



**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 20, Issue 6 – February 2020

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



**Chapter
President**

**Sharon
Reese**



It's a new year and back to work on NARFE. We have a busy calendar for 2020. The Federation Board will be going to Santa Fe on 13 and 14 February to have a table in the Round House as well as visit some of our legislators. Any member is welcome to join us. If you are interested in attending, please contact me for the details (575-649-6035 or nmreeses@msn.com).

Chapter business starts with our Chapter Executive Board Elections. If any member is interested in running for President, Executive Vice President for Legislation, Vice President for Membership, Secretary, or Treasurer please contact one of our nominating committee members (John Reese, 575-649-0616 or Chuck James 575-524-1235). They will be more than happy to discuss the duties and responsibilities of any of the positions. The nominating committee will present the slate of candidates for the 5 positions at our February meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at that time. If you are nominating a member for one of the positions, please obtain the candidate's approval before making the nomination.



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**SENIOR
AMIGOS
For
Ages 50 & Better!**

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

Please join us for our program on Saturday, 8 February, where our guest speaker from the MountainView Senior Amigos Community Relations office will give us information about programs for the 50 and over group. The Senior Amigos program is for those pursuing an active lifestyle, learning about health and wellness, and meeting others.

Please bring a friend to learn about the many programs being offered by **MountainView Senior Amigos**.

Breakfast Buffet: \$13.00 cash only

Reservations: NLT February 4th

Call Carol Main (382-7686) or

Carol Decker (522-3033)



**Donna Harris
Program Chair**
md.harris1@comcast.net

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

President's Message (Sharon Reese)
Continued from Page 1

Chapter 182 will be hosting the New Mexico Federation South Annual Meeting at Good Samaritan, in the Creative Arts Room, on 23 April. The registration fee is \$14.00 per person, which includes coffee in the morning and lunch. (See registration form on page 6.) The agenda will consist of reports from the Federation Officers, and proposed Training for Chapter Officers, Advocacy and IT (headquarters reports).

Early registration opens 2 February for our National Conference (FEDCon20), Kierland Resort, Scottsdale, AZ, August 30 – September 1, registration fee is \$165.00. There will **not** be a gala event the last night of the conference. More information will be forthcoming in our magazine or you can go to the website, **narfe.org**.

At our last Executive Board Meeting we discussed our membership meeting venue and our uncertainty of the current cost per person which will probably change due to the increase in the minimum wages and increased food costs. Our current contract with the Hilton Garden Inn expires after our May meeting. I have established a committee, chaired by Marsha Smith, to look at venues for our monthly membership meetings. If you are interested in being on the committee or in submitting a name of a venue that you would like the committee to look at, please contact Marsha at 575-644-5131.




**Myrtle Silva
celebrated her
95th birthday on
January 15th.**

Myrtle has been a member of Chapter 182 since 1985 when she and her husband moved to Las Cruces from Michigan. Myrtle sold raffle tickets for years at our meetings to earn money for our chapter's Alzheimer's fund. She no longer attends our meetings but she continues to keep her membership status active. Congratulations, Myrtle! We thank you for your past service to our chapter and are proud you are a NARFE Chapter 182 member!



1st VP for Legislation

Judy Rosco

I attended the re-election campaign for Congresswoman Torres Small in Las Cruces. I spoke with her and thanked her for her support to NARFE. She thanked NARFE for their service to Federal employees and reminisced about her visit to Chapter 0182 last September. She remarked that our members were very friendly and that our chapter showed support for what NARFE is trying to protect...our earned benefits.

Representative Ben Ray Lujan was also there showing his support for the Congresswoman and kicking off his campaign for the soon to be vacated seat of Senator Udall. I thanked Rep Lujan for his support of NARFE issues and wished him well.

I also met with Congresswoman Torres Small's Legislative Representative on January 23rd. I asked for the Congresswoman to co-sponsor the two bills that I mentioned at our January meeting: H.R. 141- Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 and H.R. 3934 - The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019. I also requested her support for the H.R.1553 - Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019 which is based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E).

Please help our federal employees (active and retired) by asking your legislators to support these bills. Your Legislators can be reached at:

U.S. Senator Tom Udall, (575) 526-5475 or
<http://www.tomudall.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Martine Heinrich, (575) 523-6561
or <http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>

U.S. Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small,
(575) 520-5319 or
<http://xochitl.torressmall@mail.house.gov>





Dan Carroll
(VP for Membership and
Chapter Historian)

Last I checked we had 261 members in our local chapter. Lots going on this month: full moon on February 9th, Valentine's Day on February 14th, President's Day on February 17th, Ash Wednesday on February 26th, and Leap Year on February 29th. Wow!

Quote of the month: "There's a time to break every rule but not until you know the rules by heart." Brian Garfield – Western author. He's one of my favorites. Sometimes you can find his paperbacks at COAS Store on Solano near Idaho.

Last month's program was very interesting! Breakfast was good and so was the fellowship.

Alzheimer's Report (Cindy Cook)

Our chapter made **\$130.00** for Alzheimer's research at our January raffle. Thanks to all our members who participate in our raffles. A special thank you to members who donated prizes for our January raffle: Mary Beth Reinhart, Marlene Mayfield, Chuck and Judy James, Sharon and John Reese, and Terry Bloom!

Below is a picture of Terry Bloom holding one of the beautiful afghans she makes and donates every month. We really appreciate her generosity!



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton



With winter weather still in the air, we are looking forward to sunnier days. The Christmas and New Year holidays have passed. It's almost Valentine's Day and everyone could use a smile, some sunshine and a laugh to lighten their mood.

Since our December newsletter, a sympathy card was sent to Nancy Cowan, whose husband, Clarence, passed away in early December. A sympathy card was also sent to the family of Marie Gallos, who passed away in October. Marie was a long time NARFE member.

A Thinking of You card was sent to Cindy Zaklan. Cindy's husband, Dennis, has recovered from esophageal cancer. Cindy has undergone surgery on her leg, and is being treated for melanoma. The Zaklans, who live in Goodyear, Arizona, are in good spirits and send their greetings to Chapter 182 members.

The answer to our Christmas riddle: WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A CHRISTMAS TREE WITH AN I-PAD? (A PINEAPPLE)

Have some fun by answering this Valentine riddle: IF YOU WANT TO BE ROMANTIC FOR VALENTINE'S DAY, WHAT FLOWERS SHOULD YOU AVOID SENDING?

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. Marcelle: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 14th Program
Margaret Neill
Library Administrator
Thomas Branigan Memorial Library





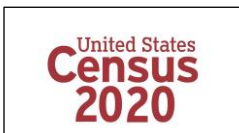
Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FIGURES FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019 REFLECT SLIGHT DOWNWARD TREND

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 2021, stood at 250.452 in December 2019 after registering 250.894 in October and 250.644 in November. Despite these monthly declines, the 250.452 December CPI-W figure is still 0.10 % higher than the CPI-W average for July-September 2019, which was 250.199.

To determine if there will be a COLA in 2021, the CPI-W figures for July-September 2020 will be averaged and compared with the July-September 2019 average CPI-W of 250.199, which is the reference point for determining if there will be a COLA in 2021. The July-September 2020 average must exceed the July-September 2019 average for a COLA to be authorized in 2021.



PREPARATIONS FOR 2020 U.S. CENSUS WELL UNDER WAY

As required by Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution, the United States government is required to count our population every ten years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790. The 2020 Census will count the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the 5 U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U. S. Virgin Islands). The Census count already has begun in remote Alaska locations, with the village of Tooksook Bay holding the distinction of being the first location to have its population counted in the 2020 Census.

By April 1, 2020 every home in the United States should have received a notice to respond to the 2020 Census questionnaire in one of three ways: by phone, by mail, or online. This will mark the first time that individuals will be able to respond online. NARFE members are encouraged to complete their Census questionnaires promptly, since the population count determines the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, and the figures are used to draw federal and state legislative districts which will be in use for the next 10 years. The population counts in each state also determine how billions of dollars of federal funds are allocated. Prompt and accurate completion of the 2020 Census questionnaire is particularly important in New Mexico, since our large rural population and the number of small remote communities may make an accurate count more difficult.

Important Dates for Your Calendar

February 8th Meeting – Nominating Committee will present the slate for Chapter 182's 5 officer positions.
March 1-14 – Voting by mail, email, or at March meeting. April Chapter Newsletter will have voting results. April – Chapter 182 Officers installed. May – New Chapter Officers Preside.

April 23 - New Mexico Federation South Annual Meeting at Good Samaritan, Las Cruces (See Page 6)

30 Aug – 1 Sep – FEDcon2020 – Westin Kierland Resort-Scottsdale



FEEA

Federal Employee Education
& Assistance (FEEA)



*Roy
Willoughby*

NARFE Members Donate to FEEA

For information go to:

www.feea.org/givenarferelief , or contact Roy directly at rswillowbee@comcast.net. And, remember there is a FEEA donation form in every *NARFE* Magazine.



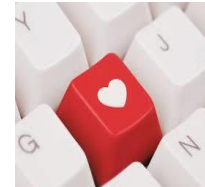
*Mary Ellen
McKay*

Every month the *NARFE* magazine has a form you can use to contribute to NARFE-PAC. It also has information on free gifts if you give at a certain level. Personally I think the easiest way to contribute is to be a sustainer (monthly credit card contribution). That's a 'one and done' action that you don't need to think about more than once.

This is the season for contributing, as the campaigns rev up going toward the primaries and the general election. We sort of tend to forget – this is 2020 and elections are just months away.

I have not recently received any information from the National Headquarters on candidates who have requested and received NARFE-PAC funds. It is probably just a matter of weeks until there will be a round of requests and disbursements. I will let you know when those happen.

If you have any questions about NARFE-PAC, please let me know and I will try to inform you. It is going to be an interesting and historic year.



Records Officer (Carol Main)

Welcome New Members:

*Myrea Lomas
Marie Sauter*

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

Our chapter membership is **261** members strong!

We had **47** members and guests at our January meeting with **445** volunteer hours and **50** members and guests with **679** volunteer hours in December.

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.



**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
New Mexico Federation Annual Meeting & Training**

April 23, 2020

Good Samaritan Las Cruces Village

Creative Arts Room

3011 Buena Vida

Las Cruces, NM

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Registration Deadline: April 15, 2020

Name _____ Phone: _____

(Please PRINT)

Name _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

NARFE Chapter Name & Number _____

In case of emergency, notify: _____ Phone: _____

Special Dietary Need _____

Registration Fee for each member and/or guests \$14.00 (times number attending) _____
(includes morning coffee and lunch)

Lunch: **salad, wrap, chips and dessert**

REGISTRATION forms must be received no later than **April 15, 2020** with accompanying fees to:
Sharon Reese, 1625 Thunderbird Street, Las Cruces, NM 88011-4967

Make checks payable to **New Mexico Federation**. Conference registration fees are refundable if requested prior to April 1, 2020. Please contact Sharon Reese, 575-524-9395 or sreese346@gmail.com, for questions and/or refund.



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

You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

Chapter 182 Officers

President	Sharon Reese
nmreeses@msn.com	575-649-6035
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	Judy Rosco
rosco631@gmail.com	575-635-7127
2nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll
cardan116@comcast.net	575- 932-9491
Secretary/Public Relations	Marlene Mayfield
mayfield195@msn.com	575- 644-6851
Treasurer/Ways & Means	Craig Singleton
scsingleton575@gmail.com	575-373-0705
Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook
cindy77lou@yahoo.com	575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	Roy Willoughby
rswillowbee@comcast.net	575-524-9395
NARFE-PAC:	Mary Ellen McKay
memckay1@comcast.net	575-527-4750
Program Chair:	Donna Harris
md.harris1@comcast.net	575-382-9070
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 Xochitl Torres Small (D) (District 2)
240 S Water St, Las Cruces NM 88001
575-520-5319
<http://xochitl.torressmall@mail.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 Decker (522-3033)** or email: lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.
Newsletter Editor (Sarah McAdoo): mcadoosr@aol.com