



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>

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Judy Rosco, Chapter 182 President

Welcome back NARFE Chapter 182 members! It has been a busy summer around our household: a lot of travel, visiting with family, and trying to stay out of the heat!

And the travel is not over yet...here we come St. Louis for the FEDcon24 event. It promises to be an event worth attending. The Keynote Speaker is Alex Sheen. One of the world's foremost experts on accountability and commitment. Alex is a five-time TEDxTalk speaker, [author](#), [podcast](#) host, internationally-recognized humanitarian and Founder of the *because I said I would* movement. His work has been featured on the TODAY Show, Good Morning America, the Steve Harvey Show, CNN, Fox News and many other programs.

I hope everyone who is attending FEDcon24 has made their hotel and flight reservations. My husband and I will be driving and seeing much of the good ole USA.

I hope to see you at FEDcon24 in St. Louis!



Thank You, Sharon and Roy!

At our May general meeting Chapter President Judy Rosco presented Sharon and Roy Willoughby with a gift certificate in appreciation of their work as Treasurer and FEEA Chair for the chapter.



Programs (Donna Harris)

Hello and welcome to a new NARFE year. I hope to have many interesting topics for our meetings this year.

One thing we are going to look at is the webinars that are offered on the NARFE website. I hope that I can find a webinar topic that will be of interest to our members. Another issue is use of the NARFE website to contact our Senate and House representatives. In January, Janice will be doing a presentation on using the NARFE website.

I will be working on the rest of the year's topics. As always, if you have any topic of interest to you, let me know. I'm sure others will be interested as well. Contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net.

May 11th Chapter Meeting
Judy Rosco (Chapter 182 President), Barbara Toth (Founder of Vulnerable Road Users of New Mexico and Speaker at May meeting), and Donna Harris (Programs Chair)



Member Communications – Carol Main, Chair

I will remain the Chair for the Member Communications Committee when our meetings resume in September. I would like to thank all our callers, Nancy Banks, Martha Beerman, 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 one week's 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 September 2 or 3 for our meeting on September 14. Email meeting notices from our chapter email, lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com, will go out 15 days in advance to allow for response time.

If you have been receiving phone calls about the meetings and have been unable to attend, please let me know if you would like to continue receiving telephonic 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 csmain7@gmail.com. Hope to see all of you at the September 14 meeting.



Della Apodaca



The PAC's Summer Fundraising Campaign is Underway

Our support is crucial. All our members should have recently received an inaugural summer fundraising letter in the mail which provides an update on NARFE's current political and legislative efforts and invites our support for the PAC*. I encourage all our loyal members to contribute to the summer campaign by using the enclosed return envelope. We can also contribute directly to the PAC online by visiting NARFE's website. Just log in and navigate to the [NARFE-PAC homepage](#), where we can access all PAC materials and reports. Options include making a [one-time contribution](#) or becoming a NARFE-PAC sustainer via [annuity withholding](#). Another option is to support the PAC by completing the form found in *NARFE magazine* and mailing it to NARFE headquarters. A reminder that NARFE-PAC focuses exclusively on supporting congressional campaigns.

*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.



Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA) (Roy Willoughby)

We are starting a new year with the NARFE-FEEA program. The following is what is available for you online at [feea.org](#):

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: It is also important that NARFE members can donate directly to the NARFE-FEEA program to help finance its emergency relief and other important programs. Information on tax-free fund donations can be found on page 31 of this month's *NARFE magazine* and online at [feea.org/givenarfe](#). For more information call Roy at 575-524-9395.





Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

**CPI-W FIGURES FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2024
SHOW LIMITED UPWARD MOVEMENT AS
INFLATION RATE APPEARS TO BE COOLING**



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 January 2025, showed minimal growth for the months of April, May, and June 2024. The April 2024 CPI-W figure of 307.811 showed a monthly increase 0.4 percent over the March 2024 figure of 306.502; the May 2024 CPI-W of 308.163 reflected a monthly increase of 0.1 percent over the April 2024 figure; and the June 2024 figure of 308.054 was actually a decrease of 0.1 percent over the May 2024 CPI-W of 308.163. These monthly CPI-W figures have fostered speculation that the Federal Reserve may be considering a lowering of interest rates later this year as inflation is slowly being brought under control.

In order for a COLA to be authorized in January 2025, the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2024 must exceed the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2023 (301.236). The CPI-W figure for July 2024 is scheduled to be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on August 14, 2024.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

Our summer has had many very hot days. We have tried to beat the heat by staying out of the sunshine. More hot days are predicted for August so we need to continue to stay cool and safe.



Stay out of the sunshine as much as possible. Enjoy lemonade, ice cream and cold salads for meals and snacks. Work on necessary outdoor chores in the cooler morning and evening hours. Swim, swim, swim! Use plenty of sunscreen when you are under the sun's rays. I did not hear of anyone needing a card so I hope that means you are all having a great summer.

Have some fun by trying to solve this riddle: **WHAT DO BEES USE TO STYLE THEIR HAIR?**

The answer to the May riddle: **IN SUMMER'S PEAK I CAME ALIVE. WITH A FLICKER AND DANCE, I THRIVE. FRIENDS GATHER ROUND AS I CONSUME. IN MY WARMTH, THERE IS NO GLOOM. WHAT AM I? (A bonfire)**

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



Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)



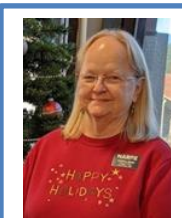
The next ALZ walk in Las Cruces is on Oct 12 at Pat & Lou Sisbarro Park. We will send out a reminder and more info in our September chapter newsletter.

Alzheimer's is celebrating another important milestone in ALZ treatment. The US Food and Drug Administration granted approval of Donanemab, sold under brand name Kisunla, for treatment of those with early symptoms. This is the 3rd FDA approval that changes the underlying course of the disease. This drug gives people more options and greater opportunity to have more time with your loved ones.

From Feb 2024 - May 2024 our chapter collected a total of \$459.00 for Alzheimer's. All the 50/50 raffle money was given back for ALZ. \$211.14 was sent to National and \$247.86 was donated to our local Alzheimer's chapter. Thanks to all our members who participate in our raffles and donate money to the fund.

Thanks to our SW Federation Vice President Marlene Seaton, we now have a link to the National Alzheimer's website where our NARFE members can make online contributions to Alzheimer's research. This is particularly helpful for members whose chapters meet online (Zoom) or infrequently in person, and for our National Members. But anyone can make a contribution. We encourage you to do so! We're proud that NARFE is a major sponsor of Alzheimer's in combating this terrible disease that afflicts so many in our nation and around the world. Here is the link: <https://act.alz.org>

After clicking on the link, click on the box "Donate" in the upper right corner to make your contribution. Many thanks!



Welcome New Prospective Members: *Christopher Hocut and Steven Resel*

We would like to see you at the September 14 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members. Our chapter membership is 187 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 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.



Legislative Report

Chapter VP/Legislation (Janice Bridges)



H.R. 7236 - Reducing the effects of the Cyber Attack on OPM Emergency Response Act. Provides free lifetime identity protection coverage to current, former and prospective federal employees whose personal information and contractors whose personal information was compromised by OPM data breach in 2015. Status - Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability on 02/05/24.

Social Security Fairness Act S.597 - This is the WEP Act. Being Urged to move forward. We need to get online and urge our representatives to vote YES on this one.

H.R. 4260 – This is the bill that modifies the federal civilian service creditable under FERS. It allows employees who initially entered as government temps to make catch up retirement contributions to cover the years when they were unable to contribute to their retirement accounts. Status - Referred to House Ways and Means on 06/21/23.

H.R.4583/S.2280 - Expands and strengthens Social Security benefits. Status - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Subcommittee on Health on 07/14/23.

H.R. 716 - The Fair Seniors Act - Act to base raises on Consumer Price Index for elderly (CPI-E). Status - Referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on 02/28/23.

H.R. 866/S.3194 - The Equal COLA Act. Provides FERS the same raise as CSRS. Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.



**Dan
Carroll**
VP for
Membership
and
Chapter
Historian

Membership Report

Hope everyone is having a good summer. Another hot one! We now have 187 members in our Chapter 182. FEDcon24 is coming up towards end of August in St. Louis, MO. I'll be attending with other members from our Chapter and I'll have a short report at our September meeting. Full moon (Mary Ellen) is August 19th. There are no Federal holidays this month. Quote of the month: "Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you." –Annie Dillard. Have a good month and see you at the movies! I haven't been in a long time!

Join us!



A Day of Adventure with Dave Fox (NARFE Chapter 182 Public Relations Officer)

5 a.m., woke up excited!... June 1st, my appointment with the US Air Force at Holloman AFB, NM.

JUNE 1 SCHEDULE ... The base was open to all Common Access Card (CAC) holders who would like to watch the airshow rehearsal prior to the open public airshow on June 2.

Let's GO...I had my senior McD's coffee at 7 and hit Hwy 70 early. Arrived 8.30, checked in at the base guardhouse and then had a great guided walk around with the media guys. First, we met some of the ground crew with the F16 Thunderbird team right next to the jet that was piloted by Major Eric Tise, Lead Solo of the Thunderbirds. He allowed me and Elva, from the Las Cruces Bulletin, to pose with him for the photo op.

We also got to meet Michael De Journett on the JET maintenance team and had an informative chat with him and others on that team about the daily routines of the TBirds crew. Quite a hectic schedule with working about 300 days a year traveling to almost a different air show every week or two at Air Show locations all over the USA. Sometimes the ground crew would follow the Thunderbird team fighter jets after loading all the gear into a C17 transport plane after a full day show. Other times they would go a couple of hours ahead to the next air show and set up before the fighters arrived.

Michael told us that they rarely got back for a visit to their home base at Nellis AFB near Las Vegas. Those lucky guys are that busy, all the time, with the air shows and told me they enjoy every minute.

We then had to vacate the jet area and stand back for their immediate take off and live display. Did anybody ever tell you how hard it is to take photographs of fighter jets passing close by traveling at over 300 MPH? What an amazing flying demonstration and LOUD!

I did manage a few good shots of the close formation aerobatics. Then there were a few surprises...all 5 jets would NOISILY disappear and the next minute they would be silently approaching from different directions almost in a playing chicken game and then all of a sudden, VERY noisily this time, blasting past each other roaring above, just a few feet apart and rapidly disappearing again into all points of the sky. (To be continued.)



**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	Craig Singleton
scsingleton575@gmail.com	575-373-0705
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 **\$17**. 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.

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

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