



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association

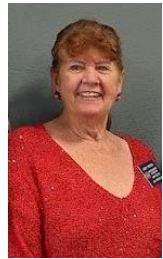
REPORTER

April 2023

Volume 23, Issue 8

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Chapter 182 President

Judy Rosco

Happy Spring to everyone! Hopefully this cooler weather will move out in the next week or so and it will warm up enough to work in our flower gardens.

I wanted to thank everyone who attends our monthly meetings. Last month we were entertained and educated by the Mesilla Valley Audubon Chapter President Elaine Simon, and Mark Pendleton, Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Compiler for Las Cruces and La Luz. They challenged us to look in our own backyards and try to identify all the different birds that come through.

Our Chapter Yard Sale is right around the corner – April 22nd. Remember that **no clothing** will be accepted. You can take your gently used clothing to Goodwill or one of the shelters in town. I know they will be happy to accept it.

I would like to invite our chapter members to submit short articles for our newsletter.

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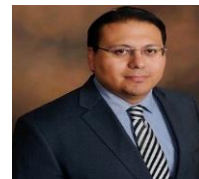
NARFE Chapter 182
Meeting
Saturday, April 8, 8:30 am
Good Samaritan Village
(Creative Arts Room)
3011 Buena Vida Circle



Program Chair: Donna Harris

We are winding down our programs for the 2022-2023 season. I hope you all have found the presentations fun and interesting. I certainly have. We will be closing out our year with the following programs.

April - Chris Garcia will be our speaker. Chris will be discussing essential tips on how to protect your devices from hacking/phishing and other scams and take advantage of all the tricks and fixes that you can use on your phone, computers, and laptops. If you have a specific problem you can't figure out, bring your question and Chris will help you find the answer! He has had years of experience and volunteers at classes at the Library and Senior Amigos.



Chris Garcia

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Chapter President's Message

Continued from Page 1

They should be items that would be of interest to our group, i.e., maybe a place you traveled to in New Mexico that no one else knows about, or a historical site you visited. Photos are welcome. If you are interested in submitting something for our newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Sarah McAdoo, at 575-571-6364 for more information. We are going to try this out on a trial basis to see if we get any interest. Happy trails!

On the Legislative front.

On March 17, 2023, I met with Cody McCarty, Legislative Representative, for Congressman Gabriel Vasquez. I asked the Congressman to co-sponsor H.R. 82, Social Fairness Act, The Equal COLA Act, H.R. 866, and Fair COLA for Seniors Act, H.R. 716. I have met Cody before when he was working for Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small, and he attended our NARFE Legislative Breakfast when he was working with her. I asked Cody to put our Legislative Breakfast which will be held on September 9th on the Congressman's schedule. I feel like the meeting was productive and we will have the Congressman's support on the bills mentioned above. You can log on to our *NARFE* webpage under Advocacy-Take Action and notify your Congressman and Senators to co-sponsor these bills.



March 2023 General Meeting

Judy Rosco (NARFE Chapter 182 President) presented Certificates of Appreciation to Elaine Simon (President of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society) and Mark Pendleton (Mesilla Valley Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Compiler for Las Cruces and La Luz) for their presentations at our March 2023 general meeting.



Elaine Simon and Judy Rosco



Mark Pendleton and Judy Rosco

*NARFE Chapter 182 Programs Schedule
Donna Harris*

Continued from Page 1

Saturday, May 13 - Jim Eckles will be our speaker. Jim was a Public Affairs Specialist at White Sands Missile Range for 30 years. As part of his work, he coordinated tours on the Range and Trinity Site. From 1992 to 2003, Jim had a spot on KOBE radio during the morning drive hours to talk about White Sands. He has written many books about White Sands Missile Range, Trinity and Victorio Peak. Come listen to Jim discuss historical information about White Sands Missile Range, Trinity, and Victorio Peak.

Spaceport America visit - I've contacted Debbi Moore to discuss a trip to Spaceport America. She is very excited to plan a tour for our group. I've asked about costs, transportation and scheduling a date.

Mesilla Valley Audubon bird watching walking tour - I've discussed with Elaine Simon the prospect of a bird watching walking tour. She indicated that April/May would be the best times. Sagecrest Park off of Roadrunner will likely be the location for the walking tour. We're working on a date and time. There is no cost, only a donation to the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society.

Stay tuned for more information on the Spaceport America and Mesilla Valley Audubon bird watching tour.

I'll be working on next year's programs very soon. As always, if you have a topic that you are interested in, please talk to me at our meeting or contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net.



*Roy
and
Sharon
Willoughby*

You may call it a yard sale or a garage sale, for Chapter 182 it is “a happening”. The date is April 22nd at the Willoughby’s home (3142 McDowell Rd, Mesilla Park). The sale starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at noon. We will accept “priced” items on Wednesday the 19th, Thursday the 20th and Friday the 21st after 9:30. We will also be sorting on those three days. If you want to help, show up at 9:30 (we will have coffee for those who want it). On Saturday the 22nd we start at 6:30 to set up tables and bring out the items to open the sale at 8:00. We will have plenty of water and sodas. For the people arriving at 6:30 we will have breakfast for you. If you need us to pick up large items, please call us at 575-524-9395. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, we can be reached at the same number.

Thanks to all!



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX CONTINUES TO INCREASE IN FEBRUARY 2023



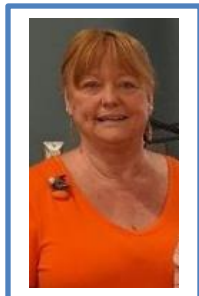
The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel, used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) in 2024, increased by 0.5 percent in February 2023. This was a smaller percentage increase than the January 2023 CPI-W but reflected continuing inflationary pressures in the economy. The CPI-W figure for February 2023 was 295.057, a 0.5 percent increase over the January CPI-W figure of 293.565.

The 295.057 February 2023 figure is 1.1 percent higher than the average CPI-W 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.

The CPI-W for the month of March 2023 will be released on April 12.

PASSAGE OF SECURE ACT 2.0 WILL AFFECT CERTAIN RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Congress passed, and on December 22, 2022 the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY23 which provided funding for federal agency operations for FY23. One of the provisions contained within this legislation was the SECURE Act 2.0, which builds upon the SECURE Act of 2019 and makes several changes to retirement financial regulations. One significant change involves the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirement that all retirees must begin to withdraw money (the Required Minimum Distribution) from their IRAs such as the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) once they reach a certain age. The SECURE Act 2.0 raises the age for the RMD from 72 to 75 over a ten-year period. The age for making a RMD rose from 72 to 73 on January 1, 2023 and will rise again to age 75 on January 1, 2033. Failure of a retiree to make an RMD when required may result in the IRS imposing a penalty of 25 percent of the RMD upon the retiree. Retired NARFE members with a TSP account who have not reached the age for making a RMD should familiarize themselves with the SECURE Act 2.0. The April 2023 edition of the *NARFE* magazine contains a good summary of this legislation on pages 46 and 47.



Alzheimer's Report (Cindy Cook)

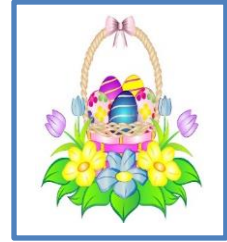
We want to thank all our members who support Alzheimer's by bringing gifts to be raffled and those who support by buying raffle tickets. We collected **\$130** at our March meeting. We divide the amount of money raised between the National Alzheimer's Association and our local Alzheimer's Association here in Las Cruces.

Hope to see you at our April meeting!





Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



Our days have been sunny, but they also have been cold and windy. Enough of the low temperatures and strong winds! It's time for April to bring sunshine and showers. Spring is here!

Sympathy cards were sent to:

- Mildred Knopic on the death of her husband, George Nilsen
- Mark Mickelsen, whose sister passed away. Mark is our state Federation president.
- The family of George Miller who passed away in early March. He had been a NARFE member since 1996.

A get well card was sent to William Beerman who had a heart attack, and spent time in the hospital and rehab. A get well card was also sent to Terry Bloom, who had a bad fall, resulting in bruises and stitches. We wish both a speedy recovery.

Have some Easter fun by answering this riddle: HOW CAN YOU TELL WHICH RABBITS ARE GETTING OLD?

The answer to the St. Patrick's Day riddle: WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A 4-LEAF CLOVER WITH POISON IVY? (A rash of good luck.) Once again, Chuck James knew the correct answer. Congratulations!

Please let me know if you hear of a member who is ill, passed away or could use a little sunshine in their life. (Marcele: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net)



VP for Membership & Chapter Historian (Dan Carroll)

Mild and windy weather. It's Springtime in New Mexico! We now have **207** members in Chapter 182. Full moon is April 5th. Easter is April 9th. Chapter yard sale is on Saturday, April 22nd at the Willoughby's in Mesilla Park by Zia Middle School. Always a fun event and my late wife, Angie, was always a good customer at the sale. She loved going! Pray for good weather for the event which is a big fund raiser for our chapter. Federation Conference is on April 28th and 29th in Santa Fe. Yours truly is planning on going. Should be a fun and informative time! I promise to be on best behavior. Quote of the month – "There is nothing impossible to they who will try." – Alexander the Great. I have a couple of thrashers hanging around my house. No hawks or owls lately, though. See you at the meeting! Dan



It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.



NARFE-PAC

Della Apodaca

Support NARFE-PAC to help defend and protect interests important to NARFE members and the federal community.

Contribute online by visiting www.narfe.org/narfe-pac, by mail using the contribution form in the *NARFE* magazine, or during our next chapter meeting.

During our March meeting, I emphasized the most efficient way to contribute to NARFE-PAC is through the annuity withholding sustainer program. NARFE specifically encourages you to consider becoming one of the PAC's top supporters by making monthly contributions directly from your federal annuity. For this option, register at www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer and follow the instructions. After registering, visit the OPM website to start your withholding. Or, you can call OPM directly at 888-767-6738. Monthly sustaining credit card contributions are also welcome. With a monthly contribution of \$10 or more, you will receive a special sustainer lapel pin. Thank you for your support of NARFE-PAC.*

**To comply with federal law, we must use our best efforts to obtain, maintain and submit the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions to NARFE-PAC exceed \$200 each calendar year. NARFE-PAC is for the benefit of political candidates and activities on a national level. NARFE members have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal, and NARFE will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of a contribution or failure to make a voluntary contribution. The suggested amounts are only suggestions and not enforceable. Only members of NARFE may contribute to the PAC. Contributions from non-members will be returned. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*



Welcome New Prospective Member: ***Veronica Garibay Payan***

We would like to see you at the April 8 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members. Our chapter membership is **207** 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.

***Records
Report
Carol Main***

NARFE New Mexico Federation Executive Officers Election

Vote now for our NM Federation Executive Officers. Information on voting is at the top and bottom of the Ballot on **page 7**. For those of you without email, you can write in your selections and mail it back to our chapter through regular mail.

For those of you who receive our newsletters and messages via email, you will receive a separate voting email from lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com that you can easily complete and return. Deadline for voting is April 15, 2023.

Ballot for NARFE New Mexico Federation Election

This Ballot contains the candidates for the 2023 – 2025 NM Federation Officers. Below each candidate is a space for a potential write-in candidate. Any write-in candidate that is a winning candidate must declare their acceptance of that position at the April 2023 Federation Conference. To complete ballot, please enter either your Membership ID number (found on your NARFE magazine label) or your name at the top of the form in the brackets next to NARFE Member Name or ID. In order to verify voter eligibility, we need your name or NARFE ID number. If there are two NARFE members at this address or email, you may use one ballot by entering both names or ID numbers in the Voter columns. Complete the ballot by entering an X between the brackets next to Yes. Leaving a blank is considered a “No” vote. In addition, there is one bylaw change proposal at the bottom the ballot. Complete by marking either adopt or reject.

NARFE Member Name or ID Number		[]	[]
Officer Position	Candidate	Voter - 1	Voter - 2
Federation President	Mark Mickelsen	Yes []	Yes []
	[]	Yes []	
Vice President	Elizabeth (Betty) Hicks	Yes []	Yes []
	[]	Yes []	
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield	Yes []	Yes []
	[]	Yes []	
Treasurer	Sharon Willoughby	Yes []	Yes []
	[]	Yes []	
Bylaw Proposal	Article X, Additional Provisions Section 1 Per-Capita Dues Eliminate Per-Capita Dues	Adopt [] Reject []	Adopt [] Reject []

You may return this ballot by one of three methods:

1. If NARFE National has your email, complete and submit your ballot following the directions in the separate email message you will receive from lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com. Email ballots must be returned by April 15, 2023.
2. Please complete this ballot and mail to:
NARFE Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424
 (Ballot must be postmarked by 15 April 2023)
3. Bring this completed ballot to the April 8, 2023 meeting and place it in the ballot box.



**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	Judy Rosco
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2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll
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Records Officer:	Carol Main
csmain7@gmail.com	575-382-7686
Service Officer:	Jim Kielty
jkielty70@yahoo.com	575-523-6044
Sunshine:	Marcele Skelton
marcele@skelton.net	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 88011 - <http://www.vasquez.house.gov>
DC Address and Phone: 202-225-2365
1517 Longworth House Office Bldg Wash DC 20515

NARFE Monthly Meetings

The NARFE Las Cruces Chapter 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: lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com.

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