



*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 21, Issue 4 – November 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)

MEMBER MEETING: We will not be holding our November meeting due to the Covid-19 restrictions placed by our Governor. I am really concerned that members will be leery of meeting until there is a vaccination available in New Mexico. Your Board has decided that we will NOT renew our contract with the Hilton Garden Inn in November. Our current contract expires in December. There is a clause that states we must renew the current contract to retain the current costs in November.

DUES: As a result of voting for B-2020 we will have a dues increase. Effective 1 January 2021 dues will be \$48.00 plus your Chapter dues of \$10.00.

The new language in the bylaws will read:

Members shall pay dues of \$48 for one year, \$92 for two years, and \$126 for three years. For dues withholding annual dues are \$42. The NEB shall also establish an amount to pay all future dues in full. Such members who pay all future dues in full shall be called life members. All funds derived from membership fees and dues shall be used only to support association objectives.

The current “dues withholding” is \$34.00 (plus chapter dues \$10.00), which equates to \$3.67 per month. The new “dues withholding” rate will be \$42 annually (plus chapter dues, \$10.00). That equates to \$4.33 per month.

NARFE members whose memberships expire after December 31, 2020 are encouraged to **save money by calling 800-456-8410 (press 1 for membership) and renew their annual membership now for one year at the current dues rate of \$40.** To save even more, members who currently pay the one-year rate can extend to a two- or three-year membership at the current dues rates of \$72 or \$102, respectively.

Current “life members” dues will not change, only if their chapter dues change. The amounts for new life members, beginning January 1, will be determined using actuarial tables. They must be approved by the NEB before publication sometime after January 1. The current table for determining the dues is on page 2.



Ages	Single Payment	Quarterly Installment
30-39	\$1,796.00	\$450.25
40-50	1,408.00	353.25
51-55	1,127.00	283.00
56-60	960.00	241.25
61-65	801.00	201.50
66-70	653.00	164.50
71-75	514.00	129.75
76-80	392.00	99.25
81-90	251.00	64.00
91-100	127.00	33.00

Members may want to consider the life membership prior to December 31st as dues will be going up, but we do not know how much.



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

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.



Service Officer

Jim Kiely

SEPTEMBER CONSUMER PRICE INDEX RISE WILL RESULT IN 1.3 PERCENT COLA IN 2021

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, rose to 254.007 in September 2020. When combined with the CPI-W figures for July (252.636) and August (253.597) the 2020 third quarter average CPI-W is 1.3 percent greater than the reference point of the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2019, which was 250.200. Therefore the 1.3 percent COLA will go into effect on January 1, 2021. The 1.3 percent COLA for 2021 will be the lowest in several years. COLAs were 2.0 percent in 2018, 2.8 percent in 2019, and 1.6 percent in 2020.



Service Officer

Jim Kiely

HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN SEASON BEGINS NOVEMBER 9

The Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP) will begin on Monday, November 9 and will conclude on Monday, December 14. During the Open Season, current federal employees, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants may change plans, options, and types of enrollments (Self, Self Plus One, and Self Plus Family), or make any combination of these changes. Open Season for the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (USAFEDS), available only to current federal employees, also runs concurrently with the FEHBP and FEDVIP Open Season.

Continued on Page 3...

HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN SEASON INFORMATION CONTINUED

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will send federal retirees and survivor annuitants basic details on Open Season and guidance on how to obtain information and materials. This will be done either by regular mail or electronically if you have provided OPM with your e-mail address. Those who have not received this information by the beginning of Open Season on November 9 should contact OPM. All FEHBP plan brochures can be viewed and printed at the following website: <http://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance>. If you do not have access to a computer, call the customer service number on your health insurance ID card to obtain brochure information about your current plan.

The October and November issues of the *NARFE* magazine contain a great deal of Open Season information and the December issue of the magazine also will address the topic.

On October 14 OPM announced that the average 2021 FEHB premium increase for all plans will be 3.6 percent. Premiums for all Fee-For-Service and Health Maintenance Organizations can be found on the OPM website. A listing of the 2021 monthly premium changes for three of the most popular FEHBP plans is shown below.

HEALTH PLAN - 2021 MONTHLY PREMIUM - CHANGE IN PREMIUM

BLUE CROSS

Standard Self: \$267.48; +\$14.18
Standard Self & Family: \$650.26; +\$28.99
Standard Self Plus One: \$608.43; +\$29.60

Basic Self: \$170.31; +\$5.76
Basic Self & Family: \$436.08; +\$21.71
Basic Self Plus One: \$409.87; +\$22.88

GEHA

High Self: \$234.31; +\$5.90
High Self and Family: \$680.61; +\$21.10
High Self Plus One: \$545.85; +\$11.74

Standard Self: \$135.77; +\$4.59
Standard Self and Family: \$357.17; +\$20.21
Standard Self Plus One: \$291.92; +\$9.87

PRESBYTERIAN

High Self: \$323.51; -\$6.64
High Self and Family: \$772.13; -\$20.15
High Self Plus One: \$801.43; -\$15.34

Standard Self: \$182.89; -\$16.55
Standard Self and Family: \$441.63; -\$43.57
Standard Self Plus One: \$482.22; -\$37.87

CHAPTER MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

(Donna Harris, Program Chair)

Until further guidance is received, our NARFE meetings are on hold.

If you have an idea for a program for one of our future meetings, please let me know by sending an email to: md.harris1@comcast.net.



1st VP for Legislation

Judy Rosco

Some good news to relay... Congresswoman Torres Small has signed on as a co-sponsor for H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act, which would fully repeal both the WEP and GPO. She thanked us for our advocacy and help in letting her know how important this bill is to Federal employees.

I would like to thank any of our members who may have contacted the Congresswoman about gaining her support for this important bill.

I encourage you to vote in the upcoming election whether in person or by absentee ballot...vote. I stood in line for approximately 30 minutes yesterday to vote and the process was very well run.

I have enjoyed being your Legislative Chair for the past few years and I look forward to the next year. 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>



Sunshine Report

Marcele Skelton



Sunshine is still in abundance, even though fall is in the air. Temperatures have been 10 to 15 degrees above normal this week. Enjoy the outdoors while you can because it can't last long, with daylight savings time ending, and cool fall days fast approaching.

A Get Well card was sent to Tom Anderson, an active NARFE member who lives in Tucumcari. Tom has been in and out of the hospital in Amarillo, and is in rehab now. A sympathy card was sent to Carrie Decker and Gemma Lowe, daughter and granddaughter of Carol Decker, who passed away October 3. Carol was active in our chapter and served as the Telephone Committee Chair.

Have some fun by answering this riddle while getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving: WHY DID THEY LET THE TURKEY PLAY IN THE THANKSGIVING BAND?

The answer to the October riddle: WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE IN CHINA CALLED WHO ARE TESTING PEOPLE FOR THE CORONAVIRUS? (Chinese Checkers) Thank you Sharon Reese for this suggestion.

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

Chapter Records Officer Report (Carol Main)

We have no new members to report this month; however, our chapter membership is **258** members strong!

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.



**BlueCross
BlueShield**

Federal Employee Program.

[Fepblue.org/wecan](https://fepblue.org/wecan)

**Open Season
is coming
soon!**



**Join us for a 2021 health benefits presentation on
Saturday, November 7!**

To join, call **1-877-310-7479**.

9 a.m. Participant code: 146 465 6577

1 p.m. Participant code: 146 663 3825

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual
Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association**

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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
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<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 \$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: lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com. Newsletter Editor (Sarah McAdoo): mcadoosr@aol.com</p>