



**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 22, Issue 2 – September 2021

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Sharon Reese
Chapter & NM Federation
President

Please keep our military, civilians and allies in your thoughts and prayers during the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

I am so looking forward to our meeting September 11th at Good Samaritan, Arts & Crafts Room, at 8:30 a.m. The cost remains at \$13.00 for breakfast! Remember when parking in the parking lot do NOT park in a space that is designated “residence parking”. Judy has arranged a very good legislative meeting. Information is being provided in her article. As it stands today, we are still able to meet.

The Federation Presidents Meeting was held via zoom due to the outbreak of Covid variant. This was very disappointing to many presidents as they were left to obtaining refunds on flights of which were on nonrefundable fares. Very little was accomplished by the Presidents nor the Regional Vice Presidents/NEB meetings. More to come on the happenings in a separate newsletter.

If any member would like to be a “Member At Large” on our board of directors, please let me know as we have 2 vacancies. This is your opportunity to learn functions of different positions and the workings of our Chapter.

Keep safe and I hope to see you on September 11th!

GENERAL MEETING
Program: Legislation

Saturday, September 11th
8:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan
Arts & Crafts Room



Judy Rosco, VP for Legislation

Come and join us on September 11th to meet your Congressional Representative, Yvette Herrell and Melanie Goodman, Field Representative for Senator Ben Ray Luján at our Annual Legislative Breakfast meeting.

As usual we will have a question and answer session at the end of the presentations. Please don't miss this meeting. Bring your important questions with you.

Breakfast Buffet: \$13.00 cash only

Reservations by: September 1st

Call: Carol Main (575-382-7686)





Donna Harris (Program Coordinator)

Welcome Back! I'm working on exciting programs for the coming year. Just like our group, many groups have been on hiatus due to COVID. However, many are back in the swing of things and willing to spread information about their group.

A few areas that I have contacted include The New Desert Harmony singers. They have performed at our December meetings for many years. We look forward to them entertaining us with their lovely voices.

I've also contacted an estate planner, Film Las Cruces, the Fall Prevention Team from MountainView Regional Medical Center, and The Dona Ana Arts Council to name a few.

I hope you all will find these topics interesting and entertaining. As always, I appreciate suggestions for future programs. Please feel free to contact me at our meetings or email me.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

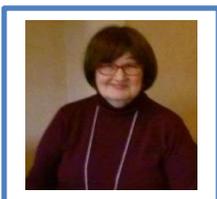
Please mark your calendars now so that you don't miss out on all the upcoming programs for our chapter meetings.

Sep 11 - Legislative Program - We have invited our Legislators to come and speak about issues important to us. Please attend this meeting and bring your questions and a guest.

Oct 9 - Alzheimer's Program – Our speaker will be Alexis Ramirez, the Programs Volunteer Manager for the NM Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Alexis is in charge of providing programs, services, and education for the community around the state.

Nov 13 - Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) - FEHB representatives will provide us with information regarding plans, rates, coverages, etc. The entire program will be dedicated to insurance, so be sure to bring all your questions.

Dec 11 - Holiday Program – We have invited the *New Desert Harmony Singers* to perform for us. We hope they will be able to join us. Please bring a guest to share in the warmth of the Holiday Season.



***Marsha Smith
Chapter
Treasurer***

Chapter Treasurer's Report

1 July beginning balance - \$7738.93
Income: member dues \$274.76; no disbursements; balance on hand - \$8013.69.
1 August balance on hand - \$8013.69.
Income: member dues \$138.22 and \$75.00 (for Ways and Means).
Disbursements - \$57.03.
Balance on hand as of August 24th - \$8169.88.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX CONTINUES TO INCREASE IN JULY 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, continued to rise in July 2021. The July 2021 CPI-W was 267.789, an increase of 0.52 percent over the June 2021 CPI-W, which was 266.412. Remarkably, the 267.789 July CPI-W is now 5.67 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 CPI-W for 2021 to determine if a COLA will be authorized in 2022. Barring a significant CPI-W decline for the months of August and September 2021, it appears there will be a significant COLA for 2022. The August 2021 CPI-W will be released on September 14 and the September 2021 CPI-W on October 13. If a COLA is authorized for federal retirees, survivor annuitants, and Social Security recipients, the increase will be effective in January 2022.

REMINDER: MANDATORY 10 DIGIT DIALING FOR LOCAL PHONE CALLS REQUIRED BEGINNING OCTOBER 24, 2021

All NARFE members are reminded that as of October 24, 2021 it will be necessary to dial both the 3 digit area code and the 7 digit local telephone number they are calling in order to make a local phone 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. The 988 number will be similar to the long established 911 number which connects callers to emergency services. Effective October 24, 2021 local calls dialed with only the 7 digit local phone number will not be connected, and a recording will advise the caller to hang up and dial again using the 3 digit local area code and the 7 digit number.

More details about the mandatory 10 digit dialing for local calls can be found in your Service Officer's column in the May 2021 edition of our Chapter 182 newsletter found on the NARFE Chapter 182 website. Members should also contact their local telephone service provider for more specific information.





Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



September is the month when summer days are winding down and fall days are starting up.

We had some sunshine and some rain this past month, and we needed both.

We were very sad to hear of the passing of long-time member Blanche Goldsmith. Blanche passed away on August 15th at the age of 90. She was an active member of our chapter and served on the Executive Board for several years as our Parliamentarian and Chapter Historian.

Have some fun by answering this riddle: SPELL ME OUT & I AM THE MONTH IN WHICH I ALSO MATCH THE NUMBER OF LETTERS EXACTLY OF THIS MONTH. WHAT AM I?

The answer to the August riddle: HOW MANY SECONDS ARE THERE IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST? (Just one--August 2nd) No one guessed the correct answer, but Jo Ann Sherman should be given credit for a good answer. She said, "None. I don't see the word seconds in August."

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
(Dan Carroll, VP for Membership & Chapter Historian)*

We now have 234 current chapter members.

September 6th is Labor Day which is late this year. Our first general meeting in some time will be on September 11th which is also known as Patriot Day. The Hatch Chile Festival is slated for Saturday, September 4th and Sunday, September 5th. Should be a bumper crop this year but I hear farmers are having a hard time (harder than usual) finding laborers to harvest the crop. Somehow it gets done! I'm planning on making a trip to Hatch soon to buy some green chile to put in freezer. September 16th is Yom Kippur-Day of Atonement. That is also the one year anniversary of the death of my late wife Angie! Boy do I miss her! September 20th is full moon.

Quote of the month: "Then give to the world the best you have. And the best will come back to you." – Madeline Bridges.

Have a good month and see you at the movies!

Please Join Our Chapter!





Telephone Committee (Carol Main)

Welcome New Chapter Member: **Bill Ray**

Welcome back: **Barbara Cosentino**

We also welcome New Prospective Members: **Claire Phillips and Wayne Lee**

We would like to see you at the September 11 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is **234** members strong!

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.

*please
join us*



Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA) - Roy Willoughby

FEEA'S FEDLIFEHACKS 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.
- Family – Handling life events.
- Health & Wellness – Taking care of your body and mind.
- Education & Professional Growth – Advancing skills & knowledge.
- Personal Philanthropy & Volunteerism – Serving causes.
- Free Time & Fun – Making life more interesting.

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
<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>Sharon Reese 575-649-6035</p> <p>Judy Rosco 575-635-7127</p> <p>Dan Carroll 575- 932-9491</p> <p>Marlene Mayfield 575- 644-6851</p> <p>Marsha Smith 575-644-5131</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>Cindy Cook 575-640-0860</p> <p>Roy Willoughby 575-524-9395</p> <p>Vacant</p> <p>Donna Harris 575-382-9070</p> <p>Carol Main 575-382-7686</p> <p>Jim Kielty 575-523-6044</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), Buena Vida Circle, 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>