



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

**LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO**

CHAPTER 0182

*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

REPORTER

May 2025

Volume 25, Issue 9

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

National Web Site: www.narfe.org



Cynthia Hull (District Director for Congressman Vasquez) and Judy Rosco (NARFE Chapter 182 President) (May 2025 SW Federation Conference)

Judy Rosco, Chapter 182 President

WOW! What a month this has been. There have been so many things happening on the Federal front, it is hard to keep up. Temporary Federal employees fired and rehired. Federal organizations being dismantled and Reduction in Force (RIF's) on the horizon. Budget cuts for federal employees are on the chopping block again. BUT, know this: NARFE is working tirelessly, with our grassroots' help, to make sure these cuts do not happen. These cuts have shown up each time a President (Republican and Democrat) presents his budget to Congress. Current and federally retired employees are an easy target because Congress controls our pay. Do not let them pass the bill on cuts on us! We need to be diligent and contact our Legislators to vote against any cuts to current federal and retired employees earned benefits.

The Inaugural Southwest Federation Conference was hosted by Chapter 182, 16-17 May 2025, at the Las Cruces Village-Independent Living (formerly Good Samaritan). I am happy to announce the Conference was an enormous success! The attendees were welcomed by our chapter members and made to feel comfortable.

Continued on Page 2...



NARFE National President William Shackelford reading the Charter of the new Southwest Federation of NARFE along with Deborah Corner (AZ) and Mark Mickelsen (NM).



Bill Mattiace (Las Cruces City Councilman) and Mark Mickelsen (NARFE Southwest Federation President)

**May 2025 SW Federation
Conference**

Chapter 182 President (Judy Rosco) (Continued from Page 1)

The service given to us by the staff at Las Cruces Village was excellent. The room was set up a day ahead of time; the facilities were clean, as always, and the food was great!

We opened the event with the posting of the colors and the National Anthem by the Mayfield High School AF JR ROTC. Welcome remarks were given by Las Cruces City Councilman, Bill Mattiace, Debbie Moore, CEO of the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, and our own Marty Hart, Director of Senior Living, Las Cruces Villages, gave a presentation about the facility. Our keynote speaker, NARFE National President, William “Bill” Shackelford, updated us on plans for NARFE moving in to the future and presented the Southwest Federation Charter to President Mark Mickelsen. The Southwest Federation merger will be complete once the IRS provides the EIN so that all financial matters can be accomplished.

The staff at the National office has downsized from 120, in the beginning, to the current staff of 34 employees. Please be patient when trying to contact the HQ staff.

Other HQ speakers that joined us by Zoom were Cindy Renee Blythe (National Secretary-Treasurer), John Hatton (Director, Staff Vice President, Policy & Programs), Nora McDonald (Senior Director, Member Engagement), and Jennifer Rafael (Senior Director, Technology and Communications). Locally, we had Mark Mickelsen, Southwest Federation President and host of the Conference; Sharon Reese, Region VII Vice President, Congressman Greg Stanton (AZ) spoke to us via Zoom, Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari (AZ) and Congressman Gabe Vasquez (NM) gave video presentations and Legislative personnel from AZ and NM read letters from representatives.

It was the pleasure of your board members Judy Rosco, Janice Bridges, Dan Carroll, Marlene Mayfield, Craig Singleton, Sharon Reese, Donna Harris, Cindy Cook, Sarah McAdoo, Chuck James, Dave Fox, Della Apodaca, Carol and Bob Main, Kathy Treat, Jim Kielty, and Las Cruces resident and Member Emeritus Emroy Shannon to be able to host this prestigious event. Thank you everyone for your time and endless meetings and excellent support of Chapter 182.

Have a safe summer and see you in September.



LET'S TALK ABOUT EMAIL SECURITY (Sharon Reese, Region VII VP)

Workplaces across the country are seeing a rise in phishing attempts—and NARFE's inboxes are no exception. As scammers grow more sophisticated, even seasoned employees can be caught off guard by emails that appear legitimate but are designed to steal information or compromise our systems.

That's why we're launching a short series of reminders to help you spot red flags, stay alert, and know what to do when something doesn't look right. Your awareness is one of our strongest defenses.

A few things to watch for: -- Suspicious sender email addresses, -- Urgent requests or threats and, -- Unexpected attachments or links. When in doubt, don't click. Forward the message to help@gomainspring.com for review. Let's stay alert and help protect each other!

Sharon Reese (Cell 575-649-6035) (sreese346@gmail.com)



Southwest Federation Conference May 2025

(L-R) Corinne Okamura (NM), (Standing) Sharon Reese (NM) (Region VII VP), Deborah Corner (AZ), Roger Corner (AZ), Marian Thornton (NM), Rick Champany (AZ), Irv Skelton (NM), and Marcele Skelton (NM).

Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

We are having a lot of sunshine, but the wind is still blowing. As I write this article, I am recovering from the Southwest Federation Conference that focused on the future of NARFE in the southwest.

I decided to focus on the future month of June. We will be celebrating Father's Day June 15. It is a day we honor fathers and fatherhood. When and where did Father's Day start? It originated in Spokane, Washington in 1909 when Sonora Smart Dodd, who was inspired by Mother's Day, decided to honor her father. She organized a celebration in Spokane, and the popularity spread throughout the country over the years. In 1972, President Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

A Get-Well card was sent to Martha Beerman who had surgery in April. A Get-Well card was also sent to Terry Bloom who was hospitalized in May. Sympathy cards were sent to Marlene Mayfield, whose brother passed away in early April, and to Anitta Montijo, whose husband, Ramon (Mojo) Montijo passed away March 7.

Have some fun by trying to solve this Father's Day riddle: WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO FATHERS SING IN THE SHOWER?

The answer to the Easter riddle: WHERE DOES THE EASTER BUNNY GO TO EAT ON EASTER? (Ihop)

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.

Southwest Federation Conference May 16-17, 2025

Marlene Mayfield (NM), Sharon Willoughby (NM), Coral Van Hooser (AZ), and Etta Bryant (AZ), received Certificates of Appreciation from Sharon Reese (NM) (District VII VP) for their dedication and support which contributed greatly to the merger of Arizona and New Mexico Federations.





Della Apodaca

Our Chapter Hit the Ground Running. Thank You!

We had a successful Inaugural Southwest Federation Conference. It was good to see and meet the many engaged and supportive NARFE members.

At quarter-ending March 2025, NARFE-PAC raised \$252,558 from member contributions, or 16% of its goal for the two-year cycle ending December 31, 2026. Disbursement to political candidates totaled \$254,500. Included in this amount is \$2,500 to Representative Melanie Stansbury. In addition, eight members attended three political events.

Thirteen (13) Las Cruces chapter members contributed \$880 to NARFE-PAC. The chapter met 14% of our goal of \$6,117. The 13 contributors represent 7% of our 186 memberships (as of 05/05/2025). The mean contribution is \$68. We have eight sustainers, with no increase since the prior quarter. Recall that our goal is to increase our sustainer number by one. Our chapter is, once again, the most responsive with 51% of total dollar contributions in NM, followed by Albuquerque at 38%.

There are several legislative proposals that could adversely affect our federal benefits. If you are a retiree, please consider becoming a sustainer via federal annuity to provide NARFE-PAC your ongoing support. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**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.*



Welcome New Members: Paul Evans and Erika Seymour

**We would like to see you at the September 13 meeting.
Come meet your fellow chapter members.**

Our chapter membership is 185 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.



Membership Report (Dan Carroll)

SW Confederation Conference was a great success. No major foul ups. Good food. Company (attendees and presenters) good. Color guard from Mayfield High School AF JR ROTC was good. Big thanks to their instructor Master Sgt. Dishon Gregory for his coordinating with us for the event.

Our Chapter 182 gained at least one new member during the Conference. We now have 185 members (as of 05/19/2025). Bob Main did a great job with logistics and IT operations (Zoom, music, communications and microphone management). I had fun and sat with several Arizona members and learned a lot from them, including Etta and Mike Bryant. Our Chapter 182 Board did a great job pulling it off. Marty, Velia and staff from The Las Cruces Village get a shout out! Parking proved adequate and nobody was inconvenienced that I spoke with. Mark Mickelsen did a good job as emcee. Bill Shackelford, National President, attended in person and was very informative. Judy Rosco, our Chapter 182 President, kept us all on our toes managing Conference prep for our chapter. Sharon Reese shared her knowledge and expertise regarding NARFE with us during the Conference. Carol Main shared her computer savvy with the Conference attendees. Can't forget Harry Palmer and his wonderful pecans! Jim Kielty was available to answer any service questions. Cindy Cook handled the raffles and Janice Bridges handled the mic management where needed. Marlene Mayfield took many photos. If I forgot to mention anyone, I apologize but it was a team effort. See you! I had fun! Dan



Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)



A big THANK YOU to those who donated gifts for the Door Prizes and Alzheimer's raffle prizes at the Southwest Federation Conference. Your generosity is amazing! We collected \$278 on ALZ raffle tickets, so 50/50 is \$139 to be sent to Alzheimer's.

The Alzheimer's Walk is scheduled for 9 a.m. on 4 October at Pat & Lou Sisbarro Park. We will have a group walk again and in August I will give everyone in our chapter info so the chapter can get credit when you donate. But, of course you're welcome to donate under your own name if you'd rather do that.

Amazing Research progress! FDA clears first blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's! If you think you or your loved one has symptoms of Alzheimer's, be sure to discuss this with your doctor.

Have a great summer everyone!

(alz.org or free helpline: 800-272-3900)



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY,
MARCH, AND APRIL 2025 CONTINUE TO MOVE UPWARD
AS INFLATION PERSISTS**



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 2026, continued on an upward path in February, March, and April 2025. The CPI-W figure for February 2025 was 312.460, the March figure was 313.250, and the April figure was 314.243.

Each year's COLA is determined by comparing the change in the CPI-W from year to year, based on the average CPI-W for the third quarter months of July-September. The CPI-W figure for April 2025, which was 314.243, is 1.79 percent higher than the average CPI-W figure for the third quarter of 2024 (July-September) which was 308.729. The U.S. imposition of tariffs on certain products being imported into the U.S. from countries such as Canada, China, and Mexico is expected to keep inflation at elevated levels. In order for a COLA to be authorized in January 2026, the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2025 must exceed the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2024, which was 308.729. The CPI-W figure for May 2025 is expected to be announced on June 11, 2025.



Chapter Programs (Donna Harris)

Hello everyone. As you may know, 2025-2026 will be my last year as the Program Chair. It has been a pleasure coordinating monthly programs for our chapter.

We are looking for someone to take over as Program Chair for our chapter. It's a fun and interesting part of our monthly meetings. If you are interested, please contact me or Judy Rosco.

We will have a well-deserved summer break and start up again in September. Here is the upcoming Fall schedule:

Sep - Legislative Program
Oct - Alzheimer's Month
Nov - FEHB Open Season
Dec - Christmas Program

Have a safe and fun summer. See you in September.



**Chapter VP for Legislation
Janice Bridges**



**The first Southwest Federation Conference
was both informative and enjoyable.**

The items that we are looking at are:/S.624

1. H.R. Con 14 - This was updated with new language on May 19. As of now, NARFE maintains its opposition to this bill.

- **Eliminating the FERS annuity supplement. The language was changed to indicate that this will begin on January 1, 2028.**
- **Switching from a high-3 to a high-5 annuity calculation. Language changed to this takes effect on Jan 1, 2028.**
- **Requiring newly hired federal employees to choose between maintaining a lower FERS contribution rate or preserving civil service protections. Language stayed the same.**
- **Charging employees a fee to file a case with all the merit systems protection board. Language stayed the same.**
- **Mandating an audit of participants in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Language stayed the same.**

The 4.4% FERS contribution is phased. So, no 4.4% for at least a couple of years.

Also, language was tweaked by defining the groups of federal employees who would be exempt from the FERS supplement elimination: Age 57 with 20 years of service by age 50 or reaching 25 years of service at any age.

2. H.R.492/S.134- Saving the Civil Service Act of 2025 - NARFE supports this one. Prohibits the establishment of Schedule F of the Excepted Service to ensure merit-based hiring and firing of civil servants.

3. H.R.491/S.624- Equal COLA Act - Provides full cost-of-living increase to FERS annuities.

More in-depth information is available on the NARFE website and also in this month's *NARFE* magazine. Please read about this and contact your lawmakers -- remember silence means acceptance. And acceptance will hurt us. Have a GREAT SUMMER!

Recruit a new NARFE Member. There is a NARFE Membership Application in every NARFE Magazine or you can join online at www.NARFE.org. Ask a co-worker or friend to join NARFE and our Chapter 182.

**Southwest Federation Inaugural Conference, May 16-17, 2025
Held at the Las Cruces Village-Independent Living, Las Cruces NM
Photos by Marlene Mayfield (NM Chapter 182 Secretary)**



Southwest Federation President Mark Mickelsen thanking NARFE President William Shackelford for his leadership and attendance at our Conference.



District VII VP Sharon Reese presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mark Mickelsen and Deborah Corner for their important work in merging the AZ & NM Federations into the new Southwest Federation.



District VII VP Sharon Reese presented Carol Culbertson and Vic Peterson a certificate honoring Sunnyslope Chapter 1686 on its 45th anniversary.



District VII VP Sharon Reese presented Marian Thornton with a certificate honoring Sierra County Chapter 1341 on its 50th anniversary.



Thanks to Bob Main (Las Cruces Chapter 182), our Electronics Expert, for handling all our computer programs, including our speakers on ZOOM!



Roger Corner (Tucson Chapter 55) (AZ National Legislative Chair) gives his report at the Conference.



Marlene Seaton, Southwest Federation Vice President, gives updates on the Federation at the Conference.



Vic Peterson (Sunnyslope Chapter 1686) (AZ State Legislative Chair) gives a report to the Conference.



SW Federation President Mark Mickelsen presented Carol Main the Tony Genta Award for her work as SW Federation Area Officer and Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) Member. Carol is also Member Communications Officer and Records Officer for Las Cruces Chapter 182.



Marian Thornton (Sierra County CH 1341), Judy Rosco (Las Cruces CH 182), Maria Smith (Las Cruces CH 182), & Carol Culbertson (Sunnyslope CH 1686). All four are also members of the organization (FEW) – Federally Employed Women.



(L-R) Kim Chittick (AZ), Mike Chittick (AZ), Vic Peterson (AZ), Carol Culbertson (AZ), Kathy Treat (NM), Jo Ann Sherman (NM), Jim Kielty (NM), Dorothy Rachele (NM), and Robert Franks (NM).



Southwest Federation Treasurer Sharon Willoughby (NM CH 182) discussed the Treasurer's Report with members at the Conference.



**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:	Marsha Smith marsha.smith1948@gmail.com 575-644-5131
NARFE-PAC	Della Apodaca dmarieda@aol.com 704-351-2051
Program Chair:	Donna Harris md.harris1@comcast.net 575-382-9070
Member Communications:	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

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 **Las Cruces Village** (Independent Living Center) (Creative Arts Room/First Floor), 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Reservations are required and breakfast cost is **\$18**. 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: **lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com**.

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

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