



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association

REPORTER

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

CHAPTER YARD SALE – SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH – THE WILLOUGHBY’S, 3142 MCDOWELL RD, LAS CRUCES (SEE PAGE 3)



*Chapter 182 President
Judy Rosco*



The first day of Spring, March 19th, seems to be quite early this year but you can see evidence of freezes being behind us this year by noticing that the mesquite trees are already putting out leaves.

The Southwest Federation is still awaiting approval of the proposed bylaws by the National Secretary. Hopefully, they will be approved soon and by September our chapter will be seeking approval of our new bylaws. More to follow on that business.

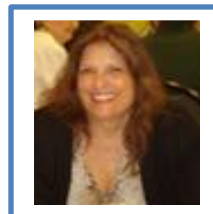
FEDcon24 is being held in St. Louis, MO, 18-20 August. The chapter will reimburse \$150 of your registration fee. Member rates: Good news-- the Early Bird rate is now \$175 if postmarked by May 17 (if members have already registered and paid \$299, they will be reimbursed \$124); \$325 May 18 - August 7; \$350 after August 7 and on site. The event will also be available on ZOOM, but the registration fees are the same as stated above. The hotel we have reserved for the Conference is the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch, St. Louis, MO. The hotel rate is \$130 per night BUT you must register for the Conference before you can get the NARFE rate at the hotel.

NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting

Saturday, 13 April 2024, 8:30 a.m.
Good Samaritan Village
(Creative Arts Room)
3011 Buena Vida Circle

Program: Mary Peschka will be our April speaker. Ms. Peschka is an Occupational Therapist and master trainer for A Matter of Balance. A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase physical activity. The focus of the program is to enhance self-efficacy among older adults to live independently through physical and cognitive changes. This falls prevention exercise program is recommended and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Reservations: Call Carol Main
575-382-7686
NLT: April 2nd



*Donna Harris
Chapter 182
Program Chair
(md.harris1@comcast.net)*

Mark your calendar: Chapter Meetings
April 13 & May 11th
(No meetings in June, July, or August)

Chapter 182 President's Message (Judy Rosco)
...Continued from Page 1

I have registered for the Conference and made my hotel reservations. Just a tip when making a hotel reservation -- you must select the type of room you want before you can BOOK your room. I am looking forward to the Conference and seeing friends I have not seen in a while. As of this article, we have eleven members who are planning to attend the Conference. The money to support the registration fee comes from our Ways and Means fund. You know what that means...clean out your closets, garages, and sheds! Get those items to the Willoughby's for our big yard sale on April 27th. Look for details in this newsletter in Sharon's article.

I look forward to seeing you at our next General Membership Meeting, April 13, at the Good Samaritan, Creative Arts Room, at 8:30 am.



Photos from the Southwest Federation Meeting in Tucson AZ on 23 February 2024



Southwest Federation Officers
Sharon Willoughby (NM) (SW Fed Treasurer)
Marlene Seaton (AZ) (SW Fed Vice President)
Mark Mickelsen (NM) (SW Fed President)
Etta Bryant (AZ) (SW Fed Secretary)



Roy Willoughby NM, Carol Culbertson AZ, Dianne Williams AZ, Marlene Seaton AZ, Etta Bryant AZ, Clyde Gumbmann AZ, Mark Mickelsen NM, Chris Gumbmann AZ, Sharon Willoughby NM, Carol Main NM, Roger Corner AZ, Deborah Corner AZ

NARFE YARD/GARAGE SALE – Saturday, April 27th

Hello, it is me again (Sharon W.). I want to remind you about the Yard/Garage Sale. Don't forget to clean out your cabinets, drawers, and garage to collect STUFF for our Yard/Garage Sale. We need your STUFF to have a successful event. **Remember no clothing** but everything, and anything of use is what we want. We will start to collect your STUFF on Monday, April 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to noon and every day that week. The event will be on **Saturday April 27th**. We will be pricing and sorting from 9:00 a.m. until noon starting Tuesday through Friday 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. Large items are always welcome. We have volunteers with trucks to pick them up. 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. Our address is **3142 McDowell Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005** (on Google maps it is McDowell Place). If you need help to get your STUFF to us, please call and we will make arrangements to pick up your items.



Sharon & Roy Willoughby

(575-524-9395)

Ballot and Teller Report (Carol Main, Chapter 182 Records Officer) NARFE Chapter 182 Election 2024 Results (February 19, 2024)

47 ballots were received either by email, mail, or at the February 10th meeting. Since each position had only one candidate and there were no write-ins, the results were unanimous. (5 Ballots through USPS - 3 Ballots at Board Meeting - 10 Ballots at Chapter Meeting – 29 Ballots by Email)

Election Results:

President – Judy Rosco

1st Vice President Legislation – Janice Bridges

2nd Vice President Membership – Dan Carroll

Secretary – Marlene Mayfield

Treasurer – Steven Craig Singleton

The new Chapter 182 Board will serve a two-year term or until their successors are elected. Our Region VII Vice President and Chapter Past President Sharon Reese will install our new Board at the April 2024 meeting.



Alzheimer's

Photo (February 2024 Chapter Meeting) Diana Massengale (Chapter Member) Cindy Cook (Alzheimer's Chair), and Della Apodaca (NARFE-PAC Chair)

Just a reminder to all that you can get numerous types of info on Alzheimer's just by googling the word Alzheimer's. If you do not have access to a computer, give me a call and I can help find the info you need. Cindy Cook (575-640-0860)





Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



**CPI-W FOR FEBRUARY 2024 INCREASES BY
0.7 PERCENT OVER JANUARY 2024 FIGURE**

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 February 2024 to a figure of 304.284. The February 2024 CPI-W increased by 0.7 percent over the January 2024 figure of 302.201, which shows that inflationary pressure is still present in the economy. The February 2024 figure of 304.284 was 1.0 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 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. The CPI-W figure for March 2024 is scheduled to be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on April 10, 2024.

**PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED FY 2025 PAY INCREASE OF 2 PERCENT
FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MET WITH CONCERN FROM NARFE PRESIDENT**

During the week of 11 March 2024, the President announced the administration's budget proposal for 2025. Among other items, the White House is proposing only a 2 percent pay increase for federal employees. In contrast, these employees received a 5.2 percent pay increase in 2024. In response to this pay proposal, NARFE National President William Shackelford issued a statement as follows: "This below market pay increase fails to reflect trends in the private sector, where wages and salaries have risen, and unemployment rates are low. Nor does it keep up with persistent inflation, leaving civil service employees with diminished purchasing power."

Historically, any administration's proposed budget is often changed significantly as it works its way through the legislative process in Congress. However, NARFE recognizes that it is essential that federal pay remains competitive in order to ensure the recruitment and retention of a well-qualified workforce. At present, less than seven percent of federal employees are under the age of 30.



**Nurse Margot Voss (Speaker at our March 9th meeting) and
Donna Harris (Chapter 182 Program Chair)**

**If you have any topics of interest for our meetings, please
contact Donna Harris at md.harris1@comcast.net.**



NARFE-PAC

Show Your Support (Della Apodaca)

A big “thank you” to the six members who contributed to NARFE-PAC during the March meeting.

If you have not made a voluntary contribution, please do so soon. Member contributions are especially important given this is an election year. Just a reminder that NARFE-PAC does not make disbursements based on party affiliation. All contributions are used to support NARFE’s advocacy efforts to defend our earned pay and benefits.

NARFE encourages members to consider becoming one of the PAC’s top supporters as a “sustainer” whereby an ongoing contribution amount as little as \$10 can help to advocate for issues affecting federal retirees and workforce. While a credit card can be used, members are especially encouraged to make monthly contributions directly through their federal annuity. It is fairly easy to set up the withholding. The annuity withholding sustainer program allows NARFE to anticipate the level of support it can provide to fed-friendly candidates and members of Congress. Click on the links below for more information.

- [NARFE-PAC Annuity Withholding Form](#)
- [FAQs for Annuity Withholding](#)

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.*



**Carol
Main**

**Records
Officer**

Welcome New Member: Steve Squires

We would like to see you at the April 13 meeting.

Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is **195** 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.





Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

April brings many days of sunshine.



We enjoy going outside as the days are warmer. The month of April comes from the Latin word aperio, to open (bud), because plants begin to grow during this month.

A sympathy card was sent to Judy and Chuck James on the passing of Judy's mother in February. A sympathy card was also sent to Marlene Mayfield whose brother passed away. Sympathy cards were also sent to Carol Main and Craig Singleton on the death of their sister. We are thinking of you during these difficult times.

Have some fun by trying to solve this April riddle: WHY IS APRIL CALLED THE CLEANEST MONTH?

The answer to the Easter riddle: HOW DOES THE EASTER BUNNY KEEP HIS FUR SO NICE? (He uses "hare" spray.)

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



Membership Report

Hello everyone! Spring is almost here. Grass is starting to grow and it's time to get the old lawnmower out and ready for another season. As of March 18th, we have 195 members in our Chapter 182. Hope everyone had a good Easter (March 31st). Tax returns due April 15th unless you file for an extension. Full moon (Mary Ellen) is April 23rd. Chapter Yard Sale is Saturday April 27th at the Willoughby's on McDowell Road in Mesilla Park (8am to noon). It's my favorite event of the year and of my late wife Angie. She always came home with a big load of "treasures" from the sale. Quote of the month: "Not many sounds in life...exceed in interest a knock at the door."—Charles Lamb. Have a good month and see you at the movies!

**Dan
Carroll**

**VP for
Membership
and
Chapter
Historian**

Join us!



Legislative Report

Chapter VP/Legislation (Janice Bridges)



1. **H.R. 82- A letter was sent on March 11, 2024** - Representatives Garret Graves, R-LA, and Abigail Spanberger, D-VA, the lead sponsors of the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, have formally requested the House Ways and Means Committee to “mark-up” (a meeting to advance a bill) the legislation. This is crucial next step, **supported by NARFE**, towards repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), which for decades, have unjustly reduced the Social Security benefits of millions of public servants. The need for committee action has become increasingly apparent. With over 300 co-sponsors, H.R. 82 has garnered significant bipartisan support within the House and has become the second-most co-sponsored bill in the House in this current (118th) legislative session, reflecting a widespread consensus on the necessity of rectifying these harmful provisions.
2. **H.R. 866** - Supports FERS retirees to get the same COLA as CRSR - No Movement
3. **H.R. 7804** - Supports that Federal taxes be removed from Social Security Payments - No Movement
4. **H.R. 5779 and S. 3262** - This proposes potential cuts to federal benefits. We need to contact our lawmakers NOT TO SUPPORT.

Could not find any news on Advocacy Benchmarks other than we can get credit for contacting the lawmakers via Twitter. Hopefully there will be more news before our next meeting.

Please contact me if you need help in using the website to contact our lawmakers.
Jan838790@msn.com (575-635-9768)



March 2024 General Meeting

Many of our members wore green to our March meeting for “luck of the Irish” for St. Patrick’s Day!

We were lucky to get a photo of these members:

Judy Rosco, John Reese, Roy Willoughby, Carol Main, and Bob Main



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

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

You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

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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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