanagan who provides retirement counseling for NARFE, and actor Henry Winkler as speakers. Henry is always good for a laugh!

The rest of the time we spent in various sessions. I went to the "TSP – Your Best Options" workshop. Since I knew nothing about my TSP account, it was very good. It will help me in making some decisions. It was a two-day long Conference with a lot of information provided in a short period of time, so now I'm glad to be home. I want to thank our generous Chapter for helping with some of my expenses.

Alzheimer's Report

Thanks to everyone who participated in our September raffle. Prizes were donated by Terry Bloom, Dan Carroll, Sarah McAdoo, Sharon & John Reese, & Mary Beth Reinhart. We made **\$104** from the raffle and personal donations.

Please do not miss our special **Alzheimer's Awareness Program** scheduled for our October 13th meeting!



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

Return Service Requested

Next Meeting
Saturday
October 13th
Alzheimer's Awareness
Program

You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

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		<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>	