



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

**LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO**

CHAPTER 0182

**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

REPORTER

December 2022

Volume 23, Issue 5

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



**Chapter 182 President
Judy Rosco**

The elections are over but some races do not have clear winners. Here in New Mexico, we send our best wishes to our re-elected governor Michele Lujan Grisham, and our newly elected Congressman, Gabriel Vasquez, District 2.

Fall is here and the leaves are changing colors. The stores had Christmas decorations on display long before Thanksgiving. I hope everyone has family and friends to celebrate their thanks with this year. There are many things that we can be grateful for. I am grateful for my husband, my children, my friends, and my health. I know this has been a tough year for many of you, loss of loved ones, your life partner, or a child. COVID is still a lingering threat, but I pray we will all get through it safely.

Our Health Fair was very successful! I hope everyone who attended got to talk to the providers. A lot of new changes are coming and an increase in most plans. Make sure you take advantage of the Open Season (November 14 - December 12) and look at other plans to make sure your health coverage is the best deal for you.

Continued on Page 2...



**NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting
Saturday, 10 December 2022, 8:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida
(Creative Arts Room)**

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

Come join us to hear the wonderful voices of the Young at Heart choral group at our December meeting. They will be performing a variety of Christmas songs for our entertainment. Get your voices ready and join in singing some of your favorite holiday carols.

There is a cost of \$13.00 for the breakfast buffet and reservations must be made by November 30 by calling Carol Main at 575-382-7686.



Donna Harris

Program Chair

Chapter 182 President's Article

Continued from Page 1

We are looking forward to our Christmas program on December 10th which promises to be a fun and enjoyable event. If you are traveling this holiday season, please know that we at Chapter 182 wish you safe travels and look forward to seeing you at our next program.

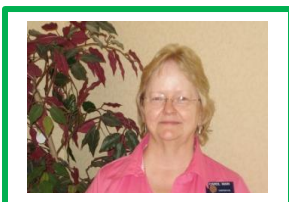


Chapter 182 Legislation Report (Judy Rosco)

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! And, I hope you have gotten a chance to read the *NARFE* Magazine to see how our legislators voted on issues concerning current federal and retired employees.

H.R.82/S 1302, The Social Security Fairness Act, has been stalled in the House of Representatives despite the 306 co-sponsors required to bring the bill to a vote. NARFE is still hopeful that Congress will act before the end of the year. According to our Advocacy department, "The clock is ticking for the 117th Congress -- members need to keep up the pressure on top NARFE priorities like H.R. 82 (the Social Security Fairness Act) which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Our advocacy efforts helped force committee action on the issue, but now it is time to press for further consideration."

"HELP WANTED." I am sure you have seen plenty of these signs around town at restaurants, department stores, and other places. Guess what? Chapter 182 needs help too. We need a Legislative Chair for our Chapter Executive Board. I will be more than happy to talk to any member who is interested in this position. I have not reached out to our newly elected Congressman Gabriel Vasquez yet. I am waiting until he takes office. I was hoping that someone else would be willing to attend with me when the meeting is set up. Contact me at rosco631@gmail.com or 575-635-7127.



Records Report (Carol Main)

Welcome! New Chapter Members: Corinne Okamura and Maria Smith
New Prospective Member: Jon Haas

We would like to see you at the December 10, 2022 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members. Our chapter membership is **212** 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.





**Marcele
Skelton**



Sunshine Report

We lucked out with the weather in November. Temperatures were only slightly lower, and there were more days of sunshine than normal for November. We know colder weather is coming up in December.

A sympathy card was sent to **Harry Palmer**, whose wife passed away October 31st.

Have some fun by answering this Christmas riddle:

WHAT DID SANTA USE WHEN HE BROKE HIS ANKLE?

The answer to the November riddle: ***WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID THE PILGRIMS LIKE BEST?*** (*Plymouth Rock*)

Please let me know if you hear of a member who is ill, has passed away, or could use a little cheer in their life.

Marcele: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

MEDICARE PART B MONTHLY PREMIUMS TO DECREASE SLIGHTLY IN 2023



The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced that the standard Medicare Part B premium will decrease slightly from \$170.10 monthly in 2022 to \$164.90 monthly in 2023. This is a drop of \$5.20 monthly. In addition, the annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries will be \$226.00 in 2023, a decrease of seven dollars from the annual deductible of \$233.00 in 2022.

The majority of Medicare recipients who are enrolled in Part B pay the standard monthly premium for this coverage. More affluent seniors pay higher Medicare Part B monthly premiums on a sliding scale based on their Modified Adjusted Gross Income for federal tax purposes.

While the slight decrease in Medicare Part B monthly premiums combined with the large 2023 Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) of 8.7 percent for retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System and 7.7 percent for retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System are certainly good news for NARFE members, this is offset to some degree by the overall average monthly increase of 8.7 percent for Federal Employee Health Insurance monthly premiums. During the Open Season, NARFE members are urged to review their current health care plans and research available alternative plans to maximize their health care coverage, while minimizing their out-of-pocket costs.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

2022 OPEN SEASON CONTINUES THROUGH DECEMBER 12

The 2022 Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP) began on November 14 and will continue through December 12. All Open Season changes for federal retirees and survivor annuitants are effective January 1, 2023 and premium changes are reflected on February 1, 2023 annuity payments. Open Season changes for current federal employees are effective at the beginning of the first full pay period on or after January 1, 2023.

FEHBP changes may be made online at <http://retireefehp.opm.gov> by selecting "Open Season Online" FEHBP changes may also be made by calling Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798. During Open Season federal retirees and survivor annuitants may also request changes and information by regular mail by writing to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at FEHB Open Season Processing Center, P.O. Box 5000, Lawrence, KS, 66046-0500. When using this option, clearly state in writing your Open Season request. If you are making an enrollment change, state the type of coverage (Self Only, Self Plus One, or Self and Family) you desire and the enrollment code. Remember to include your annuity claim number (CSA or CSF number) and your Social Security Number on your request.

With regard to dental or vision insurance under FEDVIP, enrollments, cancellations, or changes may be accomplished by computer at www.benefeds.com or by calling 1-877-888-3337.

There are numerous sources available to assist you in determining if you should make any changes during the FEHBP/FEDVIP Open Season. These include the OPM website; the October, November, and December issues of the *NARFE* Magazine, and the 2023 brochure of the plan in which you are currently enrolled, Section 2 of which reflects the plan's changes for 2023. Remember, there is no one health, dental, or vision plan which is best for all. However, by doing your homework, you will find the plan which best meets your needs.



*Chapter members enjoying their breakfast
at our November 2022 chapter meeting!*

Reminders!

-We do not publish a January newsletter. Next one will be in February 2023.

-Mark your calendar now for the January 14th chapter meeting which will be our Alzheimer's Awareness Program!



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

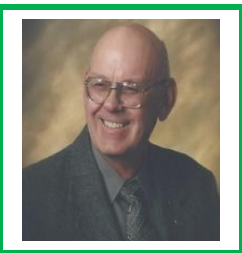


Membership Report (Dan Carroll)

Last chapter meeting of 2022 coming up on December 10th. Should be a great meeting with breakfast buffet, entertainment and Alzheimer's raffle. Wow! We now have 212 Chapter 182 members.

Full moon occurs on December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day). December 24th is Christmas Eve and December 25th is Christmas Day. December 31st is New Year's Eve. NASA just launched a several month mission to the moon called "Artemis" in preparation for a later manned mission there.

Quote of the month: "Success is going from failure to failure with no discernable lack of enthusiasm." – Winston Churchill. See you at the movies!



Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA)

(Roy Willoughby)

NARFE-FEEA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Find online at: feea.org/scholarships

Here you will find complete program information, downloadable program instructions, and a link to the application.

The application deadline is Thursday, 16 March 2023 at 3:00 pm EDT.

Eligible students are:

- Children or stepchildren of federal employees. Student may be a high school senior or already in college and must be under age 25 and unmarried. (Grandchildren are eligible for NARFE and BIG-sponsored scholarships only)
- Spouses of federal employees
- Federal employees

All students must:

- Have an unweighted, cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be in or entering a degree-granting program at an accredited institution
- Be a full-time student (only feds may be part-time)
- Federal employee sponsors must have at least 3 years of service by the application deadline

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

President rosco631@gmail.com	Judy Rosco 575-635-7127
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation) (Vacant)	
2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership) cardan116@comcast.net	Dan Carroll 575- 932-9491
Secretary/Public Relations marlene.mayfield@gmail.com	Marlene Mayfield 575- 644-6851
Treasurer swillowbee@comcast.net	Sharon Willoughby 575-524-9395
Alzheimer's cindy77lou@yahoo.com	Cindy Cook 575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA: rswillowbee@comcast.net	Roy Willoughby 575-524-9395
Program Chair: md.harris1@comcast.net	Donna Harris 575-382-9070
Records Officer: csmain7@gmail.com	Carol Main 575-382-7686
Service Officer: jkielty70@yahoo.com	Jim Kielty 575-523-6044
Sunshine: marcele@skelton.net	Marcele Skelton 575-521-4954

Members of Congress

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>

NARFE Monthly Meetings

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 (Creative Arts 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.