



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association

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

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NARFE.LasCrucesChapter.182>



*Chapter 182 President
Judy Rosco*



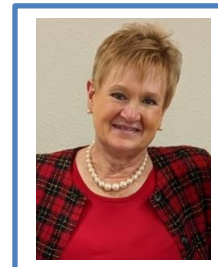
Happy New Year to everyone!

Have you already broken your New Year's Resolutions? This year I decided to make my resolution a word: KINDNESS. It doesn't cost anything, and it won't make me fat! If we all can be a little kinder, the world would be a better place to live.

We are looking forward to some exciting programs this year. Please let our Program Chair, Donna Harris, know if you have a subject that you would like to see develop as a program. Let us know if you like the programs or even if you don't like the programs, and we will do better.

The merger between Arizona and New Mexico is moving along nicely. The new name of the federation is the Southwest Federation, and the officers will be sworn in on February 23rd in Tucson, AZ. The proposed bylaws have been submitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer for approval.

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Michele Ungvarsky
Attorney of E-Law
will be the speaker at
our February 2024
Chapter Meeting

NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting
Saturday, 10 February 2024, 8:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan Village
3011 Buena Vida (Creative Arts Room)

Michele Ungvarsky will be our guest speaker for February. Ms. Ungvarsky is owner and attorney of E-Law where she focuses on estate planning and elder law, including incapacity and disability planning along with probate and adult guardianship/conservatorships. Her focus for our February meeting will be Trusts. As many of you know, Ms. Ungvarsky has spoken to our group before and always has great information to share.

Reservations: Call Carol Main
575-382-7686

NLT: January 31st

Donna Harris (Chapter 182 Programs Chair)

TIME TO VOTE FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

See Pages 6 & 7 for Information and Ballot!

***Chapter President's Message
Continued from Page 1***

Chapter elections are around the corner, and I am excited to run for the office of President. In line with our Bylaws, I was named to the Chapter President when Sharon Reese, our previous President, was elected as the Region VII Vice President last February. I have been a chapter member since February 2006 and I have held positions as the Chapter Secretary, 1st Vice President for Membership, 2nd Vice President for Legislature, and Ways and Means Chair.

It has been my pleasure to be your Chapter President and I hope to continue in that office.

***Chapter Programs
Continued from Page 1***

March (Nurse Margot Voz) - She will speak on the medical benefits of cannabis. Future speakers for April and May are in the works. I have contacted the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico and the Vulnerable Road Users (VRUNM) as potential speakers. Stay tuned for more information. If you have any topics of interest, contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net.



***Donna Harris
Chapter Program
Chair***



Donna Harris (Chapter Program Chair) planned the December chapter meeting so that everyone enjoyed playing games, winning prizes, and singing holiday songs.



Long time NARFE member, Filomeno Apodaca, won a pretty Poinsettia and a wooden Nutcracker at the Chapter December Holiday Meeting.



Chris Behrens (Las Cruces Senior Programs) & Donna Harris (NARFE Chapter 182 Program Chair)

Chris Behrens was the speaker at our January 2024 meeting. He is the Recreational Manager for the Las Cruces Senior Programs at the Munson Center, Eastside Center, and the Henry Benavidez Community Center. His presentation covered all the Senior services and programs they offer residents.



YARD SALE - APRIL 2024 - We will have another NARFE yard sale in April 2024 at the Willoughby's home in Mesilla. Please save your things and donate them to our sale. We will let you know when the dates have been set. We appreciate your help in raising money for our Las Cruces Chapter 182!



NARFE-PAC

(Della Apodaca)

(Become a Monthly Sustainer)

NARFE-PAC sustainers help strengthen NARFE’s political influence to defend your earned pay and promised benefits.

The sustainer program grows NARFE-PAC consistently each month, allowing NARFE-PAC to disburse more money to candidates. Sustainers who voluntarily contribute at least \$10 a month receive a sustainer lapel pin.

NARFE-PAC* would like to increase the number of ongoing sustainers through annuity withholding. This is the most efficient method to voluntarily contribute as it avoids bank or credit card fees. It also avoids updating credit card expiration dates. Chapter members can sign up for annuity withholding by first completing the online form which is found on the NARFE-PAC web page, www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer. The information on the form enables NARFE-PAC to match each member’s annuity withholding and member account, ensuring appropriate credit for being a sustainer. After completing the form, members will be directed to a detailed set of instructions and a link to OPM’s Services Online website.

**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.*



Cindy Cook

Alzheimer’s

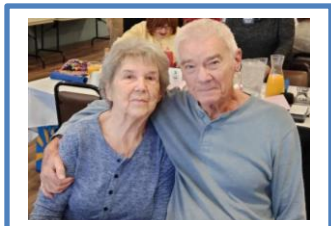
Many thanks to all our members who contribute to Alzheimer’s.

October Meeting: Collected \$145
\$66.70 to National and
\$78.30 to Local

November Meeting: Collected \$268
(\$150 Anonymous Donation)
\$123.28 to National and
\$144.72 to Local

December Meeting: Collected \$159.00
\$73.14 to National and
\$85.86 to Local

January Meeting: Collected \$120.00
\$55.20 to National and
\$64.80 to Local



Welcome to our Chapter!

New Member George Rushing and his wife, Marsha, attended our December and January chapter meetings. When you see this nice couple at our next meeting, be sure to say hello and get acquainted.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



**FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT
PAY RAISE FOR 2024**

NARFE members who are current General Schedule federal employees received an average 5.2 percent pay raise for 2024 when the President issued an executive order to this effect in December 2023. The executive order calls for a 4.7 percent across-the-board increase in basic pay and an average 0.5 percent increase in locality pay.

The average 5.2 percent pay increase is the largest since the Carter administration approved a 9.1 percent average increase in 1980. The pay increase went into effect for the first full pay period of 2024, which for most federal employees was January 14, 2024.

**CPI-W FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023
CONTINUE TO SHOW SLIGHT DECLINE**

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 2025, showed slight declines in the figures for both November and December 2023. The November CPI-W figure of 301.224 was 0.28 percent lower than the October figure of 302.077, and the December 2023 figure of 300.728 was 0.16 percent lower than the November CPI-W figure (301.224). This shows that inflationary pressures within the economy are continuing a gradual decline.

In order for a COLA to be authorized in January 2025, the average CPI-W figure for the months of July-September 2024 must exceed the average CPI-W figure for the months of July-September 2023, which was 301.236.

The CPI-W figure for January 2024 is scheduled to be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on February 13.



Membership Report

***Dan
Carroll

VP for
Membership***

Another month gone by! Weather has been pretty good with some cold nights. No snow in the valley. Sierra Blanca Mountain in Ruidoso is covered with snow. You can see it from Alamogordo. We now have 200 members in our local Las Cruces, NM Chapter 182. Holidays include February 14th which is Valentine’s Day, February 19th is President’s Day, and Full Moon (Mary Ellen) is February 24th. Quote of the month: “The great enemy of clear language is insincerity”. – George Orwell. Have a great month and see you at the movies or my favorite Chinese restaurant on El Paseo, The Golden Star, next to O’Reilly’s Auto Parts.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

There weren't many days with sunshine in January. Much of the month was very cold. We hope February will be just the opposite--many sunny days and few cold ones. On Valentine's Day, we need more than love to keep us warm.

A Get Well card was sent to Sharon Reese. She had a serious fall just before Christmas. We hope she is doing well in her recovery.

Have some fun by answering this Valentine's Day riddle: WHAT VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY IS ONLY FOR GIRLS?

The answer to the Christmas riddle: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CHRISTMAS ALPHABET AND THE ORDINARY ALPHABET? (The Christmas alphabet has Noel.)

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



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 14 March 2024 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



**Carol
Main**

**Records
Officer**

**Welcome New Member: *Jeff Anderson*
Prospective Members:**

***Josh Blundell
Justin Butt
Lisa Chavez
Clarissa Gonzalez***

***Anita Judd
Dolores Lopez
Lisa Maldonado
Roy Plummer***

***Paul Ramsey
Victoria Sanchez
Edward Stahl
Michael Williams***

We would like to see you at the **February 10** meeting.
Come meet your fellow chapter members.
Our chapter membership is **200** 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 of any changes 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.



TIME TO VOTE FOR OUR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Pictured L-R: President Judy Rosco, V/P for Legislation Janice Bridges, V/P for Membership Dan Carroll, and Secretary Marlene Mayfield. All four officers have agreed to continue in their current positions and look forward to serving our chapter for another two years.

Sharon Willoughby, our current Treasurer, is not going to continue in that position. Craig Singleton has agreed to take over these duties. He has held this position in the past. See his statement below.



Steven Craig Singleton

I am a candidate for NARFE Las Cruces Chapter 182 Treasurer. As a former Chapter 182 Treasurer, I served for fiscal years 17-18, 18-19, and 19-20. I was also responsible for preparing the budgets for those years. In addition to my duties as Treasurer, I have been a member of the Audit Committee for other Chapter 182 Treasurers and the NM Federation. Before I was Treasurer, I served as Member at Large. I have also been on the Member Communications Committee since 2012.

See page 7 for voting information and Ballot. If NARFE National has your email address, complete and submit your ballot following the directions in the separate email message you will receive from our chapter at lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.

Ballot for NARFE Chapter 182 Executive Officers 2024 Election

This Ballot reflects the candidates for the 2024-2026 NARFE Executive Board. 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 March Chapter meeting. 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 above the "Voter" column next to NARFE Member Name and/or ID. In order to verify voter eligibility, we need your name and or/NARFE ID number. If you would like to vote by secret ballot, put your name/ID number on an envelope and insert the completed ballot. Since your name/NARFE ID number will be on the envelope, leave it off the ballot itself. Envelopes will be opened and ballots only will be submitted to the Ballot and Teller committee. If there are two Chapter 182 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.

NARFE Member Name and/or ID Number		[]	[]
Officer Position	Candidate	Voter - 1	Voter - 2
President	Judy Rosco	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
1st Vice President Legislation	Janice Bridges	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
2nd Vice President Membership	Dan Carroll	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		
Treasurer	Steven Craig Singleton	Yes []	Yes []
	[]		

You may return this ballot by one of three methods:

1. Please complete this ballot and mail to:

NARFE Chapter 182
 PO Box 16424
 Las Cruces NM 88004-6424

(Ballot must be postmarked by 10 February 2024)

2. Bring the completed ballot to the February 10th meeting and put it in the ballot box.

3. If NARFE National has your email, complete and submit your ballot following the directions in the separate email message you will receive from our chapter at lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.



**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 rosco631@gmail.com 575-635-7127
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	Janice Bridges jan838790@msn.com 575-635-9768
2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll cardan116@comcast.net 575- 932-9491
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield marlene.mayfield@gmail.com 575- 644-6851
Treasurer	Sharon Willoughby swillowbee@comcast.net 575-524-9395
Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook cindy77lou@yahoo.com 575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	Roy Willoughby rswillowbee@comcast.net 575-524-9395
NARFE-PAC	Della Apodaca dmarieda@aol.com 704-351-2051
Program Chair:	Donna Harris md.harris1@comcast.net 575-382-9070
Records Officer:	Carol Main csmain7@gmail.com 575-382-7686
Service Officer:	Jim Kielty jkielty70@yahoo.com 575-640-9585
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://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 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: lasrucreschapter182@yahoo.com.

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