

**MARCH IS NARFE-PAC MONTH (See article on page 7.)**



*Chapter 182 President  
 Judy Rosco*

*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, myself, Carol Main, and Sharon Willoughby will be traveling to a meeting with other members/officers/appointees of the Southwest Federation, in Tucson, AZ. Sharon Reese, VP Region VII, will be joining us on ZOOM. Once the Southwest Federation Bylaws have been approved by the National Secretary-Treasurer, Sharon will swear in the officers. At this meeting we will be discussing finances, tax reporting, communications, responsibilities of Federation board members and standing committees, FedCon24 in St Louis, MO, and the SW Federation Conference scheduled for 2025. It will be a lot to cover in one day and I will fill you in at our next membership meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Are you ready for St. Patrick's Day? NARFE doesn't have anything to do with St. Patrick's Day, but I found it interesting as to how the day came to be. The day was created as a way to express the displeasure with English dominance by wearing a Shamrock!

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**NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting**

**Saturday, 9 March 2024, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Good Samaritan Village**  
**Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida**

**Program:** Nurse Margot Voss will be our guest speaker for our March meeting. Nurse Margot, as she is known, acts as a patient advocate to educate and support senior citizens and medical professionals in the safe and effective uses of cannabis for symptom management. She will discuss the benefits of cannabis for your quality of life and show how it can help with anxiety, depression, pain, nausea, seizures, and chemotherapy. Nurse Margot is a Registered Nurse with over 40 years of experience in the healing arts. Come join us and learn about 21<sup>st</sup> Century cannabis.

**Reservations: Call Carol Main**  
**575-382-7686**  
**NLT: February 28th**



*Donna Harris  
 Chapter 182  
 Program Chair*

**Mark your calendar: Chapter Meetings**  
**March 9 - April 13 - May 11th**

*President's Message Continued from Page 1  
(Judy Rosco)*

*An Irish Blessing*

There are many traditions associated with St. Patrick's Day such as eating Corned Beef and cabbage, looking for a leprechaun standing guard at the end of a rainbow, wearing green (although I didn't know it was supposed to make you invisible to leprechauns, who might pinch you if they saw you). Who hasn't searched their backyard looking for four-leaf clover. Some traditions have ancient roots and some are just invented to enjoy with family and friends. Embrace the spirit of St. Patrick's Day.



**Welcome New Members:  
Robert Andreoli  
Lesalee Arana**

We would like to see you at the March 9 meeting.  
Come meet your fellow chapter members.  
Our chapter membership is **200** 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 of any changes 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.



National Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

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



### Legislation (Janice Bridges)

NARFE has initiated advocacy benchmarks. These are targeted goals to get each District involved more into reaching out to our lawmakers on supporting legislation that protects our rights and our retirement pay.

I still do not know what the “prizes” are yet. But please keep in mind that if we DO NOT REACH OUT to them, they think that we do not care what happens to our retirement benefits and pay. SO PLEASE reach out to me to help you get online and contact our lawmakers. I am not going into the boring part of the numbers. I’m probably the only one who finds that part interesting (smile).

You can go online onto the NARFE website and click on Advocacy and there are all kinds of information there. If you need help understanding, then PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME. I will be more than happy to help you understand.

These are what we need them to support:

1. PLEASE TAKE ACTION ADVANCING the Social Security Fairness Act. H.R. 82. This is ready to go to vote but they still have not. This is to take ACTION on repealing the WEP/GPO.
2. Support H.R. 866 that ensures FERS retirees get the same COLAS as CSRS. Right now FERS gets 1% less. This adds up over the years. Just a little info here. Right now, 98% of the Federal Workforce is covered under FERS while only 2% remains under CSRS. Meanwhile FERS retirees make up 50% and CSRS make up the other 50% of Federal retirees.
3. There is new legislation from Rep Angie Craig from MN H.R. 7804 that will remove Federal Taxes from all Social Security recipients. She had an analysis done and it showed that this will keep Social Security solvent through 2054, 20 years longer than what is expected now.

We need them to OPPOSE H.R. 5779 and S.3262!!! This is legislation currently before Congress that proposes the establishment of a fiscal commission that could cause potential cuts to federal benefits.

Again, please contact me if you need help in contacting our local lawmakers. I am more than happy to help you. ([Jan838790@msn.com](mailto:Jan838790@msn.com) or 575-635-9768)

Last but not least, I will have tickets to the Annual Fish Fry at Good Samaritan on March 22 that helps raise money for the Kiwanis to do service projects for children in need in the community.





*Service Officer (Jim Kielty)*



**CPI-W FIGURE FOR JANUARY 2024 SHOWS INCREASE AFTER DECLINES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023**

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, increased in January 2024 to a figure of 302.201. The January 2024 CPI-W was 0.49 percent higher than the December 2023 figure of 300.728. The January 2024 figure of 302.201 was 0.32 percent higher than the average CPI-W figure for the third quarter (July-September) of 2023, which was 301.236.

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 for the months of July-September 2023, which was 301.236.

The CPI-W figure for February 2024 is scheduled to be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on March 12.

**AMENDMENT TO RECOVER ACT WOULD PROVIDE LIFETIME IDENTITY PROTECTION TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE VICTIMS OF 2015 OPM DATA BREACH**

On 12 February 2024 Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia and Congressman C.A. Ruppertsberger of Maryland jointly introduced legislation to amend the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Response Act, also known as the RECOVER Act. The bill, if passed by Congress and signed by the President, would provide lifetime identity theft protection to federal employees and federal retirees whose personally identifiable information was compromised during the 2015 Office of Personnel Management (OPM) data breaches. A previous version of this bill was approved by Congress in fiscal year 2017, but it failed to provide identity theft protection beyond fiscal year 2026.

In introducing this amendment, Delegate Norton said that since there was no limit on the time the compromised information might be used for illegal purposes, Congress must protect these federal employees and retirees in perpetuity. Congressman Ruppertsberger expressed similar sentiments in his remarks. The bill has been referred to the House Committees on Oversight and Accountability for consideration.



**It was great to see long-time member Hester Jones and her friend, Christine Covington, at the 10 February meeting.**

**Long-time member Emroy Shannon attended the 10 February meeting and everyone sang Happy Birthday to him. He celebrated his birthday on February 1<sup>st</sup>.**





**Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA) (Roy Willoughby)**  
This is a NEW reminder to see what is available to you in the NARFE-FEEA programs. For more information call Roy at 575-524-9395.

Go to [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org) where you will find the following:

**DISASTER RELIEF** - FEEA offers disaster relief grants to eligible federal employees when national disasters strike.

**EMERGENCY LOANS** - FEEA offers federal employees and retirees confidential, no-interest loans in times of emergency.

**FEDLIFEHACKS** - FEEA provides extensive information and resources that will be helpful for Federal employees and retirees in their daily lives.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** - FEEA offers merit-based college scholarships.

**Funding:** FEEA also relies on donations from our NARFE members to finance its emergency relief and scholarship programs. Remember donations can be made directly online at: [feea.org/givenarfe](http://feea.org/givenarfe).



### ANNUAL YARD/GARAGE SALE

Hello to everyone. Spring is right around the corner, and it's time for our annual Yard/Garage Sale. Have you been saving your stuff as you downsize? We hope so because we need your stuff for our Sale. We do not want clothing but accessories, jewelry, and household items, you know the stuff the kids don't want. It is our only fund-raising activity, and it is fun. We will start to collect everything on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon and every day that week. The event will be on Saturday, April 27. We will be pricing and sorting from 9:00 a.m. until noon starting Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> through Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> so we will need help with this part of the project. If you can spare an hour or two in the a.m. it will go fast. On Saturday we will start the set up at 6:30 a.m. and open at 8:00 a.m. For those who come at 6:30 to set up we will prepare a lite breakfast. This is a wonderful bonding event and a lot of fun. If you can help, please call or email us.

*Sharon & Roy Willoughby/575-524-9395/swillowbee@comcast.net*  
*3142 Mc Dowell Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005*



### *February 2024 Chapter General Meeting*

We had **52** members and guests attend our February 10<sup>th</sup> general meeting. It was good to see everyone. Long-time members that we hadn't seen in a while were: Joe Carmona, Hester Jones, and Paul Robson. Guests included Christine Covington, Matt Harris, Etta Kaufman, Sandra Mount, Oscar Otero, and Lorene Johnston.





*Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)*



Don't forget--Daylight Saving Time starts March 10.

March promises to bring several more days of sunshine than we had in February. We will enjoy longer sunny days.

A Get-Well card was sent to Harry Palmer, who fell and injured his leg. Harry is a long-time chapter member who often attends the monthly breakfasts.

A Thinking of You card was sent to Martha Leiker, former NARFE Region VII Vice President. Many of you will remember her and her interesting life as a nun and CIA worker. Martha is now in an assisted living facility in Colorado Springs because of health issues -- on oxygen 24/7 and macular degeneration.

With both St. Patrick's Day and Easter occurring in March, I had to choose one holiday theme for our riddle. I chose Easter. HOW DOES THE EASTER BUNNY KEEP HIS FUR SO NICE?

The answer to the Valentine's Day riddle: WHAT VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY IS ONLY FOR GIRLS? (Her-shey Kisses)

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)



*Membership Report*

Had a few nice days lately. Spring is around the corner! We've got 200 members in our chapter now! Daylight Saving Time begins March 10<sup>th</sup>. Spring ahead one hour. St. Patrick's Day is March 17<sup>th</sup>. Wear green to our next general meeting (March 9<sup>th</sup>) at Good Sam's. Full moon is March 25<sup>th</sup> (Mary Ellen). Easter is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

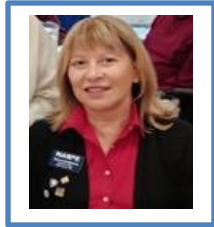
*Dan  
Carroll*

*VP for  
Membership  
and  
Chapter  
Historian*

Quote of the month: "The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases." – Carl Jung. See you at the movies!

*Join Us*

*Hope to see you at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting!*



## NARFE-PAC

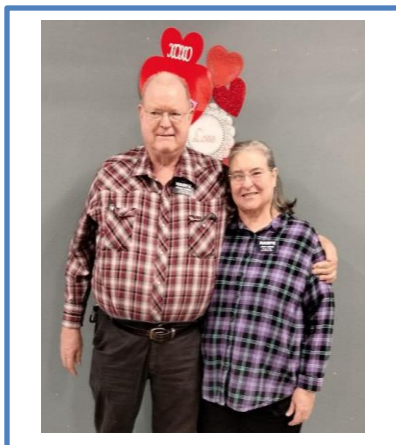
### March is NARFE-PAC Month 2024 (Della Apodaca)

Our Chapter needs your help to make NARFE-PAC month a success. The PAC is our association's political action committee, a unique tool that provides NARFE members more opportunities to share the real story of our community with lawmakers. These opportunities grow relationships and make our leaders better informed about issues affecting federal workers and retirees. Your support of NARFE-PAC can make a difference and goes a long way to help defend our earned pay and benefits, allowing NARFE members to fight back against threats to cut our cost-of-living adjustments and healthcare.

The Chapter is progressing to meet our year-end goal of \$4,833. As of December 31, 2023, 20 Chapter members have contributed \$2,530. This represents 52% toward our goal for the 2023 – 2024 NARFE-PAC cycle. Six of the 20 members are sustaining members. The 20 contributing members represent just under 10% of our membership. During our March meeting consider providing a voluntary contribution to NARFE-PAC. You can also make a voluntary contribution to the PAC either [online](#), through the mail, via the form in the magazine, or during a Chapter meeting. You can even bolster your support by contributing to the PAC monthly via your federal annuity by going to [www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer](http://www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer).

We know that we need to fight for what we have earned. 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 nonmembers will be returned. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*



### Chuck & Judy James (Long-time NARFE Members)

**Chuck is on our Chapter Executive Board as our Logistics/Electronics Chair. He sets up Logistics/Electronics that we need for our Chapter general meetings! Judy volunteers to help whenever and wherever she's needed — collecting tickets, assisting the Treasurer at the meetings, etc. (February 2024)**



**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**

President	<b>Judy Rosco</b>
rosco631@gmail.com	575-635-7127
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	<b>Janice Bridges</b>
jan838790@msn.com	575-635-9768
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. (Membership)	<b>Dan Carroll</b>
cardan116@comcast.net	575- 932-9491
Secretary	<b>Marlene Mayfield</b>
marlene.mayfield@gmail.com	575- 644-6851
Treasurer	<b>Sharon Willoughby</b>
swillowbee@comcast.net	575-524-9395
Alzheimer's	<b>Cindy Cook</b>
cindy77lou@yahoo.com	575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	<b>Roy Willoughby</b>
rswillowbee@comcast.net	575-524-9395
NARFE-PAC	<b>Della Apodaca</b>
dmarieda@aol.com	704-351-2051
Program Chair:	<b>Donna Harris</b>
md.harris1@comcast.net	575-382-9070
Records Officer:	<b>Carol Main</b>
csmain7@gmail.com	575-382-7686
Service Officer:	<b>Jim Kielty</b>
jkielty70@yahoo.com	575-640-9585
Sunshine:	<b>Marcele Skelton</b>
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 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: [lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com](mailto:lascrucschapter182@yahoo.com).

Newsletter Editor: (Sarah McAdoo) [mcadoosr@aol.com](mailto:mcadoosr@aol.com)

Public Relations: (Dave Fox) [foxydave1@aol.com](mailto:foxydave1@aol.com)