



*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 21, Issue 1 – August 2020

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



*Chapter 182 President &
NM Federation President*

Sharon Reese



I hope that this newsletter finds all Chapter 182 members safe and well. I, along with many of you, am very tired of this virus and how it has interrupted our lives.

At the present time we will not be having our yard sale in September. If things improve, we will shoot for October. So, please keep your items ready for our sale.

I am not sure if we will be able to have our September 12th meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn. The Governor has banned all inside dining. However, our Mayor states he will not abide by the order. So, it will be closer to September before we can plan our meeting. You will be notified by email, newsletter and/or telephone callers.

I am going to hold off until August 19th for our Board meeting so we can plan accordingly. We cannot hold our Board meeting at Good Samaritan Village as it is still on lockdown. I will host the meeting in my backyard at 9 a.m. If this changes I will let the Board know.

Have you received your August/September **NARFE Magazine**? If not, you should have it any day now. You need the magazine to obtain your unique number for voting for National President, Secretary/Treasurer, and numerous bylaw resolutions. You may have received an email from "Election Services Co for NARFE" which gives your member number and a unique code for online voting. Go to <https://vote.esvote.com/narfe> to access the log-in page. If you need any assistance, email: narfe-help@electionservicescorp.com or call 1-866-720-4357 Mon- Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET.

It is especially important that each member votes as there are resolutions that affect your membership dues, chapter income and federation income. Voting online started July 20th and will end August 31th.

(See Pages 2 & 3 for Ballot Items, Amendments & Resolutions)

2020 Ballot Items
CANDIDATES for National Secretary/Treasurer
Kathryn Hensley (SC) – Incumbent National Secretary/Treasurer
Cindy Renee Blythe (KS) – Current Region V Vice President

AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

NUMBER	AUTHOR'S TITLE	BRC SUBJECT	RVP7 VOTE	FED PRES	RATIONALE
B-2002	Ballot Design Standards	Ballot Design Standards	REJECT	REJECT	
B-2004	NEB Responsibility	National Exec Board Authority	REJECT	REJECT	
B-2005	National Officers' Vacancies	National Officers' Vacancies	REJECT	ADOPT	AGREE WITH BRC Recommendation
B-2006	Bylaws Revisions	Bylaws Revisions	ADOPT	ADOPT	
B-2007	Voting – Resolutions	Voting	REJECT	REJECT	
B-2008	Proposal of By-laws Amendments	Equality in Proposing Amendments	ADOPT	ADOPT	
B-2009	Federation Mergers	Federation Mergers	ADOPT	ADOPT	
B-2010	Officer Term Limits	Secretary/ Treasurer Term Limits	ADOPT	ADOPT	
B-2011	Terms of Office	National Office/ RVP Office Terms	REJECT	REJECT	DISAGREE – There is conflict of interest on NEB Members to vote to extend terms & salary and to determine Budget for the next elected NEB Members.
B-2014	Voting on By-laws & Standing Rules	Simplify Voting Process	ADOPT	ADOPT	

NUMBER	AUTHOR'S TITLE	BRC SUBJECT	RVP7	FED PRES	RATIONALE
B-2015	Executive Director Duties	Executive Director Duties	ADOPT	ADOPT	
B-2017	Bylaws and Standing Rules Debate	Voting Member Privileges	ADOPT	ADOPT	
AB-2018	Spousal Memberships	Add Spousal Members	REJECT	REJECT	
B-2020	Membership Dues	Dues Increases	ADOPT	ADOPT	
B-2021	Federation Payments	Federation Payments	ADOPT	ADOPT	
S-2002	Committee Composition	Ensure Committee Diversity	ADOPT	REJECT	DISAGREE – This may impact the selection process for best qualified candidate to serve on the committee.
S-2003	Audit Publication Deadline	NARFE Audit Publication Deadline	ADOPT	ADOPT	
S-2005	Chapter Payments	Chapter Payments	ADOPT	REJECT	DISAGREE- This takes money from chapters who do the work in recruiting.
R-2001	Windfall Elimination Clause	Eliminate WEP	REJECT	ADOPT	AGREE with rationale of the only process to keep the Advocacy Committee abreast of our concerns.
R-2002	Increase Social Security	Increase Social Security	REJECT	ADOPT	SAME AS ABOVE.
BRC-01	Membership Categories	Membership Categories	ADOPT	REJECT	DISAGREE as no verbiage from Legal Council that would prohibit this category on loss of tax exempt status.



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton

Our weather has brought an abundance of sunshine this summer. Hopefully it has helped you cope with the Coronavirus threat. Continued sheltering in place, wearing masks and cancelling group socializing, etc. may cloud our minds, but we need to persevere and focus on the positive. Keep on keeping on with exercising, walks and other physical games/activities in your backyards. Keep on reading, playing indoor games, working on puzzles, etc. to challenge yourself mentally. Telephone a friend or fellow NARFE member just to say hello and that you want to brighten their day.

A sympathy card was sent to Gail Tomlin, whose husband, Lee, passed away in June. Lee was a very active NARFE member in the Albuquerque area, and served as New Mexico NARFE Federation Treasurer for several years.

Have some fun by answering this month's riddle: WHY DO BIRDS FLY SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?

**The answer to the May riddle:
HOW CAN YOU THROW A BALL AS HARD AS YOU CAN, TO ONLY HAVE IT COME BACK TO YOU EVEN IF IT DOESN'T BOUNCE OFF ANYTHING?
(THROW THE BALL STRAIGHT UP IN THE AIR)**

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.



Alzheimer's Report

Cindy Cook



Hello Chapter Members! Since we are not able to have meetings yet, I wanted to give you the Alzheimer's information and address if you still wish to make a donation to this cause for our chapter.

Make check payable to: NARFE Alzheimer's Research (with reference to: Las Cruces NM Chapter 0182). Mail to: National Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave, Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601-7633.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing everyone after the restriction is lifted on meetings. Please take care!



NARFE Chapter 182 Programs

We don't know for sure when our next chapter general meeting will be held but be assured we will notify all our members the time, place, and program. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Reminder: If you have a specific topic or speaker you would like to recommend for one of our meetings, please contact our Program Chair (Donna Harris) at:

md.harris1@comcast.net
or phone: 575-382-9070.



Service Officer (Jim Kiely)

**JUNE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX RISES
AFTER THREE MONTHS OF DECLINE**



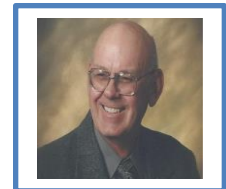
The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W), used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2021, increased in June 2020 after registering declines in March, April, and May 2020. The declines were directly related to the stay-at-home orders and substantial job layoffs associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. With virus cases again spiking in many states, economists believe that inflation pressures which would normally increase the CPI-W figures are likely to remain low for some time.

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.



Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA)

(Roy Willoughby)



Important FEEA Programs During the Covid-19 Recovery

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: feea.org - then click **Disaster Relief**

-Here you will find information on eligibility and how to apply.

FEEA’S Updated Coronavirus Hardship Assistance Program

Find important information at: fedshelpingfeds@feea.org

-Here you will find expanded financial relief programs during Covid-19 hardships.

FEEA’S FEDLIFEHACKS PROGRAM

Find online at: feea.org/hacks

-Here you will find information and resources for all ages and stages of life.

-Financial Wellness – meeting your financial goals and getting help.

NOTE – To make these FEEA programs possible, we need to also make generous donations now.

Your donations can be made directly online at: feea.org/givenarferelief

(For more information: call Roy at 524-9395)



Records Officer (Carol Main)

Welcome New Member: Chris Moreno

Our chapter membership is now **263** members strong!

**Welcome to our members
from Alamogordo:**

Linda Barker
Juanita Carver
William Carver
Linda Clark
Dennis Clark
Edith Elliott
Kenneth Henderson
Clarence Hust
Mildred Hust

Teruko Kondo
Victor Martinez
Forest McGinnis
Irvin Michaud
Darlene Oberling
Linda Ritchie
Brenda Steeby
David Steeby

**Welcome New
Prospective Members:**

Larry Baca
Ruth Baca
Richard Baker
Jason Butler
Eddie Carabajal
Mark Chaffin
Alfredo Chavez
Ed Creegan
Teresa Finstad
Lourdes Romero

Pedro Galvan
Araceli Gonzalez
Joni Greer
John Hackworth
Deidre Jefferson
Marc Ortiz
Jaime Reyes
Efrain Sella-Perez

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.



**Dan Carroll
VP for
Membership**



It's been a rough last four months or so. Just when things were getting better, Las Cruces and most of New Mexico have gone back to lockdown. The city's 4th of July fireworks were great! I watched them from my driveway off Road-runner Parkway. They're working on a vaccine and hopefully it's available soon. Public schools are looking to re-open on hybrid schedule in mid-August. Details to follow.

We now have 263 members in our local Chapter 182. White Sands recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. The range opened on July 9, 1945 as White Sands Proving Ground. Way to go! Next full moon is August 3, 2020.

Quote of the month: "Life is for most of us a continuous process of getting used to things we haven't expected."—Martha Lupton.

P.S. I have never heard of Martha Lupton but will report on her in next month's column.

Stay Safe!



National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
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You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

Chapter 182 Officers	Members of Congress
<p>President nmreeses@msn.com</p> <p>1st Vice Pres. (Legislation) rosco631@gmail.com</p> <p>2nd Vice Pres. (Membership) cardan116@comcast.net</p> <p>Secretary/Public Relations mayfield195@msn.com</p> <p>Treasurer Marsha.smith1948@gmail.com</p>	<p>U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D) 201 N Church St Suite 305 Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-523-6561 - http://www.heinrich.senate.gov</p> <p>U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D) 201 N Church St Suite 201B Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-526-5475 - http://tomudall.senate.gov</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Alzheimer's cindy77lou@yahoo.com</p> <p>NARFE-FEEA: rswillowbee@comcast.net</p> <p>NARFE-PAC: memckay1@comcast.net</p> <p>Program Chair: md.harris1@comcast.net</p> <p>Records Officer: csmain7@gmail.com</p> <p>Service Officer: jkielty70@yahoo.com</p>	<p>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 \$15. 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: lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com. Newsletter Editor (Sarah McAdoo): mcadoosr@aol.com</p>