



*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER

Volume 21, Issue 9 – May 2021

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Garage/Yard Sale

When – 8 a.m. – Saturday, May 15th

Where – The Willoughby's Yard

3142 Mc Dowell in Mesilla Park area

It is almost here, the Garage/Yard Sale you have been saving all your stuff for. And do we have stuff -- vases, lamps, lamp shades, cookware, glassware, small patio tables, and hardware. We have almost everything you were able to clean out of your cupboards and garage. **NO CLOTHING** including shoes. We are looking for the stuff you want to get rid of.

We will start **picking up** large items on **Monday, May 10** - Call Jim Kielty 575-640-9585 for pickups. **Drop offs** will start **Wednesday, May 12** - Call Sharon or Roy at 575-524-9395 if you have any questions. Please price your items -- nothing under \$.25

We will need help on **Thursday, May 13** and **Friday, May 14** with sorting and checking pricing. We will start at 9:00 a.m. both days. Of course, we need you on **Saturday, May 15 at 6:00** to put things out on the tables and have breakfast with coffee or tea (made for all you early volunteers). The sale starts at 8:00 a.m.

We will need help on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (the day of the **SALE**). If you can volunteer, please call us 575-524-9395 or e-mail – swillowbee@comcast.net. We will need all the help you can spare us. It is time to get out of the house and have some fun. And, we do have fun!

The proceeds go to help with the meeting costs. We do have some excellent programs coming up at future meetings.

We hope to see your shining faces on Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL

Roy and Sharon Willoughby



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



Spring and allergy season is here with flowers and trees in full bloom! I sure hope that the spring/summer will bring joy to all of you!

Want to remind all of you that this will be our last newsletter until August. We are looking forward to when we can resume our monthly meetings. It has been too long since we have had the opportunity to gather and converse with other members. Look for our article in the September Newsletter for possible meeting information.

Your board met on April 7th to discuss our upcoming yard sale (all information is on Page 1) and our budget for the coming year.

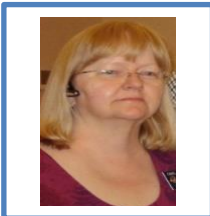
We are still hopeful that we will be able to hold our Federation Annual Meeting this fall. Taos Chapter still plans to host the event. Again, information will be published in our September Newsletter.

I want all of you to know just how involved our members are at the Federation level. As a result of the voting that ended April 15th, three of the five elected officers are from Chapter 182. Sharon Willoughby, treasurer; Marlene Mayfield, secretary; and I am continuing as President.

This week I was notified by Ken Thomas, National President, that I was selected to represent Regional VII on the Strategic Planning Committee at the national level. I will be looking out for all our members.

I am also on a Special Advisory Board (SAGES) that consists of 6 Federation Presidents. This board brings issues that are of great interest to members and chapters to the National President, without involvement of Regional Vice Presidents. We are just getting started so I have nothing to report as a positive at this time.

I hope that everyone has an incredibly good summer with family, friends, and travel. It is time that we start living again....



Chapter Records Officer (Carol Main)



Welcome New Prospective Members:

**Carlos Armijo
Ralph DeLaurentis
Chester Young**

Our chapter membership is **244** 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 or 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.



Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)

**MANDATORY 10 DIGIT DIALING FOR LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS
REQUIRED BEGINNING OCTOBER 24, 2021**

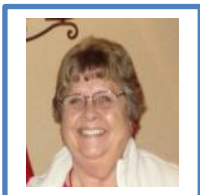
All NARFE members need to be aware that they soon will be required to dial both their 3 digit Area Code and the 7 digit local number they are calling in order to make a local call. This change is necessitated by a Federal Communications Commission decision to implement a new national 3 digit number (988) which will connect the caller with the National Suicide Prevention Hotline beginning July 16, 2022, a plan long supported by mental health professionals. The 988 number will be similar to the long established 911 number which connects callers to emergency services. The new 988 hotline number will require that all callers in the United States must use 10 digit numbers since 988 already is assigned as a working prefix to local phone numbers across the country (for example, (575) 988-1234). Until the July 16, 2022 national implementation date of the 988 number, callers facing a serious mental health crisis should continue to call 800-273-8255.

On April 24th in order to encourage callers to become comfortable with the new 10 digit dialing requirement, New Mexico utility regulators began a permissive six-month transition period before the mandatory 10 digit dialing requirement for local calls becomes effective on October 24, 2021. For example, callers in the 575 area code should practice dialing their 3 digit area code along with the local 7 digit phone numbers of family members and friends in the local calling area in order to make this a routine practice. During the transition period, callers using only the 7 digit phone number to make a local call will still be connected. However, effective October 24, 2021, local calls dialed only with 7 digits will not be connected, and a recording will advise the caller they must hang up and dial again using the 3 digit local area code and the 7 digit number.

When the change is implemented, each telephone subscriber's telephone number will not change. Each caller will continue to dial 1 plus the 3 digit area code and the 7 digit phone number when making a long distance call. However, automated dialing machines will need to be reprogrammed to dial 10 digit numbers. In addition, it is important to note that cell phone users who dial directly from their contact list check these lists to assure that each number also includes area codes. NARFE members with more specific questions are urged to contact their telephone service providers.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 2021 SHOWS SIGNIFICANT RISE

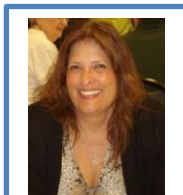
The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W), used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2022, was 258.935 in March 2021. This figure reflected a monthly increase of 0.81 percent, over the February 2021 figure, which was 256.843. The 0.81 percent monthly increase over the February 2021 figure was the largest monthly increase in more than a year. The March 2021 CPI-W is now 2.2 percent above the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2020 (July- September) which was 253.412. The 253.412 third quarter average for 2020 will be compared with the third quarter average CPI-W for 2021 to determine if a COLA will be authorized in 2022. The April 2021 CPI-W will be announced on May 12.



*Sharon
Willoughby*

**AUDIT REPORT 2021
NARFE CHAPTER 182**

In compliance with NARFE Chapter 182 Bylaws, I have audited the Treasurer's books. We have a beginning balance **\$5860.97.**



*Donna
Harris*

Programs

We have no chapter meetings scheduled at this time. If you have an idea for a future program, please send email to: md.harris1@comcast.net.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



It is a sunny day today as I write this article. I hope that May will continue to be sunny. The month of May can be unpredictable. One day it's sunny and the next day it is cloudy with rain.

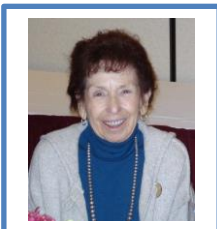
A sympathy card was sent to Chickie Lerdal, wife of Ronald Lerdal, who passed away April 16th. Ronald was a chapter member for several years. A sympathy card was sent to chapter member Dorothy Rachele, wife of Henry Rachele, who passed away on April 15th. Henry was a chapter member since 2001. A Get Well card was sent to Ruthann Chellis, who fell and is now in rehab. Ruthann is one of our chapter members who lives in Oregon.

Cindy Zaklan who lives in Arizona, Marilyn Koukol who lives in Ruidoso, and Myrtle Silva say "hello" to all of us and they miss seeing everyone. We miss them too!

Have some fun by answering this month's riddle: WHAT ENGLISH WORD CONTAINS THREE CONSECUTIVE DOUBLE LETTERS?

The answer to the April riddle: WHY ARE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND APRIL 15th ALIKE? (ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY YOU WEAR GREEN AND ON APRIL 15th THE GOVERNMENT TAKES AWAY YOUR GREEN.)

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)



Mary Beth Reinhart (2021 President's Award Recipient) Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

NARFE Chapter Member Mary Beth Reinhart recently received the 2021 President's Award from the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce for her years of outstanding volunteerism.

The Chamber President/CEO, Debbi Moore, stated that Mary Beth had been instrumental in facilitating the Chamber's military affairs and its dealings with White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). Mary Beth has volunteered with the Chamber since retiring from WSMR in 2005 after 37 ½ years of Government service. Mary Beth has always been involved with community service which also included: Action Officer for the Bataan Memorial Death March and the Bataan Statue at Veterans' Park, the Red Cross Board of Directors, White Sands Club Board, past president of local chapter of Association of U.S. Army, and member of New Mexico Parks and Recreation Association. We're very proud of Mary Beth's dedication and volunteer work.



Membership Report

**Dan
Carroll**

Things are looking up in Las Cruces! Many of our members have been vaccinated for COVID-19 virus including yours truly. We now have 244 Las Cruces Chapter members. Wow! Yard sale is scheduled for May 15th at the Willoughby's in Mesilla Park near Zia Middle School on McDowell Road. Mother's Day is coming up May 9th. As I used to tell my late wife Angie, "You're not my mother but Happy Mother's Day". I'd get her a card and plant or flowers. I miss her terribly! Full moon is May 26th. Memorial Day is May 31st. Gatherings may still be restricted in New Mexico by our Governor. Quote of the month: "The greatest secret of success in life is for a person to be ready when their opportunity comes." – Benjamin Disraeli.



VP for Legislation (Judy Rosco)

UPDATE: H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, was introduced by Rep. Rodney Davis on January 4th. The bill repeals provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government. The bill, if passed, would eliminate the GPO (Government Pension Offset) and the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision).

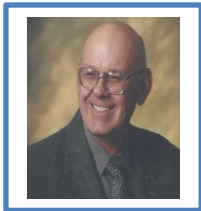
The bill has gained 134. The bill is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee. Please contact Rep Yvette Herrell and urge her to co-sponsor H.R. 82; I have.

Our Congressional Legislators may be contacted at:

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

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

U.S. Congresswoman
Yvette Herrell
4440 Sonoma Ranch Blvd,
Suite B
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-973-4689
<http://www.herrell.house.gov>



Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA) - Roy Willoughby

Important FEEA Programs

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 Fed Hacks Information 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 575-524-9395.



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	Members of Congress
President <u>sreese346@gmail.com</u> 1st Vice Pres. (Legislation) <u>rosco631@gmail.com</u> 2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership) <u>cardan116@comcast.net</u> Secretary/Public Relations <u>mayfield195@msn.com</u> Treasurer <u>Marsha.smith1948@gmail.com</u>	Sharon Reese 575-649-6035 Judy Rosco 575-635-7127 Dan Carroll 575- 932-9491 Marlene Mayfield 575- 644-6851 Marsha Smith 575-644-5131 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 Ben Ray Lujan (D) 201 N Church St Suite 201B Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-526-5475 - http://twww.lujan.senate.gov U.S. Representative Yvette Herrell (R) (District 2) 4440 Sonoma Ranch Blvd, Suite B Las Cruces, NM 88011 575-973-4689 - http://www.herrell.house.gov
Alzheimer's <u>cindy77lou@yahoo.com</u> NARFE-FEEA: <u>rswillowbee@comcast.net</u> NARFE-PAC: Program Chair: <u>md.harris1@comcast.net</u> Records Officer: <u>csmain7@gmail.com</u> Service Officer: <u>jkielty70@yahoo.com</u>	Cindy Cook 575-640-0860 Roy Willoughby 575-524-9395 Vacant Donna Harris 575-382-9070 Carol Main 575-382-7686 Jim Kielty 575-523-6044 <p style="text-align: center;">NARFE Monthly Meetings</p> <p>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, and August. Due to COVID-19, all meetings are "on hold".</p>