



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association

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Mark Your Calendar: The next NARFE Chapter 182 meeting will be Saturday, 9 September 2023



Chapter 182 President (Judy Rosco)

What I did on my Summer Vacation...tried not to melt! I hope everyone has been staying inside and staying cool. This has been one of the hottest summers I can remember. We traveled through Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Reno and nowhere was the temperature below one hundred degrees!

I also met with other NARFE chapter members in May to go on a bird watching walk. It was interesting, and I enjoyed the walk and talk. All you need to do is look in your own backyard and try to spot the different birds.

I am happy to announce we have a new 1st Vice President and Legislative Chair, Janice Bridges! Thank you to our board members for supporting her nomination. Welcome Janice and thank you sincerely for volunteering for this position. Janice (a Mathematician/Computer Scientist) worked in Range Operations and Resource Management and retired in 2022 as the Billing Official at White Sands Missile Range.

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**Chapter 182 Members Who
Attended the NM
Federation Conference
held in Santa Fe
28-29 April 2023**

- John Reese
- Sharon Reese
- Carol Main
- Bob Main
- Marlene Mayfield
- Judy Rosco
- Dan Carroll
- Sharon Willoughby
- Roy Willoughby

President's Message (Judy Rosco)
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Janice attended the LEGcon23 Conference on Zoom and has reported her actions in this newsletter. She has hit the ground running and has submitted letters of invitation to our legislators for our September Legislative Breakfast, 9 September 2023. Janice will be sworn in at our 9 September meeting.

I hope everyone received the email from our chapter regarding the merger of the New Mexico (NM) and Arizona (AZ) Federations. If you do not have an email with NARFE National, you should have received a letter in the regular mail from our chapter. We are so lucky to have members who have stepped up to leadership positions in the NM Federation that are willing to merge with the Arizona Federation to keep members active and informed on matters important to Federal employees. If you have not already voted, please try to do so.

If you have not checked the NARFE website lately, you should. There is a great deal of information available to you and free webinars that can help every member.

I look forward to welcoming you back at our September Legislative Breakfast, September 9, 2023.



1st VP and Legislative Chair (Janice Bridges)

LEGCON23

(Legislative Training Conference)

I attended the **LEGcon23** via ZOOM.

The first two days we were briefed on the issues that we want addressed this time around and we had training sessions on how to interact with the representatives from the Senators and Representatives offices (do's and don'ts on how to approach them).

These are issues we addressed with them:

1. Advancing the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R 82/S. 597, through Congress
2. Gaining support for the Equal COLA Act, to provide full cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuities.
3. Protecting earned federal retirement and health benefits from potential budget cuts in the future.

On June 22, we had ZOOM meetings with representatives from Ben Lujan (Senator), Martin Heinrich (Senator), Melanie Stansbury (1ST Congressional District), Gabe Vasquez (2nd Congressional District) and Teresa Legar Fernandez (3rd Congressional District) offices. They were all very receptive in supporting NARFE on these issues.





Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



**MODERATE BUT PERSISTENT INFLATION
CONTINUES TO INCREASE CPI-W**

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, reflected a moderating but persistent rate of inflation in April, May, and June 2023. The CPI-W figures were 297.730 in April, 298.382 in May, and 299.394 in June. The June 2023 CPI-W figure was 0.34 percent higher than the May figure of 298.382 and 2.6 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2022 (July-September 2022) 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 third quarter average in order for a COLA to go into effect. The July 2023 CPI-W will be released on August 10.

NARFE retirees and survivor annuitants will recall that in January 2023 those covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) received a COLA of 8.7 percent, while those covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) received a 7.7 percent COLA. These increases were the highest in decades, and a far more moderate COLA should be expected in January 2024.

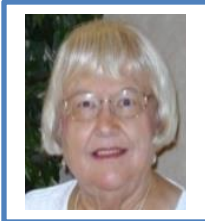


**MANY ENROLLEES IN FEDERAL LONG-TERM-CARE
INSURANCE PROGRAM CAN EXPECT PREMIUM
INCREASES EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2024**

On 1 May 2023 the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) extended their contract with John Hancock Insurance Company to continue to provide enrollees with long term care insurance under the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). In a letter dated 2 May 2023 from OPM all FLTCIP enrollees were advised that premium increases effective 1 January 2024 likely would accompany continued long term care coverage. In September 2023 enrollees will receive a letter from OPM with personalized options to help offset the premium increases. These options will include accepting the premium rate increase to maintain current coverage or adjusting their current level of coverage to reduce the impact of any increase. No additional details regarding the amount of a rate increase or personalized options to reduce the impact of a rate increase are presently available. Current FLTCIP enrollees are encouraged to review their respective coverages and attempt to plan ahead and be prepared to make changes as necessary when they receive a letter from OPM in September 2023.

NARFE Chapter Programs

Do you have a special program or speaker you would like to recommend for one of our NARFE Chapter meetings? If so, please send your suggestion to our Chapter Program Chair, Donna Harris, at md.harris1@comcast.net.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



Summer began with lots of sunshine and very hot weather. We enjoy the sunshine but would welcome lower temperatures.

I want to shout out a big "thank you" to all my NARFE friends who brought so much sunshine to my life when I was ill with pneumonia (5 days in the hospital & 30 days in therapy at Northrise). Your cards and emails were very much appreciated. Special thanks go to Sarah McAdoo for carrying out the card sending responsibilities.

A sympathy card was sent to Emery "Woody" Woodard and wife Norma who lost their son, Jeff, on June 24th. Woody and Norma have moved back to their home in Edgewood MD. We will miss seeing them at our meetings. A sympathy card was sent to Harry Palmer, whose brother-in-law passed away recently. A sympathy card was also sent to the family of Clara Belle Burnett-Perkins who passed away on April 2nd. She had been a NARFE member since November 1983.

Have some fun by answering this "back to school" riddle: WHY DID THE TEACHER WEAR SUNGLASSES IN THE CLASSROOM?

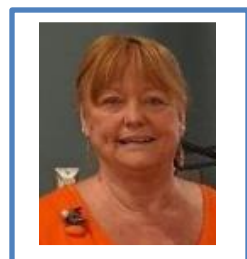
Please let me know if you hear of a member who is ill, has passed away, or could use a little sunshine in their life. Marcele: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net



Dan Carroll
*2nd VP for
Membership &
Chapter Historian*

Another hot summer. Hot as the hubs of hell! One hundred plus degrees every day. No end in sight. Monsoon has been quiet so far but it's the only hope of relief we have. 194 members as of 07/14/2023. Full moon (Mary Ellen) coming up on August 30th. No federal holidays this month. Public school back in session. I went to Ruidoso for four days July 11th through the 14th. It was cool (high 80's) and rained every afternoon. Picked winner in second race on Friday, #3 horse. Paid \$6.40 on \$2 bet. Wow! Next general meeting September 9th. Quote of the month: "If you're going through hell, keep going." – Winston Churchill. See you at the movies! Dan

Join Us



**Cindy
Cook**

**2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's
Southwestern Regional Walk in Las Cruces**

ALZ Walk is 7 Oct 2023 at the Pat and Lou Sisbarro Community Park, 3205 Arrowhead Drive in Las Cruces. Register and donate on line or call Penney McClarin at 505-312-4883. Check in is at 9 am, Open Ceremony at 9:30, Walk at 10:00.





*Carol
Main*

Telephone Report

We do not have any new members to announce this month, but we still have a strong chapter membership of **194** 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.

Telephone Committee – Carol Main, Chair

I will remain the Chair for the Telephone Committee when our meetings resume in September. I would like to thank all our callers, Nancy Banks, Martha Beerman, Joy Davenport, and Craig Singleton for all their hard work and perseverance these past few years. I am currently updating our caller lists for the upcoming meetings which start in September. Our chapter's contract with Good Sam for meetings requires a one week notice for our breakfast numbers. Since our meetings are on Saturdays, we notify them on the last business day to meet their deadline which is Friday, eight days before the meeting. The callers will be contacting our members approximately ten to twelve days before our meetings. For example, for our meeting in September, expect calls on August 28 or 29 for our meeting on September 9. Email meeting notices will go out 15 days in advance to allow for response time.

If you were receiving phone calls about the meetings and had been unable to attend, please let me know if you would like to continue receiving telephone invitations. If you have not been receiving calls and would like to be added to the call list, please call me, Carol Main, at 575-382-7686. All chapter members with email in the NARFE National records receive meeting notices. Please let me know of any changes in your email address. My email is csmain@gmail.com. Hope to see all of you at the September 9 meeting.



Chapter Telephone Committee

Nancy Banks, Martha Beerman, Craig Singleton, Joy Davenport, & Carol Main (Committee Chair)

A big thank you to the members of our Telephone Committee. Some of our members don't have email addresses so they request a phone call from our friendly Telephone Committee to remind them of our meetings and take their reservations.

We appreciate all they do for our chapter!



Bird Watching Walk: Joel Gilb, our guide from the local Audubon Society

NARFE Members: In front: Judy Rosco, Donna Harris, and Marilyn Koukol

In Back: Kathy Treat, Della Apodaca, and Marlene Mayfield

Photo by: NARFE Member (Dave Fox)



RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!

Do you know someone who might want to join NARFE and our chapter? They can be an Active Federal Employee, Active Federal Employee Spouse, an Annuitant, an Annuitant Spouse, or a Survivor Annuitant. Bring them to one of our meetings and ask them to join!

Three easy ways to join:

1. Complete the application that is in the *NARFE* Magazine and mail it in with payment to NARFE Member Services, 606 N Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1914.
2. Join online at www.NARFE.org.
3. Call 800-456-8410, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.



NM Federation Officers (2023-2025)

Sharon Reese, Region VII Vice President, gives Oath of Office to NM Federation Officers: Sharon Willoughby from Las Cruces (Treasurer), Marlene Mayfield from Las Cruces (Secretary), Betty Hicks from Roswell (Vice President), and Mark Mickelsen from Albuquerque (President)



NARFE-PAC

Della Apodaca

The summer fundraising campaign is in full swing!

All members should have received fundraising letters through the mail. If you have not sent in a contribution, please do so now to further support NARFE-PAC's ongoing activities. Becoming a NARFE-PAC sustainer via annuity withholding is the most efficient option to show your support. Members may also contribute online at NARFE's website: <https://members.narfe.org/Support-NARFE/Support-PAC>, or by completing and mailing in the form found in the *NARFE* magazine.

Through June 30, 2023, the first two quarters of the cycle, our Chapter raised \$1,735 from 17 contributors. This compares favorably to other NM Chapters and exceeds their individual totals. Our Chapter's goal is to meet, or exceed, our total from the prior cycle. Let's keep up this promising momentum. 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.*



**National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
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You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

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marcele@skelton.net	575-521-4954

Members of Congress

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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 \$15. 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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