



**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

**Las Cruces Chapter 182
REPORTER**

Volume 22, Issue 3 – October 2021

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Alzheimer's Committee Chair (Cindy Cook)

**General Meeting: Saturday, October 9th, 8:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan, Arts & Crafts Room**

**PROGRAM: Alzheimer's Awareness
SPEAKER: Alexis Ramirez, Programs Volunteer Manager for
the New Mexico Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association**



Alexis is in charge of providing programs, services, and education for the community around the state. She is a native New Mexican and has worked in the non-profit community in Las Cruces as a Cancer Outreach & Research Assistant and Program Manager for the last six years. She received a BA in Public Health from New Mexico State University with a focus in community health, outreach, and cancer research. Alexis has a personal connection to the disease as she has lost family members to this disease. It's her mission to one day prevent and cure Alzheimer's and related dementias.

NM Chapter Alzheimer's Association, SW Regional Office, 1155 S Telshor #202, Las Cruces
575-647-3868 (alz.org/newmexico) (24/7 Helpline: 800-272-3900)

**Please join us for this important program. Breakfast Buffet: \$13.00 cash only
For reservations please call: Carol Main (575-382-7686)**

Here are a couple of photos from our September 11th Chapter Meeting. It was very good to see everyone. We appreciate all our members who attended the meeting and we thank Representative Herrell for taking time from her busy schedule to come speak to us. (See page 5.)



Sharon Reese, Rep Yvette Herrell, & Judy Rosco



Martha Beerman, Rep Yvette Herrell & Bill Beerman



(Sharon Reese, Chapter & NM Federation President)

There will be several items in the *NARFE* October Magazine that you should take note of: National and Regional Officer and Bylaw and Standing Rule Amendments will be voted on August 1 through August 31, 2022. The article on page 54 describes the dates for actions, information on vying for positions, and updated instructions for bylaw and standing rule amendments.

The NM Federation Executive Board has submitted 2 proposals for national bylaw amendments. “Reduce the Number of Members Required to Submit Bylaw Amendments” – this would change from 20 members to 5 members required to submit amendments. “Membership Voting at Biennial National Conference” - Voting will take place at the Conference versus the current email, online and hard copy ballot.

The National Conference (FEDcon22) will take place August 21-23 in Scottsdale, AZ. Your Board of Directors will be planning for the Conference, to include the amount to be given to members to attend, in the budget proposal for next year. If you are interested, please let a board member know so that we can plan accordingly.

I will be attending the Colorado Conference on October 8th. Colorado changed their bylaws to vote for officers and bylaws at the Conference just like we did. It will be interesting to see how it is handled and if any objections arise. In essence it’s going back to the way we used to do business. Let’s see how National Only members respond as this will be important for our next elections and bylaw amendments voting. I will provide a short synopsis at our General Membership Meeting on October 9th.

There are a couple of SCAMS that you need to be aware of:

1. Norton antivirus notifies you by email that your yearly subscription will be withdrawn from your account. If you contact them via phone they will ask you all kinds of questions and they can mess with your money in your accounts if you login to your online accounts. DO NOT CALL. Contact Norton if you do have automatic renewal.
2. Police are warning merchants and Las Cruces area residents of “movie prop money” that is being passed as actual currency.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on October 9th at Good Samaritan!



Carol Main

**Records
Officer &
Telephone
Committee**

Welcome

New Chapter Member: *Mariette Mealor*

Our chapter membership is **233** members strong!

We would like to see you at the October 9 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.

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.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AGAIN INCREASES IN AUGUST 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, again increased in August 2021, although at a slower rate than the previous month. The August 2021 CPI-W was 268.387, an increase of 0.22 percent over the July 2021 CPI-W, which was 267.789. The 268.387 August CPI-W is now 5.91 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 the amount of the COLA to be authorized in 2022. The September 2021 CPI-W will be released on October 13. Any COLA increase for Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will go into effect in January 2022.



FEHBP OPEN SEASON FOR 2022 ON THE HORIZON AMID MANY QUESTIONS

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Open Season for the 2022 benefits year will begin on Monday, November 8 and conclude on Monday, December 13. As part of Open Season, a series of health fairs traditionally has been conducted by federal agencies in the Las Cruces area. At these health fairs, Federal employees, survivor annuitants, and federal retirees would have an opportunity to meet with representatives of many of the federal health plans to obtain information about plan benefits, premiums, and changes for the upcoming benefits year. However, the continuing Covid-19 pandemic has raised serious questions about the scheduling of such health fairs this Open Season.

Thus far, NARFE Chapter 182 has been advised that representatives from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield and the Government Employees Health Association (GEHA) have expressed interest in attending our monthly membership meeting on Saturday, November 13. These plans are tentative, and it is possible that representatives from other Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans may also express a similar interest in attending the November 13 meeting. NARFE members will be advised when plans are finalized.

NARFE members are reminded that the various health plan providers no longer automatically mail paper copies of plan brochures to those currently enrolled in these plans. To request a paper copy of your plan's brochure, you must follow any instructions your health insurance provider gives you. If you have any questions, call the customer service number on your health insurance ID card. In addition, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website will contain on-line versions of each plan's brochure when they are released as well as other valuable information related to the Open Season.

OPM has not yet announced the overall average increase for all FEHBP premiums or the 2022 premiums for each individual plan. This information should be available in early October. The October 2021 edition of the *NARFE* magazine will contain a preview of the Open Season. More detailed information also will be presented in the November and December 2021 editions of the *NARFE* magazine and the November and December 2021 editions of the Chapter 182 *REPORTER*.



Donna Harris (Program Coordinator)

I've been working hard to find topics that would be of interest to you! Here are some of the topics I've lined up for our 2021-2022 season.

- Dec** - Hopefully Desert Harmony Singers - they've been in a hiatus like the rest of us.
- Jan** - Michelle Ungvasky - Elder Law & Planning Lawyer - Ms. Ungvasky has been with us before.
- Feb** - JJ Franzoy - MountainView Fall Prevention Department
- Mar** - Las Cruces Fire Department - Home Fire Prevention and Safety
- Apr** - Jonathon Supp - Film Las Cruces
- May** - still working on this month.

If you have any topics of interest, please let me know. You can contact me by email or let me know at any of our meetings. (md.harris1@comcast.net)



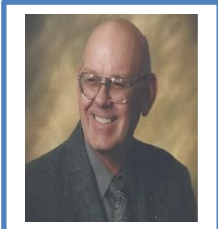
Membership Report (Dan Carroll)

Good to be back in business! Last month's meeting was fun! Food was good as was program (Representative Yvette Herrell) and fellowship. We now have 233 members in our local chapter. Wow! Holidays this month include: Columbus Day on October 11th and Halloween on October 31st. Full moon is on October 20th. I have an owl in my neighborhood "who" goes crazy during full moons. He roosts in a large mesquite tree across the street. Quote of the month: "Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine." –Lord Byron. Have a good month and see you at the movies (they are open again!).

***VP for
Membership &
Chapter
Historian***



Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA)



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

Disaster Assistance: For helping NARFE - Federal Public Servants in Need. NARFE-FEEA's disaster funds in the form of cash grants of \$500 maximum (no strings attached) and no-interest loans are also available to all NARFE members in these times of National emergencies.

***Roy
Willoughby***

Also, for those in need - You can find Disaster Relief Help Information online at: feea.org then click **Disaster Relief** (Here you will find information on eligibility and how to apply.)

For more information call Roy at 575-524-9395.



Autumn is Here!



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

The sweet calm sunshine of October is here. October is a special time, with lots of reminders of autumn -- an explosion of color, harvest of gardens and crops, corn mazes, the smell of chile roasting, pumpkins and Jack O'Lanterns, and finally Halloween. Hope you enjoy the season.

There were no reports of illness, death, or other needs among our members since our last newsletter.

Have some fun by answering this October riddle: **HOW DO YOU MEND A BROKEN JACK O'LAN-TERN?**

The answer to the September riddle: **SPELL ME OUT & I AM THE MONTH IN WHICH I ALSO MATCH THE NUMBER OF LETTERS EXACTLY OF THIS MONTH. WHAT AM I? (September)**

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



Legislative Report (Judy Rosco)

Our September 11, 2021 Annual Legislative Breakfast was held at The Good Samaritan with 50 members and guests in attendance. Congresswoman Yvette Herrell was our guest speaker and addressed H.R. 82, The Social Security Act which repeals both the GPO and WEP.

While this bill is still in the House Committee on Ways and Means, it has gained 214 co-sponsors but needs 290 to come before a House vote. Ms. Herrell spoke about her visit to Holloman Air Force base, where a large number of immigrants are housed until they can be vetted. She took questions from our members and guests and thanked all the military, veterans, and law enforcement personnel that have helped during this border crisis. After Ms. Herrell spoke, I read a letter from Senator Ben Lujan who could not be with us because of a prior commitment. He asked us to remember those who gave their lives 20 years ago on September 11, 2000. He also expressed thanks to the civil service employees whose passion and dedication contribute to the shared success of our nation. Senator Lujan supports the companion bill S.1302, on The Social Security Act and will continue to work with NARFE for its repeal.

If you would like to contact Congresswoman Herrell or Senator Lujan, their contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you again at our next monthly meeting.





**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 <u> sreese346@gmail.com </u></p> <p>1st Vice Pres. (Legislation) <u> rosco631@gmail.com </u></p> <p>2nd Vice Pres. (Membership) <u> cardan116@comcast.net </u></p> <p>Secretary/Public Relations <u> mayfield195@msn.com </u></p> <p>Treasurer <u> Marsha.smith1948@gmail.com </u></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 <u> cindy77lou@yahoo.com </u></p> <p>NARFE-FEEA: <u> rswillowbee@comcast.net </u></p> <p>NARFE-PAC:</p> <p>Program Chair: <u> md.harris1@comcast.net </u></p> <p>Records Officer: <u> csmain7@gmail.com </u></p> <p>Service Officer: <u> jkielty70@yahoo.com </u></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>
<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>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>	