



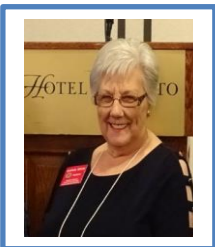
**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 20, Issue 8 – April 2020

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Chapter182 President (Sharon Reese)

Members *please* abide by all the restrictions that have been called for by the President and our Governor. Please take advantage of all the delivery options available by drug stores and restaurants. Ask friends or neighbors to pick up items at the grocery store or take advantage of the hours dedicated to seniors. I want all of you to be safe and healthy.

Our meetings for April 11th and May 9th have been cancelled.

The garage/yard sale scheduled for May 2nd will be rescheduled to the fall.

The NM Federation Annual Meeting, April 23rd at Good Samaritan, has been cancelled. If you have already sent in your registration and fee it will be reimbursed. The date for the Treasurer to issue the checks has not been determined as she is out of town.

Thank you, Carol Main, for sending out the information on the drive-thru virus testing. If there is any important information that members need to know it will be distributed via email.

If you haven't filed your federal taxes yet you have until July 15th with no penalty or late charges. This was announced on March 20th by the President!

Your board of directors will still be working on different issues that affect you, our members. If we are unable to meet in person, we will handle things electronically. One item we will definitely be working on is our venue for our meetings. Our current contract has been cancelled due to the corona virus. This decision will be made by the board. If however, you would like to send me any comments on the Hilton Garden Inn and the amount that you would be willing to pay each month for our current menu I would really appreciate the input.

I will also keep you informed on the proposed bylaw/resolutions that we vote on in August. The proposals will be in the July *NARFE* Magazine but hopefully I can get the information before June. The election of our National President and Secretary/Treasurer will also take place. You may see the candidate statements on-line at www.narfe.org.





*Service
Officer*

Jim Kietly



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FIGURES RISE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, BUT CORONAVIRUS MAKES 2021 COLA UNCERTAIN

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 251.361 in January 2020 and 251.935 in February 2020. The 251.935 February CPI-W figure is 0.69% higher than the 2019 CPI-W average for July – September 2019, which was 250.199. However, as all NARFE members realize, the rapidly developing coronavirus pandemic is causing havoc in many sectors of the economy, and the possibility of a 2021 COLA is totally uncertain at this time. The March 2020 CPI-W, which is scheduled to be released on April 10, should give an early indication of the impact of coronavirus on chances for a COLA in 2021. Stay tuned.

PLEASE REPORT SCAMS

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- **Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP
(1-877-382-4357)**
- **Go online: ftc.gov/complaint**

Your complaint can help protect other people. By filing a complaint, you can help the FTC's investigators identify the imposters and stop them before they can get someone's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.

Federal Trade Commission – ftc.gov/PassItOn



1st VP for Legislation

Judy Rosco

Much to the chagrin of federal employees, the OPM Director, Dale Cabaniss, resigned her position on March 17, 2020. NARFE President, Ken Thomas, stated "This is now the second time this agency has lacked a Senate-confirmed director in the middle of a national emergency, the other of which was the unprecedented 35-day government shutdown." The Director had clashed with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and White House over the proposed OPM merger with the General Services Administration (GSA). Michael J. Rigas is the Acting Director of OPM. He has 20 years of experience in private, public and non-public sectors.

This week, the Senate is expected to pass phase II of the stimulus package. No one knows just how the payments will be handed out but say they will be handed out in two equal payments, April 6 and May 18.

We must all do our part to stop COVID-19 from spreading. Please follow the guidelines set out by the federal, state, and local government and **STAY SAFE**.

Your Legislators can be reached at:

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

U.S. Senator Martin 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)

March was a tough month. Hopefully things get better in April. We now have **258** members in our chapter. Easter is coming up on April 12th. Tax returns were due on April 15th but that date has been extended a few months. Schools closed until April 6th. Restaurants and bars have been ordered closed for dine in but some still provide take out or delivery service. Churches have suspended masses and other celebrations. Mass can be viewed on television. Assemblies of more than 10 people have been suspended. Stay at home and restrict trips to grocery except for necessary purchases. Wash your hands with soap and water. Social distancing of at least 6 feet is suggested. Stay positive and keep calm.

Quote of the month: *"You learn in life that the only person you can really correct and change is yourself."* –Katharine Hepburn.

Alzheimer's Report (Cindy Cook)

Our March meeting was very nice in spite of the virus concerns and a few less participants. We collected \$78 (\$30 for 50/50 raffle - \$20 given back); \$20 for wine auction; \$6 for the T.P. auction (Yes, you read that right – someone donated Toilet Paper and it was auctioned off.) Total sent to NARFE Alzheimer's was **\$94.00!**

We want to thank ALL members for their generosity towards our most worthy cause of Alzheimer's Research.

Those who donated prizes: Sharon & John Reese, Mary Beth Reinhart, Terry Bloom, Kathy Treat, Sharon Willoughby, and the Leprechaun who left two items on the table.



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton



We could all use a little more sunshine these days. It is difficult for us to be alone with ourselves. We need to look at this as an opportunity. Now we have time to do those things that we neglected because of lack of time. Some work tasks at home can be attacked. Clean that closet. Organize your shop or garage. Purge those bulging files. Leisure and fun activities can be enjoyed. Read books. Do crossword puzzles or word games. Play interactive games with your spouse or family. Exercise and go for walks in the sunshine. Staying active mentally and physically can lift your spirits.

There were no reports of members needing cards this month. Now that is a bit of sunshine.

The answer to this month's riddle: THROW AWAY THE OUTSIDE AND COOK THE INSIDE. THEN EAT THE OUTSIDE AND THROW AWAY THE INSIDE. WHAT AM I? (CORN ON THE COB)

Have some fun by answering this month's riddle: APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, BUT WHAT DO MAY FLOWERS BRING?

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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

April and May 2020 Chapter 182 General Meetings are cancelled.

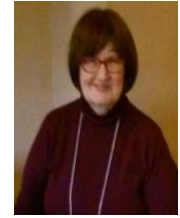
NM Federation Annual Meeting scheduled for April 23rd at Good Samaritan has been cancelled.

Chapter's May Yard Sale has been postponed until the fall.



Thank You,
Craig
Singleton !

Craig served as our Chapter Treasurer since May 2016 and we want to thank him for the excellent job he did for us. He also served as our Ways & Means Chair where he took charge of our many yard sales, and has been a member of our Telephone Calling Committee. He decided to step down as Treasurer and Ways & Means but will continue to be on our Telephone Calling Committee. Those of you who attend our meetings know that Craig always liked to add a little (or a lot) of humor to his reports about how our money was spent or not spent! We appreciate how well he “handled our books” for us and hope that he will continue to attend our Executive Board meetings as often as he can!



Thank you,
Marsha Smith!

We thank Marsha for volunteering to serve as our Chapter Treasurer. Marsha has been an active member of our chapter and regularly attends our meetings.

She is a member of our Executive Board and has been working hard researching a venue for our meetings which will begin again in September.

We really appreciate Marsha stepping up and volunteering to take on this important job for our chapter.



NARFE Chapter 182 Elected Officers

Sharon Reese (President)
Judy Rosco (1st VP for Legislation)
Marlene Mayfield (Secretary)
Marsha Smith (Treasurer)
Dan Carroll (2nd VP for Membership)





FEEA

**Federal Employee Education
& Assistance (FEEA)**



***Roy
Willoughby***

Please consider supporting the NARFE-FEEA program during this time of seclusion. Remember donations can be made directly online at: feea.org/givenarferelief.

For helping Federal Public Servants in Need - Disaster Assistance: NARFE-FEEA's disaster funds in the form of cash grants of \$500 maximum and no-interest loans are available to all NARFE members in times of emergency.

Find Disaster Relief Help Information online at: www.feea.org - then click **Disaster Relief**. Here you will find information on eligibility and how to apply.

For more information call Roy at 524-9395.



March 14th General Meeting

**Sharon Reese
Chapter 182 President
& NM Federation President**

**Cindy Flynn
Marketing and Outreach Program
Manager for the Branigan Library**

**Donna Harris
Chapter 182 Program Chair**

(Photo by Marlene Mayfield)



Records Officer

(Carol Main)

Welcome New Member:
Peter Chidester

Our chapter membership is **258** members strong! We had **35** members and guests at our March meeting with **629** volunteer hours.

Since we won't be having meetings until the COVID-19 pandemic is resolved, please keep track of your volunteer hours starting in March. We will collect your total volunteer hours when we resume contacting you for the next meeting.

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.

Join Us



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
2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll
cardan116@comcast.net	575- 932-9491
Secretary/Public Relations	Marlene Mayfield
mayfield195@msn.com	575- 644-6851
Treasurer	Marsha Smith
Marsha.smith1948@gmail.com	575-644-5131
Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook
cindy77lou@yahoo.com	575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	Roy Willoughby
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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)
201 N Church St Suite 305
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