

**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

REPORTER

February 2023

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National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



**NARFE Chapter 182 Meeting - Saturday, 11 February, 8:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan Village (Creative Arts Room), 3011 Buena Vida Circle**

**Program: Mr. Greg Smith, the Executive Director
for the Dona Ana Arts Council (DAAC)**

Mr. Smith made Las Cruces his home 18 years ago. He has been involved with the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership which has an emphasis on historic preservation and the arts. Mr. Smith has worked on historic preservation promoting, encouraging, and inspiring the arts. As a fan of architecture, he gained a great appreciation for the other arts and what they can do for a community. He served eight years on the City Council and three years at the helm of the Dona Ana Arts Council. He is a firm believer of the mission of the DAAC -- Through the arts, to enhance the quality of life and develop the cultural, educational, and economic growth of our community.

Donna Harris, Chapter Program Chair



Chapter 182 President (Judy Rosco)

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!

I would like to thank the following members for stepping up and taking a seat on our Executive Board: Della Apodaca the NARFE-PAC Chair, Dave Fox the Public Relations Chair, and Janice Bridges, Member-at-Large.

We still have three vacancies on our board: Vice-President for Legislative, Parliamentarian, and Ways and Means Committee. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact me at rosco361@gmail.com.

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Chapter 182 President's Report Continued

The New Mexico Federation has sent out a Call Letter announcing the upcoming 2023 Federation Officers Election (including the opportunity for a self-nomination to one of the Federation Offices) and the opportunity for members and Chapters to submit amendments to our current Federation By-Laws. Positions that are open on the NM Federation Board are: President, Executive Vice-President for Advocacy, Vice-President for Membership, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the Federation Secretary, Marlene Mayfield at: marlene.mayfield@gmail.com.

A date for our Yard Sale has been set for 22 April. Roy and Sharon Willoughby have graciously offered their yard for the sale. We appreciate the offer so very much. Start saving items that you no longer need or want; however, **no clothing** will be collected for the yard sale. More information will be coming in the next few months on when we will be collecting the items.

The NM Federation Conference will be held in Santa Fe on April 28-29, 2023. Registration cost, hotels, etc. will be provided as it is available. Start planning your trip to Santa Fe.



Legislative Report (Judy Rosco)

Once again, the federal active & retired federal workforce are asked to provide "extraordinary measures" to fund the government because Congress has not done their job. This is your money, not public funds. You should express your anger at having Congress use our retirement funds to keep the government solvent. No private sector retirement funding is subject to this just to cover the fact that once again Congress has failed their responsibility to pass funding in a timely manner. I ask you to contact your members of Congress to let them know how you feel about this deplorable situation.

NARFE's advocacy positions were posted in the January/February edition of the *NARFE* magazine. Some of the items NARFE will be watching are Federal Retirement Benefits, Federal Pay and Workforce Policies, Health Care, U.S. Postal Service Reform, and more. When we meet with Congressman Vasquez, we will be discussing some of the items listed above.

The NARFE Bill Tracker will not be published until the March/April issue of the *NARFE* magazine.



Dan Carroll

Membership Report

Another fun month coming up for NARFE members of Chapter 182. We now have **209** members in our chapter. Full moon (Mary Ellen) is on February 5th. General Meeting is February 11th. Valentine's Day is February 14th. Ash Wednesday (start of Lent) is February 22nd. Quote of the month: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." – Ben Franklin. The stock market has been rocky lately. See you at the movies! Dan

Alzheimer's Report (Cindy Cook)

Pamela Rodgers, the Las Cruces Alzheimer's Association Program Manager, was the guest speaker at our January meeting. She gave a very informative presentation on Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances which covered many questions from our members. We thank everyone for their generosity of contributions which will help rid the world of this disease.



**NARFE Chapter 182
January Alzheimer's Meeting**

Penny McClarin (ALZ Resource Development)

Pamela Rodgers (ALZ Program Manager)

Cindy Cook (NARFE Chapter 182 Alzheimer's Chair)

Judy Rosco (NARFE Chapter 182 President)



Welcome New Chapter Member: Brian Hartley

Welcome back: Janice Bridges

We would like to see you at the February 11 meeting.
Come meet your fellow chapter members.
Our chapter membership is **209** members strong!

**Carol
Main**

**Records
Officer**

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.





Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



Days of sunshine, along with days of cold, clouds, rain, and wind describe this past month. What will February bring?

Folklore tells us that Groundhog Day on February 2 may give us a clue. If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, spring is right around the corner.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of **Clarence Hust**, one of our chapter members from Alamo, who had moved to Mississippi. He had been a NARFE member since 1995.

Mary Beth Reinhart passed away on the day of our January chapter meeting. A sympathy card was sent to her family. She had been a member several years and will be missed.

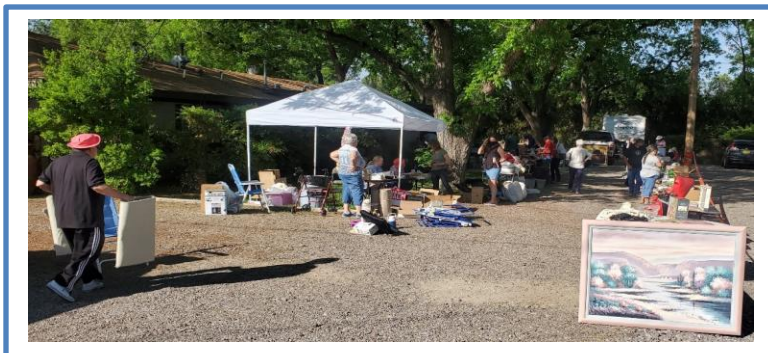
Have some fun by answering this Valentine riddle: **WHAT KIND OF VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY IS NEVER ON TIME?**

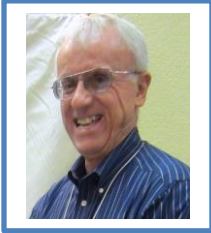
The answer to the Christmas riddle: **WHAT DID SANTA CLAUS USE WHEN HE BROKE HIS ANKLE? (A Candy Cane)** Congratulations to **Jackie Pickering** who knew the correct answer.

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

YARD SALE – Saturday - APRIL 22 It's About Time

One person's junk is another person's treasure. That's what they say. Well, if you have been cleaning out your home to downsize, (COVID made me do it) we have some great news for you. You can put items in your garage or storage shed and, on the week ending Saturday, April 22, you can put them in the NARFE Chapter 182 Yard Sale. Not only can you contribute to the sale, but you can also participate in the fun. We start the week picking up the large items, (we need a truck) and then by Wednesday we are ready to assemble and price the items that you have not priced already. Please price all your items. We request that appliances or electronics be in working condition. We also request NO CLOTHING. More information next month. (The Willoughby's)





Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022 REFLECT SLOWDOWN IN INFLATION RATE

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 2024, showed a slight decline in both November and December 2022. After the October 2022 CPI-W figure rose to 293.003, the November 2022 CPI-W dropped to 292.495 and the December 2022 CPI-W again declined to 291.051. The December 2022 CPI-W of 291.051 was a decline of 0.49 percent from the November CPI-W monthly figure and was 0.29 percent lower than the average CPI-W figure for the third quarter of 2022 (July-September) which was 291-901.

At the end of September 2023, the 291.901 average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2022 will be compared with the third quarter average CPI-W for 2023 to determine if a COLA will be authorized in January 2024. The 2023 CPI-W third quarter average must exceed the 2022 CPI-W third quarter average in order for a COLA to go into effect.



FEBRUARY ANNUITY PAYMENTS FOR FEDERAL RETIREES WILL REFLECT MONTHLY PREMIUM INCREASE FOR MOST FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS

All NARFE members are reminded that their February monthly retirement annuity payments will reflect the increased costs for monthly health insurance premiums for 2023 for most health benefits plans. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has indicated that the average premium increase is 8.7 percent. with some plans having lower premiums and others with higher premiums.



In Memory – Mary Beth Reinhart

On January 14th Mary Beth passed away. Mary Beth was an active member of our Las Cruces NARFE Chapter 182 for many years and she rarely missed a meeting. She retired from White Sands Missile Range in 2005 after 37 ½ years of Government service. She was always involved with community service which included the Bataan Memorial Death March and the Bataan Statue at Veteran’s Park, The Red Cross Board of Directors, White Sands Club Board, Past President of the local chapter of the Assn of U.S. Army, member of the NM Parks and Recreation Association, and was the recipient of the 2021 Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce President’s Award. We were very proud of Mary Beth’s dedication and volunteer work. She was one of the best. May she rest in peace.



**Welcome to Three New Members of our NARFE
Chapter 182 Executive Board**

We thank them for volunteering for these important positions on our Board.



Della Apodaca (NARFE-PAC)

Della Apodaca's NARFE membership began in 2010. She joined the Las Cruces chapter in early 2022. She is the daughter of long-time member Filomeno Apodaca and is married to member Dave Fox.

She retired from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) in late 2021 after 36 years of service with her last assignment in New York City. While at the OCC, Della served as a National Bank Examiner (NBE) specializing in consumer compliance, Bank Secrecy Act and the Community Reinvestment Act. As an NBE, she traveled extensively throughout the Southeast, Midwest, and Northeast regions of the US. She also traveled to Canada, England and Chile to assess US banks' processes operating in those countries. Upon retirement, Della returned to Las Cruces where she was born and raised, and where she attended NMSU. She enjoys traveling, reading, and outdoor activities.



Dave Fox (NARFE Public Relations)



Born and educated in England and son of returned WWII Fighter pilot, David Fox lived his early years in London & then Manchester. After attending the University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Dave started his sales management career with extensive

business travel to numerous English cities. Then, being an inveterate traveler, Dave emigrated to Vancouver, Canada. He spent 25 happy years working in advertising and raising a family. He is now blessed with four Canadian grandchildren.

Having had short business trips to numerous major US cities over the years, Dave met his 2nd wife, Della Apodaca, also a NARFE member, and subsequently emigrated to the US. After living in Charlotte, NC, the Washington DC area, and in New York, plus many more travels together, Dave and Della retired and moved to Las Cruces in 2021 to be near Della's family and enjoy the great southern NM weather.



*Janice
Bridges*

Chapter 182 New Executive Board Member at Large

Janice graduated from the University of Alabama with a Math degree and was a teacher for 20 years. After her teaching career, she began a career as a Mathematician at White Sands Missile Range and retired from there in July 2022 as the Billing Official. She is the proud Mother of three boys, Paul (Killed in Iraq in 2006), Jason (Quantum Physicist), and Zak (Nuclear Engineer - Married to Pauline). She is the proud Grandmother of six!

Here are some photos from Donna Harris taken at our December 2022 meeting. We enjoyed having the Young at Heart Chorus who sang all our favorite Christmas songs!





**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 Gabriel Vasquez (D) (District 2)
Las Cruces District Office, 115 W Griggs Ave, Las Cruces,
NM 88001 - <http://www.vasquez.house.gov>
DC Address and Phone: 202-225-2365
1517 Longworth House Office Bldg Wash DC 20515

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.
Editor: mcadoosr@aol.com