



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

**LAS CRUCES  
NEW MEXICO**

CHAPTER 0182

*National Active & Retired  
Federal Employees Association*

**REPORTER**  
**September 2025**  
**Volume 26, Issue 2**

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

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

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



**Judy Rosco**  
**Chapter 182 President**

Hello Chapter 182 members, and welcome to another year of great breakfast meetings and programs. I certainly hope that we have a program on the schedule this year that you will enjoy. If we do not have a program lined up for you, please (see our Program Chair, Donna Harris' article in this issue) let Donna know. We have a special surprise lined up for you at our meetings this year, but you will have to attend to find out what it is.

I attended the NARFE, LEGcon25 Conference, 9-10 June 2025. This was my first Zoom LEGcon Conference since COVID and it went very well. There were a few computer glitches, but they were corrected quickly, and the show went on. Advocacy is a passion for me, and I was not disappointed. We had 228 registrants, representing 46 states and generated over \$31K for NARFE advocacy events.

We added a Member-at-Large to our Chapter Executive Board, Corinne Okamura, in June. We are so happy she stepped up to be a Board member. We currently have two vacancies on the Board, one for Logistics (setting up the room) and the other for Ways and Means (fund-raising).

*Continued on Page 2*

**Chapter Legislative Breakfast Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 13, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Las Cruces Village-Independent Living**  
**3011 Buena Vida (Creative Arts Room)**  
**Cost of Breakfast - \$18.00**  
**Reservations: Call Carol Main**  
**(575-382-7686) NLT Aug 27**

Our NARFE National President, William Shackelford, will be our guest speaker at our September meeting via ZOOM. Many of us met him at our Southwest Federation Inaugural Conference that was held here in May. We are looking forward to his upcoming presentation on Legislation.

Please read your NARFE magazine and look at the Advocacy Website and read what's going on in Washington and have your questions ready. My Legislative report is on Page 4 of this newsletter.

**Janice Bridges**  
**Chapter 182 VP for Legislation**

**See Page 5**  
**for**  
**Upcoming Programs**

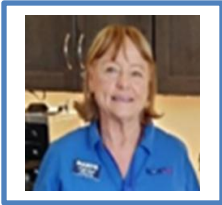
**Chapter President's Message (Judy Rosco)**  
**Continued from Page 1**

Our Nominations Chair, Harry Palmer, needs to resign his position on the Executive Board due to health issues. The Chapter needs someone to replace him NOW. Duties of this position come in to play in election years which for our chapter is 2026. The position requires that the Chair or someone on their committee contact current officers to see if they can (term limits are two, two-year terms) run again for another two-year term. The committee will also ask for nominations from the chapter members. Once a slate of officers is obtained, the Chair will present it to the membership body in January, and voting takes place in February. Once the slate is presented to the membership, the Nomination Chair's duties are complete. Please contact me at:

[rosco631@gmail.com](mailto:rosco631@gmail.com) or 575-635-7127, for more information.

The Social Security Administration has sent out notices to those who receive their checks by mail, that as of 30 September 2025, they will no longer be mailing out checks. If you receive your Social Security check by mail, please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/> to change your payment option. If you do not have an account, you need to establish one.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our September Legislative Breakfast on 13 September 2025, Las Cruces Village, at 8:30 am.



**Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)**

The Alzheimer's Walk is almost upon us. It will take place on October 4, 2025 at the Pat and Lou Sisbarro Community Park, 3205 Arrowhead Drive in Las Cruces.

Let's all pitch in and raise some funds to help eradicate this horrific disease called "Alzheimer's"! There are a number of ways to donate through our NARFE Team but you can try the below as I did...

Google "Walk To End Alzheimer's" - Click on "Find a Team" - Our Team Name is: NARFE Las Cruces NM Chapter 0182 - Team Captain is Cynthia Cook - Click on our team - From there you can just click on Donate OR if you plan to walk with us click on Join our Team and donate from there. Please let me know of any issues and we hope to have you as a Team Member on our walk. We had a great time last year!

At the August Chapter Board meeting we voted to donate 50% of September's Alzheimer's Raffle money collected to The Walk. Please be generous as millions of Americans and their families suffer from this disease.

October is our Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Please mark your calendars now and attend our October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting where we will have a speaker to bring us up to date on the changes and progress being made to fight Alzheimer's disease. Thanks for your support!





August 4, 2025 NARFE Chapter 182 members met with two out-of-town NARFE visitors for a wonderful dinner at the Double Eagle. Everyone enjoyed a nice evening of conversation and good food in the Carlotta Salon Room (a room known for being haunted). Front left to right: visitor Di-  
 anne Joseph (San Francisco Chapter 0065, Treasurer and Webmaster), (Chapter 182 members) Steve Rosco, Judy Rosco, John Reese, Sharon Reese, Carol Main, Bob Main, and visitor Martha Raup (Chair of the Configurations Advisory Board and the Region VIII CAB Representative).



In Memory - Mary Ellen McKay  
 Passed Away August 8, 2025

Mary Ellen had a full career with the NM Cooperative Extension Service (NMCES). She began her extension career as a 4-H Home Economist in Jefferson County, Missouri and then came to New Mexico in 1969. She served in the positions of County Extension Home Economist in Lincoln and Union counties, Extension Leadership Specialist, interim Department Head for Extension Home Economics, 4-H and NMSU Family and Consumer Sciences and Family Community Leadership coordinator under a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. She retired in 1998. I will always remember her for her energy and positive outlook to take on any task. If you traveled with her you had to get up early to walk, before the workday began. After retirement, she regularly attended an early morning water aerobics class. (*Kathy Treat, Chapter Board Member*)

Mary Ellen joined NARFE in 1998 and was a very active member. She held many positions including Las Cruces Chapter President, NM Federation President, PAC Chair for both our Chapter and the NM Federation, Chapter Ways and Means Chair, Chapter Secretary, Chapter Second Vice President/Legislative Chair, and Chapter First Vice President/Membership Chair. She attended many meetings and conferences and recruited many new NARFE members. Mary Ellen and her husband, Franklin who passed away a few years ago, were willing to help wherever they could. She was a great leader and will be missed by many.



**Chapter VP for Legislation (Janice Bridges)**

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



**The items that we are looking at are:**

**1. H.Con.Res14 – This was passed on May 22, 2025**

- **Eliminating the FERS annuity supplement – The language was changed to indicate that this will begin on January 1, 2028. Not a good thing.**
- **Switching from a high 3 to a high 5 annuity calculation. This was eliminated.**
- **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.**

**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. No action this summer.**

**3. H.R.491/S.624 - Equal COLA Act- Provides full cost-of-living increase to FERS annuities. No action this summer.**

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



**Welcome New Prospective Member:  
Guadalupe Hernandez**

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

**Our chapter membership is 181 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](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.**



Della Apodaca

I have to say that this is all quite noteworthy.  
Keep up the good work. The numbers are in and they look good.

Our chapter's second quarter 2025 contributions totaled \$1,927. This represents 44% of total contributions of all NM chapters. Albuquerque follows with 37%. We added eight new members who provided a contribution during the quarter. Thank you! This brings our chapter member participation rate to 12%, up from 7% in the prior quarter. We have also met 32% of our goal for the two-year cycle. Our chapter's contribution mean is \$112, while we remain at eight sustainers. Keep in mind that we want to increase this sustainer number.

Please consider making an [ongoing voluntary contribution](#)\* to the PAC. We need full chapter participation to help support NARFE's efforts to protect our earned federal benefits.

*\*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.*



#### Chapter Programs

I'm diligently working on this year's programs. Here is what is on the agenda thus far.

Sep 13 - Legislative Speakers

Oct 11 - Alzheimer's Program

Nov 8 - Open Season for FEHB

Donna  
Harris  
Programs

As a reminder, I will be stepping down as Program Coordinator after this year. If anyone is interested in being the Program Coordinator, please contact me or Judy Rosco.

Recruit a new NARFE member. There is a NARFE Membership Application in every NARFE Magazine or you can join online at [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org).

Ask a co-worker or a retired friend to join NARFE and our Chapter 182.





### Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



Sunshine went wayward in the month of August. There were several cloudy days and occasional rain showers. We could use more rain so we don't mind the loss of sunshine.

Several cards were sent to members and their families this month. Get Well cards were sent to:  
Dolores Selves, whose husband Tom had total hip replacement surgery  
Harry Palmer, who fell and broke his ankle  
Sharon Reese, for knee replacement surgery

A sympathy card was sent to the family of long-time member Mary Ellen McKay who passed away on August 8<sup>th</sup>. A sympathy card was sent to Janice Bridges, whose sister passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you deal with these difficult situations.

Have some fun by trying to solve this September riddle: WHAT DO TREES DO IN SEPTEMBER?

The answer to the August riddle: WHAT DID THE PIG SAY AT THE BEACH ON A HOT AUGUST DAY? (I'm bacon)

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)



Dan Carroll  
VP for  
Membership

### Membership Report

Another hot month coming up. Monsoon has been average with some local flooding (Vado). We now have 181 members in our Chapter 182. Holidays include Labor Day on September 1<sup>st</sup> and Patriot Day on September 11<sup>th</sup> (unofficial holiday commemorating terrorist attack). Full moon is on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Quote of the month: "The ability to express an idea is as important as the idea itself." –Bernard Baruch. Baruch was an American financier and statesman who died in 1965. September general meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Have a good month. See you at the movies!



Corinne  
Okamura

### New Member Chapter 182 Executive Board

We are happy to report that long-time NARFE member Corinne Okamura has volunteered to be a Member-at-Large on our Chapter 182 Executive Board. She attended her first board meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>. As a Member-at-Large she will assist the chapter wherever needed in upcoming NARFE events. We thank her for volunteering.



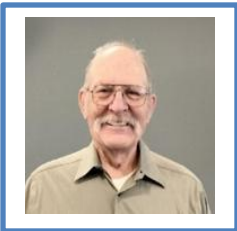
Service Officer (Jim Kielty)

**CPI-W MONTHLY FIGURES FOR  
JUNE AND JULY 2025 AGAIN RISE UPWARD**



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 to show increases in June and July 2025. The CPI-W figure for June was 315.945 and the July figure was 316.349. 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 for June 2025, which was 315.945, was 2.34 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2024, which was 308.729. The CPI-W for July which was 316.349, was 2.47 percent higher than the average CPI for the months of July-September 2024.

In order for a COLA to be authorized in January 2026, the average CPI-W figure for the months of July-September 2025 must exceed the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2024, which was 308.724. The CPI-W figure for August 2025 is expected to be announced on September 11, 2025.



Harry  
Palmer

**Chapter Officer Nominating Committee**

**Reminder for all members: Elections are coming up soon. Please consider joining our Chapter Board or one of the committees.**

**The amount of time spent is not tremendous but we need new people to serve our chapter. Some of us are getting to be ancient so younger people are needed. Anyone under the age of 100 should be able to serve on the Board.**

**If you have questions, please talk with any of the current Board members like Judy Rosco or Janice Bridges.**



**Federal Employee Education & Assistance**

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

**DISASTER RELIEF – EMERGENCY LOANS – FEDLIFEHACKS - SCHOLARSHIPS**



**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>Craig Singleton</b> scsingleton575@gmail.com 575-373-0705
Alzheimer's	<b>Cindy Cook</b> cindy77lou@yahoo.com 575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	<b>Marsha Smith</b> marsha.smith1948@gmail.com 575-644-5131
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
Member Communications:	<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

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 **Las Cruces Village** (Independent Living Center) (Creative Arts Room/First Floor), 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](mailto:lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com).

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