



*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 22, Issue 1 – August 2021

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



BEST NEWS OF THE DAY!
(Sharon Reese, Chapter & NM Federation President)

It is with great excitement that I let you know effective September 11th we will be having our Chapter Monthly Meetings at Good Samaritan Village, 0830 to 1100, in the Arts and Crafts Room (first floor).

Our menu is basically the same as we had at the Hilton Garden Inn. The big difference is the price! Our price remains at \$13.00, and the chapter will NOT have to subsidize any of our Ways and Means dollars for our breakfasts. Please read Carol Main's article as telephone callers will be calling earlier for reservations. We must submit our guaranteed number of attendees as well as payment one week before our scheduled meeting. Please mark your calendars for the second Saturday of each month for our meetings at Good Samaritan.

Our Board meetings will continue to be in the Kiva Room at Good Samaritan at 0900 on Wednesdays prior to our scheduled Member Meetings. These meetings are open meetings and any member may attend. If you are interested in learning more about our Chapter or possibly wanting information as to the duties of any position this would be valuable for you!

I hope that each and every one of you have had a good summer enjoying family and friends. Maybe even taking a trip, which we have not done for 18 months!

The week of August 8th I will be in San Antonio attending a National Executive Board/Federation Presidents meeting. Hopefully, I will have good news to provide to all members!

Hope to see a good crowd on September 11th!





Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



**INFLATION TRIGGERS SIGNIFICANT
RISE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FROM
APRIL THROUGH JUNE 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 2022, reflected a considerable increase from April-June 2021. Economists attribute much of the rise to increased consumer spending in the face of supply chain shortages as the economy seeks to recover from pandemic restrictions. Compared with the March 2021 CPI-W figure of 258.935, the April CPI-W was 261.237, the May CPI-W was 263.612, and the June CPI-W increased to 266.412. The June CPI-W figure is 1.06 percent higher than the May figure. Amazingly, the CPI-W figure of 266.412 for June 2021 is 5.13 percent higher than 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 for 2021 to determine if a COLA will be authorized in 2022. If this upward trend in the CPI-W continues through September 2021, it is very likely there will be a significant COLA in 2022. The July 2021 COLA is scheduled to be released on August 11.

**NARFE URGES MEMBERS TO SUPPORT
THE FAIR COLA FOR SENIORS ACT (H.R. 4315)**

NARFE strongly urges all members to contact their Congressional representatives and encourage them to support the passage of the Fair COLA for Seniors Act (H.R. 4315), which was reintroduced in the House of Representatives on 1 July by Congressman John Garamendi of CA. H.R. 4315, if passed by Congress and signed by the President, would change the basis for calculating Cost-Of-Living-Adjustments (COLAs) for seniors from the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W) to the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). While the CPI-W tracks the spending habits of the general urban workforce, it does not adequately assess the differences in costs for goods and services often purchased by seniors, such as medical care costs, which regularly have a higher rate of inflation than the overall cost of living. NARFE has strongly advocated for use of the CPI-E, which would be of significant help for seniors.

CHAPTER 182 MAY 2021 YARD SALE

We want to thank *Sharon and Roy Willoughby* for having the chapter yard sale at their home again this year! And, a special thank you to Sharon for cooking breakfast for all the workers! We also want to thank all the members who donated items and those who volunteered by helping pick up items for sale, pricing items, setting up everything, etc. It was a big success. Our chapter made \$1,828.60 after expenses!

Note: As of 1 July 2021 our chapter has a balance of \$7738.93 of which 80% or \$6191.14 is Ways and Means dollars!

See pages **3 & 5** for a few pictures from the yard sale. If you didn't attend it, you can get a glimpse of how many things we had for sale!



Judy Rosco, VP Legislation



Get ready... we are going to live meetings beginning September 11, 2021. It will be so good to see all of you again.

I met with Congresswoman Yvette Herrell, Brian Kennedy, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Mark Mickelson, VP for Legislation, NM Federation via Zoom on May 17, 2021. We asked for the Congresswoman’s sponsorship on H.R.82 which is the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and H.R.51, The Equal COLA Act which would give the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees the same Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) as the Civil Service Retirement System. I recently received a response from the Congresswoman, “According to the Social Security Administration, 69.1 million Americans received benefits in 2019. It is important that those who have paid Social Security for their entire lives are able to receive the benefits that they are entitled to. Unfortunately, Social Security Administration’s 2019 Board of Trustees Report highlighted the Administration’s unfunded obligations totaling \$13.9 trillion over the next 75 years, \$2.9 trillion in outstanding trust fund debts, and a prediction of insolvency by 2035. These astronomical numbers that highlight why it is imperative that we ensure this program is run in a fiscally responsible manner so that people can continue receiving the benefits that they pay for. If we do not, people will either pay exorbitantly higher taxes or lose benefits that they spent most of their lives paying for.” The response did not state that she would not co-sponsor the bill but it was implied.

September is our Annual Legislative Breakfast meeting and I have invited our Senators and Congresswoman to join us. Looking forward to seeing you again in September.



Sharon Willoughby made all the yard sale volunteers happy when she cooked breakfast for them – including croissants!

Thanks, Sharon!



Judy Rosco volunteered to work the yard sale again this year. You can see the many items on all the tables.

It was a great sale and we thank all of you who donated items and worked the sale!



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



It has been a summer of sunshine, and there is more to come in August.

The month of August is known as one of the hottest months of the year. It is also one of the busiest, with traveling/vacations, garden & yard work, back to school preparation, picnics, festivals, etc.

A Thinking of You card was sent to **Myrtle Silva** in July. Myrtle is recovering from a bad fall.

I received a nice note from **Chickie Lerdal**, thanking us for the NARFE sympathy card for her husband, **Ron**, who passed away in April. She said "Ron had loved coming to your breakfast meetings and enjoyed the companionship of the members".

Dorothy Rachele also wrote that she appreciated our sympathy card. Her husband, **Henry**, passed away in April. Dorothy and her family are planning a "Celebration of Life" for Henry on Saturday, August 7th. She said "We would love to have any interested NARFE members join us". You can telephone her at 575-382-3116 for details.

Have some fun by answering this August riddle: HOW MANY SECONDS ARE THERE IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST?

The answer to the May riddle: WHAT ENGLISH WORD CONTAINS THREE CONSECUTIVE DOUBLE LETTERS? (Bookkeeper) Congratulations to **Jackie Pickering** who correctly guessed the 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



Membership Report

Things are looking up for Las Cruces NARFE Chapter 182. Our first general meeting in some time is on Saturday, September 11th at 8:30 a.m. at Good Sam's. Wow! We now have 239 members in our local chapter.

On August 16, 2021 my late wife, Angie, will be gone 11 months! I'll miss her at meetings (and everywhere) when I'll have to make my own toast (I can do it!).

Full moon (Mary Ellen) is on August 22nd. No holidays this month.

Quote of the month is: "The most wasted of all days is one without laughter." – E.E. Cummings. Have a good month and see you at the movies! Dan

**Dan
Carroll**

**VP for
Membership
and
Chapter
Historian**

Join Us!



Telephone Committee (Carol Main)

I will remain the Chair for the Telephone Committee when our meetings resume in September. I would like to thank all our callers, ***Nancy Banks, Martha Beerman, Joy Davenport, and Craig Singleton*** for all their hard work and perseverance these past few years.

I am currently updating our caller lists for the upcoming meetings which start in September. Our chapter has a new contract with Good Samaritan Village for meetings, and they require a one week notice for our breakfast numbers. The callers will be contacting our members approximately ten days before our meetings. For example, this September, expect calls on the 1st or 2nd for our meeting on September 11. Email meeting notices will go out 12 days in advance to allow for response time.

If you were receiving phone calls about the meetings and had been unable to attend, please let me know if you would like to continue receiving telephone reminders. If you have not been receiving calls and would like to be added to the call list, please call me, Carol Main, at 575-382-7686. If you would like to be added to the email reminders, send an email to csmain7@gmail.com. Hope to see all of you at the September 11 meeting.

Chapter Records Report (Carol Main)

Welcome

New Chapter Member:
James Harvey

New Prospective Members:
Eugene Abravnel
Jorge Alcocer
Samuel E. Morris Jr.
Patrick Paradis

Our chapter membership is **239** members strong!
As of this date, we won't be collecting information on volunteer hours.

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.



May 2021 Yard Sale

Picture shows Cindy Cook, Carol Main, and Marcelle Skelton working hard to sort and price items for our chapter yard sale! As you can see, we had lots of items for sale!



**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 sreese346@gmail.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 Ben Ray Lujan (D) 201 N Church St Suite 201B Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-526-5475 - http://twww.lujan.senate.gov</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Alzheimer's cindy77lou@yahoo.com</p> <p>NARFE-FEEA: rswillowbee@comcast.net</p> <p>NARFE-PAC:</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</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. The meeting is held from 0830-1100 at the Good Samaritan Village (Arts & Crafts Room/First Floor), 3025 Terrace Drive, Las Cruces. Reservations are required and breakfast cost is \$13. All members, those who 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 (575-382-7686) or email: lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.</p>