



*National Active & Retired  
Federal Employees Association*

**Las Cruces Chapter 182**  
**REPORTER**

**Volume 21, Issue 6 – February 2021**

*Happy Valentine's Day*



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

I hope this newsletter finds all of you safe and healthy!

2021 is starting out just like 2020 with the COVID-19 still escalating. I hope that you have registered with the New Mexico Department of Health for the vaccine at: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org>. (See full information and instructions from Jim Kielty, our Chapter Service Officer, on page 2 of this newsletter.)

With the COVID-19 restrictions, we are still in limbo for holding our monthly membership meetings.

I was notified that Rodney Adelman, Region VII Vice President, has cancelled the Regional Conference for 2021 due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions. He also stated that Headquarters will likely postpone, cancel, or reschedule the Legislative Conference and the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of NARFE. I will let you know when I hear anything.

The 2021 NM Federation Conference date is still unknown. We will not hold one if our members have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Again, when a decision is made, I will let you know.

I would like to know if anyone would like to be the Senatorial Liaison (SL) to Senator Ray Ben Lujan. He has an office in Las Cruces so we will be able to establish a working relationship. Senator Lujan has been an avid supporter of NARFE, and I expect that to continue. He has contacted me several times touching base to see if we, Chapter 182, have any issues or concerns that we could use his help in resolving. Mark Mickelson, the Federation Legislative Officer, asked for someone preferably in our chapter, to be Senator Lujan's designated SL.

Hopefully, next month I can provide positive information! Keep Safe and Healthy!!



*Program Chair (Donna Harris)*

We have no chapter meetings scheduled at this time.

If you have an idea for a future program, please let me know by sending an email to: [md.harris1@comcast.net](mailto:md.harris1@comcast.net).





*Service Officer (Jim Kielty)*

**NEW MEXICO HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ESTABLISHES WEBSITE TO REGISTER FOR  
RECEIVING COVID-19 VACCINE**



NARFE members need to be aware that the New Mexico Department of Health has established a website to allow New Mexicans to register for receiving the Covid-19 vaccine as it becomes available. The Department of Health has reported that over 400,000 state residents have registered for the vaccine thus far. The registration website is [cyyvaccine.nmhealth.org](https://cyyvaccine.nmhealth.org). Individuals who lack internet access or, otherwise need help in registering can call 1-855-600-3453, press option 0 for vaccine questions, and then option 4 for tech support. Although the state admits that the call center was overwhelmed by the volume of calls when first established, additional call-takers have been assigned, with 20 in place on January 15 and 41 assigned by January 22.

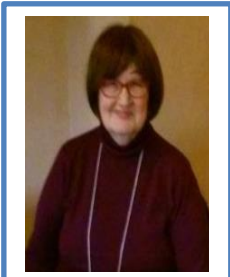
To register at the website, first fill out the basic registration form and you will receive a personal confirmation code. Be sure to save this confirmation code for future reference. Use the confirmation code to enter your profile and state any chronic medical conditions, employment status, insurance, and other information, such as phone numbers and email address.

After you have registered, wait for the Department of Health to contact you to schedule your appointment. When contacted to schedule an appointment, enter your assigned event code and select a location and day for your vaccine appointment. On the day scheduled for your vaccination, you will be able to complete a medical questionnaire. After receiving your first dose of the vaccine, the Department of Health will then contact you two to three weeks later to schedule the second booster dose of the vaccine. The vaccine is being dispensed in four phases (1A, 1B, 1C, and 2) depending on such factors as occupation, age, and underlying health conditions. Specific details about each phase can be found on the website or by calling 1-855-600-3453, option 0.

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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SHOWS SLIGHT UPWARD TREND  
FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W0, used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2022, was 254.081 for December 2020, which was 0.26 percent above the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2020 (July-September), which was 253.412. The October 2020 CPI-W was 254.076, while the November 2020 CPI-W dipped slightly to 253.826. The 253.412 third quarter CPI-W average for 2020 will be compared with the third quarter average CPI-W for 2021 to determine if a COLA will go into effect on January 1, 2022.



*Treasurer's Report (Marsha Smith)*

Happy New Year Everyone! I want to give you an update on our finances for the end of 2020. We have had very little activity with income being from our member dues and expenses mainly for our chapter newsletter. Our checking account balance is \$5,668.95. I anticipate that the next three months will include these same items. I do expect a refund of \$500.00 (deposit) from the Hilton Garden Inn as we were not able to exercise the 4-month contract for our membership meetings.



### ***Membership Report (Dan Carroll)***

It's been four months since my wife and NARFE member (Angie) died. I miss going to general meetings with her (she would make my toast and laugh at my jokes). That being said, these are challenging times for U.S. and NARFE.

Membership has been steady. Dues are going up or have been proposed to go up! Valentine's Day coming up February 14<sup>th</sup> and will be hard day for me! Presidents Day is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Lent starts February 17<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday). Full moon is February 27<sup>th</sup>. Vaccine is coming. Please sign up for your shots with NM Department of Health. Quote of the month: "Doing good to others is not a duty. It is a joy, for it increases your own health and happiness." –Zoroaster.



## **FEEA**

***Federal Employee Education & Assistance***

### ***NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Deadline***

The deadline to apply for the 2021 FEEA Scholarship Program is Thursday, March 25, 2021. The scholarship is open to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of NARFE members. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to attend their first year of an accredited college full time (in a two- or four-year degree program) in the fall/winter of the award year. Students can access the online application at: [feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/](https://feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/).



***Roy  
Willoughby***



### ***Records Officer (Carol Main)***

Welcome New Prospective Member:

***Helen Martinez***

Our chapter membership is **254** 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 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](mailto: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.





*1<sup>st</sup> VP for Legislation  
Judy Rosco*



The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress is officially in session. President Joe Biden took the Oath of Office on January 20, 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the world. The medical community says the virus will be around for some time to come. I hope that you will all consider signing up to be vaccinated.

Congresswoman Yvette Herrell has not opened an office in Las Cruces as of this newsletter but as soon as she does, I will pass along her local contact information.

The updated contact information on our congressional legislators follows:

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, (575) 523-6561  
201 N Church St Suite 305, Las Cruces NM 88001  
<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan, (575) 526-5475  
201 N Church St Suite 201B, Las Cruces NM 88001  
<http://www.lujan.senate.gov>

U.S. Representative Yvette Herrell, (202) 225-2365  
<http://www.herrell.house.gov>



*Sunshine  
Report*

*Marcele  
Skelton*



Welcome to 2021! We hope this new year brings more sunshine for us all the way around. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of **Ruth Hoff**, who passed away on January 1st at the age of 101. She had been a member of our chapter since September 1978, our longest term member.

Have some fun by answering the riddle appropriate for February: WHAT DID THE GROUND-HOG SAY WHEN HE SAW HIS SHADOW?

The answer to the December riddle: WHERE DOES FROSTY THE SNOWMAN KEEP HIS MONEY? (In the snowbank) Congratulations to **Jackie Pickering** for guessing the correct answer.

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](mailto:marcele@skelton.net)



#### REMINDER

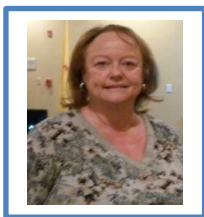
We want to remind you to save your items for our chapter yard sale. As of now, date is unknown, but hopefully it will happen this summer! We will need your items when we're able to schedule it.

Thank you!



**NARFE's 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**1921 – 2021**  
**A CENTURY OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**NARFE Is Your Information Resource**



*Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)*

**Alzheimer's Association, NM Chapter Announces  
New Free Class for Caregivers in 2021: "Living With Alzheimer's"  
Helpful webinars available for the New Year, in both English and Spanish**

Adapting to the current COVID-19 crisis, The Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter has announced a series of free online educational webinars for the first quarter of the New Year (in both Spanish and English) entitled '**Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers.**'

Presented virtually, **Living With Alzheimer's for Caregivers** addresses questions that arise in the **early, middle and late stages of the disease**, each of which present unique challenges. Participants will hear from other caregivers and learn tips and strategies that can help at every stage. Learn what you need to know, what to plan and what to do along the way. The program covers: • Early-stage Alzheimer's disease • Middle-stage Alzheimer's disease and • Late-stage Alzheimer's disease

"We are excited to introduce this dynamic new series," says Denise Parras (*Program Director, Alzheimer's Association, NM Chapter.*) "A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease can lead to many questions. What does the diagnosis mean? How do I plan for the future? What resources are available to help? As the disease progresses, the need for information and support will grow. This is the first program that really dives in to the concerns that are unique to the various stages of dementia, and it's all tailored towards the needs of family caregivers."

To register for any of these below, or to inquire about additional offerings, please email: [nmprograms@alz.org](mailto:nmprograms@alz.org) or call 1 (800) 272-3900:

**FEBRUARY:**

***Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Middle Stage***

Thursday, February 4th – Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1pm - 2:30pm (2-Day Webinar)

To register email: [nmprograms@alz.org](mailto:nmprograms@alz.org) or call 1 (800) 272-3900.

***Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers-Late Stage***

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 3pm – 5pm

To register email: [nmprograms@alz.org](mailto:nmprograms@alz.org) or call 1 (800) 272-3900.

***Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Early Stage***

Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - 5pm

To register email: [nmprograms@alz.org](mailto:nmprograms@alz.org) or call 1 (800) 272-3900.

***Viviendo con alzheimer para los cuidadores plan de estudio para la etapa temprana\****

*\*Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers-Early Stage presented in Spanish*

Jueves, 18 de febrero (February 18th), 2pm - 5pm

Para registrar un correo electronico: [nmprograms@alz.org](mailto:nmprograms@alz.org) o llamar 1 (800) 272-3900.





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

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***You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!***

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<b>Chapter 182 Officers</b>		<b>Members of Congress</b>
President	<b>Sharon Reese</b> 575-649-6035 <a href="mailto:sreese346@gmail.com">sreese346@gmail.com</a>	<b>U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D)</b> 201 N Church St Suite 305 Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-523-6561 - <a href="http://www.heinrich.senate.gov">http://www.heinrich.senate.gov</a>
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	<b>Judy Rosco</b> 575-635-7127 <a href="mailto:rosco631@gmail.com">rosco631@gmail.com</a>	<b>U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D)</b> 201 N Church St Suite 201B Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-526-5475 - <a href="http://www.lujan.senate.gov">http://www.lujan.senate.gov</a>
2nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	<b>Dan Carroll</b> 575- 932-9491 <a href="mailto:cardan116@comcast.net">cardan116@comcast.net</a>	<b>U.S. Representative Yvette Herrell (R) (District 2)</b> (202) 225-2365 <a href="http://www.herrell.house.gov">http://www.herrell.house.gov</a>
Secretary/Public Relations	<b>Marlene Mayfield</b> 575- 644-6851 <a href="mailto:mayfield195@msn.com">mayfield195@msn.com</a>	
Treasurer	<b>Marsha Smith</b> 575-644-5131 <a href="mailto:Marsha.smith1948@gmail.com">Marsha.smith1948@gmail.com</a>	
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NARFE-PAC:	<b>Vacant</b>	
Program Chair:	<b>Donna Harris</b> 575-382-9070 <a href="mailto:md.harris1@comcast.net">md.harris1@comcast.net</a>	
Records Officer:	<b>Carol Main</b> 575-382-7686 <a href="mailto:csmain7@gmail.com">csmain7@gmail.com</a>	
Service Officer:	<b>Jim Kielty</b> 575-523-6044 <a href="mailto:jkielty70@yahoo.com">jkielty70@yahoo.com</a>	
		<b>NARFE Monthly Meetings</b>  <b>The Las Cruces Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association normally holds a breakfast meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except in June, July, and August. Due to COVID-19, all meetings are "on hold".</b>  <b>National Web Site: <a href="http://www.narfe.org">www.narfe.org</a></b>  <b>Local Web Site: <a href="http://www.narfe-nm.net/ch0182/ch0182.html">http://www.narfe-nm.net/ch0182/ch0182.html</a></b>