



**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 21, Issue 5 – December 2020

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

We Wish All Our Members a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!



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



Members please stay safe and stay at home as much as possible. We have had too many (4) members pass away from COVID-19 and or other medical problems in the last few months. I know this is hard to do with the holidays upon us and wanting to share the season with family and friends.

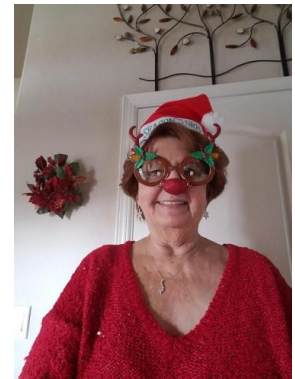
I have no idea when we will be able to hold a meeting of our members. I will be asking the Hilton Garden Inn for our deposit of \$500.00 by 12 December. As it stands right now, we will NOT renew our contract. We will keep you informed by email or phone call when we will resume our meetings.

My computer was hacked and many members were sent emails asking for help. PLEASE NEVER open one of these emails from me as I would never ask any of you for help. Please update your contact list to show sreese346@gmail.com. This email was not affected.

I was surprised at the small number of responses to our Member Survey. However, the majority wants to keep our meetings on Saturday morning with breakfast. Also, the majority stated they would attend when a vaccine is available, and restrictions are lifted.

Bountiful, Utah dedicated a Veterans Park on November 11, 2020. Any resident of Davis County who served in any branch of the military may have their name placed on the wall. John Reese and two of his brothers' names are on the wall. We traveled to Bountiful for the dedication. The weather was cold, with rain and then snow. A typical Utah day!

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I think it will be "goodbye to 2020"!



**Do you recognize
Santa's Helper?**

Is that our 1st VP for
Legislation, Judy Rosco?

It sure is! She was in full holiday spirit at our December meeting a couple of years ago. She promises that she will dress up again for our December 2021 meeting! All of us need to plan on doing that!





Future Meetings/Programs

***Program Chair
Donna Harris***

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.



Records Officer

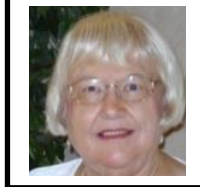
Carol Main

We do not have any new members to announce this month, but we still have a strong chapter membership of **257** members!

Since we won't be having meetings until the COVID-19 pandemic is resolved, please keep track of your volunteer hours starting in March 2020. 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.



Sunshine Report

***Marcele
Skelton***



Sunshine has been in short supply this past month in more ways than one. Shorter days, a surging Coronavirus, economic downturn and political unrest have tested us. But with December comes a time for more sunshine. December brings us the Winter Solstice, Christmas and a goodbye to the old year. That should help lift our spirits!

A Thinking of You card was sent to Ron and Chickie Lerdahl. A Get Well card was sent to Kathy Treat who broke her right wrist and had surgery to repair it. Kathy will have to wear a cast for three months. A Get Well card was also sent to Allaire Dunn, right after she became ill with COVID-19. Sadly, Allaire passed away November 9th. She was a very active chapter member and had served as our Alzheimer's Chair. A sympathy card was sent to Allaire's daughter, Anita Montijo, also a chapter member.

Have some fun by answering this December riddle: WHERE DOES FROSTY THE SNOWMAN KEEP HIS MONEY?

The answer to the November riddle: WHY DID THEY LET THE TURKEY PLAY IN THE THANKSGIVING BAND?
(Because he had the drumsticks.)

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



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



MEDICARE PART B MONTHLY PREMIUMS TO INCREASE IN 2021

On November 6 the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that the standard Medicare Part B premium would increase from \$ 144.60 monthly to \$ 148.50 monthly in 2021. The \$ 3.90 monthly increase from 2020 to 2021 compares with a \$ 9.10 monthly increase which occurred between 2019 and 2020. In addition, the annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries will be \$ 203 dollars in 2021, an increase of \$ 5.00 from 2020.

The majority of Medicare recipients who are enrolled in Part B pay the standard monthly premium for this coverage. More affluent seniors pay higher Medicare Part B premiums on a sliding scale based on their Modified Adjusted Gross Income for federal tax purposes. For example, a single person with a Modified Adjusted Gross Income between \$ 88,000 and \$ 111,000 will pay \$ 207.90 monthly in 2021.

This Medicare Part B monthly increase, coupled with monthly premium increases for many federal health benefit plans, will put a serious dent in the 1.3 percent Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) for 2021 recently announced by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

2020 OPEN SEASON CONTINUES THROUGH DECEMBER 14



The 2020 Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP) began on November 9 and will continue through December 14. All Open Season changes for federal retirees and survivor annuitants are effective January 1, 2021 and premium changes are reflected in February 1 annuity payments. Open Season changes for current federal employees are effective at the beginning of the first full pay period on or after January 1, 2021.

FEHBP changes may be made online at: <https://retirefehb.opm.gov> by selecting "Open Season Online". FEHBP changes may also be made by calling Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798. During Open Season federal retirees and survivor annuitants may also request changes and information by regular mail by writing to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at FEHB Processing Center, P.O. Box 5000, Lawrence, KS 66046-0500. When using this option, clearly state in writing your Open Season request. If you are making an enrollment change, state the type of coverage (Self Only, Self Plus One, or Self and Family) you desire and the enrollment code. Remember to include your annuity claim number (CSA or CSF number) and your Social Security Number on your request.

With regard to dental or vision insurance under FEDVIP, enrollments, cancellations, or changes may be accomplished by computer at <http://www.benefeds.com> or by calling 1-877-888-3337.

There are numerous sources available to assist you in determining if you should make any changes during the FEHBP/FEDVIP Open Season. These include the OPM website; the October, November, and December issues of the *NARFE* Magazine; and the 2021 brochure of the plan in which you are currently enrolled, Section 2 of which reflects the plan's changes for 2021. Remember, there is no one health, dental, or vision plan which is best for all. However, by doing your homework, you will find the plan which best meets your needs.



Judy Rosco
(VP for Legislation)

The elections are over and whether your candidate won or not, we will move forward together. I will not attempt to contact our new Congresswoman-elect, Yvette Herrell, until she takes office in January 2021.

We need to continue to stay in touch with one another during this trying time, give each other encouragement, and stay tuned to NARFE information.

STAY SAFE.

Your Legislators can still be reached until January 2021 at:

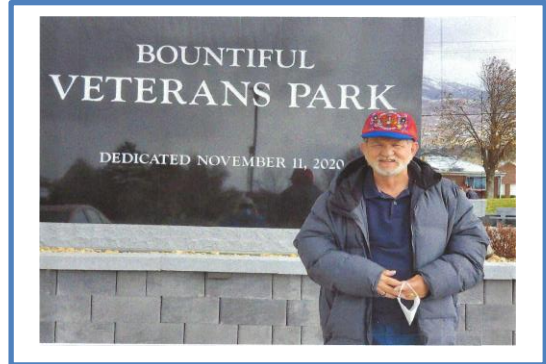
U.S. Senator Tom Udall, (575) 526-5475, at <http://www.tomudall.senate.gov>

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

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



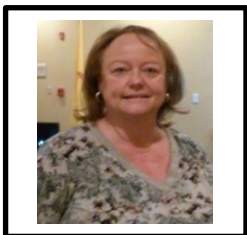
Chapter members John and Sharon Reese attended the dedication of the Veterans Park in Bountiful, Utah on November 11th. John and two of his brothers served in the military and their names are placed on the wall.



John Reese



Veterans Park, Bountiful, Utah



Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)

Since we are not able to have meetings yet, I wanted to give you the Alzheimer's information and address in case you would like to make a donation to this cause for our chapter.

Make check payable to: NARFE Alzheimer's Research (with reference to Las Cruces Chapter 0182).

Mail to: National Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601-7633

Thank you and look forward to seeing everyone after the restriction is lifted on our meetings.

Stay safe and have a Merry Christmas!



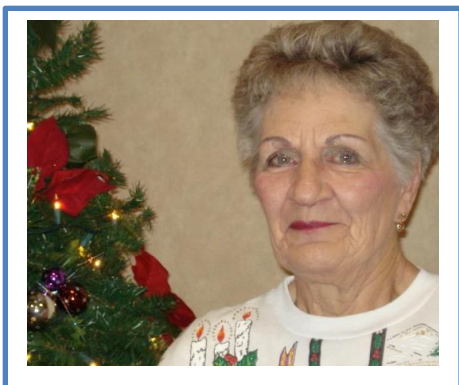


In Memory

We recently lost two of our chapter members who served as Executive Board members. They both dedicated their time to helping our chapter in many ways. We will miss them dearly!



Carol Decker passed away on October 3rd. Carol was a current member of our Executive Board serving as our Telephone Committee Chair. She also worked tirelessly for several years making handmade Christmas ornaments and other things to help raise money for our Ways and Means Committee.



Allaire Dunn passed away on November 9th. Allaire was a long time member of our chapter and served four years on our Executive Board as our Alzheimer's Committee Chair. In the past she also volunteered to help as a Greeter at meetings and assisted the Treasurer.



FEEA

Federal Employee Education & Assistance

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

For more information call Roy Willoughby at 524-9395.



National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
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You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

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Alzheimer's cindy77lou@yahoo.com	Cindy Cook 575-640-0860
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Service Officer: jkielty70@yahoo.com	Jim Kielty 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://www.tomudall.senate.gov>

U.S. Representative Xochitl Torres Small (D) (District 2)
240 S Water St, Las Cruces NM 88001
575-520-5319
<http://www.xochitl.torressmall@mail.house.gov>

NARFE Monthly Meetings

The Las Cruces Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association normally holds a breakfast meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month except in June, July, & August. Due to COVID-19, all meetings are currently “on hold”.

National Web Site: www.narfe.org