



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES  
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

*National Active & Retired  
Federal Employees Association*

## **REPORTER**

**September 2023  
Volume 24, Issue 2**

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

**The next NARFE Chapter 182 Meeting will be Saturday, 9 September 2023.**



*Chapter President  
Judy Rosco*

I am happy to report that the proposed merger between the Arizona and New Mexico Federations passed with a huge majority in favor of the merger. There is still a lot of work to be done to include getting NARFE headquarters approval, dissolving the existing Federations and adopting new bylaws for the combined Federation, setting up a combined bank account, and finally holding Officer elections for the new Federation.

Sharon Reese, Region VII Vice President, has been tasked with others to prepare a Memo of Understanding (MOU) on how the two Federations will work together until the actual merger takes place. The MOU will most likely be signed by both Federation Presidents at the Presidents/National Board Meeting held the last week of August in Washington, DC. Thanks to everyone who voted on this merger.

I would like to remind everyone that the breakfast buffet has increased to \$15 and will still have the same delicious menu.

I am looking forward to a new year of our NARFE Chapter breakfast meetings. I expect to see you all on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Legislative Breakfast  
Meeting  
Saturday, 9 September  
8:30 a.m.  
Good Samaritan  
Arts & Crafts Room*



*Janice Bridges, VP for Legislation*

We have invited Senator Henrich, Representative Vasquez, and Senator Lujan to our September 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative meeting to discuss their position on the following items: Advancing the Social Security Fairness Act, Gaining support for the Equal COLA ACT, Protecting earned Federal retirement and health benefits from potential budget cuts in the future.

So far, Senator Henrich and Representative Vasquez will not be able to attend but will send someone in their place or will send us a letter on where they stand on these issues. At this time we are not sure whether Senator Lujan will be able to attend. But if not, he will also send someone from his office or a letter. As usual, we will have a question-and-answer session at the end of the presentations. Please don't miss this meeting and bring your important questions with you.

***Breakfast Buffet: \$15.00 (cash please)  
Reservations by: NLT Sep 1st  
Call: Carol Main (575-382-7686)***



## NARFE-PAC

*(Della Apodaca)*

Thank you for your support of NARFE-PAC\*. NARFE-PAC is dedicated to protecting current and retired federal employees hard-earned pay and benefits.

*NARFE magazine*, March 2023, provides extensive information about NARFE-PAC, its successes during the last legislative session, and NARFE’s core priorities for this current cycle.

Through June 30, 2023, seventeen (17) Las Cruces Chapter members made a contribution. While 17 is good, I would encourage all members to make an affordable voluntary contribution. We joined NARFE because we believe in its mission. Each member can further support the mission by making contributions to the NARFE-PAC.

Members can contribute by going online to NARFE’s website, logging in, and accessing the NARFE-PAC home page: <https://members.narfe.org/Support-NARFE/Support-PAC>. Consider becoming a monthly sustainer via annuity withholding or through a credit card.

*\*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.*



### **Records Report (Carol Main)**

**Welcome  
New Prospective Members:  
Russell Hendrix  
William Price**

We would like to see you at the September meeting.  
Come meet your fellow chapter members.  
Our chapter membership is **191** 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](mailto: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.

### **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NARFE CHAPTER 182 GENERAL MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

**2023**

**SEP 9**

**OCT 14**

**NOV 11**

**DEC 9**

**2024**

**JAN 13**

**FEB 10**

**MAR 9**

**APR 13**

**MAY 11**



*Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)*



**JULY CPI-W REFLECTS SLOWING  
OF INFLATIONARY TREND**

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 small but persistent rate of inflation in July 2023. The July 2023 CPI-W figure of 299.899 was 0.17 percent higher than the June figure of 299.294 and 2.7 percent higher than the average CPI-W figure 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 third quarter average CPI-W must exceed the 2022 third quarter average CPI-W in order for a COLA to go into effect. The August 2023 CPI-W will be released on September 13.

Although not eliminated, the rate of inflation in 2023 has slowed considerably compared with 2022. NARFE retirees and survivor annuitants should expect that any increase authorized in January 2024 will be considerably lower than the 2023 COLA increase, which was the highest in decades.

**REMINDER FOR NARFE MEMBERS: THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**

On page 43 of the **August 2023 NARFE Magazine**, the size of the federal family both in New Mexico and across the nation was brought into clear focus by the size of the numbers presented. NARFE members need to keep this in mind when NARFE headquarters urges us to express our views to our Congressional representatives on pending legislation which may affect our pay and benefits. It will be especially important for NARFE members to do so in the 2024 general election year, since we are all potential voters whose views can have an impact on the outcome of election races.

In summary, as of 2022, New Mexico had 29,540 annuitants (both retired federal employees and survivor annuitants), 21,559 current federal employees, and 3,251 U.S. Postal Service employees. There definitely is strength in our numbers which should be exercised to protect our earned rights and benefits!

National Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)  
Local Web Site: [www.narfe-nm.net/ch0182/ch0182.html](http://www.narfe-nm.net/ch0182/ch0182.html)



*Federal Employee Education & Assistance (Roy Willoughby)*

This is just a reminder to see what is available in the NARFE-FEEA interesting programs that will give you a chance to expand your search for helpful information.

On the internet go to **feea.org** where you will find the following:

**DISASTER RELIEF.**

FEEA offers disaster relief grants to eligible federal employees when national disasters strike. (For example, the recent Hawaiian fire disaster.)

**EMERGENCY LOANS.**

FEEA offers federal employees confidential, no-interest loans in times of emergency.

**FEDLIFEHACKS.**

FEEA provides extensive information and resources that will be helpful for feds in their daily lives.

**SCHOLARSHIPS.**

FEEA offers merit-based college scholarships.

**Funding:** FEEA also relies on donations from our NARFE members to finance its relief and scholarship funds. Occasionally Chapter 182 will sponsor a special drive to support disaster assistance and scholarships.

**Remember donations can also be made directly online at: [feea.org/givenarferelief](http://feea.org/givenarferelief)  
For more information call Roy at 575-524-9395.**



*2023 Walk to  
End Alzheimer's*

*(Cindy Cook)*

**Southwestern Regional Walk in Las Cruces**

ALZ Walk is Saturday, 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.



*Chapter  
Programs*

*(Donna Harris)*



Greetings and welcome back to another year! I'm diligently working to bring speakers with a variety of topics that will be of interest to everyone. As always, if you have a speaker or topic of interest, please contact me. I am always open to suggestions. I will publish this year's schedule as I finalize our speakers.

You can contact me at:

[md.harris1@comcast.net](mailto:md.harris1@comcast.net)



### *Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)*



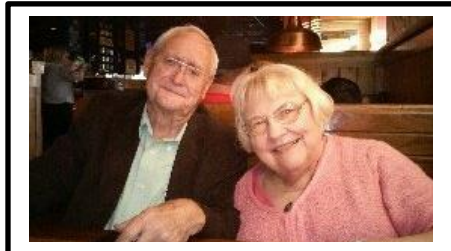
September is a month we look forward to. It brings a period of plentiful sunshine, along with cooler weather.

A get well card was sent to Maria Smith who had surgery in July. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Charles Montoya who passed away in June. He lived in Alamogordo and was a National NARFE Member. Thanks go to Irvin Michaud, Chapter 182, for notifying us. Irvin was a friend of Charles for over 65 years.

Have some fun by answering this September riddle: IT IS SEPTEMBER AND LEAVES ARE STARTING TO FALL. THERE IS AN OAK TREE, A PINE TREE AND A BUSH. THE WIND IS BLOWING WEST. WHICH WAY DO THE LEAVES ON THE PINE TREE FALL?

The answer to the "back to school" riddle: WHY DID THE TEACHER WEAR SUNGLASSES IN THE CLASSROOM? (Because the students were so bright.) Congratulations to Chuck James for guessing the correct answer (again).

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](mailto:marcele@skelton.net).



### *Congratulations to Marcele & Irv Skelton on their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

They were married in Lincoln, Nebraska on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1968. They have made many moves and lived in five different states, making many friends along the way and settling down in Las Cruces.



*Dan  
Carroll*

*VP for  
Membership  
and  
Chapter  
Historian*

Monsoon season has been a bust so far. This is the hottest summer I can remember and I've been in NM since June 1980. We now have 191 members in our chapter. Holidays include Labor Day on the 4<sup>th</sup>. I'm planning on going to Hatch to get some green chile and jalapenos. Patriot's Day is September 11<sup>th</sup>. Full moon (Mary Ellen) is September 29<sup>th</sup>. Quote of the month: "To have peace is to increase fortune and longevity." – from fortune cookie from Golden Star Chinese Restaurant on El Paseo (I order fried rice, broccoli and barbecue pork). Next general meeting is Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Pray for rain!

### **Ask a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to join NARFE!**

If their future security is tied to federal retirement benefits--federal retirees, current employees, spouses or individual survivors—they should join NARFE!

Two easy ways to join:

--Join online at [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org), or

--Call 800-456-8410 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET)





**National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees Association  
Chapter 182  
PO Box 16424  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424**

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*You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!*

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#### **Chapter 182 Officers**

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#### **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://www.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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com).

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