



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>



Please join us for our next meeting on
Saturday, 12 October 2024 (8:30 a.m.)
Creative Arts Room, Good Samaritan Village
(Breakfast Buffet: \$17)
Reservations: Call Carol Main at 575-382-7686
NLT 2 Oct 2024

Our Annual Alzheimer's Month program will be presented by Pam Rodgers who will speak on ALZ prevention, latest medications and treatments, financial assistance and local resources. The new Las Cruces ALZ rep, Mark Eagan, will also be in attendance.

Also, the Las Cruces ALZ Walk is on Saturday, Nov 16th at Pat and Lou Sisbarro Park (3205 Arrowhead Drive, Las Cruces), Registration is at 9 a.m. Please let Cindy Cook know if you would like to walk as part of our NARFE Team. Call her at 575-640-0860 or email her at cindy77Lou@yahoo.com. Come join us!



White Sands Missile Range

On September 5th, Chapter 182 President Judy Rosco, Chapter Public Relations Officer Dave Fox, and Chapter Programs Chair Donna Harris attended the Que Pasa event at the Frontier Club at White Sands Missile Range.

They met with Federal employees to tell them how NARFE advocates for their earned federal benefits.



Judy Rosco, Chapter 182 President

Please plan to attend our annual Alzheimer's meeting on October 12th. Cindy Cook has invited Pam Rodgers to be our guest speaker. I look forward to seeing you there.

At our last Executive Board meeting on September 11th, the Board voted to join the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. Our Chapter is making a greater effort to reach new members and joining the Chamber is a good way to do that. The Chamber has various events scheduled each month where NARFE members can participate and spread the word about protecting current and retired federal employee benefits. Every member of NARFE Chapter 182 is a part of this venture and can participate in Chamber events. We have applied to join the Chamber. I will keep you posted on our application.

Our chapter will be hosting the Southwest Federation Conference next year. We don't have a date, but the event will take place at the Good Samaritan in Las Cruces. Stay tuned for more information.

BEWARE. Someone is sending out emails, made to look like they are from me, asking for you to transfer money to some account. **DO NOT DO IT!** If you check the address, it is something you have never seen from me before. We have to be on our toes at all times when we get on our computers, phones, tablets, and iPads.

Autumn is Here!



Janice Bridges, Chapter VP for Legislation, with Rene Romo, the Field Representative for Senator Ben Lujan's Office. Rene was a guest speaker at our September Legislative Meeting. (Photo: Marlene Mayfield)



Janice Bridges, Yvette Herrell, & Judy Rosco at a Fundraiser on Sep 6th.



Legislative Report (Janice Bridges)

Our yearly Legislative meeting was held on September 14th. We invited the "sitting" lawmakers, Senator Ben Lujan, Senator Martin Heinrich and Representative Gabe Vasquez to the meeting.

We also invited those running for office - Nella Domenici and Yvette Herrell. Rene Romo from Senator Lujan's attended and read a letter from the Senator on where he stands on the legislation that affects our annuities and our Social Security benefits. Yvette Herrell sent a letter concerning the same issues and I read that to the group. The others could not attend.

Pertaining to discharging petition #16 to bring H.R. 82 to the floor for a vote, there are now 218 representatives who have signed it including all three from New Mexico. Hopefully they will be able to vote on this soon and in our favor.

Any questions or concerns about Legislative matters please feel free to contact me at 575-635-9768 or Jan838790@msn.com.

NARFE UPDATE – FOR YOUR INFORMATION (Carol Main, Chapter 182 Member Communications)

NARFE's Association Management Software ("the AMS," our membership database) is being upgraded in October. Our AMS, built by Protech on the Microsoft Dynamics platform, is being upgraded to a new version; the "new" AMS will use Microsoft Dynamics 365. During the upgrade process, members will be unable to log in to NARFE resources for up to a week. Beginning October 7, members.narfe.org ("the MX") will be unavailable, as will any resource for which users must log in. Staff will be unable to make changes to records, among other limitations.

The following will be unavailable starting October 7:

- Members-only content on NARFE.org, such as on-demand webinars.
- Account information at members.narfe.org, including webinar registration and membership renewal.
- FEDHub, our online community.

Members also may not receive customary daily or weekly emails from headquarters during this timeframe. Members can still visit NARFE's website, including using our Legislative Action Center to make your voice heard on key issues, as well as follow NARFE on social media for timely advocacy and benefits information:

<https://www.facebook.com/narfehq>, <https://twitter.com/narfehq> and

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/narfe>.

Once the upgrade is complete, likely on or before October 14, emails will go out to officers informing them the MX is accessible. After the upgrade is complete, members will regain the same access to the MX to view and update their contact information, renew their membership and more. They will also be able to view members-only content on the website and participate in conversations on FEDHub.



Service Officer Report (Jim Kielty)



CPI-W FOR AUGUST 2024 INCREASES BY ONLY 0.04 PERCENT AS INFLATION HAS SIGNIFICANT 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 January 2025, increased by only 0.04 percent in August 2024. The CPI-W figure for August 2024 was 308.640, while the CPI-W figure for July 2024 was 308.501.

The August CPI-W figure of 308.640 was 2.45 percent higher than the average CPI-W figure for the third quarter of 2023, which was 301.236. 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, which was 301.236. The CPI-W figure for the month of September 2024 will be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on Thursday, 10 October. This final CPI-W figure will allow the BLS to calculate the exact amount of the COLA which will be authorized for 2025.



Programs (Donna Harris)

**Hello everyone. Here are our upcoming scheduled programs.
We look forward to seeing you! Mark your calendars!**

Oct 12 - Alzheimer's Awareness Month - Pam Rodgers from Ambercare Hospice will be our speaker.

Nov 9 - Representatives from Federal Employees Health Benefit providers will be available to answer your questions.

Dec 14 - Young at Heart will be providing choral enjoyment.

Jan 11 - Our own Janice Bridges will show us how to use the NARFE websites.

Feb 8 - Pam Rodgers (Yes, we are lucky to have her back for another program.) - You Matter Too - Self Care and Burnout

As always, I encourage suggestions for topics for future programs.

Contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net.





Della Apodaca
The 2023 – 2024 Cycle Ends in December

A big “thank you” to those who have made a contribution. If you have not, there is still time. During each breakfast meeting, contribution forms and mailing envelopes are available on the counter next to the NARFE-PAC poster. You can also make a voluntary contribution to the PAC either [online](#), or via the form in the magazine. Bolster your support by contributing to the PAC monthly via your federal annuity by going to www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer.*

As of June 30, 2024, our chapter met 93% of our contribution goal of \$4,883. NARFE-PAC distributed political contributions totaling \$6,800 to New Mexico US Senator Heinrich, and to US Representatives Fernandez, Stansbury and Vasquez. 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 non-members will be returned. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*



Member Communications (Carol Main)

Welcome New Prospective Members: Robert Alan Getkin, Teresa Parrell-Greene, Miriam Rodriguez, Ed Taitano, and Brandie White

Welcome back: Anitta Montijo

We would like to see you at the October 12 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members. Our chapter membership is 184 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 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)



Have you noticed that we are beginning to have less sunshine during the day? In October, the sun rises later and sets earlier. While we miss some sunshine, we are happy to have cooler days.

There were no cards sent this past month. I hope this means that you are all doing well.

Have some fun by trying to solve this Halloween riddle: I HAVE A BODY, ARMS, LEGS, AND A HEAD. I AM HEARTLESS AND HAVE NO GUTS. WHAT AM I?

The answer to last month's riddle: WHAT CAN YOU SWALLOW, BUT CAN ALSO SWALLOW YOU? (Water)

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: 575-521-4594 or marcele@skelton.net



The Gateway
Arch in
St. Louis

Membership Report Dan Carroll, VP for Membership & Chapter Historian

Still hot and it's October! Thanks for sending me to St. Louis for FEDcon24 and generous support from Chapter 182 and Federation. I voted electronically in the national NARFE election and it was fairly painless! We now have 184 members in our chapter. Holidays coming up include Columbus Day on October 14th and Halloween on October 31st. Full moon is on October 17th. Quote of the month: "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." –Benjamin Franklin. Have a good month and hopefully it cools off!



Congratulations to our recently recognized NARFE Distinguished Members!

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to NARFE! Your continued support makes a difference. United, federal employees and retirees can achieve what individuals alone cannot.

The following chapter 182 members who have been members for 20 years or longer became NARFE Distinguished Members and will receive certificates and pins from NARFE National.

Humberto Avila
Edwin Aviles
Melinda Aviles-
Ostrander
Elwood Baas
Suzanne R Blanchard
Terry Bloom
Charles Booth
Gary W Brooks
Marylea H Burke
Joe Carmona
Dennis Clark
Dennis L Cosentino
Helen Flores

Edward George
Raymond Griego
Richard A. Hays
Lou Huyge
James Kielty
Mildred Knopic
John L Lazaruk
Sarah E McAdoo
Laird W McIntosh
Michael Meehan
Sandra Metz
Eddie M Morrow
Jerold S Nachison
Simon Olayo

Angela L Owen
Joseph M Parker
Martha Robles
Richard Savage
Julia M Serna
Emroy Shannon
Jo Ann Sherman
Marcele A Skelton
Jeffrey Smith
Daisan E Taylor-Glass
Linda H Venable
Cynthia A Zaklan

Six of our Chapter 182 members attended the September general meeting. They received their certificates and pins at the meeting.

Photo by Bob Main (L-R):

Emroy Shannon, Marcele Skelton, Jim Kielty, Jo Ann Sherman, Sarah McAdoo, & Elwood Baas



**Carol Main, Chapter 182
Member Communications**



**National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
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You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

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2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll
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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.

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